

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FROM  
JUNE 4, 1952 to october 30, 1952



# Scrap Book



SCRAP BOOK

for

1952



# DECREE PLACES COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY UNDER PUBLIC UTILITIES POWER

*June 4, 1952*

The Rhode Island Supreme Court this morning received a decree putting the Kent County Water Authority under control of the public utilities administrator and that it be directed to return all of the money charged above the old legal rates to the customers.

Michael DeCiantis, who, when town solicitor of West Warwick, started this twofold campaign 17 months ago when the water authority announced it would raise its rates to water customers, entered the decree at the court in Providence. He said that nearly 4000 people who paid the high rate in effect from Jan. 1, 1951 to Feb. 5, 1952, will be refunded their money.

The money, in amount of \$88,628, which customers paid over the old rate charge, is presently held in escrow in the Industrial Trust Co. Bank in Providence.

The decree which throws out the new rates would compel the water authority to file any schedule of proposed rates with the public utilities administration whenever they seek to raise the water rates.

## Called Public Utility

Last week the Supreme Court handed down a ruling through an opinion written by Justice Francis B. Condon that the water authority is a public utility and as such must have its water rates approved by the Rhode Island public utility administrator. They ordered today's decree be written.

DeCiantis, who has led the fight against the higher water rates, lost little time in getting started in the battle. Shortly after Dec. 7, 1951, when the water authority announced that an increase would soon be made in the rates for water services, DeCiantis, as town solicitor, petitioned the office of the State Public Utility Administration that it had jurisdiction over the water authority and that the water authority should be ordered to file a schedule of rates.

## Council Protest

West Warwick Town Council made an official protest of the proposed rate hike early in 1951. The office of the public utilities administration which had referred the protest to the attorney general department, was given the opinion by Attorney General William E. Powers that their office had the power to order the Kent County Water Authority to file a schedule of rates in accordance with the law, rules and regulations of the Public Utility Administration.

Thomas A. Kennelly, state public

utilities administrator, ordered the water authority to file a schedule of rates with him within 30 days and to desist from raising the rates. On Mar. 5, 1951, Kennelly notified the attorney general's office that the water authority had not filed a schedule of rates as ordered to do so more than 30 days before.

In August, 1951, the water authority case was taken to the Office of Price Stabilization in Washington, by Edward Hoban, chief of the Rhode Island division of the OPS. On Nov. 13, 1951, the Washington office of the OPS announced that the water authority was exempt from the provisions of the "freeze" on price hikes passed by the OPS Jan. 26, 1951.

## Assembly Measure

Feb. 6, 1952, the General Assembly passed and Gov. Dennis J. Roberts signed a bill placing the water authority 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.

Legal authorities said at that time that the enactment of the law putting the authority under the public utilities administrator makes the case pending in the State Supreme Court 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.

# Water Users Will Get \$88,628 in Rebates

*Prov. Journal June 5, 1952*

Rebates totalling approximately \$88,628 will be returned to about 4000 consumers served by the Kent County Water Authority, under an order handed down by the Rhode Island Supreme Court yesterday.

The money, now in escrow, represents collections in excess of the rates charged by the authority's predecessor companies.

Previously the court had decided

that the authority is subject to rate control by the state public administrator and this decision invalidated the rate increases put into effect by the authority on its own initiative on the ground that it was not subject to rate regulation by the state.

The excess, representing the increases, has been deposited with the Industrial Trust Co. as trustee, and the court decree filed yesterday directs that the bank refund this money to the consumers.

Michael DeCiantis, former West Warwick town solicitor who led the fight against the higher rates as special counsel for the town, said he will send the Industrial Trust Co. a letter asking that the rebates to qualified consumers be expedited "as much as possible."

He estimated "from long observation" that more than 4000 consumers will receive rebates in varying amounts.

"This is quite a thing for the people" he said. "It ends the court case, but now with the same high rates already filed, there probably will be another rate fight to determine what the authority is entitled to."

DeCiantis said he still contends that while the authority rates should be raised, "about 30 per cent is closer to the proper rate than that being asked."

He voiced concern for "all the money the authority is paying for different engines; all that is going to cost the consumers money."

Both DeCiantis and Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority board chairman, said it was their understanding that the process of returning the funds in escrow would be handled by the Industrial Trust Co. as trustee of the fund.

Colonel Quinn said that the authority "never had any objection to filing its rates (with the public utilities commissioner) if that was the right thing to do."

He said the authority had received conflicting advice on the point and that now it is "very glad to have Mr. Kennelly assume the burden of fixing what he considers to be a proper rate."

# Prov. Even. Bul. Water Users To Get Rebate

*June 5, 1952*

## Court Orders \$88,628 Returned to Customers Of Kent County Authority

Rebates totalling approximately \$88,628 will be returned to about 4000 consumers served by the Kent County Water Authority, under an order handed down by the Rhode Island Supreme Court yesterday.

The money, now in escrow, represents collections in excess of the rates charged by the authority's predecessor companies.

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# 2 Are Indicted For Big Holdup

*Prov. Journal June 5, 1952*

## Hildebrandt, LaPlante Named on 4 Counts

### In \$100,000 Stickup

Two West Warwick men charged with staging the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup Mar. 7 were indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury on four separate counts.

Both men, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, are in jail for lack of \$30,000 bail each.

The indictments returned against them are: conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States on a U.S. reservation, the offenses being the robbery of \$100,000, taking away a revolver and stealing a car; robbery of \$100,000 from Gerald P. Lynch, Quonset Credit Union manager, and Thomas Smith, civilian guard; theft of a government revolver and larceny of a car valued at \$1800 on a government reservation.



# HILDEBRANDT AND LAPLANTE ARE INDICTED

P.V. Times June 5, 1952  
**Will Face Federal Court  
Monday on Four Counts**

(By Staff Correspondent)  
The two West Warwick suspects in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup last March will be arraigned in Federal Court Monday on a four-count indictment returned late yesterday by the federal grand jury.

Conviction on all four counts could result in maximum sentences of 40 years each. The defendants, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 66 Cowesett Avenue, are in jail in default of \$30,000 bail each.

They are charged in the indictments with the armed robbery of

\$100,000 from a government reservation, larceny of an automobile valued at \$1800 and used as a get-away car, the theft of a Navy-owned revolver from a civilian guard and illegal entry upon a government reservation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph L. Breen said about \$39,000 of the \$100,000 has been recovered and about \$35,000 still remains to be accounted for with the balance believed spent by Hildebrandt in his New York spree since the hold-up. Both men had been under surveillance by the FBI since shortly after the holdup.

# Hildebrandt and LaPlante Arraigned

P.V. TIMES  
June 9, 1952  
**Plead Innocent to  
Charges of Theft  
of \$100,000**

The two suspects in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup last March pleaded innocent in federal court today and Judge Edward L. Leahy continued bail at \$30,000 each pending trial.

The defendants are Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante of 66 Cowesett Avenue, both of West Warwick.

Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, defense counsel, made a plea for an early trial and said he would be ready to go on within a month.

He and Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney, who presented the case for the grand jury, were to confer with Judge Leahy later today on a trial date. Neither defendant has been able to raise the bail.

PROV. BULLETIN  
June 9, 1952

## Two Plead Innocent In Quonset Holdup

Charged with staking the \$100,000 holