

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FROM  
APRIL 18, 1951 to JUNE 3, 1952.

*Scrap  
Book*

# State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

with

Political affiliation and mailing address

1951



1952

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### GENERAL OFFICERS

His Excellency, DENNIS J. ROBERTS, Governor (Dem.)..... (State House, Prov.) 234 Irving Avenue, Providence  
His Honor, JOHN S. MCKIERNAN, Lieutenant Governor (Dem.) (State House, Prov.) 291 Dudley St., Providence  
Hon. ARMAND H. COTE, Secretary of State (Dem.)..... (State House, Prov.) 479 Newport Ave., Pawtucket  
Hon. WILLIAM E. POWERS, Attorney Gen. (Dem.) (Prov. County Court House, Prov.) 28 McGirr St., Valley Falls  
Hon. RAYMOND H. HAWKSLEY, General Treasurer (Dem.)..... (State House, Prov.) 15 Mary Ave., East Providence

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### SENATORS IN CONGRESS

Hon. THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN (Dem.).....14 John Street, Providence  
321 Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.  
Hon. JOHN O. PASTORE (Dem.) .....31 Elmhurst Avenue, Providence  
Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.

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### REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

Hon. AIME J. FORAND, First Congressional District (Dem.)..... P. O. Address—R.F.D. 2, Valley Falls  
1120 House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.  
Hon. JOHN E. FOGARTY, Second Congressional District (Dem.).....Harmony  
1515 House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1951-1952

## SENATE

Democrats—22

Republicans—22

TOWNS AND CITIES	NAMES	POLITICS	P. O. ADDRESSES
Barrington .....	Donald A. Kingsley (Rep.)	22 Salisbury Road, West Barrington	
Bristol .....	Daniel G. Coggeshall (Dem.)	117 Constitution Street, Bristol	
Burrillville .....	Joseph V. McGuinness (Rep.)	48 Grove Street, Pascoag	
Central Falls .....	Ernest J. Caouette (Dem.)	855 Broad Street, Central Falls	
Charlestown .....	Grafton M. Wilson (Rep.)	General Stanton Inn, Charlestown	
Coventry .....	George Roche (Dem.)	55 Fairview Avenue, West Warwick	
Cranston .....	Leon W. Brower (Rep.)	1180 Narragansett Boulevard, Cranston	
Cumberland .....	James J. Brady (Dem.)	61 Kinsman Street, Valley Falls	
East Greenwich .....	Howard S. Proctor (Rep.)	170 Spring Street, East Greenwich	
East Providence .....	John G. Coffey (Dem.)	9 Agawam Park Road, East Providence	
Exeter .....	Willis B. Kenyon (Rep.)	Exeter	
Foster .....	Olney A. Knight (Rep.)	Foster Center	
Glocester .....	George D. Greenhalgh (Rep.)	Douglas Hook Road, Chepachet	
Hopkinton .....	Ernest O. Maine (Rep.)	Maxson Street, Ashaway	
Jamestown .....	Alton Head, Jr. (Rep.)	54 Howland Avenue, Jamestown	
Johnston .....	Joseph Pezzullo (Dem.)	928 Atwood Avenue, Johnston	
Lincoln .....	William M. Davies, Jr. (Dem.)	137 Progress Street, Saylesville	
Little Compton .....	Leonard H. Sylvia (Rep.)	Meeting House Lane, Little Compton	
Middletown .....	Lewis B. Plummer (Rep.)	Green End Avenue, Middletown	
Narragansett .....	George M. Westlake (Rep.)	Point Judith Road, Narragansett	
New Shoreham .....	William P. Lewis (Rep.)	Block Island	
Newport .....	Florence K. Murray (Dem.)	10 Kay Street, Newport	
North Kingstown .....	James H. Donnelly (Rep.)	Saunderstown	
North Providence .....	Frank Sgambato (Dem.)	581 Woonasquatucket Avenue, North Providence	
North Smithfield .....	Michael J. Kilroy (Rep.)	Colerick Avenue, North Smithfield	
Pawtucket —			
Sen. Dist. 1	George Beaucage (Dem.)	38 Bristol Avenue, Pawtucket	
Sen. Dist. 2	William L. McCaughey (Dem.)	170 Williston Way, Pawtucket	
Portsmouth .....	Perry J. Sherman (Rep.)	Turnpike Avenue, Portsmouth	
Providence —			
Sen. Dist. 1	Frank Licht (Dem.)	22 President Avenue, Providence	
Sen. Dist. 2	Primo Iacobucci (Dem.)	548 Charles Street, Providence	
Sen. Dist. 3	Joseph L. Luongo (Dem.)	347 Broadway, Providence	
Sen. Dist. 4	John G. McWeeney (Dem.)	208 Linwood Avenue, Providence	
Sen. Dist. 5	Raymond A. McCabe (Dem.)	77 Lexington Avenue, Providence	
Richmond .....	Louis E. Perreault (Rep.)	Beaver River Road, R.F.D., West Kingston	
Scituate .....	Harry J. Hall (Rep.)	Plainfield Pike, North Scituate	
Smithfield .....	David Harris (Dem.)	Harris Road, Smithfield	
South Kingstown .....	Daniel N. Carr (Dem.)	16 Brown Street, Peace Dale	
Tiverton .....	Grover J. Douglas (Rep.)	4089 Main Road, Tiverton	
Warren .....	William J. Smith (Dem.)	17 Church Street, Warren	
Warwick .....	William B. Sweeney (Rep.)	25 No. Country Club Dr., Gaspee Plateau, Warwick	
West Greenwich .....	Frederick A. Brown (Rep.)	Victory Highway, R.F.D., Washington	
West Warwick .....	Dion A. Archambault (Dem.)	99 Factory Street, West Warwick	
Westerly .....	Thomas D. Santoro (Dem.)	13 Pearl Street, Westerly	
Woonsocket .....	Francis P. Smith (Dem.)	219 Prospect Street, Woonsocket	

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Democrats—68

Republicans—32

TOWNS AND CITIES	REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS	NAMES	POLITICS	P. O. ADDRESSES
Barrington		C. George DeStefano (Rep.)		25 Markwood Drive, Barrington
Bristol	1	Henry Alfred (Dem.)		118 Franklin Street, Bristol
	2	Gladys M. Brightman (Dem.)		40 Usher Terrace, Bristol
Burrillville		Clinton O. Remington, Jr. (Rep.)		Alice Avenue, Oakland
Central Falls	1	George E. Collette (Dem.)		854 Broad Street, Central Falls
	2	Emile Beaudoin (Dem.)		3 Hawley Street, Central Falls
	3	Raymond L. Cavanaugh (Dem.)		498 Dexter Street, Central Falls
	4	Edward F. Burns (Dem.)		91 Moore Street, Central Falls
Charlestown		Leonard K. Squier (Rep.)		48 Shore Drive, Charlestown
Coventry		Ralph D. Petrarca (Dem.)		48 Willow Street, West Warwick
Cranston	1	George A. Ilg (Rep.)		126 Columbia Avenue, Edgewood
	2	Joseph E. Malley (Rep.)		122 Waterman Avenue, Cranston
	3	John F. Ford (Dem.)		22 Depot Avenue, Cranston
	4	Fred S. Arnold (Rep.)		1954 Cranston Street, Cranston
	5	Michael Sepe (Dem.)		141 Princess Avenue, Cranston
Cumberland	1	Maurice A. Bresnahan (Dem.)		10 Elm Street, Valley Falls
	2	Robert A. Caldwell (Dem.)		Mendon Road, Ashton
East Greenwich		Howard C. Benson (Rep.)		42 Rector Street, East Greenwich
East Providence	1	Richard D. Windsor (Rep.)		201 Wilson Avenue, Rumford
	2	Julio F. Rocha (Dem.)		67 Martello Street, East Providence
	3	John L. Lewis (Dem.)		159 Tangent Street, East Providence
	4	John T. Kirwan (Rep.)		266 Terrace Avenue, Riverside
Exeter		John T. Gardner (Rep.)		West Allenton Road, R.F.D. 2, East Greenwich
Foster		William S. Blanchard (Rep.)		Moosup Valley, R. F. D., Greene
Glocester		Frederick W. Garrity (Rep.)		Absalona Hill Road, Chepachet
Hopkinton		F. Reat Scholfield (Rep.)		Main Street, Hope Valley
Jamestown		Lewis W. Hull (Rep.)		East Shore Road, Jamestown
Johnston		William J. Miley (Dem.)		36 Burnett Street, Johnston
Lincoln	1	Alfred U. Menard (Dem.)		71 Central Street, Manville
	2	William H. Spaulding, Jr. (Rep.)		19 West Wood Road, Saylesville
Little Compton		Edward H. Bowen (Rep.)		Warren's Point Road, Little Compton
Middletown		William I. Shepley (Rep.)		Green End Avenue, Middletown
Narragansett		Ulysses G. Cooper (Rep.)		94 Narragansett Avenue, Narragansett
New Shoreham		Harold L. Mott (Rep.)		Block Island
Newport	1	Max Levin (Dem.)		5 Blackwell Place, Newport
	2	Joseph A. Savage (Dem.)		10 Friendship Street, Newport
	3	John H. McGann (Dem.)		9 Bush Street, Newport
	4	Charles L. Walsh (Dem.)		10 Potter Street, Newport
North Kingstown		Paul R. Ryan (Rep.)		16 King Philip Drive, R.F.D., East Greenwich
North Providence		Leo Cardin (Dem.)		23 Cooper Street, North Providence
North Smithfield		Donald L. Beauregard (Rep.)		Greenville Road, R.F.D. 2, Woonsocket
Pawtucket	1	Francis X. Asselin, Sr. (Dem.)		15 Colvin Street, Pawtucket
	2	Harold A. Duxbury (Dem.)		56 Greene Street, Pawtucket
	3	Louis J. Lussier (Dem.)		811 Central Avenue, Pawtucket
	4	Patrick B. McCaughey (Dem.)		147 Meadow Street, Pawtucket
	5	Joseph F. McVay (Dem.)		80 Meadow Street, Pawtucket
	6	Nelson F. Duphiney (Dem.)		29 Ivy Street, Pawtucket
	7	Robert M. Watt (Dem.)		140 Owen Avenue, Pawtucket
	8	Valmore L. Collette (Dem.)		75 Bullock Street, Pawtucket
	9	August P. LaFrance (Dem.)		5 Patterson Avenue, Pawtucket
	10	Harry F. Curvin (Dem.)		44 Tower Street, Pawtucket

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Cont'd)

TOWNS AND CITIES	REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS	NAMES	POLITICS	P. O. ADDRESSES
Portsmouth		Frank Almeida (Rep.)		East Main Road, Portsmouth
Providence	1	Joseph I. Mello (Dem.)		107 George M. Cohan Boulevard, Providence
	2	Bayard Ewing (Rep.)		41 Cooke Street, Providence
	3	Harold S. Moskol (Dem.)		11 North Avenue, Providence
	4	Avery B. Lavine (Dem.)		260 Brown Street, Providence
	5	Albert Brown (Dem.)		49 Rochambeau Avenue, Providence
	6	Hugh C. King (Dem.)		250 Charles Street, Providence
	7	Joseph F. Prete (Dem.)		474 Branch Avenue, Providence
	8	Earle M. Byrne (Dem.)		10 Loxley Road, Providence
	9	J. Joseph Nugent (Dem.)		100 Pinehurst Avenue, Providence
	10	Samuel C. Kagan (Dem.)		161 Orms Street, Providence
	11	James J. McGrath (Dem.)		157 South Street, Providence
	12	Herman D. Ferrara (Dem.)		335 Broadway, Providence
	13	James H. Kiernan (Dem.)		122 Beaufort Street, Providence
	14	Ira T. Williams (Dem.)		115 Joslin Street, Providence
	15	Samuel J. Johnston (Dem.)		412 Hartford Avenue, Providence
	16	Alfred P. Perrotti (Dem.)		206 Webster Avenue, Providence
	17	Walter J. Mathews (Dem.)		84 Oak Street, Providence
	18	Umberto Patalano (Dem.)		260 Knight Street, Providence
	19	John J. Wrenn (Dem.)		177 Bellevue Avenue, Providence
	20	Thomas L. Etheridge (Dem.)		36 Brattle Street, Providence
	21	John B. Nolan (Dem.)		41 Moore Street, Providence
	22	Coleman B. Zimmerman (Rep.)		281 Warrington Street, Providence
	23	Thomas P. McHugh (Dem.)		26 West Clifford Street, Providence
	24	Bernard J. Gallagher (Dem.)		49 Lillian Avenue, Providence
	25	Irving J. Bilgor (Dem.)		978 Broad Street, Providence
Richmond		Paul J. Richard (Rep.)		Main Street, Wyoming
Scituate		Lloyd W. Hargraves (Rep.)		79 High Street, Hope
Smithfield		James L. Meenan (Dem.)		Prospect Street, Greenville
South Kingstown		Thomas P. Quinn (Dem.)		64 Kenyon Avenue, Wakefield
Tiverton		Edward L. Snow (Rep.)		241 Judson Street, North Tiverton
Warren		Edward J. Sevigny (Dem.)		945 Main Street, Warren
Warwick	1	Chester A. Pierce (Rep.)		113 Chamblay Avenue, Lakewood
	2	Darius L. Goff (Rep.)		87 Kirby Avenue, Warwick Neck
	3	Herbert B. Carlin (Rep.)		3239 Post Road, Apponaug
West Greenwich		Waite Albro (Rep.)		Lake Mishnock, R.F.D., Washington
West Warwick	1	Gerard DiFiore (Dem.)		25 Fernwood Drive, West Warwick
	2	Ulysses LaRoche (Dem.)		9 Terrance Court, West Warwick
	3	Thaddeus M. Kraus (Dem.)		170 Pulaski Street, West Warwick
Westerly	1	Samuel Azzinaro (Dem.)		76 Oak Street, Westerly
	2	David A. Lowry (Rep.)		9 School Street, Westerly
Woonsocket	1	Eugene Lancot (Dem.)		197 Valley Street, Woonsocket
	2	John J. Skiffington, Jr. (Dem.)		40 Second Avenue, Woonsocket
	3	Charles R. Durham (Dem.)		48 West School Street, Woonsocket
	4	John Archambault (Dem.)		41 Arnold Street, Woonsocket
	5	William D. McWeeney (Dem.)		17 Trent Street, Woonsocket
	6	Alphonse G. LeBlanc (Dem.)		90 Dulude Avenue, Woonsocket
	7	Rolland H. Chapdelaine (Dem.)		77 Adams Street, Woonsocket
	8	Robert Cournoyer (Dem.)		292 Paradis Avenue, Woonsocket

# House Approves Bill Providing for Study Of Warwick-W. Warwick Boundary Change

## ANNEXATION BILL OKAYED BY HOUSE

*Prov. Journal - 4/18/57*

### Study of Adding Warwick Area to W. Warwick Set Up by Controversial Measure

With the surprising agreement of the Warwick delegation, the House yesterday passed in concurrence the controversial bill fathered by Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick) to set up a bipartisan commission to study possible annexation of parts of Warwick to West Warwick.

It now remains for Governor Roberts to sign the bill and appoint a four-man commission which will make the study, with Mayor Mills of Warwick and Harry F. McKanna Jr., West Warwick Town Council president, as ex-officio members.

In the light of vehement opposition by Sen. William B. Sweeney (R-Warwick), the action of Warwick Reps. Herbert B. Carlin, Darius L. Goff and Chester A. Pierce in seconding the motion for passage by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) came as a surprise.

#### Offer no Comment

The Warwick delegation made no comment whatsoever as the bill was steered to passage, fulfilling Senator Archambault's prediction that it would become law this session.

A similar bill introduced by Archambault last year died in a Senate committee, in the face of Sweeney's opposition and notification by the Warwick City Council that it also opposed the bill. The West Warwick Town Council was in favor of it.

The commission to be appointed by the governor, after he signs the bill into law, would consist of four members, one Republican and one Democrat from each community. The commission would have power of subpoena and could retain an engineer, the two towns to split the cost.

#### Archambault's View

Archambault has expressed the belief repeatedly that large numbers of residents of the Centreville, Westcott, Natick and East Natick sections of Warwick want to be annexed to West Warwick. A Journal-Bulletin spot check last year showed considerable sentiment for annexation, but Warwick officials said they knew more residents who want to stay part of Warwick.

If they became residents of West Warwick, Archambault has averred, the people in the area could avail themselves of the West Warwick sewer system and receive fire protection from the Natick station, which is closer than the Warwick station in Apponaug.

Representative Carlin explained his position later as follows: "Not a single soul has come to me and said 'I want that bill. Work for it.' Or 'I don't like that bill. Kill it.'"

Carlin said that he objected to immediate consideration of the bill when it came over from the Senate recently because he wanted time to study it.

He indicated that he and his fellow Warwick representatives feel that the bill is a safe one because it provides only for a study of the feasibility of relocating the boundaries. Any changes that might be recommended as a result of the study would eventually have to be voted upon by the people in a referendum, he said.

Archambault has declared that many residents of bordering Warwick have told him they want to be part of West Warwick because they shop and work in West Warwick.

Warwick Republicans, who control the city administration, would benefit indirectly from the annexation because the section is mainly Democratic, Archambault also believes.

The commission would be directed to file with the governor, Warwick city clerk and West Warwick town clerk "a report of its findings as speedily as possible after appointment with recommendations of proposed legislation, covering also recommendations for compensation necessary for any land to be condemned for any such relocation of boundaries."

## Action Planned on Traffic Conditions in West Warwick

*Prov. Journal - 4/20/57*

Town solicitor Michael DeCiantis said last night he will ask that a special meeting of the West Warwick Town Council be called next week to act on condemnation of land and buildings to alleviate traffic conditions in Riverpoint and Arctic.

Of primary importance, DeCiantis said, is proposed condemnation of a house and land owned by Joseph Simas at East Main and Pike Streets, opposite the telephone exchange.

A state road reconstruction job is in progress on East Main and Pike Streets, and it is felt that the sharp corner at Main and Pike Streets could be eliminated while the street is being rebuilt. Condemnation proceedings should be started quickly, DeCiantis said, inasmuch as excavation of Pike Street is scheduled to start soon.

DeCiantis said he asked the town's General Assembly delegation yesterday to confer with Philip S. Mancini, state public works director, about the possibility of the state absorbing the cost of condemnation of Simas' property. Otherwise, the town meeting on May 22 will be asked to appropriate money to cover it.

The other condemnation proposal which DeCiantis will offer for the council's consideration, he said, involves widening of Weaver Street from Main Street to Payan Street in Arctic.

Designed to alleviate traffic congestion in Arctic shopping center, the plan would provide ready ac-

cess via Weaver Street to the biggest, free community parking lots on Curson Street and Bedard Street.

To accomplish it, DeCiantis said, there would have to be condemnation of some land now used by the First National Store parking lot along Weaver Street in order that Weaver Street from Main to Tucker Street could be doubled in width. The McMahon estate house and land at Paul's Service Station, both at the corner of Weaver Street and Tucker Street, would have to be taken, as well as some vacant land where the end of Weaver Street meets Payan Street.

This would give a valuable side artery up which traffic could be routed to Payan Street from Main Street and then to the parking lot on Curson Street, DeCiantis said.

In addition, DeCiantis said, the council will be asked to consider condemnation of vacant land adjoining Dr. Jean Maynard's office on Curson Street in order that Payan Street might be cut through to Jodoin Street. This, he pointed out, would provide traffic coming up from Weaver Street easier access to the Bedard Street parking lot, should the Curson Street lot be filled with cars.

A corner of the Curson Street parking lot, at the corner of Payan Street, also should be condemned to permit a straighter extension of Payan Street across to Jodoin Street, DeCiantis said. This property is owned by Albert G. Coutu.

# ANNEXATION BILL OPINION IS DIVIDED

P. Journal 4/24/57  
Archambault's Study Measure

## Provokes Debate at Meeting of Valley Chamber

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Opinion on the controversial Archambault annexation study bill was divided last night in a discussion held by Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce after an explanatory talk by Sen. Dion Archambault, sponsor of the bill.

Dr. M. Irene Guertin told Archambault that his plan for a study of annexation to West Warwick of the Centerville, Natick and East Natick sections of Warwick is a "good one" which would straighten out boundary lines. However, other chamber members, Norman E. Gillespie and Gustav Olson, questioned whether the annexation of those sections would be financially beneficial to West Warwick. They pointed out West Warwick would be expected to assume a proportional part of Warwick's debt.

Archambault, in his talk at the Congdon Grain Co. hall, Arctic, explained that the legislation provides only for a study of the idea by a special commission and that he expects the people to decide on annexation when the commission's findings are presented.

Answering Gillespie, Archambault said that, even though the commission should recommend annexation, the question ultimately would be decided in a referendum in which the residents of the sections proposed for annexation, as well as voters of West Warwick, would take part.

John Krawchuk declared that Archambault should take care of his own constituents in West Warwick before working for improvements in the section under consideration for annexation.

Krawchuk made his observation after Archambault had explained that many residents of the area would be able to connect with West Warwick's sewer system, that West Warwick schools would be nearer for their children, that West Warwick fire protection facilities are closer and that the West Warwick highway department could take care of streets in the section more readily than the Warwick highway department.

Archambault agreed that the question whether the territory suggested for annexation would be an attribute to West Warwick from a financial viewpoint should be given the greatest study. He said he thought that tax revenue from the area would offset the expenditures by the town to give it the town's services.

# Study of Traffic Congestion In Arctic Is Urged by Group

The Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce last night adopted a resolution urging that no money be spent for any West Warwick road construction plan whatever, until traffic congestion in Arctic has been studied by traffic experts.

The resolution, submitted by Horace L. Petrarca, noted that several plans have been suggested, including those of Dr. M. Irene Guertin, Albert C. Coutu, Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis and Norman E. Gillespie.

Traffic conditions in the Arctic business area have reached the stage where nearly everyone agrees a new parallel highway or high-

ways is needed, but there is no agreement on exactly what should be done, it was pointed out. The resolution urged that the town planning commission, appointment of which was authorized recently by the General Assembly, give the matter full study, have a complete survey by traffic experts made and submit a master plan to the town council and taxpayers in annual town meeting.

## Plan Causes Discussion

It was voted to send a copy of the resolution to the town council, which is preparing to hold a special meeting next week to act on condemnation of land and buildings on Weaver Street and off Curson Street under a road plan proposed by DeCiantis.

The resolution was presented after discussion of DeCiantis' Weaver Street plan threw the chamber into disagreement over which plan is best.

Dr. Guertin declared that DeCiantis' proposal was all right as far as it went. However, he reiterated that the town should undertake changes which will "do the whole job and solve the Arctic traffic situation for 25 years."

## Urges Streets Widening

He recommended again that Merritt and Bedard Street be widened and that Bedard Street be cut through to Gardiner Avenue, providing an outlet to Columbus Square. On the other side of the shopping center, he said, Robert Street should be cut through to Legion Way. He also reiterated that a viaduct should be built over the Pawtuxet River near Factory Street to permit traffic to head toward Centerville without going through Arctic Square.

Mozart Holmes explained that he backed DeCiantis' plan yesterday because he felt that it would relieve congestion at Payan and Weaver Streets, as well as at Curson and Payan Streets.

Gillespie pointed out that he submitted a road plan six years ago and that numerous others have done the same since then but none has ever been adopted. He asserted that calling in qualified experts to solve the problem would eliminate personalities and politics.

## BACKS STREET WIDENING

Mozart Holmes, West Warwick civic and business leader, yesterday endorsed the proposal by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, to widen Weaver Street, Arctic, to relieve traffic congestion in the business section.

Holmes said that motorists who use the facilities of Weaver and Payan Streets, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays, and experience the delays, confusion and accident hazards which exist there, will understand the reasons for Mr. DeCiantis' plan and will welcome measures to correct a serious problem.

Holmes said he was forwarding his views to the town council with a request that it condemn whatever land is necessary to widen the street.

# W. WARWICK GOP'S FETE H. C. KNIGHT

P. Journal 4/30/57  
No Mention Is Made of Any

## Accord in Battle for Control of Party

Harold C. Knight, new chairman of the West Warwick Republican town committee, was honored by his associates and friends last night at a dinner in which the speakers were asked to refrain from talking politics.

Contrary to various predictions, no announcement was made by the speakers of any settlement of the battle for control of the party by the town committee or West Warwick Republican Club.

However, the president-elect of the insurgent club, Joseph Henault, was among those seated at the head table and Norman E. Gillespie and other club leaders and officers attended the testimonial dinner.

Others in the audience included Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor and behind-the-scenes leader of the town Democratic party, and other Democrats.

William Thompson, chairman of the state central GOP committee and one of the principal speakers, said he had been asked when he arrived at the dinner not to bring politics into his speech because of the bi-partisan nature of the audience.

## Praised Compromise

The state chairman, however, did touch lightly upon several political subjects. Speaking of the past General Assembly session, he said "compliments can be handed to both sides." He paid particular praise to the 22 Republican and two Democratic senators and Governor Roberts for forcing the last-minute compromise on the Pawtucket bond, audit and payroll investigation bills.

He criticized The Providence Journal for not giving the senators and the governor sufficient credit for their actions, which gives Pawtucket "an opportunity for good, clean government."

As the final speaker on the program, Knight accepted a gavel from Roland E. Meunier, retiring chairman, and thanked the group of about 160 persons for attending the dinner, which was held in Holy Ghost Brotherhood Hall, Lippitt.

## Other Speakers

Other speakers who were introduced by Mozart Holmes, the toastmaster who substituted for Norman Simpson, who was called out of town on business, were James O. McManus, former lieutenant governor and international counselor of the Lions Club; Al Smith, president of the 52 Club, a group of nine men, including Knight, that meets socially each week; Vincent James, past town GOP chairman and former president of the Young Republican Club of Rhode Island.

Also, Henault, Meunier and Ernest E. Lefebvre, chairman of the committee that arranged the dinner.

Mrs. Knight was presented with a corsage by Holmes. Musical interludes were provided by Domenic Petrarca on the coronet and his son-in-law on the accordion.

# DRAIN PROBLEM RESOLVE PASSED

P. Journal 4/26/57  
Senate Acts in Concurrence to

## Request State to Correct W. Warwick Condition

The Senate yesterday passed in concurrence a resolution requesting the state director of public works to include the correction of a drainage problem at Veterans' Square, West Warwick, in his highway program.

A resolve asking Philip S. Mancini, the public works director, to take the action was introduced by Rep. Thaddeus Kraus (D-West Warwick) and passed recently in the House after recommendation by the finance committee.

The resolution points out that several heavily traveled streets converge on the square, in addition to the private driveway of the Thies Dye Works and a private street, Bridal Avenue.

Describing the condition as a menace to life and property, the resolution points out that property is endangered by storm drainage water that backs up on Main Street from a slope on Warwick Avenue.

Another slope on Main Street that causes a large puddle to form presents a problem in winter weather for busses and other traffic that moves through the square, according to the resolve.

## REFERENDUM SET FOR MAY 25 VOTE

*P. Journal 5/2/57*  
West Warwick Parking Meter  
Question Paired With Con-  
vention Election

Pawtuxet Valley Office, Telephone  
15 Washington Street, Valley 1-0570  
West Warwick 1-0746-W

The West Warwick Town Council last night voted to kill two birds with one stone by holding the General Assembly-authorized referendum on installation of parking meters at the same time as the May 25 constitutional convention election.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis had checked with Governor Roberts and learned that combining the two would be all right legally.

Because the parking meter vote must be under the same conditions as a general election, all seven of the town's polling places will be open. Only one place in each of the three representative districts would have been necessary for the constitutional convention election alone.

Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb was instructed to issue the warrant for the election and to prepare paper ballots bearing the question, "Shall the Installation of Parking Meters for Operation upon the Public Highways in the Town of West Warwick Be Authorized?"

The council set the pay of supervisors, moderators and clerks at the election at \$15 a day, and that of police on special duty at the polls at \$10.

Polling places were set as follows:

Representative district 1—Voting district 1, Lippitt Fire Station, corner of Main and Wakefield Streets; voting district 2, Natick Grammar School, Providence Street.

Representative district 2—Voting district 1, town hall garage, Pike Street; voting district 2, Arctic Grammar School, Legion Way.

Representative district 3—Voting district 1, town building, Murray Square; voting district 2, Turcotte's Hall, 63 Brookside Avenue; voting district 3, P. V. Auto Sales, 191 Washington Street.

Councilmen voted to meet as a board of canvassers May 17 at 8 p.m. to canvass the voting lists for the election.

On election day, McKanna and Councilmen Herve Niquette, Thomas Mello, Toby Pucino and Antonio Paul will sit as a board of canvassers all day at the town hall.

## HOUSE CONDEMNED TO WIDEN STREET

*P. Journal 5/2/57*  
Council Approves Riverpoint  
Project, Defers Action in  
Weaver St. Case

The West Warwick Town Council last night condemned a house and land at the corner of Main and Pike Streets, Riverpoint, to permit widening of the corner while a state road reconstruction project is in progress on Pike Street.

Condemnation of several parcels of land and a building on Weaver Street, Arctic, widening of which has been advocated by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, the Democratic Town Committee and Police Chief Groleau, was deferred.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said the council was unable to condemn the Weaver Street property last night because an engineer has not yet supplied the necessary data.

### Will Go to Voters

However, the council voted to put the matter of an appropriation to widen Weaver Street and cut Payan Street through to Jodoin Street in the warrant for the May 22 annual town meeting.

McKanna said the council will begin condemnation proceedings on the Weaver Street property when the engineering data are available.

He added that an engineer also is assembling data for proposed condemnation of land on Sinnott Street, where the Union Trust Co. has built a new parking lot, in order to eliminate a high concrete retaining wall which narrows the street.

### Dr. Guertin Protests

Dr. M. Irene Guertin, one of the town's largest individual taxpayers, was the only remonstrant at the meeting. He approved the Weaver Street widening, but urged that the town undertake a complete program to alleviate Arctic traffic congestion. He said congestion was hurting business.

McKanna advised him that a planning commission will be appointed soon and that it will consider larger street proposals and recommend bond issues.

McKanna and Henry Petrarca, highway commissioner, were named to consult Elie Manuel Simas and other owners of the Pike Street property and reach an agreement on the price to be paid for the condemnation there. DeCiantis was suggested as a committee member, but he declined, saying he would give legal aid.

When the Simas property is taken DeCiantis said, the administration plans to sell the house at public auction. It will have to be moved by the buyer.

## CHIEF FAVORS PLAN

Police Chief Groleau of West Warwick this morning endorsed the plan proposed by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis to widen Weaver Street, Arctic.

Pointing out that the plan has been endorsed also by the Democratic town committee, of which he is a member, Groleau said, "I believe it will certainly help the traffic situation in the town."

"We do not need a special road to bypass the business center, but we do need a program to help circulate the traffic in the business center."

"There has been talk of widening Weaver Street for many years. The time has come when it should be done to alleviate traffic conditions."

## DeCiantis Leases Property to Chain

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick said today he had leased the former Cushing property, which he recently purchased, to First National Stores for use as a parking lot for its store on Main Street Arctic.

The property comprises two large lots adjoining the store on Main Street.

One of two old buildings on the property now is occupied by Sando Lombardi's fruit store, but DeCiantis said Lombardi would move from the location.

DeCiantis purchased the property on Apr. 19 from Ruth Graham Keily and Eleanor F. Keily, both of Pawtucket, heirs of Ellen J. R. Keily, one of the devisees in the will of the late Mary E. Cushing and Ellen J. R. Keily. Stamps attached to the deed at West Warwick Town Hall indicate a price of \$45,000.

Confirming the lease, Byron M. Flemming, general manager of First National Stores in this area, said the store had sought use of the land for more than a year unsuccessfully through efforts of R.I. Industries, Inc., from which it leases its store property.

Flemming said the grocery firm sought out DeCiantis to obtain the lease.

He said it had no connection with the fact that the West Warwick Town Council, at a special meeting tonight, plans to initiate action to condemn part of the store's present small parking lot along Weaver Street in order to widen the highway.

DeCiantis recently recommended condemnation of land to widen Weaver Street. Also scheduled for condemnation are the McMahon estate and some land at Paul's Service Station-house at Weaver Weaver and Tucker Streets and part of a vacant lot at Weaver and Payan Streets.

## ACTION UNCERTAIN ON PLANNING BODY

*P. Journal 5/2/57*  
W. Warwick Council Awaits  
Decision of Its Choice  
for Board Chairman

Pawtuxet Valley Office, Telephone  
15 Washington Street, Valley 1-0570  
West Warwick 1-0746-W

The appointment of a town planning board by the West Warwick Town Council at its session tomorrow night will depend on whether the administration's choice for chairman is willing to accept the position, it was learned last night.

Administration leaders previously had announced that the board would be named tomorrow night. However, the man who has been offered the chairmanship has not given the council his decision yet, and, unless he does so today or early tomorrow, there is little likelihood that the board will be named.

The board was authorized at the last session of the General Assembly and will succeed the now defunct advisory planning committee, which was headed by Judge Robert E. Quinn.

### Chamber Request

The Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce recently requested that various proposals to relieve the Arctic traffic congestion be held up until such time as a planning board is appointed and can act on the proposals.

Other council business scheduled for tomorrow night's session, which will begin at 8 o'clock at the town hall, is of a routine nature.

It includes an application from the Crompton Veterans Organization for a Class D liquor license at the organization's new headquarters on Hepburn Street, Crompton. Lionel J. Cardin, who operates Cardin's Drug Store at 751 Main Street has requested permission to transfer his Class A retail liquor sales license from the drug store to the proposed Cardin Liquor Store at 850 Main Street.

### Public Hearing

There will be a public hearing on proposed amendments to the town building and plumbing ordinances, and a hearing on the abandonment of the following property on the Bellevue Plat: Border Street, extending south from Third Street to Bellevue Boulevard; and the entire length of Bellevue Boulevard.

A zoning exemption request will also be heard by the council. Sheldon N. Porter and Ruth S. Porter have requested permission to operate overnight cabins on the property on Quaker Lane.

The council may also take action on routine matters in preparation for the annual financial meeting on May 22.

# W. Warwick Council Names 5-Member Planning Board

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0870  
1-0746-W

Acting with authorization received from the recent General Assembly session, the West Warwick Town Council last night appointed a five-member planning commission, headed by Judge Robert E. Quinn.

Judge Quinn, who has been chairman of the bipartisan advisory committee to the town council, was named to the new board for the longest individual term, five years.

It was learned that he is slated to become chairman of the commission, which succeeds his bipartisan advisory committee in the work of planning for future development of the town.

Others named and their terms are Alexander DiMartino, Wake-

field Street, four years; Albert C. Coutu, 12 Payan Street, three years; Webster Knight 2nd, two years; and Mozart Holmes, 14 Payan Street, one year.

## Members of Old Board

Coutu, lumber and real estate dealer, and Holmes, superintendent of Warwick Mills, have been members of the bipartisan advisory committee. Knight, industrialist, and DiMartino, an engineer and contractor, are new to the planning field.

Judge James W. Leighton of Fourth District Court was named counsel to the commission. He will serve without pay, as will the members.

Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere was named chairman of the special committee studying revision of zoning and building laws to replace Charles J. Bourgault who resigned several weeks ago.

Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca reported that a drainage problem on Davis Street, about which numerous residents complained last month, cannot be corrected without extensive work and that effect of that would be problematical.

## Pipe Line Not Feasible

A drainage line from Davis Street to Tampa Street to a brook is not feasible because Davis Street is pitched lower than the brook, Petrarca said.

If a drainage pipe line were to be put through private land, which would require easements, there would be only one foot pitch, necessitating laying pipe on top of the ground and mounding it over, he said. Even then, in time of high water, it would back up into Davis Street, he added.

The council instructed Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb to notify the complainants of Petrarca's findings.

## In other business the council:

Granted transfer of the Class A package store license of Cardin Drug Store from 751 Main Street to 850 Main Street.

Voted to abandon Border Street southerly from Third Street to Bellevue Boulevard and along Bellevue Boulevard, on petition of George Roche, lawyer for Albert C. Coutu, plat owner. Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, advised Armand Maynard of 109 Border Street that the abandonment is only of streets never actually used and filed as platted property through error.

Advised Gerard Lavoie and Max Tetebaum, applicants for a junk license for premises on New London Turnpike, to withdraw their application. The request had been held over since numerous residents objected last month.

Laid on the table until next month the request of Seldon N. and Ruth S. Porter for a zoning variance to operate overnight cabins on Quaker Lane. Councilman Antonio Paul said the council wants to view the property.

Granted John Petrella, 83 Prospect Hill Avenue, an auctioneer's license.

Granted the following licenses: Polish Falcons, Barnold Street, dance, June 30; Amalgamated Lace Operatives of America Auxiliary, Branch A-7, dance, Portuguese-American Hall, Bridge Street, May 19; West Warwick Post, American Legion, carnival, May 28-June 2, Lexington grounds; Sgt. David Langevin Post, VFW, poppy days, May 25, 26.

Approved sidewalk construction applications, the town to pay a share of cost, for Jean L. Teller, 44 Andrews Avenue; James H. Lamb, 64 Maple Avenue; Sylvio Loisele, 112 1/2 Andrews Avenue; Joseph Perillo, Riverdale Avenue and Eddy Street; Gaetano Testatore, Riverdale Avenue; Ludger Langevin, 17 Harbour Avenue.

Referred to Petrarca a request from Ed Tatno that Leo Street be repaved.

Instructed the health officer, Dr. John A. Mack, to inspect all public laundries during June, when their licenses expire.

Authorized McKanna to supervise spraying of trees.

Granted the Crompton Veterans Organization a Class D liquor license for its new club, Hepburn Street.

Granted joint pole locations to the Narragansett Electric Co. and New England Tel. & Tel. Co. for Tilton Street, Sunrise Avenue, Wakefield Street, Schofield Street, West Warwick Avenue.

Granted pole locations to the telephone company for Cleveland Street, Woodland Drive and Lexington Avenue.

Voted to meet the day of the annual town meeting, May 22, as a board of canvassers.

Filed the reported Police Chief Groleau. It listed 262 arrests, answered during April, 43 arrests and 32289 in stolen property recovered and returned to owners.

Filed the report of Dog Officer Donat Frenette, listing 11 complaints investigated during April.

# BUDGET APPROVED BY SCHOOL BOARD

May 9, 1957

But West Warwick Committee Fails to Release Figures for Study by Public

The 1951-52 school budget was approved by the West Warwick School Committee in a 20-minute executive session last night, but the budget was not released to the public.

Vincent Lukowicz, committee chairman, revealed that the appropriations for kindergartens, which were sought by many parents, have not definitely been included in the proposed budget.

Although the school committee is an autonomous body, according to state law, the school budget will be released by the town budget committee rather than the school committee.

Lukowicz explained that the school budget will be presented to the town budget committee, for inclusion in a budget covering all town departments. The budget committee is composed of members of the town council.

The school budget, Lukowicz said, has never been released by the school committee in the past years.

When asked if the kindergartens are included in the budget or as a special appropriation, the chairman said the preprimary schools are "mentioned" in the report being made by the school committee to the budget committee.

Earlier this year, the school department made a survey of demand for kindergartens by having parents register children they would send to such schools, if they were established. Out of 286 children eligible for kindergarten next fall, 150 were registered by their parents.

In reply to another question, Lukowicz said the kindergartens were not being recommended by the school committee.

"We have hemmed and hawed about it, but nothing definite has been decided," he said. "We have to see if the budget committee has the money available. Then we'll see what'll we'll do."

In other matters, the committee took the following action:

Approved \$969.38 of general bills, \$239.28 of athletic bills and \$133.33 of miscellaneous bills.

Granted permission to the Portuguese-American Sports Club to use the athletic field on Wednesday nights for Commercial League softball games.

Decided to postpone appointments and reappointments of teachers until the June meeting.

# 10% PAY BOOST FOR ALL TOWN OFFICIALS SOUGHT

P.V. Times

May 14, 1957

Appointive, Permanent and Elected Officers Included in Program Covered by Annual Budget in West Warwick.

Salary raises amounting to about 10 per cent for all appointive, permanent and three elected officials in the West Warwick Town administration, reported to be acceptable by the employees, is included in the proposed 1951-52 budget to be submitted to taxpayers at the annual financial town meeting on May 22nd.

Faced with the rising cost of living, most employees of the town began seeking a raise in pay late last year. With exception of those in employ at the sewer department, the pay raises were held off to the town meeting.

The amount of salaries in the proposed budget totals \$553,764.38 which is \$53,415.84 more than the salaries totaled in the 1950-51 budget approved by taxpayers last year.

The three elected officials to receive a pay raise are the town councilmen who previously received \$160 per year and now would receive \$300 per year; the chairman of the board of tax assessors who previously was paid

\$1320 and now would receive \$2600; and the town treasurer whose pay is \$1872 and who would receive \$2340. The budget committee proposed that the chairman of the board of tax assessors and the town treasurer be made full-time jobs. If the town treasurer pay boost is approved no clerical assistance will be needed in that office, the budget committee announced.

The department heads, including the chief of police, highway commissioner, fire department chief and superintendent of sewers under the proposed budget would get a raise of from \$80 per week to \$90 per week.

Employees of departments with exception of the highway department are receiving a raise amounting to about 10 per cent. In the highway department the raises are being adjusted. Figured on the weekly scale the proposed salaries follow: assistant commissioner from \$70 to \$71.50; clerk from \$45 to \$50; five truck drivers from \$43 to \$53; nine laborers from \$40 to \$50 per week.

Town Officers—	1950-51	1951-52 (Decrease)
Town Council	\$ 825.00	\$ 1,500.00
Town Solicitor	880.00	880.00
Assessor No. 1	1,320.00	2,600.00
Assessor No. 2	1,320.00	1,320.00
Assessor No. 3	1,320.00	1,320.00
Probate Judge	577.32	577.32
Supt. of Street Lights	275.00	275.00
Town Sergeant	547.60	547.60
Director of Public Welfare	1,485.00	1,485.00
Town Auditor	250.00	250.00
Health Officer	350.00	350.00
Town Physician	350.00	350.00
School Committee	495.00	495.00
Janitor—Town Hall	1,076.00	1,076.00
Town Clerk	3,016.00	3,016.00
Police Chief	4,160.00	4,160.00
Highway Supt.	4,160.00	4,160.00
Tax Collector	2,275.00	2,340.00
Town Treasurer	1,872.00	2,340.00
Tree and Fire Wardens	45.00	45.00
Building Inspector	2,080.00	2,080.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 27,802.92</b>	<b>\$ 23,946.92 (\$3,856.00)</b>
<b>Sewer Department—</b>		
Superintendent	\$ 4,160.00	\$ 4,680.00
Electrician	2,565.16	3,085.00
5 Operators	10,140.00	13,000.00
1 Laborer	1,600.00	1,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,555.16</b>	<b>\$ 22,435.00 \$ 3,882.84</b>
<b>Garbage and Rubbish—</b>		
2 truck drivers	\$ 4,472.00	\$ 5,512.00
3 laborers	12,450.00	15,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,922.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,112.00 \$ 4,180.00</b>
<b>Highway—</b>		
Superintendent	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 4,680.00
Assistant Superintendent	3,640.00	3,715.00
2 Drivers	2,340.00	2,600.00
5 Truck Drivers	11,150.00	13,780.00
3 Laborers	18,720.00	23,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,880.00</b>	<b>\$ 48,175.00 \$ 12,295.00</b>
<b>Mosquito Control—</b>		
1 Laborer	\$ 2,443.00	\$ 2,860.00 \$ 417.00
<b>Fire Department—</b>		
Chief	\$ 4,160.00	\$ 4,680.00
Deputy Chief	3,085.00	3,380.00
Deputy Chief	2,068.00	2,068.00
Electrician	3,380.00	3,715.00
Mechanic	2,964.00	3,120.00
4 Firemen	15,600.00	17,160.00
1 Fireman	2,548.00	2,808.00
2 Firemen	4,992.00	5,312.00
1 Fireman	2,340.00	2,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 42,120.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,578.00 \$ 3,458.00</b>
<b>Police Department—</b>		
Chief	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 4,680.00
Captain	3,380.00	3,715.00
2 Sergeants	3,008.00	3,928.00
2 Corporals	3,304.00	3,824.00
10 Patrolmen	23,400.00	28,600.00
1 Janitor	1,300.00	1,430.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,792.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,180.00 \$ 11,388.00</b>
<b>Clerical—Town Clerk—</b>		
1	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 2,704.00
1	1,872.00	1,976.00
2	4,992.00	5,204.00
<b>Clerical—Tax Assessor—</b>		
1	1,664.00	1,680.00
<b>Clerical—Tax Collector—</b>		
1	1,664.00	1,680.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,792.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,000.00 \$ 208.00</b>
<b>Town Property—</b>		
Janitor	\$ 1,872.00	\$ 1,872.00 (\$1,872.00)
<b>Public Welfare—</b>		
1 Clerk	\$ 1,935.20	\$ 2,000.00
1 Case Worker	2,039.28	2,039.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,974.48</b>	<b>\$ 4,039.28 \$ 64.80</b>
<b>Public Schools</b>	<b>\$279,145.00</b>	<b>\$279,145.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$480,348.34</b>	<b>\$553,764.38 \$73,415.84</b>

# RECORD-BREAKING BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED MAY 22

*P.V. Times May 14, 1951*  
**\$771,955.42 Figure is  
Increase of \$53,372.50  
Over Last Year in Town**

The budget for the 1951-52 fiscal year in West Warwick released by the administration for action of taxpayers at the annual financial town meeting on May 22 totals to a record breaking figure of \$771,955.42, an increase of \$53,372.50 over last year's budget, an increase chiefly to provide a salary raise of about 10 per cent for the town's employees and three of its selected officials, and the promise that there will be no raise in the present tax rate of \$2.25 for each \$100 valuation.

Along with the budget and contained in the warrant of the call of the financial town meeting are non-budget resolutions calling for a total expenditure of \$90,000, all to be met out of the cash accumulative surplus. They include \$8,000 for a highway roller; \$32,000 for capital improvements to school buildings and \$50,000 for the widening and extension of Pike street in Riverpoint, and Weaver and Payan streets in Arctic. Also included in the call is the \$1,200,000 sewer bond issue which if approved goes to the General Assembly for its O. K. to provide extension of the sewer service throughout the town.

Figured with anticipated income, the budget committee predicts a balance of \$542.58. Anticipated income follows: from taxation, \$605,000; state aid, \$77,500; sewer assessment funds, \$25,000; licenses and other fees, \$63,000 for a total income of \$772,500.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, in releasing the budget for the budget committee which is the Town Council, also handed out a breakdown of the salaries effected by the contemplated

raise—it is found in another column of this newspaper—and it is a revelation. It shows that over two thirds of the total appropriation goes for salaries of the town's employees. The total annual payroll is \$533,764.38. Only \$238,191.04 is spent for other municipal functions.

In looking over the budget which is also contained in another column of this newspaper, it is found that there is a reduction in the town officers salaries because the pay for the chief of police which previously came from that appropriation, now comes from the police department appropriation. The expenditure for insurance has been raised to allow workmen's compensation to employees other than the firemen who already have it and to provide a blanket bond for the tax collector and treasurer. The raises in the police, highway, sanitation and education appropriations are for salary raises.

## New Appropriations

There are four new appropriations including the following: Civilian Defense, \$10,000; reconstruction of highway garage, \$5000 to allow all the equipment to be stored in the garage; police department ambulance, \$800, previously money for operating the ambulance came out of general revenue; social security, \$4000, to provide the town's employees this new service.

In the non-budget resolution of \$32,000, the school committee wants the money to make repairs to town's schools, chiefly to the Harris avenue, and Junior and Senior high schools. DeCiantis said that the schools have been in need of repairs the past 15 years. A complete explanation of the repairs needed will be released by the school committee tomorrow.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET

Some of the highlights in the 1951-52 proposed budget for West Warwick released today follow:

No tax raise seen by the administration in its record-breaking budget totalling \$771,955.42.

No appropriation or resolution for kindergartens.

Special appropriation included in the warrant amount to \$90,000 and include \$32,000 for improvements to school buildings; \$50,000 for widening and extension of Pike, Weaver and Payan streets; \$8,000 for purchase of a highway roller.

Over two thirds of the budget, \$533,764.38 is for salaries.

Salary raises amounting to about 10 per cent to all town appointive and three elected office holders.

Four new appropriations in the budget including \$10,000 for Civilian Defense; \$5,000 for reconstruction of the highway garage; \$4,000 for social security for the town's employees; and \$800 for operation of the town ambulance.

## TOWN OF WEST WARWICK Proposed Budget—1951-52

	Appropriation 1950-51	Appropriation 1951-52
General Government—		
Town Officers Salaries .....	\$ 27,400.00	\$ 23,946.92
Clerical—Town Hall .....	12,718.00	13,320.00
Supplies and Expenses .....	4,000.00	4,700.00
Service Memorial .....	300.00	300.00
Telephone .....	2,200.00	2,700.00
Town Hall—Repairs & Replacements .....	5,200.00	2,500.00
District Meetings .....	3,500.00	2,000.00
Insurance .....	8,265.00	11,500.00
Town Officers Bonds .....	650.00	750.00
Memorial Services .....	1,500.00	1,500.00
Insurance—unpaid .....	2,216.52	
Miscellaneous .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Protection to Person and Property—		
Police Department .....	\$ 33,664.00	\$ 65,236.00
Police Department Equipment .....	1,000.00	1,500.00
Police Department Ambulance .....		800.00
Fire Department .....	67,400.00	69,023.00
Street Lighting .....	28,500.00	29,200.00
Civilian Defense .....		10,000.00
Sanitation—		
Sewer Department .....	\$ 28,716.00	\$ 32,600.00
Sewer Disposal Plant .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Garbage and Rubbish Removal .....	26,000.00	24,000.00
Highway—		
Highway Maintenance .....	\$ 48,600.00	\$ 61,515.00
Highway Department Equipment .....	5,000.00	
Highway Construction & Improvement .....	10,000.00	10,000.00
Sidewalk Construction .....	2,500.00	2,500.00
Reconstructing Highway Garage .....		5,000.00
Education—		
School Department .....	\$254,880.00	\$274,847.00
Libraries .....	2,500.00	2,500.00
Teachers' Pensions .....	7,000.00	8,200.00
Public Welfare .....	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 15,600.00
Debt Service—		
Bond and Note Retirement .....	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 32,000.00
Interest .....	21,395.00	19,437.50
Health Activities—		
Mosquito Control .....	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
P.V. Visiting Nurses Association .....	1,000.00	1,000.00
Other—		
Southern R.I. Farm Bureau .....	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Playground and Recreation .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Social Security .....		4,000.00
Total Revenue Appropriations .....	\$718,582.92	\$771,955.42
		Increase

# Raises Provided in Record W. Warwick Budget

## Proposed \$771,955 Is \$53,372 Increase

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick today released for the town administration a record proposed budget totaling \$771,955.42 for presentation at the annual town meeting May 22 at 2 p.m. in the junior high school.

The increase of \$53,372.50 over appropriations last year is due entirely to inclusion of cost of living raises for all town employees and raises for some elective officers, DeCiantis said.

Most town employees, such as police and firemen, would be raised 10 per cent, but department heads would receive jumps from \$80 to \$90 a week. Sewer, garbage and some highway workers now getting low pay would receive more than 10 per cent boosts.

Raises also are provided for some elective officers. Councilmen would receive increases from \$160 to \$300 a year.

The budget provides for a salary raise from \$1320 to \$2600 for Hermonigilde Nadeau, chairman of the board of tax assessors. DeCiantis said the chairman's post would become a full-time one, if taxpayers approve. The other two assessors, Richard S. Hughes and Rudolph Nardella, would continue at their present \$1320 pay.

### Treasurer's Pay Up

Pay for the elective job of town treasurer, now filled by Robert Harrop, would be raised from \$1872 to \$2340. Harrop's clerical help

would be eliminated, and the treasurer's post made a full time one.

Department heads whose salaries would be raised from \$80 to \$90 a week are Andrew B. Gough, sewer plant superintendent; Henry Petrarca, highway commissioner; Fire Chief Lionel P. Gareau and Police Chief Groleau.

DeCiantis explained that salaries of department officials, which have been included under the heading of town officers, are being placed under the budget of the department in which they work. This is a state auditors' recommendation designed to show actual expenses of each department, he said.

### Highway Raises

In the highway department, salaries would be raised as follows: assistant superintendent, \$70 to \$71.50 a week; clerk, \$35 to \$50 a week; five drivers, \$43 to \$53 a week; nine laborers, \$40 to \$50 weekly.

Garbage collection department workers would receive raises as follows: two drivers, \$43 to \$53 a week; six laborers, \$40 to \$50 a week.

Total school department budget, DeCiantis said, is \$355,857, of which \$274,847 will be needed from a town appropriation. The balance will come from state aid, poll taxes, dog license fees and cafeteria receipts.

Salaries of the police chief and highway superintendent, formerly included under a town officers' item, now are listed in their own departments' budget.

### Civil Defense Item

The town hall janitor's salary, formerly listed with town hall, maintenance and repair, now is included with town officers' salaries.

A new item in the budget is \$10,000 for civil defense. Cost of insurance is up \$3235, from \$8265 to \$11,500, in the proposed budget. DeCiantis explained that workmen's compensation insurance, formerly confined to firemen is planned for other employees as well. A new blanket bond for the town treasurer and tax collector is included, he said.

An increase of \$11,572 in the police budget is explainable by salary raises, inclusion of the chief's salary for the first time and a \$500 increase in electricity costs, DeCiantis said.

### Would Trade-In Cars

Also included in the police budget is money to pay for trade-in of two cruiser cars.

Maintenance of the police ambulance this year is taken out of the police budget. An \$800 appropriation to finance the ambulance is listed separately.

The fire department budget is only \$1554 higher than last year, despite the fact that salaries alone increased by \$3458. DeCiantis said other items were lower in some cases, and that the administration included no money for a hydrant rental increase. The increase is proposed by the Kent County Water Authority, whose right to raise rates is currently up for a Supreme Court decision.

The garbage and rubbish removal item is \$2000 less than last year's \$26,000 figure. It was explained that two special trucks were pur-

## West Warwick Salary Schedule

Salary raises are the sole factor in the increase of the proposed West Warwick budget, with all appointive employees and some elected officials slated for wage boosts.

The following is a comparison of present and proposed salaries:

Town Officers:	1950-51	1951-52
Town Council	\$825.00	\$1,500.00
Town Solicitor	880.00	880.00
Assessor #1	1,320.00	2,600.00
Assessor #2	1,320.00	1,320.00
Assessor #3	1,320.00	1,320.00
Probate Judge	577.32	577.32
Suplt. of Street	275.00	275.00
Director of Public Welfare	347.60	347.60
Town Auditor	1,485.00	1,485.00
Health Officer	250.00	250.00
Town Physician	550.00	550.00
School Committee	495.00	495.00
Janitor—Town Hall	3,016.00	3,016.00
Town Clerk	4,160.00	4,160.00
Police Chief	4,160.00	4,160.00
Highway Supt.	2,275.00	2,275.00
Tax Collector	1,872.00	2,340.00
Town Treasurer	45.00	45.00
Tree and Fire Wardens	2,080.00	2,080.00
Building Inspector	2,080.00	2,080.00
Total	\$27,802.92	\$23,946.92

Sewer Department:		
Superintendent	\$4,160.00	\$4,680.00
Electrician	2,565.16	2,565.16
5 Operators	10,140.00	13,000.00
1 Laborer	1,690.00	1,690.00
Total	\$18,555.16	\$22,438.00

Garbage and Rubbish:		
2 Truck Drivers	\$4,472.00	\$5,512.00
6 Laborers	12,480.00	15,600.00
Total	\$16,952.00	\$21,112.00

Highway:		
Superintendent	\$4,680.00	\$4,680.00
Assistant Superin-	\$3,640.00	\$3,718.00
Clerk	2,340.00	2,600.00
5 Truck Drivers	11,140.00	13,780.00
9 Laborers	18,720.00	23,400.00
Total	\$35,880.00	\$48,178.00

Mosquito Control:		
1 Laborer	\$2,443.00	\$2,860.00
Total	\$2,443.00	\$2,860.00

Fire Department:		
Chief	\$4,160.00	\$4,680.00
Deputy Chief	3,380.00	3,380.00
Electrician	3,380.00	3,718.00
Mechanic	2,565.16	2,565.16
6 Firemen	15,600.00	17,160.00
2 Fireman	2,548.00	2,808.00
2 Fireman	2,548.00	2,808.00
1 Fireman	2,340.00	2,600.00
1 Fireman	2,340.00	2,600.00
Total	\$42,120.00	\$45,578.00

Police Department:		
Chief	\$3,380.00	\$3,718.00
Captain	\$3,380.00	\$3,718.00
2 Sergeants	\$3,380.00	\$3,718.00
2 Corporals	\$3,380.00	\$3,718.00
2 Patrolmen	\$2,565.16	\$2,565.16
1 Janitor	1,300.00	1,430.00
Total	\$38,792.00	\$40,180.00

Clerical—Town Clerk:		
1	\$2,600.00	\$2,704.00
1	1,872.00	1,976.00
3	4,992.00	5,304.00
Total	\$9,464.00	\$10,000.00

Clerical—Tax Collector:		
1	\$1,664.00	\$1,768.00
Total	\$1,664.00	\$1,768.00

Town Property:		
1	\$12,792.00	\$13,320.00
Total	\$12,792.00	\$13,320.00

Public Welfare:		
1 Clerk	\$1,955.20	\$1,955.20
1 Case Worker	2,039.26	2,039.26
Total	\$3,994.46	\$3,994.46

Public Schools:		
1	\$279,145.00	\$301,567.00
Totals	\$480,348.54	\$533,764.38

chased from last year's appropriation, an expenditure which will not be necessary this year. Because of the purchase, last year's account will show a deficit when the state audit is completed, according to DeCiantis.

### Maintenance Budget

The highway maintenance budget proposed is \$12,915 higher than last year. Practically all of the increase is due to salary boosts, it was said.

A new item of \$5000 for reconstruction of the highway department garage on Junior Street is in the budget. DeCiantis said it is desired to make renovations, including new cement floors, in order that all highway department equipment may be housed inside.

The school department budget shows only a \$19,958 increase over last year, in spite of the fact that school department salaries alone will increase by \$22,812. "They have cut down other things," the solicitor said.

A separate item for teachers' pensions, covering a town contribution, is up from \$7000 to \$8200 in the proposed budget. This contribution is required by law.

### Mosquito Control

The mosquito control account is cut from \$2500 to \$2300 to bring it nearer to the \$2000 which the state will match.

Another new item in the budget is \$4000 to cover cost of enrolling town employees under social security coverage. This figure is 1½ per cent of the payroll, excluding teachers, who have their own state pension plan.

DeCiantis pointed out that the total for wages of all town employees in the proposed budget is \$533,764.38.

Figuring on the basis of the present \$2.25 per \$100 valuation tax rate, the town administration envisages \$772,500 in revenue coming in to cover the budget, DeCiantis said.

Estimated income is as follows: Revenue from town taxes, \$605,000; state aid, \$77,500; sewer assessment fund, \$25,000; licenses, interest and fees, \$65,800.

DeCiantis said complete figures are not yet available on the assessable valuation of the town, although assessments were made as of last Dec. 31. Estimates indicate that the assessors will make an assessment of between \$615,000 and \$665,000, but the administration is figuring on \$605,000 from town tax assessments to be on the safe side, he said.

### TO DECIDE TAX EXEMPTION

West Warwick taxpayers again will be asked at the annual town meeting May 22 whether they want to continue authorizing the town council to grant 10-year tax exemptions to new industries.

This is included in the warrant for the meeting issued today by Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb and posted in prominent places by Town Sgt. rank D. Boisvert. Council authority to grant such exemptions is kept on a year-to-year basis.

Another special provision on which taxpayers will be asked to vote relates to sale of town property by the council. It would authorize the council to sell town-owned land for highway purposes and also to sell land owned by the town and intended for highway purposes, which is not now used for such purposes.

## \$1,290,000 Up For Vote

### Taxpayers to Act On Special Items At West Warwick

West Warwick taxpayers will vote on administration recommendations of an appropriation of \$90,000 from surplus to finance capital improvements and a sewer extension bond loan of \$1,200,000 at the annual town meeting May 22.

These items are in the call for the town meeting, but are separate from the regular list of appropriations.

Recommended for financing from the town's big surplus are a highway department steam roller,

### Other Pawtuxet Valley And Warwick News On Page 27

\$8000; major repairs to school buildings, \$32,000; and street improvements, not to exceed \$50,000.

The \$50,000 would be used to widen, extend and otherwise improve Pike Street, Riverpoint; Weaver and Payan Streets, Arctic, according to Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis.

DeCiantis said the school repair appropriation is needed because schools have had no major repairs in 15 years. All brick schools, such as the high school, junior high school and Harris Avenue School, need re-pointing, he said. Elimination of leaks in some schools will be sought.

The school committee is expected to write a letter to the town budget committee today, advising it in detail of the school repairs needed.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., said the town administration realizes that Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson this month called on states, cities and counties to get "clearances" before undertaking any borrowing in excess of \$1,000,000.

McKanna said clearance would be sought, as the \$1,200,000 project is a health measure. He pointed out that, if taxpayers approve floating the bond issue, the proposal still will have to be approved at the next session of the General Assembly.

Wilson based his request on the need to halt inflationary spending and to save defense-needed materials and manpower.

## 86% of 1950 Taxes Collected At W. Warwick

About 86 per cent of the 1950 tax assessment was collected at the end of the fiscal year, Apr. 30, with a last quarterly payment still due on July 3, according to the annual report of Miss Amy A. Saute, West Warwick tax collector.

The total collected on the 1950 tax was \$499,104.05, leaving a balance to be collected of \$79,688.84 on 1950 taxes, the report said. Poll taxes for the year netted \$1278.

Total property taxes collected some dating as far back as 1937, were set at \$566,016.36.

Taxes still due, including \$79,688.84 on the 1950 assessment in which one quarterly payment remains, amount to \$120,029.97.

Under the heading of fire district tax collections, \$54.04 was taken in from the old Natick Fire District and \$267.44 from the former Arctic Fire District.

Sewer assessment tax collections were listed as follows: prepayments, \$2913.75; payments for the years from 1941 to 1950, \$19,443.37; interest assessment, \$12,368.90; delinquent \$211.

Sewer tax prepayments included \$371.85 for the year 1941 and \$341.90 for 1950. Regular payments by years were: 1941, \$17,705.96; 1942, \$21,779.19; 1943, \$19,281.48; 1944, \$18,351.47; 1945, \$18,351.47; 1946, \$18,351.47; 1947, \$18,351.47; 1948, \$18,351.47; 1949, \$18,351.47; 1950, \$18,351.47.

Uncollected balances of \$400,120.01 on sewer taxes were spread out as follows, according to the report: 1941, \$348,968.54; 1942, \$487.46; 1943, \$212; 1944, \$3430.00; 1947, \$2251.55; 1948, \$9750.81; 1949, \$7789.86; 1950, \$6259.59.

# \$1,200,000 Sewer Extension Bonds Plan Finds West Warwick GOP Skeptical

## Stage Is Set For Meeting On Tuesday

PTA Displeased  
At Kindergarten  
Funds' Failure

The stage was set for a hectic annual town meeting in West Warwick next Tuesday at a budget hearing marked last night by Republican skepticism of a \$1,200,000 sewer extension bond issue, an \$8000 steam roller and capital road improvements in Arctic.

A special committee from West Warwick PTA indicated displeasure at failure of the school committee and budget committee to recommend appropriations to start kindergartens and eliminate large classes with two grades under one teacher.

Republican Town Committee representatives would not say after the meeting whether they will oppose the proposed sewer bond issue.

However, the PTA group indicated that it might seek an amendment to increase the school budget on the floor of the town meeting to provide the kindergartens and add more teachers.

Answering questions by Morris Chorney and Leonard Shapiro of the PTA committee, Harry F. McKanna Jr., budget committee chairman and town council president, said the council felt it could not interfere with the school board's recommendations.

PTA members asked McKanna why the council did not take it upon itself to include a recommendation for the educational improvements. McKanna said the council would not deviate from school board recommendations, any change would have to be made on the floor of the town meeting by taxpayers.

Ernest Lefebvre and Roland E. Meunier of the GOP town committee questioned advisability of the sewer bond issue, after Lefebvre maintained that extension should be paid for each year with money from sewer taxes.

Discussion among the two Republicans, Town Treasurer Robert Harrop and Charles J. Bourgault, brought out that the original 1940 sewer act provided for a tax assessment on land and buildings of that time only to pay for the sewers over a 30-year period.

Inasmuch as the original act did not stipulate that any extra tax money be spent for sewer extensions, some money from taxation of houses built since 1940 has gone into the general fund, it was said.

It is this money that Lefebvre contended should be used annually to pay for sewer extensions, instead of selling \$1,200,000 in bonds.

Norman E. Gillespie of the West Warwick Republican Club clashed with McKanna when he questioned the proposed widening of Weaver Street, Arctic, as part of a \$50,000 capital road improvement program to be financed from surplus.

"Why the sudden interest in Weaver Street? Could it be that certain people have bought certain property in that section?" Gillespie asked.

Obviously aroused, McKanna declared, "Let's keep the questioning fair."

"I think it's fair," answered Gillespie.

"I think it's a darn dirty one," McKanna declared.

Gillespie retorted, "I don't think money should be spent for improving someone's property."

"It surprises me how you could bring up such a subject at this meeting," said McKanna. "Let's go on to another subject."

Gillespie asserted he would continue on the subject if he wanted to but he then went on to attack the proposed special appropriation of \$8000 from surplus for a steam roller.

Declaring that the town could hire a roller for the next 100 years and not spend that much, Gillespie added the money could better be spent for kindergartens.

McKanna answered that the roller cost had been weighed against cost of hiring one and the anticipated lifetime of a roller. He said it is difficult to hire one and that an operator must be hired with it, whereas town employees can operate it.

Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca declared that the roller is needed, as evidenced by the fact his department built 35 streets last year.

Lefebvre said the trend in other places is to require plat developers to put streets in such condition that rollers would not be needed.

McKanna said there is a possibility the town may tighten up restrictions on developers, but both he and Petrarca pointed out there are miles of existing roads needing attention.

Capital improvements such as the Weaver Street proposal, the roller and sewer extensions should be left for the new planning commission to consider Gillespie declared.

Gillespie and Meunier, who are at odds within the GOP, agreed in advocating economy at this time because of the tax burden on taxpayers in the national emergency.

Bourgault and McKanna pointed out that all of the \$53,372.50 increase in the regular budget is for salary increases, a problem everywhere.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, recognized leader of the Democratic administration forces, was not present, nor was Harold C. Knight, Republican town chairman.



WEST WARWICK PTA members listen during debate last night at town hall. The group was unsuccessful in its efforts to obtain an increase in the school budget to establish kindergartens and eliminate two grades in

one classroom. Left to right are: Mrs. Alfred Senerchia, Mrs. Thomas Bouley, Morris Chorney, Leonard Shapiro and Mrs. Robert Johnson.

—State Staff Photo

## SCHOOLS REQUEST \$19,958 INCREASE

West Warwick Board's Budget for Coming Year Is Set at \$274,847

Pawtuxet Valley Office, 15 Washington Street, West Warwick, Telephone Valley 1-0570, 1-0746-W

The West Warwick School Committee has requested a \$274,847 appropriation for the 1951-52 school year. This represents a total of \$19,958 more than the schools received from the town for 1950-51 when the committee went \$8647.24 in the red.

The increase is needed, according to the financial report and school budget, because of automatic teacher salary raises and expected decreases in receipts from other sources than the town appropriation.

The complete financial report and budget follows, with a comparison of last year's figures and this year's proposed figures.

	1950-51	1951-52
Receipts	\$ 2,215.75	\$ 2,215.75
Balance	254,889.00	54,723.00
Town appropriation	54,722.88	1,544.00
State appropriation	1,544.00	1,133.00
Poll taxes	1,133.00	20,163.00
Dog licenses	1,133.00	3,606.00
Cafeteria, athletics	22,374.35	4,312.50
Miscellaneous receipts	4,312.50	8,647.24
Tuition	8,647.24	
Over-expended appropriation		
Total	\$350,038.70	\$1,010.00
Expenditures	1950-51	1951-52
General control	\$ 9,669.11	\$ 10,355.00
Instruction	260,427.52	274,169.00
Operation of school	42,422.03	44,718.00
plants		
Maintenance of school plants	127,23.08	2,100.00
Auxiliary agencies	24,796.96	24,515.00
Total	\$350,038.70	\$358,857.00

The appropriation required from the town to run the schools for the year beginning May 1, 1951 is \$274,847 and this appropriation is recommended by the school committee.

## Bid to Reopen Kindergartens

Turned Down

West Warwick School Committee decided not to recommend re-establishment of kindergartens at the annual town meeting May 22, because it felt the cost was prohibitive.

This was revealed yesterday with release of the annual report of the school committee, which comprises Vincent J. Lukowicz, chairman; Edward F. Hand, and Lorenzo Bergeron.

The committee recalled that a survey of demand for kindergartens was undertaken after a group "representing Crompton residents" requested it. Registrations were taken in January at each of the elementary schools, and it was indicated that 152 children would enter kindergartens.

"To establish and equip kindergartens in each elementary school will cost \$14,012.22," the committee said. "Because the committee believes the cost is prohibitive, it does not recommend the opening of kindergartens."

## BUDGET HEARING SLATED TONIGHT

W. Warwick Taxpayers to Hear Reasons for Total of \$771,955 Asked

West Warwick taxpayers will have a chance to ask questions about the budget proposed for next Tuesday's annual town meeting at a special budget hearing tonight at 8 in the town hall, Riverpoint.

At least two groups, West Warwick PTA and the West Warwick Republican Club, have appointed committees to attend the hearing.

The budget totals \$771,955.42, or \$53,372.50 higher than last year's.

Despite some ups and downs in other items, including a new appropriation of \$10,000 for civil defense and \$5000 for reconstruction of the highway department garage, the administration has said the increase is due wholly to proposed salary increases for town employees and some elective officers.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis pointed out that proposed salary raises, designed to give employees relief against the high cost of living and including teachers' automatic salary boosts, make the total cost of salaries \$53,414.84 higher than it was last year.

Also scheduled for discussion are several special items, separate from the regular budget. These include a \$1,200,000 bond issue to finance sewer system extensions, and the following to be taken from surplus funds: highway steam roller, \$8000; major school repairs, \$32,000; widening, extending and improving Pike Street, Riverpoint; Weaver and Payan Streets, Arctic, \$50,000.

*Prov. Journal May 19, 51*

## New Planning Board Gets W. Warwick Street Problem

The question of what street improvements should be made in West Warwick was thrown into the lap of the new town planning board, along with other plans for future development of the town, at the board's first meeting last night in the town hall.

Board members said they were unable immediately to decide whether they would recommend road improvements already provided for in the call for Tuesday's annual town meeting.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis then said they would recommend that town meeting action be put off on a \$50,-

000 item for road improvements now in the call for the meeting.

Instead, an appropriation from surplus funds will be recommended to pay for the planning board's proposed hiring of a part-time engineer, other board needs and possible widening of the corner of Pike Street and Main Street, Riverpoint.

Alexander DiMartino served as temporary chairman in the absence of Judge Robert E. Quinn, who is slated to become chairman.

DiMartino said a figure on the appropriation the board needs will be arrived at in a second meeting Monday night.

Arthur Lewis, Cranston city planning engineer, will attend Monday's meeting, on DiMartino's invitation, to give the board advice on the scope of its work and how to go about it.

It appeared certain that the board's decision that it could not in fairness make immediate recommendations for road improvements will result in a considerable reduction in the town administration proposal to appropriate \$50,000 from surplus for the road program.

A sum not to exceed \$50,000 now is proposed by the budget committee in the town meeting call to pay for the Pike Street work, as well as widening and improving Weaver and Payan Streets, Arctic. Both projects would require condemnation of land and buildings.

The Weaver Street project has met with opposition from Norman E. Gillespie, West Warwick Republican Club leader, who has questioned whether it was recommended to improve someone's land.

DiMartino said Judge Quinn was unable to be present because he was called unexpectedly to Washington, D.C. Other board members were Webster Knight 2nd, Albert C. Coutu and Mozart Holmes. Board members appointed Holmes as secretary.

*Prov. Journal May 22, 1951*

## W. Warwick Board to Ask Sum to Widen Arctic Corner

The new West Warwick planning board last night voted to ask a special appropriation of \$20,000 from surplus at the annual town meeting this afternoon to pay for widening the corner of Pike and East Main Streets and for part time engineering aid in the coming year.

On motion of Webster Knight 2nd, the board employed Arthur Lewis, Cranston city planning engineer on a part time basis to make a study and give an estimate of cost of a base map of the town.

Lewis, who met with the board to give advice on how to go about planning, said the base map would be made from assessors' plats and that it is fundamental in planning work.

### Judge Quinn in Washington

It was the second meeting of the board. Alexander DiMartino again served as temporary chairman in the absence of Judge Robert E. Quinn, who is slated to be chairman. DiMartino said the judge is still in Washington, D. C., where he was scheduled to see President Truman.

The board's action in recommending a \$20,000 appropriation will result in amending downward a special \$50,000 appropriation now in the town meeting call. The \$50,000 was recommended by the town administration, before the plan board organized, not only for the Pike Street job, but for widening

Weaver and Payan Streets, Arctic.

Board members said last week they were not prepared to recommend the Weaver-Payan Streets project. Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis and Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, said the administration would omit it at the town meeting today. It will be left for consideration in a master plan to be evolved by the board.

The Pike Street corner widening has been recommended by state engineers now supervising rebuilding of Pike and East Main Streets and has gained general acceptance in the town.

DeCiantis, who attended last night's meeting, expressed satisfaction that planning board members will attend the town meeting. One of the group, probably Albert C. Coutu, will be spokesman.

Coutu said the board should consider the possibility of relocating a house at Pike and Main Streets, as an economy measure, instead of buying it and demolishing it in order to widen the corner. In the event that could be done, any part of the \$20,000 not needed would revert to the general treasury, it was brought out.

Lewis, in advising the board, told members, "it's not planning that costs money. It's the lack of planning. Planning everywhere looks toward the 25-30 year plan, or master plan."

## WARRANT POSTED IN WEST WARWICK

*5/18/51*  
Town Sergeant Frank D. Boisvert of West Warwick has posted throughout the town copies of the warrant calling a special election May 25.

At that time voters will decide by paper ballots whether they approve holding a state constitutional convention and also whether they want parking meters installed on town highways.

West Warwick officials decided to hold the parking meter referendum, authorized by the last General Assembly, at the same time as the constitutional convention election. Although the convention election would require only one polling place in each of the three representative districts, the parking meter question must be settled under the same conditions as a general election. Therefore, all seven polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The vote will be specifically on the following questions:

"Shall a constitutional convention be held for the limited purpose of amending the constitution of this state to provide: 1. for the permanent registration of voters of this state; 2. for the qualification of voters (veterans' exemption); 3. for increasing the compensation of members of the General Assembly; 4. for repeal of poll tax; 5. for life tenure for judges of the supreme and superior courts; 6. for home rule for cities and towns; 7. for increase of borrowing power of the state; 8. for redevelopment of blighted, substandard and insanitary areas and for off-street parking in cities and towns?

"Shall delegates be elected to such a convention in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2705 of the Public Laws of 1951?

"Shall the installation of parking meters for operation upon the public highways in the town of West Warwick be authorized?"

*Prov. Journal May 18, 1951*

## Budget Hearing in West Warwick Sets Stage for Hectic Annual Town Meeting

The stage was set for a hectic annual town meeting in West Warwick next Tuesday at a budget hearing marked last night by Republican skepticism of a \$1,200,000 sewer extension bond issue, an \$8000 steam roller and capital road improvements in Arctic.

A special committee from West Warwick PTA indicated displeasure at failure of the school committee and budget committee to recommend appropriations to start kindergartens and eliminate large classes with two grades under one teacher.

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However, the PTA group indicated that it might seek an amendment to increase the school budget

on the floor of the town meeting to provide the kindergartens and add more teachers.

Answering questions by Morris Chorney and Leonard Shapiro of the PTA committee, Harry F. McKanna Jr., budget committee chairman and town council president, said the council felt it could not interfere with the school board's recommendations.

PTA members asked McKanna why the council did not take it upon itself to include a recommendation for the educational improvements. McKanna said the council would not deviate from school board recommendations, any change would have to be made on the floor of the town meeting by taxpayers.

Ernest Lefebvre and Roland E. Meunier of the GOP town commit-

tee questioned advisability of the sewer bond issue, after Lefebvre maintained that extension should be paid for each year with money from sewer taxes.

Discussion among the two Republicans, Town Treasurer Robert Harrop and Charles J. Bourgault, brought out that the original 1940 sewer act provided for a tax assessment on land and buildings of that time only to pay for the sewers over a 30-year period.

Inasmuch as the original act did not stipulate that any extra tax money be spent for sewer extensions, some money from taxation of houses built since 1940 has gone into the general fund, it was said.

It is this money that Lefebvre contended should be used annually to pay for sewer extensions, instead of selling \$1,200,000 in bonds.

# State Auditors Score W. Warwick Deficit

*Bulletin May 21-1951*  
But Report Says Much of \$32,375  
Overspending 'Easily Explainable'

Over-expenditures by West Warwick town departments are criticized in the annual state auditor's report released this morning by Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb.

The report shows that the town ended the year with an operating deficit of \$22,923.07. Revenue receipts amounted to \$857,249.47 and expenditures were \$880,172.54.

Departments that went into the red, according to the report, were the police department, \$4136 plus \$295 for equipment; the sewer department, \$756; sanitation department (rubbish removal), \$6694; highway department, \$7706; and the school department, \$8647 plus \$688 for teachers' pensions.

An expenditure of \$1898 over the \$5200 appropriation was also made for town property maintenance. An expenditure of \$1603 was made over the \$5000 appropriation for miscellaneous costs of the general government.

The report states that a total of \$32,375 was over-expended by the various departments during the year.

## "Readily Explainable"

Some of the over-expenditures are "readily explainable," according to the report. It particularly notes the emergency repairs the school department had to make on the senior high school roof during the year and the lavatory repairs and replacements made at the Centerville school.

The miscellaneous appropriation was charged with \$1811 expended for civilian defense. A charge of \$12,064 was made against the garbage and rubbish removal appropriation for the purchase of two trucks, the report points out.

No explanation was made in the report for the over-expenditures of the police, sewer or highway departments or for the additional \$1898 expended for town property maintenance.

## General Fund Balance

In the section of the report devoted to recommendations, the

auditors made the following statement:

"It must be noted that no amount of budgeting is effective unless the various departments confine their expenditures to within the limits of their appropriations."

There was a cash balance of \$204,739.66 in the general fund as of Apr. 30, 1951, as compared with the \$265,050.40 balance of May 1, 1950. The general fund cumulative surplus consists of the general fund cash and investments minus \$987.65 owed by the town to various sources, according to the report.

## "No Control Over Tags"

In other comments and recommendations, the report notes that the examination of the town's fiscal picture did not extend to the police court receipts "insofar as no control exists over the tags issued for motor vehicle violations." No further comment or recommendation was made by the auditors on the matter.

For the second year, the auditors recommended that messenger robbery insurance be extended to cover the school department. In other insurance matters, it was noted that the West Warwick Post American Legion building is still covered by insurance, although this property is no longer owned by the town. It was also recommended that the Crompton Library building have insurance coverage.

The auditors suggested that the town treasurer discontinue the distribution of payroll checks prior to the date on which they may be cashed. The treasurer was also advised to claim certain funds in the probate court registry that are the balances of estates that have been unsettled for more than five years.

## Unsettled Estates

They were listed as follows: Estates of Ellen L. Duffy, \$179.37; Della Monte, \$812.98; Omer Lebrun, \$5.43; and Auguste Richard, \$694.39.

Recommendation was made that the tax collector endeavor to collect sewer assessment installments when due and to use all means at her disposal to insure prompt payment.

The report also notes that the tax collector had partial payment tax collections totaling \$869.21 that had not been turned over to the town treasurer as of Apr. 30. It suggested that these tax collections, which are not reflected in the current report be credited to the various taxpayers' accounts and turned over to the treasurer as soon as payment is received.

## Regulations on Fire Pay

The town council was advised by the auditors to establish regulations under which regularly town-paid firemen should or should not be paid additional money for fighting forest fires and patrolling the woodland to prevent such fires.

Auditors found a balance of \$1787.92 in the mosquito control fund and proposed that it be carried forward to the coming fiscal year. They noted that the state pays half of mosquito control costs.

The balance in the postwar capital improvement fund was set at \$199,406.02 in the report, representing an increase of \$26,757.24 over last year. The increase came from interest on investments and a \$25,000 transfer from the general fund.

It was again suggested that the \$81.80 accumulated income in the Benjamin V. Vaughan trust fund be transferred to the general fund and credited to the public welfare appropriation in conformity with the trust provision.

## Trust, Special Fund

A statement of trust and special fund balances, as shown in the report, follows:

Sewer construction fund, \$6592.07; Vaughan fund, \$131.82; sewer assessment fund, \$103,015.71; unsettled estates claimed by town treasurer, \$1156.14; Crompton Library fund, \$840.87.

The town's gross debt was set at \$639,000, a decrease of \$57,000 during the year. The total cost of debt service was set at \$78,395 or 9.1 per cent of revenue receipts, according to the report. Sewer bonds and notes totaling \$30,000 were retired during the year by transfers from the sewer assessment fund.

# Meunier Says 'Spending Spree' Means W. Warwick Tax Boost

Roland E. Meunier, West Warwick Republican town committee-man and former town chairman, this morning declared that preliminary figures given by the Democratic town administration on the town budget indicate higher town taxes for the taxpayers.

"This is based on the deficit under which the administration operated in the last fiscal year and the increase of appropriations for the coming year for the various departments," Meunier said. "This large increase does not seem to be based on sufficient new tax valuations for the town to operate without a further deficit next year."

The GOP leader declared that "the administration has apparently started on a spending spree that is resulting in operating out of the surplus and the elimination of the splendid financial condition of the town."

"Instead of practicing economy in the critical period we are going through, it would seem that sound business is being disregarded and the policy of spend and spend is the slogan of the administration. The town faces the unhappy prospect of much higher taxes."

Democratic administration lead-

## WEST WARWICK TOWN MEETING

Time: Tomorrow at 2 p.m.  
Place: Junior high school auditorium, Royal Square.  
Proposed budget: \$77,955.42.  
Increase over last year: \$53,372.50.

Special items besides regular budget: \$1,200,000 sewer bond issue; steamroller, \$8000 from surplus; major school repairs, \$32,000 from surplus; planning board, amount to be recommended from surplus to be determined tonight.

Key issues: sewer bonds, steamroller, and citizen's committee proposal to raise school budget by about \$30,000 to establish kindergartens and add seven teachers to eliminate cases of two grades in one room.

ers have said that if taxpayers approve the budget they are recommending at the annual town meeting tomorrow, there will be no increase in the present \$2.25 per \$100 valuation tax rate.

# Support of West Warwick School Proposals Urged

Citizens Group Asks Town Meeting  
Approve Special Appropriation

Members of a "special citizens' committee" seeking a special town appropriation in West Warwick to end double-grades taught by a single teacher and for the re-establishment of kindergartens, last night urged all eligible taxpayers to attend the town financial meeting tomorrow to support the measures, which they say will not make a tax increase necessary.

A motion to allocate the special appropriation will be presented at the meeting, Mrs. Robert Johnson and Leonard Shapiro, co-chairmen of the committee said.

Mrs. Johnson asked all eligible taxpayers to attend "and register their views on this important question."

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the junior high school.

In explaining why the citizens' committee was formed, the co-chairmen said that no regular West Warwick PTA meeting can be called until next September to authorize further action in the name of the PTA itself.

However, they continued, a number of the original PTA committee have decided to bring the question to the floor of the town meeting, acting as private citizens.

"It would be unfortunate if the public were made to wait another year for these much-needed improvements," Shapiro asserted. "Anyhow, we are merely carrying out the suggestion of the president of the town council that the matter should be brought up from the floor at the financial meeting."

Shapiro was referring to a suggestion made by Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, at the budget hearing which was attended by the citizens group.

"The school department has released data showing the need for several additional teachers," Shapiro continued, "and that the need for kindergarten classes in each school exists. The only reason advanced by the school committee for not including these items in the budget was 'lack of funds.' We believe these funds can be made available without increasing taxes," he concluded.

## IN LINE WITH PTA

While not endorsing specifically the action of a group of West Warwick parents who plan a move to amend the West Warwick school budget upward by about \$30,000 at the town meeting tomorrow, a state PTA official said this morning their general philosophy is in line with PTA standards.

Mrs. James J. Walker, first vice president of the R.I. Congress of Parents and Teachers, quoted from the national PTA manual as follows:

"When we take action to improve conditions for the schools and for the teachers, we are not interfering with the rightful prerogative either of the qualified teaching staff or of responsible administrative officials. We are discharging our responsibilities as good parents and good citizens."

Mrs. Walker, who spoke in the absence of Mrs. Sidney Burton, state PTA president, said she understood the parents seek to establish kindergartens and eliminate cases where one teacher handles two grades in one room.

"If they feel it is the thing to do, they should work for it," Mrs. Walker said. "I don't know enough about the local situation to pass comment on the amount of money required or whether this is the time to do it. That is a local question."

*Prov. Journal - May 22, 1957*  
**Over-Expenditures in W. Warwick  
 Hit in Annual R.I. Auditors' Report**

Over-expenditures by West Warwick town departments are criticized in the annual state auditor's report released yesterday by Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb.

The report shows that the town ended the year with an operating deficit of \$22,923.07. Revenue receipts amounted to \$857,249.47 and expenditures were \$880,172.54.

Departments that went into the red, according to the report, were the police department, \$4136 plus \$295 for equipment; the sewer department, \$756; sanitation department (rubbish removal), \$6694; highway department, \$7706; and the school department, \$8647 plus \$688 for teachers' pensions.

An expenditure of \$1898 over the \$5200 appropriation was also made for town property maintenance. An expenditure of \$1603 was made over the \$5000 appropriation for miscellaneous costs of the general government.

The report states that a total of \$32,375 was over-expended by the various departments during the year.

Some of the over-expenditures are "readily explainable," according to the report. It particularly notes the emergency repairs the school department had to make on the senior high school roof during the year and the lavatory repairs and replacements made at the Centerville school.

**W. WARWICK RATE  
 TO STAY AT \$2.25**

*P. Journal June 1 - 1957*  
**Tax Assessors' Board Finds**

**\$1.8-Million in New**

**Valuations**

West Warwick's tax rate will stay at \$2.25 a \$100 valuation, as promised by the Democratic administration, Hermenegilde Nadeau, chairman of the board of tax assessors revealed yesterday.

Nadeau released a 1951 tax roll summary which showed the town stands to collect more taxes at the same tax rate than the minimum it was ordered to levy by taxpayers at last week's annual town meeting.

The total collectible tax will be \$618,870.12, whereas the town meeting ordered a levy of between \$615,000 and \$640,000.

The tax rate on intangible personal property will continue at 40 cents a \$100 valuation.

Despite the fact that, under a new state law, the assessors assessed all valuations as of last Dec. 30, they found nearly two million dollars in new property valuation over the previous year. The figure would have been higher, had the assessors had until June 15 this year, as they did previously.

The total assessed valuation of land, buildings and improvements, tangible and intangible personal property, was set in today's report at \$30,029,273, or \$1,802,887 higher than last year's comparable figure of \$28,226,386.

However, the total taxable valuation was cut to \$28,619,279 by the deduction of \$1,409,994 worth of property which is tax exempt under law.

The amount of tax exempt property increased by \$176,952 over last year, largely owing to veterans acquiring property and claiming their legal \$1000 exemptions. Nadeau said.

Other salient figures, with last year's comparable figures shown in parentheses, were: Assessed value of land \$3,917,245 (\$3,609,808); assessed value of buildings and improvements, \$17,329,298 (\$16,035,128); assessed value of tangible personal property, \$7,426,940 (\$7,146,590); assessed value of intangible personal property, \$1,355,790 (\$1,434,860).

**GOVERNOR TO PUSH  
 FOR AMENDMENTS**

*Prov. Journal June 13, 1957*  
**Plans Vigorous Campaign to**

**Get Voters' Approval at**

**June 28 Election**

Governor Roberts yesterday announced plans for a vigorous campaign to get the voters' approval, at the June 28 special election, of eight proposed articles of amendment to the R.I. Constitution, adopted in convention early this month.

The people at the election will vote on the eight amendments individually. A majority vote is sufficient to ratify.

The governor said he will send out several thousand copies of his election proclamation on which are printed the text of all amendments.

These copies will go to civic, veteran, labor, fraternal and other groups with a covering letter emphasizing the historic import of the constitutional changes and urging members of each organization to vote.

**Asking for Radio Time**

In addition, the governor said, he is asking radio stations to allot time for speaking engagements and spot announcements about the special election.

Letters are going out to the Bar Association, the League of Women Voters and chairmen of both political parties inviting them to supply speakers for radio time that is made available.

It was reported the governor intends to call a bi-partisan conference on Friday to try to shape up a joint campaign in support of ratification. Both political parties cooperated at the convention.

**Council Urges Heavy Vote**

The West Warwick Town Council, at the suggestion of Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, last night went on record as urging a heavy vote on acceptance of the constitutional amendments.

DeCiantis said all the amendments will be beneficial, but stressed particularly the importance of the one which would give home rule privileges to cities and towns.

The Cranston Citizens' Group last night voted its support of the home rule amendment. The group also voted to write Mayor Lark and ask him to "emulate the stand taken by Governor Roberts by making as many statements and public appearances as possible to urge people to vote for home rule."

Mayor Reynolds of Providence, meanwhile, planned one major radio address on behalf of ratifying the off-street parking proposal. This amendment enables the General Assembly to authorize cities and towns to condemn property for establishment and construction of off-street parking facilities and to operate or lease them to private interests.

**Thompson Co-operates**

William J. Thompson, Republican state chairman, said he will utilize whatever public speaking engagements he gets to urge the people to vote at the special election, but that the party at this time has no planned campaign.

He said he personally will support all amendments adopted by the convention, although some are not in a form completely satisfactory to him.

Democratic and Republican floor leaders of the House of Representatives, Herman D. Ferrara and Coleman B. Zimmerman, will discuss the proposed amendments at an open meeting of the Civitan Club of Providence tonight at 8 o'clock at the Crown Hotel.

*Prov. Journal May 29, 1957*  
**W. Warwick Council Votes  
 Town Workers' Pay Boosts**

The West Warwick Town Council last night voted to pay raises averaging 10 per cent for most town employees, although the boosts will be higher in some cases, notably among lower paid highway and garbage collection workers, and department heads.

Despite an assertion by Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, that he is "violently opposed to retroactiveness," the council made the raises retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year, May 1.

McKanna did not press his point at the special meeting, after Councilmen Antonio Paul and Hervey Niquette said employees expected that the raises were to be retroactive. Raises will go into effect the week of June 4, the council voted.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis pointed out that the budget adopted by the May 22 town meeting covered the fiscal year which started May 1, and added, "We'll have a revolution on our hands, if the raises are not retroactive."

**Parking Meter Action**

Paving the way for installation of parking meters, approved by voters in a special election Friday, the council named itself and Police Chief Groleau a committee to see about procurement of meters. DeCiantis was instructed to draw up a regulatory ordinance.

McKanna said the schedule of raises will be the same as announced prior to the town meeting.

Under it, department heads whose salaries will be raised from \$80 to \$90 a week are Andrew B. Gough, superintendent of sewers; Henry Petrarca, highway commissioner; Fire Chief Gareau and Chief Groleau.

Council members, themselves, will receive a boost from \$160 a year to \$300.

**Other Pay Boosts**

Other highway department salaries will go up as follows: assistant superintendent, \$70 to \$71.50 a week; clerk, \$45 to \$50 a week; five drivers, \$43 to \$53; nine laborers, \$40 to \$50.

Garbage collection workers' salaries will go up as follows: two drivers, \$43 to \$53; six laborers, \$40 to \$50 a week.

Police department raises, other than that of the chief, are: captain, \$65 to \$71.50 a week; 10 patrolmen, \$45 to \$50 a week; two sergeants, \$42 to \$57; two corporals,

\$51 to \$56 a week; janitor, \$1300 to \$1430 a year.

The positions of chairman of the board of tax assessors and town treasurer were made full time. Hermenegilde Nadeau, assessors' chairman, received a salary raise from \$25.39 to \$50 a week, while Town Treasurer Robert Harrop was boosted from \$36 to \$45 a week.

Other raises granted follow: town hall janitor, \$36 to \$38; tax collectors, \$43.75 to \$45.

Sewer department—electrician, \$49.33 to \$59; five operators, \$39 to \$50 each.

One mosquito control laborer, \$47 to \$55. Fire department—deputy chief, \$59 to \$65; electrician, \$60 to \$71.50; mechanic, \$57 to \$60; six firemen, \$50 to \$55; one fireman, \$49 to \$54; two firemen, \$48 to \$53; one fireman, \$45 to \$50.

Pay of clerical help in the town hall was boosted as follows:

Town clerk's office—one clerk, \$50 to \$52; one clerk, \$36 to \$38; three clerks, \$32 to \$34; tax assessors' clerk and tax collector's clerk, \$32 to \$34 each.

# Democrats Push Through Entire Program

## W. Warwick Approves \$774,455 Budget, \$1,200,000 Sewer Bonds

### Town Meeting Votes \$60,000 School Repairs

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

In one of the longest West Warwick annual town meetings in years, 253 taxpayers yesterday appropriated a record \$774,455.42 budget which included salary boosts averaging 10 per cent for most town employees and some elected officials.

Despite opposition from Republican leaders, who questioned numerous items, the Democratic administration pushed through its entire program.

It included a \$1,200,000 sewer bond issue and \$60,000 from surplus funds to effect major school repairs, a Pike Street road project and purchase of a steam roller.

Charles J. Bourgault, elected moderator at the outset, was several times called on to make tricky parliamentary rulings throughout the four and a quarter hour session, which adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Hottest issue was an unsuccessful attempt by a citizens' committee of PTA members to amend the school budget upward to provide additional funds to establish kindergartens and eliminate double classes.

The \$1,200,000 sewer bond issue ran into a squall when Leonard Kernan moved that it be amended and the new planning board study it and report back at the 1952 town meeting.

#### Kraus Provides Scare

Proponents of the sewers got a scare when Rep. Thaddeus Kraus moved to table Kernan's motion and Bourgault ruled that, if Kraus' motion passed, the whole issue would stand tabled.

Bourgault explained that, in the absence of specific rules, general parliamentary rules would hold, and they provide that a motion to table includes the original, as well as subsidiary motions.

Kraus then withdrew his motion and, over objections of Kernan and a GOP group, the bond issue passed on a voice vote.

Hary F. McKanna Jr., town council president, who, with Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, led administration forces, declared that Kernan was wrong in assuming that cost of the sewers would be borne by taxpayers generally. He said Norman E. Gillespie, Republican club leader, also was wrong on that score.

#### Betterment Tax

McKanna said payment for the sewers would be in the nature of a betterment tax, similar to the 30-year plan under which the original 1950 sewer installation is being paid off. Under it, installations are paid for only by those who have the sewers available.

Ernest Lefebvre, Republican town committeeman, declared the planning board should study the sewer problem. He asked whether the administration had received petitions for sewers and McKanna said it had, adding that Jenks and Ballou, engineers, have been advising the council on sewer needs without charge.

Dr. M. Irene Guertin, in a discussion on the police ambulance, declared that police and firemen deserve more than a 10 per cent pay raise. He invited anyone to amend the police budget upward to give police the same \$10 rise given heads of departments, but no one moved to do it later when the police budget came up.

#### 17 Items Questioned

As DeCiantis presented the budget for the administration, Roland E. Meunier, GOP town committeeman, carried the ball for the GOP, questioning 17 items.

Attacking a deficit of more than \$22,000 in the past years' town operations, Meunier declared that the town is headed toward higher taxes if deficits continue to pile up and funds continue to be taken from surplus.

DeCiantis later promised that the present \$2.25 a \$100 valuation tax rate will stand during the coming year.

Meunier also attacked failure of the school committee to ask for an appropriation to finance major school repairs before yesterday, saying it must have known they were needed for years. A special \$32,000 repair item from surplus funds was approved.

Town Treasurer Robert Harrop came under Meunier's fire for not having his annual report available for publication before the meeting. He later was successful in a motion requiring it be ready for publication a week before the town meeting next year.

Harrop explained the report was delayed pending completion of the state auditors' annual audit.

DeCiantis explained that practically all of the budget's \$55,872.50 increase over last year was because of salary increases.

The budget was \$2500 higher than originally announced. DeCiantis said later that amount had to be added to the fire department budget because an item of vacation pay had been overlooked at first.

Carl G. Olson questioned giving department heads \$10 raises, saying that department heads were responsible for overexpending by \$32,375 last year, according to auditors. He advocated more money for policemen.

DeCiantis parried Meunier's questions about deficits in various departments throughout the meet-

ing. He clashed heatedly with Meunier, saying situations had to be met as they arose and "you can't figure everything down to the penny."

When Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca explained for Meunier that \$10,000 for street construction would finance streets on new plats, Meunier said it was "vague."

#### "Does a Good Job"

DeCiantis assailed Meunier, saying the commissioner couldn't tell exactly where the money would be spent and "When anybody questions how Henry Petrarca spends the money he's off side. Henry does a good job."

In a subsequent exchange, during which DeCiantis tried to bring out doings of a previous GOP administration, Bourgault called both leaders out of order.

Lefebvre criticized the administration for obtaining a cost estimate on repairs to the town garage from "an outside firm." Alexander DiMartino of Natick, head of the General Engineering & Contracting Co., the firm in question, declared, "I want to set the record straight. We wouldn't be interested in the job." A \$5000 appropriation to cover it was passed.

#### \$615,000 Tax Ordered

The meeting ordered the tax assessors to levy a tax of not less than \$615,000 and not more than \$640,000. Taxes will be payable on and between Sept. 15 and Oct. 3, 1951, with a 6 per cent penalty afterward. However, quarterly payments may be made by Oct. 3, 1951; Jan. 3, Apr. 3 and July 3, 1952.

DiMartino, as spokesman for the planning board, successfully presented the resolutions calling for appropriations of \$16,000 to pay for widening the corner of Main and Pike Streets and \$4000 for engineering advice for the board. The money will come from surplus funds.

DiMartino explained the state will pay for actual road work, but that the town must pay costs of condemnation of a house and land at the corner. He said there is a possibility the house can be moved elsewhere on the same lot without demolishing it, a move which would save part of the \$16,000.

An \$8000 appropriation from surplus for a steam roller was voted over objections of Ernest Lefebvre, GOP town committeeman. When Lefebvre said upkeep of such equipment is costly, for the extent it would be used, DeCiantis said that factor would be considered and the roller not bought, if it is so.

Under the new state law, the levy ordered yesterday will be on the assessment of valuations made as of last Dec. 30. The tax on ratable intangible personal property will continue at 40 cents per \$100 value. The tax roll must be presented by the assessors to the town clerk by June 15.

#### Estimated Revenue

Estimated revenue to cover the budget is as follows: from town taxes, \$605,000; state aid, \$77,500; sewer assessment fund, \$25,000; licenses, interest and fees, \$68,000; total, \$775,500.

#### The meeting also:

Reappointed Alfred Richard, Gerard DiFiore, Joseph Z. Lachapelle and Miss Agnes G. Coogan to the town insurance committee.

Passed resolutions prescribing that all money received by the town during the present fiscal year and not specifically appropriated at yesterday's meeting be appropriated as part of the miscellaneous appropriation for town purposes that may be determined by the town council.

That the town treasurer be authorized to school addition serial bonds maturing this year: serial funding bonds and sewer bonds and notes maturing this year.

That the council be authorized to reappropriate and redistribute money from one appropriation to another for highway purposes land, the title to which is in the town, as well as land owned by the town and intended for highway purposes; but not now used for such purposes; also sell land obtained by the town at tax sales.

That the treasurer be authorized to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

That the town council be authorized, for one year, to exempt from taxation for a period not exceeding 10 years new manufacturing property.

That the treasurer be authorized to carry forward the balance in the mosquito control appropriation.

That the council be authorized to obtain enactment of amendments to the present sewer act, or other special legislation, for the purpose of expanding the sewer system, including the issue by the council of \$1,200,000 in bonds.

That the action of the council and treasurer be approved in overexpending the appropriations for last fiscal year in the amount of \$20,887.68 which amount shall not be deducted from the appropriations yesterday. (This money will come from surplus.)

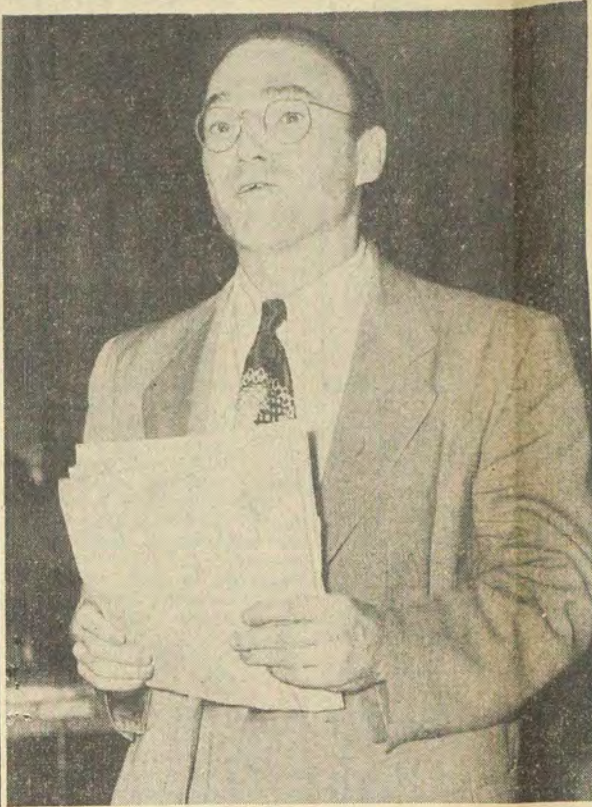
## WARWICK-PAWTUXET VALLEY

THE EVENING BULLETIN

Wednesday, May 23, 1951



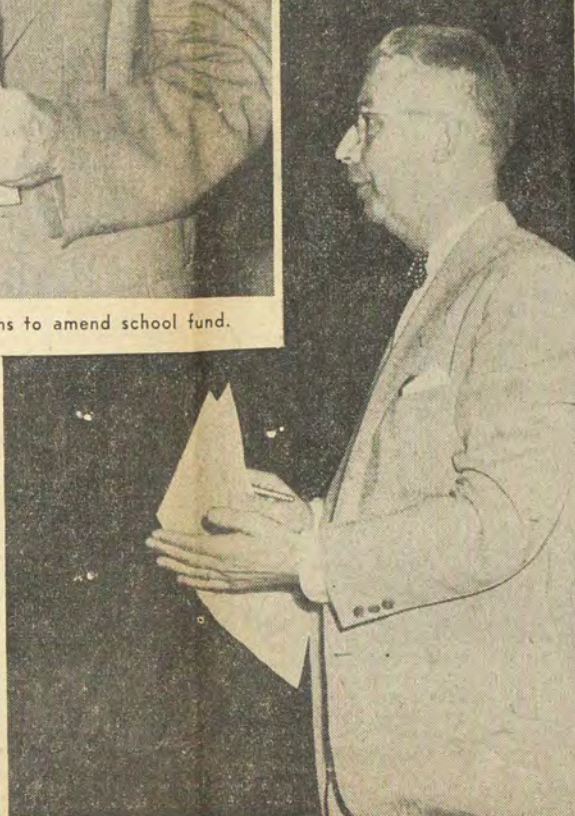
Dr. M. Irene Guertin



LEONARD SHAPIRO: Motions to amend school fund.



BUDGET PROPONENT: Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis.



BUDGET OPPONENT: Roland Meunier.

—State Staff Photos by Thomas Mitchell

#### CHARTER BOARD VOTED

West Warwick taxpayers in annual town meeting yesterday authorized the town council to appoint a nine-man committee to study the town charter and report recommendations for changes at the 1952 town meeting.

Presented by Roland E. Meunier, Republican leader, the resolution calls for appointment of four persons recommended by the GOP town committee and four by the Democratic town committee. The ninth member would be chosen by the group itself.

Meunier was unsuccessful last year when he offered a resolution to investigate the possibility of a budget commission type government.

## Citizens' Body Loses Kindergarten Fund Fight

Proponents of a motion to increase the West Warwick School Department budget by \$23,600 were soundly defeated yesterday afternoon at the town financial meeting after about a half hour of debate, name-calling and parliamentary maneuvering.

The motion, which would have increased the school budget to \$298,447, instead of the \$274,847, eventually passed was designed to provide funds to hire six additional teachers and to re-establish kindergartens and was introduced by Leonard Shapiro, cochairman with Mrs. Robert Johnson of a special citizens' committee.

Opposition to the motion was voiced by Jacob Clegg, Michael De-

Ciantis, town solicitor, Mrs. Clarence Brousseau and Edward F. Hand, school committee member and spokesman for the committee, and Horace Petrarca, who called the citizens' committee "a pressure group."

After Shapiro's motion was defeated to the school appropriation resolution increasing the appropriation by \$10,800 to provide for only the additional teachers, who he said were needed to relieve teachers from instructing double-grades in one room.

#### Moves Question

Before Shapiro's new amendment was seconded Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, moved the previous question and was successful in having debate cut off and a vote called on the original appropriation resolution, which was overwhelmingly passed on a voice vote.

Charles J. Bourgault, moderator, explained that a motion to move the previous question is not debatable under parliamentary law, and since McKanna had moved passage of the original appropriation resolution immediately after Shapiro's first amendment was defeated, the chair had to call for a vote on the resolution.

Later, one of the leaders of the citizens' group, which was composed mainly of persons who organized a Parent-Teacher Association in the town earlier in the year, said he felt the administration had "railroaded" its own appropriation through the meeting.

#### "Not Giving Up"

"This fight will go to another round next year," he vowed. "We're not giving this thing up."

In the debate on Shapiro's first amendment, Clegg called the citizens' group, which numbered about 20 persons at the meeting a "bunch of outsiders."

"I think if the school committee or the superintendent want kindergartens, they would start them without having a bunch of outsiders come in and tell us," he declared. He went on to suggest that the citizen's group was being employed by the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance. Mothers wanted the kindergartens so they could leave their children at school and go off to work, he asserted.

John J. Kelly, vice principal of the senior high school and a leader in the teachers' alliance, rose to declare that the alliance had no connection with the citizen's group. He went on to say that Shapiro or any other taxpayer had the right

to speak at the meeting without being the subject of name-calling.

#### \$19,000 Increase

DeCiantis related that the school department already was receiving more than one-third of the town budget and was getting a \$19,000 increase this year for automatic teachers' salary raises.

At the present rate of increases, he said, "you are going to increase the appropriation to the extent that the taxpayers won't know where to get the money."

Many successful and intelligent persons in the town never went to a kindergarten, the town solicitor said.

Mrs. Gordon Rothstein, a member of the Citizens' group, said, "it's a sad thing when we worry more about the deterioration of garbage trucks than we do about the welfare of our children." She was referring to a previous appropriation passed to provide \$5000 for reconstructing the town garage.

The kindergartens would be an aid to the teachers, Mrs. Johnson said, because they would prepare the child to enter the first grade.

#### "Are They Orphans?"

Mrs. Brousseau then rose to ask: "Are these children orphans?"

De Ciantis won recognition from the chair again and asserted that out of the 152 children registered for the proposed kindergartens in a survey conducted by the school department, 58 of the children were from Crompton, "the home section of the proponents of this motion."

The Citizens' group was attempting to have Mrs. James J. Walker, first vice president of the state PTA, tell the school committee what to do, he declared, referring to a statement made Monday by Mrs. Walker that the Citizens' group's aims corresponded generally to the PTA's goals.

Hand said the school committee had considered the matter carefully but realized that there was a "certain limit" to the budget. The school department now receives about 37 per cent of the entire budget, a percentage that exceeds most towns' and cities' in the state, he said, including Providence which allocates about 33 per cent of the budget to schools.

#### "Not Overcrowded"

There is "not a seriously overcrowded class" in the schools, Hand said, pointing out the need for economy. He was answered by Shapiro, who said it was up to the taxpayers to decide how much money should be spent.

Several points of order were

#### W. Warwick Budget

The 1951-52 budget, approved by West Warwick taxpayers in annual town meeting yesterday, compares with last year's appropriations as follows:

	Appropriation 1950-51	Appropriation 1951-52
General government		
Town officers		
Salaries .....	\$ 27,400.00	\$ 23,946.92
Clerical — town hall .....	12,718.00	13,520.00
Supplies and Expenses .....	4,000.00	4,700.00
Service memorial .....	300.00	300.00
Telephone .....	2,200.00	3,700.00
Town hall — repairs and replacements .....	5,200.00	2,500.00
District meetings .....	5,800.00	3,000.00
Insurance .....	8,265.00	11,500.00
Town officers' bonds .....	650.00	730.00
Memorial services .....	1,500.00	1,500.00
Insurance-unpaid .....	2,216.00	2,216.00
Miscellaneous .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Protection to person and property .....		
Police department .....	53,664.00	65,236.00
Police department equipment .....	1,000.00	1,500.00
Police department ambulance .....		800.00
Fire department .....	67,269.00	71,323.00
Street lighting .....	28,500.00	29,200.00
Civilian defense .....		10,000.00
Sanitation .....		
Sewer department .....	28,716.00	32,600.00
Plant disposal .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Garbage and rubbish removal .....	26,000.00	24,000.00
Highway .....		
Highway maintenance .....	48,600.00	61,515.00
Highway department equipment .....	5,000.00	
Highway construction and improvement .....	10,000.00	10,000.00
Sidewalk construction .....	2,500.00	2,500.00
Reconstructing highway garage .....		5,000.00
Education .....		
School department .....	254,889.00	274,847.00
Libraries .....	2,500.00	2,500.00
Teachers' pensions .....	7,000.00	8,200.00
Public welfare .....	15,600.00	15,600.00
Debt service .....		
Bond and note retirement .....	57,000.00	52,000.00
Interest .....	21,395.00	19,437.50
Health activities .....		
Mosquito control .....	2,500.00	2,300.00
P. V. Visiting Nurse Ass'n .....	1,000.00	1,000.00
Other .....		
Southern R.L. Farm Bureau .....	300.00	300.00
Playground and recreation .....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Social security .....		4,000.00
Total revenue .....	\$718,582.92	\$774,455.42

*Prov. Journal - June 13 - 1951*

# W. Warwick Council Okays Parking Meters Purchase

The West Warwick Town Council last night voted to buy about 300 manually operated parking meters from the M. H. Rhodes Co., Hartford, Conn., at a cost of \$54 a meter plus \$5 a meter installation charge.

The company will install the meters without an initial charge and will take 50 per cent of the meter income monthly until the meters are paid for.

A survey will be made by a company engineer who will recommend sites where meters should be placed and the exact number of meters needed will be determined as a result of the survey.

William Gildea, of the meter firm, estimated that meters in the Arctic business section would take in at least \$20,000 a year and that the meters, expected to cost about \$18,000, would therefore be paid

for in less than two years at which time their income would be a considerable source of revenue for the town.

## To Draft Ordinance

The meters are of a type installed last week in Central Falls and earlier in Pawtucket. Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis was instructed to draw up a regulatory ordinance. The meters will be of the type which take a penny for each 12 minutes parking or a nickel for an hour's parking.

In other business the council voted to refer to the State Department of Public Works a petition signed by 260 residents protesting of the state's proposal to make East Main Street a one-way street from Pike Street to Clyde Square. The petitioners also asked the council to request the state not to restrict parking on either side of the street in that section.

## See Business Hurt

Several Clyde Square businessmen said that the one-way restriction proposed after reconstruction of the street is completed would hurt their business and would create a traffic hazard on Clyde Hill which trucks and busses would have to climb in icy weather. They pointed out the state plans to make nearby Pike Street one way from Main Street on, thereby making that street the only alternative turn off Main Street in the Clyde Square section.

DeCiantis and Harry F. McKenna Jr., council president, said they had protested the one-way proposal but that they had been told by Philip S. Mancini, state public works director, that the federal government is contributing to cost of reconstruction of East Main and Pike Streets and had required the one-way proviso. Both said they would confer again with Mancini and urged that the one-way plans be eliminated entirely.

## To Fight Rate Hike

The council also voted to protest the rate increase being sought by the United Electric Railways Co. DeCiantis was instructed to attend a hearing on the firm's petition at the State Office Building Friday morning to represent the town.

The Seaboard Screw Corporation of Providence was granted a 10-year tax exemption after a plea by the firm's attorney, Alan P. Cusick. Manufacturers of screws and bolts, the firm plans to lease 5500 square feet in a part of the Warwick Mills building, Brookside Avenue, from the B. & L. Realty Co.

Cusick said the firm plans to have 25 employes to start and hopes to expand later. DeCiantis and Harry F. McKenna Jr., council president, exacted a promise from Cusick and another company representative that West Warwick residents would be given preference in employment.

Taking cognizance of a Journal-Bulletin story on a dangerous road condition near the home of Frank Begos, Main Street, Crompton, DeCiantis recommended to the council that the matter be brought to the attention of the State Department of Public Works. He urged that the dip in the road which has caused numerous accidents "be remedied right away."

# ABOVE GROUND GAS TANKS UNDER FIRE

*Prov. Journal - 6/26/51*  
Supply Source for Home

## Pumps Seen Hazardous in W. Warwick

Pawtucket Valley Office. Telephone  
15 Washington Street. Valley 1-0570  
West Warwick 1-0746-W

Willie J. Regnaiere, building inspector, last night reported to the West Warwick Town Council that several above ground 300-gallon gas tanks have been installed in the town without permits, to supply gasoline pumps being installed at private homes.

Regnaiere, who called the tanks a fire hazard, was instructed by Harry F. McKenna Jr., council president, to determine where the tanks are, who installed them and to report back at the July 10 council meeting.

"I understand some of them have been installed by the Eastern Fuel Co.," Regnaiere said. He added that he himself had received a letter from the company, located at 100 Hayes Street, advising him that gas is available at cost price through home installations.

McKenna said the town ordinance on tanks stipulates that more than five barrels be kept, except in an underground steel tank.

Asserting that all gasoline should be kept underground, Regnaiere said that the above ground tanks in a residential section are dangerous and "kids with matches could easily start a fire and cause serious trouble."

He said similar installations were started years ago but that town officials stopped them at the time.

Regnaiere said that he has found installations on Hamilton Street, Coit Avenue, Maple Avenue and East Greenwich Avenue, and that he is looking for additional tank installations.

"Find out who put them up," said Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis. "The poor people who had them put in don't know any better. The company should be told."

E PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1951

# Democrats Advised of Mistake In Postmaster Filing Extension

**Fogarty Writes West Warwick Chairman That He  
Was Misinformed on Deadline Date; Brousseau  
Eliminated as Candidate by Announcement**

Congressman Fogarty yesterday wrote the West Warwick Democratic Town Committee that his previous notification that the deadline for applications for West Warwick postmaster had been extended to last May 20 was incorrect and due to a misunderstanding.

Fogarty wrote Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic chairman, that he now has learned the final date for filing applications was June 20, 1950, as confirmed yesterday by the Journal-Bulletin's Washington Bureau.

The announcement eliminated Clarence Brousseau, Arctic druggist, as a candidate for the post.

Brousseau was endorsed by the town committee last month and his application forwarded to Washington, with the understanding that his application was admissible to the Civil Service Commission until last May 20.

"The explanation given me for this error is they have set a deadline of May 20, 1951, as the date on which they (the Post Office Department and Civil Service Commission) hoped to have the register set up and submitted for action," Fogarty wrote.

"Through inadvertence, this date was given to me as the closing of the acceptance of applications. I regret any inconvenience it may have caused you."

Brousseau was an unsuccessful candidate in the 1949 examination for postmaster. Subsequently, Fogarty called for a new examination after Clarence Lambert, a veteran and current superintendent of

mails, and Fulda Geoffroy, former town clerk, were certified by the Civil Service Commission for possible appointment.

Veterans protested when the town committee endorsed Geoffroy, resulting in Fogarty saying three names should have been certified and a new examination would be needed.

Brousseau reportedly failed to file an application by last June 20 and sent one in last month, Richards confirmed.

The Journal-Bulletin's Washington bureau was told by the Civil Service Commission that investigation of applicants who filed by last June 20 has been delayed by pressure of work in investigating personnel connected with the defense program.

# Kent County Water Authority Plans Rate Increase

*Evening Bulletin*  
Hike of 2 1/2 to 3  
Times Present  
Charge Seen

## Commercial Users Now Pay Raise, but Dwellings Are Bulk of Consumers

The Kent County Water Authority intends to increase its water rates to domestic consumers from two and one-half to three times the present rate, it was learned today.

Commercial water users already have had their rates increased, doubling or tripling their old bills, but the increase in prospect today is the first for home owners, who constitute the bulk of the authority's customers.

Pending an opinion from the State Supreme Court as to whether the authority had the right to raise rates without approval of the state public utility administrator, income derived from the commercial rate increases goes into a fund being held in escrow.

The court has said that if it should decide the authority must have the state's approval to raise rates, then the money paid by commercial consumers above the old rates will be available for refund to the consumers.

The issue was brought before the court by Attorney General William E. Powers as a result of a protest petition to Thomas Kennelly, state public utility administrator, by Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis of West Warwick and Town Solicitor George Roche of Coventry. They acted several months ago after commercial users had made a strong protest against the rate increases.

Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, was asked this morning after an authority meeting in its West Warwick headquarters what the new rates will be. He said at first he thought they already had been publicized.

When it was pointed out to him they had not been, he said a new booklet of authority regulations, including the rates, will be released within 10 days. It has been compiled with assistance of Jenks and Ballou, engineers.

Home owners now pay a mini-

mum charge of \$15 for 50,000 gallons, with a charge for excess use.

It was learned that the new rate schedule will reduce the gallonage allowed under the minimum, thus increasing the bill for excess water.

### West Warwick First Hit

The net effect of the new schedule will make it more important than ever for home owners to fix up their leaky faucets to avoid extensive charges for excess water.

Under a plan started by the authority shortly after it took over three private water companies a year ago by a \$2,602,500 bond issue, different sections of the authority's territory are billed each month to assure a steady flow of income throughout the year.

Likely to feel the higher rates first under this staggered billing plan, it was reported, is the West Warwick area.

The board this morning opened bids on installation of a new 6200-foot pipeline from the Scituate Reservoir filtration plant to the authority's reservoir at Fiskeville, designed to put into effect an agreement under which the authority will buy Providence water for \$75 a million gallon for distribution from Fiskeville to Arctic.

### Nothing to Report

When a reporter asked an office clerk to notify the board chairman, then in the meeting, that he was present to obtain the results of the bidding, she returned and said Quinn advised there was nothing to report.

However, as Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry board member whose term is expiring soon, left the meeting, he told a reporter there ought to be "some big news." Asked if the contract had been awarded, he said it had, but that Quinn would be the spokesman.

Colonel Quinn, when he left the meeting later, was advised by the reporter that he understood the contract had been awarded. He answered that some changes would have to be made and the award of the contract could not be announced until the contractor had met the authority's engineers and signed the contract.

He said the contract award might be announced tonight. He added that the bids had ranged from \$40,000 to twice that figure.

The authority already has the 16-inch pipe necessary, and the contract would be only for installation of the pipe.

## KENT BOARD MAPS WATER RATE HIKE

*Providence Journal* 4/28/57  
Homeowners Face Boost; Au-

### thority Can't Use Increase Pending Court Decision

Customers of the Kent County Water Authority soon will have to pay from two-and-a-half to three times more for their water, it was learned yesterday, but the authority will not be able to use the extra revenue until the Supreme Court acts on the petition of the state against the authority.

When Col. Patrick H. Quinn of West Warwick, authority chairman, was asked yesterday after a meeting of the group what the new rates would be, he at first said he thought they have been publicized.

After it had been pointed out to him that they had not been released, he said a new booklet of authority regulations, including the rates, will be released within 10 days. He said it has been compiled with the assistance of the engineering firm of Jenks and Ballou.

Commercial customers of the authority already have had their rates doubled or tripled, but the increase now in prospect is the first for home owners, the bulk of the authority's customers.

The additional revenue to be derived from the contemplated increase to home owners will have to be kept in escrow pending an opinion from the Supreme Court on the question whether the authority has the right to raise rates without the approval of the state public utility administrator.

The court has said that if it should decide the authority cannot hike rates without state approval, the extra money paid by customers shall be available for refund.

The issue was brought before the court by Attorney General William E. Powers as a result of a protest petition to Thomas Kennelly, state public utility administrator, by Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis of West Warwick and Town Solicitor George Roche of Coventry.

They acted several months ago after commercial users had made a strong protest against the rate increases.

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He added that the bids had ranged from \$40,000 to twice that figure.

Colonel Quinn said last night that the contract probably would be signed by Friday morning and that he would announce the firm and the amount after the signing.

The authority already has the 16-inch pipe necessary, and the contract would be only for installation of the pipe.

Case for Domestic Customers

# R. I. Vote Thursday in Line with West Warwick Action Made at Financial Session

Falling right in line with action of West Warwick taxpayers at the last financial town meeting, was the vote of the electorate of the State Thursday in the special constitutional election when they ratified the amendment providing home rule for towns and cities.

No longer will West Warwick have to go before the General Assembly for approval to make self government changes in its form of administration.

At the last financial town meeting the taxpayers approved a resolution of Roland E. Meunier, former Republican Town Committee chairman calling for a charter revision study committee composed of nine members, four appointees of the Democratic Town Committee and four of the Republican Town Committee with the ninth to be named by the eight appointees, to make a study of the West Warwick charter and to report back at the next regular or special financial town meeting. If that group comes back with suggested changes to the charter of West Warwick, the taxpayers may call for a special election to have the charter revised. Previously or until the election yesterday it was necessary first to seek permission of the state legislature to change the charter.

In doubt up to now are the powers of the town council granted by the approved home rule amendment. When asked to comment on that phase, Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis said "This phase must be considered seriously and may require an opinion from the courts as to how far a town council can go in adopting ordinances which the new amendment gives the council the right to adopt which it did not have prior to adoption of this home rule amendment. The town council now has certain legislative powers that it did not have and the question will have to be studied carefully to see how far and what legislation that will benefit the townspeople can now be adopted by the town council."

## Town Meetings

When asked about town meetings, which for years some taxpayers have wanted changed to an evening hour, DeCiantis said, "after a general reading of the amendment of home rule as advertised by the State, it seems the rule does not give the taxpayers of the town the right to change the time of the town meeting. It seems to me the matter is still in the hands of the legislature."

Town Council President Harry F. McKanna when reached by telephone this morning said that the Town Council is faced with the problem of intensive study of the home rule amendment to determine most of its future actions and whether or not they will be affected by the amendment. He also agreed with the opinion of

DeCiantis that the matter of determining the time of holding financial town meetings still lies in the hands of the state legislature.

Representative Thaddeus Kraus, although not wanting to make a definite stand also, said that the question on changing the time of financial town meetings has previously been governed by the General Assembly and that he didn't think the home rule amendment changed that provision. He recalled that in the general laws of the State there is posted the date that town meetings must be held in West Warwick. However, he couldn't recall this morning whether or not the time was mentioned in the State laws.

# Warwick Mills Tops Taxpayer List With \$15,001.88 Bill in W. Warwick

## Allied Textile Charged \$13,247 On Assessment

Warwick Mills heads the list of major taxpayers in West Warwick and will be billed \$15,001.88 on an assessed valuation of \$666,750, according to information released today by the board of assessors.

More than 100 taxpayers in the town are listed in the 1951 tax list as having real estate and tangible personal property assessed at \$25,000 and more.

## Second Highest

Second highest taxpayer is the Allied Textile Printer, Inc., with a tax of \$13,247.44 on an assessed \$588,775. The Narragansett Electric Co. will pay \$12,103.65 on a valuation set at \$537,940.

The following in the \$25,000 and over group will be billed \$2.25 on each \$100 of real estate and personal property:

A. Alcott-Alcalay Brothers, Inc. \$70,000; Allied Textile Printers, Inc. \$588,775; The Apponaug Co., \$25,000; Donat Archambault and Lionel Maynard, \$63,535; Raoul Archambault, \$44,695; Yvon Archambault, \$227,135; Yvon Archambault et ux \$94,680; Arctic Realty Co., \$65,130; Atlantic Engravers, Inc., \$41,045.

B. B&L Realty Corp., c/o Hubbard Lace Works, \$140,540; Bancroft Lace Co., Inc., \$75,800; Sol and Frieda Barish (co-partners), DBA Saybrook Mfg. Co., \$34,340; Sol Barish, president, Roy Mill, \$33,700; Barrington Fabrics Corp., \$36,900; Alfred M. Beaulieu, \$27,300; Abe and Saul Berman, \$51,875; Paul J. Bertrand et ux, \$37,595; Boston Store Associates, Inc., \$47,390; Trajana Bourgaill, \$25,255; Merena Brouillard, \$33,080; Clarence H. Brousseau et ux, \$89,220.

C. Cadoret Furniture & Hardware, Inc., \$34,400; Mary Carson-Drew J. Carson, \$188,415; Centerville Realty Co., \$108,270; Centerville Savings Bank, \$223,070; Champlin Lumber Co., \$43,300; Robert H. Champlin, \$44,215; Albertha Colavaccchio, \$37,760; Congdon Grain and Coal Co., \$48,985; Conneaut Winding Co., \$35,680; Costa Lumber Co., \$44,995; Crompton Co., \$65,545.

D. Davidson Bros. Corp., Bernard and Sidney Davidson, \$58,000; De Ciantis Bros. Dairy, Inc., \$29,435; Michael De Ciantis et ux, \$25,110; Salvatore, Pasco and Louis De Fusco, \$25,000; William Deitch and Sally T. Gilman, \$48,665.

E. Elastic Fabrics, Inc., \$69,850; Harry Erinakes, \$52,890.

F. Warren B. Finn et ux, \$29,805; First National Stores, \$35,000; John J. and Edward P. Flanagan, \$27,120; Regis Forcier et ux, \$25,470.

G. Gaunt Worsted Mills, \$60,800; Valeda Gelineau, \$53,550; Raymond Geoffrey estate, \$38,445; Frank Giorgio, \$23,170; Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., \$39,785; M. Irene Guertin, \$44,575; M. Irene Guertin & Armand O., \$36,080.

H. Holt Pen Co., \$139,505; Lionel L. Houle et ux, \$29,490.

K. Kalyin Mills, Inc., \$26,205; Kent County Water Authority, \$367,330; Kent Realty Corp., Majestic Hardware Co., \$54,955; Webster Knight II, \$192,180; Krawchuk & Carey, Inc., \$42,810.

L. Lionel J. and Lucille E. Laboissonniere, \$25,535; Euclide Lague, \$28,240; Lucien Laliberte et ux, \$30,890; Marie Rose Laurence, \$56,410; Henry P. Lefebvre, \$37,890; Louis Lemoine estate, \$61,185; Philip Liberman, Inc., \$102,100; Lynn Textile Mills, Inc., \$63,400.

M. Majestic Hardware Co., \$33,100; Samuel D. Marcuson and Louis Hurwitz, \$50,000; Sylvia Marsocci, \$38,955; Lionel and Donald Maynard, \$29,355; Maria E. Mello, \$25,605; Eugene B. Moore et ux, \$34,380; Philippe Morin et ux, \$31,125; Helen Monica McGinn, \$28,050; Mary P. McMahon, \$44,129.

Narragansett Electric Co., \$337,940; New England Ice Co., \$50,000; New England Telephone & Telegraph Co., \$125,000; New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co., New England Division, \$283,505; New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co., Pawtuxet Valley Branch, \$101,825; Nottingham Lace Works, \$71,575.

O. Old Colony Co-operative Bank, \$152,5530; Elizabeth Olevson \$52,785; Olevson Furniture Co., \$51,430; Original Bradford Soap Works, Inc., \$193,460.

Pawtuxet Valley Daily Times, Inc., \$26,555; John D. Peck, Inc., \$38,225; Phenix Lace Mills, \$117,460; Phenix Mills, Inc., \$70,690; Prata Undertaking Co., \$36,655.

Q. Patrick H. Quinn, \$35,955.

R. Oscar J. Raymond & Teofila, \$25,805; Rhode Island Industries, Inc., \$55,000; Riverpoint Lace Works, Inc., \$35,180; George W. and Blanche Y. Robert, \$52,235; Joseph D. Roch, \$31,420; Rosella Mills, Inc., \$26,595.

# Kent Water Authority

## \$15 Charge Will Be Made On 20,000 Gal.

## Consumer Using Old 50,000 Gallon Minimum Will Pay \$37.15 Bill

The Kent County Water Authority will begin billing its domestic consumers at a new and higher rate beginning Aug. 31, it was announced at authority headquarters today.

The new rate will reduce the gallonage allowed for the \$15 minimum charge and will have the effect of more than doubling most water bills.

Under the present rate system, home water users are charged \$15 for a minimum of 50,000 gallons and thirty cents a thousand gallons over that amount.

## \$15 for 20,000 Gallons

Under the new rate schedule the charge will be \$15 for a minimum of 20,000 gallons, with a charge for all water used above that gallonage at a rate of 75 cents for 1000 gallons.

A water authority official estimated that three-fourths of domestic consumers use more than the 20,000 gallons allowable under the new minimum charge.

A water user who now uses the maximum 50,000 gallons, for example, at a charge of \$15 would find his bill increased to \$37.15, an increase of two and one half times for the same 50,000 gallons, under the new system.

## 15% of Users Under Minimum

Anyone using less than 20,000 gallons would pay only the minimum \$15 charge. About 25 percent of the water users would come under this category, it was estimated.

Under a Supreme Court order, pending a decision whether the authority has the right to raise rates without the approval of the state public utilities administrator, all revenue received from payment above the old rates must go into escrow, the special fund in the Industrial Trust Company.

Thus, the money will be available for refund, if the court should find the authority had no right to make the increase.

Under a new staggered billing system, various sections of the authority's territory are billed each month to assure a continual flow of revenue.

## Phenix, Natick First Billed

When the new rates go into effect in August, the billing system is such that the higher rates will be billed only to residents of Phenix and Natick sections from Aug. 31 through December.

In December, and continuing through Mar. 31, residents of the Washington, Tiogue, and Arctic sections will begin receiving their higher water bills.

Last to receive the higher bill will be residents in the area from Apponaug to East Greenwich, who will get their bills starting Apr. 30 and continuing through July 31.

Should a water consumer used 40,000 gallons a year, his bill, under the new system, would be doubled to \$30.

The water firm in the future will show usage of water in units of both cubic feet and gallons on its bills, a spokesman said.

The minimum 20,000 gallons is equivalent to 2666 cubic feet.

Minimum Cut Foreshadows More Than Double Rate

# CHARTER REVISION BOARD SOON TO BE NAMED HERE

*P.V.D. Times July 9-1957*  
West Warwick Interest Aroused Concerning  
Method of Government.—Home-Rule Will  
Be Factor.—Party Committees to Meet.

Beginning this week, action will start on forming the committee to make a study toward revision of the charter of West Warwick.

Since the story appeared in this newspaper last week that both the Democratic and Republican town committees are scheduled to meet and to appoint four members each to the nine-member study committee, interest has again been aroused in the method of government for the town. Concern was made more significant after the voters at the special state constitutional convention election ratified the home-rule amendment, permitting towns and cities to change their form of government or charter without first seeking permission of the general assembly.

When the committee makes its study, it will report back to the next or to a special financial town meeting and taxpayers assembled there will decide what to do about the town's charter. If they approve recommendations of the committee they can call for a special election.

It is the city charter act or city form of government for West Warwick that is looming prominently behind the entire effort. The home rule amendment passed at the special constitutional election in West Warwick by a vote of 670 to 305 shows the general electorate of the town has a tendency to change their form of government.

The charter revision committee will make its study and probably will report back recommendations on changes to the charter, but where does the town go from there, people are asking. Will it progress with the physical aspects of West Warwick which more and more, every year demand that West Warwick shake off the shackles of a town and become a city?

## \$1,000,000 a Year

The town's business is rapidly nearing \$1,000,000 a year and most important that \$1,000,000 rests in the hands of from 200

to 300 taxpayers who once a year assemble at a financial town meeting to decide where and how the money is to be spent. One vote over one-half of the attendance voting in favor of an appropriation has the control. If the money is not spent wisely, who's to blame? Financial responsibility under a city form rests in the hands of a mayor and his city council, which first thrashes out the fiscal problems before taxpayers at budget hearings and then on election date, face either re-election for a good job or replacement in office for a poor job done. In all forms of government there must be a head who formulates the financial program of the administration and in a city form of government the mayor is directly responsible to the people. For example—in a town form of government we have had the experience since the town was instituted that the financial responsibility rests with the town solicitor. We can go back from the year of 1913 to date and will find that the financial program presented at a town meeting has always been taken care of and set up by the town solicitors. From 1913 to 1919 the town solicitor was Col. Patrick H. Quinn; from 1919 to 1922, John F. Murphy; from 1922 to 1946, for a time Col. Quinn, Judge James W. Leighton and Almeric A. Archambault; from 1946 to 1948, Roland E. Meunier and from 1948 through 1951, Michael DeCiantis. All of these men held and are holding appointive offices, not elective and are not directly responsible to the people of the town.

## Rumor to Defeat

Increased taxes were used as the basis by politicians in the last city charter election as the underlying rumor to defeat the measure. But were they really concerned with the tax increase? Certain Democratic and Republican leaders alike were afraid of losing too much power.

There are many other benefits of West Warwick's becoming a city in addition to doing away with financial town meetings where not only the money but also special resolutions, which on the surface seem beneficial but beneath have sinister powers, can be pressured through.

Watch for the next article on this question of charter revision or other forms of government for West Warwick to be published in the near future by this newspaper.

# Bar Extension Probe to Start

Log Cabin Enlargement  
In Arctic Under  
Daneker's Scrutiny

James S. Daneker, state liquor control administrator, said today his department will investigate the recent opening by the Log Cabin restaurant, Brookside Avenue, Arctic, of a connecting bar around the corner on 98 Washington Street, to determine whether it is in compliance with liquor regulations or might have to be re-advertised.

The bar has been open about three weeks. Recently, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb announced that Log Cabin, Inc., had been granted permission to have an additional entrance to the establishment to be known as 98 Washington Street.

The matter has never come up at a public town council meeting.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said he understood the permission was only for the separate entrance and he was uncertain about legality of opening of a separate bar at the new entrance.

Log Cabin, Inc., now has a \$550 Class C victualling license.

Daneker said establishments such as the Sheraton Biltmore Hotel, Providence, which pay \$1500 for a tavern license, have several liquor dispensing places under their single license, although the hotel has a separate license for its bar at Eddy and Washington streets.

The liquor administrator said his chief inspector, Benjamin Winicour, would look over the Log Cabin premises and make a report within the next few days.

The West Warwick town council froze the number of liquor licenses at the number granted at the time of the last annual renewal of licenses.

# W. Warwick Board Wants Warwick to Collect Garbage

The West Warwick Planning Board yesterday voted to recommend to the town council that it accept the offer of the City of Warwick to dispose of the town's garbage and combustibles at a reasonable cost to the town.

At a special afternoon meeting in the town hall, the board also voted to recommend that the land and building at the southeast corner of Pike and Main Streets be condemned to permit the state to widen the streets at that point.

Other topics discussed by the five-man board, headed by Judge Robert E. Quinn, included agitation for traffic lights at Veterans' Square, Centerville, and at the intersection of Main and Curson Streets; the possibility of obtaining from the state the parking lot between the bridge on East Main Street and the Bancroft Lace Mill; the need for storm sewers in the town; the long-range and immediate highway improvement programs; and the town's borrowing capacity.

Judge Quinn strongly asserted that at least two or three acres of land in each section of the town be purchased, accepted as a gift or con-

demned to provide space for children's playgrounds. As an example, he suggested the land next to the Natick school on Providence Street be developed.

"While we could play on the streets 35 years ago," he said, "you can't play in the streets now."

The board chairman got on the subject of playgrounds when he was discussing uses for the present town dump land, if Warwick burned the town's garbage and combustibles in that city's incinerators.

The land could be used, Judge Quinn said, for a playground, parking area, and possibly even a swimming area, if the industries could be persuaded not to dump polluting waste into the river.

"We have to either clean the dump ourselves or the state will move in and direct us to clean it up," he predicted.

The board considered three alternate proposals designed to eliminate the town dump. The favored one was to use Warwick's incinerators. Also considered was the possibility of purchasing one of the two old Providence incinerators or the purchase of a new incinerator.

# W. Warwick Garbage Plan Wins Favor

*Bulletin July 10-1957*  
**Planning Board to Recommend Council  
 Accept Warwick's Disposal Offer**

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The land could be used, Judge Quinn said, for a playground, parking area, and possibly even a swimming area, if the industries could be persuaded not to dump polluting waste into the river.

## Alternate Proposals

"We have to either clean the dump ourselves or the state will move in and direct us to clean it up," he predicted.

The board considered three alternate proposals designed to eliminate the town dump. The favored one was to use Warwick's incinerators. Also considered was the possibility of purchasing one of the two old Providence incinerators or the purchase of a new incinerator.

Alexander DiMartin, who investigated the alternates, reported that the Providence incinerators were 27 years old, obsolete, and badly in need of repair. A new incinerator would cost the town about \$200,000, including installation, he said.

Using Warwick's facilities, the town highway and garbage trucks would haul the garbage and combustibles to the city's incinerators at regular intervals, DiMartin explained.

## Board in Agreement

The board members all agreed that the use of the neighboring city's burning equipment would be the most economical and practical at the present time. However, Albert C. Coutu questioned the board's authority to act on such a matter as garbage disposal. He was told by the chairman that the board merely makes recommendations on anything that may improve the town, but has no authority to put the recommendations into action.

Non-combustibles should be dumped in the low area near the sewer beds at the old West Pontiac station, Judge Quinn suggested.

The town council will meet tonight and is expected to act on the dump elimination recommendation and the recommended condemnation of the land at the corner of Pike and Main Streets.

## State Ready

Coutu suggested that the land remaining on the corner after it is widened be used as a bus station. Judge Quinn and Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor, agreed that it could possibly be used for that purpose or as a park or comfort station site.

DeCiantis was requested to contact the United Electric Railway to investigate the possibility of the bus company sharing the cost of constructing a bus station there.

The state is ready to widen the corner as soon as it receives word from the town council, DiMartin said.

State work on East Main and Pike Streets and the widening of the bridge underpass is nearly completed and the board voted to recommend to the council that it accept, for a trial period, the state's traffic control plan, which will make Pike Street a one-way street going east or toward the bridge.

Acceptance of the plan is required by the federal engineers, Judge Quinn said. The U.S. government shared part of the cost in the street work.

## Traffic Lights Studied

The need for traffic lights at Veterans' Square was pointed out by DiMartin. DeCiantis said a light is also needed at Curson and Main Street. DiMartin was directed to contact the proper state authorities.

The purchase or acceptance of the parking lot between the Bancroft Lace Mill and the bridge on East Main Street was suggested by Coutu. DeCiantis said the land is now the property of the state. The town solicitor agreed to request that the state give the land to the town.

Coutu also brought up the subject of storm sewers, declaring that no town in the country was in a better position to take advantage of such sewers. He explained that the town is surrounded by rivers, which could dispose of the storm water.

## Long-Range Program

The other board members, including Mozart Holmes and Webster Knight 2nd, agreed that the sewers would be valuable but would have to be included in the long-range highway improvement program, rather than the sewer extension program, as suggested by Coutu.

The long-range highway program was mentioned several times in the discussions, especially by Judge Quinn, who said the program should include the extension of Eddy Street to Columbus Square and the extension of Bedard Street to Riverpoint.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, requested the board consider during the next six months the borrowing capacity of the town. He pointed out that all the board's suggestions involved the expenditures of large sums of money.

Judge James W. Leighton, the board's legal adviser, and Knight were named as a subcommittee to investigate the town's financial status.

# Charter Group Naming Stalls

*Bulletin July 10-1957*  
**Neither West Warwick Party Ready to Select Study Unit Members**

The West Warwick Republican Town Committee last night failed to complete selection of four persons to serve on a charter study committee.

Harold C. Knight, chairman, said, "We've got to contact two or three to see if they will take the job."

It had been expected the town council might name the charter study committee, authorized at the May annual town meeting, at its meeting tonight.

However, it was reported, that the Democratic town committee which also was authorized to recommend four Democrats for appointment by the town council, is not ready to recommend them yet.

The town meeting, on motion of Roland E. Meunier, former GOP town chairman, authorized appointment of a nine-man committee with the ninth member to be chosen by the committee itself.

# CONTRACTS GIVEN FOR SCHOOL WORK

*Journal July 11-1957*  
**W. Warwick Board Awards  
 Coventry Firm Roof Job,  
 Painting to Clyde**

Contracts were awarded last night by the West Warwick School Committee for the installation of a new roof on the Harris Avenue School and the interior and outside trim painting of the senior high school.

The Supreme Home Improvement Co., 775 Washington Street, Coventry, was awarded the roofing contract. Kenneth G. Hall, the company head, submitted the low bid of \$1905. Vincent Lukowicz, committee chairman, said.

The contract for painting all the rooms and corridors of the high school, painting the exterior trim and caulking the windows was awarded to Clyde Contractors, who submitted the second lowest bid of \$6800, according to the chairman.

Lukowicz said the committee had been willing to award the painting contract to the lowest bidder, but the low bidder had been unable to furnish a bond that he would complete the work satisfactorily.

The low bidder was not named by Lukowicz, nor were any of the bidders but the successful ones. He said the school committee had agreed to co-operate with contractors who had requested their bids not be disclosed unless they were successful in securing the contracts.

At the last meeting of the committee, Lukowicz appeared willing to give the names and prices of all bidders, as do the state, Providence and other municipalities, but the release of such information was opposed by Edward Hand, one of the other two committee members. Hand was out of town and unable to attend last night's meeting, but Lukowicz declined a request to give out either the names or the prices of the other bidders.

Both successful bidders have done work in the past for the school department. The Coventry concern replaced the roofs on the Crompton school and the senior high school. The Clyde painting firm worked on the Arctic school and other school buildings.

Work on both schools is expected to start shortly so they may be completed before the fall opening, Lukowicz said.

In other matters, the committee took the following action:

Agreed to meet Friday night when Hand returns to town to make teacher appointments.

Approved the following bills: \$6125.26, general; \$292.38, recreation; \$98 athletic.

Voted to permit the Pawtuxet Valley Catholic Youth Organization to use the athletic field from now until Sept. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at the request of the Rev. John Carly, Valley CYO director.

Filed a letter from Dr. Michael F. Walsh, state director of education, complimenting the school department on the number of teachers who took advantage of the special courses offered at Brown University recently by the State Department of Education.

# W. Warwick to Crack Down On Above-Ground Gas Tanks

Pawtucket Valley Office,  
13 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0370  
1-0746-W

Willie J. Regnaiere, West Warwick building inspector, last night served notice that he will crack down on installations of above-ground gasoline tanks at homes and business places, as several persons about whom he had complained were granted permission by the town council to install tanks underground.

In a report on a partial survey of incidence of the tanks, ordered by the council last month when Regnaiere decried the fire hazard, Regnaiere listed five installations of the 280-gallon above-ground tanks.

He said they had been installed by Eastern Fuel Co., West Warwick, at Acme Laundry, 38 Sunrise Avenue; the home of Gemma Sambain, 100 Hamilton Street; and Loader Brothers, East Greenwich Avenue, and by Kallagher and Mee, Pawtucket, at Carl Reaber's, Coit Avenue, and Thomas McCrystal's, Wakefield Street.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said that, since Regnaiere's complaint to the council, the Eastern Fuel Co. had filed applications to install the tanks below ground.

## 10 Applications Granted

Acting on the applications, the council granted the company permission to install tanks underground at the following places: Allied Textile Printers, Inc., Main Street; Edgar Mason, East Greenwich Avenue; Moone Motor Sales, 324 Washington Street; Jean L. Sambain, 110 Hamilton Street; Lavoie Construction Co., New London Turnpike; Loader Brothers; Acme Laundry; Howard Lindstrom, Cowesett Avenue; Felicia Lombardi, Wakefield Street; Howard A. Lindstrom Jr., Cowesett Avenue.

A similar application from William Siravo, 1751 Main Street, was continued to Aug. 14 because the proposed tank location was described by Regnaiere as too close to a building.

Regnaiere said he intended to "get after" any others who are using the above ground tanks and have them apply for below ground tank permits.

The council also continued to its Aug. 14 meeting proposed abandonment of Barnes Court, or Lee Street, Crompton, after objections from Harold Carr of 72 Cowesett Avenue and Frank Kowalczyk, Narragansett Avenue; appointed eight fire department call men; deferred acceptance of a re-plat of part of Crompton Heights Plat, and granted several licenses.

## Would Squeeze His Property

Carr argued that abandonment of Barnes Court would squeeze in his property, necessitating laying water lines a longer distance should he develop the property. Questioned by McKanna, he admitted that Barnes Court had not been used as a street as far back as he could remember.

Kowalczyk declared, "I don't know why a street should be abandoned when a man's cutting into my property now."

Jacob Gutowski, who first sought the abandonment, said he would permit Carr to lay water lines through his property, but Carr said that was not his only objection.

Named fire department call men were William Hunt, 18 Manchester Street; Reginald R. Gaudet, 44 New London Avenue; Thomas Moretti; John D. Palazzo, 72 Hopedale Drive; Robert G. Seelenbrandt, 17 Tiogue Avenue; Julio Petrangelo, 10 Riverdale Avenue; Durward J. Card, 9 Prospect Street, and Louis D. Ferretti, 9 Wilson Street.

The application by Regis and Evelyn Forcier for acceptance of a re-plat of lots 41-47 of Crompton Heights Plat was deferred to Aug. 14, after McKanna questioned the plat layout.

The council also: Appointed Regnaiere as fence viewer, a post which has been vacant for years, in order to straighten out difficulties where town-owned fences no longer are needed about private property.

Appointed Herbert Lewis of 23 Manchester Street a police constable to enable him to work as a private detective, on recommendation of Police Chief Grolau.

Approved the transfer of Class B liquor and victualling licenses from Raymond F. Nester to Walter Popinski for premises at 1647 Main Street.

Granted a victualling license to Adeline Colicchio for Lena's Grille, 811 Main Street.

Sidewalk Building Permits

Granted sidewalk construction permits to Ernest P. Archambault, 30 Woodland Drive; Philip Turcotte, 3 Leaf Street; Wilfred St. George, 89 Third Street; Henry Theroux, 100 Third Street, and Guido Colavecchio, Crossland Road and Glendale Drive.

Referred to Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca for investigation proposals "by Laurent J. Beauregard, 220 Pulaski Street, and Joseph Moretti, 228 Pulaski Street, that the town pay for their sidewalk construction in return for their contribution of five foot wide, 100 foot long strips of land to widen the street."

Referred to Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis a letter from Dr. Maurice E. Lague that he intends to file a claim against either the town or state for injuries received by his wife, Elizabeth, who fractured her foot in a fall in a hole in the pavement at Main and Curson Streets.

Authorized Dr. Paul E. Barber, Coventry health officer, to substitute for Dr. John A. Mack, West Warwick health officer, when Dr. Mack goes on vacation, starting Aug. 1.

Referred to department heads a letter from the Fidelity and Casualty Co. of New York, advising that drivers of town vehicles who have had no accidents during the past year are eligible for safe driver awards. McKanna complimented drivers of town vehicles on their record.

Granted the application of the Holy Ghost Society, submitted by Anton Chadinha, for a Class F liquor license for Aug. 31, Sept. 1-3, inclusive, at Holy Ghost Brotherhood grounds, Lippitt.

Granted permission to the national VFW to display its mobile war exhibit in the town within the next 90 days, with a stipulation the veterans confer in advance with police on traffic problems.

On recommendation of Regnaiere, denied the application of Lionel G. Dubois, 135 Pawtucket Terrace, for permission to have a trailer at that address. The application had been continued from last month. Regnaiere said it was not a proper place to have a trailer.

Filed the report of Dog Officer Donat Frenette, listing 25 dogs killed and buried.

## CHILDREN TESTIFY IN DOOLEY'S TRIAL

P. Journal 7/14/57  
Testimony Heard for 7 Hours

in W. Warwick Disorderly  
Person Case

Testimony was heard for seven hours by Judge James W. Leighton yesterday in Fourth District Court, West Warwick, in the trial of John P. Dooley, 28, of 1394 Main Street, West Warwick, on a West Warwick police charge of being a disorderly person.

Dooley is specifically charged with having indecently molested five little girls, ranging in age from 4 to 8 years. All five of the children were in court and all but the four-year-old took the witness stand to testify to Dooley's actions.

The trial, which will continue next Friday, was frequently interrupted by sharp disagreement between Robert Afflick, attorney for the defendant, and Michael DeCiantis, town prosecutor. Afflick was warned several times by the court to use a more gentle method of cross-examining the witnesses.

The courtroom was cleared of all unauthorized persons, including the witnesses, before the trial began at 9:30 a.m. Afflick had just finished his direct examination of Dooley at 5:30 p.m. when the court was adjourned.

Eight witnesses were called to testify by the police. They were the four children, three of the parents and Dr. Paul E. Barber, who examined the children after the parents jointly filed a complaint with the police on June 11.

Eighteen witnesses, most of whom testified only as to what they knew of Dooley's character, were called by the defense. Mrs. Aldea Dooley, the defendant's wife, also took the stand.

Dooley, who has two children of his own, testified as to his armed service record and personal habits. Afflick brought out that the defendant had an excellent U.S. Navy record as a medical corpsman in the last war and did not smoke or drink. The defendant denied the charges of having indecently molested the children. He stated he had handled them sometimes in keeping them out of mischief around his home.

Two motions by Afflick to have the case dismissed, both on the grounds that the date and times of the alleged offenses had not been offered by the prosecution, were denied by the court.

## Water Boost May Be Illegal

Bulletin 7/17/57  
OPS Moves Against  
Proposed Kent County  
Increase in Rates

Scheduled increases in water rates that will more than double the bills of many domestic consumers of the Kent County Water Authority are apparently in violation of price control regulations, the state Office of Price Stabilization informed the authority by registered letter today.

Albert J. Hoban, Rhode Island OPS director, told the authority that unless it is a public utility within the meaning of the Defense Production Act of 1950, "it appears that you are selling a commodity subject to the General Ceiling Price Regulation and your ceiling price for water is the highest price at which you delivered it during the Dec. 19 to Jan. 25 base period to a purchaser of the same class."

Albert Wood, the authority's office manager, acknowledging he had received the letter this morning, said he would have no comment until he had taken the matter up with the board at a meeting at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

## Defends Rate Increases

Last night, before the OPS letter had been received, Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, defended the rate increases, which are scheduled to take effect Aug. 31 for some domestic consumers. He also indicated he thought news stories on the increases "abused" authority members.

Hoban, in explaining the OPS move to block the increased rates, said that the Defense Production Act exempts from its provisions "any common carrier or other public utility," and this would normally include "any corporation or legal

Cont'd next page

# OPS Holds Kent County Water Authority's Scheduled Rate Increases as Improper

## Hoban Says Jump Apparently Violation of Price Regulations

### Continued

entity that files its rates with the public utilities administrator."

He pointed out, however, that the Kent County Water Authority is now engaged in litigation with the state in which, "as we understand it here, it claims it is not a public utility." For that reason, in the opinion of his legal staff, the company is subject to OPS regulations.

Colonel Quinn, in announcing proposed rate increases last December, said that under terms of the 1946 act creating the authority, rates are not subject to review by the state public utility administrator.

### Interpretation Challenged

This interpretation was challenged by Thomas A. Kennelly, the administrator, and the matter is now in the hands of the State Supreme Court awaiting decision. The authority, meanwhile, has already raised its commercial rates. Under a court order, it is depositing all its receipts above the old rates in a trustee's fund, pending a ruling on the legality of its action.

Hoban's letter, however, was concerned only with the increased domestic rates that were announced early this month and have not yet gone into effect. The new rates will reduce the gallonage allowed for the \$15 minimum charge from 50,000 to 20,000 gallons, with a charge of 75 cents for every additional 1000 gallons.

Under a staggered billing system, consumers in the Phenix and Natick sections will be charged at the new rate from Aug. 31, the authority announced, with Washington, Tiogue, Arctic, Apponaug and East Greenwich consumers becoming subject to the increase later.

### Would Block Increase

The OPS ruling would block the increased rates in all of these sections.

In a statement in explanation of the OPS action, Hoban said:

"We consider the sale of water is an essential commodity which the Congress intended we control, except under those circumstances where a public utility is involved, in which case it would be controlled by the state.

"Under the circumstances it is our plain duty to obtain full compliance with the regulation that has been issued by Washington. We assumed the authority will comply with the regulation."

In his prepared statement defending the increased rates, Colonel Quinn asserted that authority members will not profit from them. He compared the rate boosts with the increased costs of copies of the Providence Journal-Bulletin.

"Within a comparatively few years," he stated, "the Providence Journal Company has increased the price of its newspapers 150 per cent. I am not complaining of those increases. I imagine the company still loses money on its circulation. I rather guess that certain issues of the Evening Bulletin cost several times five cents per copy."

### Cites Enormous Advertising

He went on to say that the newspaper company is able to continue in business only because of its "enormous" advertising revenue. The water authority has no such auxiliary income and must depend entirely on its water rates, he added.

"If the Journal and practically every other institution has been compelled to raise its rates, why not the Kent County Water Authority?" Colonel Quinn asked.

He cited the increased costs of materials to the authority as one of the reasons for a rate increase. In the past 10 years, the chairman said, the cost of hydrants has jumped from \$75 to \$140. In the same period, the price of meters has risen from \$8.50 to \$19.35.

Meters are installed by the authority for \$24, leaving \$4.65 to cover the costs of material used in the connection and the installation labor, Colonel Quinn stated.

"Are not the men and women who work for the water authority entitled to some increase in their wages, or are they to be singled out from employees in all other lines of industry," he questioned.

Referring to an Evening Bulletin story on June 27, Colonel Quinn said the headlines read: "Kent County Residents Face Big Water Bill Hike."

He went on to say he had been assured by Arthur LaValley, superintendent of the water works who was connected with the Pawtuxet Valley Water Co. for 30 years, that the proposed increase is the first and only increase of water rates by either the Pawtuxet Valley or the Warwick and Coventry water companies during LaValley's entire period of employment.

"The men on the water authority do not profit from the increase in rates. Why abuse them?" Colonel Quinn asked.

There have been no hydrant rental increases in the old Phenix and Riverpoint fire districts for more than 50 years, Colonel Quinn said, adding that "the same thing is probably true of Crompton and Anthony."

### Called 'Helter-Skelter'

He described the price schedules that prevailed under the former management of the separate water companies that later formed the authority as "helter-skelter rates."

For example, he continued, annual hydrant fees in the area from Riverpoint to Scituate were \$30; in East Greenwich and Cranston they were \$50; in the southern part of Warwick, up to and including Apponaug, they were \$50; while along Toll Gate Road and the West Warwick boundary, they were \$30; and in Crompton and Anthony, they were \$25.

Residents of the area from Scituate to and including Riverpoint have not realized how "slender has been the margin between a sufficient supply of water and a great scarcity of water during the dry seasons," the board chairman said.

An underground cistern of large capacity was installed at Fiskeville a few years ago, Colonel Quinn explained, and connected with three driven wells in Washington by a 16-inch pipe that ran along Fairview Avenue. The old water companies' managements practically abandoned the open reservoirs at Fiskeville.

### Water Heavily Treated

However, he continued, population growth exceeded the rate at which the water could be pumped from the wells and it became necessary to pump water from the open reservoirs into the cistern. To make this water safe, it had to be heavily treated by a chlorination plant at Fiskeville Four Corners, often causing an "ill taste" and odor in the water.

To avoid this, Colonel Quinn went on, the authority began negotiations with Providence to purchase water from the Kent Dam. The cost of connecting the Valley's water system at the Providence purification plant above Hope must be borne entirely by the authority, he added. The connection is expected to be completed by early fall.

## Kent County Authority Refers Letter from OPS

### Turns Water Message Over To Attorneys; No Other Business

The Kent County Water Authority this morning referred to its attorneys a letter from the State Director of the Office of Price Stabilization informing the authority that its water rates are subject to price controls.

The water board took no other action on the matter, Norman E. Gillespie, who presided in the absence of the chairman, Col. Patrick H. Quinn, said after the meeting.

Only routine authority matters were considered during the half hour meeting at the water authority headquarters in West Warwick, Gillespie said.

"The matter is something for our attorneys to consider," Albert Wood, authority office manager said. "We've referred the letter to them."

Albert J. Hoban, Rhode Island OPS director, informed the authority by registered letter yesterday that the rate increase for domestic users that will go into effect on Aug. 31 and will more than double the bills of many consumers is apparently in violation of the price control regulations.

The authority has maintained that it is not a public utility, and therefore not subject to control of the state public utilities administrator. The attorney general has ruled otherwise, and the question is currently the subject of litigation.

Hoban said in his letter that since the authority claims it is not a public utility, his legal staff has informed him that the authority is subject to OPS regulations.

"It appears that you are selling a commodity subject to the General Ceiling Price Regulation and your ceiling price for water is the highest price at which you delivered it during the Dec. 19 to Jan. 25 base period to a purchaser of the same class," Hoban wrote.

# OPS Tells Kent County Water Authority Proposed Boosts Appear to Be Illegal

*Providence Journal-Bulletin - July 15, 1937*

Albert J. Hoban, state director of the Office of Price Stabilization, yesterday informed the Kent County Water Authority that its scheduled increases in water rates, which would more than double the bills of many domestic consumers, apparently are in violation of price control regulations.

Hoban, in a registered letter, told the authority that unless it is a public utility within the meaning of the Defense Production Act of 1950, "it appears that you are selling a commodity subject to the General Price Ceiling Regulation."

He said in the letter that "your ceiling price for water is the highest price at which you delivered it during the Dec. 19 to Jan. 25 base period to a purchaser of the same class."

Hoban pointed out that, while the Defense Production Act exempts from its provisions "any common carrier or other public utility," the Kent County Water Authority is now engaged in litigation which "as we understand it here, claims it is not a public utility." For that reason, in the opinion of Hoban's legal staff, the company is subject to OPS regulations.

Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, defended the rate increases for some domestic consumers, scheduled to take effect Aug. 31, in a statement made before the OPS letter had been received. He indicated in his statement that he thought news stories on the increases "abused" authority members.

Albert Wood, the authority's office manager, acknowledging he had received the OPS letter yesterday, said he would have no comment until he had taken the matter up with the board at a meeting at 8 a.m. today.

Colonel Quinn, in announcing proposed rate increases last December, said that under terms of the 1946 act creating the authority, rates are not subject to review by the state public utility administrator.

## Interpretation Challenged

This interpretation was challenged by Thomas A. Kennelly, the administrator, and the matter is now in the hands of the State Supreme Court awaiting decision. The authority, meanwhile, has already raised its commercial rates. Under a court order, it is depositing all its receipts above the old rates in a trustee's fund, pending a ruling on the legality of its action.

Hoban's letter, however, was concerned only with the increased domestic rates that were announced early this month and have not yet gone into effect. The new rates will reduce the gallonage allowed for the \$15 minimum charge from 50,000 to 20,000 gallons, with a charge of 75 cents for every additional 1000 gallons.

Under a staggered billing system, consumers in the Phenix and Natick sections will be charged at the new rate from Aug. 31, the authority announced, with Washington, Tiogue, Arctic, Apponaug and East Greenwich consumers becoming subject to the increase later.

## Would Block Increase

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In a statement in explanation of the OPS action, Hoban said:

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fending the increased rates, Colonel Quinn asserted that authority members will not profit from them. He compared the rate boosts with the increased costs of copies of the Providence Journal-Bulletin.

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He went on to say he had been assured by Arthur LaValley, superintendent of the water works who was connected with the Pawtuxet Valley Water Co. for 30 years, that the proposed increase is the first and only increase of water rates by either the Pawtuxet Valley or the Warwick and Coventry water companies during LaValley's entire period of employment.

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He described the price schedules that prevailed under the former management of the separate water companies that later formed the authority as "helter-skelter rates."

For example, he continued, annual hydrant fees in the area from Riverpoint to Scituate were \$30; in East Greenwich and Cranston they were \$50; in the southern part of Warwick, up to and including Apponaug, they were \$50; while along Toll Gate Road and the West Warwick boundary, they were \$30; and in Crompton and Anthony, they were \$25.

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# EAST GREENWICH FIRM TRUCKS UNDERSIZE QUAHAUGS FROM R.I. TO MARKETS IN PENNSYLVANIA

*Prov. Journal July 31-1957*

FINN SEA FOOD CO.

BAGS, TRANSPORTS  
'PEANUT' SHELLFISH

Bushel of 1102 Contains 662  
Below Limit; Company Head  
Declines Comment

By LEONARD O. WARNER  
and STUART O. HALE

The Journal-Bulletin has established that a steady stream of undersize quahaugs is moving by truck from Rhode Island to markets in Pennsylvania.

The shellfish, taken from local waters and supposedly protected by strong conservation laws, are bringing a lucrative price in a state without shellfish laws.

Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., of Water Street, East Greenwich, operated by Warren B. Finn Jr. of Quaker Lane, West Warwick, bags and transports undersize shellfish to these markets.

Two reporters have purchased small Rhode Island quahaugs, called "peanuts" in Pennsylvania, from dealers in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre who said they came from Rhode Island waters and were sold to them by the East Greenwich shellfish dealer.

## Would Sort Out "Peanuts"

Another dealers in Scranton also told reporters he purchased quahaugs from Finn and would sort out any quantity of "peanuts" desired from bags containing mixed sizes—at a premium price.

Rhode Island requires of its shellfishermen that they take no quahaugs which measure less than an inch and a half through the smallest diameter. A ring is usually carried by fishermen and fish and game wardens to test size.

The state protects these small or "seed" quahaugs by law to insure a continuing supply. Fishermen say that in two years a seed quahaug will grow to many times its size if left undisturbed.

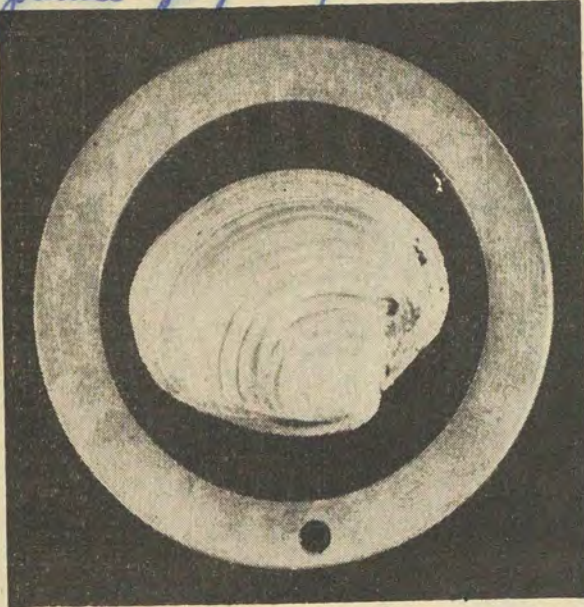
Reporters purchased a bushel of quahaugs from one Scranton dealer and a paper bag containing a dozen from a Wilkes-Barre dealer. They purchased a ring an inch and a half in diameter and checked every quahaug bought in Pennsylvania.

## Hundreds Found Undersize

Hundreds of quahaugs were found to be undersize—the smallest no larger than an adult's thumbnail.

These findings were made during the course of an extensive investigation into the movement of illegal shellfish out of Rhode Island. During the investigation reporters traveled as far as Chincoteague, Va., on the ocean side of the Cape Charles peninsula, visited the bustling Philadelphia fish market and talked to dealers along the Rhode Island waterfront.

On Friday morning, July 27, two reporters entered the shop of Mor-



INSIDE THE BRASS RING, with plenty to spare, is one of the 1102 Rhode Island quahaugs purchased in a bag at Scranton, Pa. The ring is exactly an inch and a half across the inside diameter, legal minimum for quahaugs. —Staff Photo

ris Wiesenfield at 612 West Lackawana Avenue, Scranton. An attendant in a white smock and a woman in a glass-enclosed cashier's office were the only occupants of the shop.

On a refrigerated showcase was a sign, "If You Don't See It, Ask For It."

## Ask For "Clams"

The reporters asked for quahaugs, calling them "clams," and the attendant took them into a refrigerated room where burlap bags containing shellfish were stacked against one wall. Two partly-filled bushel baskets holding quahaugs of little neck and cherrystone sizes sat on the floor in the center of the cold room.

"If you are going to eat them on the half shell, you will want these," the attendant said, pointing to the bushel baskets.

Then he walked over and patted the stacked bags. "Or you can get these. These are peanuts. We sell them by the pound. It will cost you \$9.50 for a 70-pound bag."

"Where do these peanuts come from?"

"From Rhode Island. From Finn. Right from Greenwich Bay."

## Asked Where They Are From

The attendant pulled a bag from the top of the pile and cut the twine closing the mouth of the bag so that he could display its contents. He was asked again where the shellfish came from.

"From Warren Finn, Greenwich, Rhode Island," the attendant said.

He was asked how often he received a shipment.

"Every other day. You may have seen that red truck parked out in front. That was Finn's. He (the truck driver) just left here."

The red truck was gone, but later in the morning reporters saw a red Finn Sea Food truck in a parking lot in Wilkes-Barre, 18 miles away.

Reporters noted that the burlap bags in Wiesenfield's refrigerated room carried tags designating Finn as the shipper. Then they paid \$9.50 to the clerk in the cashier's office and carried a 70-pound bag of "peanuts" out of the shop.

## 662 Found Undersize

Later, the reporters opened the bag, and using a standard quahaug measuring ring, tested the size of every quahaug in the bag. The bag contained a total of 1102 quahaugs. Of these, 662 were found to be undersize. The undersize quahaugs, on a scale, weighed 32 pounds, including the bag.

From Wiesenfield's market the reporters drove to the Boston Fish Car Market at 110 Penn Avenue, Scranton. A sign in the store said, "Everything That Swims."

A clerk said that quahaugs were for sale at \$10 a bushel. He said they were in mixed sizes. He was asked whether he could furnish small "peanut" quahaugs.

"I can sort you out small ones," he said, "but they will cost you \$1.65 a hundred."

"Where do they come from?" he was asked.

## "True Cape Cod Clams"

"These are from Rhode Island. Open ocean clams. These are true Cape Cod clams."

"Don't you mean Narragansett Bay?"

"No," he said, "we get them from another dealer, Finn."

He was asked if they were fresh and said, "we get them every day."

Then reporters drove to the nearby city of Wilkes-Barre. While looking for shellfish dealers' shops they saw a red van-type truck bearing the Finn Sea Food name parked in a lot beside a viaduct. The driver was not in the truck. The registration number was Rhode Island XF-18, which records of the R.I. Motor Vehicle Registry show is registered to the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc.

The same truck was seen about 45 minutes later on the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton highway, parked in front of a refreshment stand.

In Wilkes-Barre, reporters went to the Wilkes-Barre Fish Market,

on East Northampton Street, about a block away from the lot in which the truck was parked. They asked for quahaugs.

The clerk led them to a bin-type table, wired sides and bottom and mounted on casters. It sat in the middle of the store, which is a combination fish market and fruit and vegetable stand, with an open front on the sidewalk.

He said he would sell a bushel of mixed quahaugs for \$9.50 but if small ones were desired he would have to sort them out and the price would be \$1.35 a hundred.

"Are they fresh?" he was asked.

"They came in this morning at 10:30."

He was asked where they came from and he said, "East Greenwich, Rhode Island."

He was asked whether they came from Finn and replied, "Yep, Finn."

## Sorts Out Dozen

The reporters asked him to sort out a dozen small quahaugs from the pile on the table, indicative of the size they would get for \$1.35 a hundred. He placed these in a paper bag and charged 19 cents for them.

Later, on checking the quahaugs in the paper bag with the inch and a half ring, eight quahaugs were found to be undersize and the other four were small little necks.

## Finn Informed

Warren B. Finn Jr., president of the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., of East Greenwich, was told reporters had been informed by three dealers in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa., that they bought shellfish from the East Greenwich firm regularly.

"Well, we do business with them," he said, "I don't think we're the only ones."

He was asked if he did business with them every week and replied, "I should say, yes."

He was told that at the Wiesenfield establishment reporters were sold a bag of quahaugs which the dealer said were "peanuts." He was told also that the dealer said the shellfish came from Finn and asked if he had any explanation.

"God, I don't" he said. "I don't know anything about it."

## "No Comment"

He was also told that reporters had been offered "peanuts" by two other dealers from Finn shipments at premium prices, the quahaugs to be especially sorted. He was asked for comment.

"No," he said, "I have no comment."

Finn was then told that 662 undersize shellfish were counted out of the bag purchased at the Wiesenfield store and again asked if he had

comment. He again declined to comment.

He was then told that a story about undersize shellfish, containing the information outlined to him, would be run in the newspaper, and once more was asked for comment.

"Well I appreciate you talking to me," he said, "but I have no comment."

## Sales to "Bedders"

Earlier, reporters went to Chincoteague, Va., to check reports that "bedders" were buying thousands of bushels of undersize shellfish from Rhode Island. These "bedders" buy small shellfish, sow them on leased bay bottom, allow them to grow and then market them.

Chincoteague's biggest operator is Clarence Burton of Burton's Seafood Inc. He said his 60 acres of leased bottom now support 20,000,000 quahaugs of various sizes and he called himself "the biggest quahaug dealer in the United States."

Burton talked with reporters while his men worked on a flat-bottom boat below his dock, preparing for market quahaugs just removed from his beds. At least 100 bushel of shellfish were mounded on the boat.

Burton was asked where he bought shellfish for bedding purposes and what sizes he preferred.

## Buy From R.I., Cape

"We buy from Rhode Island and some from Cape Cod," he answered. "We like to get little ones and bed them down."

During the interview Burton named three Rhode Island dealers with whom he had done business.

In the bustling Philadelphia market the reporters talked to two large shellfish dealers, B. H. Andrews Co. and the Hill Co.

At the Hill Co., a spokesman said that dealers were not getting shipments from Rhode Island now, "but when it gets colder, along about September, Rhode Island stuff will be okay." He said the Philadelphia market was called upon to supply quantities of small quahaugs, "the smaller the better."

## Demand for Small One

He said that little neck sizes in demand ranged downward from an inch and a half in diameter.

At the Andrews firm, one of the owners gave essentially the same story, declaring there was a tremendous demand for littlenecks now for Pennsylvania clambakes. He said he had no small ones of the clambake size in stock at the time, but was "getting a load tomorrow that will run 2000 or better to the bushel." He did not say that load was coming from Rhode Island.

Rhode Island shellfish dealers explained that legal size littlenecks would count out at 600 to no more than 900 to a bushel and that any count over 900 meant the bag contained some under-size shellfish.

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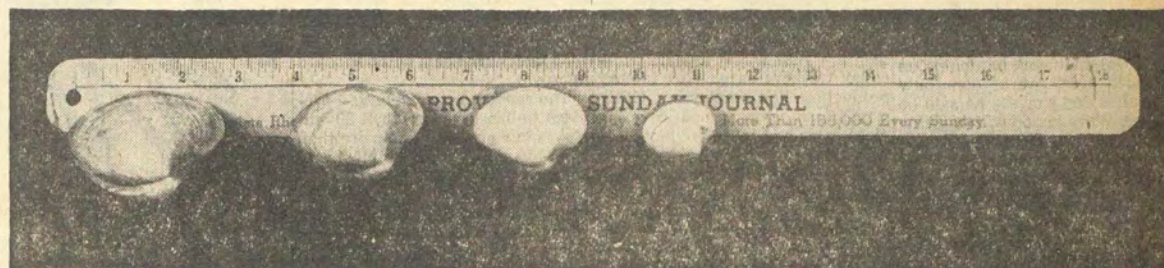
21  
 Providence  
 Journal  
 July 31, 1951



**AND ONE PILE'S LEGAL**, the one at the right. It contains 440 small, but legal size, Rhode Island little necks and a few

cherrystones. In the pile at the left are 662 undersize shellfish, purchased along with the 440 in a bag at Scranton.

—Staff Photos



**ON THE RIGHT, A 'PEANUT':** Here are four quahaugs, also known as hard shell clams, lined up along a ruler. They came from that Scranton bag. Left to right: A quahaug larger than

usually served on the half shell; a cherrystone; a little neck, and, finally, the "peanut," illegal in Rhode Island.



**IN CHINCOTEAGUE, VA.,** at the dock of the Burton Sea Food, Inc., employees work over a load of nearly 100 bushels of shellfish. The quahaugs, which the owner says he buys from various places including Rhode Island and Cape Cod, are placed on leased bay bottom where they fatten until ready for market. This establishment boasts it has 20,000,000 quahaugs in its beds. The owner, Clarence Burton, says he prefers to buy small ones when he can get them.

Gals. .... Bbls. Clams		TO BE RETAINED BY RECEIVER FOR 60 DAYS
Gals. .... Bu. Clams		PACKER'S CERT. NO. R. I. 33
Packed by FINN SEA FOOD CO., Inc.		TO:
Address EAST GREENWICH, R. I.		0561 9770
Distributed By		SPARE
Address		
PACKER'S CERT. NO. R. I. 33		
RESHIPPER'S CERT. NO.	DATES RESHIPED	
SHELLFISH OBTAINED FROM:		THIS PACKAGE CONSISTS OF:
Local Area— NARRAGANSETT BAY		Gals. .... Bbls. Clams
Bed No.— NATURAL		Gals. .... Bu. Clams
DATE:		SHELLFISH OBTAINED FROM:
		Local Area— NARRAGANSETT BAY
		Bed No.— NATURAL
		DATE:

**THIS TAG** came from one of a stack of bags in a refrigerated room at the shop of Morris Wiesenfield in Scranton. Every bag of shellfish moved in interstate shipment is supposed

to be tagged. Similar tags were noted on other bags in the stack, which reporters were told contained small quahaugs, called "peanuts" there.

# CHARTER STUDY SEEN OUTDATED *P Journal - 8/1/57* W. Warwick Party Heads Say Method Now Provided by Home Rule Amendment

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
13 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Leaders of both major political parties in West Warwick are in agreement that the charter study committee authorized at the May town meeting would be of little benefit, in the light of the new home rule amendment to the constitution.

A poll yesterday showed that leaders feel that the charter study idea fathered by Roland E. Meunier at the town meeting was all right then, but that the home rule amendment approved by voters June 28 provides the method that should be followed for charter streamlining.

However, the party heads admitted there are no plans as yet to start the petition which the new amendment calls for as the first step toward charter changes.

## No Recommendations

The amendment provides that, to initiate charter changes, a petition for changes must be signed by 15 per cent of voters qualified to vote at a town meeting and presented to the town council.

At the same time, both Alfred Richard, Democratic town chairman, and Harold C. Knight, Republican chairman, said they are not yet prepared to recommend four persons from each party to serve on the committee authorized by the town meeting.

Knight and Richard agreed with Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor, that the method provided in the new constitutional amendment should be followed on the road to charter changes. They agreed that the committee authorized at the town meeting would have no practical effect except for study purposes.

## Commissions Invalidated

Attorney General Powers ruled recently that the new amendment invalidated existing charter commissions in other communities, the leaders pointed out.

The Meunier resolution, on which there has been no action to date, was adopted as follows at the town meeting: "Resolved: That a charter revision study committee composed of nine members be appointed by the town council for the purpose of making a study of possible changes in our town charter and make their recommendations at the next financial town meeting. Said committee of nine shall be appointed upon recommendations made by the Republican Town Committee and Democratic Town Committee of four each, and said eight shall select a ninth member for the purpose of having a nonpartisan study commission and eliminating any political aspect for the general good of the town."

# 3 States Move to Balk Illegal Shellfish Trade

## Court Halts Culling of Lot at Finn's

Conservation agencies in three New England states co-ordinated an investigation into a suspected large-scale trade in illegal quahaugs today after Rhode Island fish and game wardens confiscated 20 bushels of the undersized shellfish at the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., in East Greenwich yesterday.

Here are the developments:

1. Massachusetts conservationists at 6 a.m. stopped at Marion, near Cape Cod, a 20-ton trailer truck bearing the name E. B. Blount's of Warren, R.I. They said 30 per cent of its load of 350 bags of quahaugs were undersized, and came from Maine.

2. Notified by Massachusetts authorities, Maine conservationists undertook an investigation, but declined to give details.

3. Rhode Island fish and game officials conferred with the attorney general's office to discuss steps for possible prosecution arising from yesterday's confiscation.

The Finn plant was one of several shellfish outlets inspected by fish and game wardens yesterday.

Taking almost all day, a dozen men passed undersized quahaugs through rings which are of such a size that only quahaugs under 1½ inches at the smaller diameter can pass through.

Their inspection of the 300-bags in the Finn establishment was cut short at about 9 p.m. when Judge Harold A. Andrews of Superior Court issued a restraining order at his home, forcing them to quit their tedious task.

The order, obtained by Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the sea food firm, restrained state authorities from "ringing" the shipment of quahaugs, from interfering with shipment of quahaugs and from trespassing on the property of the Finn firm.

Judge Andrews said that in seeking the restraining order, DeCiantis had argued that the quahaugs in question must be kept from spoiling.

Edward C. Hayes Jr., administrator of fish and game, said the checking was called off about 9 p.m., after he and Robert Lowry, principal warden who was in charge of the detail, had been notified of the order.

At that point, Hayes said, 196 70-pound bags of quahaugs had been checked and they netted the 20 bushels of undersize quahaugs which had been removed in custody of the fish and game men.



TEST FOR SIZE: Rhode Island state game wardens crowd the sorting room of the Finn

Sea Food Co., Inc., at East Greenwich as they check 300 bags of quahaugs.

—Staff Photo by Thomas Stevens

Lowry said that more than 100 bags remained to be "ringed" when the activities were halted and he estimated that if they had been allowed to finish the job it would have lasted until the dawn of this morning.

Howard S. Willard, chief coastal warden in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation, said the trailer truck with Blount's name was apprehended at Mallowes in Marion.

DeCiantis, in a bill of complaint he said he filed in Superior Court today, alleged that the shellfish at Finn's place yesterday were purchased from Mallowes, which is owned by Howard Mallowes of Marion.

## May Confiscate Truck

Willard said that when investigation is completed, the truck will be confiscated and prosecution undertaken if circumstances warrant.

Massachusetts law considers illegal quahaugs which measure less than two inches across the greater diameter. The State of Maine has a similar requirement, with a 10 per cent tolerance.

Willard also disclosed he had sent Coastal Warden Daniel Ellis to Rhode Island to investigate whether violations here tie in with violations in Massachusetts.

Nelson F. Blount, in charge of the Warren firm, which is one of the largest shellfish dealers in Rhode Island, could not be reached for comment, nor could the manager of his plant, James C. Milne.

The amended section of the general laws entitled "Protection of Quahaugs," which was passed by the General Assembly at its last session, provides that:

"Every person who has in his or her custody or possession any quahaugs less than one and one-half inches in diameter, taking the smallest diameter, shall be fined \$5 for each and every quart. . . ."

The 20 bushels seized by the wardens amount to 640 quarts.

DeCiantis said his bill of complaint was to institute a test case of the Rhode Island shellfish law under which "custody or possession" of undersized quahaugs is subject to penalty.

He said the bill of complaint alleges that the quahaugs inspected by fish and game wardens at the Finn plant yesterday were purchased from Mallowes, and that they were not taken from Rhode Island waters but from the coastal waters of Maine.

DeCiantis said the question which he wants tested in court is whether possession of undersized quahaugs taken from waters outside Rhode Island is illegal in Rhode Island.

The investigation of sea food outlets followed closely the Friday conference at Governor Roberts' office attended by Hayes and Francis S. Leaver, directors of agriculture and conservation; Col. John T. Sheehan, superintendent of state police; Attorney Gen. William E. Powers and Edward P. Conaty, state budget officer.

After the conference, called on the basis of Journal-Bulletin accounts of regular transportation of undersized quahaugs from Rhode Island to Pennsylvania, Governor Roberts announced that Hayes and Leaver "intend to intensify enforcement of the shellfish laws by utilizing the wardens for inspection of shipments of shellfish at the plants at all times if possible."

Cont'd next page

Yesterday's foray resulted from such an inspection.

Senior Warden Albert Judge Jr., accompanied by Louis Turchetta and Larry Caouette, junior wardens, stopped at the Finn plant on East Greenwich Bay about 9 a.m.

#### Find Truck Unloading

Judge said he found a truck at a side loading platform of the dock-side plant in the process of being unloaded. Eighteen or 20 bags remained in the truck, he said.

He opened one, "found plenty of small ones," felt other bags and informed a man who identified himself as James A. Holmes, acting manager of the sea food concern, that he was taking over the plant for an investigation.

Inside the plant he found a large number of bags that were washed, packed and ready for shipment in the 70-pound bags. The bags in the truck, he said, weighed about 80 pounds and their contents still not washed.

A bill of lading inside the plant indicated that the shipment had come from a shellfish firm at Marion, Mass., Hayes said his men discovered.

But Holmes denied that the load originated in Massachusetts and said the quahaugs came from Maine, a warden said.

Warden Judge called for help. He had made the inspection independent of Senior Warden Caesar Scotti who normally is in charge of checking the East Greenwich waterfront.

Scotti said today that around 1 p.m. yesterday he noticed a group of individuals getting ready to go quahauging near Shore Acres, Quonset, which is a polluted area where any shellfishing is illegal.

He said he went over to Finn's, where he saw about a dozen other fish and game wardens.

"I was ignored, nobody paid any attention to me," he said.

So he asked Capt. A. Arnold, skipper of a fish and game patrol boat, to assist him in apprehending the individual quahaugers, but was given a "sarcastic" answer.

With the help of state police, he finally caught seven persons who, he said, had waded out at low tide to catch quahaugs. He took them to Wickford state police barracks for arraignment later.

Taken into custody were David G. Rudici, 33, of 737 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket; Maurice Enas, 43, of 72 Lorraine Street, Pawtucket; Joseph Miranda, 37, of 1006 Mineral Spring Avenue, North Providence; Wilfred O. Galipeau, 44, of 73 Rathbun Street, Woonsocket; John A. Jessu, 49, of 69 Fremont Street, Providence; Blanche Marie Galipeau, 41, of 73 Rathbun Street, Woonsocket, and Alfred Jesul, 53, of 6 Summer Avenue, Cranston.

#### Joined by Trooper

Hayes sent 12 wardens to the plant to help with the "ringing" and they were joined by a state trooper from the Wickford barracks.

Lowry arrived to take charge and the marine patrol boat was called off the bay to furnish additional manpower for the work.

Meanwhile, the plant workmen were allowed to repack quahaugs of legal size as soon as the bags were checked by the wardens. Lowry said, and there was no indi-



**FAILS RING TEST:** State Fish and Game Warden Louis Turchetta of Providence measures undersized quahaugs during the mass testing yesterday at East Greenwich. Weary wardens were halted by a court restraining order at 9 p.m. after they had examined 196 bags of the shellfish.

—Staff Photo

cation of trouble throughout the day until the notice of the restraining order brought the work to a stop.

One of the wardens said most of the quahaugs appeared fresh.

Hayes reported that inspections at other outlets on both sides of the bay failed to turn up evidence of any undersize quahaugs. The operators of the plants, one of the inspectors said, were extremely cooperative.

Massachusetts authorities said last night that they would act immediately to break any illegal quahauging ring if one is operating in that state.

Willard, from the department of conservation in Massachusetts, said "If we find that a shellfish racket exists in this state, we are going to clean it up—we are going to see that it is stopped."

#### Marion Inquiry Ordered

He said that he had already ordered an investigation of conditions

in Marion on the "basis of published reports," and he recalled that several years ago a Pennsylvania registered truck was stopped by his men who found that it was loaded with undersize quahaugs.

The truck was confiscated and the driver fined, he said.

Willard indicated that the shellfish industry in New England is in poor condition despite the large outlays by some of the states to give it life.

"I have no sympathy with anyone who depletes the shellfish beds in Massachusetts by the taking of undersize shellfish. Substantial sums of money are being spent in shellfish research and propagation and the taking of undersized shellfish is one of the most serious offenses. All such offenses will be dealt with seriously," he added.

Willard said he had received reports that undersized shellfish have been taken in the Cole's River area in Swansea and that a part of that area is polluted.

Francis W. Sargent, director of Marine Fisheries in Massachusetts said "If it does turn out that quahaugs are being taken from Massachusetts, I hope they will apprehend the offenders and that they will get what is coming to them."

He pledged his support in a cleanup but said the investigation and prosecution officials do not come under his jurisdiction.

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R.I. WARDENS SEIZE 20 BUSHEL  
OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL QUAHAUGS  
AT FINN'S; COURT HALTS CHECK

RESTRAINING ORDER  
CALLS OFF 'RINGING'  
OF MORE SHELLFISH

DeCiantis to File Complaint  
Today That Shipment Came  
From Outside State

Wardens of the division of fish and game visited shellfish outlets along Narragansett Bay yesterday and confiscated 20 bushels of quahaugs at the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., East Greenwich, which they said were undersize.

The confiscation was an all-day project for a dozen men who sat with small rings, checking a 300-bag cache. They were interrupted about 9 p.m. when Judge Harold A. Andrews of Superior Court issued a restraining order at his home, which resulted in the wardens knocking off their tedious task.

The order, obtained by Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the sea food firm, provided that the state authorities were restrained from "ringing" the shipment of quahaugs, from interfering with shipment of quahaugs and from trespassing on the property of the Finn firm.

Judge Andrews said that in seeking the restraining order, DeCiantis had argued that the quahaugs in question must be kept from spoiling.

Edward C. Hayes Jr., administrator of fish and game, said the checking was called off about 9 p.m., after he and Robert Lowry, principal warden who was in charge of the detail, had been notified of the order.

**100 Bags Still to Be 'Ringed'**  
At that point, Hayes said, 196 70-pound bags of quahaugs had been checked and they netted the 20 bushels of undersize quahaugs which had been removed in custody of the fish and game men.

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The 20 bushels seized by the warden amount to 640 quarts.

**To File Bill of Complaint**

DeCiantis said he would file a bill of complaint in Superior Court today on the grounds that the shipment which the wardens were checking was not taken from Rhode Island waters and that the law applies to "possession of undersized quahaugs, if there are any, taken from Rhode Island waters."

The investigation of sea food outlets followed closely on the Friday conference at Governor Roberts' office attended by Hayes, Francis S. Leaver, directors of agriculture and conservation; Col. John T. Sheehan, superintendent of state police; Attorney Gen. William E. Powers and Edward P. Conaty, state budget officer.

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Pro. Journal - August 7 - 1951  
**Three N.E. States Launch  
Campaign on Illegal Clams**

**Massachusetts and Maine Authorities Join Rhode  
Island Wardens in Drive; Hayes Seeks Arrest  
of Offenders in Sunday Seizure Episode**

The Northeast Coast from Maine to Narragansett Bay yesterday became the focal point of conservation agencies of three states, seeking to eliminate the taking of undersized quahaugs from coastal waters.

Confiscation of 20 bushels of what wardens said were undersized shellfish at the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., East Greenwich, on Sunday by Rhode Island game wardens precipitated the general push which was joined by authorities in Massachusetts and Maine.

A 20-ton trailer truck, the property of the Blount Sea Food Corp. of Warren, was inspected by Massachusetts conservationists at Marion, Mass., yesterday and authorities said they found large quantities of undersize shellfish aboard, reportedly bought in Maine.

Richard Reed, commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries in Maine, said an investigation was being conducted to determine where in Maine the quahaugs were bought but he offered no details on its progress.

Both the Blount and Finn trucks picked up their loads from Maine dealers, authorities were told.

F. Nelson Blount, head of the Warren firm, said last night that his corporation's truck had carried 400 bushels of quahaugs of which 32 bushels were undersized.

Maine law allows a tolerance of 10 per cent undersize in a lot.

Blount said his truck was delivering a load of little neck clams to the Malloves Sea Food plant at Marion.

Blount, who cited his record as a conservationist in the shellfish field, was angry at the turn of events which caused his name to be connected with undersized quahauging.

Only chowder-size, the largest quahaugs, are processed at his Warren plant, he said, but he had been forced to take little necks from his Maine dealer this year to meet buying competition in that state.

As a result, he said, he made a deal with Malloves to take the little necks off his hands and he said that neither he nor his drivers looked into the bags destined for the Malloves firm and were not aware that they contained undersize clams.

Frederick H. Richardson, manager at Blount's Warren plant, said that the clams were separated by the dealer in Maine and that the dealer had been specifically instructed not to sell the Blount concern any undersize shellfish.

"That's directly in opposition to our method of operation," he said. "If the Maine dealer can't handle his buying methods, we will discontinue handling little necks altogether."

Blount said that actually his firm

was merely a carrier as far as the little neck cargoes were concerned but "as long as it remains on my truck, it is my responsibility and I will have to answer for it."

Howard S. Willard, chief coastal warden in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation, reported apprehension of the Blount truck in Marion about 6 a.m. yesterday.

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# R.I. WAR OF ALL AT FIN

## RESTRAINING ORD CALLS OFF 'RING OF MORE SHELL

DeCiantis to File Co  
Today That Shipment  
From Outside Sta

Wardens of the division of fish and game visited shellfish outlets along Narragansett Bay yesterday and confiscated 20 bushels of quahaugs at the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., East Greenwich, which they said were undersize.

The confiscation was an all-day project for a dozen men who sat with small rings, checking a 300-bag cache. They were interrupted about 9 p.m. when Judge Harold A. Andrews of Superior Court issued a restraining order at his home, which resulted in the wardens knocking off their tedious task.

The order, obtained by Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the sea food firm, provided that the state authorities were restrained from "ringing" the shipment of quahaugs, from interfering with shipment of quahaugs and from trespassing on the property of the Finn firm.

Judge Andrews said that in seeking the restraining order, DeCiantis had argued that the quahaugs in question must be kept from spoiling.

Edward C. Hayes Jr., administrator of fish and game, said the checking was called off about 9 p.m., after he and Robert Lowry, principal warden who was in charge of the detail, had been notified of the order.

**100 Bags Still to Be "Ring"**  
At that point, Hayes said, 196 70-pound bags of quahaugs had been checked and they netted the 20 bushels of undersize quahaugs which had been removed in custody of the fish and game men.

Lowry said that more than 100 bags remained to be "ringed" when the activities were halted, and he estimated that if they had been allowed to finish the job it would have lasted until the dawn of this morning.

taking of undersized shellfish is one of the most serious offenses. All such offenses will be taken seriously," he added. He said he had received reports that undersized shellfish have been taken in the Cole's River area and that a part of that catch was being sold.

The legal limit for quahaugs in Rhode Island is two inches, measured along the long diameter.

W. Sargent, director of fisheries in Massachusetts, said he does not know that quahaugs are being taken from Massachusetts, but he hopes they will apprehend the offenders and that they will get the law on them.

He said his support in a restraining order was not intended to prevent the investigation of the state officials who do not have jurisdiction.

A bill of lading inside the plant indicated that the shipment had come from a shellfish firm at Marion, Mass., Hayes said his men discovered.

But Holmes denied that the load originated in Massachusetts and said the quahaugs came from Maine, a warden said. Warden Judge called for help. He had made the inspection independent of Senior Warden Caesar Scotti who normally is in charge of checking the East Greenwich waterfront.

**Joined by Trooper**  
Hayes sent 12 wardens to the plant to help with the "ringing" and they were joined by a state trooper from the Wickford barracks. Lowry arrived to take charge and the marine patrol boat was called off the bay to furnish additional manpower for the work.

Meanwhile, the plant workmen were allowed to repack quahaugs of legal size as soon as the bags were checked by the wardens, Lowry said, and there was no indication of trouble throughout the day until the notice of the restraining order brought the work to a stop.

One of the wardens said most of the quahaugs appeared fresh. Hayes reported that inspections at other outlets on both sides of the bay failed to turn up evidence of any undersize quahaugs. The operators of the plants, one of the inspectors said, were extremely cooperative.

Massachusetts authorities said last night that they would act immediately to break any illegal quahauging ring if one is operating in that state. Howard Willard, coastal warden for the division of law enforcement, department of conservation in Massachusetts, said "If we find that a shellfish racket exists in this state, we are going to clean it up—we are going to see that it is stopped."

**Marion Inquiry Ordered**  
He said that he had already ordered an investigation of conditions in Marion on the "basis of published reports," and he recalled that several years ago a Pennsylvania registered truck was stopped by his men who found that it was loaded with undersize quahaugs.

The truck was confiscated and the driver fined, he said. Willard indicated that the shellfish industry in New England is in poor condition despite the large outlays by some of the states to give it life.

"I have no sympathy with anyone who depletes the shellfish beds in Massachusetts by the taking of undersize shellfish. Substantial sums of money are being spent in shellfish research and propagation

to help the industry. It is not fair to take of undersized shellfish. All such offenses will be taken seriously," he added. He said he had received reports that undersized shellfish have been taken in the Cole's River area and that a part of that catch was being sold.

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# Three N.E. States Launch Campaign on Illegal Clams

Massachusetts and Maine Authorities Join Rhode Island Wardens in Drive; Hayes Seeks Arrest of Offenders in Sunday Seizure Episode

The Northeast Coast from Maine to Narragansett Bay yesterday became the focal point of conservation agencies of three states, seeking to eliminate the taking of undersized quahaugs from coastal waters.

Confiscation of 20 bushels of what wardens said were undersized shellfish at the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., East Greenwich, on Sunday by Rhode Island game wardens precipitated the general push which was joined by authorities in Massachusetts and Maine.

A 20-ton trailer truck, the property of the Blount Sea Food Corp. of Warren, was inspected by Massachusetts conservationists at Marion, Mass., yesterday and authorities said they found large quantities of undersize shellfish aboard, reportedly bought in Maine.

Richard Reed, commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries in Maine, said an investigation was being conducted to determine where in Maine the quahaugs were bought but he offered no details on its progress.

Both the Blount and Finn trucks picked up their loads from Maine dealers, authorities were told.

F. Nelson Blount, head of the Warren firm, said last night that his corporation's truck had carried 400 bushels of quahaugs of which 32 bushels were undersized.

Maine law allows a tolerance of 10 per cent undersize in a lot.

Blount said his truck was delivering a load of little neck clams to the Malloves Sea Food plant at Marion.

Blount, who cited his record as a conservationist in the shellfish field, was angry at the turn of events which caused his name to be connected with undersized quahauging.

Only chowder-size, the largest quahaugs, are processed at his Warren plant, he said, but he had been forced to take little necks from his Maine dealer this year to meet buying competition in that state.

As a result, he said, he made a deal with Malloves to take the little necks off his hands and he said that neither he nor his drivers looked into the bags destined for the Malloves firm and were not aware that they contained undersize clams.

Frederick H. Richardson, manager at Blount's Warren plant, said that the clams were separated by the dealer in Maine and that the dealer had been specifically instructed not to sell the Blount concern any undersize shellfish.

"That's directly in opposition to our method of operation," he said. "If the Maine dealer can't handle his buying methods, we will discontinue handling little necks altogether."

Blount said that actually his firm

was merely a carrier as far as the little neck cargoes were concerned but "as long as it remains on my truck, it is my responsibility and I will have to answer for it."

Howard S. Willard, chief coastal warden in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation, reported apprehension of the Blount truck in Marion about 6 a.m. yesterday.

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Archie Smith, assistant attorney general, said he had not seen the complete order but that on the basis of a digest sent to Hayes by the clerk of the court, it appeared that the trespass portion might apply until the order is lifted, even if the wardens were visiting the plant on legal business, and that he had suggested they stay off the property until the court airing.

DeCiantis argued that the wardens were outside their rights in taking a part of a "lawful shipment of quahaugs," from the Finn premises.

#### 20 Bushels Held as Evidence

Anything coming from outside the state is the responsibility of the state in which it originates, he said, and it is not up to Rhode Island authorities to police those precincts.

Hayes was adamant, however, about the 20 bushels of undersize quahaugs he said his men had removed from the plant before they were notified of the restraining order.

They will be held as evidence pending outcome of the court proceedings, he said.

Reed, the Maine commissioner, predicted a tightening up of policing procedures.

The department started an investigation yesterday after seizure of the quahaugs at the Finn plant.

The Maine law prohibits taking quahaugs that are less than two inches in the smallest diameter. The Rhode Island minimum is one and one-half inches.

"It is possible some illegal stuff did get out. The bootleggers are pretty clever," Reed said.

Rhode Island, he said, is a distributing point for little necks, cherry stones and chowder clams and Rhode Island dealers have buyers in Maine.

#### Fishermen Buy "Smallies"

There is a clandestine market for undersized quahaugs among fishermen of other New England states who want to re-seed depleted clam beds in their waters, he said.

Reed pointed out that "we've got to prove the act (of taking undersized quahaugs); they can tell us they came from Maine but we have to see it done."

His department, he said, probably had made 100 arrests this year for possession of short clams.

Any clams found in the state which are undersized are illegal, he said, regardless of whence they came.

"We're not terribly excited about it. We have plenty of seed stock up here. We know some gets through and are alarmed if it is in large amounts. We are definitely conservation minded up here and we don't let a thing like that go by without investigating it," he concluded.

Caesar Scotti, the warden normally in charge of checking the East Greenwich waterfront, said yesterday he noticed a group of persons getting ready to go quahauging near Shore Acres, Quonset, about 1 p.m. Sunday. The area is polluted and any shellfishing is illegal, he said.

Scotti said he went over to Finn's where he saw about a dozen other fish and game wardens.

#### "I Was Ignored"

"I was ignored, nobody paid any attention to me," he said.

So he asked Capt. A. Arnold,

skipper of a fish and game patrol boat, to assist him in apprehending the individual quahaugers, but was given a "sarcastic" answer.

With the help of state police, he finally caught seven persons who, he said, had waded out at low tide to catch quahaugs. He took them to Wickford state police barracks for arraignment later.

Taken into custody were David G. Rudici, 33, of 737 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket; Maurice Enas, 43, of 72 Lorraine Street, Pawtucket; Joseph Miranda, 37, of 1006 Mineral Spring Avenue, North Providence; Wilfred O. Galipeau, 44, of 73 Rathbun Street, Woonsocket; John A. Jessu, 49, of 69 Fremont Street, Providence; Blanche Marie Galipeau, 41, of 73 Rathbun Street, Woonsocket, and Alfred Jesul, 53, of 6 Summer Avenue, Cranston.

## Manager of Finn's Held For Undersized Quahaugs

Free on \$3500 Bail After 'Mute' Plea;  
Court Dissolves Sunday Injunction

James A. Holmes, manager of the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., of East Greenwich today was held in \$3500 bail for trial in Fourth District Court on a charge of illegal possession of 640 quarts of undersized quahaugs.

Judge James W. Leighton did not fix a trial date, but granted the request of Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the Finn firm, for two weeks in which to file special pleas.

Bail for Holmes, 25, who lives at 53 Spring Street, East Greenwich, was furnished by Walter Finn, brother of Warren Finn Sr., a member of the sea food concern.

Judge Louis W. Cappelli today in Superior Court dissolved the restraining order issued Sunday night to stop state inspectors from continuing their examination of quahaugs at the Finn plant, and then ordered papers in the injunction suit returned to the Kent County Superior Court for future disposition.

When Holmes faced Judge Leighton this morning, arraigned by Robert H. Lowry, principal warden of the state Fish and Game Division, DeCiantis told the court "The defendant stands mute." The court then entered a plea of innocent for Holmes.

Later DeCiantis said the plea of "standing mute" was seldom used, but that in effect it meant Holmes said nothing and was not submitting to the jurisdiction of the court. He said the plea was a protection for special pleas.

Holmes was served a summons Tuesday by Lowry to answer the charge of possession and custody of quahaugs under legal size.

The summons was a result of the confiscation Sunday at the Finn establishment of 20 bushels of shellfish which fish and game division inspectors said were under the legal limit of 1½ inches across the smaller diameter.

Holmes stepped out of the Finn plant into Water Street Tuesday to accept the summons. The Superior Court order dissolved today



James A. Holmes, manager of Finn Sea Food Company, Inc., entering district court in East Greenwich this morning.

—Staff Photo

was issued Sunday night. It restrained fish and game wardens from trespassing further on Finn property pending a hearing in that court today.

Quahaugs confiscated at the Finn establishment Sunday were said to have been dug in Maine.

Judge Cappelli dissolved the restraining order today at the request of DeCiantis. The order had been issued by Judge Harold A. Andrews.

DeCiantis said that a test case will be made of the criminal case against the East Greenwich firm manager or the injunction suit, whichever comes up first.

"I am going to see that this question is determined one way or another," he said, referring to his contention that the Rhode Island does not apply to possession of undersized quahaugs purchased outside the state.

# Annexation Body Organized With McCabe as Chairman

The Warwick-West Warwick Annexation Committee organized last night with the unanimous election of John J. McCabe, Democratic member from Warwick, as chairman.

Richard Salvas, Republican member of West Warwick's three-man delegation on the panel, was named secretary, also without opposition. The nominations were made, respectively, by Republican and Democratic committee members.

Upshot of discussion of the committee's task — recommendations for or against annexation of any part of Warwick's West End to West Warwick — was a plan to gather pertinent tax data on the area involved to be studied at the next meeting.

Halles L. Palmer, Warwick Republican member, is to hire part-time help to procure the total tax valuation figures on the area from Warwick's tax roll. He also will gather data on Warwick's bonded indebtedness.

Although the General Assembly act creating the committee specified no particular area, the section of Warwick referred to by Sen. Dion A. Archambault (D-Warw.) in his sponsorship was the portion west of Bald Hill Road, including East Natick, Westcott and Centreville.

Committee members agreed with Palmer that they must know the area's tax status before taking the annexation question before affected residents at public hearings.

A possible forecast of future committee debate was the brief discussion of what West Warwick would be obliged to "pay" for any territory annexed.

Horace L. Petrarca, Democratic member on the West Warwick delegation, maintained that in return for annexing land, his town should not be expected to assume the full proportionate share of Warwick's total debt.

"You have made many improve-



John J. McCabe

ments in your city but none of them have been in that section," said Petrarca. "The people of West Warwick would never go for paying the full amount, and I wouldn't recommend it."

The Warwick delegation, on the other hand, argued that if West Warwick annexed a portion of Warwick, it should assume a percentage of Warwick's total debt equal to the percentage of the city's total tax valuation which the area provides.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., West Warwick town council president, and, with Mayor Mills of Warwick an ex-officio member, raised the question of payment of committee expenses by the two municipalities although neither has the items budgeted.

Palmer, however, said he felt payment by the town and city is "almost mandatory" under the General Assembly act.

The committee is to meet again at McCabe's call when Palmer has the fiscal data the committee seeks.

## MAINE TAKES STEPS TO SAVE QUAHAUGS Brunswick Dealers Agree to Inspect Purchases for 'Shorts'

An inspection system designed to halt digging and marketing of undersized quahaugs from the rich Maquoit Bay flats at Brunswick, Me., was worked out yesterday, the Associated Press reported.

Town Manager Merle Goff said leaders have agreed to examine all purchases for "shorts." He said they would make all diggers turn quahaugs out into bushel baskets to be sorted.

The decision was reached at a meeting of dealers and diggers with town and state officials, called on learning that a truckload of illegal quahaugs seized in Massachusetts came from Brunswick Flats.

Rhode Island fish and game officials early this month seized 20 bushels of quahaugs which they said were undersize, and which were said to have come from Maine.

The seizure by Rhode Island officials followed Journal-Bulletin accounts of regular transportation of undersized quahaugs from Rhode Island to Pennsylvania.

## Parking Meters for W. Warwick 'Very Soon' as Ordinance Passes

New Law Adopted by Town Council Becomes Effective Wednesday; Planning Board's Recommendation on State-Owned Land Accepted

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
18 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

A parking meter ordinance, which will go into effect Wednesday, was adopted last night by the West Warwick Town Council. Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said the meters will be installed "very soon."

The council received a communication from the town planning board listing a series of recommendations voted by the board at its last meeting.

Only one of the recommendations, the proposal that the town request the state give the town the land the state now owns on East Main Street between the Warwick Lace Works and the railroad bridge, was acted on last night. At the suggestion of McKanna, the letter was filed for further study.

Councilman Thomas Mello asked that immediate action be taken on the proposal to request the East Main Street land from the state. The state obtained the land so that it might widen East Main Street and the passing underneath the railroad bridge. The road construction work is nearly completed, and a letter will be sent to state authorities.

The planning board recommended that when and if the land is obtained from the state it be used for off-street parking for workers in the nearby manufacturing establishments and for a new road to the West Warwick Athletic Field.

### Parking Meter Locations Listed

The parking meter ordinance provides for the installation of meters at the following locations:

Main Street, from Columbus Square to Arctic Square on both sides of the street and from Arctic Square to the New Haven Railroad bridge on the west side of the street; Washington Street, on both sides of the street from Arctic Square to East Street; Brookside Avenue, on both sides of the street from Washington Street to Roberts Street; St. John Street, on both sides of the street from Roberts Street to Washington Street; Bank Street, on both sides of the street from Main Street to Legion Way.

Curson Street, on the south side of the street from Bedard Street to Payan Street; Crawford Street, on the north side of the street from Washington Street to Bedard Street; on both sides of the street from Main Street to the point where the street makes a right angle turn and runs north and south.

The penalty for any violation of the parking meter ordinance shall be \$1 if the violation is paid for within seven days at the police station or a maximum of \$5 if the violation goes to district court, according to the ordinance.

The planning board also recommended that the present town dump be abandoned and graded and converted to parking and recreation fields. For a new dump site for non-combustibles, the board proposed that the land next to the sewage disposal plant in Natick be condemned and purchased and used for the town dump.

### Urges Simas Property Purchase

A third recommendation of the board was that the Simas property at the corner of Main and Pike Streets, which has already been condemned by the council, be purchased by the town. Land remaining after the street is widened at the corner should be used for a bus waiting station or landscaped to improve the appearance of the area, according to the board's suggestion.

A subcommittee of the board filed a report on a study it had made of the possibility of purchasing an incinerator and concluded that it would be more practical to have the town pay to have its garbage burned at the Warwick incinerator.

The board reported that it is still investigating street widening proposals and the need for more playgrounds in town.

It would be advisable not to issue any building permits for structures that will be built too close to any of the streets that need widening, new plats should be held in abeyance until such time as the planning board and the zoning board can complete some preliminary work, the board advised.

## PARKING METERS EXPECTED TODAY

Delivery of 400 parking meters scheduled to go into operation in West Warwick shortly is expected today.

The meters were purchased from the M. H. Rhodes Co. of Hartford, Conn., for \$59 each, with a contract under which they will be paid for out of meter revenue.

Workmen yesterday installed 100 meter posts in the business section along Main and Washington Streets. The installations will continue today.

Installation of the complete meter outfits is expected to take about five days.

The town council recently passed a parking meter ordinance, setting forth that a penny may be used for a 12-minute parking period or a nickel for an hour. The ordinance became effective yesterday so the meters can be put into operation as soon as they are installed.

*Rev. Journal - Aug. 24-1937*

## 'Billy' Ross, Who Lost Both Arms, Becomes Center of Custody Fight

**Mother, Who Has Remarried, Asks Court to Return  
Injured Boy and Two Other Children to Her  
Care; Father Files Counterpetition**

William K. "Billy" Ross, 10, for whom sympathizers contributed about \$25,000 after he lost both forearms by amputation after suffering electrical burns in an accident Mar. 18, now is involved in a custody battle.

His remarried mother, Mrs. Gladys E. Greene of Boone Lake, Exeter, seeks restoration of three children, including Billy, whom she turned over to their father, John Ross of 85 Oakside Street, Warwick Neck, about four and a half years ago when no longer financially able to care for them.

Judge John E. Mullen began hearing her petition in Superior Court yesterday, and will resume today. Ross, also remarried, has filed a counterpetition for custody.

Mrs. Greene claims she turned over the children "conditionally," serving notice she would take them back when able. Her new husband, Randolph Greene, is willing to help her support them, she says.

As the hearing opened, Michael DeCiantis, Mrs. Greene's counsel, disclosed that in order not to jeopardize Billy's welfare he had written letters to the three trustees of the Billy Ross Fund, Dr. Robert R. Baldridge of the Rhode Island Hospital surgical staff; Edward P. Reidy, state public welfare director, and the Rev. Philip C. McKenna of St. Benedict's Rectory, Cominicut, advising them of the court action.

Replies were to the effect that the sole interest of the advisory group was Billy's welfare and his future place in the community, and it was important that custody be determined.

DeCiantis stressed that since the trustees direct expenditure of the fund, it was evident Mrs. Greene's action was not a move for financial gain.

The mother was awarded custody of Billy and three other children, one now living with her and Greene and two other young children, when she obtained a divorce in 1944. She turned Billy and two of the children over to Ross in 1947.

DeCiantis suggested that because of Billy's condition (he is still under hospital care although reportedly presently with his father) the court should order an investigation to determine where the children should go, so the injured boy would not have to be brought into court.

Mrs. Greene testified how she and the children lived with her parents after "I had him drafted," referring to Ross, and then she and her mother moved to Richmond because "I just wanted a place of my own." She said her mother couldn't get along with her father and "I was just in between." Her mother, she said, is now in the state hospital.

She accused Ross of having written her not to try to get the children back because she couldn't. She never went after them, she said.

After she heard of Billy's injury, she said, she went to the hospital every day, remaining from 10 to 12:30 o'clock. After a while, she said, she went every other day, because she "just couldn't keep up" and her husband told her she had better "slow up."

On the ground of hearsay evidence, Edward F. J. Dwyer, counsel for Ross, blocked testimony by Mrs. Greene regarding what she claimed the children had told her as to where they wanted to live.

Under Dwyer's cross-examination, Mrs. Greene said there are four rooms and a bath in her home, but no running water as yet. All of the water used has to be brought in pails from a spring on the lot, she said.

The other children and Billy, up to the time of his accident, visited her home, she said. Although she said that after their father remarried they told her they could no longer have any meat or milk, she admitted to Dwyer that they appeared to be healthy.

*Rev. Journal 8/25/37*

## Fight for Custody of 'Billy Ross' Has No Bearing on \$25,000 Fund

**Counsel Agree in Superior Court That Money for  
Boy Who Lost Both Forearms Is for Treatment  
and Education; Case Continued to Sept. 18**

Despite the custody fight over William K. "Billy" Ross, beneficiary of a \$25,000 fund raised after he lost both forearms by amputation because of an accident, the Billy Ross Fund will be devoted entirely to the boy's treatment and education, counsel agreed in Superior Court yesterday afternoon.

Seeking to dispel any doubt among the hundreds of contributors about the use of the fund, Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Billy's remarried mother, Mrs. Gladys E. Greene of Boone Lake, Exeter, announced her attitude to Judge John E. Mullen as the case was continued to Sept. 18 for further hearing.

### Opposing Counsel Concurs

Edward F. J. Dwyer, counsel for John Ross of 85 Oakside Street, Warwick Neck, the remarried father, said he heartily concurred with DeCiantis' statement.

Referring to the great number of contributors, DeCiantis said he and his client were very much concerned about the fund, and supposed and hoped it was primarily for education of the boy, after treatment for his injuries.

Most certainly, DeCiantis stressed, Mrs. Greene did not seek restoration of Billy and two other children from their father because of the fund.

Mrs. Greene has testified that her new husband, Randolph Greene, is willing to help her support Billy and the other children if she can get them back. She was granted their custody in 1944 when she divorced Ross, but turned them over to him four and a half years ago when financially unable to care for them.

Said Dwyer "I heartily concur in everything said about the future

rehabilitation of this little fellow. My client intends to support him out of his earnings as he has done every day and year since Billy was born."

DeCiantis quoted nurses as saying Billy has a bright mind and some real capabilities, and should become "a real man in this world."

Whether Mrs. Greene will prevail in her attempt to get the children back, or Ross will win his petition for custody, will not be decided until the subsequent hearings.

On DeCiantis' request, Judge Mullen continued the hearing because, as the attorney explained, Ross' unexpected petition for custody after Mrs. Greene filed hers for return of the children had broadened the issue so it could not be fully heard at the present time, with the judge finishing his vacation assignment today.

### Billy's Appearance Uncertain

DeCiantis said it would now be necessary for him to bring in some doctors, a social worker and other witnesses to show Mrs. Greene is entitled to the children. Whether Billy will appear in court to express his wishes has not been decided.

The attorney assured the court that as far as Mrs. Greene was concerned, the children would remain as they are and there would be no attempt to take control of them pending determination of the issue.

Dwyer said he and his client were disappointed not to have the custody decided now, and he "reluctantly" agreed to the continuance with the understanding Billy and his brother and sister would remain in Warwick until the question was settled.

Judge Mullen said he felt the continuance was necessary and desirable, because he would be able to give more time to the case at the later date.

# WATER BOARD'S PLAN TO HIKE RATES GIVEN FEDERAL ATTENTION

## U. S. Study May Be Basis for Unprecedented Ruling

Action of the Kent County Water Authority which tomorrow plans billing its domestic consumers at a new and higher rate is being considered in Washington, D. C., and may be the basis of establishing an unprecedented federal ruling throughout the nation on raising the rates of water service.

The plan to raise the rates of water was taken to Washington on August 17th by Edward Hoban, chief of the Rhode Island division of the Office of Price Stabilization. He presented the case to the Washington OPS and explained why his division in this state had taken action on the proposed rates. He was questioned closely and was advised that after a study by the national legal division of the OPS a ruling would be handed down, possibly within two weeks time, which incidentally is tomorrow.

The Kent County Water Authority proposes under a new rate schedule to charge \$15 for a minimum of 20,000 gallons, with a charge for all water used above that gallonage at a rate of 75 cents for 1000 gallons.

Under the present rate system, home water users are charged \$15 for a minimum of 50,000 gallons and thirty cents a thousand gallons over that amount.

It is estimated that about 25 per cent of the water users will pay the minimum \$15 charge.

Under a supreme court order,

pending a decision whether the authority has the right to raise rates without the approval of the state public utilities administrator, all revenue received from payment above the old rates must go into escrow, the special fund in the Industrial Trust Company.

With this procedure, the money will be available for refund, if the court should find the authority had no right to make the increase.

Under the new billing system, particular sections of the authority's territory are billed each month to assure a continual flow of revenue.

## ASSAULT CHARGE PLEA IS CHANGED

*Pro Journal 9/7/51*  
East Greenwich Complainant

Says Daughter Made 'Fantastic, False Charge'

Trial of Romeo E. Orlando, 43, of 13 Noble Street, West Warwick, was set down for next Thursday when his motion to retract a plea of guilty of an assault charge was granted by Judge James W. Leighton in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich, yesterday.

Orlando had pleaded guilty of an assault of a 10-year-old Pontiac girl Aug. 21 and his motion to change his plea was based on extenuating circumstances occasioned by a statement from the mother, complainant in the case, that in her opinion her daughter had made a "fantastic and false charge."

Judge Leighton in granting the motion said that the court was "a little disturbed" by the train of events in the case and directed that the statement of the mother be incorporated as part of the court record in the case. He also said, "I am warning the defendant that he may find some very unpleasant things may ensue in view of the statement during trial."

After trial, George Peter Gadoury Jr., 26, of 567 Main Street, Coventry, was adjudged innocent of a lewd and wanton charge brought by Warwick police and was fined \$10 and costs after being adjudged guilty of reckless driving. According to testimony, Gadoury allegedly exposed himself in the yard of an Apponaug cafe and then was caught after following a car and proceeding to bump it continuously.

## METERS RECEIVED IN WEST WARWICK

*Pro Journal 9/7/51*

Installation Begins This Morning; Enforcement Will Start Monday

Pawtucket Valley Office, 15 Washington Street, West Warwick Telephone Valley 1-0570 1-0746-W

West Warwick's long-awaited parking meters arrived yesterday afternoon and their installation will begin at 8 o'clock this morning, Police Chief Groleau announced.

The first meter will be installed in front of the police station on Main Street, the chief said. No formal ceremony is planned for the machine's initial coin receipt.

All 398 of the meters will be installed in the Arctic business section by noon if the weather is good, Chief Groleau said. Several members of the police department will assist in the installation.

Chief Groleau said there will be no enforcement of the new parking laws until Monday. On Monday strict enforcement will begin, he warned, but until then there will only be courtesy tags issued.

The fine for overtime parking at the meters has been set at \$1 payable at the police station within seven days of the violation.

The new meters are of the type that provide 12 minutes parking for a penny and additional 12-minute periods for each additional penny deposited. The meters also will take a nickel for one hour's parking.

M. H. Rhodes Co. of Hartford, Conn., is supplying the meters. They are being installed without initial charge by the company, which will receive 50 per cent of the meter receipts monthly until the meters are paid for by the town.

Each meter costs the town \$54 plus a \$5 installation charge. Sites for the meters were recommended by an engineer from the meter company.

A company expert estimated that the meters in the Arctic business section will take in at least \$20,000 a year. Since the meters are costing the town about \$23,000, they should be paid for in a little more than two years, during which period the town still will receive about \$20,000.

Similar meters have been installed in Central Falls and Pawtucket.

## Water Authority Mails First Higher Rate Bills

Sends 800 to Natick, Phenix Area;  
Wood Says Word Awaited from OPS

The Kent County Water Authority today mailed out its first bills at a new and higher home-owners' rate to about 800 customers in the Phenix and Natick sections of West Warwick.

Albert V. Wood, office manager at authority headquarters in West Warwick, said the authority, up to this morning, had received no further word from the state Office of Price Stabilization. The OPS said this week it is awaiting a ruling from Washington as to

whether authority rates come under federal price regulations.

Along with the bills went an additional bill for \$13.75 covering payment in advance for the minimum 20,000 gallons of water for the 11-month period from Sept. 30, 1951, to Aug. 30, 1952. This bill ordinarily would be \$15 for a 12-month period, but the 11-month charge was necessary because of the effect of instituting a new staggered billing plan this year, Wood said.

Under the new rate schedule, the minimum charge of \$15 will buy only 20,000 gallons of water in contrast to 50,000 gallons under the previous scale. All water used since last September over 20,000 gallons is being billed retroactively at a rate of 75 cents a thousand gallons. The charge for excess above the minimum use to be 30 cents a thousand gallons for water used above 50,000 gallons.

Other groups of customers in Phenix and Natick will get their increased bill between now and the end of December.

From the end of December through Mar. 31 users in Washington, Tiogue and Arctic areas will receive their higher bills. Residents of the area from East Greenwich to Apponaug will receive their bills at the higher rate in the period from next Apr. 30 through July 31.

All money received by the authority from the increased rates must go into a special fund which the authority cannot use, by order of the R.I. Supreme Court. There it will be available for refund, should the Supreme Court decide, as Attorney General Powers has ruled, that the authority cannot raise rates without permission from Thomas Kennelly, state public utility administrator. The state's case against the authority is expected to come before the court this fall.

Business and industrial customers already have received an increase in rates and their payments in excess of the original rates also are being held in a special fund, pending the court's decision.

## W. Warwick Council Gets April 26 Letter From Valley Chamber

*Pro Journal 9/12/51*  
A letter from the Pawtucket Valley Chamber of Commerce to the West Warwick Town Council dated Apr. 26 turned up at last night's council meeting, with no explanation where it had been since spring.

The letter, which was referred to the planning board, noted that many plans, including the Guertin Plan, Coutu Plan, DeCiantis Plan and Gillespie Plan, have been advanced to solve Arctic's traffic problems.

However, it urged that no money be spent on road improvements until the proposed planning commission (which was not in existence Apr. 26) study conditions; have an expert traffic survey made, and submit a master plan to the council.

The letter pointed out that there is general agreement Arctic needs a new parallel highway or highways.

Since Apr. 26, the new planning board has asked Philip S. Mancini, state public works director, for help in solving the traffic problem. Mancini's department now is conducting a survey of conditions and will make recommendations.

# Millburn Mills Gets 10-Year Exemption On Taxes From W. Warwick Town Council

*Providence Journal - 9/12/51*

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

The Millburn Mills, Inc., last night received a 10-year tax exemption from the West Warwick Town Council for personal property it plans to locate in part of the Warwick Mills to work on government orders and other business.

A similar application from the George E. Mousley Co., an associated concern, was turned down by the council last month. At that time, Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said he thought proposed work on a government order for ponchos was "temporary" and pointed out the firm was already in the mill building.

Millburn Mills, a New York firm already doing business in Coventry, was represented last night by Mortimer W. Newton, former town council president.

Newton said the firm has a quarter-million-dollar government contract and will make surgical drapes and netting, as well as other goods not on order from the government. The firm will employ about 300 persons, he said.

He pointed out the unemployment situation in the town now is serious and added that the tax exemption idea was approved when he was council president to encourage new industries.

McKanna demurred at first, saying that the \$250,000 contract would result in employment for 300

people at \$50 a week for only 19 weeks. Newton countered that the government work "is not the only business."

Councilman Toby Pucina also questioned what would happen to the firm when its war contract work is finished, but Councilman Thomas Mello said even two months work would help Valley employment conditions.

Newton told McKanna that the firm has not yet signed a lease on the mill property and that its signing depended on council action.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis said that granting a 10-year exemption might induce the firm to stay in the town. "When they go to so much expense, I think they intend to stay," he added.

## NO DUMP PROJECT SEEN BY COUNCIL

*P. Journal 9/12/51*

McKanna Assures Residents

of Brookfield Hills Plat in  
West Warwick

The West Warwick Town Council has no intention of establishing a town dump near the sewer plant in Natick, Harry F. McKanna Jr. council president, said last night.

McKanna assured a group of residents of Brookfield Hills Plat, who presented a protest petition signed by 271 persons, to the council meeting that they would be notified far in advance if such a project is planned.

The petition urged the council to reject the town planning board's recent recommendation for establishment of a new town dump at the location on lower Pontiac Road.

Petitioners, represented by Police Capt. Henry F. Miller Jr., among others, made it clear that they do not want the dump at any location in their section.

The planning board has recommended that the present town dump, near the town athletic field in Riverpoint, be eliminated to enlarge the recreation area; that an agreement be made with Warwick for burning of garbage and combustible refuse in the city's incinerator, and non-combustibles be dumped at the Natick site.

The Brookfield Hills Plat is directly across Providence Street from the sewer plant and the proposed dump site. Residents there long have complained about odors from the sewer plant, a problem the town expects to correct when the sewer plant is enlarged under a coming bond issue.

With Cesare Caniglia as spokesman, five residents of the Prospect Hill section of Natick petitioned that sewers be installed there. Caniglia said the state has investigated the fact that sink water from homes goes into the river nearby. New sewers would save the cost of installing cesspools, he added.

The council filed the petition. McKanna revealed that the council is about to sign a contract with Jenks & Ballou, Providence engineers, for engineering work on \$1,200,000 worth of sewer extension improvements. A bond issue was authorized at last May's annual town meeting.

## FORMER BUS DRIVER IS GIVEN PROBATION

After lengthy trial before Judge James W. Leighton in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich, yesterday, Romeo E. Orlando, 43, of 13 Nobile Street, West Warwick, father of seven children, was found guilty of assaulting a 10-year-old Pontiac girl Aug. 21.

Judge Leighton also heard Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Orlando, and City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer for the Warwick police prosecution, before sentencing Orlando to a year's probation with the stipulation that he seek psychiatric treatment and have a report filed with the probation officer within a month.

The Court held that a jail sentence would punish Orlando's seven children and his expectant wife more than the defendant who already has lost his driver's post with the UER, but threatened a year in jail for the man if he violates the terms of probation.

The victim of the alleged assault testified she was kissed and hugged by the defendant in a wooded section of Pontiac after accepting a ride in his automobile to guide him to the playground; and that she became frightened and ran home.

Judge Leighton took a view of the locale before hearing summaries and pronouncing sentence in the case which was marked by introduction of a statement signed by the girl's parents and tending to refute the basis for complaint. The mother recanted on the stand and said she believed her daughter's story to be true but signed the statement out of sympathy for the defendant's family.

The statement which Judge Leighton said had little bearing on the case which was up to the court to decide on the evidence was suggested by John Petrella who identified himself as a cousin of the defendant and a licensed auctioneer in West Warwick and was prepared according to testimony of Mary F. Ferra, Orlando's sister, by Leo P. McGowan, a Providence lawyer. DeCiantis denied knowledge of the statement prior to its arrival in court.

Largely on the basis of the statement, DeCiantis a week ago successfully moved for permission to retract a prior plea of guilty by his client to enter a plea of innocent.

## Woman Bound Over in \$1000

Arctic Court Drops One  
Charge of Assault, Ryers  
2nd in Bottle Slashing

One of two charges of assault with a broken bottle, brought by West Warwick police against Helen Blair, 27, of 588 Broad Street, Providence, was dismissed, but the second was referred to the Kent County Grand Jury by Judge James W. Leighton in Fourth District Court, Arctic, yesterday.

On recommendation of Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, who said there was insufficient evidence to convict, a charge against her of assault on Joseph Lombardi, 57, of 7 Lafayette Avenue, West Warwick, was dismissed.

DeCiantis explained that police would say that Lombardi was badly cut on the wrist Sept. 4 in the Modern Cafe, Washington Street, Arctic, when he tried to intervene as the woman allegedly struck his bartender. Lombardi is the cafe owner.

On a charge of assaulting the bartender, Frank Szczponik, 42, of the Phenix Hotel, West Warwick, the woman waived examination through counsel and was bound over to the October Grand Jury session in \$1000 bail. She had pleaded innocent to that charge earlier.

DeCiantis said police allege that the woman, who entered the cafe with Lombardi shortly before 1 a.m. belabored Szczponik about the head with a beer bottle, cutting his cheek, after he refused to serve her.

## FOURTH DISTRICT COURT W. Warwick Man Fined \$2 and Costs on Revelling Charge

Alfred Desrocher, 41, of the Clyde Hotel, West Warwick, was fined \$2 and costs by Judge James W. Leighton, in an afternoon session of Fourth District Court, West Warwick, yesterday, when he retracted an innocent plea and pleaded guilty of revelling.

Capt. Henry F. Miller Jr. of West Warwick police charged that Desrocher was involved in a disturbance at 105-A Providence Street Sept. 3, during which he aroused neighbors by chasing and cursing at an unidentified woman.

Private complaints brought by Florence Plante against Fred Plante, 46, of 34 Meeting Street, Coventry, and Ovila Plante, both charging non-support of their father, Alfred Plante of Coventry, were continued two weeks. The Plantés had pleaded innocent on July 31.

Because of a heavy criminal docket which kept court in session most of the afternoon, Clerk Russell F. Hawkins heard one case in the Pawtuxet Valley Red Cross room downstairs. He heard the trial of private counter complaints of assault brought by Raymond Seidel, 45, of 99 Fairview Avenue, Coventry, and Domenic DiPadua, 25, of 13 Prospect Hill Avenue, Natick.

Acting Judge Hawkins adjudged Seidel innocent of DiPadua's charge and ordered DiPadua to pay the costs.

In the other case, DiPadua was found guilty and ordered to pay costs.

Prior Journal - 9/18/57



**FIRST METER RECEIPTS:** Police Chief Groleau dumps coins collected for the first time from one of West Warwick's 400 new parking meters, as he prepares to count them. The overall turned out to be bigger than he thought and he later turned the coins over to a bank for counting by machine. Next week the chief hopes to have his own counting machine.

—State Staff Photo

## BOARD CONSIDERS RENAMING SCHOOL

Prior Journal 9/16/57  
Would Have West Warwick

High Bear Name of

Supt. J. F. Deering

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

The West Warwick School Committee is considering renaming the town's senior high school in memory of former Supt. John F. Deering, instead of naming the junior high school after him. The lower school memorial was suggested recently by Vincent C. James, Republican State Central committeeman.

Committeeman Edward F. Hand told the board last night that it seemed to him dedication of the more advanced school in memory of the man who was the town's first superintendent from 1913-1938 would be a greater memorial.

Aside from its higher educational level, the high school's athletic teams would publicize the fact of the memorial to Mr. Deering far and wide, Hand said.

Chairman Vincent J. Lukowicz and Committeeman Lorenzo Bergeron appeared to agree with Hand.

Hand suggested that Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, superintendent be thinking of the possibility of the dedication at the spring honor assembly. At that time, he said, a plan might be started under which the outstanding student each year would receive a John F. Deering medal.

The committee awarded a contract to Clyde Contractors, Inc., for repainting the junior high school inside and out, at a cost of \$9000. The job will be financed from a special \$32,000 appropriation from town surplus being used to repair schools.

Lukowicz said the work would include caulking outside and putting in all windows. Rooms will be painted in pastel shades to be chosen by teachers.

## Billy Ross Custody Fight Resumes As Boy Mends From New Operation

Father Denies Refusing Youngster's Request to Be Allowed to Notify Mother He Was Returning to Hospital; Religion Not at Issue in Case

As the Billy Ross custody fight resumed in Superior Court yesterday, it was revealed that the youngster for whom sympathizers raised a \$25,000 trust fund after he lost his forearms early this year from electrical burns was recovering from another operation performed Saturday in Rhode Island Hospital.

John Ross of 85 Oakside Street, Bayside, a fireman, the remarried father from whom the return of Billy and two other children is sought by the remarried mother, Mrs. Gladys E. Greene of Boone Lake, Exeter, denied refusing Billy's request to be allowed to notify his mother that he was returning to the hospital.

Michael DeCiantis, Mrs. Greene's counsel, demanded of Ross if Billy had not wanted to telephone the information to his mother, and he, Ross, would not let him.

"That's not true," asserted Ross.

### Turned Them Back

Mrs. Greene was awarded custody of the children when she and Ross were divorced, but she turned them back to him about four and a half years ago when unable to provide for them. Now she wants them back. Judge John E. Mullen is continuing hearings begun late in August.

Billy's Catholic religion is not at stake in the custody battle despite the fact that the mother and her new husband, Randolph V. Greene, a carpenter, are Protestants, testimony yesterday indicated.

Mrs. Greene said she knew the children were now communicants of St. Benedict's Church in Conimicut, and if they were returned to her, she would have no objection of their continuing in the Catholic faith and would see to it that they lived up to their religion.

"If they want to continue to go to the Catholic Church they can go," she said. "I will do everything in my power to see that they will."

### Greene Doesn't Object

Greene agreed to take care of the children with his wife, and said, "I don't object if they want to go to either church." He added there would be a truck at the house every Sunday morning and his wife could take the children where she wanted.

Mrs. Greene said Ross was "supposed to be" a Catholic but he never went to church when he was married to her. When the children were toddling, she said, she told Ross she thought she would start church again and he said "your place is right here getting dinner."

According to Ross, when the children were left by their mother at his home they were unkempt and run down, and "didn't even know the Lord's Prayer."

Edward F. J. Dwyer, Ross' counsel, had him tell how he was on duty at the fire department the day Billy clutched electric wires in Warwick, and responded with an ambulance to the emergency call.

"I took part in removing the boy from inside of the fence and the transformer crib," Ross said. "I suffered a shock and as a result a nervous breakdown. I was at home six weeks and in the hospital six weeks. Now I am back to normal and back to work."

### Objections Sustained

Dwyer's objections were sustained as DeCiantis demanded, "You didn't expect to gain weight over it, did you?" and "Anyone would get a shock if anything like that happened, wouldn't they?"

In reference to Ross' claim he had always supported his family, DeCiantis got him to admit that he was arrested in 1940 for non-support and placed on probation after a guilty plea. Ross explained he was working for the WPA at that time and his check was about three days late, causing his wife to complain to a social worker. The couple separated in 1942.

Ross said he could not recall whether after the divorce became final in 1946 while he was in the armed services he wrote the former Mrs. Ross a letter saying he wanted to remarry her.

### Denies Asking Chief

Nor did he know, he insisted, that former Fire Chief Charles Murphy of Bayside wrote a letter to the draft board before he was taken into military service in 1944 protesting it was unjust to draft him because of his wife's complaint he was not supporting the family. Ross denied asking the chief to write such a letter for him.

Ross said his children were well-mannered and well-behaved up to a few months ago when Mrs. Greene filed her petition for their return. Since then, he said, they had become "a little unruly."

But he denied that Joan, now 13 and the oldest, is now "hard to live with" because she wants to live with her mother and had so told him. She had become unruly, he said, since the many letters and visits of her mother during the past few months.

"Definitely I'm asking this court that the children be brought in," said DeCiantis. There was speculation that Billy's choice of a parent might have to be learned at his hospital bedside.

*Pro. Journal - 9/20/37*  
**Judge Will Question Billy Ross  
At Hospital in Custody Dispute**

**Plans to See Youngster, If Condition Permits, Before  
Making Decision; Will Also Talk With His  
Brother and Sister in Chambers Today**

Billy Ross, \$25,000 trust fund beneficiary convalescing in Rhode Island Hospital from another operation incident to loss of his forearms from electrical burns, will, if his condition permits, be questioned there by Judge John E. Mullen before the Superior Court custody fight involving the 10-year-old youngster is decided.

This morning, in chambers, the judge will talk privately with Billy's 13-year-old sister, Joan, and 11-year-old brother, Bobby. Counsel will argue at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

A written decision, to be filed later, will determine whether the three children shall be returned to their remarried mother, Mrs. Gladys E. Greene of Boone Lake, Exeter, legal custodian under the divorce decree, or be allowed to remain with their remarried father, John Ross, Bayside fireman, to whom she turned them over four and a half years ago when she was unable to take care of them.

Judge Mullen's prospective visit to the hospital was suggested by Michael DeCiantis, Mrs. Greene's counsel, who first proposed that Ross be directed to bring the other two children to court to testify.

Edward F. J. Dwyer, representing Ross, objected to this. He said the proceeding was unfortunate enough without making it more so by bringing in the children.

For the record, he said, he was willing to concede that children of tender years lean toward their mother, and if they were asked if they would like to be with her, would most naturally say they would.

But he would insist, Dwyer added, that if the children were asked if they would like to be with their father, they would equally say "Yes."

DeCiantis said the welfare of the children was what they were interested in, and if the proceeding was unfortunate, it could not be helped.

Judge Mullen proposed bringing the two older children in for a chambers conference, and the hospital visit, which counsel agreed was the best way to handle the situation. Before the judge goes to see Billy, Dr. Robert R. Baldrige, the boy's surgeon, will be consulted.

No official record will be made of what the children tell him, the judge ruled, and he reserved the right to consider anything they say in reaching his decision in the case.

The new Mrs. Ross testified she loves the children very much and they have learned to like her accordingly. She said she knew they

loved their mother and she did not blame them, because every child loves his mother.

Since Billy's accident, and frequent visits and letters from Mrs. Greene, the children had become very rude and discourteous, Mrs. Ross said. They resented being told to obey in any way, she added. She described Billy as a mischievous child.

Before, she said, they behaved very well, and she did not have to reprimand them very often.

Mrs. Eva W. Peck of Seekonk, an aunt of Mrs. Greene, described the children as lacking discipline before they were turned over to the father, but now being much better behaved and well-mannered. Lester R. Peck, her husband, testified similarly.

Mrs. Leota Rocha of Meadow View Avenue, Warwick Neck, sister-in-law of Ross, was another witness. She explained the name difference was due to the fact that Ross was born after his father had been naturalized and changed his name.

She said she took care of the children for 15 months after they were turned over to Ross. When they first came they were quite wild and didn't want to behave or do what they were told, she said, but there was a big difference when they left her and now their behavior is as good as that of any of the youngsters in the neighborhood.

*Pro. Journal - Sept 21 - 1937*  
**Paternal Grandmother May Get  
Custody of Three Ross Children**

**Court Indicates Remarried Mother Is Not Right Person to Raise Armless Boy; Difference in Parents' Religions Cited by Judge Mullen**

Custody of Billy Ross, severely injured \$25,000 trust fund beneficiary who was interviewed at Rhode Island Hospital yesterday by Judge John E. Mullen, possibly will go to his paternal grandmother under state supervision.

This was indicated later in Superior Court as the custody fight between the mother and father concluded.

Without making a final decision, but in effect denying custody to either parent, Judge Mullen planned a conference with the grandmother, to be attended by the respective attorneys, Michael DeCiantis and Edward F. J. Dwyer.

He indicated he would award custody of Billy and a sister and brother to her if she is a proper person, as he said she apparently is from the evidence, and if she is physically able to assume custody of the children with assistance of the Domestic Relations Court probation counselor.

Mrs. Gladys E. Greene of Boone Lake, Exeter, the remarried mother, sought repossession of the children from the remarried father, John Ross, Bayside fireman. She was given the custody under the divorce decree, but turned them over to him early in 1947 when unable to take care of them. Ross wanted the custody transferred to himself.

The paternal grandmother lives with him and the new Mrs. Ross at 85 Oakside Street, Bayside.

Besides visiting the 10-year-old patient, who he said he found had lost one arm to the shoulder and the other hand from amputation necessitated by electrical burns, Judge Mullen interviewed privately in his chambers Joan Ross, 13, and Bobby Ross, 11.

He said they all made a very pleasing impression on him, and there was no question but what they loved their father and mother. They seemed, he added, to have nice personalities, were good looking, and seemed to have courage and good common sense. "They are fine children and deserve the best their parents can give them," he said.

"Little Billy has a very pleasing personality. If anyone needs courage he does, and he has it. I think that with the assistance of the fund, with relation to artificial arms and hands, with his personality, courage and determination, he will take a good, successful place in society."

Judge Mullen, who had planned to write his decision, unexpectedly expressed his frame of mind from the bench after counsel had made their final arguments. He stressed that the primary consideration was the welfare of the children.

**Cites Existence of Fund**

Commenting that the mother had made no effort to obtain repossession of the children until about the time of the raising of the fund for Billy by public subscription, he said he could not help but feel that existence of the fund had exerted some influence on her.

He said he did not know whether she saw some benefit to herself from the fund if she had possession of the children, but there was certainly a serious question as to her motive.

Facts indicated, he said, that physical accommodations at Mrs. Greene's four-room home were clearly inadequate to care for three children in addition to the three already there, whereas the Ross home was adequate.

Discussing the religious issue—Mrs. Greene and her new husband being Protestants, while Ross, his new wife and the children are Catholics—the judge said the court was concerned not only with the material but the spiritual welfare of the children, so they would be able to build moral defenses against the things they would encounter in the world.

**Religious Differences**

The difference in religion, he said, was not sufficient to deny the mother custody of the children, because there were many instances where such situations had been handled very conscientiously.

But, he pointed out, the evidence was that the children did not follow the Catholic religion while under Mrs. Greene's custody and control, and apparently she did not take the matter very seriously. "She does not have a record of observance to religion, especially with regard to the children, that would especially commend itself to the court," he said.

Regarding complaints that the new Mrs. Ross had not treated the children well, the judge said that kindness, consideration and love were necessary when bringing up children, as also was reasonable restraint. He said the mother apparently could not supply these things, and he was not satisfied it would be in the interests of the children to send them to the Exeter home.

"The shortsighted viewpoint, from the viewpoint of the love and affection a mother can give to children, might be in their immediate interest," he said. "But the longer viewpoint, from the standpoint of building children for the future, building character, makes it seem that the situation as it exists is best."

Under Judge Mullen's proposal, the probation counselor, should the paternal grandmother be given the custody, would visit the Ross home and the children "as frequently as reasonable."

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# West Warwick Planning Board Backs More, Bigger Playfields

## Acts on Report Completed By Engineer

The West Warwick Planning Commission, at a special meeting yesterday, voted to recommend acquisition of more land to improve playground and sports field activities and to suggest alternatives for developing a swimming program in the town.

The board acted after a report by Alexander DiMartino, vice chairman, on a playfield study made for the commission by Morris Chorney of Seaboard Engineering and Associates.

### Seven by 11 Map

Arthur F. Lewis, Cranston planning consultant, presented a 7-by-11-foot base map of West Warwick to the board, based on assessors' plats. It will be used to create a land use map and as a base for other studies of the town. Payment of \$1300 to Lewis was approved.

DiMartino said that Chorney's study showed that the town's recreation committee is doing well with what it has. Additional land in some areas and new acquisition of land in others would probably solve the problem, he said.

The playground at Natick School could be utilized as a sports area, including a ball field, if additional land were available, it was pointed out. The present surfacing is bad and a fence is needed, it was said.

### Pool Possible

DiMartino recommended that the town acquire acreage in the fast-growing Brookfield Hills section for a complete sports area. Children living there now have to cross busy Providence Street to get to Natick School playground, he pointed out. A clean brook running through Brookfield Hills plat could be used in connection with a swimming pool, he added.

It was suggested that play equipment at Pastime Park be moved to Harris Avenue School yard and that Pastime Park be developed into a sports area.

The playground at Phenix School is adequate and serves the neighborhood well, DiMartino said.

"It appears that the playground area at the Arctic School, while being utilized during school hours, is a dangerous place to go for most youngsters, especially during summer months," DiMartino said. "The facilities could better be utilized in the Arctic Hill area, or west of Main Street, where there are a few open lots available."

### Urgent Need

"There is urgent need for a playground in the Westcott area. The rear of old Providence Street Grammar School at Westcott should become available to the town, be leveled off and made into a complete sports area."

DiMartino said Chorney's survey showed that the only area presently available in Westcott "is the inadequate Theatorium, on the wrong side of the street."

The playgrounds at Crompton Library and New London Avenue School are adequate and seem to be used extensively, DiMartino concluded. He said a little grading would improve the playing surface

## W. Warwick Weighs Its Needs— Schools, Pools, or Town Hall?

The fact that West Warwick is lagging behind other communities in the state in replacing its obsolete elementary school buildings with modern consolidated schools was brought out at a town planning commission meeting yesterday.

Alexander DiMartino cited the old schools, although he stressed that teaching is of a high order, in suggesting alternatives for providing swimming facilities in the town.

As one possibility, he said swimming pools could be built in two consolidated schools, possibly one in Arctic and the other in the Clyde area, whenever a school modernization program is undertaken.

Recently there has been criticism, most of it justified, of lack of swimming facilities, he said. Most towns and cities have natural water or build swimming pools, he pointed out.

As other possibilities, he said, the Pawtuxet River might be cleaned up and sandy stretches provided for swimming, or the town could build an outdoor swimming pool at the athletic field. Natural clean water at Brookfield Hills plat could be used for an outdoor pool similar to Cranston's, he said.

Judge Robert E. Quinn, chairman, agreed that Arctic School should be taken down. The land should be used for a parking lot, he said.

Warning that West Warwick tax-

payers are highly tax conscious, Judge Quinn said he thought swimming pools in schools would be a luxury that taxpayers might not want.

Albert C. Coutu declared that many people are not building in the town because "the town is behind the times with its old school facilities."

Debate on what the town can afford for improvements increased when Judge Quinn read a letter from Horace L. Petrarca suggesting that some of the town's surplus be used to build a combination town hall, police and fire station before it is spent. He suggested the Deutch property between Lamb's Motor Sales and Hector Gilman's property on Main Street as a possible site.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, who was present as a spectator, asked, "would you be doing anything different in a new building?"

Webster Knight 2nd reported that he and Judge James W. Leighton, the commission's legal advisor, had not checked into the town's financial condition as planned, but would do with the aid of Town Treasurer Robert Harrop.

Arthur F. Lewis, planning commission advisor, submitted for study a Cranston ordinance regulating subdivision of land. It was referred to the town council and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis.

## METER RECEIPTS START OFF WELL

*Pro. Journal 9/27/57*  
Returns for First Week in

W. Warwick Reportedly

Total \$412.94

Pawtuxet Valley Office, Telephone  
15 Washington Street Valley 1-0370  
West Warwick 1-0746-W

If weekly receipts from West Warwick's newly-installed parking meters continue coming in as well as they have this week, the town can expect to have the machines paid for in about two years.

Police Chief Groleau reported yesterday that receipts representing the first full week of operation totaled \$412.94 on 376 of the 398 meters installed to date.

On that basis, if consistent, the estimated yearly take of \$20,000 made by officials of the M. H. Rhodes Co. of Hartford, would be cleared easily. The remaining 22 meters are slated for installation on Bedard Street.

The meters cost the town \$54 each, plus \$5 each for installation, a total of about \$23,000. The take is split with the town getting half and the company the other half until the meters are paid for.

The town is gradually getting used to the idea of putting a nickel in the slot for the privilege of parking for an hour, or one cent for every 12 minutes. Some fumbling with the slot cover and crank is noticeable, however, and an elusive coin is seen rolling down the street occasionally.

Meters at the extreme ends of the business section, it was learned, generally are not seeing too much service, and it is believed that those located centrally will have to carry the cost load.

The meters are in operation every day except Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays the time is extended an additional two hours until 9 p.m. There are no fees for Sundays and holidays.

## COURTHOUSE BRIEFS

By FRANCIS L. MURPHY  
and PAUL L. GOULD

**RARE TREAT:** Students from Samuel Gorton high school in Warwick who came to Superior Court the other day to augment their civics knowledge perhaps did not realize how fortunate they were.

They were able to hear some interesting testimony in the Billy Ross custody fight, which was then attracting wide interest—but even more:

Judge Mullen delayed resumption of the litigation until he had given the students a comprehensive survey of the Rhode Island court system, which was so informative that it aroused comment that a recording would be a mighty fine thing for schools to have as study material.

*Times Oct 2-1951*

## Surveying for Sewer Extension

Bids for Construction Here Will Be Asked Next Spring

Beginning today, the engineering firm of Jenks and Ballou started work on a survey of the sections of West Warwick unserved by the sewer system with a deadline for their work set for next Spring when bids for the construction will be offered to contractors.

Town Council President Harry F. McKanna, who himself carried the battle for sewer extension in the last political campaign, said that the town signed the contract with the engineering firm late yesterday.

Within a few days, Jenks and Ballou, the company which was the original engineering firm for the sewer disposal system in West Warwick, will send two full-sized field crews in the town to aid in the work on the survey.

Taxpayers of West Warwick at the last financial town meeting authorized the Town Council to issue and sell not exceeding \$1,200,000 bonds of the town for the purpose of expanding the sewer system.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis said "While we haven't received the approval to obtain the bond from the Legislature, the contract had to be signed so that the construction job could be started by next April." He presently is preparing legislation which will be introduced in the next session of the General Assembly for the issuance of the bond.



WARDENS RINGING part of the 40 bushels of quahaugs checked yesterday afternoon

*33*

## Undersized Quahaugs Reportedly Seized at Finn Seafood Co. Plant

*Providence Journal Oct. 3-1951*

### Routine Check at East Greenwich Turns Into Full Scale 'Ringing' Party by State Wardens; Firm Manager Faces Charges in Earlier Case

State fish and game wardens yesterday seized five bushels of allegedly undersized quahaugs at the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., East Greenwich, after examining 50 bushels, on what started out as a "routine check."

Last night, Edward C. Hayes Jr., administrator of fish and game, said that charges would be brought against somebody as a result of the seizure, but he said he could not specify the charge or name the person until he had talked this morning with Attorney General William E. Powers.

There was some question last night whether the seized quahaugs came from Rhode Island waters, but Hayes said that even if they came from Maine, "It is our contention there would be a violation of the Rhode Island law, for the law reads 'custody or possession.'"

Warden Albert Judge Jr. walked into the Finn Company about 1 p.m. on what he described later as "a routine check," and looked over two or three of the 50 bags in the place.

He said Warren B. Finn Jr. helped him look over the quahaugs. When he discovered that the percentage of small quahaugs was high, Judge called in six other wardens to help him.

Judge said that Finn Jr. told him the quahaugs were from Rhode Island waters and that he had bought them from another dealer. Later, however, Warren B. Finn Sr. told a reporter, "This is part of a shipment from Maine." Finn Sr., who earlier had told the same reporter he did not know where the quahaugs came from, said he did not know when they came in, and when questioned further he declined to answer.

Principal Warden Robert Lowry arrived at 2 p.m. to take charge of the investigation. He and Judge were aided in ringing the quahaugs by Capt. Arcinbald F. Arnold of the marine patrol, Capt. Robert Broz, Marine Wardens Charles Salerno and George Waldeck, and Warden Louis Turchetta. Ten bushels were "cherrystones," well within legal size, and did not require ringing, wardens said.

While the ringing was going on, Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the sea food firm, arrived and told Lowry to return all seized quahaugs to the water when the wardens were through ringing them. He said he planned to seek no court injunction, as he had in August, when wardens visited the Finn concern and confiscated 20 bushels.

Lowry said the impounded quahaugs would be taken to Wickford and kept under water.

As a result of the visit of wardens to the Finn firm last August, James A. Holmes, company manager, was arraigned on a charge of possessing 640 quarts of undersized quahaugs. The case was continued in Fourth District Court to permit the filing of special pleas by DeCiantis, who has promised to make a "test case" of the charge. It could not be learned last night whether the special pleas have been filed. The case has been continued until tomorrow.

*Times Oct. 3, 1951*

## Democrats Will Dine Clambake on Sunday

Sponsored by Ladies Organization

The only Democratic clambake in the Town of West Warwick this year, will be held Sunday at 1 o'clock at Club 400, under the sponsorship of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club.

All Democratic forces are combining efforts to make this affair a success. Charles Bourgault will be toastmaster. Co-chairmen on arrangements are Mrs. Arthur Groleau and Mrs. Alice Leroux, assisted by club president, Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, ex-officio.

Entertainment will be presented by Mrs. Arthur Yarbrough, Miss Lauraine Dandeneau, and two talented little ladies, Gisele Chartist and Jeanne Landry.

A feature will be the "mystery lady" with valuable prizes being awarded the person identifying her.

*Bulletin 10/4/51*

## Quahaug Case Set for Oct. 18

Judge Enters Innocent  
Plea for Defendant.  
Who 'Stands Mute'

Warren B. Finn Jr., 26, of Greenwich Avenue, West Warwick, proprietor of the Finn Sea Food Co., Inc., of Water Street, East Greenwich, "stood mute" in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich, today when arraigned on a state complaint of having custody and possession of 166 quarts of undersized quahaugs.

The alleged undersized quahaugs were impounded by state fish and game wardens Tuesday when they examined 50 bushels of quahaugs found at the sea food premises.

Judge James W. Leighton entered a plea of innocent for Finn, set the case down for trial Oct. 18, and released Finn in \$1000 bail furnished by his uncle Walter W. Finn.

Another case involving the Finn establishment, the case of James Holmes, 25, of Spring Street, East Greenwich, which has been continued since a previous raid Aug. 5, was assigned for trial next Thursday. A statement was read in court that the state will consider no further postponements.

On Aug. 5, wardens reported taking 640 quarts of undersized quahaugs and when Holmes "stood mute" at the time of arraignment he was released in \$3500 bail, also furnished by Walter W. Finn.

at the Finn Sea Food Co. in East Greenwich.  
—State Staff Photo by Arthur B. Dunbar Jr.



**GRACIOUS HOST:** Charles J. Bourgault, toastmaster, serves chowder for Mrs. Yvonne Guiot (right), president of West Warwick Democratic Women's Club, at their clam-

bake at the Club 400, Natick. Mrs. Agnes Blanchet, founder of the organization, watches.

—State Staff Photos

## Pastore Speaks At Valley Bake

**Urges Democrats To Re-Emphasize Voters' Registration**

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Senator Pastore yesterday charged Democrats to re-emphasize from "door to door" the necessity of bringing word to the individual of what he must do to become a qualified voter in 1952.

Speaking at a clam bake sponsored by the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club at the Club 400, Natick, the senator told his audience of some 450 that because of recent inauguration of a system of permanent registration, "it is absolutely necessary for every single one of us to register" as soon as facilities are set up.

He urged his audience to "keep reminding people you meet that it is their responsibility" to qualify and to turn out Election Day to show the world the United States is the one "bulwark of democracy that remains where every man enjoys freedom, liberty and the right of franchise."

Then, come Election Day, Senator Pastore said, the people will "pick the wheat from the chaff and return the Democratic administration to Rhode Island and the United States."

He paid tribute to Col. Patrick H. Quinn, a prominent political figure in Pawtuxet Valley for many years, by saying "we owe undying gratitude to him" for carrying the banner of the party year in and year out to produce the fruits the party is enjoying today.

Also speaking at yesterday's meeting were Colonel Quinn, Mrs. Mary A. Feeney, vice chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and Lorenzo Bergeron of the West Warwick School Committee.



**BAKE BANTER:** Col. Patrick H. Quinn, dean of Kent County lawyers, chats with Mrs. Mary A. Feeney, vice chairman of the Democratic State Committee, at the clam bake.

Seated at the head table besides the speakers were Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, president of the local women's club; Mrs. Agnes Blanchet, founder; Alfred Richard, chairman of the West Warwick Democratic Political Committee; Councilmen Hervey Niquette and Antonio Paul; and Hermenegilde Nadeau, tax assessor.

An entertainment program included solos by Mrs. Arthur Yarrowborough accompanied by Mrs. Yvonne Pinard Boulanger and Miss Lauraine Dandeneau accompanied by Miss Gisele Loiselle. Miss Gisele Chartier and Miss Jeanne Landry presented a song and dance routine.

Mrs. Boulanger was given a prize for discovering the "mystery woman", Mrs. William Lamarque.

## PASTORE IN PLEA FOR REGISTRATION

*Pro Journal Oct 8, 1952*

Addresses Audience of 450 at

**Women's Club Clambake  
in West Warwick**

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Mrs. Boulanger was given a prize for discovering the "mystery woman", Mrs. William Lamarque.

## SCHOOL BUILDING SURVEY IS ASKED

*Prov. Journal Oct 9, 1957*

West Warwick Citizens Committee Urges Board to Authorize Impartial Study

Spurred by recent remarks in the planning board about the town's old elementary school buildings, the West Warwick Citizens Committee last night asked the school committee by letter to authorize an impartial study of present and future needs in buildings and facilities.

The school board withheld comment, but accepted a proposal that representatives of the citizens' unit appear at its next meeting Nov. 5 to discuss the question further.

The citizens' committee letter, signed by Harry Erinakes, said that, "recent implications by Judge Robert E. Quinn, planning board chairman, and the board concerning need for a new school building program have stimulated much discussion among civic-minded organizations."

Regarding its proposal of a study committee, the citizens' group wrote that it would be glad to meet with the school committee "to obtain your viewpoint on this matter and to offer you our own thoughts on the subject."

Alexander DiMartino, planning board member, suggested at a recent planning board meeting that swimming pools might be included when new schools are planned to replace some of the present antiquated buildings.

At the same meeting, Judge Quinn remarked that Arctic School should be torn down and its site converted into a parking lot.

## High Court to Hear Towns' Pleas in State's Action vs. County Water Authority Oct. 17

Petition's by West Warwick and Scituate asking the R.I. Supreme Court's permission to join with the attorney general's department in the state's coming case against the Kent County Water Authority will be heard by the court Oct. 17.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis advised the West Warwick town council last night of the date, and added that Sen. George Roche of Coventry is expected to file a similar petition soon.

"I don't know about East Greenwich, but I think they'll go in too," DeCiantis said.

He did not mention the City of Warwick, the other principal user of water supplied by the authority.

"The town government has a very vital interest in the matter, as a big water user itself and on behalf of the people of the town," said Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president. "I hope that all communities affected will join with West Warwick in the matter."

### Payment Go Into Special Fund

The state is seeking a court ruling that the authority must have approval of the State Public Utilities Administrator before raising water rates. The authority has maintained that such approval is not needed. Meanwhile, until a decision is reached, payments on

higher authority rates are going into a special fund which cannot be used.

DeCiantis said the court has not yet set a date for hearing of the state's case against the authority, but that it is expected to do so after the Oct. 17 hearing.

After the council last night granted a sidewalk construction permit to Norbert Dionne, Shippee Avenue, with the town paying half the cost, McKanna announced that the \$2500 sidewalk appropriation is about exhausted and no further applications will be granted this fall.

DeCiantis pointed out, however, that homeowners should file their applications in order that the council, when it sits as a budget committee for the next town meeting, will know how much of an appropriation to include.

Ovila Duclos, 100 Brookside Avenue, received a sidewalk permit last night when he said he did not want the town to pay half the cost of his small job.

The application of John A. DiPrete for permission to install a gas tank and pump at Westly and Knight Street's to service taxicabs was continued a month for investigation.

### To Submit Lists by Nov. 9

Moving to comply with the new state law requiring that town coun-

cils establish new three-member boards of canvassers, the council instructed Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb to notify town committee chairmen to submit lists of nominees by Nov. 9. The new board will have two Democratic majority members and a Republican member.

The council referred to DeCiantis a recommendation from Willie J. Regnaire, plumbing inspector, that John Kelly of 205 Read Avenue, a plumber, be penalized for failing to take out a permit, his second violation.

When DeCiantis remarked "he's my plumber," McKanna said, "you'd better see that he does things the way they should be done."

Regnaire said he had notified Kelly to take out a permit for work at Stephen Loader's, East Greenwich Avenue, on July 25, and the permit has not been taken out yet.

A request from Henry DiPrete and Jerry DiPrete for improvement of a weak and dangerous bridge on Mello Street was taken under consideration for the second time. Councilmen pointed out that the bridge is on an unaccepted street and that piping the brook under the bridge and covering it over might be too expensive without a town meeting appropriation.

## GOP Rift Still Apparent At W. Warwick Gathering

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

While state Republican Chairman William Thompson urged party "harmony," it was apparent last night at a Republican workers' meeting in West Warwick that there is still a sharp division between the GOP town committee and the Republican Club, an insurgent group.

Thompson, who attended the meeting to outline his plan for registering Republicans and Independents and getting out the vote, briefly got into the controversy that

has existed since the last primary between the two Republican groups maneuvering for party control in the town.

At the conclusion of Thompson's talk, Harold C. Knight, GOP town chairman, parried a question from Albert Demers, club member, who asked "when are the town committee and the Republican Club going to get together."

Knight said that Thompson was answering questions about his talk. Thompson then spoke up for peace within the party and said "let's win first, and if we are going to fight, we can do that afterward between ourselves."

It was apparent that there are still some efforts being made to unite both factions, as Knight requested that there be no mention in the press if any controversy came up at the session.

The town Republican chairman also disclosed that he "personally had asked" members of the Republican Club to be present.



## COURTHOUSE BRIEFS

*Bulletin Oct 17, 1957*

By PAUL L. GOULD  
and FRANCIS L. MURPHY

NEVER TOO OLD: Mike DeCiantis, active trial lawyer and ex-assistant attorney general, holds that a person is never too old nor too busy to learn something new.

We have learned with pleasure that ebullient Mike was among the pupils enrolling for Robert N. (Bob) Cool's class in magazine and creative writing in the University of Rhode Island Extension School.

Mike's talented daughter, now back in drama school, has had some nice parts in TV. With his varied experiences as prosecutor, private counsel, political figure, don't be surprised if Mike turns up later as author of dripping TV dramas starring, of course, his own daughter.

## Democratic Town Solicitor Invited to Republican Event

The Republican Action Association, sponsors of the Senator Robert Taft dinner at Providence on Oct. 31st at \$50 a plate got their signals crossed over the weekend. When Michael DeCiantis, well-known Democrat of West Warwick, who serves his party as town solicitor and is a member of the Democratic Town Committee, opened his mail this morning, he had an invitation to attend the dinner at the \$50 price.

## TOWNS PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE

*Prov. Journal Oct 18, 1951*

Four Municipalities to Appear  
as Friends of Court in  
Water Rates Case

The State Supreme Court yesterday formally granted four towns served by the Kent County Water Authority permission to be heard as "friends of the court" when arguments are held later on the petition of Public Utility Administrator Thomas A. Kennelly to compel the authority to submit to rate regulation like other public utilities.

As a result of the action, the town solicitors of West Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich and Scituate will join forces with the attorney general, representing Kennelly in the fight to compel the water authority to have its rates approved by the public utilities division.

In granting the towns broad rights to supplement the attorney general's legal arguments with their own, the Supreme Court disregarded a suggestion by counsel for the water authority that such was not necessary.

Douglas W. Franchot of the law firm of Hinckley, Allen, Salisbury and Parsons, appearing for the authority, admitted that the court had discretion to allow the towns to be heard as friends of the court. But he argued that Kennelly, as the representative of the state, should be "more than competent to protect the interests of all of its inhabitants" and that there would be "no need for further elaboration through other briefs" on the law.

Assistant Attorney General Robert A. Coogan and Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick, promptly took issue with Franchot's suggestion that the towns should be circumscribed in any way in presenting arguments. DeCiantis said the towns should be allowed to argue whatever questions they deemed it proper to raise.

Chief Justice Edmund W. Flynn, speaking for the full court, said the petition of the towns would be granted and the towns should have the right as friends of the court to join with the attorney general and in the event the attorney general's brief or arguments did not cover material facts affecting any town, then the town should have the right to file an additional brief on any point.

The court suggested, however, that the towns and the attorney general get together so as to avoid duplication of arguments when the hearing is held.

Coogan said later that he would meet soon with the respective town solicitors to map out a program for the pending hearing, no date for which has been set.

It is the plan to have all the parties agree on a statement of the factual background of the controversy. With such agreement on the facts, the attorneys then could confine the hearing to arguments on the constitutional and other legal questions involved.

The unusual case results from the water authority's action in boosting water rates as much as 300 per cent in some cases without Kennelly's approval of the new schedules, and Kennelly's action through the attorney general in initiating his petition to subject the water authority to rate regulation.

James A. Higgins, town solicitor, represented Scituate at yesterday's hearing. George Roche, town solicitor, appeared for Coventry while Wilford S. Budlong appeared for the town of East Greenwich.

## BERGS NOW WISH TO CANCEL OPTION

*Prov. Journal Oct 19, 1951*

Oakland Beach Annex Property They Own Is Part of  
30-Acre School Site

Warwick Office. Telephone  
3291 Post Rd., Apponaug Hills Grove 1-1000

Cancellation of an option held by the school board on their land, part of a 30-acre site for a proposed new senior high school in the Oakland Beach Annex section of Warwick, is being sought by Carl and Mildred Berg.

The Berg land, nearly 13 acres for which the city has agreed to pay \$32,500, is adjacent to Little Pond on which the owners operate a concession known as Sandy Beach.

Berg declined to reveal why he wants to repudiate the option yesterday, other than to say that he is "not going to hinder school plans at all." He referred further queries to his attorney, Michael DeCiantis. The latter was not available for comment.

The option, signed by the Bergs Oct. 16, 1950, was exercised Oct. 2 by the school board in keeping with the stipulation that such action had to be taken within one year. The option also requires the purchase sum to be paid to the owners within two months of its being exercised.

DeCiantis in a letter to the school board declared his clients' "intention of canceling any purported option."

Berg and his wife are reported to have conferred with the school board last week to "renegotiate" the option. They reportedly were interested in keeping one of the four tracts involved and on which they operate the waterfront beach concession.

During favorable summers, the concession is said to have been a profitable going business, and Berg was allowed by the option to operate the beach for two years after he signed it.

School Supt. Charles B. MacKay expressed surprise at the Bergs' action. He said Berg was "tickled to death when the option was signed to get rid of the property." The school board reportedly told the Bergs that it intends to go ahead with purchase of all 30 acres, including Bergs' land, for a total cost of about \$95,000.

## COURT REFUSES TO DISMISS CASE

*Prov. Journal 10/24/51*

Judge Leighton Rules Law on  
Possession of Undersize  
Quahaugs Applicable

In a decision handed down in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich, yesterday, Judge James W. Leighton denied a defense motion to dismiss a State Division of Fish and Game complaint against an East Greenwich shellfish firm for possession of 640 quarts of undersize quahaugs seized in a raid Aug. 5.

The defense motion by Michael DeCiantis had contended that the Rhode Island possession law was not applicable, since the quahaugs were lawfully taken in the state of Maine. Judge Leighton's ruling, however, held that the Rhode Island statute is applicable to the possession phase of the law, regardless of the source of the quahaugs, and said that the case was ready to be set down for hearing on its merits. No date was set for the hearing.

The case involved James A. Holmes, 25, of 53 Spring Street, East Greenwich, who was in charge when state wardens raided the Finn Seafood, Inc. of Water Street, East Greenwich. Subsequently wardens raided the place again and seized 40 quarts of alleged undersize quahaugs when Warren B. Finn Jr., the proprietor, was in charge.

Judge Leighton held in his lengthy decision that a preponderance of authorities throughout the nation have held that possession of natural products is unlawful regardless of the source when the possession is prohibited in the locality applicable to the law. He pointed out that the various states have found through experience that the lawful taking of the product elsewhere cannot under practical enforcement be applied to the prohibited area and therefore have eliminated that possibility from their laws.

Under the Rhode Island law, where the taking of and possession of undersize quahaugs were divorced under a specific recommendation of a shellfish commission in 1915, there is no doubt that the possession, regardless of source, is an offense in Rhode Island punishable by a fine of \$5 per quart of undersize quahaugs.

## ADVISES COUNCIL NOT TO PICK BOARD

*Per Journal 10/26/57*  
DeCiantis Tells West Warwick Body Action on Charter

### Negated by State Poll

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick said yesterday he had advised the town council not to name a charter study committee, authorized at the annual May town meeting, in the light of the different method of changing charters under the new home rule constitutional amendment.

The home rule amendment approved by the state's voters last June 28, after the town meeting, provides the only method that should be followed to streamline municipal charters, DeCiantis pointed out.

Thus, instead of a charter study committee being named to report back at next year's town meeting, taxpayers will be advised at their meeting next May that the new constitutional amendment negated the committee they approved last year.

The charter study committee idea fathered by Roland E. Meunier, Republican, at the last town meeting was all right then, but the new constitutional amendment provides the only method to be followed now, DeCiantis explained.

### Knight and Richard Agree

Harold C. Knight, Republican Town Committee chairman, and Alfred Richard, Democratic chairman, agreed, after passage of the new amendment, that appointment of the charter study committee would have little practical effect on the road to charter modernization.

Meanwhile, as far as could be learned, there is no move on in the town by either political party to work toward charter changes through the new constitutional method. Both parties have been silent on the matter.

The last attempt to change the charter was in March, 1950, when taxpayers knocked down by a three to one majority a proposal for adoption of a city charter. By and large, Republicans worked against it. DeCiantis and some Democratic leaders backed the idea, while other top Democrats were against it.

It was generally conceded that the taxpayers voted down the city idea because they felt it would mean higher taxes.

To initiate charter changes, a petition for changes must first be circulated and signed by 15 per cent of voters qualified to vote at a town meeting. There are about 5000 eligible town meeting voters, so about 750 signatures would be required.

# Chamber Supports Proposal for West Warwick School Survey

## Backs Citizens Group Over Guertin Opposition

Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce last night went on record supporting the West Warwick Citizens Committee drive for an impartial state survey of the West Warwick school system, despite opposition of Dr. M. Irene Guertin.

The citizens' committee is scheduled to send representatives to the next school committee meeting Nov. 5 to explain its request and ask school officials to seek the survey.

Dr. Guertin, calling it propaganda, objected strenuously when Leonard Shapiro of the citizens' committee urged the survey, after showing the businessmen a movie distributed by the National Citizens' Commission for the Public Schools. The film depicted the successful fight of citizens of Arlington, Va., for better schools and lighter teaching burdens.

### Releases Statement

Shapiro released a statement explaining his group's advocacy of the survey. He said the unit feels the survey would settle the question whether there is need for a new elementary school building program and, if there is, how it should be handled.

"Arguments have been advanced to show that our present schools are badly outdated, and that it is poor economy to sink more money into maintenance of them," the statement said. "A counter argument is the statement that we have plenty of room in present buildings, and that age along is no disgrace so long as buildings are well-kept."

"Others have advocated erecting one or two larger, centralized elementary schools to replace all six of our present buildings."

### Important Survey

The citizens' committee does not espouse any of these arguments, but advocates a survey by qualified, impartial experts, the statement said.

Dr. Guertin declared that the majority of townspeople are satisfied with present schools, adding that some are old but that million dollar buildings would not assure better teaching.

"This is propaganda," Guertin said, after the movie was shown. "I'm opposed to it as a taxpayer. This is propaganda to try to push the town of West Warwick to build new million dollar schools. I believe education in West Warwick will not suffer for lack of those schools."

### Inquiry on Membership

Dr. Guertin asked Shapiro how large a membership the citizens committee has, but Shapiro answered he was not ready to divulge that information. Shapiro was accompanied by another citizens committee member, Mrs. Robert Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson explained her unit "is not criticizing anything, as we don't have the qualifications. We want to know what we need, if we need anything. The survey would be only to find out impartially."

When Dr. Guertin declared that Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, school superintendent, and the school board are qualified to tell the town what it needs, Harry Erinakes answered, "we want an impartial survey."

Dr. Guertin said he would not oppose the survey, if the town council is willing to pay part of the expense, "but I don't see any need of it."

Norman E. Gillespie moved that the chamber support the citizens' unit in its drive for a survey. His motion was seconded by Harry Erinakes.

Gillespie said the survey would not be costly and "taxpayers would like to know what the experts propose."

We know that there are several trends which must be taken into account in planning the future needs of our school system."

### Committee's Statement

The citizens committee's statement continued. "We have the rapid increase in population brought about by new housing developments, the increased wartime birth rate just beginning to make itself felt in our classrooms, redistribution of population within the town and the effect of new parochial schools."

"Any attempt to embark on a building program, if one is required, without adequate survey, would result in inefficiency and waste of taxpayers' money."

"A survey would answer all these questions . . . and would result in a long range master plan which could guide any necessary expansion over a period of 10 to 20 years."

"A few years ago, the state education department offered to defray expenses for surveys requested by any town in Rhode Island. Many towns, including our neighbors, Warwick and Coventry, had such surveys prepared and based their program on them. So far as we know, this offer is still open and West Warwick could obtain a survey at surprisingly low cost."

A survey, the committee said, should estimate present and future school population, cost and effect on the tax rate of any recommended building program, and compare cost of maintaining present schools with cost of building and maintaining new schools.

Urging that the survey be recommended and made before the end of the school year, the committee said it would be accepted by all elements without schools becoming a political issue.

Bulletin Oct 31-1951

# West Warwick Pledged Aid On Arctic Job

## Dimartino Declares State and Federal Help in Sight

The Town of West Warwick will get state and federal aid on any road construction that might be recommended to alleviate Arctic's traffic problems, Alexander Dimartino, vice chairman of the planning board, said last night.

One of two board members who spoke at a meeting of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce in Congdon Grain Co. Hall, Arctic, Dimartino revealed that he and Judge Robert E. Quinn, board chairman, have been assured of help by state and federal officials.

"I don't know how much, whether it will be 50 per cent, 75 per cent or 100 per cent, but we're going to try to do the best at the least possible cost," he said. "Something will be done for Arctic."

Giving an inkling of progress of a study of Arctic's problems now being made by Philip S. Mancini, state public works director, Dimartino said he thought Mancini would recommend one or two new parallel highways. After Mancini's report is in, the board probably will hire private engineering advice to supplement it, he said.

Mozart Holmes, planning board secretary, outlined the board's progress since its formation last year, after the town council sponsored General Assembly enabling legislation.

Harry Erinakes questioned what would happen if private owners of Arctic's present free community parking lots sold their property. Holmes said the board is studying parking, too, in the light of the new constitutional amendment on off-street parking.

The board is investigating the possibility of obtaining from the state a piece of land between Warwick lace mill and the Riverpoint bridge for parking, Holmes said.

Norman E. Gillespie urged that the board consider possible improvements in the Crompton-Centreville area, as well as in Arctic.

After Horace L. Petrarca questioned whether the board is considering the possibility of a new combination town hall, fire and police headquarters, Ernest E. LeFebvre urged that the town's post-war surplus fund be used for such improvements before it is depleted. He noted that it now is being dipped into for other things.

## W. WARWICK LIQUOR PERMIT EYED BY 2

There's a battle on over who's going to have the Class B liquor license at the Log Cabin Restaurant, Arctic, and it will have to be decided by the West Warwick Town Council, it was learned yesterday.

Angelo Senerchia, brother of the late Horace Senerchia, has applied for annual renewal of the license, which has been in his name, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb confirmed.

This complicates things because William F. Bolster Jr. also applied recently for a license for the same place, apparently with approval of Mrs. Elynore Senerchia, widow of Horace Senerchia.

Mrs. Senerchia inherited from her late husband the dominating share of the Arctic Realty Co., owners of the block in which the restaurant is located, as well as the restaurant.

However, Angelo Senerchia, along with a minor share in the realty company, has had the liquor license in his name, reportedly at his late brother's suggestion.

Bolster is an out-of-town resident, it was learned.

When a Phenix liquor license transfer was denied by the council last year, Mortimer W. Newton, then council president, declared it was the policy not to grant licenses to out-of-town residents.

The problem of two applicants for one license is expected to be solved by the town council at a hearing Nov. 13.

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee, which meets sporadically at the call of the chair, met last Wednesday in the town hall, Sheriff Alfred Richard, chairman, confirmed last night.

He said the committee voted to recommend appointment of two persons to the new canvassing authority by the town council at its meeting next Tuesday. Their names must be withheld because one man is yet to be approached to determine whether he would accept appointment, he said.

Appointment of the canvassing authority to take over duties of a board of canvassers, which has been the town council, was authorized by the new General Assembly permanent voter registration act.

The act provides for a three-member authority, with two members representing the majority party and one the minority party.

At its meeting, the town committee also heard a report by town solicitor Michael DeCiantis, a committee member, on progress of the state's case against the Kent County Water Authority. In the case, now pending before the state Supreme Court, DeCiantis is representing the town's interest as a friend of the court.

## The Girls Want a Career—and Marriage

At the corner of Manhattan's Lexington Avenue and 63rd Street stands a 23-story building populated entirely by women, in which men are not permitted above the first floor. This does not mean that its inhabitants are not interested in men. The Barbizon hotel for women is considered a good, respectable address for out-of-town girls who have come to make a name for themselves in New York. In the small green lobby, through which moves a constant stream of eager young women carrying an air of determination, one aspiring young actress from Providence, R.I. said: "The men in New York are all the same. They're out for what they can get. I have a boy friend from home who comes to see me about every three weeks. He's a real home-town boy, all-American, clean-cut. He wouldn't speak the same language as these New York men. They're all trying to be big shots. I go out with them when he isn't here, but since I've been in New York I haven't met one man I can call a friend. I won't marry until I've convinced myself that I've gotten everything I can out of acting. Back home, everybody's a home-body, wants to raise big families. I'm not ready for that yet. If I married this fellow from home, I know I'd have to quit acting right away. He just wouldn't stand for it. I don't think I could do both, anyway."

# 30 Water Users Plan West Warwick Protest

## Committee Chosen to Circulate Petitions Against Water Authority's New Rates

Representatives of about 30 water users, who held a protest meeting against the recent rate hike of the Kent County Water Authority last night in the Club 400, this morning conferred with Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis and planned circulation of protest petitions and possible action in U.S. District Court.

De Ciantis said the citizens will circulate petitions in West Warwick, which has the largest number of water authority customers, to determine the sentiment of the people on the rate increase.

The petitions, which will be circulated in stores and other public places, "vigorously protest the action of the water authority for having increased water rates to the extent that it has become a burden upon us. The rates are exorbitant, excessive and unjustified."

The committee inquired about the possibility of starting action in federal court under Office of Price Stabilization rules, De Ciantis said.

"I know that a citizen has a right to institute proceedings in federal court to recover any charges which are excessive, where the OPS applies," De Ciantis said. "I feel, in so far as I am concerned I will do anything and everything to proceed if this committee wishes to institute such proceedings."

The Rhode Island office of the OPS has investigated the possibility that the authority's rate increase is in violation of price control regulation and is awaiting word from Washington.

Although it was announced after last night's meeting that Rep. Gerard Di Fiore (D-West Warwick) would be chairman of a seven man action committee appointed last night, committee representatives said today that former Rep. Horace L. Petrarca will be the chairman. Other committee members are Di Fiore, Mrs. Yvonne Guyot, Mrs. Agnes Blanchet, Josephat Hebert, Harry Erinakes, Ovide Brindamour and John Gallucci.

"They were all fuming. They're all burned up," DeFiore said of those who attended the meeting. He said the meeting was not called by him, but was spontaneous.

DiFiore said he thought that circulation of the petitions in all areas serviced by the water authority is about as much as can be done in the way of protest, inasmuch as the state's case against the authority now is pending in the R. I. Supreme Court.

The state contends that the authority's rates are subject to regulation by the state director of public utilities. But the authority has maintained that it can set its rates without that approval, under terms of the 1946 General Assembly act which created the authority.

DiFiore said the petitions, when completed, probably will be forwarded to Thomas Kennelly, state director of public utilities.

DeCiantis, along with town solicitors of Coventry, Scituate and East Greenwich, has received permission from the Supreme Court to argue as a friend of the court when the state's case against the authority comes up. No date for the hearing has been announced yet.

The new rates are \$15 for the first 20,000 gallons and 75 cents a thousand gallons for all water used over 20,000 gallons.

In the area serviced by the Pawtuxet Valley Water Co., which the authority bought out, the rates used to be \$15 for the first 50,000 gallons and 30 cents for each thousand gallons after that.

Bills at the higher rate began going out to West Warwick domestic users in monthly batches in September. However, by court order, the authority cannot use the money paid over and above the old rates until the court decides whether the authority is subject to public utility regulation.

## Building Permits

Total \$174,500

## In West Warwick

Permits for 20 new dwellings with estimated value of \$174,500 were issued in West Warwick during October, building inspector Willie J. Regnaiere has announced.

Other permits included five for alterations valued at \$3300; one commercial, \$100; eight garages, \$1600; and two additions to garages, \$500.

# Protests Against Water Rate Increases May Be Taken to Federal Court

The rising protest of people who are serviced by the Kent County Water Authority which has increased the cost of water may be carried to the United States Federal District Court thru a suit, it was learned this morning.

The protest of the towns of West Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich and Scituate who have joined as friends of the court in the trial of the public utilities administrator against the water authority will be heard by the Rhode Island State Supreme Court before next Mar. 1.

However, consumers themselves are now taking it upon themselves to see what they, as individuals, can do and action before the federal court is contemplated.

## 30 Hold Session

The effort started last night at a meeting of about 30 home owners and water service customers at a meeting at the 400 Club, Natick, where, according to a spokesman for the group, "We met to see what we could do to arouse

the interest of the people in regard to the increase in the water rates. It was decided the best action was to circulate a petition among the consumers of the Kent County Water Authority to get their reaction and attitude towards the excessive increase in water rates."

It was also learned that Rep. Gerard DiFiore was named chairman of the general committee and Horace L. Petrarca, secretary, of the group which formed last evening.

## To Circulate Petition

The petition which will be circulated throughout West Warwick is in charge of Petrarca as chairman and he will be assisted by Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, Josaphat Hebert, Mrs. Agnes Blanchette, Harry Erinakes, Ovide Brindamour and John Gallucci.

The petition which those interested are requested to sign to register their objection to the rate hike and which is being printed today, reads as follows: "We, the undersigned users of water distributed by the Kent County Water Authority vigorously protest the action of the Kent County Water Authority for having increased water rates within the district to the extent it has become a burden upon us. The rates are exorbitant, excessive and unjustified."

## Consult DeCiantis

Regarding the above action, the committee approached Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick who almost single-handedly has carried the fight against the increased water rates to the State Supreme Court through the office of the state public utilities administrator, to see what he could do to advise the group about bringing suit against the water authority in the U.S. District Court, under the Office of Price Stabilization laws.

DeCiantis, when contacted, said, "Under the OPS I know that a citizen who has been overcharged for any commodity to which the law applies, has a right to bring suit in the federal court to recover the overcharges." The town solicitor of West Warwick told the committee that he will look into the matter more thoroughly.

# West Warwick Water Users Plan Protest of Rate Hike

Pawtuxet Valley Office, 15 Washington Street, West Warwick Telephone Valley 1-0570 1-0746-W

About 30 West Warwick water users from all parts of the town held an unannounced meeting in the Club 400, Natick, last night and voted to circulate petitions protesting the new and higher water rates of the Kent County Water Authority.

Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), the senior member of the town's General Assembly delegation, was named chairman of a seven-member committee which will confer today with Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis on how resi-

dents can best help in the fight against the rate increase.

Other committee members are former Rep. Horace L. Petrarca of Natick, secretary; Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, Mrs. Agnes Blanchette, Josephat Hebert and Harry Erinakes, all of Arctic; Ovide Brindamour of Clyde and John Gallucci of Natick.

"They were all fuming. They're all burned up," DeFiore said of those who attended the meeting. He said the meeting was not called by him, but was spontaneous.

DiFiore said he thought that circulation of the petitions in all areas serviced by the water authority is about as much as can be done in the way of protest, inasmuch as the state's case against the authority now is pending in the R. I. Supreme Court.

The state contends that the authority's rates are subject to regulation by the state director of public utilities. But the authority has maintained that it can set its rates without that approval, under terms of the 1946 General Assembly act which created the authority.

DiFiore said the petitions, when completed, probably will be forwarded to Thomas Kennelly, state director of public utilities.

DeCiantis, along with town solicitors of Coventry, Scituate and East Greenwich, has received permission from the Supreme Court to argue as a friend of the court when the state's case against the authority comes up. No date for the hearing has been announced yet.

The new rates are \$15 for the first 20,000 gallons and 75 cents a thousand gallons for all water used over 20,000 gallons.

In the area serviced by the Pawtuxet Valley Water Co., which the authority bought out, the rates used to be \$15 for the first 50,000 gallons and 30 cents for each thousand gallons after that.

Bills at the higher rate began going out to West Warwick domestic users in monthly batches in September. However, by court order, the authority cannot use the money paid over and above the old rates until the court decides whether the authority is subject to public utility regulation.

## DECISION ON WATER BILLS IS AWAITED

The Rhode Island office of price stabilization expects to have a decision from Washington by Monday on whether the Kent County Water Authority is subject to price control regulations, it was learned last night.

Town solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick said Albert J. Hoban, state OPS director, called Washington again yesterday, after DeCiantis informed him he was considering filing suit in U.S. district court for several water customers to recover alleged excess charges for water.

DeCiantis is considering filing suit, as a result of a protest meeting of about 30 West Warwick users this week, at which a committee was appointed to confer with him.

The water users are about to circulate petitions protesting that recent water rate increases are exorbitant and unjustified.

The right of the water authority to increase rates without permission of the state public utilities director already has been challenged by Attorney General Powers, and a state case against the authority is pending in the R.I. Supreme Court.

Hoban's office two months ago investigated the possibility the authority might come under price regulation, if it is exempt from public utility regulation, as it claims. His office reported to Washington and has been awaiting a decision on the matter.

DeCiantis said Hoban called Washington OPS officials yesterday and they promised a decision by Monday, in the light of DeCiantis' contemplated action in federal court.



# *Republican* ACTION ASSOCIATION of Rhode Island

ROOM 1021 HOSPITAL TRUST BLDG.  
PROVIDENCE 3, RHODE ISLAND

October 10, 1951

## *Host Committee*

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*Chairman*  
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FREDERICK J. BLACKALL  
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WILLIAM J. THOMPSON  
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JOSEPH D. WHALEN  
STEVEN B. WILSON  
MRS. MARIAN YATMAN

Dear Fellow Citizen:

The Host Committee joins with me in asking you to be present at the first statewide dinner of the Republican Action Association of Rhode Island. The principal speaker will be the Honorable Robert A. Taft, United States Senator from Ohio, who will deliver an address of nation-wide importance.

The event will be Wednesday evening, October 31st, in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, Providence. A cocktail hour starts at 6:45 and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Dress is informal.

This meeting, together with subsequent dinners will serve as springboards for important discussions of national and international affairs. Senator Taft's speech marks the beginning of the education and information program undertaken by the Association. Other outstanding Republicans will appear at later dates.

You will receive a ticket for each \$50 contribution made to carry forward the work of the Association. Individual tables seating 10 or 12 persons are available should you wish to form your own party for the occasion. Or, you may request one or several tickets as you desire.

Funds raised through this dinner will be used in working toward the major objective of the Republican Action Association: A Republican Victory in 1952 in Rhode Island.

We hope very much that you can join us at the dinner. Because of limited accommodations, we will appreciate the favor of your acceptance as promptly as possible. A card is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

*Felix Hebert*  
Felix Hebert, Chairman  
HOST COMMITTEE

Encl



Thomas F. Barry

## THOMAS F. BARRY DIES IN 61ST YEAR

*Pro. Journal 11/8/57*  
Sheriff of Kent County Long

Was Leader of Pawtuxet  
Valley Democrats

Kent County Sheriff Thomas F. Barry, a colorful figure and influence in Kent County Democratic politics for a quarter-century, died yesterday at 2:55 p.m. in Kent County Memorial Hospital. He was 60 years old.

A Coventry resident, he was a member and former chairman of the Coventry Democratic Town Committee. He was respected by fellow Democrats as a strong party man who ran for office years ago when Democrats in Coventry had little chance and the party was hard pressed to find candidates.

Stricken ill four months ago, he spent five weeks in Kent County Hospital and then was transferred to the Riverview Convalescent Home, Harris. Recently, he apparently had improved and left the convalescent home daily to go to his office in the K. of C. building, Arctic, for a few hours.

He suffered a relapse at the convalescent home yesterday afternoon and died within an hour of his removal to the hospital in the West Warwick ambulance.

Judge Stephen A. Fanning, presiding in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich, when news of the sheriff's death came, took cognizance of his passing in open court.

Sheriff Barry was well known throughout the state and outside. A big man physically, he had a

habit of jollyng everyone with whom he came in contact—lawyers, court attaches, police, the press and legal officers—by the name, "Bucko."

He was born in the Crompton section of Warwick, now West Warwick, a son of the late James and Mary (Lemis) Barry. About 25 years ago he moved to Coventry, where he lived at 10 Card Street, in the Phenix-Harris section.

After receiving his education in the Warwick public schools, he entered the employ of the Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Co. as an apprentice toolmaker. He later worked at the Naval Torpedo Station at Newport, where he was a chief inspector for eight years. He then became master mechanic at the plant of the Arkwright Finishing Co., in Arkwright.

In partnership with the late John B. Forcier, he conducted the Barry & Forcier business, dealing in tires, gasoline and auto accessories, from 1923 to about six years ago. The firm was located next to the Great Scott market off Columbus Square, Arctic. The two men also operated the B & F Cab Co., selling out a few years ago.

The sheriff was a past grand knight of James P. Gibson Council, K. of C., of West Warwick; past president of the Pawtuxet Valley Board of Trade, predecessor of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce; a member of West Warwick Lodge of Elks and founder of the Kent County Sheriffs' Association. He also was a past president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Pawtuxet Valley and the Knights of Columbus Home Association of West Warwick.

He had been Kent County sheriff for 17 years, having first been appointed after the political "revolution" in which Democrats took control of the state in the early 1930's. He had been sheriff since then, with the exception of two years when the Vanderbilt administration was in control of the state.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Agnes I. (Duffy) Barry, a member of the Democratic State Committee from Coventry and clerk of the Coventry School Committee; a daughter, Mrs. Clifford Thompson of Berkeley, Calif.; two sons, Lt. Thomas F. Barry Jr., a dentist serving with the U.S. Air Force in Bryan, Tex., and Pvt. Philip Barry, U.S.A., serving in Korea; two sisters, Mrs. Eugene J. Laferriere and Miss Mary T. Barry, both of West Warwick; a grandson and three nephews.

The funeral will take place Saturday at 8:15 a.m. from the James F. Gough Funeral Home, 15 Bank Street, West Warwick. A solemn requiem Mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock in SS. Peter and Paul Church, Phenix. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Crompton.

## Warwick Canvassers' Count Gives School 297 Plurality

Warwick Office, } Telephone  
3291 Post Rd., Apponaug/Hillsgrove 1-1000

The Warwick Board of Canvassers' official count of Tuesday's senior high school referendum gave the project a "yes" plurality of 297 last night.

Even before the result was tabulated, however, the \$2,500,000 bond issue referendum was protested by Carl A. Berg of 2401 West Shore Road, who in a letter he delivered to the board held the election to be "illegal and void."

The canvassers' official count is 2515 approved to 2218 opposed.

Berg's protest, on stationery bearing the letterhead of Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick attorney, requested the board to declare a

"no" vote on the referendum, and asked that it "refrain from certifying the results of the vote" to the city council, school committee, city treasurer or any other city officer "who has authority to issue bonds."

In it Berg "as a duly qualified voter" declared the special election "with respect to the school referendum was . . . in violation of Chapter 198 and the state constitution."

DeCiantis could not be reached last night to enlarge upon the legal references in the letter or to explain the protest.

The board of canvassers ignored the letter beyond receiving it and noting that according to routine procedure, none of the special election results will be certified until Nov. 19.

Berg said he could not explain the letter. He is an owner of some 30 acres at the planned Oakland Beach Annex site for the high school, and DeCiantis is his attorney in current attempt to repudiate an option held by the school board on his land.

The board also received and filed without comment a letter from the Warwick Independent Taxpayers Association—newly formed with avowed opposition to the Oakland Beach Annex site—protesting the school referendum result.

In its official count, the board rejected 225 ballots, including blanks. Members rejected 115 ballots in all wards but the seventh, as opposed to 65 set aside at the polls.

City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer again advised the board to reject ballots whose crosses go even slightly beyond the prescribed square, but the board stood fast in "going along with the intent of the voter" in such cases.

The final tabulation altered virtually every ward total compiled Tuesday night at the polls, and added Ward 3 to the four wards voting against the project.

Official totals on the \$2,000,000 Oakland Beach Park bond issue, buried under a 5 to 1 vote Tuesday, will not be ready until Wednesday. The board also tabulated officially the Ward 7 city council election result.

### Canvassers' Official Count on Warwick School Bond

The official ward by ward count of the \$2,500,000 senior high school bond issue referendum, made last night by the Warwick Board of Canvassers, is as follows:

Ward	Yes	No
1	216	204
2	125	149
3	235	303
4	208	237
5	181	146
6	521	224
7	815	722
8	35	71
9	119	142
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2515</b>	<b>2218</b>
A "yes" plurality of 297 votes.		

## WATER CUSTOMERS START PETITIONS

*Pro. Journal 11/10/57*  
30 West Warwick Residents

Circulate Protests Against  
'Exorbitant' Rates

A committee of about 30 West Warwick customers of the Kent County Water Authority yesterday began circulating petitions protesting the authority's water rate increase as "exorbitant and unjustified."

The petitions, with a printed heading, were placed in stores and other public places throughout the town. One committee member said he, alone, placed petition sheets in about 20 stores in an attempt to obtain the sentiment of water users on the higher rates.

The committee spokesman said that owners of the establishments where petitions are located were urged to exercise care that only home or business place owners who are paying the increased bills themselves sign the sheets.

Meanwhile, Albert J. Hoban, director of the state Office of Price Stabilization, said last night he expects a decision from OPS officials in Washington in a few days as to whether the authority would properly come under price regulation rules.

Hoban's office completed an investigation of the authority's status about two months ago and forwarded its recommendations to Washington. The OPS director undertook the investigation after the authority claimed it was not subject to regulation by the state public utilities director in the rates it charged.

Hoban has warned the authority that it apparently would be subject to price regulation, but the authority raised its rates despite his warning.

P.V. Times Nov. 10, 1951

## Sheriff Barry Funeral Held

State, County, Town  
Officials Are Among  
Many Attending

State, county and town civic officials joined with friends and relatives at the funeral of Kent County Sheriff John F. Barry this morning from the J. F. Gough Funeral Home, Arctic, with a solemn requiem Mass at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Phenix, at 9 o'clock.

Rev. John Cox of Our Lady of Providence Seminary was celebrant of the Mass, Rev. Walter L. Flynn, pastor, was deacon, and the Rev. Manuel DeRogo of St. Anthony's Church, Riverpoint, was subdeacon. Seated in the sanctuary were Rev. Laurent Bourke of St. Joseph's Church, Natick, and Rev. Robert C. Cassidy of St. James' Church, Arctic.

Among those attending were Secretary of State Armand Cote, State General Treasurer Raymond Hawksley, Clinton Owens, executive secretary to Governor Dennis J. Roberts, George Kelly and James Lynch, secretaries to U.S. Cong. John E. Fogarty.

### Judge Quinn Attends

Also Judge Robert E. Quinn, chief judge of the U.S. Military Court of Appeals; Judge Stephen Fanning and Judge John Mullen of the Superior Court; Judge James W. Leighton of the Fourth District Court; former Lt. Gov. James O. McManus, and Mrs. Mary Feeney, vice chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Also members of the Kent County Bar Association, headed by Sen. Warren Sweeney of Warwick, Mortimer W. Newton, Charles J. Bourgault, Roland E. Meunier, Norman LaSalle and John Reed.

Also West Warwick Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis; Chief Arthur Groleau and Captain Harry Miller of the West Warwick Police Department; former chief of West Warwick police, William Mailloux, Miss Maisie E. Quinn, superintendent of West Warwick schools.

The City of Warwick was represented by Mayor Joseph Mills and Councilman Lambert Lind.

The honorary bearers were Deputy Sheriffs Edward J. Murray, Charles E. Kennehan, Alfred Richard and Fred E. Sunderland.

### Guard of Honor

A guard of honor at the entrance to the church was formed by Coventry officials including Sen. George Roche, Rep. Ralph Petrarca, Council President Terrence Duffy, Councilman Stanley Malikowski, Probate Judge James Murphy, Tax Collector J. Edward Corbin Sr., and Highway Commissioner Ephraim Langlais. Also in the guard of honor were Domenic Turco, sheriff of Washington County, Judge Leighton, Deputy Sheriffs Thurston Albro and GeoGrge Plouffe, Thomas Trainer, executive committeeman of the Democratic State Central Committee, and members of Gibson Council, K. of C., headed by Grand Knight Clarence Brousseau and including Paul Green, Edward Jacques, John Hebert, John Shields, Martin Martino and John White.

Burial was at St. Mary's Church, Crompton, where the Rev. Flynn offered prayer. The bearers, all nephews of the deceased were Dr. Richard P. Duffy, Robert Easdon, James B. Laferriere, Eugene J. Laferriere, Paul Duffy and Kenneth Easdon.

West Warwick police in charge of traffic were Officers William Gallucci, Manuel Simas, James O'Connell, Anzle Zwolenski and Lionel Valliere.

## WATER RATE HIKE AROUSES OAKLAWN

Prior Journal 11/10/51

100 Residents Consider Move

to Secede From Authority,  
Join Providence System

More than 100 Oaklawn residents, most of whom never realized until a few days ago that they are customers of the Kent County Water Authority, met last night to protest the authority's recent water rate increase.

It was the largest gathering of objectors since the fight against the rate increase opened in West Warwick.

Meeting at the Oaklawn volunteer fire station under the sponsorship of the Oaklawn Taxpayers Association, the residents passed a resolution asking the Cranston City Council to instruct City Solicitor Richard F. Canning to join other communities in the court fight against the increase.

Secession from the Kent County Authority which services the area east and south of the Oaklawn-Brayton Avenue intersection also was discussed and Canning was asked to ascertain the boundaries of the authority's franchise as well as to study the possibility of a transfer to the Providence system.

### DeCiantis Outlines Action

Michael DiCiantis, West Warwick town solicitor and a leader in the fight against authority power to increase rates without approval of the public utilities administrator, outlined the action taken to date.

He explained that the issue has been brought before the Supreme Court on a question of constitutionality of the act creating the authority.

With the authority claiming it is not a public utility in the true sense of the phrase, the Office of Price Stabilization has entered the dispute investigating the possibility that the authority prices might be subject to federal control.

A decision from Washington on the question is expected by the local office within a few days.

### Cranston Not Mentioned

DeCiantis, urging the Cranston residents to unite with the other communities in awaiting the court decision, noted that Cranston, like Scituate, is not mentioned in the act creating the authority.

The act states that the board shall be composed of representatives from East Greenwich, Warwick, Coventry and West Warwick.

The meeting was called after residents of Oaklawn Village, Fiskeville and the new plats at Meshanticut Terrace and Oaklawn Terrace found themselves faced with water bills two and a half times those of last year.

J. Kenton Speel, president of the taxpayers' unit, told the gathering he had heard from several sources that the authority system is connected to that of Providence at a point in Oaklawn and that the authority buys the water from the city supply board at that point, charging the higher rates "across the street."

## WATER FIGHT PLEA TO D'SALLE URGED

Prior Journal 11/14/51

DeCiantis So Advises West  
Warwick Residents; OPS  
Lacks Freeze Power

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick last night said he will advise West Warwick residents protesting increased rates of the Kent County Water Authority to appeal to Michael DiSalle, director of price stabilization, after an OPS announcement yesterday that the authority is not subject to the price freeze.

"There are too many people involved in this for any such brush-off as we got," DeCiantis said, referring to advice yesterday from Harold Levanthal, general OPS counsel in Washington, that the authority is not subject to price regulation.

Albert J. Hoban, R.I. director of OPS, whose office investigated the authority three months ago and recommended to Washington that the case be taken to federal court, received the OPS legal stand by telephone yesterday.

Hoban said that some of the reasons Levanthal gave were based on regulations adopted since Hoban began his investigation. They have to do with instrumentalities of government such as toll bridges and roads and municipally owned parking lots, Levanthal told Hoban.

"Those regulations were in effect when the investigation was started," DeCiantis declared last night. He added that he thought Hoban had done his best.

Asked whether the water customers might take the case to federal court themselves, DeCiantis said, "we're going to exhaust every governmental avenue before going to court ourselves, as there is a case in the State Supreme Court now."

"This is a supplementary action to protect the people before the fight in court. The head of the department is the man to see about it. But, if it becomes necessary to do so, we'll take it to federal court because there are too many people hurt. If they're chicken-livered about it, we certainly are not going to be."

# 350 Employees Make Impassioned Plea For Mill Jobs to West Warwick Council

Pawtucket Valley Office.  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Representatives of about 350 employees of Warwick mills, in an unprecedented and impassioned appeal, last night asked the West Warwick Town Council to give the foundering mill a 10-year tax exemption to help keep it operating and save their jobs.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, said the council would investigate how far it can go under state tax laws and give an answer as soon as possible.

At present, by vote of the town meeting, the council is empowered to grant tax exemptions only to new industries, as a means of attracting them to the town.

At its regular meeting the council also named Mortimer W. Newton, former Democratic town council president, chairman of the new canvassing authority for a six-year term at \$500 a year. Others named are John Gallucci of Natick, Democrat, and Joseph Lamothe, Arctic Republican, at salaries of \$400 each.

## Chief Spokesman

William Joubert, a Warwick mills slasher tender, was chief spokesman for the 50 employees who appeared with the tax exemption petition bearing names of all plant employees.

Appealing for the exemption, he recalled that the mill had recently sold most of its real estate to George Dempsey, Newton, Mass., manufacturer, and now is leasing it from him in the hope it can continue.

He asserted that the mill had provided employment in the town for more than 50 years and the town's economy would be upset if it closed. The exemption granted to new industries should be extended to an old, established firm that may be having trouble in bidding against southern mills, he said.

"We understand this is about the last step they can come to," he said. "The chances are they're liable to have to go out of town."

Although 343 current employees signed the petition, Joubert pointed out that the mill carries 567 on the payroll, as far as payment of insurance and Blue Cross is concerned. The others are currently laid off, however.

In a fervid appeal, Joubert said, "I'm not a public speaker, but deep down in my heart I felt I had to do this for us and our children. If we don't get work in the town, we've got to move out."

## Simas Joins Appeal

Gus Simas, business manager of the South County joint board, Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, joined in the appeal, saying that the mill is an established one that has employed as many as 1300. He pointed out the town already has been hit hard by unemployment and if more lose jobs, there will be a relief problem.

"A lot of people are hard-pressed now," Simas said. "Do what you can to keep them in business."

Under terms of its lease, the mill

agreed to pay all taxes on the real estate it recently sold, so long as it occupies the building on Brookside Avenue. Its total taxes now are about \$15,000.

When McKanna questioned whether the mill management were joining in the exemption petition, the employees answered it was not.

However, Leonide Beauchaine, an employee, said, "I talked to the company and they gave me a guarantee, if they could get a tax exemption, they'd run the mill. They have leased the place for 12 years with option and intend to be here. We didn't ask them to join our petition. We felt our jobs would be lost and it was up to us to do something to keep our jobs going."

## West Warwick Council Grants Long List of Liquor Licenses

The West Warwick Town Council last night granted the following liquor licenses at the annual hearing on liquor license renewals:

**CLASS A (PACKAGE STORES)**  
Lionel J. Cardin, Cardin's Liquor Store, 850 Main Street; Harry Erinnakes, Valley Liquor Store, 95 Washington Street; Frank J. Harry, Clyde Drug Store, 1013 Main Street; James G. Lamb, Lamb's Liquor Store, 1252 Main Street; Leo and Theodore Lussier, Palms Drug Store, 980 Main Street; Elynore M. Senerchia, Brookside Avenue Package Store, 22 Brookside Avenue; Robert M. Smith, J. V. Smith Drug Co., 7 Washington Street.

**CLASS B (TAVERNS)**  
Roland Dessert, Phenix Hotel, 18 Highland Street; Blanche E. Gendron, Windsor Bar, 10 Brookside Avenue; Omer Robillard, Clyde Hotel, 981 Main Street.

**CLASS B (VICTUALLERS)**  
Domenico Angelone, Patsy's Cafe, 12 Gage Street; William F. Bolster Jr., Log Cabin Restaurant, 11 Brookside Avenue and 98 Washington Street; Edward Borowski, Borowski's Cafe, 1626 Main Street; Joseph T. Boucher, Centerville Cafe, 54 New London Avenue; John B. Brullard, Arctic Cafe, 1235 Main Street; Emilio DiPadua, Columbus Cafe, 1157 Main Street; Pasquale DiPadua, Brass Rail, 162 Washington Street; Hugh J. Finnegan, Finnegan's Cafe, 805 Main Street; William J. French, Boots & Saddle, 154 Washington Street.

Also, Stefan and Josephine Gaweck, Hollywood Inn, Cowesett Avenue; Luigi Gustil, Gustil's Cafe, 653 Providence Street; Henry Lada, The Wheel, Cowesett Avenue; Alfred Lefebvre, Hope Cafe, 1315 Main Street; Joseph Lombardi, Modern Cafe, 257 Washington Street; Joseph Lukowicz, Dew Drop Inn, 395 Washington Street; Frank A. Marcello, Marcello's Cafe, 49 Providence Street; Salvatore Marsocci, Washington Street Cafe, 221 Washington Street; Frank Mello Jr., Mello's Cafe, 221 Washington Street; Mary F. Miller, The Manor, 54 Providence Street; Raymond F. Miller, Sam's Cafe, 949 Main Street.

Also, John Millette, Millette's Cafe, 13 Curson Street; Albert H. Nadeau, White Front Cafe, 1304 Main Street; Colvino and Margaret J. Nardella, 7-11 Cafe, 21 Crawford Street; Cleophas Noel, Cliffs, 172 Washington Street; Frank Palazzo, Club 400, 4 Blossom Street; Silvio Parente, Parente's Cafe, 144 Providence Street; Frank D. Penardo, Royal Cafe, 180 Washington Street; Alfred D. Petrarca, Kooler Keg Cafe, 458 Providence Street; Walter Popinski, Pop's Cafe, 1647 Main Street; Horace Ruzzo, Phenix Cafe, 732-736 Main Street; Joseph St. Jean, Palms Cafe, 116 Robert Street; Daniel Silva, Danny's Cafe, 57 East Main Street; Emile H. Urban and Frank Plaziak, 106 Washington Street.

**CLASS D (CLUBS)**  
Caserta Social Club, 6 Market Street; Club Frontenac, 1145 Main Street; Portuguese Instruction and Recreation Club, 918 Main Street; Crompton Veterans Organization, Hepburn Street; Holy Ghost Brotherhood, Ventura Street; Phenix Sportsmen's Club, 715 Main Street; Polish Falcon Club, Nest No. 172, 11 Barnold Street; Portuguese-American Citizens Club, 37 East Main Street; Portuguese-American Sport Club, 12 Bridge Street; Pasco R. Senerchia Post, American Legion, Senerchia Building Association, 681 Providence Street; Sgt. David Langevin Post, VFW, 197 Providence Street; West Warwick Country Club, Wakefield Street; West Warwick Eagles Club, 625 Main Street; West Warwick Lodge of Elks, 60 Clyde Street; West Warwick Post, American Legion, 5 Providence Street; West Warwick Social Club, 4 Market Street.

**CLASS D (LIMITED CLUBS)**  
Amici Club, 228 Providence Street; Club American, 1520 Main Street; Crompton Club, 1630 Main Street; Gesang Verein Lyra Club, 25 Ball Avenue; Hillside Athletic Club, 13 Prospect Hill Avenue; Italo-American Club, 65 Prospect Hill Avenue; Roma Social Club, 292 Providence Street; Sgt. Omer Duquette Post, Amvets, 28 East Main Street.

**CLASS E (DRUGGISTS)**  
Frank J. Harrop, Clyde Drug Store, 1013 Main Street; Leo and Theodore Lussier, Palms Drug, 980 Main Street; Robert M. Smith, J. V. Smith Drug Co., 7 Washington Street.

## LIQUOR LICENSE SNARL IS SOLVED

One Applicant Withdraws,  
Allowing the Other  
to Get Permit

The problem of two applications for the same liquor license at Log Cabin Restaurant, Arctic, was solved last night when one applicant, Angelo Q. Senerchia, withdrew and the West Warwick town council, after some hesitation, granted the license to William F. Bolster Jr. of Narragansett.

The problem had been posed when Senerchia, brother of the late Horace Senerchia, re-applied for the license, which had been in his name at his brother's restaurant. Horace Senerchia's widow, Mrs. Elynore Senerchia, offered to lease the restaurant to Bolster if he could get the license.

Although the license had been in Angelo Senerchia's name, Mrs. Senerchia had inherited the major interest in the property from her husband.

In withdrawing, Senerchia wrote the council that he realized he was placing it in an embarrassing position.

In weighing the application of Bolster, who was represented by Col. Patrick H. Quinn and Thomas Quinn of the law firm of Quinn & Quinn, the council recessed to determine whether last year's council had set a policy of not granting licenses to an out-of-towner. However, it found that, although the fact was mentioned in denial of a license to an out-of-towner last year, the main reason for its denial was a large number of objections.

Thomas Quinn argued, while the license was in doubt, that several West Warwick license holders live out of town, and it is not uncommon for a licensee to live in another town.

He brought out, by questioning Bolster, that Bolster and his family operate the Coast Guard House, a Narragansett restaurant, and have the food concession at Davisville. He also brought out that the family always has conducted its business on a high level.

The council also granted renewals of all other town liquor licenses and continued in effect the same fees for licenses. The limit on licenses was frozen at the present number for the year from Dec. 1, 1951, to Dec. 1, 1952. There are seven Class A licenses, three Class B taverns, 34 Class B victuallers, 17 Class D clubs and eight Class D limited clubs.

# Berg to Fight School Issue Through Court

## Site Owner Claims Referendum Illegal On Warwick Project

Warwick Office, Telephone  
3291 Post Rd., Apponaug Hills Grove 1-1000

If the Warwick Board of Canvassers certifies the Nov. 6 referendum in which voters' approval was given to issuing \$2,500,000 in bonds for a new senior high school, the election will be contested in the courts.

This was made known last night by Carl Berg through his attorney, Michael DeCiantis, who said the issue is a "very serious question" as he doubted if any bonding company will issue bonds because of the way the proposition was put.

Berg, owner of some 30 acres of land which is part of the site for the new high school chosen by the school committee, is already attempting to repudiate the option held by the school board on his land.

DeCiantis is representing Berg in both actions. The other night, Berg appeared before the board of canvassers to declare in an attorney's letter that the election is "illegal and void."

It is DeCiantis' contention that the wording of the question whether the city shall issue \$2,500,000 in bonds to build a new high school was such that voters "voted on nothing" when they passed that referendum.

City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer last night termed DeCiantis' interpretation on the question put to to voters on the paper ballot as the "highest triviality."

Voters balloted on whether the city shall be "authorized to obtain authority" to issue bonds. Actually, the city already has such authority granted it by the General Assembly, only subject to a referendum, and voters cast ballots on something the city already had and in effect "voted on nothing," DeCiantis said.

It is DeCiantis' opinion the question should have read along this line: "Shall the city of Warwick issue school bonds to an amount of \$2,500,000 for the purpose of building a high school, etc."

Monday night the board of canvassers is expected to take action on certification of the election, which resulted in a plurality of 297 "yes" votes—2515 approved and 2218 opposed. DeCiantis said he will attend to make his challenge and if necessary go to the courts where he will present "other major challenges."



Dr. Angelo Scorpio  
PROV. JOURNAL 11/15/51  
**DR. ANGELO SCORPIO  
DIES IN 56TH YEAR**

## Physician Victim of Heart Attack at His Home on Elmgrove Avenue

Dr. Angelo Scorpio, 55, Providence physician and surgeon with offices at 183 Angell Street, died suddenly last night of a heart attack at his home, 716 Elmgrove Avenue.

He was born in Providence, Sept. 12, 1896, a son of Giuseppe and Maria Carmina (Carosono) Scorpio and attended the Providence public schools. After graduation from Classical High School he entered R.I. State College, graduating in 1922 with the degree of B. S.

He received his master's degree in science at Brown University the following year and entered Harvard Medical School, where he was awarded his M.D. in 1927.

He served his internship at the surgical department of Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, and began the practice of medicine in 1923.

He served on the surgical staff of the out-patient department at Rhode Island Hospital and was assistant surgeon at the State Infirmary.

Dr. Scorpio was a member of the Providence Medical Association, the Rhode Island Medical Society and the American Medical Association. His clubs included the Aurora Club and the Italo-American Club.

He is survived by his wife, Elsa (Tortolani) Scorpio, and a son Raffaele M. Scorpio of Providence; a brother, Joseph Scorpio of San Diego, Calif., and a sister, Mrs. Vincent Durante of this city.

The funeral will be held Saturday from the John Di Iorio & Sons Funeral Home, 1447 Westminster Street, with a solemn requiem Mass in St. Sebastian's Church, Cole Avenue. Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery, Pawtucket.

# WARWICK VOTING TO BE CHALLENGED

PROV. JOURNAL 11/15/51  
Even if Canvassers OK Referendum on School, Berg to  
Take It to Court

If the Warwick Board of Canvassers certifies the Nov. 6 referendum in which voters' approval was given to issuing \$2,500,000 in bonds for a new senior high school, the election will be contested in the courts.

This was made known last night by Carl Berg through his attorney, Michael DeCiantis, who said the issue is a "very serious question" as he doubted if any bonding company will issue bonds because of the way the proposition was put.

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*Bulletin 11/19/57*  
**West Warwick  
 Canvass Body  
 Takes Oath**

**Chairman Says Board  
 Awaits New Forms  
 From State Group**

Pawtucket Valley Office, Telephone  
 15 Washington Street, Valley 1-0570  
 West Warwick 1-0746-W

The new West Warwick Canvassing Authority, appointed by the town council last week in compliance with the state's new permanent voter registration law, was sworn in at the town hall this morning by Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb.

Mortimer W. Newton, former Democratic town council president, who was named chairman of the authority by the council, will serve a six-year term expiring Nov. 19, 1957.

The middle term of four years is being filled by John Gallucci, Democrat. His term will expire Nov. 19, 1955.

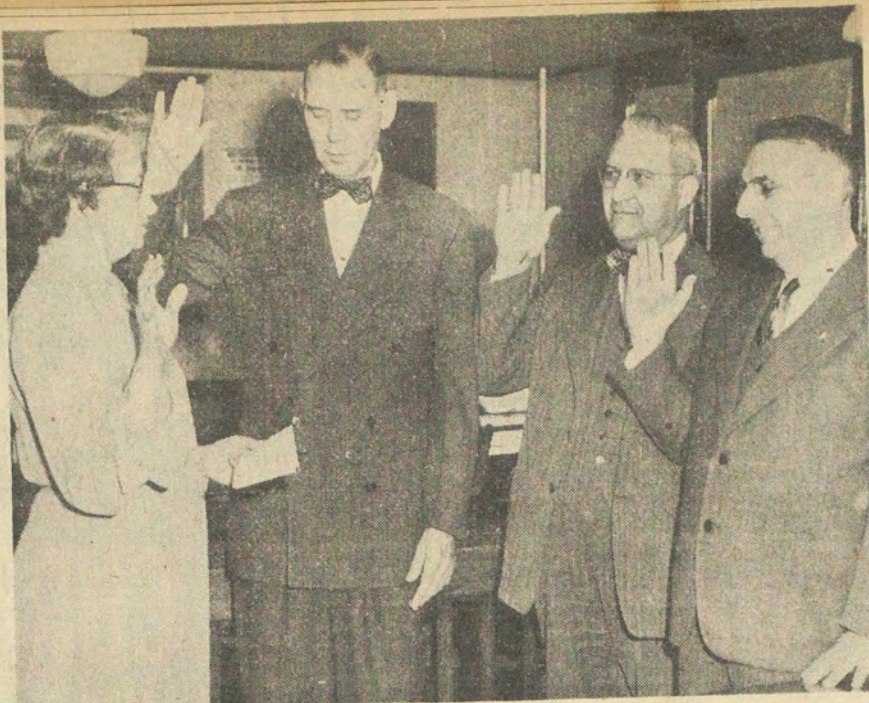
The two-year term of the Republican minority member, Joseph Lamothe, will expire Nov. 19, 1953.

Newton said that the new board will be able to do little except study the new permanent registration law until it receives the necessary registration paraphernalia from the State Board of Elections. The forms are not expected until after the first of the year.

He said the board expects to have its biggest job during its first year, inasmuch as every voter, including real estate and personal property owners, must register under the new law.

Hitherto, real estate and personal property voters have been carried automatically on the voting list after they had registered once. That will be true again, but only after these voters have registered once under the new law, he stressed.

Newton said that ultimately registration meetings will be held in the various voting districts. A big job is anticipated, he said, because it was estimated that eight minutes will be required to register each voter. Besides signing the registration book and giving necessary information, each voter also will have to sign a special registration card.



**IT'S OFFICIAL NOW:** Members of the new West Warwick Canvassing Authority, appointed by the town council last week under terms of the new permanent voter registration law, are sworn in this morning by Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb. Board members (l-r)

are Mortimer W. Newton, former Democratic town council president and board chairman; John Gallucci, Democrat, and Joseph Lamothe, Republican minority member.

—State Staff Photo

*Prov. Journal November 16, 1957*  
**Warwick City Council Formally Opposes  
 Kent County Authority's New Water Rates**

Warwick Office, Telephone  
 3291 Post Rd., Apponaug Hills 1-1000

The Warwick City Council last night formally opposed the Kent County Water Authority's "excessive, arbitrary and unnecessary" new rate schedule.

No action was taken to give Warwick legal representation in the pending Supreme Court test of the rates despite a protest by Mayor Mills that the mere resolution of disapproval is a "halfway measure."

City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer said his joining West Warwick and Coventry solicitors in assisting the attorney general's department "is not practical . . . at this late date."

**Mayor's Hint**

The mayor hinted that a similar resolution early this year, when other Kent County municipalities were objecting to the increased rates, was dropped "rather hurriedly" because former Republican councilman George B. Salter is a water authority member.

Palmer, as well as Councilman Leslie F. Thompson (R-ward 7) and Vernon S. Allen (R-ward 9) offered no objection to the mayor's suggestion of legal intervention by the city, but the resolution was not amended.

# Court Restrains Warwick Canvassers from Certifying School Bond Vote

Bulletin Nov. 19 1957

## Berg Plea Hearing Slated Next Monday

Board Had Intended Approving Referendum With 297 Margin

An order restraining the board of canvassers from certifying results of Warwick's special referendum Nov. 6 on issuance of \$2,500,000 in bonds for a senior high school, was granted today in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich.

The board of canvassers had announced it would certify the referendum tonight on the basis of 2515 paper ballots approving the bond issue, against 2218 rejecting the proposition.

Carl A. and Mildred Berg, whose 13-acre bathing beach property is under an option that has been repudiated by the couple, were granted the restraining order by Judge Stephen A. Fanning, who set next Monday for hearing on a preliminary injunction against George R. Hathaway, Alexander P. Murphy and Charles B. Sparks, comprising the board of canvassers.

The Berg property comprises a major portion of the nearly 30 acres the Warwick school board has under option for the proposed high school site.

In their bill of complaint, filed by their attorney, Michael DeCiantis, the Bergs contend the form of the question: "Shall the City of Warwick be authorized to obtain authority" was improper on the ballot since the city already had the necessary authority to issue the school bond, once the voters approved, by legislative act; that the majority of the voters, voting on the question was actually 36 rather than the 297 announced by the board; and that the complainants would be "irreparably harmed" by an increase in the tax burden resulting from sale of \$2,500,000 in bonds.

The Bergs further contend the election is a "nullity" and is "illegal and void."

DeCiantis wrote that "a survey by the protestant shows that the fear instilled in the electorate, with respect to the school conditions in the city, unduly influenced their vote."

### Quotes Alleged Violation

Quoted by the attorney as school law allegedly violated by the circular was: "... Nor shall any person distribute through or in the public schools or to children on their way to or from school any circular, sample, package, coupon ticket or other similar advertising matter."

Berg presented the protest letter to the canvassers last night. DeCiantis did not appear, but when questioned later as to why the protest of the circular was not included in the bill of complaint, he said he does not believe the court "would have any equitable jurisdiction"

over the matter of the circular. The board of canvassers formally voted to request representation by City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer in the court action, certified the seventh ward election; and certified the Oakland Beach referendum with the following results: yes, 738; no, 3948; defective, 205; blank, 74.

Nov. Journal Nov. 20, 1957

## School Referendum Restraining Order Stops Certification by Warwick Board

The \$2,500,000 Warwick senior high school project was stalled last night as the city's board of canvassers found itself restrained by court order from certifying results of the Nov. 6 school bond issue referendum.

The order, asked in a bill of complaint by Carl A. and Mildred Berg which contends that the election is "illegal and void," was granted yesterday by Judge Stephen A. Fanning in Kent County Superior Court.

The board had planned certification of the school question results at a special meeting last night. Under subpoena to appear at a hearing Monday on issuance of a preliminary injunction, the canvassers certified only the Oakland Beach Park referendum and the seventh ward councilmanic election tabulations.

Berg and his attorney, Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, supplemented the formal bill of complaint with a protest letter delivered at the board of canvassers' meeting.

They charged in the letter that the high school bond issue would have been defeated but for a pre-election circular which "did coerce and unduly influence the electors" of the city.

### "Violates School Law"

Not intended to be a part of the court action, according to DeCiantis, the letter contended that the high school building committee's action Nov. 2 in disseminating

"political propaganda . . . by an army of children through the public school system" was "contrary to and in violation of the school law."

The Bergs in the bill of complaint maintain the form of the school election question—"Shall the City of Warwick be authorized to obtain authority . . ."—was improper on the ballot since the city already had the necessary authority, by legislative act, to issue the schools bonds once the voters had approved.

They also contend that the majority of voters approving the question was actually 36 rather than 297, the latter the margin of "yes" votes over "no" votes, and that they themselves as taxpayers would be "irreparably harmed" by an increase in the tax burden resulting from the sale of \$2,500,000 in bonds.

The Bergs, owner of a major portion of the nearly 30 acres the school board is purchasing for the high school site, have repudiated an option granted the board on their 13-acre bathing beach property in Oakland Beach Annex.

### Encloses Copy of Circular

DeCiantis said last night that the Bergs' repudiation of the option "is entirely different from the protest of the referendum."

The attorney enclosed with the protest to the board of canvassers a copy of the school building committee's circular.

DeCiantis' letter pointed to a section which told parents: "The need is urgent. Within the next few years we must provide room for the 'flood

of children that will be coming up from the elementary schools."

He also quoted the circular's closing sentences, which read: "You have a date with your children's future on Tuesday, Nov. 6, at the nearest polling place. You alone can make this decision."

DeCiantis wrote that "a survey by the protestant shows that the fear instilled in the electorate, with respect to the school conditions in the city, unduly influenced their vote."

### Quotes Alleged Violation

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## Warwick High Project Stayed By Court Order

Bulletin 11/20/57  
Canvassers Restrained From Certifying Bond Issue Referendum

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The board had planned certification of the school question results at a special meeting last night. Under subpoena to appear at a hearing Monday on issuance of a preliminary injunction, the canvassers certified only the Oakland Beach Park referendum and the seventh ward councilmanic election tabulations.

Berg and his attorney, Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, supplemented the formal bill of complaint with a protest letter delivered at the board of canvassers' meeting.

They charged in the letter that the high school bond issue would have been defeated but for a pre-election circular which "did coerce and unduly influence the electors" of the city.

### "Violates School Law"

Not intended to be a part of the court action, according to DeCiantis, the letter contended that the high school building committee's action Nov. 2 in disseminating

"political propaganda . . . by an army of children through the public school system" was "contrary to and in violation of the school law."

The Bergs, owner of a major portion of the nearly 30 acres the school board is purchasing for the high school site, have repudiated an option granted the board on their 13-acre bathing beach property in Oakland Beach Annex.

DeCiantis said last night that the Bergs' repudiation of the option "is entirely different from the protest of the referendum."

The attorney enclosed with the protest to the board of canvassers a copy of the school building committee's circular.

DeCiantis' letter pointed to a section which told parents: "The need is urgent. Within the next few years we must provide room for the 'flood of children that will be coming up from the elementary schools."

He also quoted the circular's closing sentences, which read: "You have a date with your children's future on Tuesday, Nov. 6, at the nearest polling place. You alone can make this decision."

## BOND BALLOTING ERROR IS CLAIMED

*Pro. Journal 11/21/51*  
**Bergs Say Wrong Reference  
for Authority Was Given on  
High School Issue**

Warwick Office, Telephone  
3291 Post Rd., Apponaug Hills Grove 1-1000

The reference for authority, on which the \$2,500,000 Warwick senior high school bond issue was voted on in special referendum Nov. 6, was erroneous, it was charged yesterday in a motion to amend a bill of complaint under which the Warwick Board of Canvassers already is restrained from certifying the results.

Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Carl A. and Mildred Berg, who are contesting the election, filed the motion in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich, where a hearing on a preliminary injunction is scheduled for Monday before Judge Stephen A. Fanning.

Contention that the authority, referred to in the \$2,500,000 school bond issue on the ballots used in the election, was in fact the authority for the \$2,000,000 bond issue for development of a municipal beach park in Oakland Beach, is the basis for the motion to amend the bill pending in court.

The board of canvassers Monday night certified results of the special seventh ward councilmanic election and defeat of the Oakland Beach bond issue, but were restrained from certifying the school bond issue results by the court order obtained by the Bergs earlier Monday.

Previously the board had announced the school bond issue approved by a plurality of 297 votes, but the Bergs claim the majority of those voting, specified for approval by the enabling legislation, is only 36 votes.

In the motion to amend, it is contended that S-300 which was given as reference for the authority to vote on the school bond issue, was the title of an act concerned with a \$2,000,000 bond issue for the development of Oakland Beach Park, and that H990 was the title of the act concerned with the \$2,500,000 school bond issue.

The Bergs, who own 13 acres, including a fresh water bathing beach business on Little Pond in Oakland Beach Annex, have repudiated an option given the school committee a year ago for the tract which is part of 27½ acres the board has earmarked as the site of the proposed senior high school.

Purchase of the land is not at issue in the current litigation, since the school committee previously was granted \$95,000 in a bond issue to acquire the site.

## PAWTUXET VALLEY.

### NO FAVORITES

Overtime parking at West Warwick's new parking meters brings a tag for one and all, big and small, it was apparent yesterday.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, the town prosecutor, was observed at the police station paying \$1 each for two occasions when he forgot the meter clocks tick inexorably on.

## CANDIDATES SEEK SHERIFF'S POST

*Pro. Journal 11/24/51*  
**Several Reported in Race for  
Vacancy Caused by  
Barry's Death**

Kent County now has several candidates reportedly in the field for sheriff, and active campaigns are being waged on behalf of at least two or three for the appointive post.

Governor Roberts will make the appointment to fill the vacancy brought about by the recent death of Sheriff Thomas F. Barry of Coventry.

Deputy Sheriff Edward J. Murray of East Greenwich, since 1935, is reported to be the leading candidate, and has received the endorsement of his town's Democratic committee.

But another deputy sheriff, Charles E. Kenahan of Warwick, appointed in 1940, is said to be strongly contesting with Murray for the office.

Both men have written to the governor asking for the appointment.

John J. McCabe, Democratic chairman in Warwick, said he is not actively seeking the post, but that it's the "desire of my friends that I become sheriff." They have gone to the governor on his behalf.

William Mailloux, former West Warwick police chief, mentioned as a candidate, is ruled out of the running by some political observers, who said his "own party doesn't want him." He failed to be re-appointed chief when the Democrats returned to power in 1948.

A new candidate is reported to be Henry C. Hoxsie of West Greenwich, former Independent senator and now assistant door keeper in the Senate.

Why Kenahan hasn't sought the endorsement of Warwick Democrats has caused some speculation, but according to one observer this probably has not been attempted because it might lead to a split in the Democratic committee if McCabe's backers put his name up.

## Court Bars Warwick Board From Certifying Bond Vote

*Pro. Journal Nov 27, 1951*  
The Warwick Board of Canvassers was temporarily enjoined from certifying results of the Nov. 6 school bond issue referendum yesterday after a hearing on a preliminary injunction before Judge Stephen A. Fanning in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich.

Arguments of Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Carl A. and Mildred Berg, that the question regarding a \$2,500,000 school bond issue was improperly submitted to the voters, were sustained in the decision of Judge Fanning who granted the Bergs a temporary restraining order against the canvassers' certification Nov. 19.

DeCiantis argued that the people "hadn't voted on anything" since the question, as submitted on the paper ballots, was whether the city council should be authorized to seek authority to issue the bonds—something, he contended, that already had been granted by the legislature, subject to voters' approval.

### Discounts Argument

A further contention of the complainants that the majority of voters approving the proposition was a mere 36 rather than the 297 plurality announced by the board after an official tabulation, was discounted by the court as immaterial since a plurality of one vote or 1000 would have no bearing on the case.

Defense by Hailes L. Palmer, Warwick city solicitor, was that the court was without jurisdiction in the case; that the complainants were late in complaining, and that the Bergs' contention that they would be harmed as taxpayers was without basis since they would not be exceptional cases apart from all other taxpayers.

Judge Fanning ruled that it was within the court's jurisdiction "and it could have halted the election if steps had been taken earlier;" that the complainants have a right to forestall their proportionate share of a debt illegally acquired

and that the voters seemingly voted on a directive regarding the bond issue rather than on the bond issue itself in the election.

### Palmer's Contention

In his arguments, Palmer stated that "the people have voted on something. They are 'too late to question the wording of the proposition.'" He also contended that a stand such as that taken by the Bergs must be sponsored by a public officer. In this instance, he said, a private citizen cannot act to harm a public right.

"Regardless of technicalities," Palmer maintained, "the people knew what they were voting on. It was a sampling of public opinion. The complainants here are really asking for an interpretation and trying to stop the issuance of bonds. The legislature no doubt would grant the authority again as a matter of course as a result of the election."

DeCiantis argued that "the question just wasn't placed before the voters in accordance with the directions prescribed by the legislature. There was not only improper framing of the question but incorrect reference made to it in that S300 was cited as authority for the school bond issue while in a reality authority for the school bond issue was granted under H990 and the other referred to a \$2,000,000 bond issue for recreation at Oakland Beach, a proposal incidentally that was defeated at the polls."

### Judge's Opinion

"It is my opinion," Judge Fanning said, "that the question before the voters was whether the city should seek authority with regard to the school bonds," and granted the temporary injunction against certification of the results on grounds that the question was improperly before the voters. He added that the board of canvassers could have been stopped before the election for offering a question to the voters not authorized by the legislature.

## Valley Users Seek OPS Aid In Water Rates

### Delegation to Meet With Price Stabilizer In Washington Tuesday

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick said this morning that he and a delegation of West Warwick customers of the Kent County Water Authority will carry their plea for action against the authority's increased rates to Price Stabilizer Michael DiSalle at a meeting in Washington next Tuesday.

DeCiantis said an appointment with DiSalle has been arranged for the Pawtuxet Valley group by Senator Pastore.

Albert J. Hoban, state director of the Office of Price Stabilization, received an opinion from OPS counsel in Washington recently that the water authority is exempt from the price freeze, but the Pawtuxet Valley consumers feel that a direct plea to DiSalle may result in some OPS action.

DeCiantis said he will ask DiSalle, if necessary, to seek a federal court decision on whether the water authority might be subject to the price freeze.

DeCiantis said that Sen. George Roche of Coventry, who worked with him in the beginning in urging the state action against the water authority now pending in the R.I. Supreme Court, will also go to Washington to see DiSalle.

"I'm trying to leave no stone unturned to defeat this terrible attempt to the part of a company in raising rates of consumers to such an extent that many are paying more for water than they are in town taxes," DeCiantis said.

He said he will ask a special committee of taxpayers who recently held a protest meeting and circulated protest petitions to name a delegation to accompany him and Roche to the meeting in Washington.

### FINN CASE DELAYED BY LAW QUESTION

A question of law raised in a Warwick shellfish case was used yesterday to delay trial of a similar case pending in East Greenwich.

Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Warren B. Finn Jr., East Greenwich shellfish dealer, asked for a two-week continuance in a case involving possession of undersized quahaugs when he informed the court he was awaiting the outcome of a constitutional question raised by defense in an illegal-possession case against James J. Healey, Warwick shellfish dealer.

In Healey's case, Joseph G. Reed, his attorney, raised the question Tuesday of the entry of state fish and game wardens into Healey's establishment without a search warrant and both the defense and the state were given two weeks in which to file briefs on the issue. The two-week period will end Dec. 11, two days before the date for which the Finn case was set down for trial on DeCiantis' motion and with approval of the state.

## West Warwick Water Customers Demand Authority's Resignations, DiFiore Says

Many West Warwick customers of the Kent County Water Authority are demanding that authority members resign because of the doubled and tripled water rates reflected in new bills, Rep. Gerard DiFiore said last night.

Chairman of a committee of water users protesting the higher rates, DiFiore revealed the feeling of the customers at a committee meeting in Club 400, Natick, at which plans were made to send a delegation to see Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle in Washington Tuesday at 10 a.m.

The delegation, accompanied by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, who arranged the appointment with DiSalle through Senator Pastore, will urge DiSalle to find the water authority subject to the price freeze.

### Hope for Reversal

OPS legal counsel in Washington recently gave the R.I. Office of Price Stabilization an opinion that the authority is not subject to price regulations. But DeCiantis feels that an appeal to DiSalle and presentation of further information on the authority may result in a reversal of the opinion.

Exploring another possible avenue of bringing the authority under regulation, the committee appointed a legislative committee of West Warwick lawyers to plan possible amendments to the 1946 act which created the authority.

On the legislative committee are Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president; former Lt. Gov. James O. McManus, Mortimer W. Newton, Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere and Charles J. Bourgault.

### To Pay for Own Trip

The delegation going to Washington to appeal to DiSalle is expected to include, besides DeCiantis, McKanna, DeFiore, Harry Erinakes and Armand Guertin, all of West Warwick; Sen. George Roche and Terrence E. Duffy, town council president, both of Coventry. Walter Hazard, Democratic

councilman in East Greenwich, also may go, it was said.

Each member of the delegation will make the trip at his own expense.

"Water customers are claiming that the water authority has done a bum job and are demanding they resign," DeFiore declared. "Bills two and three times as much are too much in any man's language."

Bourgault pointed out that, in a brochure to prospective buyers of its bonds last year, the water authority said it would have \$100,000 over and above operating expenses to apply to paying off the bonded indebtedness. This figure was based on the old rates, he said.

### Improvement Plan Blamed

McKanna said he understood that the authority plans a \$750,000 improvement program "which it plans to pay for in five years out of current revenue, and that's the trouble."

Bourgault remarked, "That raises the question of the wisdom of their spending over two million dollars to buy a system they want to replace." (The authority purchased three private water companies from the estate of the late Arthur B. Lisle last year by floating a \$2,062,500 bond issue.)

McKanna asserted that, instead of raising rates to pay for improve-

ments over five years only, the authority should have spread its payments for improvements over 30 or 40 years to lighten the load on current customers. "That's the essential cause for the 250 per cent increase in rates," he said.

### Supports Longer Period

Former Rep. Horace L. Petrarca said he heard the authority plans \$2,000,000 in improvements. He suggested the authority might change its mind and keep rates lower by paying for improvements over a longer period of time.

"They may be glad to find a way out with the committee," Petrarca asserted.

McKanna pointed out that the question of the authority's right to raise rates without approval of the state public utilities administrator, which it claims it has, now is being contested by Attorney General Powers in the R.I. Supreme Court.

Dr. M. Irene Guertin urged that a mass meeting of water users be called after the delegation returns from Washington.

DeFiore revealed that about 1100 signatures of water customers have been obtained on petitions protesting that the increased rates are a burden and that they are "exorbitant, excessive and unjustified." About that many more signatures are expected when other petitions still out are turned in, he said.

## DiSalle to Get Protest On Water Rates Tomorrow

When the seven-man delegation, from West Warwick and Coventry meets with Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle in Washington at 10 a.m. tomorrow it will present him an official protest against the "unwarranted and arbitrary action" of the Kent County Water Authority in raising its rates to water consumers.

Terrence E. Duffy, Coventry Town Council president, revealed last night that the council in a special session Saturday night unanimously adopted a resolution, a copy of which is to be given DiSalle by Duffy, requesting the price stabilizer to "take such action as is within his power to prevent the increase."

The members of the delegation made final plans over the weekend for the trip to Washington. They will not travel in a group but all are scheduled to leave some time today.

The group, each member traveling at his own expense, includes Duffy and Sen. George Roche, town solicitor, from Coventry. West Warwick residents attending are Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president; Rep. Gerard DiFiore, Harry Erinakes, Armand O. Guertin and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, who arranged the appointment with DiSalle through Senator Pastore.

### Business Keeps Hazard Home

Walter Hazard, Democratic councilman in East Greenwich, who had been mentioned as a possible member of the delegation, said last night he had wanted to go but will

be prevented from doing so by the pressure of business.

As representatives of a committee of water users protesting the higher rates, headed by DiFiore, the group will urge DiSalle to find the water authority subject to the price freeze.

Legal counsel for OPS in Washington recently gave the Rhode Island Office of Price Stabilization an opinion that the authority is not subject to the freeze.

The water authority customers opposing the rate rise feel, however, that an appeal to DiSalle and presentation of further information may result in a reversal of the opinion.

### One of Several Moves

The Washington trip is one of several avenues of approach being taken by the water users in the fight to bring the authority under regulation, which began when the West Warwick council authorized DeCiantis to take the case to the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

A legislative committee of West Warwick lawyers has also been appointed to explore the possibility of amendments to the original act creating the authority.

The resolution of the Coventry council condemned the authority for "arbitrarily" increasing its rates "to homes and industry at least 250 per cent" and for doing so "without disclosing any basis for such action, without opportunity being offered to any customer or municipality to be heard, or to protest."

## Deputies

### Sworn In

Kenahan, Richard and  
Albro Assistants to  
Sheriff Murray

Deputy Sheriffs of Kent County, re-appointed by Edward J. Murray of East Greenwich, who himself was appointed by Governor Dennis J. Roberts yesterday, were sworn into office at the Kent County Superior Court building, East Greenwich this morning, by William M. Owen, clerk of the court.

Murray said that he will make appointment of a deputy sheriff from Coventry as soon as he confers with Democratic leaders from that town. He also said that he will retain the sheriff's office at Columbus Square, Arctic.

Sworn in as deputy sheriffs this morning were Charles E. Kenahan of Warwick, Alfred Richard of West Warwick and Thurston Albro of West Greenwich.

Mrs. Elsie Keenan of West Warwick is being retained as clerk in the Sheriff's office at Arctic.

Murray, who has been a deputy for 14 years and is a leader in East Greenwich Democratic circles succeeded Thomas F. Barry of Coventry who died last month. His salary is \$4000.

Murray is a member of the Democratic state central committee and East Greenwich town committee having served as president and treasurer of the latter organization.

He was appointed a deputy sheriff in 1935, succeeding his father who retired at the age of 80 after serving for 37 years. He was the senior deputy until his appointment.

Murray who is the proprietor of a store in East Greenwich, is married and has three children. He lives at 38 Greene Street, East Greenwich.

He is a member of the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, Retail Merchants Association, president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of East Greenwich, a member of St. Joseph's Council, K of C., and the Royal Arcanum.

# DI SALLE WILL STUDY PLEA BY LOCAL GROUP

## Listens to Protests on Water Rates

Michael V. DiSalle, director of the Office of Price Stabilization told the six-member delegation from Kent County in conference at his Washington office this morning that he will take the Kent County Water Authority rate hike issue under consideration.

He told Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick, who through Senator John O. Pastore arranged the conference that his office will hand down their opinion on whether or not the OPS applies to the water rate hikes, within a short period of time.

The factor that the legal division of DiSalle's office had previously handed down the opinion that the OPS had no jurisdiction over the rate hikes for the service

of water put into effect by the water authority had no bearing on the conference or on DiSalle's statement that he would study the issue himself, it was learned.

Attending the conference with DiSalle was the assistant director of the U. S. Public Utilities.

The Kent County delegation which carried the protest against the water rate hike to Washington and which group met personally with DiSalle this morning included DeCiantis, Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of the West Warwick Town Council, Senator George Roche of Coventry, Terrence E. Duffy, town council president of Coventry and Armand O. Guertin and Harry Erinakes, both businessmen of West Warwick.

The local group is expected to arrive home tonight.



Edward J. Murray  
SHERIFF MURRAY  
PICKS DEPUTIES

Kent County Official, Appointed  
by Governor, Renames All  
Now Holding Office

East Greenwich Office, Telephone  
3221 Post Road Hills Grove 1-1000  
Apponaug

The first official act last night of Edward J. Murray of East Greenwich, who earlier in the day was appointed sheriff of Kent County by Governor Roberts, was to reappoint all the present deputies.

The 49-year-old Murray, who has been a deputy for 14 years and a leader in town Democratic circles, succeeds Thomas F. Barry of Coventry who died last month. The sheriff's salary is \$4000.

Reappointment as deputies are Charles E. Kenahan of Warwick who was considered Murray's principal opponent for the position, Alfred Richard of West Warwick and Thurston Albro of West Greenwich. Also renamed are Frederick E. Sunderland, keeper of the Kent County jail, and Mrs. Elsie Keenan of West Warwick, clerk in the sheriff's office.

Murray said he will make no appointment to the now vacant deputy's post in Coventry until he has conferred with members of that town's Democratic committee. He added, that for the present, he doesn't contemplate moving the sheriff's office from West Warwick.

The deputies will be sworn in this morning at 10 o'clock at the Kent County Courthouse by the clerk of the court, William M. Owen.

Active in town Democratic circles for more than 25 years, Murray is a member of the state central committee and town committee, having served as president and treasurer of the latter organization. In this Republican stronghold, Murray has been an unsuccessful candidate for the council twice, four and two years ago; town sergeant 10 years ago, and state representative eight years ago.

He was appointed a deputy in 1935, succeeding his father who retired at the age of 80 after serving for 37 years. With the exception of two years, 1939-40, Murray has served continuously. He was the senior deputy until his appointment.

A native of East Greenwich, he was educated in the local public schools and attended Pease Preparatory School in Providence. He is married and has three children, and lives at 38 Greene Street. He is the proprietor of a local store.

Murray is a member of the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, Retail Merchants Association, president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of East Greenwich, member of the St. Joseph's Council, Knights of Columbus, and the Royal Arcanum.

## DiSalle Asked To Rule on Hike Of Water Rate

Washington, Dec. 4.—(AP)—Price Stabilizer Michael V. DiSalle was asked today to rule whether recent rate increases of the Kent County Water Authority conflict with the government's pricing regulations.

A delegation from West Warwick and Coventry called on DiSalle at his office and reported later that the price official had agreed to consider the matter and render an opinion later.

West Warwick Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis and State Sen. George Roche, who is town solicitor of Coventry, presented the complaint against the water authority to DiSalle.

Roche said he told DiSalle the water authority had increased its rates between 200 and 300 per cent.

"We feel that that is contrary to the law setting up price stabilization," Roche said. "We brought the matter to the attention of Mr. DiSalle. He said he will consider it and give us an opinion. The question is whether this authority is under the jurisdiction of DiSalle's office and under the pricing regulations."

Roche said the OPS legal office in Washington recently advised OPS officials in Rhode Island that in its opinion the water rates are not subject to the government's price regulations.

He said the visit to DiSalle today was in the nature of an appeal from that opinion.

The group, in addition to DeCiantis and Roche, included Harry F. McKanna, president of the West Warwick Town Council; Terrence E. Duffy, president of the Coventry Town Council, and Armand Guertin and Harry Erinakes, described by Roche as "irate water users."

## NINE SEEK POSTMASTER JOB IN WEST WARWICK

P.V.  
Times  
12/5/57

Interview and Investigation of All Applicants  
Under Way by Civil Service Officials.  
Required Qualifications Stressed.

Interview and investigation of all applicants for the position of postmaster at West Warwick, are being conducted this week by Marcus V. Brewster and Malcolm S. Butler, investigators for the United States Civil Service Commission. The investigative procedure is in accordance with an act of Congress effective June 25,

1938, relative to filling vacancies at all first, second and third class post offices.

Applicants under consideration for the West Warwick position are, in alphabetical order: Clarence H. Brousseau, Fulda E. Geoffrey, Clarence W. Lambert, Ulysses J. LaRoche, John H. McElroy, Henry A. Melanson, John F. Nolan, Miss Amy A. Saute and Joseph D. Yates.

The matters which the Civil Service Commission chiefly considers in grading applicants are: kind, extent and success of experience; extent of public contacts and success in meeting and dealing with the public; industry, resourcefulness and initiative; personal attributes and the absence of disqualifying defects in character and physical condition.

The Civil Service Commission gives careful and impartial consideration to all candidates, and certifies the names of the three highest eligibles for appointment in the classified civil service by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The investigators are limited to ascertaining and reporting the facts and make no recommendation as to whom shall be found the highest eligibles. That decision rests exclusively with the U.S. Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C.

## Water Rates Mass Meeting

Delegation, Returned  
from Washington,  
May Plan It

Members of the people's committee, Harry Erinakes and Armand O. Guertin of West Warwick, who are among those united in protest to the rate hike on water put into effect by the Kent County Water Authority, have returned home from Washington, D. C., with the rest of the Kent County delegation where they conferred yesterday with Michael V. DiSalle, director of the Office of Price Stabilization and were told that he will take the rate hike issue under consideration.

Erinakes said this morning that it is expected the committee of citizens of West Warwick, will meet soon and that they will possibly plan a mass meeting to discuss what has been done to date and to receive further suggestions on what their group can do about the rate hikes. All interested persons are invited to join the committee he said.

Erinakes was high in praise of the ability and sincerity of Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor and Harry F. McKanna, president of the West Warwick Town Council and Senator George Roche and Terrence Duffy, president of the Coventry Town Council at the three and one half hour conference with DiSalle yesterday.

The West Warwick group arrived home at 1 a. m. this morning by automobile. Roche and Duffy returned home by train. The entire group went to Washington at their own expense.

## SINNOTT STREET TO BE WIDENED

The West Warwick Highway Department today was to begin work on widening and straightening Sinnott Street, Arctic, located between Arctic Square and Bedard Street. Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis when reached this morning said the work is hoped to be completed by Christmas.

DeCiantis made arrangements for the project with the Sinnott estate who donated their land to enable the work to be done.

The road will run in a line with the side of the Providence Union National Bank and Trust Company, straight through to Bedard Street.

## PERENNIAL DYE WORKS WILL BE LIQUIDATED

P.V. Times  
12/11/57

Flynn, Executive at Clyde Plant, Says Catalogue Describing Machinery and Equipment is Being Prepared.

The Perennial Division of The Allied Textile Printers, Inc., at Clyde, will be liquidated at private sale, it was officially announced this morning by John J. Flynn, who has served the company in an executive capacity for many years.

A catalogue is now being pre-

pared listing and describing the various items of machinery and other plant equipment.

When contacted this morning Mr. Flynn said the plan is to dispose of the machinery in lots to suit the purchaser and to dispose of the real estate as a unit. If the real estate cannot be sold to advantage, floor space will be leased to accommodate manufacturing units.

Mr. Flynn said that his principals will give preference and special consideration to any plan to operate the plant as a growing unit.

The advantages of a fine water supply, good location, parking facilities, transportation facilities and cooperative labor conditions should attract manufacturers to this location, said Mr. Flynn who will direct the liquidation of the plant.

## 3 West Warwick Patrolmen Named in Surprise Move

In a surprise move, the West Warwick Town Council last night appointed three patrolmen to the town's permanent police force, bringing department strength to 18, including Chief Groleau.

Those named are Ira Cook, 1551 Main Street, Crompton; Louis Boudreau, Centre Street, Centreville, and Rocco Lombardi of 21 Linden Drive, Natick.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said the three men, all of whom have been working regularly on the force, were recommended by Chief Groleau as competent police officers.

Although not regularly appointed, Patrolman Cook had been working regularly on the force since the resignation of Joseph Razza more than two years ago.

A former regular patrolman and longtime special officer, Boudreau has been working as a regular patrolman without formal appointment since last June. Lombardi, who previously was a special officer, has been working regularly on the force for 10 months.

Chief Groleau pointed out later that, since parking meters were established last September, it has been necessary to assign one patrolman to meter maintenance and another to meter violation duty.

Inasmuch as these two men are tied up on parking meter business, Groleau said, the town really needs four more patrolmen to achieve the recommended ratio of one policeman to every 1000 population.

McKanna gave an optimistic report on a meeting which he, DeCiantis and others attended with Price Stabilizer Michael DiSalle in

Washington last week to urge that the Kent County Water Authority be found subject to price regulations.

"We received assurance that a memorandum would be prepared by both the legal and public utilities staff of the OPS and that an answer would be given as soon as possible," McKanna said.

He said the delegation told DiSalle of instances where water bills are higher than the customers property tax.

Also pointed out to DiSalle, he said, was a case where the water bill equals the rent a taxpayer receives from his property. He called this "pretty drastic."

Adolfo Gelli's application for a zoning exception to operate a trailer park on Quaker Lane, held over from last month, was denied on McKanna's motion. He said that he thought trailer camps are "unsightly," and added that there are none in the town now.

Another holdover zoning exception application, that of Italo Castelli for a snack bar on Quaker Lane, was granted on motion of Councilman Thomas Mello.

A third zoning application by Joseph A. Lavoie for permission to demolish and sell used cars at the rear of Bradford Court was taken under advisement, after receipt of a protest petition from 15 Phenix residents.

Four objectors, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Plourde, A. T. Dittmar and Miss Ruth Carrington, declared that the business would be a detriment to their neighborhood. When Plourde said that Lavoie already is doing business, DeCiantis warned him not to do so without a permit.

## WORKERS PETITION FOR ABATED TAXES

*Prov. Journal 12/12/57*  
Council to Talk With Warwick

### Mills Management Before Making Any Decision

The West Warwick Town Council last night, in a one and one-half hour closed meeting with representatives of 350 Warwick Mills workers, requested a meeting with management representatives before acting on the workers' petition for a mill tax abatement.

Mill employees, in an unprecedented plea, had asked the council last month to allow a 10-year abatement to help save their jobs.

The mill, on Brookside Avenue, Arctic, has fallen on hard times. It recently sold most of its property to George Dempsey of Massachusetts, and is leasing it from him with a proviso that it pay the taxes. Town taxes amount to about \$15,000.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis referred all queries to the workers, after the meeting, which was held in a private room after the regular council session.

Leonide Beauchaine, spokesman with William Joubert, workers' committee chairman, said "the outcome sounded very favorable for us. The council feels we should meet again with them, and suggests that they would like to meet someone from the company to see what its plans are before deciding."

Beauchaine, who is president of Local 404, Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, at the mill, stressed that the committee was not a union group, "but all the employees got together and felt they should do something to try to save the mill."

When the mill was sold several weeks ago, its attorneys said the sale might be the last step the mill could take in an attempt to stay in business.

## Judge Leighton, Defense Lawyer, Urge Change in Shellfish Laws

### Court Finds Finn Probably Guilty in Quahaug Case, Dismisses Holmes on Issue of Illegality of Wardens' Entry, Without Warrant and Over Protests

A district court judge and a defense attorney agreed yesterday that the state's shellfish laws should be changed "to protect the wardens as well as those who handle shellfish."

Their comments sprang from three shellfish cases before Fourth District Court, in one of which Warren B. Finn Jr., East Greenwich shellfish dealer, was judged probably guilty on a charge of possession of illegal quahaugs, after admitting sufficient evidence to convict. The case was referred to the Kent County grand jury.

While Finn was found probably guilty, a similar case against James Holmes, manager of the Finn Shellfish Co., was dismissed by Judge James W. Leighton. The judge granted a defense motion to dismiss the case on the ground that fish and game wardens had no right, over objections voiced by Holmes, to search and seize evidence without a warrant.

#### Opposed Entry

Holmes had opposed the warden's entry on Aug. 5, when they seized 640 quarts of undersized quahaugs, whereas Finn offered the wardens no opposition on Oct. 2, when they seized 166 quarts of undersized quahaugs.

In the third case, Judge Leighton fined James F. Healey, 30, of 119 Winter Avenue, Conimicut, \$50 and costs on a charge of illegal possession of undersized quahaugs. Wardens seized 16 quarts of undersized quahaugs Oct. 7, and testimony indicated their visit was not protested. Healey appealed.

"There should be considerable thought given to changing these shellfish laws, to protect the wardens as well as those who handle shellfish," Judge Leighton said. "This is a harsh law—which is no concern of the court, nor is it the responsibility of the court to fill in the loopholes in it. But the shellfish laws should be codified."

#### Public Concern

"I realize the difficulties of wardens in enforcing the present laws, and it is a matter which should concern the public for it deals with a food and therefore affects the community and the state."

Judge Leighton asked Michael DeCiantis, attorney for Finn and Holmes, how wardens could proceed

to enforce the laws. DeCiantis replied that "the legislature has to amend the present law to circumvent this frustration of wardens."

DeCiantis said wardens must observe or act on complaints to get warrants, without which they have no right to make arrests. He said the present setup constituted "a hardship on wardens and dealers alike."

Alfred E. Motta, who prosecuted the state's cases as special assistant to the attorney general, contended that deputies are empowered by law to arrest and seize without warrants on any boat, and may enter public places for inspection. He termed the Finn Shellfish Company a public place, and said the wardens' entry there was legal since it was unopposed at first.

The wardens' right to enter premises for other than inspections in connection with enforcement of pollution laws was challenged by defense counsel. Judge Leighton held that authorization given the director of agriculture and his agents by the director of health on Apr. 26, 1948, to make inspections and enforce the shellfish laws concerning polluted areas, was in effect an authorization only for the director.

#### Director's Power Only

The judge said the health director had attempted to "confer his authority to delegate authority to another," but that under the law the health director alone had such power, and he had named the director of agriculture as his agent.

Healey's counsel, Joseph G. Reed, also raised the question of the wardens' right to proceed without warrants, but Judge Leighton ruled that in the Healey case entry had been condoned, where it had been objected to in the Holmes case.

In dismissing the case against Holmes, Judge Leighton said he would not order the 640 quarts of seized quahaugs returned, for by so doing he would be placing the court in the position of condoning the possession of underseized quahaugs.

The seized shellfish are frozen at the State Institution. They were the subject of earlier litigation, passed on their legal taking in Maine, where a 10 per cent ratio of undersized quahaugs is permitted. The ban on possession in Rhode Island was subsequently upheld in that case.

## ARCTIC HIGHWAY ACTION PRESSED

*Prov. Journal Dec 19, 1957*  
Judge Quinn Says Town Should

### Be Prepared to Do Something by Next Spring

Judge Robert E. Quinn, chairman of the West Warwick Planning Board, yesterday declared that the town should be prepared by next spring to undertake construction of new streets, or whatever else is needed, to alleviate Arctic traffic congestion.

He asserted, at a board meeting attended by Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, that competent opinion should be sought as to how much the town could logically borrow. He said he believes it could borrow \$1,000,000 to finance projects without boosting taxes generally.

Highway widening and straightening throughout the town, highway improvements, more off-street parking for Arctic business center and pre-empting land for recreation are of primary importance, he declared.

He said he would ask Philip S. Mancini, state public works director, to complete his current study of Arctic road problems soon.

Judge Quinn and Alexander DiMartino, board vice chairman, questioned why the town council had not followed other board recommendations already made. They include abolishing the town dump, Riverpoint, as a health menace, having combustibles burned in Warwick's incinerator and dumping non-combustibles in a new location; pre-empting land for recreational purposes throughout the town; and widening the corner of Main and East Pike Streets.

Judge Quinn and Albert C. Coutu of the board pointed out that some land recommended as suitable for recreational purposes now has been lost to building developments and another location, on the Lawson Plat, Natick, appears about to be developed.

Judge Quinn noted that smog from the town dump recently created a traffic hazard in Riverpoint. He said that another area for dumping non-combustibles could be found, inasmuch as one previously suggested, opposite Brookfield Hills Plat, Natick, met with residents' objections.

DeCiantis and McKanna said nothing about the dump-moving proposal. They explained that Councilman Toby Pucino of Natick is investigating the possibility of the developer giving to the town, or the town pre-empting, recreational land on the Lawson Plat. Widening of the corner at Pike and East Main Streets has been held up while family affairs in connection with necessary condemnation of the Simas property there are settled, they said.

## KILPECK PICKED UP FOR AUTO ASSAULT

*Prov. Journal Dec 23, 1951*  
James Kilpeck, 37, of 19 Howard Street, Coventry, wanted in connection with the running down and the serious injuring of Kilpeck's former fiancée by an automobile in Natick Friday, was picked up by Warwick police late yesterday afternoon.

Capt. Samuel W. Henderson, who apprehended the ex-convict on an Apponaug street corner two blocks from police headquarters, said Kilpeck would be questioned and arraigned sometime today after being held overnight on an open charge.

Kilpeck's alleged companion, Joseph Robalewski, 20, of 135 Webster Avenue, Providence, is free in \$2000 bail after he pleaded innocent in Fourth District Court Tuesday of assault with a dangerous weapon—an automobile. Hospitalized in the accident was Eleanor Kilbane, 2., of 21 Adelaide Avenue, Natick.

Henderson said Kilpeck's father delivered his son to the door of Warwick police headquarters yesterday afternoon, but that the wanted man then "got cold feet" and walked away.

He was picked up a few minutes later when Henderson learned by telephone that the father had kept his promise to surrender his son.

Henderson said he and Patrolman Joseph Gallucci of the inspectors' division visited the Kilpeck home earlier in the afternoon and found their man had returned. The father made his promise because his wife was "serious, ill" and he feared the consequences of an arrest in the home, Henderson said.

Kilpeck apparently spent the five days "bumming around," Henderson explained, at one point arranging to have a letter he had written to "a girl friend" mailed from Albany, N.Y.

## DENIES ASSAULT WITH AUTOMOBILE

*Prov. Journal 12/21/51*  
Coventry Man Pleads Innocent  
of Running Down Former  
Fiancee Last Friday

Charged with assault with a dangerous weapon—an automobile—James Kilpeck, 37, of 19 Howard Street, Coventry, pleaded innocent in Fourth District Court yesterday despite an earlier admission to Warwick police, they said, that he operated the car which struck and seriously injured his former fiancée last Friday.

Police said Kilpeck gave a written statement on the Natick accident, but that he objected to the charge placed against him. He was remanded to Kent County Jail by Judge James W. Leighton in lieu of \$2000 bail.

Both Kilpeck and his admitted companion, Joseph Robalewski, 20, of 135 Webster Avenue, Providence, are scheduled for trial Thursday in East Greenwich on the same assault counts.

Police Chief Sprague said he has not yet decided whether the charge against Robalewski will be changed, reduced or dismissed. The youth now is free in \$2000 bail after arraignment Tuesday.

Victim of the accident was Eleanor Kilbane, 29, of 21 Adelaide Avenue, Natick. She is in Kent County Memorial Hospital with a fractured pelvis and left hip.

Kilpeck has a lengthy record dating from 1928 of some 15 offenses in eight states—Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia, according to Sprague. In all but Virginia and Maryland he served jail terms.

Sentences of from 60 days to five years were handed down on charges which included forgery, larceny, driving off an automobile and embezzlement, the latter in Providence, Sprague said.

## PLEADS INNOCENT IN AUTO FATALITY

*Prov. Journal Dec 21, 1951*  
Coventry Driver Is Arraigned  
After Texan Is Killed in  
Warwick Crash

Gerard Duquette, 38, of 10 Howard Street, Coventry, driver of an auto involved in a fatal accident early yesterday, pleaded not guilty to a charge of reckless driving resulting in death, when he was arraigned before Judge James W. Leighton in East Greenwich District Court. Bail was set at \$2000 for trial Dec. 27.

Police said Duquette was following his brother-in-law, Raymond Charron, 37, of 129 Everglade Avenue, Greenwood, down Warwick Avenue after a trip to the State Airport, Hills Grove, shortly after 1 a.m.

Charles Webster, 35, of 1705 Broadway, San Antonio, Tex., an Air Force crew chief, was riding with Charron, police said, when Duquette's car plowed into the rear of his brother-in-law's auto. Duquette's car overturned, but he escaped uninjured.

Webster and Charron were taken to Rhode Island Hospital where Webster was pronounced dead. Charron, at his request, was removed to Osteopathic Hospital where his condition was reported last night to be "satisfactory."

It was the second time a passenger in Charron's car met death. In October, 1945, a car driven by him hit the concrete abutment of a railroad underpass at Apponaug and one of his two passengers was killed. A grand jury failed to indict him on a reckless driving charge and the case was dismissed.

## Clyde Plant Is to Be Kept Intact a While, Flynn Says

*Prov. Journal Dec 24, 1951*  
The management of the Perennial Division, Allied Textile Printers, the Clyde firm which early this month announced its doors would close permanently, told a special union committee last week that the plant will be kept intact for about two months in a final attempt to find a buyer, John J. Flynn, personnel manager and chief engineer, revealed last night.

A committee from Local 422, Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, met with plant officials Wednesday in the firm's Paterson, N.J., office in an attempt to persuade management to retain ownership and reopen or, failing that, to sell the plant in one piece so it could be reopened by a new owner as a textile finishing concern.

Since then no word had been forthcoming on the result of the conference either from Hyman Haber, treasurer of Allied Textile Printers, or Ralph D. Petrarca, Local 422 president.

Flynn said that if no buyer is found for the whole mill, the tentative plan now is to sell the equipment individually and to attempt to sell the real estate to a buyer who will operate the plant as a single unit.

If no such buyer is found, Flynn said, Allied will retain ownership and let the buildings out to small industries.

Flynn said he is now directing the compiling of a catalogue of equipment to be completed in about three weeks for issuance to persons interested in purchasing.

Although the firm, popularly known as the Clyde Print Works, has had some offers for purchase of the buildings, it has been "a tough problem to find someone who wants to enter," Flynn said.

"I think that eventually something will work out for the people in the community," he said. The

Perennial Division, formerly the economic backbone of the Clyde section of West Warwick, employed at its peak about 560 workers. Since it closed last June, former workers have found it increasingly hard to get other jobs.

Flynn pointed out that the plant has many advantages to offer a prospective buyer, including good railroad and trucking connections, 150,000 square feet of floor space, and land amounting to about 35 acres for expansion, only about five or six of which are taken up by buildings.

## BROTHERS-IN-LAW FACE AUTO CHARGES

*Prov. Journal 12/21/51*  
Pawtucket Valley Office, 15 Washington Street, West Warwick  
Telephone Valley 1-0570 1-0746-W

A Coventry man and his brother-in-law were arraigned yesterday in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich, on charges of reckless driving resulting in fatal injuries to a third man who rode with one of them.

The charges arose out of the death Dec. 20 of Charles L. Webster, 35, of San Antonio, Tex., an Air Force crew chief, as the result of an accident on Warwick Avenue in Hoxsie.

Gerard E. Duquette, 38, of 10 Howard Street, Coventry, who police allege drove one of the cars, retracted a previous plea of innocent, admitted sufficient evidence to convict and was bound over to the grand jury in \$2000 bail.

His brother-in-law, Raymond G. Charron, 37, of 129 Everglade Avenue, Warwick, just out of the hospital, pleaded innocent to the charge and was released under \$2000 bail for trial Jan. 3.

Police charge Webster was riding with Charron when Duquette's car plowed into the rear of his brother-in-law's auto.

# Colorful Capt. Clarence Horton Dies at Self-Reckoned 92 Years

FETED JUDGES, LEGISLATORS ANNUALLY

Was Regular Visitor at  
General Assembly and  
Court Sessions

By JOHN DRIVER

A special chair at the State House will be vacant for the first time in more than 30 years when the General Assembly convenes tomorrow.

Capt. Clarence E. Horton, who wove into a legend his white beard, colorful uniforms and tenacious attendance at legislative and court sessions, died shortly after noon yesterday at Rhode Island Hospital.

His real age is a part of the legend. Captain Horton, who entertained judges and legislators at an annual birthday party, claimed to 92 years. Cranston city hall and Providence Fire Department records rob him of four of those years.

But with a legend, the years are unimportant and conflicting dates merely add to the story.

More than two years ago Captain Horton promised a reporter who went to his room at 193 Benefit Street that he would meet him the next day at the Court House "without fail. . . Unless Horace Knowles, next door, gets me. He's right down in my last will and testament for \$500 to bury me. If that don't bury me deep enough so the devil can't reach me, they can send me on a slow boat to China, for all I care."

He had cheated death before. After he had been the victim of a hit-run driver in 1948 and suffered three heart attacks in early 1949 his physician tried to deter him from a proposed trip to New York where a chartered command was celebrating an anniversary.

"If you go, get a return ticket so they can tack it on the box you come in," the captain said the doctor told him.

He went and rode back on the cushions. And on that trip he got some extra publicity when a Gotham lovely asked him for a kiss and he accommodated her with flourishes as the flashbulbs popped.

Captain Horton, after his retirement from the Providence Fire Department as a private "at 12 o'clock noon on April Fool's Day, 1919," began the uncomplicated life of regularity that grew into the legend.

He lived in his room with six canaries in four cages. He awakened early, began his day with a coffee royal, "and then I cook myself two eggs, bacon and toast."

He tidied his room, groomed his beard and dressed for the day's excursions, to the courts and to the Hill when the legislature was in session.

He wore his "maiden mustache," which dated to 1894. His beard, he said, had been shaven only once since that time.

And he boasted that he could thread a fine needle with white or black thread. His doctor, he said, attributed his excellent eyesight to his not shaving. "The shaving day after day irritates the optic nerve some way."



Capt. Clarence E. Horton

Captain Horton chose his court cases carefully. He liked some excitement and he listened intently to the evidence.

Attorneys, confident of their courtroom judgment, lost more than one box of cigars to him in wagers on the outcome of trials.

He usually lunched downtown. His chief evening hobby was the fights—by television in a downtown barroom where he consumed one bourbon and soda, or at the auditorium on Monday nights where he watched the blood flow, from a box some distance from ringside.

## Host to Leading Figures

Each year on Mar. 7 he was host to leading figures of the judiciary and legislature at his birthday party where he carefully mixed raspberry shrub for his guests and then, resplendent in his uniform of a captain of the First Light Infantry Veterans, played to the hilt his role of host.

His good health was one of his great prides. He was the last of a family of nine children and he had outlived two wives and his own three children. He explained his longevity:

"Plenty of water and damn little booze. I haven't had a teaspoon of beer in 20 years. . . I've never been hungry in my life. I eat at night before I go to bed, and I never go to bed before the news flashes at 11 o'clock and often later."

Other fetishes included avoidance of putting ice cream or "anything else cold in my stomach," and no cigarettes. He smoked a pipe and cigars.

## Recalls Rockefeller

He said that John D. Rockefeller, whom he claimed to have known intimately in Florida, often told him, "I'd give all my wealth if I had your digestive organs."

"You know," Captain Horton said, "he couldn't eat anything."

Captain Horton was born in the Elmwood section of Providence, then a part of Cranston, on Mar. 7, 1859, according to his own reckoning. Official records in Providence and Cranston put his birthdate on Mar. 7, 1863.

He often told of how his grandmother had taken him to see "the woodsplitter" (Abraham Lincoln) in Philadelphia in 1865.

Captain Horton, who told reporters, "I'm really a colonel, not a captain," said that he was a liaison officer with the rank of colonel in the Spanish-American War. "I enlisted with the late Alonzo R. Williams and served in Cuba. I knew Teddy Roosevelt. He was a grand man."

He said he joined the Providence Fire Department, the "fifth permanent member to be appointed," in 1887 and he drove the horse-drawn equipment of that era through city streets. He vividly recalled a runaway on Prairie Avenue and proudly asserted that he had driven the last fire team in the city and that he was the only man ever to take a team up College Hill on a sleety night when the hill was ice-coated.

## Married in 1882

He married his first wife, "a Philadelphia Quakeress" whom he met in Atlantic City in 1882. She died in 1920 and he married again in 1923. His second wife died in 1939.

In his later years the captain marched on with his legend. He had numbers of photographs of large dinners, most of them showing him in the foreground.

A large oil portrait of himself in uniform hung in his room and there was a picture of a young woman, taken from a calendar, that was "too good for anyone in their right mind to throw away."

He began his hobby of court and legislative hall-sitting "because it keeps me from wearing myself out in a rocking chair."

He abandoned bingo because "you can't beat it."

Among his friends he numbered several from governors and a host of court judges and attaches.

Two years ago when a Sunday writer and photographer were visiting him on Benefit Street, preparing a Rhode Island story, he cautioned the photographer—

"Take your time. I've got all the time in the world. All the time in the world."

# FOUND INNOCENT OF DRIVING CHARGE

Robert J. Charron Involved in

Warwick Smash in Which  
Soldier Died

Noting that it will be much more difficult for the prosecution to obtain convictions on fatal accidents under the present motor vehicle code, Judge James W. Leighton, in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich, freed one of two men charged by Warwick police with responsibility for the death of Charles Webster in an accident on Warwick Avenue, Dec. 20.

He found Raymond J. Charron, 37, of 129 Everglade Avenue, Warwick, innocent after trial, of driving with reckless disregard for the safety of others, resulting in the death of Webster, a 35-year-old serviceman from San Antonio.

Gerard Duquette, 38, of 10 Howard Street, Coventry, driver of the second car in the fatal accident, testified that his car struck Charron's from behind and spun both vehicles in opposite directions. His car overturned and after his "black-out" Duquette said, he saw Webster and Charron lying beside Charron's car on the sidewalk and covered by blankets. He said he didn't know who was driving.

Duquette is awaiting grand jury action on his charge of driving with reckless disregard for the safety of others, having been bound over after admitting sufficient evidence to convict and been adjudged probably guilty.

"To be considered, however," Judge Leighton said, is the "scope of 'reckless disregard' as written into the Motor Vehicle Code when the law was changed from 'driving to endanger' and if the vehicles were traveling in the same direction from 45 to 50 miles an hour and Duquette's car hit Charron's car in the rear, then I cannot conceive of Charron being found guilty beyond reasonable doubt of driving with reckless disregard for the safety of others."

# BILL TO OUST WATER AUTHORITY MEMBERS IS PASSED BY HOUSE

P.V.  
Times  
January 4, 1952

## R. I. Senate Gets DiFiore Measure on Kent County

(By Staff Correspondent)  
State House.—Under bi-partisan stimulus, a bill ousting the five members of the Kent County Water Authority was whipped through the House yesterday afternoon and today was before the Senate for concurrent approval.

The House acted with a speed and unanimity extremely rare in such an important matter. Without even referring it to a committee, the bill passed with no objections immediately upon its introduction by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) who was joined by two other Democrats and four Republicans as co-sponsors.

DiFiore charged that the water authority was created by the General Assembly in 1946 as a "public benefit corporation" but it had recently increased its rates by as much as 300 per cent. The communities of West Warwick, Warwick, East Greenwich, Coventry and part of Cranston are served by the company, which is involved in court litigation because it contends the state public utility administrator has no jurisdiction over its rates.

Demanding immediate consideration of his bill, DiFiore waved a petition which he said was signed by 1500 customers of the water authority or 20 per cent of all of those served by it. The West Warwick solon told the House only time prevented those circulating the petition from obtaining many more signatures.

The bill does two things: It terminates the terms of office of the five present members of the authority—Col. Patrick H. Quinn, Democrat and chairman, of West Warwick; George C. Salter of Warwick, Thomas Freeman of East Greenwich, Norman E. Gillespie of West Warwick and Edwin H. Arnold of Coventry, all Republicans. And it also changes the method of electing their successors to this degree:

### Present Law Cited

Under present law, the town councils of each of the four communities served, each elect one member who then proceed to

elect the fifth member, although he must come from the town with the largest number of water users, which is currently West Warwick. Mr. Quinn, the only Democrat and a dominant member of the authority, was elected under that provision.

Under the DiFiore bill, the town councils of each of the four communities would continue to elect one member each but the fifth would be elected by the town council of the town with the greatest number of customers. In addition, instead of each member serving five years as at present, the terms would be staggered with the Warwick representative serving two years, East Greenwich, three years; Coventry, four years, and West Warwick, five years.

DiFiore said the rates charged by the water authority under its new schedule were outrageous. Using what he said was a basic unit of 33,333 gallons a year, he said Providence charges \$8, Pawtucket \$10, Cranston \$8, but the Kent County Water Authority charges \$25. For each additional 1000 gallons, he said, the water authority charges 75 cents. For hydrants, some of which have never been used, the charge now is \$50, he said.

Co-sponsors with Rep. DiFiore on the bill are Reps. Ulysses LaRoche of West Warwick and Michael Sepe of Cranston, Democrats, and Reps. Lloyd W. Hargraves of Scituate, Joseph E. Malley and Fred Arnold of Cranston, and Darius L. Goff and Herbert B. Carkin of Warwick, Republicans.

## HOUSE WOULD OUST KENT WATER BODY

P.V. Journal  
January 4, 1952  
Passes Bipartisan Bill Which

### Would Let 4 Municipalities Appoint Successors

The five members of the Kent County Water Authority who have been under fire for making rate increases would be ousted and their successors immediately named by the four municipalities involved, under the terms of a bipartisan bill unanimously passed by the House of Representatives yesterday.

Rep. Gerard DiFiore, West Warwick Democrat who sponsored the measure with two other Democrats and four Republicans, told the House his bill would give Warwick, West Warwick, Coventry and East Greenwich the right "to name the people who will work for the people."

The Senate had adjourned before the bill could reach there.

DiFiore said the councils involved could rename the same members or appoint new men. He emphasized that his legislation was aimed primarily at the seat held by the fifth member of the authority, Patrick H. Quinn, West Warwick Democrat, who is chairman.

Quinn was named to the authority by the four other members. The bill would do away with that procedure and allow the West Warwick Town Council, the town having the greatest number of water users in the area, to name the fifth member.

The authority was created by the General Assembly in 1946. Since that time, water rates have been raised more than 250 per cent, and the authority has come under bitter criticism by many of its customers.

Unrest among the system's customers led recently to a move to place the authority's rates under supervision of the public utilities administrator. The authority has contested the move, and the case shortly is scheduled to be heard by the State Supreme Court.

The other four members of the authority, all Republicans, are George B. Salter of West Warwick, Thomas Freeman of East Greenwich, Norman E. Gillespie of West Warwick and Edwin H. Arnold of Coventry.

Arnold's term expired last June and was not renewed, but he is remaining on the authority until a successor is named.

Quinn had no comment on the legislative action yesterday, saying he never discusses bills he has not seen.

Gillespie said he "supposed" the bill was "all right", and added he

was "sick and tired of the whole thing."

Salter, secretary of the authority, commented:

"The Kent County Water Authority's side of the picture has never been presented to the public."

He said the authority will present a "complete picture" of its operations at a meeting of the West Warwick Chamber of Commerce next Monday. "We serve without pay, and we try to do two things, principally provide more water and better water," Salter said. He said there has been "a tremendous amount of misinformation regarding the authority."

Under present law, the councils of Warwick, East Greenwich, West Warwick and Coventry each named one member to the Authority and a fifth member was elected by the other four.

DiFiore told House members that the present authority had increased rates 300 per cent. He said that Providence water users pay \$8 for the first 33,333 gallons of water used, but Kent County customers pay \$25 for the same volume.

In addition, he said, Kent County customers are charged 75 cents for each 1000 additional gallons used.

As he talked, DiFiore waved a petition which he said contained the signatures of 1500 water users in Kent County who are protesting the present authority's actions.

"These names represent 20 per cent of the customers," he said,

"but 100 per cent would be there if they had the chance."

Under the bill the terms of office for Authority members also would be changed. At present each member serves for five years. The new terms would be as follows:

Warwick, two years; East Greenwich, three years; Coventry, four years; and West Warwick, five years. The fifth member would have a one-year term.

Joining DiFiore in sponsoring the bill were Reps. Ulysses La Roche (D-West Warwick), Michael Sepe (D-Cranston), Lloyd W. Hargraves (R-Scituate), Joseph E. Malley (R) and Fred S. Arnold (R), both of Cranston, and Herbert B. Carkin and Darius L. Goff, Warwick Republicans.

# BLOCK SENATE VOTE ON DI FIORE BILL TO OUST WATER BOARD MEMBERS

*P.V. Times* Jan 5, 1952  
Sen. Proctor (R), East Greenwich, and Sen. McCabe (D), Providence, Contend Measure Should Receive Committee Study.

(By Staff Correspondent)  
State House.—An attempt to get immediate concurrent action in the Senate to the House bill firing the present five members of the Kent County Water Authority was blocked yesterday afternoon and the measure went to the corporations committee. The committee will meet Tuesday to consider it.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) with bi-partisan support, sped through the House Thursday after its sponsor charged that the water company last year billed its customers at rates as much as 300 per cent higher than they had been previously. In some cases, DiFiore said, home owners are finding that their water bills are far higher than their real estate taxes.

The ouster measure passed the House without opposition and was immediately ordered transmitted to the Senate. When it got there, Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick) asked for immediate consideration but there were objections from both Sen. Howard S. Proctor of East Greenwich and Sen. Raymond A. McCabe of Providence, Republican and Democratic floor leaders, who contended it ought to receive committee study. The bill then was sent to the corporations com-

mittee which will meet Tuesday to consider its provisions.

After firing the present five members, the bill would permit the councils of each of the four communities served to elect one member each and the community requiring the most service to elect the fifth. Under present law, each council elects one and the four then elect the fifth who must come from the town requiring the most service.

## Bill to Oust Water Board Runs Into Snag in Senate

*Pro. Journal Jan 5-1952*  
Objections blocked immediate Senate consideration yesterday of a House-passed bill to oust the five members of the Kent County Water Authority, under severe criticism for increasing water rates.

Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick) asked unanimous consent for an immediate vote on the bill when it was transmitted from the lower branch, but both Senators Howard S. Proctor of East Greenwich, Republican leader, and Raymond A. McCabe of Providence, Democratic leader, objected. They said the bill was of sufficient importance to have committee consideration.

The measure was referred to the corporations committee, which will meet Tuesday to consider it.

A request for a public hearing was read to the Senate. It was in a letter written to Sen. William B. Sweeney (R-Warwick) by George B. Salter, Water Authority secretary, who said he was "amazed" to learn that the House had passed such a bill.

"This would seem to me to be a very high-handed procedure," Salter wrote. "The members of the Kent County Water Authority should have an opportunity to defend their actions."

The secretary charged that some of the remarks of Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), one of the sponsors of the bill, were "misleading" and that every action the authority has taken was the "result of mature judgment and sound advice."

"There are two sides to every story, and I sincerely hope you will prevail upon the members of the Senate to take no action on this ridiculous bill until the members of the board of the Kent County Water Authority have an opportunity to be heard and to state the reasons for the necessity for water rate increases."

## Water Board Ouster Stalled in Senate

*Bulletin Jan 5-1952*  
Measure Referred to Committee  
After Objection by Proctor, McCabe

Objections blocked immediate Senate consideration yesterday of a House-passed bill to oust the five members of the Kent County Water Authority, under severe criticism for increasing water rates.

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The measure was referred to the corporations committee, which will meet Tuesday to consider it.

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### FULL HOUSE EXPECTED

The Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce expects that the standing room only sign will be out when the five members of the Kent County Water Authority speak Monday at 8 p.m. in Congdon Grain Co., hall, Main Street, Arctic.

Henry A. Melancon, secretary, said that he and Charles H. Congdon, president, decided yesterday that the general public cannot be invited because the hall will accommodate only about 100 persons.

Melancon said certain town officials and civic leaders of Coventry and West Warwick had been invited to listen to the authority members explain their position on the increased water rates.

a letter written to Sen. William B. Sweeney (R-Warwick) by George B. Salter, Water Authority secretary, who said he was "amazed" to learn that the House had passed such a bill.

"This would seem to me to be a very high-handed procedure," Salter wrote. "The members of the Kent County Water Authority should have an opportunity to defend their actions."

The secretary charged that some of the remarks of Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), one of the sponsors of the bill, were "misleading" and that every action the authority has taken was the "result of mature judgment and sound advice."

"There are two sides to every story, and I sincerely hope you will prevail upon the members of the Senate to take no action on this ridiculous bill until the members of the board of the Kent County Water Authority have an opportunity to be heard and to state the reasons for the necessity for water rate increases."

### Walk to Coventry Proves Painful for Town Solicitor DeCiantis

*Journal 1/5/52*  
Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick won't walk to Coventry again in a hurry to extend New Year's felicitations to their sister town.

On one of his habitual long walks, the West Warwick official this week dropped in at the Washington store of Terrence E. Duffy, Coventry town council president, wished the town well, and then was attacked by a dog as he continued his walk.

DeCiantis was treated by Dr. Joseph A. Wittig for a bite on the right leg.

Moving swiftly to make amends, Coventry police dispatched Dr. William E. Randall, dog officer, to apprehend the inhospitable Coventry pup. Dr. Randall ordered the dog tied up for 10 days.

## WATER AUTHORITY HEARING ON JAN. 25

*P.V. Times Jan 8-1952*  
The Rhode Island Supreme Court yesterday set the state's case against the Kent County Water Authority down for hearing Jan. 25, according to Town Solicitor Michael DiCiantis of West Warwick.

The court also granted the city of Cranston permission to join with solicitors of West Warwick, Coventry, Scituate, and East Greenwich in arguing as friends of the court, DeCiantis said.

The state instituted its case last March, when Thomas A. Kennelly, public utility administrator, filed a petition to enjoin the authority from collecting increased rates and to direct it to comply with the public utility act just like other private utilities.

Pending outcome of the litigation, all funds received by the water authority over and above its old rates are being held in a special fund by court order for later rebate to customers or retention by the authority.

## Arnold and Gillespie Seek Exit

*P.V. Times Jan 8-1952*  
Ready to Resign from  
Kent County Water  
Authority

Both Edwin H. Arnold of Coventry and Norman E. Gillespie of West Warwick offered their resignation from the Kent County Water Authority last night.

Arnold speaking directly to Senator George Roche who is also the town solicitor of Coventry said "The town solicitors have us in the palms of their hands. I don't know why they haven't replaced me? My term expired last August. They are passing up a golden opportunity. They can replace me tonight and another member whose term expires next July. You can get a hero to replace us and reduce the rates but you are not going to get the improvements you need."

Norman Gillespie said "It has been brought out that the water authority has good advisors with the Industrial Trust Company, Providence, as their fiscal agent, the firm of Hinckley, Allen, Salisbury and Parsons, Providence as their general counsel; Jenks and Ballou, Providence their consulting engineers; and Ernst and Ernst, Providence, their auditors. I don't profess to be a financier or an engineer. I was appointed by the town council to serve the people. I listened to the advice of the engineers. I hear criticisms, but I feel I have conducted myself honorably and properly and I feel that if anyone in West Warwick wants to take my place I would be glad to have them do so. I would be happy, most happy to resign."

## Kent County Water Authority Explains Pay-as-You-Go Policy at Public Meeting

*P.V. Times Jan 8-1952*  
Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick  
Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

At a Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting in Arctic, marked by assertions that Kent County Water Authority customers are "in revolt" over increased rates, authority officials last night explained they are trying to make badly needed improvements on a pay-as-you-go basis by raising rates.

Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry member of the authority, declared he wanted to spike rumors in the Pawtuxet Valley that authority members stand to gain personally, in as much as none own authority bonds, and all serve without pay.

"We don't own any more of the water authority than you," he told about 50 listeners.

Speaking in the absence of Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, who became ill yesterday afternoon while assembling data for the meeting, Arnold declared that no authority member had received more than \$200 expenses since the authority was created.

### Lists Pollution Threats

He cited pollution threats as follows: in the vicinity of Carr's Pond Reservoir, West Greenwich; a dangerously inadequate standpipe in Arctic; need for new mains; more water supply generally; and a new standpipe in East Greenwich. Arnold said the new rates would provide an estimated \$85,000 annually to remove these threats, after which rates could be cut back.

In a question and answer period, after a long explanation of the value of water to individuals and industries, he brushed off suggestions that the authority could have amortized cost of the needed improvements over a longer period, thus making it easier on present customers.

"Some say it is better to cut the dog's tail off a little at a time," he said. "But I believe if you've got a bad tooth, pull it out."

Declaring that the authority probably had made a mistake in not bringing its problems before the public before last night's meeting, Arnold added that the board's rate-raising action was taken only to supply more and better water for the homes and industries it serves.

### "Have to Pay"

Any municipal water works has to pay the bill somehow, he said, adding that if funds did not come from a water rate rise they would have to come from real estate taxes. He pointed out that the Westerly Water Board had asked a 15 per cent increase and Newport Water Authorities are going to seek a rate boost.

"We cannot meet expenses at our present rate," he said.

He declared that among other things, 10 miles of four-inch main must be replaced or insurance rates may go up. The tie-in with Scituate Reservoir is costing more than anticipated, he said, and, although lines are laid, a pumping station is yet to be installed.

In East Greenwich, land on which a standpipe is located can't be leased again, and a new standpipe will have to be set up within three or four years, he said.

Arnold called a bill introduced last week by Rep. Gerard Di Fiore (D-West Warwick), and passed by the House of Representatives, that would oust the five authority members, ill-advised.

"What good will it do to throw us out? You've got to put somebody else in. Sure, you could be a

hero by cutting the rates for three or four years, but you've got to make improvements. It's a very thankless job."

### "Can Appoint Successor"

"Throw us out if you disagree," he said. "We're doing the best we know how and trying to get you good water."

Pointing out that his water authority term as representative from Coventry expired last summer, he said he was glad to help get the authority on its feet, but "they can appoint my successor tonight."

Arnold asserted he does not believe the authority should be under regulation of the state public utilities administration, a status which the state is seeking to es-

tablish by a case against the authority pending in the State Supreme Court. He said the Providence Water Supply Board is not under such regulation and does not have to go to the utilities director each time it wants to do something. "I hope the rate prevails," he said. "You people are going to suffer if it doesn't prevail. Our fault has been in not holding meetings like this and saying, 'here's the problem, what do you want to do about it?'"

The Arctic standpipe was condemned years ago, but is still being used, George B. Salter of Warwick, authority secretary, said, although Jenks & Ballou, authority engineers, have called it a hazard.

## Resignations Recommended

*P.V. Times Jan 8-1952*  
DeCiantis Refers to  
Members of Water  
Authority

Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick, said this morning that "Evidently, after Edwin H. Arnold of the Kent County Water Authority got through with his talk last night at the meeting of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce, we find they bought a 'Pig In The Poke' and the best service that the present members of the authority can render the people of this town is to submit their resignations to their respective town councils right away before they begin to spend more money as foolishly as they spent \$2,225,000 for the bad pipes, bad water and bad everything."

DeCiantis who was not in attendance at the meeting last night said "The people of this town can certainly dispense with the services of Norman Gillespie on the water authority. The town council will be very glad to have him send his resignation to the town council and I assure him that it will be accepted. At least the other members of the authority are not dodging the responsibility."

Gillespie is just as much responsible for the condition today as is any other member of the authority."

Gillespie, who offered his resignation last night, could not be reached for comment, this morning.

# WATER AUTHORITY DECLARES URGENT IMPROVEMENTS IN SYSTEM REQUIRED

P. V. Times  
Jan. 8-1954

## INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR SERVICE

### Tells Chamber of Commerce Inexhaustible Supply Sought

The Kent County Water Authority last night, for the first time, publicly explained their side of the controversial rate hike issue, bringing out to light there are extreme dangers to public health and property in the present system which they are trying to improve through the rate hike.

They apologized through spokesman Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry's representative on the board that they didn't explain their problems earlier to prevent the trouble and confusion of today and in the same breath suggested to the town solicitors that the authority members be replaced with other men, even at a salary which is something the authority members themselves don't get.

Authority members defended their rate increase because they can't meet expenses under the old rate schedule; they want to give the community more water because their present supply is not inexhaustible; to overcome the drinking of poor water formerly from Fiskeville and now from Carr's pond; to replace the water standpipe near St. Joseph's Cemetery, Arctic, which their engineers will not consider as their responsibility because it may fall flat any time threatening the dwellings in the area; because if the insurance companies knew how low the water pressure was at some of the hydrants, especially in Arctic, the rates would be increased; because new street and plat developments, all require extra expense and has to be taken from the \$85,000 annual surplus, the only surplus which the authority receives under the new rate.

#### History of System

Before conducting the answer and question program, an account of which is found in another section of this newspaper, Arnold gave the history of the water system in the Pawtuxet Valley and the reasons why the municipalities took over and the operations of the authority today. He was followed in his message to the meeting of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce held at the office of President Charles Congdon by George Salter, Warwick's representative to the board with other board members Norman Gillespie of West Warwick and Thomas Freeman of East Greenwich assisting in the question and answer period. They were attended by Arthur LeValley, superintendent and Albert V. Wood, chief accountant of the water authority. Col. Patrick H. Quinn, chairman was unable to attend due to an illness which his son said will keep him at home for several days. Thomas Quinn also said that his father had talked with Arnold and that he was in complete agreement with what Arnold was to say.



EDWIN H. ARNOLD

Arnold said that the water authority, created by the January session of 1946 of the General Assembly of Rhode Island and organized July 9, 1946, bought a \$6,000,000 company for \$2,225,000 worth of bonds; bonds which would cost more today, to give the users better water and to provide the communities more water.

#### Dangers Exist Today

Pointing to the dangers which the authority has found exists today and which they feel should be improved immediately, Arnold said that the system built before 1900 and comprising the former East Greenwich Water Supply Company, Pawtuxet Valley Water Company and Warwick and Coventry Water Company and certain water supply properties of Good Earth, Inc., was built with no vision of community development.

Arnold said that mostly 4 inch mains were put in and today 15 miles of 4 inch and 35 miles of other pipe need to be replaced to give good water pressure, especially for fire hydrants. He said the cost of 10 miles of 4 inch pipe is \$200,000. They put in the four inch water mains when they used to fight fire with brigades and today, Elmer Capwell is the only fire chief that has enough of adequate pressure from the hydrants because of the location of his (Anthony-Quidnick) fire district in comparison to Carr's Pond, Arnold added.

George Salter former chairman for 12 years of the Warwick City Council's fire and water committee said that the authority's engineering consultant Jenks and Ballou of Providence, who build the sewer system in West Warwick refused to have any responsibility at all to the standpipe reservoir near St. Joseph's Cemetery, Arctic and they strongly suggest that it be drained of water during the winter months before it falls flat releasing the water on the nearby dwellings. Salter said the authority bought a half

million dollars worth of insurance to cover itself in event that standpipe reservoir burst because of its age (60-years) and resulting damage suits occurred. He said that if the insurance companies knew how few hydrants in Arctic had good enough water pressure to adequately fight fires, they would raise their rates for protection. "You in Arctic are sitting on a keg of dynamite and don't know it", he added.

Arnold said that the standpipe in East Greenwich, located off Love Lane is located on leased land and the owner will not re-issue the lease to the water authority and consequently they will have to build another standpipe there also at a cost of \$100,000.

Arnold said that the authority has bought 90 percent of the land around Carr's Pond and is trying to buy the remaining 10 percent to do away with the present camps there to prevent sewage from going into it.

#### Drinking Filthy Water

Arnold said that the authority discovered that filthy water was also being taken from the reservoir at Fiskeville where water sheds were abandoned when the authority found dead animals in them. He said the authority finds that clean water will be given to users of the authority when it ties in with Kent Reservoir owned by Providence. Another need for the tie-in with Kent Reservoir is the increasing demand for water and our supply, is not inexhaustible, he added. He told how the authority has laid pipe to Kent for water and now all they need is the money to tie in the line with the reservoir.

Referring to the drought of last summer, when baths were taboo in New York, Arnold said that if the three systems were not tied in together in Kent County, benefiting chiefly from the wells in East Greenwich supplied to this area through a 12 inch main, curtailments would have been necessary and in event of fire there would have been a conflagration.

Bearing up his prediction that "We have got to have more water here" Arnold said that he contends that shortly a standpipe will have to be built to the rear of the West Warwick Country Club which is bound to be developed.

Arnold said that the facts obtained by the water authority compels him to maintain that the water rates are OK. If the water authority which is owned by the communities can't make these necessary improvements from revenue, then the communities will have to raise the money through taxes. "We can't meet expenses on the old rate" he added. Pointing to the income from fire hydrants Arnold said it will amount to \$41,000 and yet \$30,000 of it is paid back to the communities in lieu of taxes so only \$11,000 is realized from that source.

#### Only \$85,000 Per Year

He said that with the present rate the water authority is only realizing \$85,000 per year and that money will be used for unforeseen obstacles like the expenses incurred with the re-building of Pike Street, Riverpoint and the widening of the main street in Apponaug in which cases the water authority has nothing to say. Arnold added that there is much talk about building new highways in Arctic and that will put a big expense on the water authority and yet they will have to do the job.

In conclusion Arnold said "I don't have any ownership in the water authority. I think the bill introduced in the General Assembly a few days ago to fire the members of the water authority was ill advised. You can replace us with a hero and reduce the rates but you are not going to get the improvements you need. I don't think we should be under the rule of the Public Utilities Administration. Warwick and Providence are not. The town solicitors have us in the palms of their hands. I don't know why they haven't replaced me. They are passing up a golden opportunity. They can replace me tonight, and another member in July."

Salter in closing said "All we on the water authority want is more and better water. We can be replaced, but if you are to get the improvements you need it will cost money."

# Water Rate Hike, Unemployment Biggest W. Warwick 1951 Events

Old Man With Scythe Recalls Battle for Natural Gas Rights, First President of Town's PTA, Burning of Elks Mortgage, Echoes of Kefauver Probe

By JOHN B. LAKE JR.

Tottering Old Man 1951 leaned on his scythe at West Warwick Town Hall yesterday, saying good-byes and apologizing for the troubles he had brought in unemployment and higher water bills.

Things could have been worse, he told Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb. But he admitted that the Kent County Water Authority's action in raising rates that more than doubled many consumer's bills caused the biggest ruckus under his regime.

The other big headache he brought, he confessed sadly, was almost year-long unemployment and layoffs in the textile and lace industries, both of which piled up big inventories when goods wouldn't sell.

"But be of good cheer," the old fellow told Mrs. Lamb. "I've got it on pretty good authority—yep, pretty reliable source—that the little shaver with the silk topper, name of 1952, is going to take care of that."

"Oh, come on, don't feel so bad about yourself," Mrs. Lamb cheered the old man, as his voice began to crack. "You weren't the worst fellow in the world. We live each day as it comes, and you brought your good news and share of laughs."

## Pair Reminisces

This set the two to reminiscing. In January, they recalled, Judge James F. Murphy became president of the Pawtuxet Valley Red Cross, Judge James W. Leighton was elected president of the Pawtuxet Valley Visiting Nurses Association; Sen. Dion Archambault got what he wanted when his bill to study annexation of parts of Warwick to West Warwick was introduced and eventually passed.

Also, the battle for the right to service the Valley with natural gas remained unsettled when bills to create two natural gas companies died in the General Assembly; police, right on the job, caught a bad check passer before his victim knew he had been taken in.

It was in January, too, that Mrs. Lee V. Spencer became first president of the town's PTA and West Warwick Elks had a fire—but an agreeable fire, burning of their mortgage.

In February, Mme. Deus Bourgault retired after 15 years as a director of the Red Cross and was honored by her associates. Later she retired from Les Franco-Americaines, charitable organization which she founded.

His big headache, the water authority, popped into the news again, 1951 recalled, when Attorney General Powers gave an opinion that the legislature could not, constitutionally, surrender the state's power to police public utility rates. Thomas A. Kennelly, utilities administrator, ordered the authority to file a rate schedule, but it failed to comply.

## Higher Bills Received

About this time it was learned that commercial water users had received bills double and higher.

On the lighter side, Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, had his briefcase searched by police as he approached St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York. They apologized and said there had been a bomb threat. And the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of the Pawtuxet Valley voted to exclude women from their annual dinner—discrimination, the women yelled.

About that time a CIO textile workers' strike hit, but it didn't affect the Valley much, only two small plants, the Bay Mill and Alcott-Alcalay Brothers being affected.

Also, in February, the Rev. Ralph G. Barnes became pastor of Crompton Baptist Church, Ann DeCiantis, daughter of Town Solicitor and Mrs. Michael DeCiantis, won a television role over 1000 other girls and Senator Archambault was named president of the Young Democrats of Rhode Island. Lincoln J. Granfield, national Amvets service officer, died, and Royal Square later was named in his honor.

Democrats came out with a new parallel highway plan to alleviate Arctic's traffic problem, but Dr. M. Irene Guertin and others had different plans. In March, Harold C. Knight became Republican town chairman, replacing Roland E. Meunier. A native, Sgt. Norman J. Lemoine, was put in charge of Arctic's Army recruiting office.

A big March development was Kennelly's taking the water authority case to the state Supreme Court, contending that any attempt by the authority to fix rates without compliance with the public utility act violated the constitution. Pending a decision, the court ordered all money received over the old rates held in a special account that could not be used.

Echoes of the Kefauver crime committee were heard. DeCiantis revealed that racing wire service from the Daily Sports Digest, Boston to "Al Jones" at 2 Roosevelt Place, off Brookside Avenue, had been cut. Two phones listed to "James Smith" were taken out at the same address, he said.

The March death roll included Orrin C. Lyons, 73, of Crompton, former state representative.

Rumblings from the Kefauver hearings were still strong in April. The Rev. A. Vaughan Abercrombie urged residents to "ferret out bookies," and Covenant Congregational Church organized a Christian Citizenship Committee to combat gambling and other subversive elements.

The town council talked of building an Arctic comfort station with \$15,000 available since the 1950 town meeting, but nothing happened.

## \$600 Taxi Fare

April, old 1951 said with some satisfaction, saw work underway on the first major public construction job in the town in years—reconstruction of the Riverpoint Railroad Bridge and its approaches. It also saw a striking demonstration of the homing instinct, when Leo Fortin, disabled in a train accident, paid \$600 taxi fare from Nebraska to Arctic.

"And don't forget the pat on the back our Civil Defense Auxiliary police got when the state CD called them the biggest and best," reminded Mrs. Lamb. "Nor the fact that our Civil Air Patrol cadet, Odias Smith, was one of two from the state to be sent to Europe."

The old gentleman recalled other May events: the death of Horace Senerchia, reputed kingpin of Valley gambling by virtue of his racing wire franchise; approval of a \$1,200,000 sewer extension loan by the town meeting and the knocking down of a kindergarten appropriation despite a citizens' committee fight.

Old 1951 got a chuckle out of Town Solicitor DeCiantis' remark that, "Many successful and intelligent persons in the town never went to kindergarten."

It was in May that West Warwick Elks turned the tables and sentenced Judge Leighton to life—a life membership, that is, in the Elks, on his retirement as exalted ruler.

May also saw the voters kill two birds with one stone by okaying a constitutional convention and overwhelmingly approving parking meters for the town.

## Memorial Dedicated

Amid solemn reminders, including the posthumous decoration of Pvt. Joseph A. Levesque, that the town's young men were making sacrifices in the Korean War, veterans paused in May to dedicate a new memorial to the town's 68 World War II dead.

Gloomily, the old man recollected that it was in June the Perennial Division, Allied Textile Printers, laid off 375, and that the firm announced it was closing permanently in December.

It was in June, too, that the State Department of Public Works offered to pitch in to try and solve Arctic's traffic problem, a study which was still going on as 1951 left; Judge Robert E. Quinn became chief judge of the U.S. Military Court of Appeals; and Frank Begos' stone wall in Crompton was hit by a truck for the 24th time in two years.

In July, the Pawtuxet Valley Ministers' Circle held an outdoor service, first of its kind in the state, at the Cranston Auto Theater. The Most Rev. Russell J. McVinney, D.D., Bishop of Providence, officiated the same month at dedication of the new convent at Sacred Heart Church, Natick.

The new town planning board set to work with a will, recommending pre-empting land for recreation, elimination of the town dump at Riverpoint, moving it to a new location, and contracting with Warwick to burn the town's combustible refuse. No action was taken by the town council, however.

When Old Man 1951 observed that he wouldn't know the outcome of the study by the special Warwick-West Warwick annexation committee appointed by Governor Roberts in July, Mrs. Lamb assured him she would keep track of that.

# Arnold Answers Avalanche of Questions on Policies Set by Water Authority

P.V.  
Times  
Jan 8, 1952

After the Kent County Water Authority members explained their reasons for putting the new rate hike into effect at the meeting of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce last night, attended by over 50 members and guests, a question and answer forum was conducted as follows by Edwin H. Arnold, board member of Coventry.

Q. Larry Archambault, Who decided on the new rates?

A. Arnold, Jenk's & Ballou, our engineering consultants.

Q. Archambault, Why couldn't there have been a limit on the raise?

A. Arnold, You can't sell limited bonds unless you have the revenue and we battled to get the low interest rates which we have. Yet there is \$840,000 not provided for which will be refinanced in 1980.

Q. Dr. Irene M. Guertin asked for figures.

A. Arnold said that under the new rate, the income will be \$450,000, and after paying the operating expense, bond expenses, \$85,000 is left for capital improvements. "The sooner you get the needed things done the happier you will be. You first should take care of your health, home and community."

Q. Dr. Guertin, An increasing population will mean more expense and the rates will be never reduced.

## Do It Elsewhere

A. Arnold, We are severely criticized because we made new land developers pay for water for the first time here. They do it in every other place in the country, including Providence and Warwick.

Q. Lionel Lachance, Your father would figure out if the extension would pay, but now the home owner must pay and you make money on it.

A. Arnold, I differ with you. I put water in the Brookfield Hills section, when my family owned the Pawtuxet Valley Water Company, 15 years ago, and not until a year ago did it pay for itself.

Q. Elmer Capwell, Are all these capital improvements to be paid from current revenue?

A. Arnold, Even if we had all the income under the current rates we couldn't begin to do all the improvements. There is not a bank in Rhode Island or New York that will loan us money except under the conditions of the bond improvise.

Q. Capwell, Concerning residential rates, how many got no rate increase?

A. Arnold, 14 per cent.

Q. Charles Bourgault, Are two of your standpipes obsolete?

A. Arnold, Yes.

Q. Bourgault, And is one of your water sources improper?

A. Arnold, Yes.

Q. Bourgault, So you need water elsewhere?

A. Arnold, Yes.

Q. You need money now to set up a pumping station at Kent Dam. How much of your water will you then buy from the Providence water system?

## Will Cost Others More

A. Arnold, I was told today that the City of Providence is prohibited from selling water to anyone not in the drainage area of the northern branch of the Pawtuxet River. I predict that in the next 10 or 15 years other communities will have to get water from Providence. I believe the barriers will then be broken down. I also believe that another major dam will have to be built in Rhode Island. It is better for us to be separated from others because I expect they will raise their rates. They propose to sell the water to us at the same rates they sell it to Warwick, but our engineers said no, because we laid the pipes to them and we are the only one who can do so because of our geographic location. Therefore any raise other communities will get, will not affect us.

Q. Bourgault, Would you demolish the Fiskeville reservoir?

A. Arnold, We have except during the drought last summer.

Q. Bourgault, How about Carr's Pond.

A. Arnold, We will use it.

Q. Bourgault, We have 15 miles of 4-inch pipe totally obsolete and 35 miles of other pipe which is obsolete, has the authority replaced any amount of these mains since taking over?

A. Arthur LeValley, superintendent of the water authority—The amount is negligible.

Q. Larry Archambault, What is the per capita indebtedness on the \$2,225,000 bond issue?

A. Albert Wood, chief accountant of the water authority—About \$250 each.

Q. Horace Petrarca, Why do you fear control by the public utilities?

A. Arnold, I don't fear it. Warwick or Providence isn't under its control. If the Supreme Court says no, what's the next move? I suppose Michael DeCiantis will strive to put us there. You can control the board, but you won't be able to do so if the authority comes under control of the public utilities.

Q. Guertin, Why does a special group have a better price?

A. Arnold, If the town solicitors will sit with us, we will show them how and where the money goes and if they then want to postpone the raise for 10 years or so, it is OK with me.

Q. Guertin, Is there any room for a compromise?

A. Arnold, Talk to the town solicitors.

## Town Solicitors

George Roche, town solicitor of Coventry, speaking directly to Arnold, said, in part: "You keep talking about the town solicitors. You have had experience in government, you must know the answers. I know you get nothing but abuse. I wouldn't sit in your place for \$5000 a year, but the people can't figure any justification in a 300 per cent increase in rates. If the water system was so bad then, why did you buy it for \$2,225,000. By your refusal to abide by the public utilities, the people can't see the raise."

A. Arnold, Everything you say is OK. I advocate paid members on future boards. We should have discussed this before with the towns. We bought it in the first place to give this community a good water service. It was worth about \$6,000,000 when we bought it and it will be one of the best. It will attract new industries. In 10 more years it will give us 7 or 8 million gallons per day.

Wood said, in answer to Second Siniscalchi of Natick that the rates were increased exactly 150 per cent or from 30 to 75 cents on the gallonage. In no case is the bill more than 150 per cent if the same amount of water is used.

Q. Lionel Laboissonniere, a landlord over about 30 tenants—Was there ever an increase in rates before?

A. Arnold, From 1895 to the time of the sale of the P.V. Water Company, not one dividend was declared and \$1,125,000 was put into the company in addition.

Dr. Benjamin Tefft said, "The trouble is too many people don't understand it. I feel your great error is that too many people use too much water. We have got to teach economy. Let's be charitable and take a longer time to pay our obligations."

Norman Gillespie said, "I suggest in some way an arbitrary group be gotten together to come up with a proposition as a compromise. We may be doing wrong but I want to be shown it."

# Citizens' Unit To Be Named

## West Warwick Council Moving Tonight to Spur Voters' Registration

The West Warwick Town Council tonight at 8 will appoint a citizens' committee to spur registration of all voters, required under the new permanent registration law.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said the committee will include representatives of churches, veterans' posts, service clubs and fraternal and civic organizations, as recommended by Governor Roberts.

A hearing will be held on the application for transfer of the Class B liquor license held by Alfred Petrarca at the Kooler Keg, 458 Providence Street, to Gerard Ottaviano at a proposed Jerry's Cafe, 195 Washington Street, Arctic.

Police Chief Groleau has said he will recommend granting the license, transfer, as well as the transfer in its location.

The application of Frank Penardo for transfer of his Class B liquor license at the Royal Cafe, 180 Washington Street, to himself and Blanche R. Penardo also will be heard.

McKanna said that one or two minor annual appointments may come up. There is also a vacancy in the permanent fire department, caused by the resignation last month of Roland Gagne, but McKanna said the recommendation of a successor will have to come from Fire Chief Gareau. The chief said he is not ready to nominate anyone yet.

# Pawtuxet Valley DeCIANTIS COMMENTS

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick said this morning the town council is ready to accept the resignation of Norman E. Gillespie, town representative on the Kent County Water Authority, "and the best service he can do is to send his resignation in at tonight's council meeting."

Gillespie offered at a Chamber of Commerce meeting last night in Arctic to resign from the board if anyone desired to take his place.

DeCiantis, who was to represent the town at a senate hearing this afternoon on a bill to oust the five members of the Water Authority, has been a leader in the fight against the Authority's water rate increase.

# Kent County Authority Says Pay-As-You-Go Policy Is Reason for Rate Raise

## Stand Explained to 50 At C. of C. Open Meeting

At a Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting in Arctic, marked by assertions that Kent County Water Authority customers are "in revolt" over increased rates, authority officials last night explained they are trying to make badly needed improvements on a pay-as-you-go basis by raising rates.

Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry member of the authority, declared he wanted to spike rumors in the Pawtuxet Valley that authority members stand to gain personally, in as much as none own authority bonds, and all serve without pay.

"We don't own any more of the water authority than you," he told about 50 listeners.

Speaking in the absence of Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, who became ill yesterday afternoon while assembling data for the meeting, Arnold declared that no authority member had received more than \$200 expenses since the authority was created.

### Lists Pollution Threats

He cited pollution threats as follows: in the vicinity of Carr's Pond Reservoir, West Greenwich; a dangerously inadequate standpipe in Arctic; need for new mains; more water supply generally; and a new standpipe in East Greenwich. Arnold said the new rates would provide an estimated \$85,000 annually to remove these threats, after which rates could be cut back.

In a question and answer period, after a long explanation of the value of water to individuals and industries, he brushed off suggestions that the authority could have amortized cost of the needed improvements over a longer period, thus making it easier on present customers.

"Some say it is better to cut the dog's tail off a little at a time," he said. "But I believe if you've got a bad tooth, pull it out."

Declaring that the authority probably had made a mistake in not bringing its problems before the public before last night's meeting, Arnold added that the board's rate-raising action was taken only to supply more and better water for the homes and industries it serves.

### "Have to Pay"

Any municipal water works has to pay the bill somehow, he said, adding that if funds did not come from a water rate rise they would have to come from real estate taxes. He pointed out that the Westerly Water Board had asked a 15 per cent increase and Newport Water Authorities are going to seek a rate boost.

"We cannot meet expenses at our present rate," he said.

He declared that among other things, 10 miles of four-inch main must be replaced or insurance rates may go up. The tie-in with Scituate Reservoir is costing more than anticipated, he said, and, although lines are laid, a pumping station is yet to be installed.

In East Greenwich, land on which a standpipe is located can't be leased again, and a new standpipe will have to be set up within three or four years, he said.

Arnold called a bill introduced last week by Rep. Gerard Di Fiore (D-West Warwick), and passed by the House of Representatives, that would oust the five authority members, ill-advised.

"What good will it do to throw us out? You've got to put somebody else in. Sure, you could be a hero by cutting the rates for three or four years, but you've got to make improvements. It's a very thankless job."

"Throw us out if you disagree," he said. "We're doing the best we know how and trying to get you good water."

Pointing out that his water authority term as representative from Coventry expired last summer, he said he was glad to help get the authority on its feet, but "they can appoint my successor tonight."

Arnold asserted he does not believe the authority should be under regulation of the state public utilities administration, a status which the state is seeking to establish by a case against the authority pending in the State Supreme Court. He said the Providence Water Supply Board is not under such regulation and does not have to go to the utilities director each time it wants to do something.

"I hope the rate prevails," he said. "You people are going to suffer if it doesn't prevail. Our fault has been in not holding meetings like this and saying, 'here's the problem, what do you want to do about it?'"

The Arctic standpipe was condemned years ago, but is still being used, George B. Salter of Warwick, authority secretary, said, although Jenks & Ballou, authority engineers, have called it a hazard.

Salter, citing the authority's connections with Ernst & Ernst, accountants; Jenks & Ballou, engineers; the Industrial Trust Co., as fiscal agents; and Hinckley, Allen, Salisbury and Parsons, attorneys, said he had heard disparaging remarks about the authority, and questioned whether such "high grade firms" would be associated with it if the remarks were true.

### Should Buy Rest of Land

He said the authority had \$250,000 revenue in the last year of the old rate, compared with \$300,000 operating expenses. Both he and Arnold said the authority owns 90 per cent of the land around Carr's Pond Reservoir, and should buy the other 10 per cent to prevent pollution. Salter said he had seen

bathers there. Several years ago, he said, he was "horrified" by the low water supply there.

A new site for the East Greenwich standpipe will cost \$100,000, he said. He quoted from an engineer's report calling the 60-year-old Arctic standpipe a hazard, and urging erection of a new one right away.

### Cites Danger

If the Arctic standpipe should burst when full, it would cause thousands of dollars worth of damage, he said. The authority has \$500,000 liability insurance on it, he said. Insurance companies might question its adequacy and raise rates, he added.

Charles J. Bourgault, West Warwick attorney, clashed with Salter when Bourgault asked for a copy of an authority financial report which Salter let him look at by request. When Salter said he would have to get permission from the whole board, Bourgault lashed out at the board, saying he hoped it realized it was responsible to the public and that its reports were public business.

### Releases Report

Arnold then handed Bourgault his personal copy of the report, which Albert V. Wood, authority office manager, afterward released to the press for the first time at the request of a reporter.

Bourgault asked Arnold whether the authority might eventually get all its water from Providence through Scituate Reservoir.

Arnold answered that 50 years from now all of the area might get water from Scituate Reservoir but that, under existing regulations, only the area in the north branch of the Pawtuxet River can use it via the Kent Water Authority. It can be distributed in Hope, Jackson, Riverpoint, Phenix and Natick, but not in Washington, Arctic and Anthony, he said.

### Doesn't Fear Regulation

Horace Petrarca asked why the authority fears regulation by the public utilities administrator.

Arnold said the authority doesn't fear it, but will abide by the law. He questioned why Warwick is not so regulated.

"You've asked the Supreme Court to rule on it," said Arnold. "I suppose, if it doesn't so rule, Mr. DeCiantis (Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick) and his pals will move to put us under it."

"If these honorable gentlemen, the town solicitors making this mess, want, we'd be happy to show them how we propose to use this money. If, in their judgment, it's best to postpone it, okay by me."

After Arnold again mentioned the town solicitors, all of whom are joining in the state's case against the authority, Sen. George Roche, Coventry town solicitor, rebuked Arnold.

### "Believe Me, It's a Revolt"

"You keep talking about the town solicitors," Roche interrupted. "I want to convey to you some of the things people are saying about the Kent County Water Authority. You've lost sight of the fact that, under our concept of government, the man in office is within reach of the people who put him there."

"They'll throw them out if they don't like what he does. You've had enough experience in government to think how things are going to work out. You go to a financial town meeting, and you've got to have the answers."

"That's what happened—it's flared up into a revolt and, believe me, it's a revolt against the members of the Kent County Water Authority."

Roche went on to say that he believes the authority members are "high grade men," but they set up the new rates arbitrarily and a water user who formerly paid \$30 and now pays \$90 cannot understand it.

### "Won't Stand It"

"I impute no bad motives," Roche said. "If the water system is so bad and the water is polluted, what, in the name of goodness, did you buy it for \$2,062,500? You've been taking the attitude 'We're running this thing, and we're going to do it our way.' You can't do it. Ed. The people won't stand for it."

Arnold admitted that the authority was at fault for not having had public discussions similar to last night's meeting and for not discussing the rate raise with officials of county communities before putting it into effect.

"We bought the companies because we wanted to give the county a good water supply," he said. "We got a \$6,000,000 outfit for \$2,000,000."

### Question of Profit

Thomas Quinn, son of Colonel Quinn, asked Roche, "Is there any way my father or any other member of the authority can profit one nickel from the increase in rates?"

Roche answered, "No."

Norman E. Gillespie, West Warwick member of the authority, said he had always conducted himself on the board honestly and properly and would be willing to resign if someone else wanted the post. Thomas J. Freeman, East Greenwich representative on the authority, also was present.

Secondo Siniscalchi, Natick marketman, said his bill had gone up from \$45 to \$173.83.

Albert V. Wood, chief accountant of the authority, said the rates had gone up 150 per cent. Saying that Siniscalchi must have used more water, he said in no case would rates go up more than 150



FINANCES are explained by Albert V. Wood, chief accountant of the Kent County Water Authority to (l-r) Arthur Lavallee, superintendent; Thomas J. Freeman of East Greenwich, treasurer, and Stuart Tucker, lawyer.

per cent if the same amount of water were used. Arnold invited Siniscalchi to meet with the board to discuss his case.

An unidentified automatic laundry operator said his bill had gone up from \$240 to \$600, and "I might as well fold up and get out. You're driving business out."

Answering questions by Elmer A. Capwell, Wood said engineers had studied other possibilities before changing the minimum rate from \$15 for 50,000 gallons, to \$15 for 20,000 gallons and changing the charge for excess water from 30 cents to 75 cents a thousand gallons.

### Calls 50% Not Enough

He said a 50 per cent boost would just pay cost of increased operating expenses. A 100 per cent raise, he said, would have provided \$30,000, \$40,000 over and above operating expenses "but another increase would be necessary in three or four years."

Arnold declared that Arthur Lavallee, authority superintendent, had found dead cattle lying near farms in the watershed area in Fiskeville in the past. "You people drank that water, chlorinated, last summer and will drink it until the tie-up, with Scituate. Pollution problems you've got to pay for."

He pointed out that, where the three private companies bought by the authority serviced 2500 customers in 1922, the authority today takes care of 8351.

### Another \$50,000 Needed

Although the authority put aside \$100,000 to make the tie-in with Scituate reservoir and another improvement, another \$50,000 will be needed to complete it, he said.

He pointed to non-recurring expenses that crop up, such as \$20,000 spent as a result of tearing up the underpass and approaches to the Riverpoint Railroad Bridge in a construction job. When Washington Street was reconstructed in part it cost the water firm \$20,000, he said.

Arnold recalled that the late Arthur B. Lisle of East Greenwich, owner of three former private companies, said before he died that the water business should be owned by the community. Arnold said he then investigated water authorities and found 190 in operation in Pennsylvania alone.

He then found a concern which drew up water authority enabling legislation and had an act drawn up similar to the "dormant one" for Warren and Bristol, but it was later amended, he said. Maintaining the act "is what you need here," he added it is well set up.

### Explains Difference

Saying that the purchase of three water firms "which would cost \$6,000,000 to replace," was a good buy for slightly more than \$2,000,000, Arnold added that the authority battled to keep interest rates on the bonds down to 2 1/4 to 3 1/2 per cent. "Even on a 30-year basis, \$840,000 will have to be refinanced in 1980," he added.

Horace Petrarca asked why the county has to pay more than other communities. Arnold explained that the revenue per mile of pipe is the determinant, that Kent County Authority income is \$1750 per mile, whereas Providence gets \$4100 in-

come per mile. There is also more rock excavation necessary in the authority's area, he said.

Dr. M. Irene Guertin questioned why his bill increased from \$76 to \$191, although his meter had stopped. Arnold said he must have been billed for the same amount of water used last year, but at the new rate.

### Cites Bills Under \$50

Arnold asserted that board studies of bills in certain sections showed that from 70 to 79 per cent paid less than \$50.

He said that, with the new rates, the authority tends to receive \$435,000 income, of which \$165,000 would go for operating expenses, \$100,000 for bond payments; \$85,000 for a sinking fund for bonds; and \$85,000 would be available to make capital improvements each year.

Lionel LaChance, a builder, declared that Arnold's father used to figure anticipated revenue from extensions and would pay for them from water company funds if he thought revenue eventually would give him a return.

A chamber member, Lionel LaBoissonniere, complained that his bill for 30 apartments is up from \$500 to \$1200 this year and that he cannot get relief immediately on his rent ceilings charges.

Dr. Benjamin F. Tefft of the chamber urged that the authority lower its rates and pay off improvements needed on a long-term installment plan.

Arnold pointed out that the authority had gone \$597 in the red on operating expenses in the fiscal year from June 14, 1950, to June 30, 1951, and showed a \$6994 loss in the period from July, 1951, to September, 1951.

He said the authority hoped to get the "emergency operation" through and lower the rates later.

## Little Drips Mean Big Water Bills, Consumers Told

Those who came to the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting last night to hear members of the Kent County Water Authority learned, among other things, what tremendous amounts of water can be wasted through small leaks or dripping faucets.

Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry member of the authority, held up a small stamped aluminum disc with three holes in it to illustrate his point that one reason water rates are high for some is because customers needlessly waste many hundreds of gallons.

At 50 pounds pressure, in 24 hours, 260 gallons would pass through the size of the smallest hole in the disc, which was about the size of a pinhead. A hole a little larger would waste 1100 gallons and the third, about an eighth of an inch in diameter, would let pass 4400 gallons, he said.

Arthur Lavallee, authority superintendent, passed around discs to the audience after the meeting to serve as a constant reminder of what small leaks can do.



FINANCIAL REPORT: George B. Salter of Warwick (left), secretary of the authority, explains to Charles J. Bourgault, West Warwick attorney, that he only wanted full per-

mission from the authority's board to release the annual financial report. Bourgault had protested that he was allowed just a glance at the report.

—State Staff Photos

# SENATE ACTION ON DI FIORE'S MEASURE SEEN

*P.V. Times Jan 9, 1953*  
**Amendment Which Would  
Put Water Board Under  
Utilities Control Aim**

Senate action is contemplated today to amend the DiFiore bill, which would vacate the offices of members of the Kent County Water Authority, to have the water authority come under the control of the Public Utilities Administration as a result of the report of Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick, at the hearing before the Senate Corporations Committee yesterday.

DeCiantis in recommending the amendment to the DiFiore Bill, said: "I recommend to this honorable body to include an amendment to the DiFiore act providing that the authority be under the jurisdiction of the public utilities administrator of this state. It is my opinion that no group of five men, whether it is the present members of the authority or new members to be appointed, if this honorable body sees fit to pass the DiFiore Bill, should be allowed to have the power to arbitrarily fix rates with disregard to its consumers."

## Amendment Sought

Evidently after DeCiantis' recommendation, the committee instructed Assistant Attorney General Robert A. Coogan to write an amendment placing the authority under the control of the public utilities administrator. At the same time, however, Sen. Howard S. Proctor (R-East Greenwich) who was at the hearing, and after hearing the report of DeCiantis, said that he will file a bill today placing the authority under the public utilities division of the state.

If this measure is passed it will accomplish what DeCiantis has been fighting for since last summer and the question raised in the Supreme Court will become a dead issue, and there will be no necessity for the Supreme Court case to be heard.

The committee indicated it may hold another hearing to give the authority members an opportunity to present their side of the matter.

DeCiantis also pointed out that the authority through a brochure or what is known as a prospective which was distributed at the time they desired to sell the bonds, represented to the public and to its prospective bond holders that the water companies could be operated without an increase of rates.



MICHAEL DE CIANTIS

## Report to Committee

His report to the committee follows:

"I was amazed and chagrined when I read Edwin Arnold's statement that the Authority had bought physical property from the Lysle Interests, that was so dilapidated that it needs replacing to the tune of an estimated cost of \$85,000 annually. Imagine spending over \$2,000,000 for this type of property, and 'polluted water to boot.'

"Consider the statement that was made by Mr. Arnold last night and the representation that was made in the brochure which was issued by the Water Authority sometime in June, wherein the Authority made this statement:

"The properties are satisfactorily adopted to the purposes for which they are used and are in satisfactory operation and condition."

which statement is right; the one that was made by Arnold last night, or the one in the brochure?

"Mr. Arnold also stated that there was a dangerously inadequate supply of water at times at Carr's Pond which borders on pollution. Yet, in the same brochure, this same authority made this statement:

"The water supplies are naturally pure and soft and free from objectionable color, taste and odor. They are chlorinated as a safeguard. Analyses are made regularly by the State Health Department and reported to the companies. The supplies are treated to reduce pipe corrosion and red water."

And now we are told that there is a threat of pollution. I think that the people should know what transpired when the authority purchased the water companies. The Authority obtained from

the Legislature the right to issue bonds in the sum of \$2,250,000, purportedly to purchase the Pawtuxet Valley Water Company, the Warwick and Coventry Water Company and the East Greenwich Water Company. The brochure showed a book assets of the combined companies of \$2,245,515.63. This was not a true picture because it included depreciation and uncollectible assets which should have been deducted from the related assets. So that the actual book value of the three companies was \$1,671,403.48. The book value of the stock is approximately \$623,000 (Exhibit C), but the Authority paid \$1,053.37 for said stock (Exhibit A), having paid approximately \$430,000 over and above the book value. After all indebtedness was purported to have been paid, the Authority allocated cash for general purposes and had \$115,000 left for new construction (see Page 6). This is the representation that was made in the brochure.

"If this was a true picture, one has a right to ask why the increase in rates?

## Second Charge

"My second charge against this Authority is that the brochure which the authority caused to be distributed to the people, represented that the income and the expenses of the combined companies was sufficient to meet all operating expenses, including the payment of interest and the yearly payment on the principal in reduction of the bonds.

"On Page 4 of the brochure, we find that the revenues of the combined companies is \$239,362.61 and the expenses \$193,909.10 which shows a net profit of \$45,453.51. The Authority went out of its way to point out in its brochure and to its prospective bondholders, that it could reduce the operating expenses so that the net income would be greater by \$53,000.

"The following is the language used by the Authority in its brochure:

"It is estimated that operating revenues accruing to the authority will be \$235,000 in the first full year of operation of the unified system."

Again it says:

"Operating expenses of the Authority are estimated at \$135,000, after eliminating charges that are non-recurring as a result of the change in ownership and operations and using for debt service, the amounts reserved for replacements and renewals by the Water Companies."

Again it says:

"On the above basis, Operating Income available for debt service is estimated at \$100,000 per annum."

"Why did the authority make such representations? In the very next paragraph it states that if the number of customers per mile increases, it would materially increase the operating income and points out that at the time the authority purchased these companies, there were 54.5 customers per mile of main and this number brought in \$1750 per mile and an increase of customers per mile would materially increase operating income.

"This is backed up on Page 13 of the brochure by Charles Haydock, consulting engineer of Philadelphia (see Exhibit G), showing that it was possible to redeem the bonds and pay the interest without the raising of rates.

"On Page 4 of the brochure, we find that operating income for debt service in 1960 will be \$160,000 or more. Either the Authority was deceived in the survey that was made, or a terrible mistake was made in computing and arriving at the statement which has been referred to in the brochure by the engineer.

## Consider the Rates

"Let us now consider the rates; this does not include the commercial rates. We find that on Page 2 of the brochure that the rates that were charged by the Pawtuxet Valley Water Co. and the Warwick and Coventry Water Co. that the minimum charge was \$15

for 50,000 gallons and 30 cents for each 1000 gallons in excess of the 50,000. At this point let me show you that the present rates are \$15 for a minimum of 20,000 gallons and 75 cents for each 1000 gallons in excess of the 20,000 which means that 50,000 gallons would cost \$37.50—an increase of 150 per cent over the \$15 old rate.

"For East Greenwich we find the brochure sets forth that there was a charge of \$10 for 25,000 gallons, and under the new rate would cost \$18.75—an increase of 87½ per cent."

## Kent County Water Controversy Boils Over Before Senate Group

**Score of Interested Persons Appear Before Corporations Committee Which Is Asked to Amend DiFiore Bill to Put Authority Under State**

The controversy over high rates fixed by the Kent County Water Authority boiled up yesterday before the Senate corporations committee which was asked to amend the DeFiore bill to place the authority under state regulation.

A score of interested persons, including several General Assembly members, crowded the committee room where a quasi-public hearing on the DiFiore bill developed.

Sen. William J. Smith (D-Warren), committee chairman, made plain that the committee will announce a public hearing later since only one side of the argument was heard yesterday. The authority's side was not given.

The DiFiore bill has passed the House. It was introduced by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), and others, and would oust the five authority members. Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick town solicitor, urged the committee to amend it to place the authority under the public utility administrator.

### To Introduce Bill

Last night, Sen. Howard S. Proctor of East Greenwich, Republican leader, said he will introduce today a bill which would place the rates of the water authority under the supervision of the state utilities administrator.

Proctor's bill, if enacted by the Assembly, would do away with the necessity for a hearing scheduled before the Supreme Court for Jan. 25.

The court hearing will be held on the water authority's contention that under present law its rates are not subject to supervision of the public utilities administrator. The case was started by the attorney general's department after the authority refused to submit to an order of the public utilities administrator, demanding that the authority's new rate schedule be filed for review.

Saying he represented "practically all the people who are customers of the authority," DeCiantis called "arbitrary" the increases in rates ordered last August by the agency. DiFiore and others told the committee no one had been able to obtain a schedule of the new rates.

### No Personal Feelings

DeCiantis emphasized no personal feelings against any member of the authority were involved. The people believe the members "have not done the kind of a job they thought they should have done," he said. Authority members, he said, may have followed "bad advice" and if so "they have to take the consequences."

"At no time did any member of

the authority call a meeting or attempt to explain what they were doing or the reasons for the terrific increases until last night," DeCiantis said referring to the West Warwick Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday night.

He then went on to compare statements, he said, were made in the authority's brochure of June, 1950, with statements made at Monday night's meeting and to analyze the authority financial picture.

DeCiantis said the statement that physical property of the authority needs replacing at a cost of \$85,000 annually because it is so dilapidated "to me does not make sense." The authority brochure, he declared, described the property as being in satisfactory condition.

Monday's statement that water supply was dangerously inadequate and at times borders on pollution was contrasted with the brochure's description that water supplies are "naturally pure and soft and free from objectionable color, taste and odor."

### Cites Assets Statement

DeCiantis cited the statement in the brochure that book assets of three water companies purchased by the authority amounted to \$2,245,515. He said that was not a true figure since depreciation and accounts uncollectible were not deducted from related assets. The actual book value of all three companies was \$1,671,403, DeCiantis claimed.

He alleged that the book value of the stock was \$623,000, but the authority paid \$1,053,339 for it, having paid approximately \$430,000 more than the book value.

"After all indebtedness was purported to have been paid, the authority allocated cash for general purposes and had \$115,000 left for new construction," he said. "This is the representation made in the brochure. If this was a true picture, one has a right to ask — why the increase in rates?"

Another charge levelled by DeCiantis was that the authority in its brochure represented that the income of the combined companies were sufficient to meet all operating expenses, including payment of interest and principal on bonds.

### Revenues Listed

The brochure, he said, set forth that the revenues of the combined companies is \$239,236 and that the expenses were \$193,909, a net profit of \$45,453. The authority "went out of its way" to point out in its brochure and to its prospective bondholders that it could reduce the operating expenses to \$135,000, so that at the end of the year \$100,000 would be left to pay off bonded indebtedness.

After citing specific charges for domestic rates, DeCiantis said the representation was made that the company could be operated without raising rates, but "now we have faced such an exorbitant increase that it has aroused the indignation of the people almost to the point of rebellion."

Customers of the authority realize that additional capital is needed for expansion purposes, he said, but such capital should not be extracted from the present water consumers. DeCiantis said they realized also there should be an increase in rates because of the times, but in his opinion an increase of 20 to 30 per cent in net income is all that is required to operate the authority efficiently.

### Cites Own Case

DiFiore cited effects of the new water rates. He said his own bill for 107,205 gallons of water for 12 months last year was \$32.48, but a 13-month bill for 70,485 gallons—36,720 gallons less — this year amounted to \$56.47.

He cited other instances, including one in which a house owner has to pay more for water than for property taxes on the house.

He said a contractor was about to build a new home in a West Warwick area not piped for water. The authority told him it would cost \$15,000 to extend the water pipe 2500 feet, DiFiore said, adding that the contractor told him (DiFiore) that he could extend the line himself for \$7500 and still make a profit.

In answer to committee members' questions, DiFiore said no one in the area had been told by the authority what water costs would be.

Harry F. McKanna, West Warwick council president, said he tried to get a rate schedule from the authority and was told no copy of rates was available. Charles Bourgault, an attorney, said he likewise tried to get a schedule and was told they were being printed and would be available later.

## Tax Relief Case Outlined

**De Ciantis Says  
Warwick Mills Must  
Initiate Steps**

Possible tax relief for Warwick mills, sought several weeks ago by about 350 employees to help keep the mill going and later discussed in a closed meeting by the West Warwick town council, employees and mill officials, depends on a direct request from the mill.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis said last night that, under law, the council could not grant a tax exemption to an existing industry, but, at request of the taxpayer, the board of tax assessors might reduce an assessment.

Hermenegilde Nadeau, chairman of the board of assessors, was reported out of the state on vacation. Richard S. Hughes Sr. and Rudolph Nardella, other board members, indicated that the mill itself has not asked for a reduction in assessment.

Mill employees asked the council for a tax abatement in an unprecedented plea, after the mill had sold most of its property and then leased it back for 12 years. At the time of the sale, mill attorneys said it might be the last step the firm could take to stay in business.

## Bourgault Holds Old Water Rates Gave Ample Revenue

**West Warwick Attorney Calls  
Authority's Annual Report 'Misleading'**

Charles J. Bourgault, West Warwick attorney, today declared that inspection of the annual financial report of the Kent County Water Authority for the fiscal year which ended last June 30, shows that the authority could operate satisfactorily under its old rate schedule.

Bourgault maintained that the old rates would provide enough revenue for operating expenses, debt service and "a large amount of improvement."

If the public interest should require more improvements than the old rates could finance, the expenditures should be amortized over a long period to lighten the load

on current water users, he declared. Bourgault said he had gone over the report with an accountant and found that an indication in the report that the authority had a \$597.96 excess of deduction over revenues was "misleading."

He said that the accountants, Ernst & Ernst, who made the audit, put an underline in the statement of income and surplus showing that there was a transfer of \$11,274.03 from a reserve for renewal and replacements which came out of revenue. This figure, plus \$834 from property retired, resulted in the auditors listing a surplus as of June 30, 1951, of \$9842.07.

## West Warwick Delays Liquor License Transfer

### Continuance Recommended Until February by Council President McKanna

Although no objectors appeared personally, the West Warwick Town Council last night held up for investigation transfer of a Natick Class B liquor license to Gerard Ottaviano, for a proposed Jerry's Cafe at 180 Washington Street, Arctic.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said he had received objections verbally and by mail. He recommended a continuance until the February meeting on the application to Ottaviano of the license held by Alfred Petrarca, Kooler Keg, 458 Providence Street, Natick. Ottaviano was not present, but Petrarca said, "I'd like to know why it's delayed."

"It's continued solely for investigation," answered McKanna.

"Any particular reason?" asked Petrarca.

"Yes, I want an opportunity to investigate the objections," McKanna said.

"If there are no objectors present, I can't see why you do not act tonight," said Petrarca.

Joseph Ottaviano, a relative of the applicant, asked "What is there to check up?" McKanna would not enlarge on the objections he had received, but in answer to Petrarca, he said they would be made available to him soon.

William Joubert spoke in favor of the application, saying that he had known Ottaviano as an "upstanding citizen" for 35 years. He pointed out that Ottaviano had been manager of the Log Cabin Restaurant and bar for 18 years.

The council also named Raymond Nester of 20 Hepburn Street to fill a vacancy on the permanent fire department caused by the resignation of Roland Gagne. McKanna said Nester, who was recommended by Chief Gareau, will serve a six-month probationary period. He is a call man with 20 years experience, he said.

James F. King and Joseph Lionel St. John were renamed tree warden and forest fire warden, respectively. Named deputy forest wardens were Armand Gilman, Urban James, James Hudson, Peter Prytula and Samuel Maranaro.

### Asks Tax Relief

The council received a letter from Rockridge Worsteds Mills, 1 Bridal Avenue, Centreville, asking tax relief, but the letter was filed. McKanna instructed Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb to forward the company a copy of the law which stipulates that tax exemptions may be granted only to new industries about to set up in the town.

Harold W. Schwab wrote that the firm, making Army uniform fabric, had been in the town since Jan. 1, 1951, and that operations were not profitable last year. However, he said that, with tax relief, the firm hoped to continue in the town and expand.

### The council also:

Appointed the following police constables: James G. Lamb, Richard M. Gaudry, Edward J. Pettinichio and Armand J. Gauvin. Granted transfer of the Class B liquor license of Frank Penardo, Royal Cafe, 180 Washington Street, to Penardo and Blanche R. Penardo.

Granted permits for installation of gas tanks and pumps for farm use to Thomas McCrystal, Wakefield Street; Emil Reaber, Centreville Park Road; and John A. Pekala, East Greenwich Avenue.

Renewed drainage licenses for Angelo Tomasso, Wilfred O. Lavalley and Anthony W. Gazzero, subject to approval of Building and Plumbing Inspector Willie J. Regnaniere. Authorized McKanna to secure auditors to audit the town's books in preparation for the May 20 town meeting.

Continued for further investigation the held-over application of Joseph Lavoie for permission to junk autos on Bradford Court. McKanna said there were many objections and the council had been unable to view the property thoroughly because of snow.

Granted the following licenses: St. Anthony's Church Choir Valentine dance, Feb. 13 at junior high school; St. John's Church bazaar auditorium, Feb. 22, 23, 25, 26; St. John's Church carnival, rectory grounds, July 21-26 inc.; July 31, Aug. 1, 2.

Granted applications to the New England Tel. & Tel. Co., and Narragansett Electric Co. for joint pole locations on Wakefield Street and Pulaski Street and to the electric company for poles on Locust on Carlton Place and Lexington Avenue.

Deferred until spring action on applications of Laurent J. Beauregard, 220 Pulaski Street, and Joseph Mpreti, 228 Pulaski Street, for sidewalk construction assistance.

## Liquor License Transfer Is Delayed for Investigation

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Although no objectors appeared personally, the West Warwick Town Council last night held up for investigation transfer of a Natick Class B liquor license to Gerard Ottaviano, for a proposed Jerry's Cafe at 180 Washington Street, Arctic.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said he had received objections verbally and by mail. He recommended a continuance until the February meeting on the application to Ottaviano of the license held by Alfred Petrarca, Kooler Keg, 458 Providence Street, Natick. Ottaviano was not present, but Petrarca said, "I'd like to know why it's delayed."

"It's continued solely for investigation," answered McKanna.

"Any particular reason?" asked Petrarca.

"Yes, I want an opportunity to investigate the objections," McKanna said.

"If there are no objectors present, I can't see why you do not act tonight," said Petrarca.

Joseph Ottaviano, a relative of the applicant, asked "What is there to check up?" McKanna would not enlarge on the objections he had received, but in answer to Petrarca, he said they would be made available to him soon.

William Joubert spoke in favor of the application, saying that he had known Ottaviano as an "upstanding citizen" for 35 years. He pointed out that Ottaviano had been manager of the Log Cabin Restaurant and bar for 18 years.

The council also named Raymond Nester of 20 Hepburn Street to fill a vacancy on the permanent fire department caused by the resignation of Roland Gagne. McKanna said Nester, who was recommended by Chief Gareau, will serve a six-month probationary period. He is a call man with 20 years experience, he said.

James F. King and Joseph Lionel St. John were renamed tree warden and forest fire warden, respectively. Named deputy forest wardens were Armand Gilman, Urban James, James Hudson, Peter Prytula and Samuel Maranaro.

## School Committee at Warwick Receives Reported Offer of Berg for Settlement

A reported offer of Carl and Mildred Berg to drop their court action against the Warwick senior high school referendum and resolve the Berg opinion deadlock was received gingerly by the school committee last night.

The Berg offer, as reported through City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer and Charles B. MacKay, superintendent of schools, asks in return that the committee permit Berg to operate his beach business on the high school site through 1955—a three-year extension of the option's provision.

In reply, the committee agreed

to "sympathetically consider" Berg's request for an extension if he first withdraws his case against the referendum and honors the disputed option held by the committee.

### Major Factor

Major factor in the school board's offer of terms was the unresolved question of whether high school bonds could be sold even if the current preliminary injunction on the election were to be dissolved by the court and the referendum certified by the city board of canvassers.

Chelcie C. Bosland, board chairman, said he doubts that Warwick's Boston firm of bonding attorneys

will approve the bond issue because of the "irregularities" in the referendum question as brought to light by the Berg litigation.

He added, however, that the board's potential gain in settling its difficulties with Berg "is far too great" to be taken lightly if such a settlement would clear the way for immediate planning and construction of the school.

Other members of the committee were outspoken in their reluctance to make "any sort of concessions" to Berg, who they said has "done everything he can to put obstacles in the way of the high school... completely oblivious to the wishes of the majority of the city's voters."

Further action on Berg's move for a permanent injunction on the referendum, and the city's initial effort to force Berg to honor the option on his land for the high school site, are scheduled for the January session of Kent County Superior Court.

### Wage Question

In its other major business the board drafted an outline of its decisions on an eight-point program of wage increases and work benefits asked for some 75 maintenance men, janitors and school bus drivers last month by Leo Kramer, representative of the recently organized Warwick local of the American Federation of Municipal Employees, AFL.

Avoiding either direct or implied recognition of the union, the board reported its 1952-53 budget recommendations for a new salary schedule and higher sick leave benefits for the men, but in effect turned down virtually every other request.

## Says Old Water Rates Ample for Operation

Charles J. Bourgaunt, West Warwick attorney, said this morning that he was pleased that the Kent County Water Authority has released a financial report in connection with the meeting of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce.

He said that the annual report of the authority for the year ending June 30, 1951, establishes that the old rates provide enough money for the operation of the authority, payment of debt service and payment of the cost of a large amount of improvements.

Bourgaunt said:

"It is my opinion, based on the facts contained in the report, that the authority can comfortably operate under the old rates. If the public interest requires further improvement other than such as can be paid for out of income produced by the old rates, then proper steps ought to be taken by the authority to amortize such costs over a period of years.

"I urge the press, as a public service, to publish the authority's own report to the end that all possible light be shed on the issue."

*Evening Bulletin - Jan 9, 1953*

# Berg's Settlement Offer Received by School Board

## Would Drop High School Fight For Use of Beach Until 1955

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The Berg offer, as reported through City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer and Charles B. MacKay, superintendent of schools, asks in return that the committee permit Berg to operate his beach business on the high school site through 1955—a three-year extension of the option's provision.

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He added, however, that the board's potential gain in settling its difficulties with Berg "is far too great" to be taken lightly if such a settlement would clear the way

for immediate planning and construction of the school.

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Further action on Berg's move for a permanent injunction on the referendum, and the city's initial effort to force Berg to honor the option on his land for the high school site, are scheduled for the January session of Kent County Superior Court.

*Rev. Times 1/9/52*

## Ordinances to Concern Oil Burners

### West Warwick Council Plans Hearing Before Action

West Warwick Town Council last night announced it plans to adopt two new ordinances pertaining to installation of automatic oil burners and installation of range oil burners. The new laws will be advertised for hearing in this newspaper before adoption.

Governed by the ordinance pertaining to automatic oil burner installations are the oil used; the tanks which holds the oil and their locations; the make and gravity of auxiliary tanks; the venting of the tanks; the piping; the fill pipes; the manholes, if used; the vent alarm; the oil lever indicator; the pumps; valves; ventilation, the furnaces or ranges; fire protection measures; an instruction card location.

Governed by the ordinance pertaining to range oil burner installations are the burners; their installation; the storage of range oil; and the range oil itself.

The two new regulations will fall under the supervision of the office of the building and plumbing inspector.

*P.D. COMMITTEE NAMED 1/9/52*

### COMMITTEE NAMED

Harry F. McKanna Jr., West Warwick Town Council president, yesterday announced appointment of a citizens' committee, headed by himself, to spur voter registration under the new permanent registration law.

Committee vice chairmen are the Rev. Nathan B. Burton; the Rev. Anthony DeAngelis; Harold C. Knight, Republican town chairman; Alfred Richard, Democratic chairman; Mortimer W. Newton, West Warwick canvassing authority; Augustus Simas, of the CIO; Lawrence Beron, president of the veterans council; School Supt. Masie E. Quinn; Ralph Cinquergrana; Richard Coogan of the Lions Club; Maurice Talbot, manager of the Plantations Bank, Arctic; Sen. Dion Archambault, who will head a speakers' bureau, and Ronald Anderson, who will handle publicity.

*Proctor Journal Jan 10, 1953*

## CALLS BERG OFFER 'UNAUTHORIZED'

### DeCiantis Says Bid to Warwick School Board Not Official; Palmer Confirms It

Warwick Office, Telephone 3291 Post Rd., Apponaug/Hills Grove 1-1000

Referring to a reported offer made by Carl and Mildred Berg to drop court action against the controversial Warwick senior high school referendum in return for permission to operate a beach business until 1955 at the new high school site, Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the Bergs, last night said it was "unauthorized."

DeCiantis said "no one has been authorized to make any offer to the school board. I am Mr. Berg's attorney and any action must be taken through me." He added that the city was going to bring a "bill for specific performance," and that City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer, "has filed answers to the case which is now pending in court."

At the school committee meeting Tuesday, Charles B. MacKay, superintendent of schools, reported the offer as coming from Berg who had spoken with Palmer.

Palmer said last night that Berg did make the offer. "He (Berg) called me up at the city hall. Henry Gallagher, the city clerk, was there when I spoke with him. I even told Berg that the offer should be made through DeCiantis, his attorney."

DeCiantis said Berg "may have spoken with Palmer but didn't authorize him to make any offer of settlement with the school board." Berg could not be reached for comment.

As a result of Tuesday's meeting, the committee agreed to consider the offer if Berg first withdraws his case against the referendum and honors the disputed option held by the committee.

Pending in Kent County Superior Court is an injunction brought by the Bergs which prevents the board of canvassers from certifying the results of the November referendum which, by a small majority, approved the building of a new high school.

Berg contends the referendum cited the wrong legislative act and was faulty in its wording. In addition, the city is trying to force Berg to honor an option on his land for the high school site. Berg's purported offer asks for a three-year extension of the option.

Meanwhile, until the litigation is resolved the committee cannot formulate any building plans, and is doubtful about selling any bonds even if the court resolves the case in its favor.

*Proctor Journal Jan 9, 1953*

## PROCTOR SUBMITS WATER-RATE BILL

### Power to Fix Charges Would Go to State Public Utility Administrator

Power to fix water rates charged by the Kent County Water Authority, target of a consumers' rate fight, would be placed in the state public utility administrator under legislation presented yesterday in the General Assembly.

Submitted by Sen. Howard S. Proctor of East Greenwich, Republican floor leader, the bill has the backing, its sponsor said, of the East Greenwich Town Council.

At an informal hearing of the Senate corporations committee on Tuesday, Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick town solicitor, urged amendment of the DiFiore bill to place the authority under state regulation. As originally introduced by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) and others, and as passed by the House, the bill would oust all five members of the authority and provide for the appointment of their successors.

Sent also to the corporations committee, Proctor's measure would permit any customer of the authority to have a hearing before the administrator with respect to rates. If dissatisfied with any order of the administrator, the customer would have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

If enacted, the Proctor bill, or some similar measure, would obviate the necessity for a Supreme Court hearing Jan. 25 on the question of whether the authority now comes under the rate-fixing power of the public utility administrator.

# Kent Co. Water Authority

## Showed Surplus of \$9842.07

The Kent County Water Authority took in \$10,979.02 more than it spent in the fiscal year which ended last June 30, not counting \$30,011.29 in billings in excess of old rates, which it could not use pending a decision by the State Supreme Court on its right to set rates.

This was revealed yesterday after examination of a report by Ernst & Ernst, auditors, released this week by the authority. The report covered the fiscal year from June 14, 1950, to June 30, 1951.

The \$30,011.29 which the authority could not use apparently was billed to commercial users, inasmuch as homeowners were not billed at higher rates until last Aug. 31. It is held in escrow by order of the court.

Deductions of \$277,887.52 from usable income of \$277,289.56 left an excess of deductions over revenues of \$597.96 which the auditors said "indicates a red figure." But the same statement of income and surplus showed that a transfer of \$11,274.03 from a reserve for renewal replacements, less \$834 cost of property retired, left a \$9842.07 surplus as of June 30, 1951.

The \$11,274.03 was part of \$12,410.98 (4½ per cent of gross revenues) set aside from the year's revenue in a renewal and replacement fund. The balance of the \$12,410.98, or \$1136.95, left in the special fund, makes the \$10,979.02

excess, when added to the reported \$9842.07 surplus.

The report was in the hands of the authority at least by Sept. 10, 1951, because it includes a letter from Albert V. Wood, authority chief accountant, to Paine Webber, Jackson & Curtis, original purchaser of water revenue bonds of \$2,225,000, giving that firm the report summary.

Auditors note that, under terms of the bond resolution, all cash receipts from operations were deposited with Industrial Trust Co., fiscal agent, and were transferred by the agent to debt service and other special funds.

Under the heading of debt service, the agent put \$51,864.54 in the reserve account; \$58,648.96 in the current annual interest fund (of which \$54,137.50 was paid out); and \$1680.61 in the sinking fund.

It put \$12,410.98 in the renewal and replacement fund and the \$30,011.29 in the consumers' escrow fund.

The balance of funds was distributed to the operation and maintenance fund, and a balance of \$3361.23 remaining later in the operation and maintenance fund, in excess of such costs, was divided equally between that fund and the sinking fund. Year-end balance in special funds was set at \$89,204.85.

The report's balance sheet and statement of income and surplus follow:

Balance Sheet Kent County Water Authority June 30, 1951	
ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	
UTILITY PLANT	
Property plant and equipment—at cost	\$2,229,688.30
Cash on deposit for new construction	62,262.98
Total	\$2,291,951.28
CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS	
Cash:	
Operation and maintenance fund	\$ 24,298.76
Consumers' advances for construction	9,129.15
Total	\$ 33,427.91
Accounts receivable	\$ 44,586.42
Materials and supplies	27,198.86
Total	\$ 105,213.19
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Revenue fund	\$ 5,854.87
Special funds	89,204.85
Total	\$ 95,059.72
DEFERRED DEBITS	
Unamortized finance expense	\$ 35,824.40
Prepaid insurance	3,896.97
Other deferred debits	558.75
Total	\$ 40,280.12
Grand Total	\$2,532,504.31
LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	
LONG TERM DEBT	
Water revenue bonds, issue of 1950	\$2,250,000.00
CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 49,871.93
Unpaid city and town charges	22,439.51
Total	\$ 72,311.44
RESERVES APPLICABLE TO SPECIAL FUNDS	\$ 89,204.85
RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS	1,200.00
DEFERRED CREDITS	
Water charges billed in advance	\$ 68,591.00
Consumers' advances for construction	20,626.21
Total	\$ 89,217.21
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION	\$ 20,728.74
SURPLUS	9,842.07
Grand Total	\$2,532,504.31
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND SURPLUS KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY From June 14, 1950 to June 30, 1951	
Operating revenues:	
Sales of water	\$253,579.30
Hydrant rentals	34,397.44
Other	17,324.11
	\$305,300.85
Less billings in excess of prior rates	30,011.29
	\$277,289.56
Less:	
Operating expenses	\$105,095.12
City and town charges	29,431.62
Maintenance expenses	19,475.36
Amortization of finance expense	1,285.82
	\$154,287.92
Less appropriated from gross receipts:	\$122,052.14
Debt service fund:	
Reserve account	\$ 51,864.54
Current annual interest	56,693.97
Sinking fund	1,680.61
	\$110,239.12
Renewal and replacement fund	12,410.98
	\$122,650.10
EXCESS OF DEDUCTIONS OVER REVENUES	\$ 597.96
Transfers from reserve for renewal and replacement fund for additions to property accounts	11,274.03
	\$10,676.07
Less estimated cost of property retired	834.00
	\$ 9,842.07
SURPLUS AT JUNE 30, 1951	\$ 9,842.07

\*Indicates red figure.

# Joint Municipal Purchase

## Of Water Holdings Urged

Purchase of all the Kent County Water Authority's holdings by joint action of the municipalities served was proposed last night by Michael De Ciantis, West Warwick town solicitor.

De Ciantis, speaking at a Warwick Chamber of Commerce meeting, said that he wondered "only this evening" why the suggested Warwick move to purchase authority facilities within its boundaries could not be undertaken by East Greenwich, West Warwick and Coventry as well.

Described by Russell H. Hawkins, chamber president, as the "pioneer" in the fight against the authority's rate increase, De Ciantis said he thought immediate municipal ownership would be preferable to operation of the system by the authority until all authority bonds have been retired "in 30 years or so."

### Committee Named

Said De Ciantis to a few dubious members: "I am confident that my town and the others, too, can operate the water system at least as economically as the authority . . . and perhaps more economically."

Warwick's city council has named a special committee to investigate the feasibility of the city's purchase of authority holdings, which service water consumers in most of the city's ninth ward and in parts of the eighth and seventh wards, and supply of those areas with Providence water at lower rates.

The Warwick chamber's own study committee and other chamber members deferred any decision on recommendation of the move for further discussion at a later meeting.

De Ciantis admitted that "the towns and the city would have to get together" to make his proposal workable, and that only thorough study would determine a fair price to the authority for each of the various portions of its system.

### Two Possible Obstacles

He foresaw only two possible obstacles. How far Providence water can be sold beyond the watershed of the Scituate reservoir "would have to be worked out," he said.

And sale of any part of the authority holdings, he observed, would be contingent upon the consent of the holders of bonds sold when the authority purchased the former private water companies in 1950.

The provision of the water authority creative act, which prohibits later amendments jeopardizing the bonds, was termed by De Ciantis as "one of the worst features of the act." He cited the authority's unregulated rate-setting power as another.

De Ciantis dwelt at length on the history of the water authority and the present debate over its new rates.

He reiterated his contention that, "according to the water authority's own reports, a rate increase of only 30 to 35 per cent would be sufficient for all the improvements they say they need."

### Sees "Bad Advice"

"Their income now more than pays their costs of operation and maintenance and debt service as well, yet they raise rates 150 to 300 per cent."

In answer to questions from chamber members at the conclusion of the lengthy discussion, De Ciantis voiced opinions that the authority's "exorbitant" new rate is the result of "bad advice from somebody; that a recent bill introduced in the General Assembly placing the authority under the public utilities administrator's jurisdiction should and will be passed "regardless of who the men on the authority are," and that the bill will not conflict with the ban on legislation jeopardizing authority bonds.

He also said he feels that the authority would reveal the identity of the bondholders "if someone asked." He said he does not know who holds the bonds; but that he has been "told" that none of the authority members are bondholders.

*Time Magazine - Jan. 14*  
**Howard's Happy Day** 1952

Grinding the end of a cigar in his teeth, the Attorney General trudged into the White House one morning last week for a Cabinet meeting. The look on Howard McGrath's Irish face was as dark as his derby. Reporters had just one question: Was he resigning? "That question is almost as important as what's going to happen in the Democratic Convention next summer," said McGrath wryly.

In November, Harry Truman had fired one of McGrath's top assistants, Theron Lamar Caudle, the influence-peddler's buddy, without asking the advice of the Attorney General. Around the White House, there was talk that a vigilant Attorney General would have caught some of the wrongdoers before congressional committees got the scent. Last week Truman began casting around for a new At-



Associated Press  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL McGRATH**  
 Things are not always what they seem.

torney General. His patronage assistant, Donald Dawson, sounded out Justin Miller, chairman of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, former federal judge, onetime dean of Duke University law school. This activity was reported on the nation's front pages. That was the setting for Howard McGrath's walk-on at the Cabinet meeting.

Ninety-five minutes after he plodded into the White House, Attorney General McGrath pranced out, a changed man. "Things are not always what they seem on the surface," he sang out, grinning. "No change in my status is contemplated."

At the Cabinet meeting, Harry Truman had assured all that "Howard" was staying on. One lively theory was that McGrath owed his job to the front-page stories which had reported that he would soon be out. Harry Truman, a stubborn man, has always resented advance newspaper notices of his hirings and firings.

**DECIANTIS BOOMED  
 FOR WATER BOARD**

*Providence Journal - Jan. 13/52*  
**Leader in Fight Against Kent**

**Authority Rate Increases  
 Backed by Democrats**

Fawtuxet Valley Office,  
 15 Washington Street,  
 West Warwick } Telephone  
 Valley 1-0570  
 1-0746-W

There is strong sentiment among West Warwick Democratic leaders for appointing Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis to the Kent County Water Authority if the five present seats on that body are vacated, it was learned yesterday.

DeCiantis almost single handedly led the original fight against the rate increases effected by present board members. He has been in the forefront in the current move to bring the authority under regulation of the state public utilities administrator and the abortive attempt to get the Office of Price Stabilization to control water prices.

The solicitor has a background in utilities. He was at one time chief of the State Division of Public Utilities and, during that term caused the telephone company to eliminate a special charge for so-called French phones, arguing that it had received sufficient revenue through the special charge to pay for them.

Harry Erinakes, prominent in the West Warwick Citizens' Committee, is being mentioned as a possible nominee for the position of second West Warwick representative on the authority, it was learned. A businessman, he has interests in West Warwick and East Greenwich.

A bill introduced by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) to oust the present authority members has passed the House and is in the Senate corporations committee. It would revamp the system of naming water authority members to eliminate the authority itself naming the fifth member. The West Warwick Town Council would appoint two, the Warwick City Council one, and the Coventry and East Greenwich Councils, one each.

DeCiantis has asserted that the authority could operate properly with a 30 per cent raise over old rates, instead of the 150 per cent increase now in effect.

*Providence Journal - Jan. 22, 1952*  
**Captain Horton's Small Estate**  
**Spread Among His Many Friends**

**Will of Colorful R.I. Figure Who Died Dec. 30**  
**Distributes Possessions Among Acquaintances**  
**in Courts, Assembly, First Light Infantry**

Capt. Clarence E. Horton, who died Dec. 30, spread his small estate lovingly among the many friends he made in his years of court and General Assembly attendance and his association with the First Light Infantry.

The will of the colorful Rhode Island character, on file for probate at city hall, distributes the estate valued at \$2500. It reads something like this:

A three-pinch-bottle decanter and the contents thereof to Sen. Charles T. Algren of East Greenwich.

Six glasses and a decanter of creme de menthe to Miss Grace M. Sherwood, the state librarian.

A gold wrist watch to Sen. William B. Sweeney.

An itaglio ring to Superior Court Judge G. Frederick Frost.

An electric bed pad and an infantry uniform to Col. Gregor Krichbaum.

An oil painting of himself in dress uniform to the First Light Infantry Association.

A "chronograph" split second watch, "a gift from my late father," to Edward F. McElroy.

A yellow and cinnamon American singer canary to Mrs. Edgar Broughton.

The roller canary to Dr. E. Franklin Stone.

The gray and buff canary to Horace B. Knowles.

The green American singer canary to Miss Mabel C. Hardy whom he designated as executrix, and to whom he also left his diamond solitaire ring, his desk with the brass trimmings and all other miscellaneous pictures, furniture and effects.

His stop watch goes to William

Douglas of Newport and his Columbus gold pocket watch to Edgar Broughton; his twin diamond and aquamarine ring to Elizabeth Douglas of Newport, his cut glass vase and candy dish to Mrs. Joseph Seamans, his drop leaf table to Mrs. Eva Winsor and his saber to Frank Carter Sr.

He directed that \$200 be donated to Trinity Methodist Church and \$100 to the Rev. Allen E. Claxton of Brooklyn. He left \$200 for cancer research.

All the rest of his belongings he left to Miss Hardy, McElroy and John E. Burke, with instructions that they take enough from that to inscribe his name and proper dates on the family memorial.

*Providence Journal - Jan. 22, 1952*  
**102 VOTERS SIGN UP**  
**Permanent Registration Gets Underway in W. Warwick**

Permanent registration got underway in West Warwick yesterday as 102 residents registered at the town hall.

Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk, was the first to register as Mrs. Harold C. Knight and Mrs. Marie Joubert, permanent registrars, opened up shop in the town council chamber at 8:30 a.m.

By the middle of the day Mortimer W. Newton, canvassing authority chairman, said, Miss Emily Giorgio and Mrs. Phyllis Bonenfant were added to the permanent staff.

Eligible voters may register from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays from now on.

*Prior Journal - Jan. 23, 1952*

# Change Tactics or Resign, Kent Water Board Advised

## 'The People Are Mad,' Roche Declares as Senate Committee Opens Hearing on Bill to Oust Five Members of Authority in Rate Controversy

Members of the Kent County Water Authority were told by Sen. George Roche (D-Coventry) yesterday that they should change their tactics or resign because they have lost public confidence.

Roche spoke at a Senate corporations committee hearing on a bill which would oust the five authority members, who have been subjected to a barrage of consumers' protests since they raised water rates 150 per cent.

Saying he had received complaints about the higher bills for a year, Senator Roche said "the people are mad."

"Change your course, if you're wise, or resign," Roche said. "The authority has stubbornly refused to come under public utilities regulation, after being ordered to do so. If I were in their shoes and couldn't operate, I would resign."

Other highlights at the hearing were:

### Explains Rate Hike

1. An authority explanation that, on engineers' advice, rates were raised to make needed improvements on a pay-as-you-go basis so as "not to mortgage the future."

2. Engineers' testimony that the water system, is "a starved system" that needs \$500,000 worth of improvements.

3. An admission by George B. Salter, authority secretary, that it was at fault in not taking its problems to the people in public hearings.

4. An appeal by Col. Patrick H. Quinn that the General Assembly take no action until the Rhode Island Supreme Court decides the attorney general's contention that the authority's rates are subject to public utilities regulation.

5. A discrepancy, pointed out by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, in that an authority brochure distributed among bond buyers said authority property was in good condition and old rates would be sufficient.

### Warwick Man Warned

Despite impassioned oratory by supporters of the ouster proposal, the hearing got out of hand only once, when Sen. Raymond A. McCabe (D-Providence) threatened to have Theodore Goloskie of Warwick ejected. Goloskie became embroiled with McCabe after scoring Salter's membership on the authority, although he (Salter) is not himself served by the water system.

By request of Sen. William J. Smith (D-Warren), committee chairman, Salter presented the authority side of the case first. Salter said the original asking price for the three private water companies the authority bought was \$3,000,000 but it finally was purchased for \$2,062,500. He added it is worth \$6,000,000 to \$7,500,000 today.

Citing improvements needed, Salter said a water tower in Cowesett area of Warwick is on land where a lease will expire in 1953 and a new and larger tank will have

to be built. A 60-year-old standpipe in Arctic is in "critical condition" and should be replaced, he said. A 16-inch main has been laid to Scituate Reservoir, but money is needed to install a pumping station and other equipment at Kent Dam to pump water into the line, he added.

### Cites "Mature Judgment"

Salter pointed out that board members serve without pay, giving much time to improve water service. He admitted there had been criticism of the board's pay-as-you-go philosophy, but added, "Anybody on it would have the same problems. Everything that has been done has been on mature judgment and the advice of competent firms."

Stuart Tucker, authority attorney, said he would not touch on the ouster proposal, but would confine remarks to an amendment to the bill which would place the authority under public utilities' regulation.

He asserted that rates, in the authority's opinion can better be fixed under local control and that town councils in the county appoint all authority members, except the fifth member named by the authority itself.

The Assembly is faced with a question of policy, he said, in that only the Newport Water Board, of all municipal water works in the state, is subject to state utilities control. Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, North Kingstown and various fire districts fix their own rates, he said.

### Roche's Views

Senator Roche said that there had been too much "We, we we" among authority members, "instead of thinking about the water users, the real owners."

Roche said he thinks highly of Jenks & Ballou, "but the authority went astray adopting the engineers' plan and not considering the people who are going to pay the bills."

He said the authority's improvement plans would be all right, if they could be paid for over a period of time. The authority owes Coventry two years' taxes, he said, and it "is not in good shape. It's not collecting its bills as the people refuse to pay them. The situation can't go on, as we'll have a breakdown of the water system. I favor passage of the bill."

### Tucker's Questions

Tucker pointed out that the authority has already raised rates and questioned whether, if the authority were placed under public utility regulation, present rates would continue subject to future review by the state utilities administrator. He asked whether the effect of the bill would be to have the administrator settle on the rates retroactively and, if so, what would happen to the money paid above old rates, now being held in escrow by the Supreme Court.

Attorney General Powers has taken the position that rates are subject to control of the administrator, he said, adding that, if that is so, "there is no need of legislative action and some question of the propriety in acting before the court hears the case, Friday or probably next week."

Disagreeing with laudatory comment on the authority's property by a Pennsylvania engineer in the authority's bond brochure, Henry W. Ballou of Jenks & Ballou, authority engineers, called it "a starved system."

### Few Improvements

Under ownership of the late Arthur B. Lisle, he said, there were few improvements made and changes were made only when it was unavoidable. The reason was the system was not very profitable because of the decreasing value of the dollar, he added.

Bearing out Salter's assertions about the standpipes, he said he had condemned the Arctic standpipe about three weeks ago. He called it "very cheap and neglected."

Citing the danger of a conflagration and lack of water, he said the most important project is connecting with Scituate Reservoir. About three-fourths completed, he said, the connection will cost \$120,000 of which less than \$100,000 has been spent.

DeCiantis, at McCabe's nod, questioned who was wrong. He quoted the brochure as saying the authority's water is "naturally pure and safe, chlorinated as a safeguard," and the quantity is adequate for present requirements. The brochure, he said, listed \$40,000 set aside for new wells to take care of future requirements. (An idea abandoned later in favor of the Scituate connection.)

As of June, 1950, DeCiantis said, the brochure described water properties as in "satisfactory condition."

### Gets No Answer

McCabe asked authority representatives about the discrepancy in the two reports, but did not get an answer.

Quinn urged the legislators to let the Supreme Court decide the rate control issue, pointing out that the attorney general had raised the question of constitutionality of the act which created the authority and "if so, you don't want to go on record as amending something unconstitutional."

He said no customer is being forced to pay the higher rates, and many are paying the old rate, pending a court decision.

Pointed questioning by Sen. Florence K. Murray (D-Newport) brought admissions from Salter that the authority had never published its rates nor held a public hearing.

Quinn maintained that a recent board appearance at a Pawtucket Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting was a public hearing, but Harry F. McKanna Jr., West Warwick Town Council president, and Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), sponsor of the ouster bill, pointed out attendance there was only by invitation.

### Favors Shorter Terms

McCabe declared that, instead of five-year terms, authority members should have two-year terms to be more responsive to the people.

DeCiantis heatedly declared that rates have got to be reduced because consumers cannot afford to pay the "outrageous" increase. Because feeling is running so

any Kent County legislator who fails to vote for the bill will fail of re-election.

DiFiore cited lower water rates in Providence, Pawtucket, Cranston and Warwick and exhibited several West Warwick customers' bills to illustrate the hardship of the rate increase.

City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer of Warwick asked the committee to bear in mind that Warwick is studying the feasibility of buying the authority's holdings in its domain. He urged that the authority float a new bond issue, pay off its old one, and spread the cost to consumers over a longer period.

Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick) also adding that some increase, if equitable, would be all right, spoke in favor of the bill. Other authority spokesmen were Norman E. Gillespie, West Warwick, and Thomas Freeman, East Greenwich. Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry representative on the authority, was said to be out of town.

# Says Assembly Could Pass Bill on Water Authority

Pawtucket Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0870  
1-0746-W

Despite intimations by Kent County Water Authority representatives that it would be inappropriate, the General Assembly has full power to pass legislation changing the authority setup while a Rhode Island Supreme Court case affecting the authority is pending, Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick said yesterday.

Calling for immediate passage of the DiFiore bill to oust present authority members and place the authority under control of the public utility administrator, DeCiantis said authority assertions at a Senate hearing Tuesday constituted "a maneuver to obtain a delay in passage of the legislation."

"The fact remains that the legislature is supreme in these matters and has a perfect right to enact the legislation," DeCiantis declared.

He added that authority strategy in questioning propriety of the bill at this time "is only an attempt to allow the bill to die in committee if possible."

He pointed out that, if the court should hear the pending case involving the authority, it most probably would not be decided, because of its importance, in time for the legislature to act this session if it desired. The legislature usually adjourns in April.

Discounting authority assertions that there is no "revolt" among water users, DeCiantis said, "It's more than that. It was just like an atomic bomb dropping when those bills came out in West Warwick."

## Had to Restrain Them

He declared that leaders in the fight against the authority's rate increase had to restrain customers from public demonstrations against the authority.

"If a statement were issued to water users in the county to stop paying their bills, they would comply and the water authority would have no funds to operate with, which would make a worse situation," he said.

"There was some statement by members of the authority that the people are using much more water and there is not sufficient water," DeCiantis said. "The truth is a lot of people have refused to use much water and I, myself, allowed my lawn to burn last summer and will do so until the rates are reduced, a policy followed by many."

The General Assembly cannot escape passing the DiFiore bill because the people expect action, he asserted. He reiterated that General Assembly delegations from West Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich, Scituate, the Natick district of Warwick and the Oak-lawn section of Cranston, he said.

Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) sponsor of the ouster legislation, in a statement, pointed out that authority customers now pay \$25 for 33,333 gallons of water. He said the charge for the same amount in Providence and Cranston is \$8; in Pawtucket, \$10; and in Warwick, \$12. Charges for excess water are much lower in other communities, he added.

## Original Story

He said he had been advised, when the original water authority act passed in 1946, that the authority was a public benefit corporation and would keep control of the various water companies out of the hands of private owners "who might raise havoc with water rates and quality of water."

Besides doubled and tripled costs, in some cases, to home-owners and commercial users, DiFiore brought up the question of town hydrant rentals, saying, "Why, we have hydrants that have never been opened since they were first installed a half century ago, yet we must go on paying for them at a rate of \$50 per hydrant per year."

Decrying the authority's admission that increased rates are to pay for improvements on a pay-as-you-go basis, DiFiore said, "We who are now using water from the Kent County Water Authority must pay for services that will be rendered to the next four or five generations that follow us and, what with rising costs all around us and the lack of employment in our Pawtucket Valley, this water situation has become a problem that has justified the people to 'revolt.'"

"I, too, subscribe to a pay-as-you-go policy where it is possible. However, I am sure this cannot be applied in the case of a water authority for, by the same token, where would the thousands of homeowners be today if they had to pay for their homes outright, instead of getting them by means of borrowed money paid back over a period of time at a rate commensurate to their incomes? When would the citizens of West Warwick or any other community get sewage systems, high schools and so many other services so important to the well-being of a community if it weren't for the fact that we can amortize these capital expenditures. . . ."

## Change Terms, System

DiFiore's bill also would change the terms of water authority members and eliminate the present system under which the fifth member of the authority is elected by the other four named by town and city councils in the county.

In this connection he declared that all five authority members should be appointed by the town and city councils because "we theorize that the method of appointing the fifth man was devised by those who instituted the legislation to create the Kent County Water Authority in order that the authority might be in control."

# Water Authority Hearing Deferred Till Wednesday

Pawtucket Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0870  
1-0746-W

The General Assembly has until next Wednesday to pass legislation which would put the Kent County Water Authority clearly under control of the state public utilities administrator and avoid the necessity for a Supreme Court hearing on the question.

The extension of time during which the Assembly may act developed yesterday when, at the request of Stuart Tucker, authority attorney, the court postponed hearing the case until next Wednesday. It originally was down for hearing yesterday.

Two legislative days, today and

Tuesday, remain before the court hearing gets under way.

There was considerable interest in Kent County yesterday as to what might happen, inasmuch as there are two bills before the Assembly affecting the authority, one of which would have more drastic effect than the other.

A bill introduced by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) already has passed the house and is in the Senate corporations committee. The more drastic of the two, it would oust all present members of the authority and place all five successor authority members under appointment by town and city councils on staggered terms, instead of current five-year terms.

DiFiore has agreed, he said, to a proposed Senate amendment to the bill to place the authority's rate fixing under control of the public utility administrator.

The other bill, introduced by Sen. Howard S. Proctor (R-East Greenwich), GOP floor leader, also is in the Senate corporations committee. It would only place the authority's rates under public utility control.

It was reported yesterday that considerable pressure is being brought to bear on Senate Republicans to defeat the DiFiore ouster bill should it be reported out of committee. The GOP controls the Senate by a 22-21 vote, pending election of a new senator from Pawtucket.

## Water Bills Rate Control Being Sought

## Roche Act Would Put Authority Under Utilities

(By Staff Correspondent)

State House.—A new bill designed to protect customers of the Kent County Water Authority from big increases in their water bills was introduced yesterday afternoon. The act was presented by Sen. George Roche (D-Coventry).

It provides that the water authority be placed under the control of the state public utility administrator and, furthermore, rolls back water rates to what they were prior to the hike of last year until the public utility administrator determines what a fair rate should be.

The measure is a compromise sponsored by both Democratic and Republican senators from the affected communities.

In effect, it is a substitute for two bills pending in the Senate corporations committee. One, already passed the House, would end the terms of office of the present members of the authority. The other, offered by Sen. Howard S. Proctor (R-East Greenwich) would have placed the authority under the public utility administrator but would not immediately have rolled back the water rates which, in some cases, were increased 150 per cent or more last year.

The new measure, likely to pass the Senate since it was agreed earlier to go along with whatever the Kent County delegation proposed, was sponsored jointly by Senators Proctor, Leon Brower of Cranston and Frederick A. Brown of West Greenwich, Republicans, and George Roche of Coventry and Dion Archambault of West Warwick, Democrats. It is expected to win the support also of Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), who introduced the bill which would have terminated the terms of the present members of the authority.

*Pro Journal - Feb 2, 1952*

# State Supreme Court is Asked to Rule Water Board Subject to Rate Controls

The State Supreme Court was asked yesterday to rule that the Kent County Water Authority is subject to regulation of its water rates by the public utility division in the same fashion as private utility companies.

Assistant Attorney General Robert A. Coogan argued to the court that if it could not interpret the 1946 law, setting up the authority, as subjecting it to rate regulation, then it should declare the law unconstitutional.

Coogan presented arguments in support of Public Utility Administrator Kennelly's petition to compel the authority to submit a rate schedule, and meantime to desist from charging increased rates, widely protested throughout the Kent County area.

Stuart H. Tucker, representing the authority, asked the court to find that it has its own rate-making authority just like various municipal water works and water districts throughout the state.

The court reserved its decision after the two hours' arguments. Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick town solicitor, who had planned to supplement Coogan's arguments, did not attend because of illness, but presented a legal brief.

## None Heard

Coogan charged in his argument that the authority had "summarily" increased rates in the fall of 1950 within a short time after an engineering firm, Jenks & Ballou, had made a rate survey for it. He pointed out that no one had a chance to be heard before the rate increase and the boost was not made in the orderly fashion in which public utility rates are put into effect.

Tucker before commencing his main argument replied to this criticism and said the action of the authority was neither precipitate or inconsiderate. He said records of the authority would show that after the engineering firm's report was received the board considered its recommendations at three or four meetings before adopting the new rates.

Tucker defended the water authority as a public, non-profit organization and argued that, contrary to Kennelly's claims, the act does have standards restricting its rate-making powers.

He said it may fix rates sufficient only to pay interest on bonds, and to amortize them, pay operational and maintenance expenses, provide reserves for depreciation, maintenance, and other contingencies and for other obligations and indebtedness.

## Cites Appeal Rights

The water authority attorney asserted that customers aggrieved by its rates had a variety of methods for contesting them in the courts, and so did not have to resort to the action taken by the public utility administrator.

Tucker said customers protesting rates as excessive and confiscatory could bring an equity suit to enjoin collection of alleged arbitrary or unreasonable rates.

He said they also could bring a certiorari (review) petition to the Supreme Court.

Furthermore, he contended, any customer claiming to have been overcharged could simply refuse to pay the rates, and when the authority brought a lawsuit to collect its charges the customer could set up their alleged unreasonableness as a defense.

Tucker contended the public utility administrator had no right to bring an action attacking constitutionality of the 1946 act. Subordinate public officers have no right to raise such constitutional questions unless they contend they personally are affected, Tucker said. He charged that Kennelly was attempting to frustrate the plain intention of the legislature in vesting the KCWA with rate-making powers like those enjoyed by water districts.

## "Not Undemocratic"

He denied that the method of appointing commission members was undemocratic and said it was basically no different than with the North Kingstown Water Works Commission and the Blackstone Valley Sewer District Commission.

DeCiantis asked the court to hold the act unconstitutional for failing to set up any standards of procedure for the authority as regards rules, regulations and decisions. He contended there was no opportunity for inhabitants to submit the reasonableness of rates to any judicial tribunal, and no appeal was provided.

The West Warwick solicitor charged that the legislature had surrendered its power to fix rates to the authority beyond constitutional limitations.

Coogan argued that the water authority setup deprives the people of Kent County served by the water firm of the democratic controls which have been traditional in New England since the earliest days of town meetings.

## Sees Lack of Control

He said there was a complete absence of the control which should be expected where a commodity as vital as water is involved.

Whereas towns through their town councils elect representatives to serve on the authority for fixed terms, they have absolutely no control over their representatives during their terms in office, Coogan said.

He related how the authority, after taking over the water lines formerly operated by three private water companies, almost immediately doubled hydrant rentals from \$25 to \$50.

Associate Justice Francis B. Condon frequently interrupted Coogan's argument to question him.

At one point Condon suggested that even though high rates had been fixed by the authority, they could result in the production of an excess of revenue, and in paying off debts of the authority more quickly so that this would ultimately redound to the benefit of the customers.

Coogan replied that it would be slight comfort to the present water users to know that their posterity in 1985 or 1990 might derive benefit from the present excessive rates.

## Stresses 1946 Act

It also was pointed out that water users in Scituate and Cranston have no representation on the five-member board.

Coogan stressed that the 1946 act set out a water district on geographical lines but did not incorporate the district. Instead, he said, the five member board is the corporation.

Condon inquired whether towns served by the district had contributed to its revenues in any manner other than payment for water used.

Coogan said he felt the towns were supporting the authority in another, indirect manner, by having their taxes on the authority's property frozen, so that that they cannot be increased under the terms of the law. By restricting the taxes the towns can impose, the law thus puts an added tax burden on the rest of the inhabitants, Coogan said.

He contended that unless the court should interpret the law to mean that the water authority must submit to rate regulation, the act otherwise is unconstitutional because it takes property without due process of law and involves an improper delegation of legislative power to the authority.

*Bulletin - Feb 5, 1952*

## DeCiantis Hits Water Board

### West Warwick Solicitor Urges County Towns To Demand Ousters

Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis, of West Warwick this morning asserted that local governments in Kent County should demand resignations of the entire membership of the Kent County Water Authority.

De Ciantis explained that he did not attend the meeting of town and city councils and the authority, called by the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce last night, because "I knew that it was as impossible as it is to count the stars in illimitable space to have the Kent County Water Authority to reduce its rates voluntarily."

"The members of the Chamber of Commerce can see now the obstinate, stubborn, dogmatic, and demagogic attitude of the board. The people have been as patient as the trees, and I think the time has come when it will become necessary to ask, by way of town governments, for the resignation of the entire board."

De Ciantis declared that, although Norman E. Gillespie, West Warwick member of the authority, has said the protest over increased water rates is confined only to a few, that his (De Ciantis') telephone was ringing with complaints while last night's meeting was in progress.

He said that Philias LeBeau of 10 Shippee Avenue called him and "very emotionally condemned the entire personnel because a year ago his bill for water was \$60.20 and this year he received a bill for \$240.10. As I said a long time ago, the water act was a masterpiece. You can see now the impossibility of a town discharging any member of the authority if he does not want to comply with its wishes."

Providence Journal  
February 4, 1952

ERNST & ERNST  
Accountants and Auditors  
PROVIDENCE

January 30, 1952

Patrick H. Quinn, Chairman  
Kent County Water Authority  
West Warwick, Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, we have test checked the records of the billings for the sales of water for the five months period, August 1 to December 31, 1951; and we have compared the total of such billings computed at the new rates and at the old rates.

This comparison shows that the average increase in the total charges to customers for the sales of water was 98% for the period indicated.

Very truly yours,  
ERNST & ERNST

(signed) R. C. Harrington  
Resident Partner

JENKS & BALLOU  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

January 31, 1952

Patrick H. Quinn, Chairman  
Kent County Water Authority  
West Warwick, R. I.

Dear Sir:

Complying with your request of yesterday, the above precise certificate by Ernst & Ernst is of necessity confined to a 5-month basis of new rates. Jenks & Ballou predict that after new rates have been billed consecutively for one year, which will not occur until next August, the average increase in all rates will be less than 90%.

Some of the new rates are nearly three times the old rates, but the average new rate, as just stated, is LESS THAN TWICE THE OLD RATES. This increase is less than the decrease in the value of the dollar during the more than twenty years that the old rates had been in use.

In the Pawtuxet Valley Co. and Warwick & Coventry Co. in 1949 there were 1,006 customers who paid the minimum charge of \$15 per year. These smallest customers constitute the largest class of customers. About a thousand customers will pay NO INCREASE WHATEVER from the \$15.00 they paid in 1949.

Very truly,  
JENKS & BALLOU  
By H. W. Ballou

Journal - Feb 5 - 1952  
70  
**NOTHING DEVELOPS  
ON WATER RATES**

Kent County Authority, Councilmen Hold 4-Hour Closed Meeting in Arctic

The Kent County Water Authority and members of the Warwick city council and East Greenwich and Coventry town councils last night met for nearly four hours in a closed meeting in Congdon Grain Co. Hall, Arctic, by invitation of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber officials and others said after the meeting that nothing concrete came of the general discussion of the current controversy over the authority's higher water rates.

The West Warwick town council, which has backed a bill sponsored by Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) that would oust present authority members, boycotted the meeting.

Charles Congdon, chamber president, said the West Warwick councilmen were invited. He said the press was excluded to permit a free discussion without fear of quotation, but said after the meeting that he wished the press had been present.

Congdon said he called the meeting, which was not attended by general chamber membership, "to try to reconcile water rates with consistent business practices."

He said he had hoped that authority members might agree to reduce rates voluntarily in the light of the present consumer protests.

Henry Melancon, chamber secretary, said it was brought out by H. W. Ballou of Jenks & Ballou, authority engineers, that the engineers had submitted three possible rate schedules to the authority and that it chose the highest of the three.

Meanwhile, the DiFiore ouster bill is lying in the Senate corporations committee after passage by the House.

However, a bill sponsored by Sen. George Roche (D-Coventry) which would require the authority to return to its old rates upon enactment of the measure and subject it to public utility regulation, is on the Senate calendar for this afternoon's session and is reported slated for passage.

Authority members present last night were Col. Patrick H. Quinn, chairman, and Norman E. Gillespie, both of West Warwick; Thomas Freeman, East Greenwich, and George B. Salter, of Warwick. Edwin H. Arnold, Coventry representative, was out of town.

The authority members were accompanied by their engineers and attorney, Stuart Tucker.

The town councils represented were accompanied by their town solicitors, Senator Roche for Coventry; Hailes L. Palmer of Warwick and Clinton G. Clough of East Greenwich.

# Bulletin Feb. 5, 1952

## Water Board Members, Area Officials Confer

### Nothing Concrete Reported Settled After Closed Session in Arctic

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## NEXT STEP IS TO SEE THAT PEOPLE RECEIVE WATER BILL REBATES

*P.V. Time Feb. 6, 1952*  
Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick who has captained the fight against the controversial rate hike which the Kent County Water Authority asked customers to pay, this morning said the next step is to see that the people get their money back which they paid over the old rates.

The General Assembly yesterday knocked back the rates of the water authority to the level of 18 months ago and at the same time placed the authority under state regulation.

DeCiantis said: "Now the next step is to see that the people get the money which is held in escrow by the authority."

"In this respect I wish to call the attention of the people to the factor that certain procedures

will have to be instituted by the parties in the Supreme Court as the money has been ordered held in escrow by the court and until an order is issued by that judicial body it will have to be held there.

"But let me promise that everything will be done within reason to get the money refunded."

"There isn't any question, as I have told the people in this town, there must be a raise of between 25 and 3 per cent but, if there is any attempt on the part of the authority to file the same rate schedule as they tried to put into effect with the public utilities administrator I will fight it to the end."

DeCiantis also added, in answer to the many questions of what to do with the bills received the past week and ordered to be paid before the 20th of the month. "I suggest the customers contact the office of the water authority and if the bill is to be paid, have the bill tabulated at the old rates. For the regular consumer the minimum charge is \$15 for 50,000 gallons of water with an additional charge of 30 cents for every additional 1000 gallons used, plus the sales tax."

## DECIANTIS URGES BOARD BE OUSTED

*Pros. Journal 2/6/52*  
Avers Town Should Demand

### Kent County Water Body

#### Members Resign

Pawtuxet Valley Office. Telephone  
15 Washington Street. Valley 1-0870  
West Warwick. 1-0746-W

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## Bulletin Feb. 5, 1952

## Finn Denies Shellfish Guilt

### East Greenwich Dealer Released in \$1000 In Superior Court

Warren B. Finn Jr., East Greenwich shellfish dealer, pleaded innocent yesterday in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich, to an indictment charging possession of undersized quahaugs.

Judge Thomas H. Roberts gave the defendant three weeks in which to file special pleas in the case and set bail of \$1000 which was furnished by Walter W. Finn of East Greenwich.

The shellfish dealer was indicted by the Kent County grand jury Jan. 28 after a charge of possessing 166 quarts of illegal sized quahaugs was pressed by the state in district court and referred to the upper court when it was contended that a finding of guilt would have involved a fine exceeding \$500.

The alleged illegal quahaugs were found by shellfish wardens in a raid on the Finn establishment last October. The case was prosecuted by Francis J. Fazzano, assistant attorney general, and appearing as counsel for Finn was Michael DeCiantis.

*Providence Journal - Feb. 6, 1952*

# KENT COUNTY WATER RATES ROLLED BACK; AUTHORITY PUT UNDER STATE CONTROL

## MEASURE PASSED, SIGNED IN MATTER OF FEW MINUTES

Assembly, Governor Act Swift-  
ly in Answer to Unit's Claim  
of Autonomy

In a matter of minutes yesterday, the General Assembly and Governor Roberts rolled back the rates of the Kent County Water Authority to the level of 18 months ago and placed the authority under state regulation.

Bipartisan support of the measure curtailing the powers of the authority made possible the speed with which the law was enacted.

The Senate passed it not long after it was taken from the calendar. It was whipped across the corridor to the House where it was given concurrent approval in even shorter time, and a few minutes later, Governor Roberts signed it into law.

### Speed Is Answer

The lightning speed, infrequent in the General Assembly, was the legislature's answer to the claim of the five-member authority that it could not be regulated by the public utility administrator and that it had raised its rates in accordance with the needs of the water dispensing corporation. Democrats and Republicans, angered at large increases in rates ordered by the authority since it took over three private companies in June, 1950, asked their colleagues in the Assembly to guard against the future enactment of any bill like the one which originally created the authority.

Sen. George Roche (D-Coventry) declared the original bill was an example of "how a very good looking infant can grow up to be a monstrosity."

While it is called the Kent County Water Authority, the water corporation also serves parts of two communities in Providence County, South Scituate and the southern section of Cranston. In Kent County, the authority serves the southern part of Warwick and West Warwick, Coventry and East Greenwich.

Assistant Attorney General Robert A. Coogan said last night he believed the legislature's enactment yesterday makes a pending Supreme Court case involving the authority "a moot question."

### Court Arguments

Only last Thursday, the Supreme Court heard Coogan argue that the authority is subject to the regulation of the public utilities administrator in the same fashion as private companies. Stuart H. Tucker, representing the authority, argued that the authority has its own rate-making power.

Coogan, acting for the state, brought the case before the court to attempt to force the authority to comply with an order from the public utilities administrator demanding that the rate schedule be filed.

Coogan said he would confer with Tucker to determine if the authority now is willing to file a statement of agreement with the court saying that, since the legislature now has passed a law placing the authority under the regulation, the issue is moot.

Involved in such a court order, Coogan said, is an escrow fund made up of some monies paid to the authority within the last few months.

When the state brought its case against the authority before the court several months ago, the court ruled that customers pay the higher rates and that the difference between the old and the new rates be kept in escrow until the case had been decided.

### To Ask Funds' Return

Coogan said he would ask Tucker to agree that the escrow money now be returned to the customers who paid it.

Roche, who steered the bill to passage in the Senate, said the original authority legislation was drawn by a group of New York lawyers and that it was an "excel-lent one" for the people they represented—those who were going to sell and hold the authority bonds.

Roche explained that the bill before the Senate went one step further than the measure proposed by Sen. Howard S. Proctor (R-East Greenwich) to place the authority under control of the public utility administrator. This was in the provision that until the public utility administrator establishes rates for the authority, the only ones that can be charged are those formerly in effect.

If the authority merely had been placed under state control, it could walk in and say it wanted to continue the rates now in effect until the administrator had a chance to rule, Roche said. Because of the many rate cases already pending, this might take a year, he declared.

He pointed out, however, that the bill does not prevent the authority from asking for emergency relief.

### "Absolute Lack"

Proctor said he did not think members of the authority had exceeded the authority given them, but he accused them of "absolute lack of human relations and public relations."

Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick), steered the bill to passage in the House, at the same time expressing the opinion that "it doesn't do a complete job."

He said he still hoped that if the current legislation did not achieve the desired results, the Senate would give concurrent passage to his bill ousting all present members of the water authority and setting up a new procedure for naming their successors.

Rep. Ralph D. Petrarca (D-Coventry) told the House he believed the legislation setting up the authority, enacted in 1946, was bad. "We in the General Assembly should do something so that we won't pass this type of bill hereafter," he said.

He described the authority as "a monopoly."

P.V. Times - Feb. 6, 1952

# KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY UNDER R. I. UTILITIES LEADERSHIP

73

## Rates Rolled Back by General Assembly Act

(By Staff Correspondent)

State House.—The Kent County Water Authority today was under control of the State Public Utilities Administrator and its water rates were, by law, rolled back to what they were prior to last year's big jump.

The action came after the General Assembly, without opposition, adopted a bill doing exactly those two things, and a few minutes later it was signed by Governor Roberts. It was a bill worked out by those members of the Senate who come from cities and towns served by the water authority—Coventry, West Warwick, East Greenwich, parts of Warwick, Cranston and Scituate.

First, it moved through the Senate where Democrat George Roche of Coventry explained its intent and moved passage. He traced the history of the authority, which was created by the General Assembly in 1946 to direct a merger of several independent water companies.

Backers of the authority plan, he said, came to the General Assembly at that time with a healthy-looking infant which has grown into a monstrosity. The original bill, adopted in 1946, was drawn by New York lawyers and was an excellent job—for the bondholders, Roche said. And in 1950 the authority painted the people a rosy picture, but by fall it came out with an increase in that a customer who used to pay \$15 for 50,000 gallons would now have to pay the same \$15 for 20,000 gallons and \$37.50 for 50,000 gallons. The original \$15 value was about double the rate charged to Providence water users, he said.

### "More for Water Than Taxes"

"There are now many instances of taxpayers paying more for water than for real estate taxes to cover the cost of police protection, schools and other necessary services," the Coventry senator declared. He added the people served by the authority are up in arms and demand relief.

He said the relief can come only through legislative act and declared the bill, putting the authority under the public utilities administrator's control and rolling back the rates until the administrator determines what they shall be in the future is a non-partisan measure designed to provide the relief required.

Sen. Howard S. Proctor (R-East

Greenwich) declared members of the authority had shown a lack of consideration for the public in this matter and were now making a belated appeal to restore public confidence. Sen. Raymond A. McCabe (D-Providence) criticized the authority for giving the corporations committee a "confusing picture" of the situation at a recent public hearing.

Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick) quipped that there had not been so much interest in water since Prohibition.

When the bill reached the House, Rep. Gerard DiFiore (D-West Warwick) moved for concurrent approval. He said he still believed that his own bill—which had passed the House and which would have fired present members of the authority—would be a better solution but pointed out that it is still alive in the Senate corporations committee and can be acted upon if the compromise act failed to provide relief.

### Does Not Oust Members

The compromise measure does not oust the members of the authority or, as DiFiore's bill proposed, also change the method of election of its members. Passage of the compromise measure also was urged by Rep. Ralph Petrarca (D-Coventry) and other Kent County members of the House from both parties seconded the motion.

The bill passed without opposition in either branch, was transmitted immediately to Governor Roberts who signed it.

Legal authorities said afterwards that enactment of the law putting the authority under the public utilities administrator makes the case pending in the State Supreme Court now moot since the court issue was whether or not the authority is a public utility under the law and therefore subject to public utility regulation as to rates.

Under the new law, the rates are rolled back to what they were prior to last year's hike and the authority, to get an increase, must now file a petition with a proposed rate schedule with Thomas A. Kennelly, public utility administrator, who has the power to suspend any increase pending investigation and public hearing before deciding what the rate should be.

Bulletin Feb. 7, 1952

## Breach of Faith

In 1946 the General Assembly passed an act creating the Kent County Water Authority and defining its powers and duties. The act specifically empowered the authority to issue bonds or other obligations, and to fix water rates to its customers that would "provide revenue sufficient at all times" to meet principal and interest charges on those obligations, as well as to cover operating and other necessary expenses of its water system.

The same act goes on to declare: "The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations does hereby pledge to and agree with the holders of the bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness of the authority that the state will not limit or alter rights hereby vested in the authority until the said bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, together with interest thereon . . . are fully met and discharged."

Yet, despite this flat, unequivocal promise, the General Assembly has now passed and Governor Roberts has signed an act cancelling the water rates the authority has fixed as necessary, and ordering back into effect rates that the authority said 18 months ago were insufficient to enable it to meet its obligations.

Whatever the legal considerations and consequences involved in the Assembly's present action, there can be no disputing the fact that it constitutes an outrageous violation of the plighted word of the state, given only six years ago, on the basis of which more than \$2,000,000 worth of the water authority's bonds were sold and are still outstanding.

We hold no brief for the Kent County Water Authority. We do not condone the cavalier and often arrogant attitude it has assumed toward the water users whom its system serves. We do not pretend to know whether the rate schedule which the General Assembly has canceled is or is not necessary to enable it to meet its obligations.

But we do know that the Assembly's action is a breach of a solemn pledge which, if it is permitted to stand, can only cast the gravest doubts on the value of any profession of good faith offered by this state in the future.

## Michael DeCiantis Resigns Post As West Warwick Town Solicitor

### NAMED COUNSEL IN FIGHT ON WATER RATES

#### To Carry on Battle With County Authority Without Pay

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis last night submitted his resignation to the West Warwick Town Council and, at his request, immediately was named special counsel to represent the town without pay in its fight to obtain lower rates from the Kent County Water Authority.

The council accepted the surprise resignation with regret. Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, paid DeCiantis special tribute for his services to the town.

No successors was named. Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic Town Committee chairman, called a meeting of that body for Thursday at 8 p.m. in the town hall to endorse a new solicitor.

Although DeCiantis had expressed a desire to resign as long ago as last year's town meeting, Richard said the resignation was a surprise.

In his resignation letter, DeCiantis said party leaders and friends had prevailed upon him to keep the post a year ago. He explained that the controversy over the water authority's higher rates arose soon after, and he felt it his duty to stay on and "protect the interests of all the people concerned."

He explained that he resigned because "I cannot continue to devote the time that it requires, as I desire to devote much of my time in representing the people of West Warwick and the neighboring towns and cities in their fight against the water authority in obtaining lower rates."

Richards said the town commit-



Michael DeCiantis

tee as yet has no successor to DeCiantis in mind. However, Charles J. Bourgault is the only Democratic attorney not now holding public office in the town, and he is seen as a likely candidate.

Others who might be considered for the office through a reshuffling of their present positions are Mortimer W. Newton, canvassing authority chairman; Robert J. Harrop, town treasurer, and Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere.

DeCiantis, who is a member of the Democratic Town Committee, had served as solicitor since November, 1946. He at one time was probate judge of the town and, on the state level, had served as assistant attorney general and chief of the State Division of Public Utilities.

## Police Ask 10% Pay Raise Paid by Meter Fees, Fines

Police Chief Groleau last night referred to the West Warwick Town Council, with recommendation for action, a request from all members of the permanent police force for a 10 per cent salary raise to be paid for from parking meter fees and parking violation fines.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, told the force, most of whom were present, that the council could not immediately allocate the meter and fine revenue to salary boosts. He said the May 20 town meeting would have to appropriate the meter funds, now in a general fund, for the purpose.

Groleau gave the council a written request handed to him and signed by the entire permanent force. The letter said the 10 per cent raise was promised last year and that it would make the salary of patrolmen about \$60 weekly, described as "still below smaller towns."

It said further that the revenue from meters put in last September, plus the fines, would finance the raise without disturbing the budget.

Groleau told the council he believes the meter revenue would just about cover the requested raise. He said the men now make about \$55 for a 5 1/2-hour week, or about \$1.02 an hour, while mill workers receive about \$1.25 an hour.

"The boys should have consideration," he said. "The income from meters would about take care of a 10 per cent raise."

Sgt. Joseph Pontarelli said he didn't think it necessary to bring the question before the town meeting, adding "the people wouldn't object to using the parking meter revenue and fines for the raise."

McKanna declared the council does not have authority to spend the meter money and it is up to the town meeting. He pointed out that Pawtucket had difficulty in a similar situation, when it used money not properly allocated.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, speaking as a citizen inasmuch as he had just resigned, said the parking meter money could be allocated to the Police Department at the town meeting.

Frank La Chapelle of 72 Lexington Avenue, declared the town meeting should be asked to make the raise retroactive to the time the police asked for it.

With McKanna alone voting against it, the council granted the transfer a Class B liquor license from Alfred Petrarca, doing business as Kooler Keg, 458 Providence Street, to Gerard Ottaviano, Jerry's Cafe, 195 Washington Street, Arctic.

The application had been held up last month when McKanna said he had received some objections.

While no objectors appeared in person, McKanna said he felt he was duty bound to vote against the transfer because of private complaints to him. He said, "I have looked into some things brought to my attention."

Voting for the application were Councilmen Antonio Paul, Hervey Niquette and Thomas Mello.

## BAIL FOR KILPECK REDUCED TO \$300

### Judge Leighton Grants Reduction From \$2000 Bond in Car-Assault Case

East Greenwich Office, 3291 Post Road, Apponaug Telephone, Hills Grove 1-1000

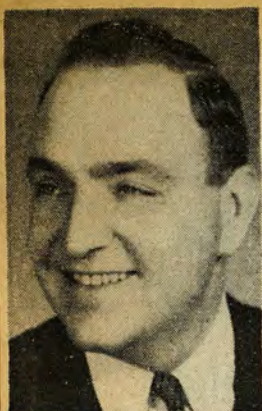
James Kilpeck, 37, of 19 Howard Street, Coventry, who is charged by Warwick police with assault with a dangerous weapon, an automobile, with which a former girl friend was seriously injured Dec. 14, yesterday had his bail reduced from \$2000 to \$300 in Fourth District Court, East Greenwich.

Judge James W. Leighton in granting the defense motion for sharply reduced bail said in granting the motion that Kilpeck's trial had been delayed by direction of the court because the victim is still hospitalized and her testimony was wanted, and he, therefore, felt the court somewhat responsible for Kilpeck's continued incarceration without his guilt or innocence being established.

Robert R. Afflick argued in Kilpeck's behalf that the \$2000 bail was beyond his family's means of meeting, and that Kilpeck as a result has been imprisoned for the past seven weeks when he could, with freedom, be gainfully employed.

City Solicitor Hailes L. Palmer concurred with Afflick's presentation of the facts and said that it was the court's prerogative to fix bail as circumstances dictate. Judge Leighton said that considering all the circumstances and the fact that the trial has not taken place due to the court's position on the question of the victim's presence that he would take the responsibility for reducing the bail to \$300, a figure that Afflick said Kilpeck's family could meet with real estate as surety.

Kilpeck surrendered to police several days after Eleanor Kilbane, 29, of 21 Adelaide Avenue, Natick, was allegedly run down by an automobile containing Kilpeck and Joseph Robalewski, 20, of 135 Webster Avenue, Providence. Both have been waiting trial since while the Kilbane woman has been recuperating at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She is still there.



*Pres. Journal 2/15/52*  
**DEMOCRATIC UNIT  
 BACKS BOURGAUNT**

**Endorses Former Probate  
 Judge for Post of W. War-  
 wick Town Solicitor**

The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee last night unanimously endorsed Charles J. Bourgaunt, former probate judge in West Warwick and Coventry, to succeed Michael DeCiantis as town solicitor.

DeCiantis resigned Tuesday and was named special counsel to represent the town in its fight to obtain lower rates from the Kent County Water Authority.

Bourgaunt, whose endorsement is considered tantamount to appointment, said he would accept the post if the town council sees fit to appoint him.

John Gallucci, town committee secretary, said the committee adopted a resolution of regret on the resignation of DeCiantis, who is a town committee member. The resolution thanked DeCiantis, who remains on the policy-making town committee, for his legal fight to date on water rates and expressed the hope he "keep up the good work."

Bourgaunt, who is 36, lives on New London Avenue, West Warwick. He is married to the former Rosa Joyal of West Warwick. The couple has three children.

Born in West Warwick, a son of Mrs. Deus Bourgaunt and the late Deus Bourgaunt, he attended St. John's Parochial School, West Warwick High School, Brown University, where he received his A.B. degree in 1935, and Harvard Law School, where he won a scholarship and received his law degree in 1939.

A cousin of Associate Justice Eugene L. Jalbert of Superior Court, he served his law clerkship under Judge Jalbert in Woonsocket and has practised law in West Warwick since.

In World War II he served as second lieutenant with European Theater headquarters of the Judge Advocate General's Department. He is a member of West Warwick Post, American Legion, West Warwick Amvets and Sgt. David Langevin Post, VFW.

Former president of the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce, he is also treasurer of Pawtuxet Valley Red Cross branch and a member of Narragansett Gun Club; West Warwick Elks; L'Union St. Jean Baptiste d'Amerique and L'Association Canado-Americaine.

He was an OPA enforcement attorney in 1942-43. Last year he represented West Warwick at the state constitutional convention.

*Pres. Journal 2/17/52*  
**Council in West Warwick  
 Asks DiFiore Bill Passing**

**Body Also Calls for Resignation of Col. Patrick H.  
 Quinn and Norman E. Gillespie From  
 Kent County Water Authority**

Warwick Office. Telephone  
 3291 Post Rd., Apponaug/Hillgrove 1-1000

The West Warwick town council yesterday called for passage of the DiFiore bill to oust present members of the Kent County Water Authority.

In a resolution passed at a special closed session and released last night by Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, the council also specifically "demands the two members of the Kent County Water Authority from the town of West Warwick, Col. Patrick H. Quinn and Norman E. Gillespie, resign for the benefit of the water users."

The resolution "urges" the town's three representatives and its senator to "exert their combined efforts" toward passage of the bill introduced by Rep. Gerard DiFiore

(D-West Warwick), which has been passed by the House and is now in the Senate corporations committee.

The council "further urges all other legislators from Kent County to join in this effort."

In stating its stand after the passage of the bill Feb. 5 to subject the rates of the authority to state regulation and roll back rates to their level 18 months ago, the council echoed the sentiment of Michael DeCiantis, voiced last Thursday.

DeCiantis, leader in the battle to oust the five-member authority, resigned as town solicitor Tuesday but was retained without pay as special counsel to assist the town in its effort to obtain lower water rates.

McKanna said last night it was the opinion of the council that the resolution reflected the feelings of people in the community.

The resolution cites the stand of the water authority in declining to return to water users the money now held in escrow pending a Supreme Court decision on the validity of the rates between Jan. 1, 1951 and Feb. 5 of this year.

The money in escrow is the excess yield of the higher rates over the old rates.

The imposition of rates which produced the excess, the council maintains, contradicts the intent of the bill rolling back rates and placing the authority under the public utility commission.

The council ordered copies of the resolution sent to West Warwick legislators and the majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate.

*Bulletin 2/14/52*  
**De Ciantis Will  
 Ask Passage  
 Of Ouster Bill**

**West Warwick Lawyer  
 Assails Authority  
 'As Vindictive'**

Michael DeCiantis, special counsel for West Warwick in its fight with the Kent County Water Authority for lower water rates, this morning declared he will urge concurrent passage of the Di Fiore bill, which would oust all five present members of the authority.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Gerard Di Fiore (D-West Warwick), has passed the House and is now in the Senate corporations committee.

Decrying a water authority letter to customers, in which it advises it will charge its new and higher rates up to Feb. 5, pending a Supreme Court decision, De Ciantis asserted "that stand is nothing but a vindictive and a defiant attitude against the people of the county."

The authority later advises customers it is taking the stand that the act passed by the General Assembly Feb. 5, rolling back rates to those charged by the authority's predecessor water companies and putting the authority under public utility regulation, became effective only upon passage of the bill.

The authority says its lawyers have advised it that the bill, introduced by Sen. George Roche (D-Coventry) is not retroactive.

**MEASURE IS FILED  
 FOR SEWER FUNDS**  
*RJ Journal 2/28/52*  
 Archambault's West Warwick

**Bill Goes to Senate Cor-  
 porations Committee**

Pawtuxet Valley Office. Telephone  
 15 Washington Street. Valley 1-0570  
 West Warwick. 1-0746-W

Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick) yesterday introduced in the Senate a bill asking authorization for West Warwick to borrow \$1,200,000 to extend its sewer system. The bill went to the corporations committee.

Although West Warwick taxpayers approved the bond issue at last year's town meeting, introduction of the bill had been held up because of a legal tangle over whether the new home rule amendment to the state constitution requires voter approval at a town meeting or an election.

At insistence of Boston bonding attorneys, Senator Archambault yesterday joined with Sen. James Donnelly of North Kingstown in a resolution under which the Senate will ask an opinion from the R.I. Supreme Court on the constitutional requirements for bond issues.

**Voter Approval Provided**

Archambault said last night that his bill, which provides for approval at a regular or special town meeting, may be passed if the court has not decided by the time the Assembly adjourns in April. Then, if the court decides only town meeting approval is needed, that approval can be sought at the May town meeting. If approval at an election is needed, in the court's opinion, another bill stipulating that would have to wait until the next Assembly session.

If the court decides that approval at an election is needed and renders its decision before the close of the present Assembly session, the bill could be amended to provide for submission to voters at an election and passed at this session.

The bill is in amendment to the 1920 sewer act, which permitted \$500,000 bonding, and a 1934 amendment, which authorized another \$100,000 in bonds. Thus it would raise total bonds for the sewers to \$1,800,000.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, who worked on the new bill with town solicitor Charles J. Bourgaunt, said that although taxpayers approved the bond issue last May it will have to be submitted to them again. The home rule amendment says that property voters shall approve bond issues after General Assembly approval, he said.

**Self-Liquidating**

As with former sewer installations, the project would be self-liquidating through a sewer assessment tax, McKanna said. All property owners with sewers available would bear a proportionate share of the cost.

He said he is not certain what the tax will be. The previous tax was \$70 per \$1000 valuation, payable either immediately or over a 30-year period. Archambault said he expected no appreciable change.

Former town solicitor Michael DeCiantis pointed out recently that, despite the legal delay, the town already had hired Jenks and Ballou, engineers, to prepare plans and specifications.

The firm is working on the plans at a new valley office in the Moore Motor Sales Building so that they will be ready when the tangle is straightened out.

DeCiantis revealed that a planned 1952 project would take in two sections not sewered, Wescott and the entire Brookfield Hills plat, Natick, as well as almost all of that section of Crompton not now sewered. Other projects would be small, he said.

*Providence Journal March 7, 1952*

## Mancini Urges No-Parking On Arctic's 2 Main Streets

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Philip S. Mancini, state director of public works, yesterday advocated that a no-parking edict be enforced in the Arctic shopping center's two main streets to help alleviate traffic congestion.

Mancini made the all-rolling proposal at a West Warwick Planning Board meeting which turned into a traffic problem clinic after Mancini said his department is still studying the overall problem and has no final report ready.

He admitted that businessmen probably would protest the all-rolling idea on Main and Washington Streets, but declared they should realize that the Arctic center now is being "choked at its throat." Just as it attracted business away from more constricted centers in the decentralization move, it may lose business because of its increasing traffic problem, he warned.

### Parking Meters

Only last September parking meters were bought and placed on the same streets. They would be unnecessary under an all-rolling program, although Alexander DiMartino, board member, pointed out they might be used in off-street lots such as Pershing Square in Providence. Mancini said the town should grasp every opportunity to obtain more parking lots.

The center's street pattern could be changed, he said, to make a one-way circle around the center, southbound along Tucker Street, Bedard Street and Merrette Street and northbound through Robert Street and a possible cut-through to Legion Way.

However, he pointed out the streets are narrow and condemnation of land and buildings would be costly. If federal aid were obtained, the government would require increased street widths, he said.

### State Aid?

On the possibility of state aid, he explained that his department has only about \$500,000 annually for such work, with which it does a little here and there around the state. The Arctic project would cost about that alone, he added.

Judge Robert E. Quinn, chairman, pointed out that the all-rolling idea would be within the province of the police to try. Another board member, Albert C. Coutu, urged that it be tried, if only on Friday nights, the busiest of the week. However, Mancini said the plan should be in effect at all times.

Mancini pointed out that the problem now is in getting to and from free parking lots. When a car stops in traffic to make a left turn to a lot, it holds up the line while waiting for a break in oncoming traffic, he said. With all-rolling, the line could swerve to the right and keep going, he said, explaining why the main artery should be cleared.

He said his department would continue making traffic counts and origin-destination checks and that he would meet again with the board in May.

*Evening Bulletin March 11, 1952*

## Gillespie Resigns from Water Board

### West Warwick Man Attacks Rate Fight

Norman E. Gillespie, West Warwick member of the Kent County Water Authority, this morning announced his resignation from the board, effective immediately.

In a letter to the West Warwick Town Council, which will meet tonight, Gillespie attacked "continuing needless and unwarranted criticism" of the authority, and said that because of that and the pressure of his business, he felt he could no longer serve in a fair and unbiased manner for all.

"I have not at all time agreed with the water authority," he said. "I have not and never have been in favor of the present high rate. I believe that a happy medium can be obtained, but only through negotiation by grown men with an interest in the future of the community rather than political headline grabbers."

Gillespie asserted that the authority, which has been embroiled with town and city officials in Kent County over its rate increases during the past year, "has been criticised unmercifully by certain unscrupulous persons without full knowledge of the many complex problems and without any real thought as to the welfare of the whole community other than their own political expediency."

"I have been thankful for the opportunity of having served the townspeople and I must praise the members of the authority for their willingness to serve without pay. I believe that the council will be wise to co-operate with the authority rather than to resort only to fighting..."

Gillespie, who was appointed by a Republican town council four and a half years ago as successor to John J. Flynn, Democrats, whose term expired, was scheduled normally to end his term July 8 this year.

Gillespie, who has been mentioned in GOP circles as a possible candidate for Congress in the second district, reportedly has been telling friends for months that he might resign from the authority.

In recent bitter fighting over authority rate increases, which resulted in the General Assembly placing the authority's rates under regulation of the state public utility administrator, the West Warwick Town Council has called on members of the authority to resign.

Former Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis is seen as a likely successor to Gillespie by appointment of the all-Democratic town council.

DeCiantis, a leader in the fight against the authority's rate increases, recently resigned as town solicitor. The council appointed him special counsel to represent the town at hearings when the authority files an anticipated rate increase application with the utility administrator.



Norman E. Gillespie

*Bulletin March 11, 1952*

## Kent County Water Board Owes \$15,660 to Coventry

### Tax Collector's Report Shows Authority Hasn't Paid Annual Fees

The Kent County water authority has not paid the town of Coventry its annual fees in lieu of taxes for the years 1950 and 1951, the Coventry town council learned last night from the annual report of J. Edward Corbin Sr., tax collector.

At the bottom of Corbin's report a paragraph states, "of the outstanding taxes for 1950 and 1951 \$7830 for each year, making a total of \$15,660, is due from the Kent County water authority."

The 1946 act creating the authority provides that the authority shall pay annually to cities and towns a sum in lieu of taxes equal to the amount of taxes paid during the year preceding acquisition of the property by the authority.

Frank J. Perry, tax assessors clerk, said last night the authority, upon receipt of a tax bill from Coventry, asked that a statement be sent instead because taxes as such are not paid by the authority. A statement was sent, Perry said, but the authority still hasn't paid.

The authority's annual report for the year ending June 30, 1951, includes an item of \$29,431.62 paid for city and town charges.

A note to the financial statement in that report reads as follows:

"The act creating the authority provides that the authority make payments to municipalities in lieu of property taxes in amounts equal to taxes levied in the year preceding acquisition. The authority classifies these expenditures as 'city

### QUINN DECLINES COMMENT

Col. Patrick H. Quinn, chairman of the Kent County Water Authority, this morning declined to comment on the fact the authority has not paid Coventry the money due it in place of taxes, until a decision is rendered by the Rhode Island Supreme Court in the state's case against the authority.

The state brought the case to court last March after the authority had disregarded attempts by the public utility administrator to regulate its rates. The state contended that any attempt by the authority to fix rates without compliance with the public utility act violates the due process clause of the federal constitution.

Since the state ended its case, the assembly has passed a law requiring the authority to submit its rates to the public utility administrator for approval and preventing any rate increase without such approval. The authority has not yet filed a request for a rate increase with the administrator.

and town charges." The liability for these payments is entered on the books as bills are rendered. Full provision has been made in the operating accounts for the annual payments due the various cities and towns."

# N. E. GILLESPIE LEAVES KENT COUNTY POST RESIGNS AS MEMBER OF WATER AUTHORITY

Norman E. Gillespie, West Warwick's representative to the Kent County Water Authority today offered his resignation from the water authority to take effect immediately.

In a letter to the town council, which body meets tonight, Gillespie who has represented the town on the authority since July, 1947, and whose term would expire next July, said: "I feel now that with the pressure of business and with this needless and unwarranted criticism continuing, I can no longer serve in a fair and unbiased manner to all."



NORMAN E. GILLESPIE

Succeeded Flynn

Gillespie, who succeeded John Flynn (D), and former president of the West Warwick Town Council, states in his letter that he has not, at all times, agreed with the water authority, is not and never has been in favor of the present high rate. Last summer, the water authority put into effect a new and higher rate charge for water and almost immediately protests were filed in opposition and on Feb. 5 of this year, the General Assembly, by law, compelled the water authority to file a rate schedule with the Public Utilities Administration.

Gillespie, former town councilman, was reported in opposition to the higher rate schedule in an

article in this newspaper on Feb. 5, the day following a closed meeting of the authority with civic leaders of the communities of Kent County, called by the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce. That report said that apparently all was not too well within the water authority itself and that Gillespie was in favor of the rate schedule recommended by the engineers which would increase the minimum gallonage of the new rates from 20,000 to 35,000 and would, in effect, decrease the rate increase over the minimum by one half.

## Gillespie's Letter

Gillespie's letter of resignation follows:

"I hereby tender my resignation as the West Warwick member of the Kent County Water Authority. This resignation to take effect immediately. I have served the people of our town to the best of my ability and what I consider their best interest without any salary whatsoever.

"The water authority has been criticized unmercifully by certain unscrupulous persons without full knowledge of the many complex problems and without any real thought as to the welfare of the whole community other than their own political expediency. I feel now that with the pressure of business and with this needless and unwarranted criticism continuing, I can no longer serve in a fair and unbiased manner to all.

"I have not at all times agreed with the water authority. I am not and never have been in favor of the present high rate. I believe that a happy medium can be attained but only through negotiation by grown men with an interest in the future of the community rather than political 'headline' grabbers.

"I have been thankful for the opportunity of having served the townspeople and I must praise the members of the authority for their willingness to serve without pay. I believe that the council will be wise to co-operate with the authority rather than to resort only to fighting. May I offer my best wishes to my successor and offer my assistance to him in any way that you may see fit.

"Very truly yours,

"NORMAN E. GILLESPIE."

## WATER RATES YET TO BE FILED BY BOARD

Michael DeCiantis, serving the Town of West Warwick as legal representative in the controversy

sial Kent County Water Authority rate hike issue said when contacted this morning that to date the water authority has not filed a schedule of rates with the Public Utilities Administration.

On Feb. 5, the General Assembly adopted a bill putting the water authority under control of the State Public Utilities administrator, and to get an increase the water authority must now file a petition with a proposed rate schedule with Thomas A. Kennelly, public utility administrator, who has the power to suspend any increase pending investigation and public hearing before deciding what the rate should be.

DeCiantis returned home recently from a vacation in Florida.

## CHIEF GAREAU RESUMES CAMPAIGN FOR MODERN FIRE STATION IN ARCTIC

Chief Lionel P. Gareau of the West Warwick Municipal Fire Department last night asked the town council to include in its 1952-53 budget a provision to build a new fire station in Arctic; the purchase of a new 65-foot junior aerial ladder truck; and the addition of two permanent firemen to the present force. At the same time Chief Gareau filed a request on behalf of the permanent force for a 10 per cent increase in pay. The policemen asked for the same pay raise at the last council session and it also was referred to the budget sessions of the town council.

The request of Chief Gareau for a new fire building which he said would replace the building which today is not safe, is not fire proof, is not large enough to accommodate the present needs of the department, was referred to the planning commission for their study.

Chief Gareau, under questioning, said that the new 65-foot junior aerial ladder truck which would replace the old horse drawn ladder truck now in use in Arctic, could only be housed in Natick in respect to the building, but it is wanted and needed in Arctic. That request and the other for two additional permanent firemen will be considered at budget committee sessions.

Chief Gareau told the council that if the town is going to continue to give the taxpayers the efficient protection they had in the past the needs of the department must be met and he felt it his duty as chief to make them known. He said the present building now used as Station No. 1 was built in the 1890's to house a hand-drawn hose reel and hand-drawn ladder cart and today, after remodeling it, houses equipment valued at about \$90,000. He said the ever increasing number of calls makes it necessary to add two more permanent men.

## Warwick Fire Pact

As a result of the discussion between Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault of West Warwick and City Solicitor Hailes S. Palmer of Warwick in regard to the contract for extending fire protection by West Warwick to a certain part of Warwick, Council President Harry F. McKanna Jr., Fire Chief Gareau and fire department electrician Manuel Pimental were named a committee to confer with a representative group of the city to discuss effects of expiration of the fire protection pact next fall. The committee was named, without binding authority upon the town, to arrange any matter incidental to the change in the system of furnishing fire protection and to arrange for the transfer or sale of property which it deems advisable in accordance with expiration of said contract.

Bourgault told the council that from his discussion, Warwick is interested in expanding its fire alarm system to the areas now covered by West Warwick. There are fire alarm boxes in the East Natick area tied in with the town but there are none in the Centreville section, it was pointed out.

## Auto Parking Issue Before Merchants

Arctic Committee is  
Named to Appear  
with Council

The Arctic Merchants Association in special meeting this morning appointed a six-member committee to meet with the West Warwick Town Council and its planning commission to arrive at a solution to aid the parking facilities at Arctic in a manner other than that suggested by Philip S. Mancini, state director of public works who advised a ban on parking and the use of parking meters on Main and Washington Streets, Arctic.

Mancini's plan met strong opposition, chiefly because the merchants feel there is not adequate space to care for the parking of the cars which would use the 180 meters affected.

At the same time the merchants frowned on the suggestion that highways away from the shopping district be opened up to make a by-pass of traffic through the area. They went along with the plan of Dr. Irene M. Guertin which would create dual highways on both sides and next to the shopping center.

Along with Dr. Guertin's plan for dual highways the merchants directed its committee to also discuss the possibility of the town with the merchants possibly sharing the expense of putting the present parking lots, all privately owned, on a more permanent basis.

Police Chief Groleau, invited to the meeting, said that he believed that if the merchants showed that they were opposed to the parking ban on the main arteries of Arctic and that they wanted to open up highways next to the shopping area which would bring the motorists right up to the parking lots, the town would go along with them. At the same time the chief warned the merchants not to lose any time in their efforts.

Named to meet with the town council and planning commission were Hyacinthe Bigelow, Dennis Brodeur, Arthur Bulger, Benjamin Elman, Armand Guertin and Bernard Margolis. They will meet next week to draft their plans for the meeting.

## PARKING METER EXTENSION ON MAIN STREET

At request of Chief of Police Arthur Groleau, West Warwick Town Council last evening authorized extension of installation of auto parking meters on Main Street, Arctic, from the intersection of Grove Street, near the station, southerly to the railroad bridge near Champlin Lumber Company.

## Would Change Date, Hour of Town Session

Evening Meeting in  
March Advocated  
by Rep. Kraus

West Warwick Town Council last night approved legislation to be introduced in the General Assembly today by Rep. Thaddeus Kraus to change the date of the annual financial meeting to the third Monday evening in March beginning at 7 p. m. and to take effect next year.

Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault in explaining the act said that the new state provision which presses tax assessors to have their tax rolls submitted by June 15th makes it difficult to comply in West Warwick with the town meeting being held the Tuesday after the second Monday in May.

According to the legislation the proposition if passed by the General Assembly will be submitted to the taxpayers of West Warwick for their ratification at this year's town meeting scheduled May 20th.

That section of the act which sets the time at 7 p. m. has long been sought in West Warwick by the Republican Party in particular.

## TOWN NAMES COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY

West Warwick Town Council last night named President Harry F. McKanna Jr., to represent the Council; School Committee Chairman Vincent J. Lukowicz, the educational interests; and Rep. Thaddeus Kraus, the citizens, on behalf of the Annie M. Livsey estate which is expected to benefit the Crompton Library by about \$25,000.

The three named a committee to plan for the expansion of the library under the will and the power granted in a decree of the Superior Court.

Because Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault is the attorney for the trustees of the estate, Judge Eugene J. Laferriere was named to represent the town in a legal capacity concerning the court decree.

## Council Fails to Name Successor to Gillespie

West Warwick Town Council last night failed to name a successor to Norman E. Gillespie who yesterday resigned from the Kent County Water Authority.

The only comment made by the council was their directives to the town clerk to notify Gillespie that his resignation was accepted and to send a copy of the letter to the water authority.

Gillespie, in his letter of yesterday, said that he has not at all times agreed with the water authority and is not and never has been in favor of the present high rate for water service.

In his letter, Gillespie, who has represented the town on the authority since July, 1947, and whose term would expire next July, also pointed out that "I feel now that with the pressure of business and with this needless and unwarranted criticism continuing, I can no longer serve in a fair and unbiased manner to all."

Although the town council failed to name a successor to Gillespie last night, the town body must have at some time considered a successor to him. Rep. Gerard DiFiore last January introduced a bill in the General As-

sembly which passed in the House of Representatives to oust the five members of the authority. Former Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, now serving the town as legal representative in the controversial rate hike issue, has repeatedly called for both Gillespie and Col. Patrick H. Quinn, water authority chairman, to resign.

## BILL WOULD GIVE GROLEAU TENURE

Assembly Measure by Senator

Archambault Affects

Police Chief

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-046-W

Police Chief Groleau of West Warwick would be given permanent tenure in office, under terms of a bill introduced in the Senate yesterday by Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick). The bill was sent to the corporations committee.

The chief was the only department officer not granted such tenure when the town's permanent police force act was passed in 1949. He now is appointed annually by the town council.

Senator Archambault said the bill was in the nature of a safeguard. He said Attorney General Powers has given town officials an opinion that Groleau could be made permanent without the legislation by action of the town council and subsequent ratification at a town meeting.

Democratic leaders indicated that Republican opposition to the bill is likely, inasmuch as the town GOP opposed the original 1949 act. The Republicans now control the Senate by a small majority.

Under the bill, the chief would be subject to reduction in rank, suspension or removal by the town council for misconduct, or for malfeasance or nonfeasance in office, or for other acts unbecoming an officer. Removal could be accomplished only after charges in writing and a hearing.

## TOWN MEETING BILL GETS SENATE OKAY

A bill which would advance the West Warwick town meeting from May to March and require meetings at 7 p. m., instead of 2 p. m. as at present, yesterday received quick passage in the Senate after its introduction by Sen. Dion Archambault (D-West Warwick).

While Archambault received unanimous consent for immediate consideration of the bill, an identical bill introduced in the House at the same time by Rep. Thaddeus Kraus (D-West Warwick) was referred to the corporation committee.

The bill would change the town meeting from the Tuesday after the third Monday in May to the Tuesday after the third Monday in March. It is subject to approval by the May 20 town meeting this year and would become effective in 1953.

One effect of the bill would make it necessary to have only a 10-month fiscal year next year, from May 1 to the end of February.

The town council approved the bill Tuesday. Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault pointed out that tax assessors must have the tax roll into the State House by June 15 and it is impossible to do the necessary work in the short time between the present meeting and that date. As a result, assessors are taking a chance that the same \$2.25 tax rate will prevail and are typing up the roll in advance.

# FAVORING ESTABLISHMENT OF SINGLE SALARY SCALE FOR ALL SCHOOL TEACHERS

P.V. Times - March 14, 1952

(By Staff Correspondent)

State House.—Governor Roberts, the State Board of Education and the R.I. Institute of Instruction, largest teacher organization in the state, today were on record as favoring enactment of the bill establishing a minimum single salary standard for public school teachers throughout the state.

The measure requires that no teacher shall be paid less than \$2400 a year and provides for minimum step-ups until \$4800 is reached after 14 years. No city or town which fails to meet that minimum standard—and the bill specifically permits them to pay more—would be entitled to the \$600 per teacher state pay grants or other state aid to education.

There would be no additional cost to the state but the cost to all cities and towns would be greater than they are presently committed to pay in teacher salaries during the 1952-53 fiscal year. The increases over present commitments range from a high of \$69,850 in Cranston to a low of \$2950 in New Shoreham and the cost would be greater in future years in some instances.

Sponsors of the bill estimated that it would cost West Warwick \$9550 more than presently committed for teacher salaries in the coming year; Warwick, \$49,325; East Greenwich, \$10,700, and Coventry, \$20,700.

## 125 at Hearing

Speaking in favor of the bill at a public hearing yesterday afternoon held by the House finance committee, with approximately 125 persons present, were Rep. Herman D. Ferrara of Providence, deputy Democratic floor leader who introduced it at the request of Governor Roberts; Rev. Cornelius B. Collins, chairman of the State Board of Education; Edward M. McEntee, counsel for the R.I. Institute of Instruction; Anthony Martin, institute president; George E. Burke, its executive secretary; John S. Keough of Pawtucket, who teaches school in Central Falls and is chairman of the institute's single salary committee; Dr. William P. Robinson, assistant commissioner of education; Mrs. Paul L. Gould, legislative chairman of the R.I. Congress of Parents and Teachers who said her organization favored the principle of the bill, and Theresa E. Trafari, a state teacher.

When Chairman Louis J. Lussier (D-Pawtucket) asked if there were any opponents, Norman Anderson, representing the AFL union of teachers, said his organization was backing the pending measure calling for a \$3000-\$6000 scale with more state aid to finance it.

William C. Bray of Pawtucket, who said he was speaking for himself as an individual, declared a single salary schedule is desirable but contended the amounts in the bill are inadequate and should be hiked, with the state increasing its contribution.

Mr. Bray said he hoped the Governor and Mr. Ferrara were sincere in backing the proposal but added he didn't see how some of the small towns are going to

accept double their present expense for teacher salaries. He asked that the committee raise the schedule to \$3000-\$6000 and provide for increased financial assistance from the state.

## As Low As \$100

Miss Margaret McGill, a leader in the Woonsocket Teachers Guild, pointed out that the bill called for increments as low as \$100 a year and said Woonsocket already is granting \$200. She was told by Mr. Burke, however, that the bill would not prevent a community from exceeding the minimum scales set and the annual increments provided in it.

Rep. Ferrara not only placed Governor Roberts on record as favoring the bill, but pointed out that Rep. Richard D. Windsor of East Providence, the Republican leader in the House, is its co-sponsor.

Provisions in the measure were explained by Mr. McEntee who pointed out that in the school year beginning in September, no teacher would receive less than \$2400 a year. Where, under the service increments, those with years of service to entitle them to higher pay under the bill do not reach those brackets, they will get half of the difference in the coming school year and the other half in the following school year. He emphasized that the proposed schedule is a minimum schedule and expressed hope cities and towns would pay more.

Mr. Martin told the committee the institute has been fighting for years for the principle of a single salary schedule throughout the state so as to eliminate any differentials that invite teachers to shift from smaller to larger communities.

Mr. Burke said 20 other states have enacted a single salary principle. He pointed out that the Board of Education recently raised the standards for teacher certification and that all cities and towns must meet those standards. For that reason, he said, the salary minimums should be standard for all communities.

Fr. Collins told the committee that the Board of Education favors the bill because standards cannot be effectively raised unless there is a decent living wage to go with it.

## 39 Different Schedules

Mr. Keough said there are now 39 different salary schedules for teachers in the state and called it a "conglomerate mess." In the face of this, he pointed out, the certification standards are the same for teachers in every community. Teachers are willing to meet tougher requirements, he said, if they are given the opportunity to improve themselves by getting salaries that will not require them to take outside jobs in order to support their families.

The institute is interested primarily in salaries of teachers throughout the state and not what any single teacher is going to get or what any single community is going to pay, he said.

"We're in the middle—the state claims there is not enough money and the cities and towns say the same thing—we've got to take the position that we must have it to get along, no matter where it comes from," he said.

Certainly, he added, there would be no objection on the part of teachers if the committee amended the bill to provide for additional state aid to cities and towns for education.

Chairman Lussier promised the teachers that the committee would act on the bill as expeditiously as possible.

## 3/20/52 WATER RATES FILED

Kent County Unit Acts More Than A Year After Getting Order

More than one year after being ordered to do so by Thomas A. Kennelly, state public utility administrator, the Kent County Water Authority yesterday filed a schedule of rates with the utilities department.

The rates are the same as were charged by three private water companies which the authority took over in June, 1950, for \$2,062,500.

The filing was in compliance with a General Assembly act placing the authority's rates under control of the utility administrator.

## De Cianlis Says Rates Mean Fight

P.V. Times - March 28, 1952

## Town Council Representative Refers to Water Price

Michael DeCianlis, legal representative of West Warwick Town Council in the controversial Kent County Water Authority rate hike issue, said this morning that the rate schedule which the water authority filed yesterday with Thomas A. Kennelly, state public utility administrator, "means a fight."

DeCianlis said that as he sees it, the rate schedule which represents a 125 per cent increase over the old rates "is no different than what they tried to saddle on the people before. I have no idea what the increase is based upon, but I will soon be looking them over and will prepare to fight them when the date of the hearing is set by the public utilities administrator," he added.

The town council's legal representative also said: "While the water authority has no change of heart, the people now have the right to be heard because of our fight in placing the water authority under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities."

The new schedule filed yesterday by the water authority provides that consumers shall pay 75 cents per thousand gallons. This compares with \$15.00 for 50,000 gallons under the old rate. The new rate would hike the bill of water users to \$37.50 per 50,000 gallons. The 75c per thousand gallon base rate would be applied regardless of the amount of water used, under the proposed schedule, so that heavier consumers would not get benefit of a reduced rate.

## 4000 SIGNATURES BY MAY 1 SOUGHT

*Pro. Sun. Journal*  
April 6, 1952  
Warwick Municipal League Is

### Setting Sights in Charter Petition Campaign

The Warwick Municipal League, anticipating renewed vigor with the addition of new names to its general committee, will begin a final drive for charter petition signatures with its first annual meeting tomorrow night.

Barring an unexpectedly poor showing in a new tabulation of signatures garnered in the six-month campaign, league officials are aiming at their goal of 4000 petitioners by the end of the month.

A high point in tomorrow night's public session at 8 p.m. at Nausauket School will be an announcement of a new tally showing the progress made since approximately 2600 signatures were achieved Feb. 11.

And league officials are promising members "a few new ideas" to speed the final effort and perhaps to get their petitions filed, certified, and the question of election of a charter commission placed on a ballot before November.

Although no date has been set, Mayor Mills and the city council have indicated they favor a special citywide referendum "before the summer vacations" for voter approval of the city's \$2,902,500 bonding program for the year.

Just half of the 30 names submitted last month for election to the general committee are newcomers to the league and its charter reform movement since the league was formed in midsummer last year.

Once elected, they will recognize the executive committee in a subsequent meeting to steer the drive for signatures through its final weeks.

Acting chairman Karl A. Anderson, for one, refuses to believe that inherent disinterest in charter reform is responsible for the failure of the league to attain its goal of 4000 signatures in a few weeks.

While other communities in the state produced the necessary signatures in relatively short order—in one town twice within a matter of days—Warwick apparently has lagged.

But Anderson is quick to observe that Warwick has experienced no such political upheaval as has Pawtucket, nor does it have a history over a period of years of continued agitation for charter reform, as have such municipalities as Newport and Jamestown.

He points out too that the league is relatively young—Pawtucket's paralleling organization dating back several years.

"There are as many people in Warwick interested in charter reform as in any other city or town in Rhode Island," he says. "But their interest has not been aroused sufficiently to make a campaign for petition signatures an overnight proposition."

## NEW COMFORT STATION PLAN FROM DR. GUERTIN

West Warwick Town Council Accepts Proposal, Not to Cost Over \$15,000, for Reference and Study by Engineer.

Dr. M. Irene Guertin last night offered the West Warwick Town Council a new plan for a comfort station for Arctic, to be constructed on one side and beneath Arctic Square at a cost not exceeding \$15,000.

The plan accepted by the council for reference and study possibly by an engineer, is different from the one Guertin previously proposed in that there would be only entrances on one side of the square, in front of the Sinnott building, present location of the Boston Store.

Taxpayers of West Warwick attending the May 16, 1950 financial town meeting, showed they approved spending money for a comfort station, when they voted that \$15,000 be appropriated from the general fund accumulative surplus for construction of a comfort station.

**Would Not Exceed \$15,000**  
Guertin, who said the cost not

to exceed \$15,000 includes the entire job, labor and materials for the 25 by 35-foot building which would also include a bus waiting station between the rest rooms. He said the bus company could be expected to share in the expense of the construction because a waiting room would be provided its customers. He said the cost of operation could be kept at a minimum with pay lavatories, a concession booth and baggage compartments.

Councilman Toby Pucino said he would prefer a comfort station be constructed above ground, rather than beneath the square.

In other business, the council continued the petition of Louis Papa for a special exception to the zoning law to conduct a junk yard on Greenbush Road, Crompton.

(Continued on page 8, col. 1)

### New Comfort Station Plan from Dr. Guertin (Continued from page 1)

ton. Robert Turner, Robert Tucker and Stephen Andruchow appeared as remonstrants, pointing out they felt the property owned by their families near the site would be devalued. Papa said the business of junking cars would be conducted 400 feet from the road. The council announced it would continue the petition to the May 13th meeting.

The town clerk was directed to issue a warrant to the effect that the 1952 annual financial town meeting be held at the junior high school, Riverpoint, on May 20.

The board of canvassers was instructed to supply the town council with the necessary voting list for their special meeting next Monday night when they will draw jurors.

Notice was given that the licenses of all hawkers, peddlers, junk gatherers and junk dealers expires on May 1.

#### Appointments Made

Charles Robert Picard, 27, of 25 Park Street, was appointed a private detective at his request, subject to state and bonding provisions.

The following were appointed police constables, James A. Brown, 29, of 60 Cowesett Avenue; James C. Brown, 31, of 41 East Street; Joseph E. Clafier, 25, of 9 Blossom Street; Jules Gauvin, 45, of 45 Perkins Street; Emanuel M. Kindle, 33, of 3 Crossland Road; William H. Passam, 47, of

6 Cowesett Avenue; Chester P. Slezak, 25, of 87 Church Street, and Charles F. Novak, 30, of 21 St. George Street.

Donat Frenette of 92 Shippee Avenue was appointed a special constable under the dog licensing ordinance. Named appraisers of damage done by dogs were Chief of Police Arthur Groleau, Police Captain Harry Miller and Frank P. Begos.

The applications of Harley Robinson to construct 70 feet of sidewalk at Carlton Terrace, of Roland T. Phaneuf for 87.2 feet at 228 Andrews Avenue, and of Carmine A. Padula for 51 feet at 20 Knight Street, was continued to the June meeting.

#### Taxes Abated

At request of the board of tax assessors, the following taxes were ordered abated: Eugene Valley, 32 Emery Ct., \$5.18, resident of Warwick; Leo Teller, 22 Rathbun Street, \$4.23, resident of Coventry; Frederick E. Evans, 26 Martin Street, \$4.05, resident of Coventry; Bernard Lague, 11 Parker Street, \$4.05, exemption not allowed; Edith M. McGraw, 115 Legris Avenue, \$4.05, duplicate assessment.

Licenses were granted as follows: a horseshow on May 30 at Greyholme Farm, by Ruth Chapter No. 5, OES; tag days, the week of Apr. 14, for benefit of the West Warwick High School Band; tag day on May 16, by the Providence District Seventh Day Adventist Churches; carnival on the Legion grounds, Arctic, Aug. 4 through the 9th, by Warwick Aerie of Eagles.

Armand Levasseur was given permission to replace a 500-gallon gasoline tank with a 2000-gallon tank at 1 Tiogue Avenue, Crompton.

The letter of invitation from the school committee to attend the high school dedication in memory of the late John F. Deering, former superintendent of schools, was directed to be referred to all town officials.

## HOUSE APPROVES W. WARWICK BILL

Measure Provides for Earlier  
Town Meetings; Needs  
Governor Approval

Pawtucket Valley Office, } Telephone  
15 Washington Street, } Valley 1-0570  
West Warwick } 1-0746-W

The House yesterday passed in concurrence Sen. Dion Archambault's bill that would advance the West Warwick annual town meeting from May to March, starting next year, and provide for night, instead of afternoon, meetings.

The bill now goes to Governor Roberts for his signature.

In the event the governor signs the bill, it will not become effective unless it wins approval of the annual town meeting May 20.

It would become the first question to be voted on at the coming town meeting, inasmuch as it would determine the size of the budget with which taxpayers would be faced. That would be true because advancing the 1953 town meeting to March would shorten the coming fiscal year by two months, making a 10-month financial year.

The bill would change the date of the meeting from the Tuesday after the third Monday in May to the Tuesday after the third Monday in March. It would advance the time of the meeting from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., a change long sought by Republicans without success and designed to make it easier for more taxpayers to be present.

Under the bill, the town council would have the power to say where the town meeting should be held.

After the initial 10-month fiscal year necessary to effect the change, the fiscal year would include the 12 calendar months from March to February, both inclusive. The only 10-month fiscal year necessary would cover the period beginning May 1, 1952, and ending Feb. 28, 1953.

An identical bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Thaddeus Kraus (D-West Warwick) at the same time Senator Archambault introduced his measure in the Senate. That bill, which passed the House and is in the Senate corporations committee, now is unnecessary and will be allowed to die in committee.

# Chamber Votes Fund Drive For Expert Reorganization

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Moving to fight back against spreading unemployment and the drop in retail business that follows it, the Pawtuxet Valley Chamber of Commerce last night authorized taking of pledges of money to finance a chamber reorganization by outside experts.

James Allison, who declared that the chamber must raise money and work to better the community "or face the prospect of a deserted town," revealed that six men alone have promised \$1000 toward the reorganization project.

The work is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$2700 at the start, although the experts probably will ask a given percentage of new dues obtained by their signing up more members and revitalizing the chamber.

The chamber, at an installation dinner in the Valley Country Club at Ledgemont, authorized the executive committees of the chamber and the Arctic Merchants Association to raise the money and contact an expert reorganizer immediately.

Despite opposition by Dr. M. Irene Guertin, who said he could not see paying an expert to do what local men should be able to do themselves, the reorganization move passed on motion of Joseph Mattias.

It was a victory for the Arctic Merchants Association, which recently put off disbanding and forming a retail division of the chamber until a reorganization to make the chamber more effective was approved.

## Votes to Increase Dues

Pending a new setup by an organizer, the chamber voted to increase dues from \$2 to \$5 to provide a little more money with which to operate.

Bylaws were amended to permit a president to serve at least two years in succession, paving the way for Charles C. Congdon to continue another year as president.

Other officers installed by Dr. Raoul J. Cartier are: J. Arthur Bulger, first vice president; Frank White, second vice president; Charles White, third vice president; Henry A. Melancon, secretary; Edgar Benoit, financial secretary; Willie J. Regnaire, treasurer; Ernest E. Lefebvre, Allison, Henry L. Blais, Gerard Laboissonniere, Mattias, Horace L. Petrarca and Norman E. Gillespie, board of directors.

Medric Picard and Hyacinthe Bigras were admitted to membership.

Allison, Gerard Laboissonniere and Melancon were most outspoken in favor of the expert survey.

ed, he didn't approve "giving a stranger \$2700." John Krawchuk also questioned the idea. The motion to reorganize carried after Laboissonniere revealed he already had 40 businessmen willing to contribute.

Congdon said the budget would be divided as follows during the coming year: Retail and industrial promotion (mostly retail), 50 per cent; speakers, 10 per cent; mailing, advertising, 10 per cent; part time secretary, 20 per cent; dues to U.S. Chamber of Commerce, miscellaneous, 10 per cent.

He urged that members show increased interest in improving conditions in the town. To be effective the chamber must have a permanent officer, a part time secretary, regular meeting place and active committees, he said.

The chamber voted to investigate the legality of any auctions in the town that hurt regular businessmen.

Laboissonniere, who is also president of the Arctic Merchants Association declared the chamber needs a permanent office and a secretary or clerical helper.

Allison said he had seen the reorganization four years ago in another community "and it's one of the greatest things in the world."

Citing the problems of traffic congestion, unemployment, poor business promotion and slow business, Allison said, "we've got to do something to keep business here in the Valley or we're going to have a deserted town." He added that the \$600 merchants now pay for Christmas lights in the business district "is not enough to make a respectable showing."

Melancon mentioned various chambers that had been reorganized and afterward had more money with which to operate. Although the Valley chamber has only 156 members, its potential membership is 800, he said.

Dr. Guertin likened the expert to "a high pressure man." He added,

## De Ciantis Plans Move to Spur Parking Program

Michael De Ciantis, West Warwick Democratic town committee-man, said today he plans to recommend to the committee that the town administration seek General Assembly authorization to acquire property for establishment of off-street parking facilities, as prescribed in one of last year's new amendments to the state constitution.

Town-sponsored off-street parking recently was recommended by representatives of the Arctic Merchants Association to replace the present system, under which some off street parking is made available by businessmen.

De Ciantis said that, while it might seem that the town could condemn land for such a purpose under terms of an amendment last year to the act authorizing condemnation of land for highway purposes, he believes the courts would find the amendment too broad.

The amendment says that "the town may take land for public purposes. It mentions school buildings, police and fire stations, a town hall, land for water lines, sewers and power lines "and any and all other public purposes."

## ARCTIC TRAFFIC, GARBAGE DISPOSAL MAJOR PROJECTS

West Warwick Planning Commission Will Request \$10,000 to \$15,000 for Survey.  
Street Widening Postponed.

Taxpayers and the Town Council of West Warwick, could breathe a little easier last night when the Planning Commission announced it would postpone its request for money for a street widening program in Arctic and the funds sought by Fire Chief Lionel P. Gareau for a new fire station building and 60 foot junior aerial ladder truck. Instead the Planning Commission will make request for a moderate sum of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to cover the cost of inaugurating an expert survey for a master plan for improvements in the business area by a professional and for money to launch the sanitary land fill garbage disposal system.

The commission which has been working to aid the traffic problem of Arctic for the past year said they felt now, that before any expensive program of street widening is launched a master plan should first be obtained to avert possible waste of money on perhaps an unnecessary improvement. Chairman Robert E. Quinn, said the request of Chief Lionel P. Gareau for a new fire station and truck, although needed, fits into the master planning also.

### Garbage Buried

Under the sanitary land fill garbage disposal system, the garbage is buried in the ground. The planning commission was told at its

last meeting that the town has enough land for this system to care for the disposal for the next 20 years. Alexander DiMartino, commission member, said he will have a figure on the disposal system for the town council which meets soon as a budget committee, in about 10 days.

Dr. M. Irene Guertin said that better service would be provided the town if they disposed of their garbage by contracting with the city of Warwick to use their incinerator. He said that is the practical way to dispose of garbage rather than to heed to the new systems of "experts" who don't know the town's problems.

The Planning Commission told Dr. Guertin that they would try to get a figure on the cost of his dual highway program for the westerly side of the business district from Collin's Square to Columbus Square, necessitating the rebuilding of about 300 feet from the end of Bedard Street to Gardner Ave. Guertin said town highway department could do it for between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault suggested a special financial town meeting could be held in the summer. No expenditure of \$100,000 could be made from income but would have to come from the post war capital improvement fund, he

(Continued on page 8, col. 4)

added, Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of the town council said the town council would have to give very serious consideration to an expenditure of that amount. Michael DeCiantis, former town solicitor said he thinks the money would have to come from a bond issue. Quinn said he was told by Judge James W. Leighton, a member of the commission's finance sub-division that the town has a surplus of \$350,000. DiMartino said that because of the time element with the town council needing figures before April 25th, the planning commission could only get an estimate of the cost of that project.

### To Help Arctic

Dwight Meyers, traffic engineer for the city of Providence sounded the keynote for professional assistance to any traffic problem of today. In reply to DiMartino he said that his first step to help Arctic would be to get professional advice with a master plan to save money and to look to the future. After Guertin presented his dual highway plan, Meyers said that what Arctic needs is perhaps better parking facilities instead of wider streets.

Gerard Laboissonniere, president of the Arctic Merchants Association said the merchants are

## Summit Station Site Is Picked

Western Coventry  
Fire Co. Building  
Unit Acts Quickly

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick } Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

The Western Coventry Fire Co. building committee, named Tuesday to supervise building of an auxiliary station in Summit, met for the first time Saturday and, wasting no time, picked a location opposite the Western Coventry School on Route 117 as its recommended site.

It will recommend the site to the board of engineers at a board meeting in the near future, Alfred Eklof, committee clerk, said. Both Eklof and Lester W. Underwood, new fire chief, said it was likely that this site would be adopted.

The site is land owned by Charles Wilcox, a committee member. Eklof said that Wilcox, along with Luther Andrews and John Koszela, both members of the committee, had offered to donate low land near the Summit rotary, and the committee originally expected to accept such a donation.

But the site opposite the school was so much better that it was selected instead, he said. Eklof said that Wilcox felt because of the value of the high land he had to charge for it, and set a price of \$300.

Eklof said the members of the building committee who looked over the various possible sites yesterday afternoon were unanimous in favoring the land on Route 117.

The parcel, measuring 150 feet by 110 feet, is slightly to the west of the school across the road, Eklof said, and is on a hill with a commanding view of the surrounding land and the highway on either side. A water main near the property assures an adequate water supply.

The committee felt, Eklof said, that besides the other advantages, selection of the site would make it much easier to put in foundations for the station than in the swampy land nearer the rotary.

## Groleau Tenure Bill Dies in Committee

Bottled up by Republican opposition, a bill that would have given Police Chief Groleau of West Warwick permanent tenure, died in the GOP-controlled Senate corporations committee when the General Assembly adjourned today.

The chief was the only department officer not given tenure when the town's permanent police force act was passed in 1949. He now is appointed annually by the town council.

Town Republicans made sure that the bill stayed in committee, it was learned, because they would like to fill the position with a man of their own choice in the event of a GOP election victory.

# \$1,200,000 Sewer Extension Bond

## Parking Lot Bill Passes Assembly Also

Both Measures Sent  
To Governor After  
Late Senate Action

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick } Telephone  
Valley 1-0570  
1-0746-W

Bills that authorize West Warwick to issue \$1,200,000 in bonds to extend its sewer system and grant the town council power to condemn land for off-street parking facilities last night passed both branches of the General Assembly.

The bills were sent to Governor Roberts for his signature.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, said today the council expects to have bonds prepared and to ask for bids on sewer construction by next months.

The project, covering all sections of town, will be cut up into several jobs for bidding purposes by Jenks & Ballou, engineers, who are already at work on the project.

The sewer bond bill, a Democratic administration measure introduced by Sen. Dion Archambault, was brought out of the Senate corporation committee, where it had lain since February.

Principal cause of the delay in passage was a question by bonding attorneys in Boston as to the procedure in bonding legislation under the new home rule amendment to the state constitution. The way for passage was cleared recently when the state Supreme Court, in effect, said that the home rule amendment has no effect on towns like West Warwick, which have not adopted a home-rule charter.

The bill passed last night had been amended in the Senate committee to delete a section stipulating that subsequent approval of a town meeting was necessary. This was deleted because the town meeting last year approved the bonds.

Although the town land condemnation act already on the books had been amended last year to give broad condemnation powers for public purposes, administration leaders sought the special privilege of taking land for off-street parking as provided in one of last year's state constitution amendments. This was to be on the safe side.

The constitutional amendment provides that the Assembly may grant towns the right to acquire property for establishment and construction of off-street parking facilities.

Members of the Arctic Merchants Association recently urged town officials to make more provision for off-street parking in Arctic business center. Some also averred that the town should take over parking lots now being provided without charge by certain business leaders.

The parking facility act was introduced in the Senate by Senator Archambault only last week.

## West Warwick Bills Adopted by Assembly

Sewer Bond Issue and  
Off-Street Parking  
Lots Are Approved

The two bills which West Warwick administration leaders had checked with the Supreme Court, the \$1,200,000 sewer bond issue and the condemnation of land for off-street parking, passed both branches of the General Assembly last night and were sent to Governor Dennis J. Roberts for his signature.

The new home rule amendment to the state constitution prompted officials to seek Supreme Court rulings. The Supreme Court said that the home rule amendment had no effect on towns which have not adopted a home-rule charter and West Warwick has not done so.

The sewer bond measure was delayed since February when bonding attorneys in Boston questioned the effect of the home rule amendment.

To be on the safe side, West Warwick asked for a special ruling on power to condemn land for off-street parking although the town had already received broad condemnation powers.

## Builders Study Code Revision In W. Warwick

Approve Some Changes  
But Object to Proposed  
Final Occupancy Permit

Picture on Page 35

West Warwick building contractors, at a town hall meeting with officials, last night approved several changes in the town building laws and objected to one that would provide for issuance of a final occupancy permit by the building inspector.

The meeting was called to go over possible building ordinance changes for inclusion in a new ordinance to be presented to the town council.

Major change approved at the session with Judge Eugene J. Laferriere, chairman of the committee studying building and zoning laws, and Building Inspector Willie J. Regnaiere was one that would permit box sill type of construction in one-story, ranch style houses. Such construction now is banned by the 1935 building law.

Lionel Lachance and Andrew Nieforth contended that the box sill type of framework permits a house to settle evenly when lumber in it shrinks with time.

The contractors strongly objected to including in the revised law a provision for issuance of a certificate of occupancy by the building inspector at the completion of a job. Regnaiere said he was not inclined to press the issue, but that it was included in a model ordinance studied by him and Judge Laferriere.

Lachance and Walter Demers said the inspector now covers the law by inspecting the fundamental work in house construction, the so-called roughing, and it would be giving him too much power to provide for occupancy permits.

Regnaiere said communities having occupancy permits are aiming principally at persons building their own houses and leaving them incomplete. An occupancy permit would be issued when a new house was completed or alterations that changed the occupancy classification were finished, providing the inspector were satisfied that the complete job was in accordance with regulations.

The contractors agreed that provision should be made to require them to file a plot plan, showing relationship of proposed dwellings to the street and lot lines, when they take out building permits.

Several other provisions to make for safe construction were agreed upon. The 10 contractors present pointed out that they already follow such rules, but that some builders might not.

Judge Laferriere's committee is also working on a revision of zoning laws. Lachance declared there is little wrong with the building laws, but that the zoning laws should be modernized first.

He asserted that required lot sizes should be increased to provide for driveways to get cars off the streets in all cases. He agreed with Nieforth that exceptions could be granted by the town council on lots previously laid out, where it is impossible to change their size.

The contractors agreed that chimneys should extend two feet above the peak of a house to provide a proper draft, and that this should be included in the revised law.

Expressing dissatisfaction with new government regulations for home construction under veterans' mortgages, the builders generally indicated that they are refusing to build new homes under the GI mortgage plan.

Nieforth declared that one government mortgage regulation regarding studs near windows does not provide for proper support. He urged that the revised building law make strong provision on that score, which would have the effect of making the particular government regulation illegal in the town.

Issue Authorized

# DeCiantis Claims Water Authority Erred in Sending Out \$15 Bills

*Prov. Evening Bulletin, Sat. April 26, 1952*

The Kent County Water Authority had no right to send out bills for a \$15 minimum charge payable in advance in recent weeks and those who paid it are entitled to a rebate, Michael DeCiantis, special counsel for West Warwick in the water rate controversy, said last night.

DeCiantis said that, after receiving many complaints from consumers who had received the advance bills, he checked with the state public utilities division and an official there told him "the authority made an error sending out the \$15 minimum charge bills."

Since the General Assembly

passed a bill Feb. 5 rolling back higher water rates, which had been in effect for 18 months, and placing the authority under regulation of the public utility division, the authority is supposed to be operating under regulations and rates that applied to its predecessor private water companies.

DeCiantis said that yesterday he checked the old companies' regulations and found that Regulation 3 for the Pawtuxet Valley Water Co. and Warwick and Coventry Water Co. outlined billing procedure.

The regulation says, he said, that billing of all metered domestic customers, with the exception of sea-

sonal customers, begins on Oct. 1, and all are to be billed at one-fourth of the annual minimum \$15 charge, or \$3.75, at the end of each quarter, that is, on Dec. 31, Mar. 31, June 30 and Sept. 30.

The only bill the authority has the right to send at this time is for \$3.75, DeCiantis declared, as far as customers of the former Pawtuxet Valley Water Co. and Warwick and Coventry Water Co. are concerned. Any who have paid the \$15 are entitled to get back all but \$3.75 and pay the rest quarterly, he said.

In the case of customers of the former East Greenwich Water Supply Co., the charge is supposed to be \$2.50 a quarter, he said.

It was learned yesterday that the authority had been sending out the advance bills for \$15. Albert V. Wood, authority chief accountant, referred queries to Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman. Quinn said he would have no comment on any phase of authority activities until the state public utilities administrator holds a hearing and acts on the authority's petition for higher rates.

Before the rate hikes two years ago, the rates for domestic users were \$15 minimum charge for 50,000 gallons. When it raised the rates to \$15 for a 20,000 gallon minimum the authority set off the storm of protest that resulted in General Assembly action. Since that action Feb. 5, the old charges are in effect, although the recent bills did not state what gallonage was being allowed for the \$15, DeCiantis stressed.

"It must be understood by all the people that we are now operating under the old rates, so the minimum charge of \$15 is for 50,000 gallons of water," DeCiantis declared.

The only advance bill the authority has the right to send out now is for \$3.75 for each quarter, he said. The utilities division yesterday told him that system will be used by the authority, pending the hearing on the higher rate petition, he added.

The authority in its petition to the public utilities division is seeking a flat rate of 75 cents a thousand gallons, which figures out at the same \$15 for 20,000 gallons that stirred up the consumer protest.

As a result of recent state police raids, the Class B liquor license of Edward Borowski, Borowski's Cafe, 1626 Main Street, was suspended for five days by James S. Daneker, acting state liquor control administrator. Borowski did not contest a charge of allowing gambling on his premises.

Raided by troopers led by Lt. Arthur T. Lee, northern district commander, a week ago yesterday, the West Warwick Social Club has been summoned by Daneker to a hearing Friday to show cause why its license should not be revoked or suspended. Charges are that gambling was permitted on the premises, liquor sold after the closing hour and that a 20-year-old bartender was on duty.

## Bookies Under Wraps Again

### West Warwick Retreat Seen Result of State Police Raids

West Warwick horse race bookies, who reportedly had been increasing the tempo of business in recent weeks, yesterday were going under wraps again as a result of recent state police raids, it was learned.

Striking fear into the gambling fraternity, according to reports, were state police raids at Borowski's Cafe, Main Street, Crompton, where a bartender was arrested and convicted on a bookmaking charge; another raid on a Natick club open after hours and allegedly permitting gambling, and investigations of clubs by private detectives hired by package store liquor dealers.

Bookmaking was reported to be practically non-existent in the town after former Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis ordered racing wire service disconnected at a Brookside Avenue, Arctic, horse betting parlor last year. Another deterrent was the fear that the Ke-fauver committee investigation might spread to this state.

DeCiantis, an avowed foe of gambling, resigned as town solicitor in March, and the gambling element reportedly breathed more easily. Gamblers recently also took heart when it appeared that failure to obtain the \$50 federal gambler's license was not strictly prosecuted and a federal judge declared the tax unconstitutional.

Also reported to be closed of the gambler's own volition, in the light of state police activity, were two high-stakes games, one said to be in Arctic and another in the Natick section.

## Water Authority Owes W. Warwick

*By W. J. M. Jr.*  
The Kent County Water Authority owes the Town of West Warwick, \$16,529.86, representing two years payment in lieu of taxes, the annual report of Amy Saute, tax collector, showed yesterday.

The report showed tax receipts of \$597,499.55. Of these \$594,449.55 were property taxes; \$2252.49, interest; \$881, poll taxes, and \$82.81, tax penalties.

The balance of unpaid taxes dating back to 1936 was set at \$125,131.45, of which \$90,678.08 is in 1951 taxes.

Miss Saute pointed out that the percentage of current taxes collected is 85 per cent of the \$618,870.12 levy for 1951, compared with 86 per cent received in 1950 on a levy of \$580,821.80. The difference is due to a trend toward more quarterly payments, instead of lump payments by taxpayers, she said.

# Wife Restrained In Court Order

## Denied Possession of Joint Funds by E. Greenwich Judge

East Greenwich Office, 3291 Post Road, Apponaug Telephone Hills Grove 1-1000

A Warwick woman who married an older man on the premise of joint ownership of real estate and finances is restrained from possession and indiscriminate use of their joint accounts and other monies in a rescript handed down yesterday by Judge Thomas H. Roberts in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich.

Judge Roberts heard the case in equity last February brought by Jeremiah Kelly against Eleanor Kelly, whom he charged with systematic withdrawals from joint accounts, and with exclusive possession of pass books and savings bonds she had withdrawn from a safety deposit box, since their marriage Apr. 15, 1950 when he was 72 and she 47.

Testimony during the hearing brought out that Eleanor Coleman, then a nurse, had taken care of the man during his recuperation from an injury and that he had promised a home and security in joint ownership for her in a proposal of marriage. Judge Roberts held in his rescript that antemarriage transfers of property to joint ownership do not constitute outright gifts and that the consent of either is required for disposition.

The court ordered the woman to return the complainant's possession and custody the bankbooks and bonds which the man testified she had taken possession of, and the respondent also was permanently enjoined from withdrawing funds from two joint bank accounts in her possession, and from converting into cash any bonds standing in her name and that of the complainant, except with the complainant's consent to the withdrawals and conversions.

Involved are a pass book of the Apponaug Branch of the Industrial Trust Company, with a balance of \$3401.68, bonds in a safety deposit box there with an approximate value of \$1250, and a pass book of the Edgewood Branch of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company with a balance of \$612.80.

## DELEGATES CHOSEN

West Warwick delegates, and alternates to the Democratic State Convention, June 2, were announced yesterday by Sheriff Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee.

Delegates are Frank Giorgio and Richard, representatives of district one; Michael DeCiantis and John J. Flynn, district two; and Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Hermenegilde J. Nadeau, district three.

Alternates are John L. McGill, and John Gallucci, district one; Police Chief Groleau and Willie Regnaire, district two; and Rep. Thaddeus Kraus and Councilman Antonio Paul, district three.

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*Sunday Journal*

*May 11, 1952*

*Pro. Journal May 14, 1952*

## Two Arctic Cafes and Natick Club Draw Suspensions for Late Hours

The West Warwick Town Council last night slapped license suspensions on two Arctic cafes and a Natick private club whose operators admitted serving liquor after hours last Saturday morning.

Ordered closed for 30 days was the Itaio-American Club, Prospect Hill Avenue, Natick, where Police Chief Groleau said that a raiding party led by Sgt. Joseph Pontarelli also broke up a dice game at 2:15 a.m.

The Columbus Square Cafe, Arctic, received a five-day suspension. The Brass Rail Cafe license at 162 Washington Street, was lifted for 15 days.

Sitting as a licensing commission after a regular council meeting, the council ordered the suspensions to start at 1 a.m. tomorrow. Operators of the three places waived rights to have legal counsel represent them.

The action closely followed recent state police raids at the West Warwick Social Club, Market Street, Natick, which has been summoned before James S. Daneker, state liquor control administrator, and at Borowski's Cafe, Main Street, Crompton, where a

horse race bookie was arrested and convicted and the license suspended by Daneker for five days.

Chief Groleau's report said police found a dice game at the Itaio-American Club, but no charge was brought on that score. No reason was given why the gambling charge was not pressed.

Groleau's report said that Sergeant Pontarelli noticed cars parked at the club, and on investigation, as ordered by the chief, heard voices indicating a dice game was in progress. He said Pontarelli summoned additional police and then knocked on the door. Fred Lautieri of 1411 Westminster Street, Providence, club president, opened the door slightly, then nearly pinned Sergeant Pontarelli in the door when he tried unsuccessfully to close it, the report said.

Pontarelli's report to the chief said that as police entered, men jumped into the back room and out a back door amid yells of "break it up." Lautieri picked up the dice and money from a makeshift table, then put it in the box and asked police if they wanted the evidence. Told to keep it for the time

being, Lautieri, the report said, then demanded to know, "who's the boss of the police department?" and declared there were going to be some changes made and Pontarelli's orders would be changed. Lautieri used considerable obscene language, the report said, and asserted he was going to have the police "all straightened out and there are going to be some changes made on this police department."

Harry F. McKanna, council president, told Lautieri that one of the reasons for the severity of the penalty was the language used. "In the future I suggest that proper language is always of an advantage and I urge the wise use of it on all occasions," he admonished Lautieri.

When Lautieri, a dapperly dressed man, was asked if he had anything to say, he replied only, "No questions."

The report on the Brass Rail Cafe said that at 1:32 a.m. Saturday, Sergeant Pontarelli and Patrolmen John Bruno and Ira Cook checked the cafe and the door was opened by the owner, Pasquale DiPadua. There were three sailors, two civilians and a woman sitting at the bar, the woman with a highball in front of her and the men with fresh beers in front of them, it was said.

The report by Sergeant Pontarelli said also that on Apr. 4 at 3 a.m. the cafe had "to be cleaned out" and DiPadua was warned, and that on May 3 he again was doing business after hours and was told to report to the chief but did not do so. At times, the proprietor closes the cafe then returns and opens after hours, the report said. McKanna noted that the establishment had received a suspension 18 months ago.

DiPadua, the owner, told the council that he did not serve drinks after 1 a.m. but was on the other side of the bar. He said he had warned the customers to leave some time earlier but "I just can't intimidate them by calling the police, although I know it's the proper thing to do."

He said he sometimes goes to a diner after closing and returns to check the boiler.

"The only matter now is the charge that last Saturday your premises were open and for the purpose of serving alcoholic beverages. Do you admit that?" said Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault.

"That's right," answered DiPadua, after which his suspension was moved by Councilman Antonio Paul.

Emilio DiPadua admitted the charge brought against his Columbus Square Cafe. The report said that at 1:40 a.m. police found 12 persons in the bar with drinks before them. When DiPadua let the police in, one patron remarked, "it's early yet," according to the report. Noting that three women and nine men having drinks were ordered to leave, the report pointed out that DiPadua had been warned on many other occasions about late closing. The formal charge last night was the first brought against him, it was said.

DiPadua told the council, "it's pretty hard to put the people out."

## Detectives Tell On Valley Clubs Non-Members Testify

*P.V. Times 5/19/52*

### They Bought Drinks In 3 W. Warwick Spots

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7087

Private detectives employed by the Retail Liquor Dealers Board of Trade and the Package Store Association described at a State House hearing yesterday how they had posed as working men and bought liquor in three West Warwick clubs of which they were not members.

The testimony was given to Liquor Control Administrator James S. Daneker before whom charges were brought by the two associations of liquor dealers. He took all three cases under advisement.

Robert Flynn, attorney for two of the clubs, argued that the actions of the private detectives amounted to entrapment and should be disregarded. Testimony in two of the cases was that the liquor was served but that the bartender assumed the operatives were guests of club members with whom they talked at the bar.

The three clubs were The Phenix Sportsmen's Club at 715 Main Street, the Polish National Alliance at 11 Pulaski Street, and the Club I. R. Portuguese at 913 Main Street.

None of the club representatives at the hearings denied that drinks had been served to any of the three detectives, Nicholas Marra, Rocco P. Marra or Joseph E. Lambert.

In the case of the Polish Alliance, officials said the bartender who served the detectives was a spare man who had worked only three Saturdays and did not know all the members. In this case, Nicholas Marra testified his operatives had seen a paper bag with bottles of beer served over the bar.

In the case of the Phenix club, the testimony was that the two detectives came in with the bartender's brother and immediately started chatting with him at the bar and the bartender therefore assumed they were his friends or guests. In the case of the Portuguese club, Francis Ray, the president, said a member behind the bar waiting on customers was only doing so while Gerald Maynard, the regular bartender, was out getting a haircut. He said a better identification system for club members was being inaugurated immediately.

# Tax Breather Possibility Seen In W. Warwick 10-Month Year

Pawtucket Valley Office  
15 Washington Street  
West Warwick

Telephone  
VA 1-8200  
VA 1-7067

With release of a proposed 10-month fiscal year budget of \$704,321.91 by the Democratic West Warwick Town Council yesterday, observers weighed the possibility that the shortened financial year will have the effect of giving a one-year breather before facing a tax rise.

The budget, including 10 per cent salary boosts for police and firemen and salary jumps for certain other officials, is only \$70,133.51 less than the 12-month budget of last year.

Republicans, who plan to meet sometime between a public budget hearing tomorrow and the town meeting Tuesday, reportedly were critical of Democratic proposals to take an estimated \$45,000 from surplus to cover some expenditures.

There now is a balance of \$161,686.51 in the accumulative surplus

account, and Town Treasurer Robert J. Harrop has previously urged that at least \$100,000 of that be kept available for use instead of borrowing in anticipation of taxes.

Harrop admitted yesterday it would not be outlandish to assume that it would cost \$120,000 more to operate in a 12-month fiscal year. Revenue in the last two months of the year would be about \$70,000, according to Tax Collector Amy Saute, indicating that it would have been a difficult job to balance a 12-month budget this year and maintain the \$2.25 tax rate and present valuations.

Inasmuch as the taxpayers will vote first whether to change the time of the town meeting from May to March and hold it in the evening instead of afternoon, the town administration will have ready an alternative 12-month budget. No opposition has been expressed, however, to the change, which will require the 10-month budget for the first year.

The budget includes salary raises of varying amounts for janitors; \$5 a week for the tax collector; \$4 a week for the building inspector; \$4 for the town hall custodian; \$1.67 a month for the town solicitor (to make a round figure of \$75); \$200 a year for the school superintendent's clerk.

There is no provision for highway and rubbish collection workers' raises, and they reportedly will have to seek a 10 per cent raise they are asking on the floor of the town meeting.

The school department budget includes about \$13,000 additional to pay teachers automatic salary raises, according to Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault.

New items adding to the budget are \$5000 requested by Kent County Hospital; \$6443.40, new board of canvassers, plus \$556.60 for their supplies; and \$5500 to cover election expenses.

Recommended to come from surplus, with the total estimated at \$45,000, are: \$16,000 to widen the corner of Pike and Main Streets; \$7000, new roof for junior high school and heating repairs at

Crompton School; \$4500, expert traffic survey; \$1500, addition to Crompton library; \$1000, special canvassing authority equipment and "such sums as may be required to pay interest on sewer extension bonds."

The first-year interest on the sewer bonds will cost nearer \$15,000 than the \$10,000 previously reported, it was learned.

Taxpayers also will vote on a proposal to authorize sale of that part of the fire alarm system in East Natick area. The area now is protected by West Warwick firemen, but an agreement with Warwick will expire this year, and the plan is to give Warwick the opportunity to buy the equipment when it takes over protection responsibility.

Another resolution to come up would give the council power to sell land for highway purposes, or land intended for highway purposes but not so used.

## DeCiantis Eyes Lt. Gov. Post

Confirms He Is Urged by  
Some Party Leaders

To Run for Nomination

May 13, 1952

Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick attorney and former state public utilities-chief and assistant attorney general, last night confirmed reports that he has been urged by Democratic leaders in several Kent and South County communities to seek the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

He said he had not made up his mind whether he would become a candidate, "but certainly would not do anything until I had talked with Frank Rao, the Democratic state chairman."

John S. McKiernan of Providence now is Democratic lieutenant governor and he said last night he plans to be a candidate for re-election.

DeCiantis, 51, and a resident of Riverpoint, resigned as West Warwick town solicitor in March and was appointed by the town council as special counsel, without fee, in the town administration's fight over higher rates with the Kent County Water Authority.

Those urging DeCiantis to make the run are reported to feel that, as the leader in the consumers' protest against high water rates, he has gained popularity in Kent County towns and the city of Warwick section served by the authority.

As town solicitor, DeCiantis crusaded against gambling interests last year and had racing wire service cut off in Arctic.

He is a member of the so-called Quinn-Fogarty segment of the Democratic Party. He first held state office when Judge Robert E. Quinn was governor.

Besides holding the offices of chief of the state division of public utilities and assistant attorney general, under former Attorney General John P. Hartigan, he has been general counsel for the State Unemployment Compensation Board and was chairman in the '30's of a state freight rate differential committee appointed by then Governor Quinn. He also has served as West Warwick probate judge.

DeCiantis was born in Italy, but came to this country as a boy. He is a member of the K. of C., Elks, Sons of Italy, R.I. Bar Association and is a former president of the Kent County Bar Association.



**Top Student:** Miss Mary Jacqueline O'Rourke, senior with the highest scholastic record, receives the John F. Deering Medal from Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, school superintendent, at dedication of West Warwick High School as the John F. Deering High School in memory of the late superintendent. Governor Roberts, right, and other officials were guests.

—State Staff Photo

## John F. Deering High School Dedicated in W. Warwick

**Building Named for Town's First Superintendent Who Was Noted Educator, Friend of Youth**

Pawtuxet Valley Office  
18 Washington Street  
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State and town officials, including Governor Roberts, last night attended the dedication of West Warwick High School as the John Francis Deering High School in memory of the first superintendent of the town's schools.

Speakers lauded Mr. Deering, whose career as an educator spanned 55 years from the time West Warwick was divided from Warwick in 1913, and before that in the Warwick system of school districts, as a man who lived the life of high principles he taught his students.

The building was formally dedicated by Mrs. Frank Duffy, a niece of Mr. Deering's, in a brief dedicatory speech.

### Deering Medal

A highlight of the program was the award of the first John F. Deering medal to Mary Jacqueline O'Rourke, senior from Hope, for attaining the highest scholastic average. Vincent J. Lukowicz, school committee chairman and master of ceremonies, said the school committee will award the medal annually. It was presented by Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, superintendent.

Governor Roberts asserted that Mr. Deering could have no richer reward "than a living monument to his aspirations and ideals—a shrine to his memory." He said Mr. Deering's philosophy of education was of a high order and had helped mold the characters and careers of countless Pawtuxet Valley residents.

### James' Address

Vincent C. James, who was credited publicly by Lukowicz with initiating the move to dedicate a school building to Mr. Deering, asserted that the late superintendent consistently and unselfishly devoted himself to the youth of the town. James revealed that his sister, Mrs. T. William Watts, first suggested a school building memorial in a discussion with him about how best to perpetuate Mr. Deering's memory.

Col. Patrick H. Quinn recalled that Mr. Deering, whom he first met in 1887, worked with him on behalf of the working people in the Knights of Labor. Recalling Mr. Deering's efforts in conducting classes at night in his home for children working in the factories, he said, "The school committee here does a gracious act in dedicating this school to him. He deserves the honor."

Rep. John B. Nolan of Providence, chairman of the school committee which first employed Mr. Deering, recalled his days as principal of Arctic Grammar School and superintendent of Warwick and West Warwick schools.

"He loved to impart knowledge to young people because he wanted to make them good citizens," he said. "He was sincere, kind, generous, dependable and true."

### Good Teachers First

Dr. Michael F. Walsh, state commissioner of education, who, among other speakers, used a rostrum with a framed picture of Mr. Deering in the background, praised Mr. Deering's faithfulness to duty and declared great teachers, not magnificent

school buildings, produce good citizens.

He stressed the importance of a new three R's, respect for man's dignity, righteousness for community and country, and religious appreciation of what American life means. Citing the importance of religion, he said the danger of moral inflation is worse than monetary inflation.

In a message to 26 students who received R.I. Honor Society pins, Dr. Quinn urged them to seek the truth amid the flood of propaganda in the world, to form their own opinions and respect others' opinions. She stressed the importance of morality and fair play.

### Pins Awarded

Principal Francis Mullen awarded the honor pins. The recipients then presented flowers to their mothers or other close family members, who in turn pinned the insignia on them. Honor society members are:

Frances Baldyga, Marie Claude Boulanger, James Boyer, Jeannette Bulger, Vincent Centracchio, Shirley Dumelow, Donald Duquette, Gloria Lachapelle, Mary LaClair, Lillian Langevin, Bradford Leonard, Robert Lussier, Betty Lyons, Shirley McBride, John McKanna, Gwendolyn Miller, John Mullen, Murial Noel, Mary Jacqueline O'Rourke, Julie Petrarca, Bertha Roch, William Rogers, Joan Rosati, Arthur Schreiner, Stasia Szarek and Marilyn Wolfenden.

Mayor Chelsie V. Senerchia of Miami, Fla., a graduate of the school, wrote that he attributed much of any success he may have had to Mr. Deering's good influence.

The Rev. Thomas J. Greeley gave the invocation. Guests included members of Mr. Deering's family, School Committeeman Lorenzo Bergeron, Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president; Councilmen Antonio Paul, and Thomas Mello, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb and Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault.

## Backs DeCiantis As Lt. Governor

**Democratic Committee At W. Warwick Endorses Attorney**

The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee last night endorsed Michael DeCiantis, former assistant attorney general and state public utilities chief, for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

DeCiantis, who is a member of the town committee and former town solicitor, is a member of the so-called Quinn-Fogarty faction of the Democratic Party in the state.

His endorsement was interpreted as a move to put the faction in a good bargaining position when state officers are chosen.

A committee spokesman said members felt it was only fitting that someone from the Kent County section of the state should be represented among the top men on the state ticket.

He said West Warwick always had been a Democratic stronghold and was one of the two communities in the state that gave a plurality to Democratic candidates in the last election in every one of its voting districts.

DeCiantis confirmed reports last week that he had been approached by leaders in Kent County and south of it to make the run for lieutenant governor.

His supporters indicated they feel he would make a fighting candidate, and that is the type of candidate the Democrats will need in the coming election. They feel he has gained popularity in Kent County by his fight against the Kent County Water Authority rate increase.

# Police Ask West Warwick Council To Double Proposed Salary Increase

## Public Hearing Gets Request For 20% Raise

Represented by Mortimer W. Newton, attorney and former town council president, West Warwick police last night asked the town council, at a hearing on the budget proposed for Tuesday's town meeting to increase the 10 per cent salary raise proposed for them to 20 per cent.

Toward the close of the hearing, attended by about 15 persons, mostly town officials, Newton revealed he had been retained to represent the police and made his plea.

### Made Survey

He said that he and the police had made a survey of comparative salaries of police forces in the state and, as a result, are seeking the higher salary.

West Warwick patrolmen, who would receive \$60.50 with the 10 per cent raise already included by the council, now get \$1.12 an hour for 54 hours, Newton said. He called it a "terrible salary."

Asserting that throughout the state many communities pay on the basis for a 40-48 hour week, Newton said, "We talk too much about major projects. I'm interested in the individual. With \$55 to \$60 a week a man with a family has a tough struggle, especially if he has children. Costs of food and clothing have gone up, and police must buy their own uniforms."

### Laborers Get 10

Dr. M. Irene Guertin agreed, pointing out that laborers receive \$10 a day for eight hours. Frank Lachapelle pointed out that, when police first asked for the raise last February, they asked it be retroactive to then. Since the 10 per cent included in the proposed budget is not retroactive, increasing it to 20 per cent might make up for that, he said.

Norman E. Gillespie of the Republican Town Committee, only Republican present, clashed with Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault when he declared that everything, including taxes should be pro-rated on a 10-month basis to coincide with the shortened 10-month fiscal year expected.

Bourgault said the items that could be pro-rated, such as salaries, had been included for only a 10-month period, but that fixed charges, such as grants to the Pawtuxet Valley Nurses Association and payments on bonds, remain the same whether the fiscal year runs 10 or 12 months.

Dr. Guertin vehemently opposed a planning board proposal to take \$4500 from surplus to retain Dwight T. Myers, Providence traffic engineer, to survey Arctic's traffic problems. Originator of a plan to bypass Arctic, Dr. Guertin said no outside expert is needed.

Gillespie and Horace L. Petrarca disagreed with Dr. Guertin saying that an expert traffic survey would be worthwhile and that expensive road improvements should be made only with expert advice.

Lachapelle, long interested in athletics in the town, asked for a breakdown of the recommended \$3000 budget for playground and recreation, but Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, said the school committee handles that and it wasn't available. Bourgault said it would be at the town meeting.

A proposed \$5000 appropriation to aid Kent County Hospital precipitated a controversy after Police Capt. Henry F. Miller Jr. asked whether it would be used to help those unable to pay hospital costs.

### Others Contribute

McKanna said he understood it would help make up a hospital op-



**TALK AND THOUGHT:** Former Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis (left) and Norman E. Gillespie, Republican town committeeman, are busy discussing donation to Kent County

Memorial Hospital while Mortimer W. Newton (right) was caught by the camera deep in thought. The candid photo was made last night during West Warwick budget hearing.

## Newton Sees Cost at \$4500

### Says Funds for Police Raise Easy to Finance In West Warwick

A 20 per cent wage increase for West Warwick police would take only about \$4500 more from taxes than a 10 per cent increase, Mortimer W. Newton, special counsel for the department, said yesterday.

Engaging Newton as their representative, police at the annual budget hearing Friday asked for a 20 per cent instead of the 10 per cent provided in the proposed budget for tomorrow's annual financial town meeting.

Newton maintained that the \$4500 additional needed would be easy to finance. He said the source of the money would be up to the town meeting.

At the budget hearing it was pointed out that when police first proposed the raise in February they asked that it be retroactive to then. Since the 10 per cent included in the proposed budget is not retroactive the 20 per cent might compensate for that, it was said.

Newton had termed the present patrolman's salary of \$1.12 an hour for 54 hours a "terrible salary" and added that with \$55 to \$60 a week a man with a family has a tough struggle.

## Council Releases List Of Proposed Salaries

### Some Increases for Town Employees Included in Tentative 10-Month Budget

The West Warwick Town Council last night released a list of salaries proposed for town officers and employees in the budget to be presented at Tuesday's town meeting, with totals by departments in a 10-month budget.

The 10-month budget is necessary because taxpayers are expected to ratify a proposal to advance the town meeting from May to March, starting next year.

Officials also have ready an alternative 12-month budget, in case taxpayers should reject the town meeting date change. That budget has not been made public.

The proposed salaries, with increases over last year in some cases noted, are:

Town officers—five town councilmen, \$360 annually; town solicitor, \$75 per month (increased from \$73.33 a month); assessors, one at \$50 a week and two at \$110 per month; probate judge, \$55 a month (raise of \$10); superintendent of street lights, \$22.91 a month; town sergeant, \$29.80 a month; director of public welfare, \$123.75 a month; town auditor, \$20.83 a month; health officer, \$137.50 quarterly; three school committeemen, \$165 annually; town hall janitor, \$40 a week (raise of \$4); town clerk, \$58 a week; tax collector, \$50 per week (raise of \$5); town treasurer, \$45 a week; fire warden, \$35 annually; tree warden, \$10 annually; building inspector, \$44 a week (raise of \$4); total, \$20,680.56.

### REVENUE SOURCES

Harry F. McKanna Jr., West Warwick Town Council president, last night made public sources of anticipated revenue to cover the \$704,321.91 ten-month budget to be recommended by the Democratic administration at Tuesday's annual town meeting.

Expected revenue, which exceeds the proposed budget by \$178.08, follows: From town taxes, \$535,000; state aid, \$74,500; sewer assessment fund, \$25,000; licenses, fees, etc., \$70,000; total estimated revenue, \$704,500; unappropriated surplus, \$178.09.

Sewer department—superintendent, \$80 a week; electrician, \$59 a week; five operators, \$50 a week; one clerk, \$50 a week; extra labor, approximate, \$834 for 10 months; total, \$20,141.  
Garbage and rubbish removal—two truck drivers, \$53 a week; six laborers, \$50 a week; total, \$17,458.  
Highway—superintendent, \$90 a week; assistant superintendent, \$75 a week; clerk, \$50 a week; five truck drivers, \$53 a week; 10 laborers, \$50 a week.  
Mosquito control (town dump)—one laborer, \$55 a week; total, \$2,265.  
Fire department (represents 10 per cent raise for all but chief)—chief, \$90 a week; electrician, \$78.55 a week; deputy chief, \$71.50 a week; mechanic, \$68.97 a week; six firemen, \$60.50 a week; one fireman, \$59.40 a week; two firemen, \$58.30; two firemen, \$55; two firemen for vacation relief, \$55 for seven weeks; total, \$41,969.16.  
Police department (represents 10 per cent raise for all but chief)—chief, \$90 a week; two captains, \$78.55; two sergeants, \$62.70; two corporals, \$61.60; 12 patrolmen, \$60.50 a week; patrolmen for extra work, \$1,935 for 10 months; janitor, \$30.25 a week; constables, \$31.15; total, \$55,510.  
Clerical—town clerk's office, one at \$52 a week; one, \$44 a week; one, \$40 a week.  
Clerical—tax assessors' office, one at \$40 a week.  
Clerical—tax collector's office, one at \$40 a week.  
Clerical—roving clerk, \$34 a week (raise from \$32).  
Clerical—treasurer's office, one at \$5 a day; (total for all clerical help, \$11,135).  
Department of Public Welfare—one clerk, \$30 a week; one caseworker, \$43.85.  
Board of canvassers—board's salaries, \$1,083.40; four clerks, \$30 for 28 weeks; census takers, \$2,000 for 10 months; total, \$6,643.40.

## DeCiantis for Finish Fight

Wants to Carry His Battle for Lowered Water Rates to End

Michael DeCiantis, former town solicitor of West Warwick, said this morning that at the present he is more interested in finishing the fight on the water rates, and not until the time the rate case issue is settled will he show interest in a state office.

It has been reported that state Democratic leaders are urging him to seek the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

DeCiantis said this morning: "It is the truth that I have been asked by some party leaders to run for the office of lieutenant governor, but the same demand has been more from people in the Kent County area."

"As a matter of fact, I am not too much concerned with an office right now. My present interest is to finish the fight on the water rates and until that time, I will show no interest in anything else. I am now working on the case preparing for the time when the hearing before the Public Utilities Administration, which I believe, will be held soon.

"After I get through with the water rates, if there is a demand of me at that time to run for office—that is the time to think about it and not now." DeCiantis resigned as West Warwick town solicitor last March and was immediately appointed by the town council as their special counsel, without pay, to represent the town in their fight over the higher rates with the Kent County Water Authority.

In addition to his leading the fight against the increased water rates, DeCiantis led the battle in West Warwick to stamp out gambling interests and last year he had racing wire service cut off in Arctic.

At one time, DeCiantis was public utilities administrator and assistant attorney general. In West Warwick, he has also served as probate judge.

## DeCiantis Endorsed

Backed by West Warwick Democrats for Lt. Governor

The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee, in meeting Saturday night, endorsed Michael DeCiantis, former town solicitor, for the nomination of lieutenant governor and announced they will bring his name for endorsement before other committees of the state.

The Democratic Town Committee took advantage of endorsing DeCiantis for the state office because, according to a spokesman, it felt that Kent County has not been represented in the state and that a qualified man should be on the state ticket to take care of this section of Rhode Island.

The town committee pointed out that DeCiantis has had great experience as a lawyer, as former assistant attorney general, former public utilities commissioner and general counsel for the Unemployment Compensation board, and would, because of his experiences, be best suited to work for the interest of all people of the county.

A committee spokesman said that DeCiantis' record shows that as public utilities commissioner, he had become noted for his interest in all of the people in the state and that he had reduced the car fares in this vicinity from 30 to 25 cents and he made the water companies discontinue the advance payments by the people. DeCiantis was also responsible for making the public utilities return deposits that had been placed on the meters when in Rhode Island they totaled \$125,000.

## Total Budget Increase Of \$10,879.50 Voted

In a one-hour-and-18-minute annual town meeting, one of the shortest in years, West Warwick taxpayers yesterday afternoon overrode a Democratic administration proposal to give police a 10 per cent salary raise and voted to give them a 20 per cent boost.

The 199 taxpayers present overwhelmingly approved the raise, applicable to ranks from patrolman through captain, after Judge James W. Leighton, moderator, had at first ruled that a motion to indefinitely postpone Mortimer W. Newton's amendment to the budget to provide it had carried by a voice vote.

Newton, special counsel for police in their drive for the raise, questioned the ruling, whereupon a standing vote showed taxpayers overwhelmingly against the tabling motion. The vote on the amendment to provide an extra \$4629.50 for the raises then carried by a large majority.

### \$1000 More for Recreation

Rejecting a Democratic administration proposal of \$5000 for playgrounds and recreation, voters, on motion of Frank LaChapelle, added \$1000 to it. On motion of Fire Chief Gareau, the meeting added \$5250 to the fire department budget to pay call men. The chief said it apparently had been cut out inadvertently.

The budget raises amounted to \$10,879.50, making the total budget \$715,201.41 for a 10-month fiscal year. But Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault said the present \$2.25 tax rate will stand. He said the extra money will have to come from surplus.

Another administration proposal, which would have appropriated

February asked only for a 10 per cent raise, but last Thursday raised their request to 20 per cent. Newton pointed out that police had said they felt the raises could be financed from revenue and violation fines as a result of installation of parking meters last fall.

LaChapelle also spoke out for the 20 per cent raise, pointing out that police had asked last February that their originally asked 10 per cent raise be retroactive to that time and, since it was not, the 20 per cent would make up for it.

### Not Personal Matter

McKanna took the floor to say that the council's stand on the 20 per cent raise was not a personal matter. He cited difficulties of preparing a budget to balance income and expenses.

No objections arose to Fire Chief Gareau's motion to add \$5200 to his budget to pay call men, after he had explained it must have been cut out by accident. About 100 call men receive \$50 a year, he explained.

The meeting ordered a tax levy of not less than \$625,000 and not more than \$650,000. Taxes will become due Oct. 2, 1952, with a six per cent penalty after that, but they may be paid in quarterly installments on Oct. 2, 1952; Jan. 2, 1953; Apr. 2, 1953, and July 2, 1953.

Highway workers made no move to win approval of a 10 per cent salary raise, for which they had asked without success at a budget committee meeting. However, Alex Duhaime, a school janitor, pointed out that the \$150 raises for janitors raised his salary only to \$44. Speaking during the police raise debate, he declared his salary was insufficient.

### The meeting also:

Approved the town treasurer's action in overexpending appropriations for the previous fiscal year by \$12,350.05 and ordered that amount not be deducted from appropriations for the 1952-53 fiscal year. (The money will come from surplus.)

Authorized the town council to convey, for highway purposes, land owned by the town, as well as land intended for highway purposes but not so used, and to convey land purchased for the town at tax sales.

Authorized the council to continue granting 10-year tax exemptions to such manufacturing property as might be located in the town in the future.

Appointed a committee including McKanna, Vincent J. Lukowicz, Rep. Thaddeus Kraus, Roland E. Meunier and Marion Ionata to co-operate with trustees of the Annie M. Lively estate in erecting an addition to the Crompton Library agreeable to direction of the Superior Court.

Reappointed Alfred Richard, Representative DiFiore, Joseph A. LaChapelle and Miss Agnes G. Coogan to the town insurance committee.

Authorized the town council to reapportion and redistribute money from one appropriation to another.

Decreed that any money received by the town in the coming fiscal year not specifically appropriated go into a miscellaneous appropriation.

Authorized the town treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Instructed the treasurer to carry forward an unexpended balance in the mosquito control appropriation.

Directed the treasurer to pay during the present fiscal year amounts required by law to redeem the junior high school serial bonds, the junior high school addition serial bonds, serial funding bonds and sewer bonds and notes.

## W. Warwick Budget

The West Warwick budget voted for the 10-month fiscal year from May 1, 1952, to Feb. 28, 1953 follows:

General Government	
Town Officers—	\$ 20,680.56
Clerical—Town Hall	11,135.00
Supplies and Expense	3,500.00
Service Memorial	500.00
Telephones	3,000.00
Town Hall Maintenance	2,100.00
District Meetings	3,500.00
Insurance	10,000.00
Town Officers' Bonds	750.00
Memorial Services	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	5,000.00
Painting town hall	1,700.00
Board of Canvassers:	
Personnel	6,443.40
Supplies	556.60
	\$ 72,165.56
Protection	
Personnel	60,140.00
Police Department—	
Supplies, etc.	18,450.00
Equipment	1,500.00
Ambulance	670.00
Fire Department—Personnel	47,219.00
Supplies, etc.	18,450.00
Street Lighting	24,500.00
Civilian Defense	2,000.00
	\$167,234.66
Sanitation	
Sewer Dept.—Personnel	20,141.00
Supplies, etc.	10,359.00
Sewer Disposal Plant	2,600.00
Garbage & Rubbish—Personnel	17,458.00
Supplies, etc.	2,542.00
	\$ 53,100.00
Highway	
Highway Main—Personnel	42,140.00
Supplies, etc.	17,707.20
Highway Construction and Improvements	9,000.00
Sidewalk Construction	2,500.00
	\$ 71,347.20
Education:	
School Department	239,496.44
Libraries	2,350.00
Teachers' Pensions	8,475.00
	\$250,321.44
Public Welfare:	
Personnel	3,175.55
Other	11,000.00
	\$ 14,175.55
Debt Service	
Bond & Note Retirement	52,000.00
Interest	16,917.50
Health Activities	
Mosquito Control—Personnel	2,365.00
Other	660.00
P.V. Visiting Nurses Assn.	1,000.00
Kent County Hospital	5,000.00
	\$ 9,025.00
Other	
Southern R.I. Farm Bureau	300.00
Playgrounds & Recreation	6,000.00
Social Security	3,235.00
	\$ 9,535.00
Total Revenue Appropriations	
\$715,201.41	

A delegation of West Warwick Republicans at the annual town meeting yesterday failed to say a word in criticism of the Democratic administration's budget.

Norman E. Gillespie, one of the Republican town committee members who accompanied Harold C. Knight, GOP chairman, remarked after the meeting, "We didn't have to say anything. They beat themselves."

\$16,000 from surplus to widen the corner of Pike and Main Streets, was knocked down. Augustus Simas, whose father's house would have to be condemned to effect the widening, objected. Rep. Gerard DiFiore said the state is planning to widen Main Street in that section and the state might do the job.

### \$29,000 from Surplus

Appropriations from surplus funds totaling \$29,000 were approved as follows: \$7000 to put a new roof on the junior high school and repair Crompton School's heating system; \$4500 to finance the planning commission's hiring of Dwight T. Myers, traffic engineer, to make an Arctic traffic study; \$1500 to aid in construction of a Crompton Library addition; \$1000 for special canvassing authority equipment, and \$15,000, or as much of it as needed, to pay first-year interest on a coming sewer extension bond issue.

Police salaries now will be as follows: chief, \$4680; captain, \$4461.60; sergeants, \$3556.80; corporals, \$3494.40; patrolmen, \$3432.

After reading of the call by Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb and election of Judge Leighton as moderator, the meeting quickly approved the proposal to change the date and time of future town meetings from the Tuesday after the third Monday in May at 2 p.m. to the Tuesday after the third Monday in March at 7 p.m., effective next year.

Early in the meeting, Bourgault and Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, who alternated in presenting most of the resolutions and speaking for the administration, moved adoption of a new item of \$5000 for Kent County Hospital. Newton, arguing that it was being taken up out of its order in the budget, moved to table it temporarily, but he was unsuccessful when McKanna moved the previous question.

### Praises Police

Newton, former town council president, made a strong plea for making police raises 20 per cent. He declared the force had won the respect of the town for kind and courteous responses to citizens' calls for aid of all kinds, especially with the police ambulance. He cited the overtime members work without extra pay, need to buy uniforms and provide their own insurance, and their efficiency. He cited the danger in their job and said they are acquitting themselves well in the current O'Brien murder investigation.

The raise, he pointed out, will give patrolmen \$65 a week, "little enough for a man with children to raise."

When he moved to amend the budget to add \$4629.50 for the raises, the motion was seconded by Augustus Simas.

### Postponement Moved

Bourgault moved indefinite postponement of the amendment. This was seconded by McKanna.

Bourgault asserted that Newton's was "an easy task," but that, although the budget committee would like to see all town employees get much more money, it was not possible. He said the move was unfair to other employees and would knock out the entire administration's financial program.

He pointed out that police last

# PAWTUCKET RIVER, NATICK

## SEARCH JOHNSON'S POND AT RAYMOND'S POINT

### Two West Warwick Men Are Taken Into Custody

The FBI is scouring the Pawtucket Valley today picking up and looking for the remainder of the \$100,000 loot in the Quonset Point Naval Air Station break last Mar. 7th.

This morning a Navy diver under supervision of the federal investigators, hauled a plastic bag, about size that could hold a peck of potatoes, from the waters of the Pawtucket River next to the concrete bridge on the Bald Hill Road, East Natick, near the DeFusco Bros. junk yard.

The bag was filled with bills and those that could be seen were of \$10 denomination. All the FBI would say was that it was a "sizeable sum."

The money was found by the Navy diver from Quonset about 11:30 a.m., after a three-hour search.

While that search was going on, other investigators were searching the waters near Raymond's Point on Johnson's Pond for more of the money.

The leads on the locations of the money are reportedly coming from the questioning of Robert Laplante, 27, who, with Howard Hildebrandt, 25, both of West Warwick, was arrested by the FBI last night.

According to International News Service, Hildebrandt's wife said she intended to fight for him. "We plan to get a lawyer," she said. Hildebrandt had bought his wife some fine furs before he went to New York for a date with Gloria and his \$200-a-party spending spree. A neighborhood grocer said Mrs. Hildebrandt and her two children had everything they wanted.

A new wave of excitement swept through West Warwick last night with the disclosure that two local residents have been taken in custody by FBI agents in connection with the \$100,000 Quonset Naval Station robbery last March.

The accused pair are Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church street, and Robert Laplante, 27, of Cowesett Avenue, both of Crompton.

Laplante was arrested about 5:30 p.m. yesterday, in West Warwick, by federal agents, while other agents picked up Hildebrandt in New York, where, police said, he was on "a spending spree."

Hildebrandt was arrested with nightclub singer Gloria H. Fazzina, 30, who uses the professional name of Gloria Dale.

#### Former Quonset Employees

The West Warwick men, both of whom were formerly employed at the naval base, have been charged with armed robbery on a government reservation, while the singer is being held as a material witness. Conviction on the charge carries a penalty of 15 years.

According to police reports, Laplante and Hildebrandt both grew up in West Warwick. Both served in the Army during World War II—Hildebrandt as a military policeman in the Pacific theatre, and Laplante as an Air Force sergeant mechanic and gunner. Hildebrandt is married and Laplante is divorced.

Coming so swiftly on the heels

of the sensational O'Brien killing in Natick last week, last night's developments shook Valley residents to the very roots.

Townpeople gathered in clusters last night until a late hour to discuss the recent turn of events which already had placed West Warwick in the headlines across the nation.

#### Born In Providence

Hildebrandt was born in Providence and grew up in West Warwick, where he went to high school until 1942. He served in the Army in World War II as a military policeman. He saw duty in the Pacific.

Besides being formerly employed at Quonset, Hildebrandt had at one time worked as a private detective and guard for an armored car service operating in Rhode Island. Between the years 1947 and 1948 he took a correspondence course in criminal investigation and detective work under supervision of a New York correspondence school.

He had been operating The Gun Cabinet on Cowesett Avenue, Crompton, a short distance from his home since last December. He first opened the shop in the Schofield building, Main Street, Crompton.

He is married to Mildred (Moorehead) Hildebrandt and is the father of two small children.

He worked as a general helper at Quonset from Dec. 6, 1944 to Jan. 17, 1945 when he left to enter the Army. He returned as a civil service worker on Dec. 16, 1946 as an aircraft mechanic, general helper, finally quitting his \$13.84 a day job on May 1, 1951.

#### Divorced With One Child

Laplante, divorced with one child, is a life-long resident of West Warwick. He attended high school until 1942. He served in the Army from May, 1943 to February 1946 and was discharged as a sergeant in the Army Air Force.

According to the FBI, Laplante, in addition to his employment at Quonset was engaged part time in selling auto accessories and in assisting Hildebrandt in his gun shop.

#### Weekend Trips to N.Y.C.

Information garnered last night from police indicated Hildebrandt made weekend trips into New York where he reportedly staged champagne parties for Miss Dale at a Times Square cafe and that he often picked up the check for as much as \$250 or more after entertaining her and buying the house drinks.

According to an announcement by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover, some of the loot was found on the men when they were taken in cus-

tody. Laplante was arrested while eating supper at his home and Hildebrandt was picked up in a Times Square cafe while entertaining the singer.

Hildebrandt has been employed at times as a private detective and a guard on an armored car service guarding payroll money, police said.

He recently opened a small place of business on Cowesett Avenue, Crompton, known as The Gun Cabinet, which catered to the hunting and fishing trade.

#### Store Is Searched

Federal agents last night searched the sporting goods store and the Laplante premises, which are only a short distance apart on Cowesett Avenue, but it was not divulged whether any additional loot was found.

Hildebrandt's wife, Mildred, wearing dark glasses, an ankle-length dress and light spring coat, accompanied FBI men to the gun shop. She sat quietly on a chair near the barred door of the small store, calmly puffing on a cigarette. Four agents in the building at the time, later stepped outside to their waiting car, hustled Mrs. Hildebrandt into the rear seat between two agents and drove back to the Hildebrandt home on Church Street, less than a quarter mile away.

J. Edgar Hoover yesterday praised the co-operation of Captain Henry F. Miller Jr. and Patrolman William Gallucci of West Warwick police, Chief Gareld A. Shippee and Patrolman Stanley Skorski of Coventry police, and Providence and state police detectives, all of whom played a vital part in developments leading up to the arrest of the pair yesterday.



MRS. MILDRED HILDEBRANDT, wearing dark glasses and puffing on a cigarette, follows F.B.I. agents out of her husband's Gun Cabinet shop on Cowesett avenue, Crompton, after a search last night of the premises for part of the \$100,000 in the Quonset Point Naval Base robbery.

—Times Photo



**WELL 'HARNESSED'**, Quonset holdup suspect Robert LaPlante is led from police headquarters by U.S. Deputy Marshals James Lapan (left) and Edward A. Curran. They're on way to arraignment.

—Staff Photo by Clinton H. Cram



**Howard Hildebrandt**

## Accused Robber Applied For Burglary Insurance

*The Evening Bulletin May 22, 1952*  
The Travelers Insurance Co. said today that it was asked to insure the gunshop of Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, against burglary the very day that the FBI says Hildebrandt helped rob the Quonset Point Credit Union of \$100,000.

An engineer for the insurance company said that the company received Hildebrandt's application for protection against burglary on Mar. 7. On Mar. 7, according to the FBI, Hildebrandt and Robert R. LePlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West War-

wick, were making the largest cash robbery in the history of Rhode Island.

The engineer said that he found Hildebrandt had just increased his gun and sports stock tenfold and told Hildebrandt he would have to keep books and put in a burglar alarm system before he could get burglary insurance.

"He put in a very good system with doors and windows connected to an outside siren and gong," said the engineer. "I was sure that was adequate. I never dreamed I was talking to an expert."



**WOMAN IN THE STORY:** Night-club singer Gloria Dale, who was arrested with Hildebrandt in New York City. (Other pictures on pages 12 and 14.)

—Associated Press Wirephoto

## LA PLANTE PUT UNDER HEAVY BAIL

*P.V. Times May 22, 1952*  
Providence, R. I., May 22 (INS)

—One of two suspects in the \$100,000 Quonset Naval Air Station robbery was held in heavy bail today in Federal Court.

Robert Laplante, 27, of West Warwick, appeared nervous when he appeared before U. S. Commissioner Louis Rosenstein and pleaded innocent through his counsel, Michael Deciantis.

Laplante was held in \$40,000 bail for a hearing June 5 on a charge of "by force and violence and intimidation taking from the person \$100,000 in U. S. currency on a U. S. Naval Reservation, Quonset Point." He was remanded to Providence County Jail, Cranston, in lieu of bail.

Deciantis protested, and alleged that the FBI had "dogged" Laplante since three days after the robbery last March. The lawyer also protested that the Naval Base was poorly protected and that the robbery "was like taking a lollipop from a kid."

# West Warwick Suspects Are Ex-Navy Workers

A big transparent plastic bag packed with bills—apparently the bulk of the \$100,000 loot taken from the Quonset Station credit union—was recovered from the water at Pawtuxet River Bridge on Bald Hill Road, Warwick, shortly before noon today by FBI agents.

A Navy diver helped the FBI in recovering the bag.

The plastic bag was sealed at the end by a metal fixture to keep its contents dry.

The bridge where the money was recovered is on Bald Hill Road, in the East Natick section of Warwick.

Warwick police aided the FBI in locating the bag and fishing it out of the river.

Spectators could see the currency through the transparent bag.

Two West Warwick men—former civilian employees at Quonset Naval Air Station—were arrested by FBI agents yesterday and charged with the \$100,000 daylight holdup of the station's credit union Mar. 7.

Robert R. LaPlante, 27, was picked up at his home, 64 Cowesett Avenue.

Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, former amateur detective and armored car guard, was seized in New York at a Times Square restaurant, where the FBI interrupted his spending spree with a night-club singer.

Money found on Hildebrandt was identified as part of that stolen from the credit union. The FBI would not say how the money was identified.

The singer, Gloria H. Fazzina, 30, was arrested as a material witness. Known professionally as Gloria Dale, she was appearing at Tony Pastor's night club in New York.

## Weeks of Tedious Checking

The FBI broke the case after weeks of tedious checking. Their examination of thousands of employees' work records turned up the evidence that LaPlante failed to report for work the day before and the day of the holdup.

They discovered later that after LaPlante was dropped from the payroll Mar. 7—the day of the holdup—he worked for Hildebrandt at his sports goods store, the Gun Cabinet, on Cowesett Avenue.

The FBI declined to say how much of the stolen money had been recovered. After inspecting both homes and the Gun Cabinet, they were searching nearby rivers and ponds today for at least some of it.

Neither LaPlante nor Hildebrandt has a criminal record, the FBI said.

## Holdup Details Recalled

The pair who are charged with holding up the credit union manager, got away with the biggest cash haul in Rhode Island history.

With split-second timing, two men in Halloween masks swooped down on Gerald Lynch of Apponaug, manager, and Thomas Smith of Pawtucket, his civilian guard, on the parking lot outside the credit union as Lynch and Smith were delivering the cash withdrawn a few seconds before from the Navy disbursing building.

Poking a gun into Smith's ribs, they snatched the money bags from Lynch's car, tossed them into a 1950 Oldsmobile which had been stolen from the station yard, and roared at 50 miles an hour through the main exit. One of three Marine sentries had to jump for his life from in front of the car.

## No One Else Sought

The Oldsmobile was found abandoned and burning a few minutes later on a dirt road off Division Street, East Greenwich. At the same time, a dark-colored business coupe with two men in it was seen driving out of Division Street and headed toward Providence. The two men were believed to have been the bandits. But the trail grew cold at the East Greenwich end.

At first, it was suspected an accomplice might have been waiting in the second getaway car. But J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief who himself announced the arrests last night, said no one else is being sought.

It was reported the FBI was dragging Johnson's Pond near Coventry Center bridge on Route 117 this morning for the money bags. Two agents found in a parked car near the bridge refused to say what they were looking for.

One money bag taken from Quonset Point contained \$1000 in 50-cent pieces.

## Knightsville Loan Holdup

Authorities saw no connection between the Quonset holdup, the Brink's Express robbery in Boston or the shotgun slaying last week of Carlton M. O'Brien, West Warwick night club operator.

But it was believed they were to question Hildebrandt and LaPlante in connection with the Feb. 15 holdup of a branch of the Knightsville Loan Co. at 723 Providence Street, Natick, from which two gunmen wearing dark glasses made off with \$2400 after penning the manager and a clerk in a washroom.

Chief Groleau of West Warwick police, who wants to question the pair, said an automobile stolen from outside the Quonset Naval Station gate was used in the Knightsville branch holdup.

## Taken to Federal Building

This morning, LaPlante was taken in manacles from Providence police station, where he spent the night, to the Federal Building to appear before U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein on a charge of theft on a government reservation. The charge carries a maximum 15-year penalty.

LaPlante wore khaki trousers and a red and black sports shirt.

Hildebrandt was to be arraigned in New York today before being removed to Rhode Island.

The FBI announcement said that LaPlante went to work at Quonset on Feb. 10, 1947, as an aircraft mechanic, general helper, and was continued on the payroll through Mar. 7.

Hildebrandt, who worked as a general helper at Quonset from Dec. 6, 1944, to Jan. 17, 1945, when he left to enter the Army, returned as a civil service worker on Dec. 16, 1946, as an aircraft mechanic, general helper, finally quitting his \$13.84-a-day job on May 1, 1951.

## Knew FBI Trained Them

Michael DeCiantis, attorney for both men, said that they knew the FBI had been trailing them for "some time." He said both men had been Crompton residents all their lives and, as far as he knew, had no criminal records.

It was learned that one of the men had gone to DeCiantis some time ago and told him the FBI was trailing him and asked him if he could do anything about it.

"They declared their innocence to me right up to last Monday," DeCiantis said last night.

In discussing the arrests, Donald S. Hostetter, agent in charge of the Boston FBI office, commended state and local police in Rhode Island "for the important part they played in developing evidence against Hildebrandt and LaPlante" and singled out for special mention Capt. Harry F. Miller Jr. of West Warwick police and Chief Gareld Shippee and Patrolman Stanley Skorski of Coventry.

Skorski, 31, a special patrolman who is also school bus driver, refused last night to discuss the part he played in the case that led the FBI to commend him. He lives at 545 Washington Street, Anthony, with his wife, Balbina, and two children.

FBI agents went to work in earnest last night on the homes of the two men, which are located within half a mile of each other.

At LaPlante's home, the second

floor apartment of a modest, two-story grey house, half a dozen FBI men systematically searched the place, probing the refrigerator, the wall ironing board and other possible hiding places.

His mother, watching the work, told a reporter: "We know he's not a criminal."

Out in the yard, LaPlante's father, Andre, watched other FBI agents go through a long shed in the same systematic search.

At Hildebrandt's house, where his wife Mildred lives with their two children, Mrs. Hildebrandt slammed the door in the face of a reporter. Hildebrandt's house, a one-story, red-painted dwelling, sits back from the road, surrounded by a wire fence.

Parked in front of the house was a new green Oldsmobile similar to that used in the Quonset robbery. Records at the State Registry of Motor Vehicles showed the car was first registered by Mildred Hildebrandt on Mar. 6, 1952, the day before the holdup.

Hildebrandt was eating with Miss Dale in a restaurant in the bright lights district when FBI agents moved in on them. It was reported in New York that he and Miss Dale had been spending their evenings in Greenwich Village at Tony Pastor's, where she sings, and that Hildebrandt sometime spent as much as \$150 to \$200 a night.

Hildebrandt was born in Providence, and grew up in West Warwick where he went to high school until 1942. While in the Army he saw service in the Pacific as a military policeman.

Besides his Quonset employment, the FBI said he had been employed intermittently since July, 1951, as a private detective and guard for an armored car service operating in Rhode Island. The FBI declined to name the company. He had taken a correspondence course in criminal investigation and detective work under the guidance of an established New York correspondence school during 1947 and 1948.

Hildebrandt has been operating The Gun Cabinet on Cowesett Ave-



**WEST WARWICK POLICE** search through the Gun Cabinet, in Hildebrandt's sports goods store on Cowesett Road.



**GOOD WORK:** FBI praises work of (l-r) Capt. Harry F. Miller Jr. of West Warwick police, Patrolman Stanley Skorski and Chief Gareld Shippee of Coventry police for their efforts in helping to bring about arrest of Quonset robbery suspects.

nue, just around the corner from his home, since last December, the FBI said. The shop specializes in the sale of firearms.

LaPlante, married and divorced, with one child, was described by the FBI as a native of West Warwick, who attended high school until 1942. He served in the Army from May, 1943, to February, 1946, and was discharged as a sergeant in the Army Air Force, with a rating of airplane mechanic and gunner.

The FBI said that, in addition to his employment at Quonset, LaPlante was engaged part time in selling auto accessories and in assisting Hildebrandt in his gun shop.

A warrant has been sent to New York for Hildebrandt, who will have a preliminary hearing there.

Miss Dale was lodged last night in the Women's House of Detention in New York, the FBI said.

She was described as a divorcee and a singer. The manager of Tony Pastor's night club, William Janava, said she once sang there four years ago and only recently returned for an engagement.

The Associated Press quoted Janava as saying Hildebrandt first visited the club Apr. 16 and thereafter became a frequent customer, sometimes paying checks as high as \$200 for a party of six.

His admiration for the singer was well known in the club, Janava said, but Miss Dale once told other members of the show cast that "she liked him but not enough to marry him and had told him so."

## Third of Loot Recovered in Quonset Robbery Probe

By ROBERT HEALY

One-third of the loot in the \$100,000 Quonset Point, R. I., Naval Air Station robbery had been recovered from various sources last night, and police and the FBI were seeking what remained of the balance.

Of the money found, some \$20,000 was taken from the bottom of the shallow Pawtuxet River in Warwick, R. I., by a Navy diver. It was cached in a leaky plastic bag weighted down with lead and dropped in 10 feet from shore.

Another \$1000, all in half-dollars, was recovered from Johnson's Pond in nearby Coventry.

Some \$7500 was found in the home of Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of Church av., West Warwick, one of two men charged with the robbery, and another \$1000 in his gun shop in that town.

Hildebrandt had \$520 on his person when he was arrested with a red-haired night club singer during a gay spending spree in New York City.

Hildebrandt, in custody in New York, was quoted as saying he had spent \$20,000 of the stolen money on the singer, divorcee Gloria Dale, 30, of Jersey City, N. J.

This left an estimated \$50,000 still unrecovered. Hildebrandt was quoted as saying he split the \$100,000 evenly with the second suspect, Robert R. LaPlante, 27, also of West Warwick.

### Bag Developed Leak

The money found in the river was contained in a supposedly waterproof bag. The bag, however, had developed a leak, and the bills were so soggy the FBI said they could not be counted until they were dried out.

Authorities said Hildebrandt gave explicit directions as to where this cache was hidden, and also the coins dropped into the pond.

Asked how he was going to salvage the money, Hildebrandt was quoted as saying, "I was going to hire a diving suit and go down myself."

The day's developments marked the first recovery of holdup money in any of New England's "big three" robberies, Brink's, Danvers, and Quonset with total loot of \$2,000,000.

The Quonset holdup was staged by two masked gunmen the morning of March 7. The funds were being brought into the credit union office at the base to cash paychecks of 4000 civilian workers.

Meanwhile, probe of the murder of ex-bootlegger Carlton M. O'Brien, also of West Warwick, who was shotgunned to death only three miles from the underwater money cache, moved into its fifth day.

The O'Brien murder investigation took a new turn when police learned a Rhode Island man harbored a recent grudge against him. Authorities questioned O'Brien's wife, Ann, in the hope she might shed some light on the nature of the grudge.

The Quonset money was recovered under direction of Donald S. Hostetter, agent in charge of the Boston FBI office, which has jurisdiction over four New England states.

### La Plante Arraigned

A few minutes after the loot was brought up, LaPlante was arraigned before United States Commissioner

A. Louis Rosenstein on a charge of armed robbery on a government reservation. It was the first time he had ever appeared before a court.

LaPlante's bail was set at \$40,000 and he was remanded to the Providence County Jail in Howard. During the brief hearing he remained silent, shifting his weight from one foot to the other, while his counsel, Michael DeCiantis, a neighbor of his, pleaded for low bail.

In his remarks to the court, DeCiantis criticized the Quonset authorities for their "laxity" in making the robbery "as easy as taking a lollipop from a kid."

Hildebrandt was held in \$25,000 bail at a New York arraignment, where he waived extradition to Rhode Island. He appeared before United States Commissioner Edward W. McDonald.

Hildebrandt, a former correspondence-school private detective in his home town and recently one of the community's most lavish spenders, was picked up with Miss Dale in a swanky Times sq. restaurant as the pair sat down to a late breakfast of champagne and oysters.

The mild-mannered, soft-spoken, bespectacled Hildebrandt apparently had been going through his money at the rate of \$200 to \$300 a

day. He was in the habit of setting up champagne "for the house" at the night spots he frequented, police said.

Miss Dale, who met Hildebrandt after the robbery, was released in personal recognizance as a material witness.

The sworn statement of Alfred A. Gagnon, 41-year-old convicted jewel thief, concerning the Brink's robbery was turned over to Dist. Atty. William J. Foley of Suffolk County for "appropriate action" yesterday by Atty. Gen. Francis E. Kelly.

Rhode Island Atty. Gen. William E. Powers had sent the statement to Kelly. After receiving it, Foley said, "Mr. Kelly can do what he wants about Gagnon"—making it obvious there is little chance Gagnon will be asked to testify before a Grand Jury here.

# West Warwick Pair

## Held For Quonset Holdup

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FBI Agents Search among a row of new tires in a shed in the rear of Quonset robbery suspect Robert LaPlante's home in West Warwick last night.

—State Staff Photo by John B. Lake Jr.



Howard Hildebrandt



Gloria Dale



Robert LaPlante

### FBI Announces Arrests in \$100,000 Haul

**Both Are Ex-Workers At Base; Night Club Singer Also Detained**

FBI agents seized two West Warwick men yesterday and charged the pair with the slick \$100,000 Quonset Point Naval Air Station holdup of Mar. 7, biggest cash haul in Rhode Island crime records.

Both men are former Quonset workers, one of them quitting his job the day before the big holdup, and both are war veterans. Neither has a criminal record, the FBI said.

One of the pair, Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, was scooped by FBI agents at his home.

The other, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, a sometime amateur private eye and armored car guard, was taken in New York City where agents said they interrupted his spending spree with a redhaired nightclub singer.

The singer, Gloria H. Fazzina, 30, known professionally as Gloria Dale and appearing currently at Tony Pastor's in New York, was arrested as a material witness.

**Announced by Hoover**

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover himself announced the arrests from Washington. He said the two men would be charged with robbery on a government reservation. The FBI said no one else was being sought at the moment.

Hoover said Hildebrandt had in his possession a number of bills identified as part of the Quonset loot. The FBI wouldn't say how much of the money was recovered.

But last night FBI agents exhaustively searched the homes of Hildebrandt and LaPlante in their hunt for the stolen money, and then moved on to Hildebrandt's gun and sporting goods store. Shortly after midnight, as the methodical agents could be seen through the shop window going over the shop's inventory piece by piece, they were observed counting money—a count that took about 10 minutes to complete. They finally quit for the night about 1:10 a.m.

Neither Hoover's announcement nor a more detailed statement on the arrests by Donald S. Hostetter, agent in charge of the FBI in Boston, gave any hint of how the FBI cracked the big robbery.

The arrests came 11 weeks, lacking two days, from the day two armed bandits, their faces hidden in Halloween masks, accosted Gerald Lynch, manager of the Quonset Point Credit Union, and Thomas Smith, a civilian armed guard, just after they had withdrawn \$100,000 in credit union funds from the Navy disbursing department.

The bandits seized the cash and roared away in a stolen car, flashing past three Marine guards on duty at the main gate. Later, their getaway car was found abandoned and burning on Division Street, East Greenwich.

FBI agents raced to Quonset within the hour and have been working every day since that time on the crime.

#### Personnel Check

While an FBI spokesman said last night it was standard practice to make no disclosure of how the case was broken, it appeared likely that the first lead came from the thorough-going check made by agents on civilian personnel who failed to report to work the day of the holdup.

Agents checked the whereabouts of scores of civilian workers on leave or absent from work that day.

The FBI announcement said that LaPlante went to work at Quonset on Feb. 10, 1947, as an aircraft mechanic, general helper, and was continued on the payroll through Mar. 7—the date of the holdup—

but did not work either the day before or the day of the holdup.

Hildebrandt, who worked as a general helper at Quonset from Dec. 6, 1944, to Jan. 17, 1945, when he left to enter the Army, returned as a civil service worker on Dec. 16, 1946, as an aircraft mechanic, general helper, finally quitting his \$13.84-a-day job on May 1, 1951.

#### Knew FBI Trailed Them

Michael DeCiantis, attorney for both men, said that they knew the FBI had been trailing them for "some time." He said both men had been Crompton residents all their lives and, as far as he knew, had no criminal records.

It was learned that one of the men had gone to DeCiantis some time ago and told him the FBI was trailing him and asked him if he could do anything about it.

"They declared their innocence to me right up to last Monday," DeCiantis said last night.

In announcing the arrests, Hostetter commended state and local police in Rhode Island "for the important part they played in developing evidence against Hildebrandt and La Plante" and singled out for special mention Capt. Harry Miller of West Warwick police and Chief Gerald Shippee and Patrolman Stanley Skroski of Coventry.

Skroski, 31, a special patrolman who is also school bus driver, re-

fused last night to discuss the part he played in the case that led the FBI to commend him. He lives at 545 Washington Street, Anthony, with his wife, Babina, and two children.

#### Search Homes of Pair

FBI agents went to work in earnest last night on the homes of the two men, which are located within half a mile of each other.

At LaPlante's home, the second floor apartment of a modest, two-story grey house, half a dozen FBI men systematically searched the place, probing the refrigerator, the wall ironing board and other possible hiding places.

His mother, watching the work, told a reporter: "We know he's not a criminal."

Out in the yard, LaPlante's father, Andre, watched other FBI agents go through a long shed in the same systematic search.

At Hildebrandt's house, where his wife Mildred lives with their two children, Mrs. Hildebrandt slammed the door in the face of a reporter. Hildebrandt's house, a one-story, red-painted dwelling, sets back from the road, surrounded by a wire fence. Parked in front of the house was a new green Oldsmobile, which a neighbor reported was a recent acquisition.

#### Arrested While Dining

Hildebrandt was eating with Miss Dale in a restaurant in the bright light district when FBI agents moved in on them. The United Press reported that it was learned he and Miss Dale had been spending their evenings in Greenwich Village at Tony Pastor's, where she sings, and that Hildebrandt sometimes spent as much as \$150 to \$200 a night.

Hildebrandt was born in Providence, and grew up in West Warwick where he went to high school until 1942. While in the Army he saw service in the Pacific as a military policeman.

Besides his Quonset employment, the FBI said he had been employed intermittently since July, 1951, as a private detective and guard for an armored car service operating in Rhode Island. The FBI declined to name the company. He had taken a correspondence course in criminal investigation and detective work under the guidance of an established New York correspondence school during 1947 and 1948.

#### Operated Gun Cabinet

Hildebrandt has been operating The Gun Cabinet on Cowesett Avenue, just around the corner from his home, since last December, the FBI said. The shop specializes in the sale of firearms, and Hildebrandt reportedly had it heavily reinforced against burglars, even to the point of a burglar alarm system for which he paid.

LaPlante, married and divorced, with one child, was described by the FBI as a native of West Warwick, who attended high school until 1942. He served in the Army from May, 1943, to February, 1946, and was discharged as a sergeant in the Army Air Force, with a rating of airplane mechanic and gunner.

The FBI said that, in addition to his employment at Quonset, LaPlante was engaged part time in selling auto accessories and in assisting Hildebrandt in his gun shop.

#### Will Be Arraigned Today

LaPlante will be arraigned today before U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein on the charge of theft on a government reservation, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years. He was locked up in Providence police headquarters at 1:15 a.m. today.

A warrant has been sent to New York for Hildebrandt, who will have a preliminary hearing there.

Miss Dale was lodged last night in the Women's House of Detention in New York, the FBI said.

She was described as a divorcee and a singer. The manager of Tony Pastor's night club, William Janava, said she once sang there four years ago and only recently returned for an engagement.

The Associated Press quoted Janava as saying Hildebrandt first visited the club Apr. 16 and thereafter became a frequent customer, sometimes paying checks as high as \$200 for a party of six.

His admiration for the singer was well known in the club, Janava said, but Miss Dale once told other members of the show cast that "she liked him but not enough to marry him and had told him so."

# Nab Girl, 2 Men In Quonset Theft

Two West Warwick, R. I., men and a red-haired New York night club singer were arrested by FBI agents yesterday in connection with the \$100,000 masked robbery at the Quonset Point,



HOWARD HILDEBRANDT  
Nabbed By FBI Agents

R. I. Naval Air Station on March 7.

The men were identified by Boston's FBI head, D. S. Hostetter as Howard Hildebrandt, 25, married, of Church st., West Warwick, and Robert LaPlante, 27, divorced, of Cowesett ave., West Warwick.

The girl is Gloria H. Fazzina, 30, known professionally as Gloria Dale, she gave a New Jersey address which New York police said was the residence of a girl friend.



ROBERT LaPLANT  
Quizzed In Holdup

Miss Dale and Hildebrandt were arrested in New York and LaPlante was arrested at his home in West Warwick.

Both men are former mechanics at the Naval Air station. The

charge against them is robbery on a government reservation, conviction of which carries a penalty of 15 years.

## CHAMPAIGN PARTIES

New York police said the arrest of Hildebrandt and the singer, who is a divorcee, interrupted a spending spree in which the West Warwick man tossed champagne parties for his girl friend in which he frequently picked up a tab for \$250.

They were seized in a Times Sq. cafe where Hildebrandt was entertaining her when the government agents arrived.

Some of the loot from the robbery was found on the arrested men, according to an announcement at Washington by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover.

None of it was government money. It was stolen from the credit union which each payday brought a pay car to the gates of the station to cash pay checks for the 4000 civilian employees.

The money consisted of easily disposable \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$1 bills. Information as to the amount of money recovered was refused by the FBI which also declined to say how the case was broken.

MISS DALE is currently appearing at Tony Pastor's and before that had been filling an engagement at LaCava on West 52nd st.

## TRIPS BY PLANE

Hildebrandt in the past month has been making bi-weekly plane trips to New York to meet her. sq., where Hildebrandt, or They frequented a cafe in Times "Harry" as he was known to the patrons sometimes "bought for the house."

He gave the impression he was employed in investments. Besides

winning the singer he also brought her expensive clothing and jewelry.

Both men are to be arraigned today, Hildebrandt in New York for later removal to Rhode Island and LaPlante in Providence. Neither has any previous criminal record.

Apparently taking a leaf from the crime book of the Brink's robbers the gunmen appeared at the gate of the naval station in greenish overalls, wore overshoes and had flesh-colored elastic masks over their faces.

## Timed Car Arrival

They had timed the arrival of the pay car to the minute and in two minutes the robbery was over and the robbers darted off in such haste that they nearly ran down a Marine sentry at the gate.

While the FBI followed its custom of giving out none of the circumstances of solving the robbery it is believed they "broke" the case by learning that LaPlante had been away from his work on March 6 and the following day, which was the day of the robbery.

Thereafter he was persistently shadowed everywhere he went until the agents had gathered enough evidence to step in and make the arrests. Yesterday they appeared before the U. S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein and obtained warrants for the arrest of the pair.

## PRaise for Police

Hostetter gave high praise for old to Capt. Harry Miller of the West Warwick police, Chief Gerald Shippee and Patrolman William Skrowski of the Coventry police department and the cooperation of the Rhode Island state police, and the Providence police.

Both men were neighbors, but not near neighbors in West Warwick, of Carlton M. O'Brien, 49, night club owner and former public enemy who was slain in front of his home last Saturday morning.

Both barrels from a shotgun were fired into his body as he stepped from his car to enter his house on Crossland rd.

Hildebrandt is the owner of a sporting goods store which specializes in fire arms. Known as the Gun Cabinet it is just around the corner from his home at 88½ Church st., where he lived with his attractive blonde wife, Mildred.

## Gun Shop Searched

FBI agents made a thorough search of the gun shop but did not state whether they got anything of value.

Both Hildebrandt and LaPlante were veterans of World War II. Hildebrandt served in the Army as a military policeman and LaPlante was an airforce sergeant with a rating as gunner and mechanic. Both were employed as airplane mechanics at Quonset.

LaPlante was divorced about five years ago. He lived at 66 Cowesett ave. with his parents. This is not far from the home of Hildebrandt. Both houses are about three miles away from O'Brien's home.

Hildebrandt has had employment from time to time as a private detective and guard for an armored car service guarding payrolls.

# Singer Recounts Romance With Holdup Suspect

Gloria Dale Estimates Hildebrandt Spent About \$1000 on Her

By SELIG GREENBERG  
Journal-Bulletin Staff Reporter

New York—After a night in jail, Gloria Dale was back last night at her old stand at Tony Pastor's on West 3rd Street in the Heart of Greenwich Village.

Apparently unruffled by her experience, Miss Dale talked freely to this reporter about her whirlwind romance with Howard Hildebrandt, one of two West Warwick men charged with the daring \$100,000 stickup Mar. 7 at Quonset Point Naval Air Station.

Miss Dale said she still thought Hildebrandt was "a wonderful person," that she had toyed with the idea of marrying him after he got a divorce from his wife, and that she hoped to see him again "if it doesn't interfere with his family life."

A romance with the 25-year-old father of two children was abruptly terminated Wednesday afternoon when FBI men met both of them at Reuben's Restaurant on East 58th Street while they were drinking champagne.

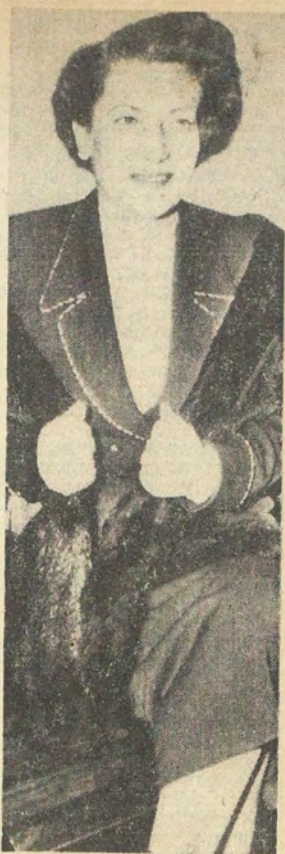
## Hildebrandt Held in \$25,000

Hildebrandt was locked up last night for the second night at the Federal House of Detention and is expected to be taken to Providence today to face robbery charges. He waived removal proceedings upon arraignment before U.S. Commissioner Edward W. McDonald and was held in \$25,000 bail on a charge of being a fugitive from justice.

The redheaded torch singer—her real name is Gloria H. Fazzina, but she is known professionally as Gloria Dale—was released by McDonald in her own recognizance with the understanding that she would be available to come to Providence as a witness whenever she is wanted.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Klein said yesterday afternoon that Hildebrandt told federal investigators he had spent about \$20,000 of the holdup loot, much of it on Miss Dale.

But in the interview last night at Tony Pastor's, Miss Dale said she did not believe that Hildebrandt had spent more than \$1000 on clothes and jewelry for her. She said he bought her an evening gown, two dresses, a ring, bracelets and earrings. He also bought her some recordings, she added.



Gloria Fazzina

... After her release

—Associated Press Wirephoto

## "Knew How to Hold It"

"He spent quite a bit on liquor," she said, "but he knew how to hold it."

William Janava, manager of the night club, said Hildebrandt had been visiting the place three or four nights a week for several weeks and was in the habit of spending between \$50 and \$70 a night.

"He impressed me as the quietest guy in the world," Janava said. "He would walk in with Miss Dale and he didn't say 'boo.' He would just sit there waiting for her to get through with her appearances and wouldn't say two words. He's the kind of a fellow you wouldn't notice in a crowd."

Miss Dale was dressed rather severely in a navy blue suit and white blouse. She wore a dark stole which she described as of the "mink family." When asked whether Hildebrandt had bought it for her, she replied that her mother had given it to her.

She said she became acquainted

## Singer

Continued From Page One

with Hildebrandt on Apr. 16, the first day he came to Tony Pastor's.

"He told me he had a gun shop in West Warwick and that he had investments," she said. "He mentioned a number of things about his business and kept me in confusion. But I felt it was none of my business."

"He told me he was married and had two kids. He said he loved me and was going to get a divorce and wanted me to marry him."

Miss Dale, who said she is 30, has been separated from her husband for quite a while and is "on the verge of a divorce."

Acknowledging that she had toyed with the idea of marrying Hildebrandt, she said she had told him that "I may feel that way later on but not now."

Declaring, "I still think a lot of him," the singer described the West Warwick man as "very kind."

"He just didn't look the type that would participate in a holdup," she said. "He's clean cut. He has respected me. I took him down to Hartford to meet my mother and my brother and sister, and he sent my mother roses on Mother's Day and on her birthday."

## "Looked Little Worried"

Miss Dale said she had no idea that FBI men were trailing Hildebrandt and her until they were arrested Wednesday afternoon. She said Hildebrandt "looked a little worried from time to time. I didn't think anything special of it. Everybody is worried at one time or another."

She said she planned to "remain friends with him" and hoped to see him soon, "if there is no interference with anybody."

She related that after they were

both fingerprinted at the Federal Court House on Foley Square yesterday, Hildebrandt turned and "apologized for everything being done to me and my family. He said he didn't care about himself. He told me again he loved me. I just looked at him and said, 'Let's wait until everything is straightened out.'"

Miss Dale is a native of New Brit-

ain, Conn. She said she has been singing in night clubs for eight years and before that did office work in Hartford. She has appeared at Tony Pastor's a number of times in recent years. Her latest engagement began about two months ago.

The night club is only half a block from McDougal Street, long famous as a landmark in America's literary and artistic Bohemia.

## Conn. Court Afraid

It Must Yield *5/23/52*  
"Hot" Hildebrandt \$100

Officials of the town court in Waterford, Conn. are up against a bit of a problem, they have realized since they read that Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of West Warwick, was arrested as one of the robbers in the \$100,000 Quonset Point robbery.

Hildebrandt was arrested on Route 1 in Waterford May 10 by state police who charged him with driving at more than 75 miles an hour. The Rhode Island man posted a \$100 cash bond.

Yesterday, it occurred to Adelbert Burr, court clerk, that the bond had been taken in two \$50 bills—bills which now may be tied up with a crime a bit steeper than speeding. The court may have to surrender the bond without getting a chance at Hildebrandt on the speeding charge, Burr is

# Diver Recovers Most of It in Pawtuxet River

\$50,000 of Haul Still

Unaccounter For;  
Pair Held in High Bail

Navy divers recovered part of the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup loot in two hauls yesterday, the major one in the Pawtuxet River in Warwick, the other in Johnson's Pond, Coventry.

They brought up a plastic bag containing approximately \$30,000 in bills from the river bed shortly before noon and in midafternoon they recovered a box from the pond which reportedly contained about \$1000 in half dollars.

"Approximately \$30,000" was recovered in currency and coins "in a number of different places in Rhode Island," an FBI spokesman in Boston said last night. Not all of the money was found in the water, he added, but that was all he would say.

## Both Men Held in Bail

The two West Warwick men arrested Wednesday in connection with the spectacular daylight hold-up both appeared yesterday before U.S. commissioners in Providence and New York. Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, appeared in New York before Commissioner Louis A. Rosenstein. He was held last night in New York and was expected to be returned here today.

Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, appeared before Commissioner Edward W. McDonald in Providence who fixed bail at \$40,000 and ordered him held for a preliminary hearing June 5.

Both men were charged with theft from a government reservation.

Besides the two caches of money taken from the water, it was reported that FBI agents found \$1000 in bills in Hildebrandt's sporting goods store and gun shop in West Warwick. A U.S. attorney in New York quoted Hildebrandt as saying he already had spent \$20,000 on a gay round of night life during which he entertained a night club singer and bought her expensive gifts.

All told, therefore, yesterday's findings and Hildebrandt's spending had accounted for more than half the holdup loot. FBI men continued their investigation last night, seeking to recover more of the missing money.

Hildebrandt, married and the father of two children, apparently provided the key that enabled the Navy divers to turn up the bag of money beneath the Pawtuxet River Bridge on Bald Hill Road with little trouble. He talked freely to New York authorities after his arrest there Wednesday night.

## "Led Them Wild Chase"

A West Warwick acquaintance said last night that Hildebrandt had known he was being trailed by the FBI and had boasted that he had "led them on some wild chases in the Coventry woods."

Mrs. Hildebrandt refused to talk about the case when she was approached last night by a reporter.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Klein said in New York that Hil-

debrandt had made a complete statement to FBI investigators, covering his part in the holdup.

His spending spree in New York was in company with Gloria H. Fazzina, 30, of Jersey City, a night club singer, who sings as Gloria Dale. She was appearing at Tony Pastor's in New York. She, too, was brought yesterday before the commissioner, who freed her in her own custody to await call as a witness in the case.

Recovery of the money from the Pawtuxet River was a simple operation. Navy men, with a compressor truck to furnish oxygen to their diver, backed up to the river bank shortly after 11 a.m. It took the diver only about 20 minutes to locate the loot, which lay beneath the bridge in about 10 feet of water.

## Currency Soggy

He fished out a transparent plastic bag, resembling the plexiglass on an aircraft's cowling. One end was sealed with a metal clamp, designed to make the bag watertight, but it had failed in its purpose. The bag had leaked and the heap of currency was soggy.

A bystander reported that he had seen a \$20 bill through the transparent bag before the FBI took it into custody and whisked it away. A lead anchor also had been attached to it, a witness reported.

A traffic jam developed rapidly at the point and Warwick police reserves were called to get the cars moving again.

Residents on Johnson's Pond, also known as the Flat River Reservoir, said that men in rowboats began dragging the pond at 4 a.m. yesterday but it was not until the Navy crew with their diving equipment arrived and had worked for a time that the box was recovered in midafternoon.

The search was carried out near the bridge which spans the pond on Route 117, several miles west of Washington and about a mile east of Coventry Center.

## Bills Linked to Quonset

FBI men were secretive about their movements on the case but the Boston spokesman said the money recovered was "identifiable" as having come from the Quonset robbery last Mar. 7. Klein said in New York that part of the money in Hildebrandt's possession when he was arrested was identified as robbery loot by serial numbers on some of the bills.

Hildebrandt, who insisted to Klein that LaPlante did not get a cent of the loot, told investigators he first came to New York in mid-April and had made periodic trips there since. He said he met Miss Fazzina at Tony Pastor's night club on May 1.

He bought her jewelry, clothing and a fur piece, he said.

According to Klein, Hildebrandt volunteered information to the FBI to help them find the \$80,000 he said he had hidden. Of the total, he said, LaPlante ultimately was to have been given \$15,000.

## LaPlante Questioned

It was brought out at LaPlante's appearance before the U.S. commissioner that the FBI had questioned him first two or three days after the holdup in which two men with Halloween masks swooped down on the credit union's manager and civilian guard.

Michael DeCiantis, LaPlante's counsel, said that since that time the FBI "dogged" LaPlante until the break in the case was announced by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover himself.

Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney, asked the commissioner to fix bail at \$50,000. He said the federal theft charge carries a maximum 15-year penalty, but that if the charge were brought under state law guilt is punishable by 10 years to life. That's why he urged high bail, he said.

DeCiantis urged bail of \$25,000, saying it was doubtful LaPlante could raise more. He said his client had insisted on his innocence right along, and that he should not be deprived of his personal liberty while his defense is being prepared.

DeCiantis said also it appeared to him that Quonset station officials were lax in allowing money to be carried around on the grounds in such fashion that it was as easy to take as "a lollipop from a kid."

# 20% BOOST IN PAY GIVEN WEST WARWICK POLICE

## History Written When Budget is Amended and Meeting Time Changed

History was written at the West Warwick annual financial town meeting yesterday as 193 taxpayers took only one hour and 18 minutes to approve changing the date of the next financial town meeting to the Tuesday following the third Monday of March at 7 p.m., next year, overwhelmingly amended the administration's 10-month budget on three occasions, raising it from \$704,321.91 to \$715,201.41; and struck a \$16,000 item from the call of the meeting.

The administration's proposed budget was raised by an amount of \$10,879.50 over the objections on two instances of Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault and Town Council President Harry F. McKanna Jr.

Amendments were voted to the budget to give the town's police force a raise of 20 per cent, representing an increase of \$4629.50 to the police department budget appropriation; and on the second major occasion of raising the playground and recreation figure by \$1000 to provide swimming at and transportation to Tiogue Lake during the summer for the children of the town.

Another budget change which met no opposition was the amendment offered by Fire Chief Lionel P. Gareau to raise the fire department personnel appropriation by \$5250 to give the callmen their usual \$50 annual pay. The 100 callmen have always received this pay, the chief said, as he was leaving the meeting.

Defeated in the call of the meeting was the resolution of the administration to appropriate \$16,000 from the general fund accumulative surplus for the purpose of defraying the expenses incidental to widening and extending of Pike Street. Augustus Simas, who said his elderly father owns that property at the corner of Pike and Main Streets, and is worried about the plans to move the house from it, pointing out that since Pike Street has been made one-way the elimination of the corner is no longer necessary. Rep. Gerard DiFiore requested the taxpayers to first find out what the state will do to the corner he said, "I understand the state is going to do something to nearby Main Street." Bourgault said the administration is asking for the \$16,000 to be in a position to do something if the state aban-



MORTIMER W. NEWTON  
"... our policemen are doing  
a marvelous job ..."

### WEST WARWICK TOWN MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

don't their plans. Only 17 persons voted that the sum be appropriated. It was overwhelmingly defeated.

#### Same Tax Rate

Bourgault, after reading the tax resolution which fixed the tax on ratable intangible personal property at 40 cents on each \$100 valuation and ordered the collection of all ratable taxes to be not less than \$625,000 nor more than \$650,000, said that the tax rate on real estate and tangible personal property would be the same, \$2.25. After the meeting, he told reporters that the increases in the proposed budget would come from surplus.

The first increase made over the objection of Bourgault and McKanna was proposed by Mortimer W. Newton, former council president, who, serving as counsel for the police, successfully moved to have the budget item raised by

\$4629.50 to give the police a 20 per cent raise. Newton said he was making the amendment to ask the taxpayers to pay the policemen a living decent wage. He said that with the increase they will get approximately \$1.12 an hour for their 54-hour week.

Bourgault, who proclaimed that he personally had nothing against the police of the town, said that it is pleasant to come to a town meeting and ask for a raise for people. "There is nothing I would like rather than to see all the people get a raise, even the town solicitor and I am not being facetious." This administration is asking for a 10 per cent increase in pay for the police and Newton, who says it o.k. to give them \$65 per week, hired them at \$50 per week, he added.

Bourgault said that the town council tells the other municipal employees not to ask for a raise and here we vote for one for the police. "Is it fair to close the door to the rest? Is it fair to knock out of kilter the town's program?" he questioned. Holding the letter in which the police originally asked for a 10 per cent raise, the town solicitor said that last January they asked for a 10 per cent raise in written form and the town council made it a full 10 per cent increase. "The first talk of this new raise came last Friday night," he said.

"The town council will break faith if it goes along with this additional request and I recommend indefinite postponement of the amendment," Bourgault said in closing. Newton retorted by saying that in that letter the police pointed out that the raise

could be paid by the funds from the parking meters.

McKanna also took issue with the fact that the town council worked on the budget since the first of April and only last Friday night they got the request for the additional 10 per cent increase. "Salaries affect all. We have 150 employees in this town and only 20 of them are policemen," he said. The town council president said that the increase would not be paid for out of revenue.

Alexander Duhaime, a school janitor, said that the school janitors are working for \$42 per week for up to 60 hours a week, including Saturdays and Sundays for eight months of the year. "I believe in a square deal," he said.

#### Coventry Comparison

Frank Lachapelle, well known Pawtuxet Valley baseball umpire, was successful in his attempt to raise the appropriation for playgrounds and recreation from \$5000 to \$6000. He started his appeal by making a comparison of what is done in West Warwick and Coventry. He said that West Warwick has been getting \$5000 a year for recreation and Coventry gets \$4760. "I often wonder why not as much can be done here as is done there, and that is why I asked last Friday night at the budget hearing for a breakdown on the expenditures of the West Warwick appropriation. He continued, of the \$5000 that is appropriated in West Warwick, \$2700 goes for the payroll to be used for the playground supervisors, leaving a balance of \$2240 for playgrounds. Of that balance, \$300 goes to a bus company to take the children to the Shrine Circus and \$500 goes for fireworks on V-J Day, leaving only \$1440 for playgrounds.

After telling the taxpayers of what Coventry does through its recreation program, he exclaimed, "What are we getting or where are we going as far as the youngsters of this town are concerned."

He asked Miss Maisie Quinn, superintendent of schools, "I was told that they asked for \$1000 for swimming, is that right, Miss Quinn?" She said that the recreation committee had talked about it and had referred the suggestion to the budget committee.

Lachapelle received, and this instance again, overwhelming approval of his motion to amend the \$5000 appropriation by adding \$1000 to be used for a swimming program with first aid instructions for the youngsters for this year.

# WILL SEEK RELEASE OF LA PLANTE

## De Ciantis, Attorney, Cites "Excessive Bail"

Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick attorney, said this morning he may try to seek release of Robert R. LaPlante "because of the excessive bail." He also revealed to this newspaper that he is serving as legal counsel for Howard Hildebrandt.

Up to that time it was known that the well known lawyer was attorney for LaPlante, who, together with Hildebrandt, both of West Warwick, has been arrested in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Naval Air Station Credit Union holdup last Mar. 7.

Yesterday the FBI recovered about \$30,000 of the loot. DeCiantis told a reporter: "I may try to seek release of LaPlante because of the excessive bail." LaPlante was ordered held in \$40,000 bail at Providence County Jail for a hearing June 5 in Federal Court in connection with the robbery.

### Asks \$25,000 Bail

At the court, DeCiantis, it was reported, urged bail of \$25,000 saying it was doubtful LaPlante could raise more and that his client should not be deprived of his personal liberty while his defense is being prepared.

DeCiantis also said that Hildebrandt is expected to be returned to Rhode Island from New York today and that he will be arraigned tomorrow morning in Federal Court, Providence.

Within a short time after Hildebrandt's capture in New York, where he was arrested after a gay New York whirl with a nightclub singer, Gloria Dale, FBI agents and Navy divers recovered approximately \$30,000 from hiding places in the Pawtuxet River, East Natick, from Johnson's Pond, Coventry, and reportedly from Hildebrandt's home, 86½ Church Street, West Warwick.

### World War II Veterans

Both West Warwick men are veterans of World War II and both were at one time employed at the naval air station. Hildebrandt also was a private detective and was assisted by LaPlante in the operation of a sporting goods store, The Gun Cabinet, at



(NEA Telephoto)  
**HELD IN \$40,000** — Robert LaPlante, 27, of West Warwick, R.I., arrested by FBI in connection with \$100,000 robbery at the Quonset Point, R. I., Naval Air Station last March, is being held in \$40,000 bail after pleading innocent in Federal Court, Providence.

top of Cowesett Hill, Crompton. Federal agents apparently were satisfied that the money recovered in Rhode Island, plus what he spent on parties and gifts for Miss Dale, whose non-professional name is Gloria H. Fizzini, 30, accounted for Hildebrandt's alleged share of the loot.

According to International News Service, the singer, a divorcee, who is being held as a material witness, was reported to have said after Hildebrandt's arrest in New York: "It's too bad. Hildy was an awful nice guy. I hate to see him in trouble." Hildebrandt was reported to have been planning to get a divorce to be free to marry the singer. His wife, Helen, however, declared: "I intend to fight for him. We plan to get a lawyer."

## Gun Taken From Quonset Guard Found

### Bandit Suspect Is Brought from N.Y.; Talks with Wife

FBI agents, who yesterday found the pistol used in the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union robbery last March, today were searching in woods around Exeter for \$50,000 of the loot.

Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, whose information enabled agents to revoke \$30,000 from the Pawtuxet River, was returned to the state from New York last night, handcuffed and heavily guarded.

### Stolen Weapon Found

His return to Rhode Island was the big event of the day in the case which produced only one other important fact: The gun, which the two holdup men took from the civilian guard when they seized the \$100,000 in the Quonset parking lot, was found by a search party beside the exit road from the base, only about 15 feet from the macadam. Marines, who with FBI men combed the area, turned up the rusty weapon, which was fully loaded.

Squads of FBI operatives spent the day in the Kent and Washington Counties and there was a heavy concentration of them there during the afternoon. It was believed that they were seeking the \$50,000 of holdup loot, still not accounted for, in the wooded sections of South County.

Hildebrandt, whose alleged partner in the holdup, Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, is held in \$40,000 bail in Providence County Jail for a preliminary hearing June 5, returned to Rhode Island dapper and confident.

A small crowd, some of whom had waited from 5 p.m., watched until 8:25 p.m., nearly seven hours after the departure from New York, when two Ford sedans, both bearing Massachusetts registration plates wheeled in before the building.

Hildebrandt, in custody of William Carroll, U.S. marshal for the southern district of New York, and guarded by seven FBI men, climbed from the car, wearing a light tan suit, white shirt, boldly figured tie and tinted glasses. His hands were cuffed.

The prisoner walked jauntily un-

til he saw a photographer raise his camera. Then he ducked his head against his arm and the FBI men and Carroll whisked him inside to the office of U.S. Marshal Charles M. Eldridge.

There he was reunited with Mrs. Hildebrandt, who had arrived at the Federal Building an hour earlier with DeCiantis. The slight, comely woman wore a checked beige coat, no hat on her curly hair, and dark harlequin-rimmed glasses.

### Talks for Hour With Wife

Hildebrandt was placed in a detention pen in the marshal's third-floor office. After formal ceremonies in which Carroll turned the prisoner over to the Rhode Island federal authorities, DeCiantis talked with him briefly and then was closeted in another room with Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney here.

At 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Hildebrandt began an hour's conference with her husband, a slight man of medium height who looks as little like the Hollywood version of a big-time holdup man as the average next door neighbor. She continued to avoid making any statement to reporters. She left at 9:45 p.m. with DeCiantis.

Hildebrandt, completely relaxed, read newspaper accounts of progress in the case. He was heard to say that he wanted to make a statement to the press, but he was not allowed to talk to reporters.

At 10:30 p.m. he was loaded into a car by Deputy U.S. Marshals James A. Lapan and Edward A. Curran, driven to the reformatory and left for the night.

**Passed Through Familiar Area**  
It was learned that the party, en route from New York, had come through the South County-Kent County territory, familiar to Hildebrandt, where part of the stolen money has been recovered, rather than following the faster parkway route via Hartford.

At 5:30 p.m., the FBI agents, carrying a heavy bullion bag and several brown paper packages, left the Post Office Annex, and heavily escorted by other agents, passed in front of the Federal Building and on to the R.I. Hospital Trust Building across the street, obviously taking the loot recovered Thursday to a place of safekeeping.

### Marines Find Gun

The weapon believed to have been taken from the civilian guard at the Quonset holdup scene was found during the afternoon by a searching party made up of Quonset Marines and FBI agents.

Two Marines, Pvt. John J. Flanagan, 23, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Joseph W. McDonald, 17, of Lawrence, N.Y., turned up the rusty weapon about 15 feet from the edge of the macadam on Davisville Road, about a half mile west of the Post Road overpass at the Quonset-Davisville entrance.

Major J. S. Durant, station security officer, immediately identified the weapon by its serial number as belonging to the military. After a Navy photographer took several pictures at the scene, the FBI men removed the gun which was to be examined for fingerprints.

Major Durant directed a party of about 20 Marines in the search which began near the overpass and consumed much of the morning and early afternoon, inching through the area until the rust-encrusted barrel and weather-stained grip were spotted by the two searchers.

#### Seek to Retrace Route

The FBI was attempting to retrace the route of the bandits who took the fully-loaded .38-caliber revolver from Thomas Smith of Pawtucket, civilian guard who was with Gerald P. Lynch of Warwick, Quonset Credit Union manager, when the \$100,000 robbery was committed.

Authorities who have worked on the case at first believed that the getaway car raced through Davisville to South County Trail and then north to Division Street on which

the bandits turned west to abandon the stolen machine a short time later, its interior ablaze.

It is now thought that they crossed South County Trail at Frenchtown, drove up Frenchtown Road and then used one of several dirt roads to move north toward Division Street and abandon the car.

Further inquiry in West Warwick yesterday threw some new light on Hildebrandt's relations with his neighbors and what they thought of him.

Some of those living in the Church Street section of Crompton where Hildebrandt lived with his wife and two children, a nine-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son, had become suspicious of him in recent weeks, they said, although they did not connect him with the Quonset robbery.

#### Baby-Sitters Paid \$25

One night after the holdup, it was reported, he paid two teen-age boys \$25 for an evening of baby sitting. The boys' parents thought it was "decidedly odd." The boys did not work for him again.

His frequent New York trips aroused further suspicions, although he claimed that they were business trips to call on suppliers of stock for his modest gun shop. The suppliers, he said, wouldn't ship to him on credit, but would sell him anything for cash. He is reported to have told acquaintances that he got the money for these "buying expeditions" through the sale of his Church Street home.

Another acquaintance recalled that Hildebrandt was in the neighborhood of his home on the afternoon after the big holdup. He expressed surprise when told there was a big newspaper story about a holdup at Quonset.

"They must have been smart operators," he was quoted as saying.

He was further reported to have worn high boots in his gun shop recently and to have told someone that he was making a diving helmet from an old gas mask.

Another acquaintance said that Hildebrandt knew that the FBI was suspicious of him, but he was contemptuous of the agents' ability. He described them as "not so smart" and related that he had experience as a private detective. He said that he had "played tag" with the agents.

He was married at 16 and his wife is two or three years older, it was reported, than he.

## Got But \$1000, Singer Says

*may 24 1962*  
Gloria Dale Tells of  
Romance with Quonset  
Robbery Figure

By SELIG GREENBERG  
Journal-Bulletin Staff Reporter

New York — Gloria Dale was back last night at her old stand at Tony Pastor's on West 3rd Street in the heart of Greenwich Village. The night before, she was in jail.

Apparently unruffled by her experience, Miss Dale, a red-haired singer, talked freely to this reporter about her whirlwind romance with Howard Hildebrandt, one of two West Warwick men charged with the daring \$100,000 stickup Mar. 7 at Quonset Point Naval Air Station.

Miss Dale said she still thought Hildebrandt was "a wonderful person," that she had toyed with the idea of marrying him after he got a divorce from his wife, and that she hoped to see him again "if it doesn't interfere with his family life."

A romance with the 25-year-old father of two children was abruptly terminated Wednesday afternoon when FBI men met both of them at Reuben's Restaurant on East 58th Street while they were drinking champagne.

## Special Sums Are Approved

West Warwick Tax-  
payers Sanction  
New Projects

West Warwick taxpayers at the annual financial town meeting yesterday, appropriated \$27,500 from the general fund accumulative surplus for five special purposes. Another to expend \$16,000 for the widening of Pike Street, was defeated when Augustus Simas pointed out that his father, an elderly man who owns the property, is worried about the plans to dispose of his house in which he lives and that the traffic condition is no longer serious because that street is now one way.

Special appropriations in the call of the meeting were approved as follows: \$17,000 to pay interest on sewer extension bonds; \$7000 for paying cost of putting a new roof on the junior high school and for repairing the heating system in the Cowesett Avenue School, Crompton; \$4500 for the planning board authorized to retain the services of a traffic engineer; \$1000 to buy equipment for the local canvassing authority.

Also approved of by taxpayers was the item in the call of the meeting which gives the town council power to sell the whole or any portion of the fire alarm system now located in the East Natick section of Warwick. The fire protection pact with Warwick expires next fall.



**FRANK LACHAPELLE**  
Declares West Warwick lags  
behind neighboring Coventry in  
recreation.



The Hildebrandts at Federal Building last night. She is accompanied by attorney Michael DeCiantis. Howard Hildebrandt, ducking, is in custody of U.S. Marshal Charles Eldredge.

## Hildebrandt Returned To Face Holdup Count

Accused, Who Spent Part of Loot on Singer,  
Talks With Wife; Guard's Gun Is Found

Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, a principal in the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup last March, came home to Rhode Island last night, manacled and heavily guarded by FBI agents.

After a meeting with his attractive wife, whom he had left behind for the charms of a red-haired New York night club singer, and a brief conference with his attorney, Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, he was taken to the Men's Reformatory at Howard for the night.

He will be returned to the Federal Building in Providence today for a hearing on bail, scheduled at 11 a.m. before U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein.

### Stolen Weapon Found

His return to Rhode Island was the big event of the day in the case which produced only one other important fact: The gun, which the two holdup men took from the civilian guard when they seized the \$100,000 in the Quonset parking lot, was found by a search party alongside the exit road from the base, only about 15 feet from the macadam. Marines, who with FBI men combed the area, turned up the rusty weapon, which was fully loaded.

Squads of FBI operatives spent the day in the Kent and South County areas and there was a heavy concentration of them there during the afternoon. They would not comment on their progress, but they were evidently tired and grim as they quit their search at dark. It was believed that they were seeking the \$50,000 of holdup loot, still not accounted for, in the wooded sections of South County.

Hildebrandt, whose alleged partner in the holdup, Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, is held in \$40,000 bail in Providence County Jail for a preliminary hearing June 5, returned to Rhode Island dapper and confident.

A small crowd, some of whom had waited from 5 p.m., watched until 8:25 p.m. when two Ford sedans, both bearing Massachusetts registration plates wheeled in before the building.

Hildebrandt, in custody of William Carroll, U.S. marshal for the southern district of New York, and guarded by seven FBI men, climbed

*Prov. Journal* Staff Photos by J. David Lamontagne  
May 24, 1952

from the car, wearing a light tan suit, white shirt, boldly figured tie and tinted glasses. His hands were cuffed.

The prisoner walked jauntily until he saw a photographer raise his camera. Then he ducked his head against his arm and the FBI men and Carroll whisked him inside to the office of U.S. Marshal Charles M. Eldredge.

There he was reunited with Mrs. Hildebrandt, who had arrived at the Federal Building an hour earlier with DiCiantis. The slight, comely woman wore a checked beige coat, no hat on her curly hair, and dark harlequin-rimmed glasses.

#### Talks for Hour With Wife

Hildebrandt was placed in a detention pen in the marshal's third-floor office. After formal ceremonies in which Carroll turned the prisoner over to the Rhode Island federal authorities, DeCiantis talked with him briefly and then was closeted in another room with Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney here.

At 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Hildebrandt began an hour's conference with her husband, a slight man of medium height who looks as little like the Hollywood version of a big-time holdup man as the average next door neighbor. She continued to avoid making any statement to reporters. She left at 9:45 p.m. with DeCiantis.

Hildebrandt, completely relaxed, read newspaper accounts of progress in the case. He was heard to say that he wanted to make a statement to the press, but he was not allowed to talk to reporters.

At 10:30 p.m. he was loaded into a car by Deputy U.S. Marshals

James A. Lapan and Edward A. Curran, driven to the reformatory and left for the night.

#### Passed Through Familiar Area

It was learned that the party, en route from New York, had come through the South County-Kent County territory, familiar to Hildebrandt, where part of the loot has been recovered, rather than following the faster parkway route via Hartford.

There was conjecture that on his way here Hildebrandt may have pointed out places where he had cached loot. But it could not be determined whether the car in which he returned had made any stops in Rhode Island before reaching Providence.

At 5:30 p.m., the FBI agents, carrying a heavy bullion bag and several brown paper packages, left the Post Office Annex, and heavily escorted by other agents, passed in front of the Federal Building and on to the R.I. Hospital Trust Building across the street, obviously taking the loot recovered Thursday to a place of safekeeping.

#### Marines Find Gun

The weapon believed to have been taken from the civilian guard at the Quonset holdup scene was found during the afternoon by a searching party made up of Quonset Marines and FBI agents.

Two Marines, Pvts. John J. Flanagan, 23, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Joseph W. McDonald, 17, of Lawrence, N.Y., turned up the rusty weapon about 15 feet from the edge of the macadam on Davisville Road, about a half mile west of the Post Road overpass at the Quonset-Davisville entrance.

Major J. S. Durant, station security officer, immediately identified the weapon by its serial number as belonging to the military. After a Navy photographer took several pictures at the scene, the FBI men removed the gun which was to be examined for fingerprints.

Major Durant directed a party of about 20 Marines in the search which began near the overpass and consumed much of the morning and early afternoon, inching through the area until the rust-encrusted barrel and weather-stained grip were spotted by the two searchers.

#### Seek to Retrace Route

The FBI was attempting to retrace the route of the bandits who took the fully-loaded .38-caliber revolver from Thomas Smith of Pawtucket, civilian guard who was with Gerald P. Lynch of Warwick, Quonset Credit Union manager, when the \$100,000 robbery was committed.

Authorities who have worked on the case at first believed that the getaway car raced through Davisville to South County Trail and then north to Division Street on which the bandits turned west to abandon the stolen machine a short time later, its interior ablaze.

It is now thought that they crossed South County Trail at Frenchtown, drove up Frenchtown Road and then used one of several dirt roads to move north toward Division Street and abandon the car.

#### No Comment from FBI

FBI agents had no comment on finding the gun or on other operations yesterday which covered a large section of the Pawtucket Valley and spread southwestward into the Hope Valley area.

They would not say whether they had found additional portions of the stolen money, but it was believed that Hildebrandt would be used, now that he is on home ground, to give them explicit instructions on where he had cached the loot. He was quoted by New York authorities as having told the FBI where \$80,000 could be found. He said he had spent the other \$20,000 taken in the holdup in a round of high living with a red-haired New York night club singer as the chief beneficiary of his largesse.

Further inquiry in West Warwick yesterday threw some new light on Hildebrandt's relations with his neighbors and what they thought of him.

Some of those living in the Church Street section of Crompton where Hildebrandt lived with his wife and two children, a nine-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son, had become suspicious of him in recent weeks, they said, although they did not connect him with the Quonset robbery.

#### Baby-Sitters Paid \$25

One night after the holdup, it was reported, he paid two teen-age boys

\$25 for an evening of baby sitting. The boys' parents thought it was "decidedly odd." The boys did not work for him again.

His frequent New York trips aroused further suspicions, although he claimed that they were business trips to call on suppliers of stock for his modest gun shop. The suppliers, he said, wouldn't ship to him on credit, but would sell him anything for cash. He is reported to have told acquaintances that he got the money for these "buying expeditions" through the sale of his Church Street home.

Another acquaintance recalled that Hildebrandt was in the neighborhood of his home on the afternoon after the big holdup. He expressed surprise when told there was a big newspaper story about a holdup at Quonset.

"They must have been smart operators," he was quoted as saying.

He was further reported to have worn high boots in his gun shop recently and to have told someone that he was making a diving helmet from an old gas mask.

Another acquaintance said that Hildebrandt knew that the FBI was suspicious of him, but he was contemptuous of the agents' ability. He described them as "not so smart" and related that he had experience as a private detective. He said that he had "played tag" with the agents.

He was married at 16 and his wife is two or three years older, it was reported, than he.

#### Recovered Loot Displayed

Loot recovered in Thursday diving operations in the Pawtucket River and Johnson's Pond was displayed yesterday for photographers. The half dollars taken from the pond, about 2000 of them, had been stored in a metal Army .50-caliber machinegun ammunition box. The plastic bag which contained the bills found in the river was shaped like a hot water bottle and it contained 18 fisherman's sinkers which held the bag on the bottom.

It was reported that the FBI planned to investigate animals stuffed by Hildebrandt, a man of many parts, in the hope of finding more of the loot. The animals were in his shop, the Gun Cabinet, on which an attachment was slapped yesterday by the Metropolitan Distributing Co. of Albany, N.Y.

The firm persuaded Kent County officials to padlock the shop. A \$2300 shipment of guns and ammunition is involved.

#### Clothing Believed Break

It was reported that the first break in the case came through the finding of clothing and equipment used by the holdup men. The find is said to have been made by Special Patrolman Stanley Skorski of Coventry police, soon after the holdup and not far from where the getaway car was abandoned and burned.

This would presumably explain why Skorski was given special praise by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for his work on the case.

But Skorski declined comment, saying Chief Gareld Shippee of Coventry police had given instructions that all information should be released by the FBI.

Real estate men said that Hildebrandt tried to buy the building in which he conducted the gun shop, but fell short of the required down payment by \$2500 even though, according to the FBI, he

had a fortune hidden. This inconsistency was ascribed to his apparent effort to avoid an appearance of prosperity.

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# HILDEBRANDT BEING HELD IN \$30,000; LA PLANTE'S BAIL CUT TO SAME SUM

*Providence Journal* May 25, 1952  
**Hearings on June 5 and 12;  
De Ciantis Their Attorney**

Howard Hildebrandt, who was arrested by the FBI in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Naval Air Station robbery, was ordered held in \$30,000 bail for hearing June 12, when he appeared before U. S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein in Providence this morning.

The \$40,000 bail set upon Robert R. LaPlante, also of West Warwick and the second principal in the Quonset holdup was reduced to \$30,000. His hearing is scheduled June 5.

Attorney Michael DeCiantis wouldn't say whether the reduced amount of bail on LaPlante could mean his release while his defense is being prepared.

DeCiantis told the court that LaPlante's case was entirely different from the facts in Hildebrandt's case. He said in his successful appeal for a reduction of bail on LaPlante that the man's rights were involved and it was the duty of the court to impose "reasonable bail not excessive bail."

Hildebrandt had been held in \$25,000 in New York.

## Hildebrandt's Return

Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, was brought back to Rhode Island from New York last night in irons and heavily guarded by the FBI.

He was driven up to the Federal Building, Providence, in one of two sedan automobiles which took him from New York City. He was observed wearing a light tan suit, white shirt, a loud tie and tinted glasses.

Inside the building and in the office of U. S. Marshal Charles M. Eldredge, who, Thursday, ordered Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, the second principal in the robbery, held in \$40,000 bail, Hildebrandt was reunited with his wife. She arrived at the Federal Building at about 7:30 p.m., an hour before her husband arrived. She was accompanied by Michael DeCiantis.

## Attorney for Both

DeCiantis, it was learned yesterday, will serve as legal counsel for Hildebrandt as well as LaPlante. The West Warwick attorney said he may try to obtain LaPlante's release because of the excessive bail. At his bail hearing Thursday, DeCiantis protested the higher bail. He reportedly said that LaPlante could raise \$25,000 bail and that he should be released while his defense was being prepared.

Later in the evening, Hildebrandt was placed in a detention pen in the marshal's third-floor office. After he was turned over to Rhode Island federal authorities, DeCiantis talked with him briefly. He talked to his wife for an

hour until 9:45 p.m. At 10:30 he was put into a car by Deputy U.S. marshals and was taken to the reformatory where he was left for the night.

## Taken Through Crompton

On the way home from New York, Hildebrandt, it was learned, was taken back via Route 3 in Rhode Island which runs right past his business enterprise, The Gun Cabinet, on Cowesett Road, Crompton, and is located just around the corner from his home on Church Street.

The FBI this morning said that only \$30,000 of the loot in the Mar. 7 holdup has been recovered.

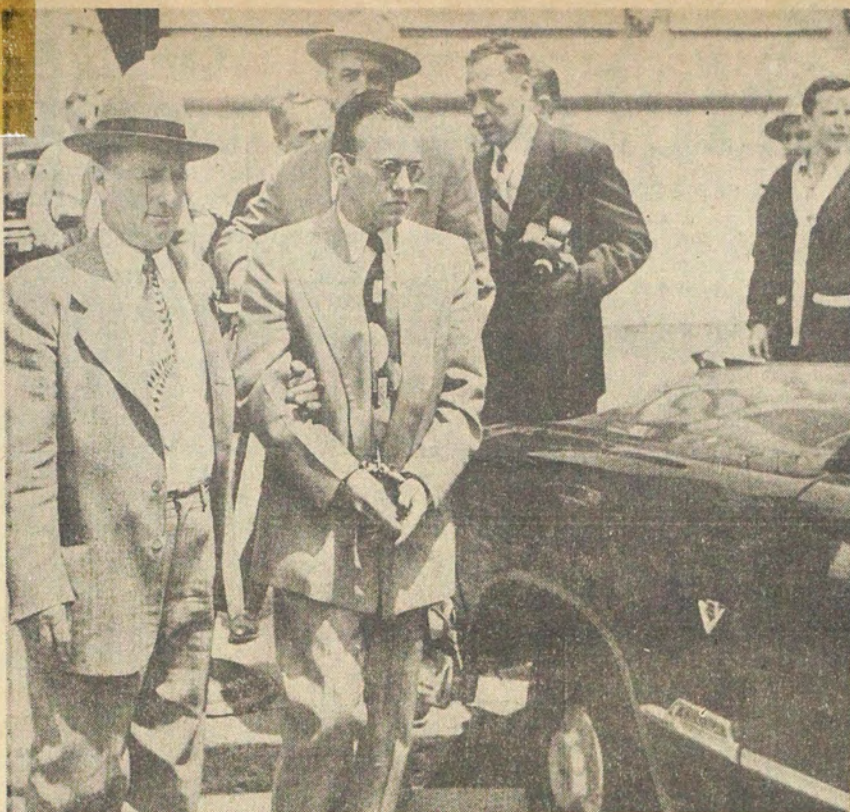
Yesterday, in company with Quonset Marines, they recovered the weapon believed to have been taken from the civilian guard at the Quonset holdup on the Davisville Road, about a half mile west of the Post Road overpass at the Quonset-Davisville entrance.

The location of the gun now leads authorities to believe that the getaway car raced through Davisville to South County Trail and then up Frenchtown road and then to Division Street via one of the dirt crossroads in Frenchtown.

## Tell of Guns Being Repaired

In West Warwick, home town of the apprehended pair, parties are turning up to tell West Warwick police that they have property of theirs in Hildebrandt's store, The Gun Cabinet. One party stated they had some guns being repaired there and another told police they loaned Hildebrandt a "store dummy."

Of the \$30,000 recovered loot, a sizeable sum was found Thursday in the Pawtuxet River at East Natick. The money was all in bills contained in a plastic bag about the size that would hold a peck of potatoes. Lead sinkers were in the bottom of it to hold it down in the water. At Johnson's Pond, about 2000 half dollars were recovered in a metal Army .50-calibre machine gun ammunition box.



After His Arroitainment in the Federal Building yesterday, Howard Hildebrandt is escorted to car by Deputy Marshal Edward A. Curran.

## Quonset Cash Still Cached

### Hildebrandt's Return To R.I. Doesn't Bring Quick Recovery

The return of Howard Hildebrandt to Rhode Island failed yesterday to provide the open sesame to remaining caches of the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup loot.

Hildebrandt, the 25-year-old West Warwick gunman who has admitted seizing the funds and making the succeeding mad dash past Marine sentries at the Quonset gate last Mar. 7, appeared yesterday before U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein at the federal building here and his bail was raised to \$30,000. Before he was returned from New York where he was arrested Wednesday night he had been held in \$25,000 bail.

Rosenstein\* denied a defense counsel motion that bail remain at that figure. After hearing the request he fixed the bail and then reduced the \$40,000 bail under which Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, is held to the same figure. Hildebrandt will be held in Providence County Jail for hearing June 12. LaPlante is in the same jail for hearing June 5.

Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick attorney who is representing both men, said that Hildebrandt will not make bail. When his motion to reduce LaPlante's bail to "not more than \$15,000" was denied after his argument that there is nothing in the case so far to impli-

cate LaPlante, DeCiantis said he will begin habeas corpus proceedings for his release tomorrow.

Hildebrandt, whose information quickly led FBI men, assisted by Navy divers, to about \$30,000 of the hidden robbery funds in the Pawtuxet River and in Johnson's Pond, and who claimed to have spent an additional \$20,000, hadn't turned up the approximately \$50,000 still missing for the federal agents.

Again yesterday they searched South County woods for the missing money, apparently without success. They knocked off in late afternoon and planned to resume the search tomorrow.

Hildebrandt told questioners in New York that none of the money had gone to LaPlante but that he was supposed to get \$15,000 of the swag at a later date.

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No Evidence Anywhere *Boston Sunday Globe*  
of Aroused Public Opinion

## Citizens of West Warwick Mum on Crime Outbreak

By JOSEPH F. DINNEEN

WEST WARWICK, R. I., May 24—Temporarily, at least, this town of 20,000 appears to be the crime capital of the country. Carlton M.



O'Brien, named as a Brink's suspect, was shot dead here. Howard Hildebrandt and Robert LaPlante, charged with the Quonset Naval Air Station hold-up, live here.

How do the people of this town feel about it? Most of them don't care to talk

about it.

It is not uncommon for a stranger to walk into a town, ask a few brash questions of persons he has never seen before and be looked upon with cold suspicion.

I talked to a number of residents here today who turned their backs; some who answered in short monosyllables and a few who shook their heads and slipped off conversations quickly.

"That's one thing I won't talk to you about," said the president of the town council, Harry Mc-

Kenna, and no amount of persuasion that the good name of West Warwick ought to be retrieved, could move him.

Before the day was out it was impressed very firmly upon me that West Warwick currently does not welcome either the curious or the sympathetic. If you're thinking of driving down that way today to look over the points of interest, better drive right through. Don't stop to ask questions.

I arrived there with a photographer shortly before noon; dropped into the Donut Kettle for a combination breakfast and lunch, sat in a booth, and a waitress handed me a menu. "This town seems to have been given a black eye this week," I suggested amiably. "What do you think of it?"

"What can I get you?" she asked, looking down at the menu, a pencil and pad in her hands.

"How do people feel about what has been happening here?" I looked up.

"You're new around here, Mister?" she asked.

"I nodded." "I don't know how people feel," she said. "I don't know anything. Don't ask me about anything because I'm not going to talk about

anything except what you want to eat."

"Too many people asking you too many questions?" I queried.

"What are you going to have?" she asked.

I ordered. The service was fast. The food was good, but conversation was impossible.

I left the restaurant, and almost at the door found a veteran selling poppies. I dropped a quarter in his tin, took a poppy and said: "This town has been getting a lot of unpleasant notoriety. What do you think of it?" He didn't answer. I rephrased the question. "What do the people around town think of it?"

He looked me over thoughtfully for a moment. "I don't know," he said. "If you're looking for information, Mac, there's the police station over there, diagonally across the street." He pointed to it. My car was parked in front of it.

"Thanks," I nodded. "I'll drop over there."

A sergeant was behind the desk talking to two uniformed men. Two plain clothes men, probably FBI agents, were standing facing the desk. I asked for the chief; was told that he had gone to Vermont, and was not expected back for three days. Capt. Miller was not around.

I found that the town had no Mayor. Its chief administrator is the president of the Town Council, elected as such by the voters at large and not by other councilors. He was a lawyer. His office was behind the police station.

I walked over to his office; found it to be in a dwelling shared with his brother, a dentist. On the dentist's door was posted a sign telling the laundryman to call upstairs,

but the laundryman would have had the same luck I did. The upstairs door was locked. There was no bell and nobody answered a knock.

The mailman appened by and told me that if I was looking for Harry McKenna, I'd probably find him at the Town Hall on the other side of town. It developed that the business section of West Warwick is really in what amounts to a suburb, called "Arctic." I wrote "Arctic" in my book and was corrected. I protested that there was no such word as Arctic—except as a root for article or articulate.

It was finally agreed that maybe the early settlers in West Warwick didn't know how to spell Arctic. I thought, was far more fitting and appropriate to the town and descriptive of the attitude of its people as I had found them up to now.

"What do you think of all that has been happening in the town?" I asked him.

"What can you say?" He lifted his hands helplessly. "It happened, that's all. I live about a quarter of a mile from Hildebrandt. I'd never pick him out as the kind of a guy who would pull a holdup like that over at Quonset Point. I'm sorry for his wife and kids. You can't blame the town because of the people who live in it, or because people who live in it go wrong. You blame the guilty. The town suffers merely because they live here."

It was the most informative answer and the only opinion I had received in two hours. The mailman was Victor Hughes. He had a collection to make at a mailbox and we had been walking back toward the Post Office. He was a bit concerned when the photographer took

his picture, but I assured him the Postmaster would not object.

I talked to three men outside the Bus Cafe at the south end of town. The first said: "I don't know anything, and I'm not going to say anything." The other two overheard him and echoed his answer. Sampling women's opinion was hopeless. Two of them pursed their lips, shook their heads and walked on. The third, at the wheel of a car, slipped it into gear and drove away without answering.

A chain store manager listened attentively and answered: "I won't express an opinion. I'm in business here and I'm not taking any chances on offending my customers or getting into arguments with them." He beckoned to Olindo Marsocci of 33 Prospect av. to answer.

"So what of it," said Olindo. "We had a lot of tough luck in a short time, that's all. We had a murder and a couple of guys arrested in a robbery. Spread it over a couple of years and who'd know the difference?"

At the town hall I talked with Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb. She is well known in Rhode Island politics. She has served in the General Assembly, has been Director of Public Welfare, and is regularly reelected town clerk. She knows the town and its people well.

"West Warwick," she said "is the best town in the United States. It's a good town to live in and a good town to do business in. As far as what happened here is concerned, people are just human beings, that's all. This could happen anywhere. It was our misfortune that it happened here."

There were other interviews: Three high school girls, a clothing store manager, unclassified pedestrians, but they add nothing to the symposium.

Psychologists might learn something about mass behavior by a study of West Warwick. Its reputation during the prohibition era was none too savory. Is there a national Willie Sutton - Arnold Shuster complex? Do people become silent through fear of gangster re-

prisal? Has something happened to community pride—or more important—to community conscience? There was no evidence anywhere of an aroused public opinion; no sense of sullied reputation or lost prestige. Except for the defenses offered by the letter carrier and the town clerk, the attitude seemed to be a combination of frightened silence and "It happened. So what?"

The first Earl of Warwick, Richard Neville, the King-maker, was a skilled conspirator. He was killed after he had all but stolen the throne of England. He had no conscience, no sense of righteousness, justice or integrity. So what? What's in a name?



"WE HAD A LOT OF TOUGH LUCK in a short time, that's all," Olindo Marsocci of West Warwick tells the Globe's Joseph F. Dinneen (right).

## Continuing Search for More Loot

*P.V. Times*  
*May 26, 1952*  
**\$70,000 Unaccounted  
for in Probe of  
Quonset Theft**

No additional money, above the \$30,000 found last week and identified as part of the \$100,000 taken in the Quonset Naval Air Station break last March 7th, has been recovered.

The FBI in charge of the investigation in making the announcement this morning said that they were continuing their search as intensely as before for the rest of the loot.

Meanwhile both Howard Hildebrandt, 25 and Robert R. Laplante, 27, of West Warwick, are being held in Providence County Jail in lieu of \$30,000 bail each with hearings scheduled June 12 and 5 respectively. They have been arrested by the FBI on charges of being principals in the robbery.

## Rao Sees No Delegate Fight

*Providence Journal*  
*May 26, 1952*  
**Expects Harmony as  
Democrats Hold State  
Convention June 2**

Democratic State Chairman Frank Rao said today he expects no contest at next Monday night's state convention to pick 20 delegates to the Democratic national convention.

The convention, called for 7:30 p.m. in the Narragansett Hotel, will be preceded by a state executive committee dinner-meeting at 5 p.m. at which the slate of delegates will be approved formally for recommendation to the convention.

### Roberts May Be Chairman

Governor Roberts is expected to be chairman of the 12-vote delegation, which in all probability will go to Chicago unpledged and with an open mind on a presidential candidate. Four delegates will have full votes and 16 will have half votes.

The governor has supported publicly for the nomination Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois but the general opinion is Roberts probably will accept the candidate reported to be favored by President Truman if Stevenson stays out of the race.

Rao said he has received requests for support from all announced candidates, but that there is no crystallization of sentiment for any one among them.

### Contest Possibility

The chairman made public a list of 200 delegates and 200 alternates who will attend next Monday night's convention.

The possibility arose that the seating of two delegates named by the state chairman to represent West Greenwich will be contested by the town chairman, Leo J. Driscoll.

Rao named Thurston Albro of Mishnock, Kent County deputy sheriff, and Charles A. Brown of Weavers Hill Road, when the West Greenwich town committee failed to name two delegates.

Driscoll said he would consult his attorney today regarding a possible protest to the convention's credentials committee.

Other state convention delegates were named by their representative district committees, with no opportunity for contests because of a vacuum in state law and state committee bylaws.

State delegates from the 25 Providence representative districts follow:

First District—John Ferreira, 49 Governor Street; John J. Cashman, 11 Arnold Street.  
Second District—Clinton Owen, 15 Humboldt Avenue; Joseph Silvia, 17 Amy Street.  
Third District—Francis X. McKinnon, 129 Upton Avenue; Maurice W. Hendel, 31 Clarendon Avenue.  
Fourth District—Sen. Frank Licht, 22 President Avenue; Archie Smith, 124 Congdon Street.  
Fifth District—Edward Loughran, 157 Fourth Street; Albert Brown, 49 Rochambeau Avenue.  
Sixth District—James Higgins, 44 Nichols Street; Carl Testa, 83 Job Street.  
Seventh District—Ralph Matera, 105 Devonshire Street; Valentine H. Mariani, 486 Branch Avenue.  
Eighth District—Earle M. Byrne, 10 Loxley Road; William King Jr., 14 Standish Avenue.  
Ninth District—Rep. Joseph Nugent, 100 Pinehurst Avenue; Michael Intaglia, 528 Valley Street.  
Tenth District—Rep. Samuel C. Kagan, 161 Orms Street; John J. McGann, 39 Ayrault Street.  
Eleventh District—Edward Moore, 10 Foster Street; Catherine J. Leddy, 105 South Street.  
Twelfth District—Rep. Herman D. Ferrara, 335 Broadway; Sen. Joseph L. Luongo, 247 Broadway.  
Thirteenth District—Rep. James H. Klerman, 122 Beaufort Street; John McKenna, 837 Atwells Avenue.  
Fourteenth District—John F. Brock, 41 Kossuth Street; William E. Cunningham, 274 Manton Avenue.  
Fifteenth District—Thomas DiSano, 124 Farmington Avenue; D. Thomas Testa, 179 Pocasset Avenue.  
Sixteenth District—Joseph E. Cipriani, 136 Pocasset Avenue; Mary A. Feeney, 21 Priscilla Avenue.  
Seventeenth District—Mayor Reynolds, 167 Wood Street; Rep. Walter J. Mathews, 84 Oak Street.  
Eighteenth District—Anthony Tarro, 267 Knight Street; Thomas S. Luongo Jr., 14 Brighton Street.  
Nineteenth District—Rep. John J. Wrenn, 177 Bellevue Avenue; Arthur J. Richard, 7 Fuller Street.  
Twentieth District—Sen. John G. McWeeney, 208 Linwood Avenue; Francis J. Blessington, 31 Grand Street.  
Twenty-first District—Eugene F. Cochran, 90 Updike Street; Edna McCauley, 95 Moore Street.  
Twenty-second District—Evelyn D. McCoid, 76 Congress Avenue; Sen. Raymond A. McCabe, 77 Lexington Avenue.  
Twenty-third District—Rep. Thomas P. McHugh, 26 West Clifford Street; Edward P. Quigley, 7 Frank Street.  
Twenty-fourth District—Richard F. Mahoney, 44 Norwich Avenue; Rep. Bernard J. Gallagher, 49 Lillian Avenue.  
Twenty-fifth District—William W. Woodcock Sr., 120 California Avenue; Joseph E. Hannon, 228 Alabama Avenue.

## FURTHER REDUCTION OF LA PLANTE BAIL ASKED

De Ciantis, Attorney, Files Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus in U. S. Court.—Hearing Set for Tomorrow.

(By Staff Correspondent)

Providence. — Counsel for Robert R. LaPlante of Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, one of two defendants in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup, today filed in Federal Court a petition for writ of habeas corpus and a motion to reduce the \$30,000 bail, under which he is being held.

Judge Edward L. Leahy set a hearing for tomorrow morning at 9:30 on the petition and motion, which were filed by Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, defense attorney.

The defense claims the amount of bail is excessive and LaPlante is being illegally detained. LaPlante has been unable to raise

the bail, and has been committed pending a hearing before U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein.

The original bail was \$40,000, which the commissioner later reduced to \$30,000, even though the government had requested that the amount be fixed at \$50,000.

## NO ADDITIONAL CASH IS FOUND

The FBI today reported no additional money above the \$30,000 has been recovered from the \$100,000 loot in the Quonset Point Naval Air Station break last March 7th.

Meanwhile the principals in the robbery, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, and Robert R. Laplante, 27, both of West Warwick, are being held in Providence County Jail under \$30,000 bail each with hearings set for June 12 and 5 respectively.

## LaPlante Asks Writ Of Habeas Corpus

Michael DeCiantis filed a petition yesterday for a writ of habeas corpus to require the United States marshal to produce Robert R. LaPlante, one of the two men accused of the \$100,000 Quonset holdup, in Federal Court at 9:30 a.m. today.

The petition alleges that bail of \$30,000, set by U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein pending a hearing June 5, is excessive and in violation of the laws and Constitutions of the state and of the United States.

It is further contended that as a result, the 27-year-old West Warwick man is illegally detained at the Providence County Jail.

LaPlante's counsel also filed a motion in the same court for reduction of bail to "a reasonable sum."

The bail of \$30,000 was fixed by Rosenstein last Saturday at the time of the arraignment of Howard Hildebrandt, the other West Warwick man charged with the holdup.

## Laplante Fails To Get Bail Cut

Counsel for Quonset  
Robbery Suspect Asked  
Reduction to \$15,000

Judge Edward L. Leahy today refused to reduce bail for Robert R. Laplante, charged with the \$100,000 Quonset robbery.

Counsel for Robert R. Laplante of West Warwick, one of two men charged with the \$100,000 Quonset robbery, argued today that his client's bail should be cut in half.

Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick asked Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court to reduce bail to \$15,000. Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney, opposed the reduction.

DeCiantis read a letter he said he received from Laplante, saying he would like to talk to the FBI.

Judge Leahy did not rule immediately on DeCiantis' motion for bail reduction. Instead he announced the court would take a brief recess.

The matter came before Judge Leahy on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus and a motion to reduce bail, but Laplante was not produced in court, both sides having waived his presence.

The \$35,000 bail in LaPlante's case was fixed by U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein.

"I contend that the bail is excessive and in violation of the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution," DeCiantis said. "Therefore, the defendant is illegally held."

He claimed that the attitude of the commissioner in setting bail was "very arbitrary." DeCiantis said the commissioner gave no consideration to the act involved "but merely expressed himself openly and publicly that he was for high bail." Rosenstein, DeCiantis said, did not consider seriously the right of an individual who has been charged with a crime.

The prosecutor said he felt that under the circumstances, the bail already fixed is reasonable.

## U. S. COURT UPHOLDS \$30,000 BAIL SET FOR LA PLANTE

Judge Edward L. Leahy in Federal Court today upheld the \$30,000 bail fixed for Robert R. Laplante, 27 year old West Warwick suspect in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup last March 7.

The court denied a motion by Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, counsel for Laplante, and also a motion for writ of habeas corpus.

DeCiantis argued that the bail fixed by U. S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein was excessive that it denied the defendant of his liberty, and was unreasonable in view of Laplante's record. DeCiantis read in court a letter from Laplante to the FBI expressing a desire to talk with the government agents. Counsel said this was an indication that the defendant had not intention of jumping bail or of failing to cooperate with the authorities.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Joseph R. Breen argued that the bail was reasonable in view of the magnitude of the alleged offense.

Judge Leahy said it was the policy of the court to fix bail defendants that were neither too high or too low, that only an amount to assure the presence of the defendant and that the seriousness of the offense must be considered.

In consideration of all the facts therefore, the court held that the amount of bail did not appear to

be unreasonable under the circumstances nor an abuse by the commissioner of his discretion.

Hearing before the commissioner is scheduled for 10:30 a. m. Thursday on the question of whether the defendant should be held for the grand jury.

The government had originally requested that bail be fixed at \$50,000 but commissioner Rosenstein set it at \$40,000 and later reduced it to \$30,000.

Howard Hildebrandt, 25, also of West Warwick, the second defendant in the case is also being held in default of \$30,000 bail.

## LaPlante Refused Bail Reduction

The \$30,000 bail under which Robert R. LaPlante is held in connection with the \$100,000 Quonset robbery is not excessive, U.S. District Court Judge Edward L. Leahy decided yesterday in denying a petition for a writ of habeas corpus to produce LaPlante in court for a hearing on the question of reduced bail.

Michael DeCiantis, counsel for LaPlante, had contended that the attitude of U.S. Commissioner A. Louis Rosenstein in fixing bail had been "very arbitrary" and asked that it be reduced to \$15,000, which was all, he said, LaPlante could furnish. DeCiantis read a letter he

said he had received from LaPlante, saying his client would like to talk to the FBI.

Judge Leahy said the policy of the court was to fix bail in such an amount to assure the presence of a defendant in court. Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney, opposed any reduction.

## Ask DeCiantis Be Named to Water Board

*May 29, 1952*  
West Warwick Republican Club Refers  
to Authority

*P.V. Times*  
The West Warwick Republican Club last night called on the town council to appoint at once a successor to the open seat on the Kent County Water Authority and they recommended that Michael DeCiantis, former town solicitor, be the one named to fill the vacancy.

The club, in meeting at Congdon's Hall, Main Street, Arctic, released the following statement:

"The West Warwick Republican Club recommends that the town council appoint at once a successor to the open seat on the Kent County Water Authority. It feels strongly that the people of West Warwick are entitled to representation and that their representative work for their best interest. Since Mr. DeCiantis has such a large knowledge of the needs of the people of the town, plus his active association with the water authority, it was voted that he be recommended to fill the vacancy which now exists."

### Gillespie Resigned

The vacancy on the water authority was created through the resignation last Mar. 11, of Norman E. Gillespie, a founder of the Republican Club. Gillespie, in resigning, issued a public statement in which he pointed out that "the water authority has been criticized unmercifully by certain persons without full knowledge of the many complex problems and without any real thought as to the welfare of the whole community other than their own political expediency. I feel now that with the pressure of business and with this needless and unwarranted criticism continuing, I can no longer serve in a fair and unbiased manner to all."

Gillespie also pointed out that he was not in agreement at all times with the authority and that he was not and never had been in favor of the present high rate. He said that he believed a happy medium could be obtained "but only through negotiation by grown men with an interest in the future of the community rather than political headline grabbers."

Michael DeCiantis, following his resignation as town solicitor, was retained by the council as its legal representatives in the water rate hike case. DeCiantis has several times publicly called for the resignations of the West Warwick members of the Kent County Water Authority who were Gillespie and Col. Patrick H. Quinn. Quinn serves the water authority as its chairman.

## High Court Holds Kent Water Unit Is Public Utility

*May 30, 1952*  
Rules Authority Must  
Have Rates Okayed by  
R.I. Administrator

Communities which have been fighting higher water rates imposed by the Kent County Water Authority won a victory yesterday when the state Supreme Court ruled that the authority is, in effect, a public utility and must have its rates approved by the state public utility administrator.

Robert A. Coogan, assistant attorney general, said the court opinion means that rates which have been in effect from Jan. 1, 1951, to Feb. 5, 1952, have been found to be unlawful.

Coogan, who conducted the case brought by Public Utility Administrator Thomas A. Kennelly to compel the authority to file its rates and rules with him, said that as a result of the decision, money held in escrow pending the court's decision will be rebated to consumers in Kent County, Scituate and Oaklawn.

As of yesterday, that amounted to \$88,628.19.

### Held in Trust by Order

The money represents the difference between the old water rates and the higher rates established when the present authority took control of the water companies in the area. It has been held in trust by the Industrial Trust Co. under a Supreme Court order which was entered in lieu of a restraining order when the authority's power to fix rates without applying to the public utility administrator was challenged.

The higher rates were charged until last Feb. 5, when the legislature ordered the old, lower rates re-established, and placed the authority under control of the public utility administrator.

At that time, the authority reverted to its old rates and filed a petition for higher rates with Kennelly. A decision on the new rates, comparable to those charged up to Feb. 5, has not yet been made by Kennelly.

In the meantime, authority customers will continue to pay the lower rates.

Michael DeCiantis, special counsel for West Warwick in its fight against the higher rates, said yesterday that after the Supreme Court's decision is embodied in a formal decree June 4 he will take steps to have the money held in escrow returned to subscribers.

The court said the authority must comply with regulations of the public utility administrator but that the legislature, if it wishes, may exempt the authority from the administrator's jurisdiction.

Several communities had fought the authority's stand that it was a quasi-municipal corporation and by law could not be regulated by the administrator. Kennelly's contention was that only a municipal or quasi-municipal corporation could claim the benefit of the legal exemption and the authority was neither.

### "Must Comply With Order"

In its opinion, written by Justice Francis B. Condon, the court said that notwithstanding that the act creating the authority described it as a "body politic," constituted it as "a public benefit corporation" and declared that in exercising its

powers it would be "performing an essential governmental function," such language by itself was not effective to clothe the authority with the distinguishing characteristics of a municipal or quasi-municipal corporation.

The court said the law did no more than establish the authority as an agency of the state to perform the same service which was theretofore rendered by several privately-owned companies.

The opinion concluded that the authority "must comply with the order of the public utility administrator requiring it to file a schedule of its rates and a copy of its rules and regulations in accordance with that chapter."

The authority serves the southern part of Warwick and West Warwick, Coventry and East Greenwich. It also serves South Scituate and the southern section of Cranston.

## GOP Club Urges DeCiantis for Seat On Water Board

*May 30, 1952*  
*P.V. Bulletin*  
Michael DeCiantis was recommended by the West Warwick Republican Club last night to fill the open seat on the Kent County Water Authority.

The club sent a letter to the West Warwick Town Council asking that DeCiantis be appointed immediately to the vacancy.

# State Democrats Pick Delegates

**Elect Unpledged Slate  
Of 20; None From  
Pawtucket Is Named**

A harmonious Democratic state convention last night elected without contest a slate of 20 delegates and 20 alternates to represent the party at the Democratic national convention in Chicago July 21.

The convention voted to send its delegates to Chicago unpledged to any particular candidate after Governor Roberts had set the mood of the party convalesce by saying that "Principles are greater than any personality—ideals loom larger than any individual."

Senator Green, the state's senior senator, made it plain that one of the forerunning Democratic contenders for the presidential nomination, Senator Russell of Georgia, would not be acceptable to Rhode Islanders. Green said he hoped to see the party nominate a man who can stand on the 1948 Democratic platform. That platform contains the broadened fair employment practices plank which caused the Southern Democrats to bolt the Philadelphia convention.

Rhode Island will have 12 votes at Chicago, but the state's Democrats send 20 delegates because the delegation is split up into four full votes and 16 half votes.

Two prominent Rhode Islanders, John Nicholas Brown of Newport, former under secretary of the Navy

## R.I. Democrats

Continued From Page One

for air, and Mrs. Perle Mesta of Newport, minister to Luxembourg, were dropped from the delegate list of four years ago. Sen. Florence K. Murray of Newport, only woman in the state Senate, was named to replace Mrs. Mesta.

Other significant changes in the list included the omission from the delegate list of any Pawtucket Democrat.

Four years ago, former Mayor McCoy and former City Clerk James M. Donovan, went to Philadelphia as delegates, but this year Pawtucket Democrats made only the list of alternates.

McCoy's name was dropped altogether, but Donovan was named an alternate. Also named as alternates were Harry F. Curvin, speaker of the House of Representatives and Pawtucket city chairman, and Rep. Louis J. Lussier, a close friend of Curvin and chairman of the powerful House finance committee.

### Vote on Delegates

The list of delegates and alternates was voted upon by the state executive committee a short time before the meeting of state convention delegates at the Narragansett Hotel.

Some Democrats insisted the dropping of Pawtucket Democrats from the list of delegates had no relationship to the defeat of the Democratic machine in that city, but other Democrats said they believed the omissions were deliberate and intended to demonstrate displeasure.

Another change involved John F. Doris, Woonsocket city chairman. Four years ago he was a delegate, but this time he was elected an alternate and instead Mayor Parent of that city was elected a delegate.

The Democrats retained on the delegate list the names of representatives of the AFL and the CIO.

Mayor Roberts, who was elected chairman of the delegation and given power to fill all vacancies, told the 400 state delegates and alternates that the state's Democrats are dedicated to the promotion of Democratic principles and the fulfillment of Democratic promises.

### Refers to GOP Promises

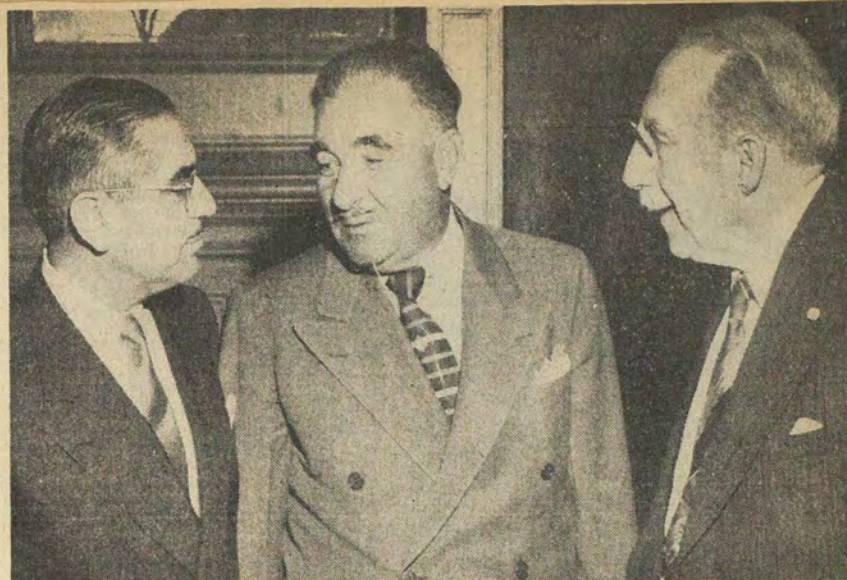
Referring to Republican promises, he said:

"We stand at the cross roads. Don't stand for a double cross."

He added:

"The Democrats with malice aforethought could not have planned for their opposition party more corruption than the rival Republican camps charge to one another, as their favorites foot race for the nomination. 'Shenanigans' is the polite term applied to their Texas tactics.

"By radio, press and publication, the frustrated gentlemen of the GOP are belaboring each other with such assassination of character and capability that their



Convention Talk last night by (l-r) Senator Pastore, Frank Rao, Democratic state chairman, and Senator Green.

—State Staff Photo

preconvention hopes are wearing through the thin veneer of victory, and their convention hopeful, whoever he may be, succeeds to a party so split by spleen that the sacred ballot, which is the American name for popular opinion, will never trust its destiny to a party which cannot trust itself."

### "Would Be Captive"

The governor went on:

"If by any chance, the Republican choice turned out to be a liberal, a traitor to the big business love of his party, to the pressure lobbies that seek to throttle our orderly legislative rules of right and reason, and if by any chance the American people should default on their destiny, a liberal Republican President would be a captive in the White House. He would be a broken man. He would be a betrayed."

"He would be a leader. This country would be in the claws of Styles Bridges as chairman of the committee on appropriations, of Capehart in banking and currency, of McCarthy as chairman of expenditures, while Taber, Hoffman and Crawford would be their likes in the House. Run over again the list of die-hard Republicans under whom all social gains would die hard on their return to power, and remember that the next Congress must be Democratic, too."

### Pastore Urges Offensive

Senator Pastore, predicting an overwhelming victory in November for the Democrats, reiterated his plea made originally several weeks ago: "Get off the defensive, get on the offensive," and again said he believed the current predictions of defeat for the Democrats was "history repeating itself." He ridiculed press and radio for predicting in 1948 that Mr. Truman would be defeated.

The only contest of the state convention, which was presided over by

State Chairman Frank Rao, was the seating of two delegates from West Greenwich.

Rao had named Thurston A. Albro and Charles A. Brown because, he said, the West Greenwich Democratic town committee had not organized as required by law and therefore could not name delegates. Leo J. Driscoll, West Greenwich town chairman, later named himself and John Healey as delegates.

Last night, the convention credentials committee, headed by Attorney General William E. Powers, went into session and stuck by Rao's decision.

The Rhode Island delegation's vice chairman will be James H. Kiernan of Providence, Democratic majority leader of the House of Representatives.

### List of Delegates

The list of delegates and alternates is:

Delegates from the first congressional district (full votes), Governor Roberts and Senator Green; alternates, Doris and Curvin.

Delegates from the second congressional district (full votes): Senator Pastore and Congressman Fogarty; alternates, William A. Borreca of Providence, state committee treasurer, and John O. Stitley of South Kingstown, assistant to the governor.

Delegates at large (half-vote each): Mayor Reynolds of Providence, Rao, former Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, Mrs. Mary A. Feeney of Providence, state committee vice chairman; Miss Katherine M. Cullinan of Providence, national committee woman; Providence City Chairman Charles F. McElroy, Thomas S. Luongo, Providence City Council president; Police Court Judge Harold C. Arcaro, John A. McConnell, president of the Providence Central Federated Union (AFL); Kiernan, Sen. John G. Coffey of East Providence, state committee secretary; John E. Robello of Providence, Mayor Connolly of Central Falls, Mayor Parent, Victor J. Canzano of Woonsocket, state director of the TWUA (CIO); and Senator Murray.

Alternates at large, Congressman Forand, Secretary of State Armand H. Cote, Representative Lussier, Mrs. Lucy S. Hartigan of Providence, Councilman Ralph Matera of Providence, Rep. Samuel C. Kagan of Providence, Councilman Edmund Wexler of Providence, Catherine J. Leddy of Providence, Mrs. Margaret S. Hazard of North Kingstown, Donovan, Rep. Gerard DiFiore of West Warwick, Joseph F. Esposito of Cranston, Henry McCormick of Warwick, Mrs. Lillian Miller of West Warwick, Mrs. Elizabeth Pendergast of Barrington and Mrs. Gertrude K. Boutiette of Burrillville.

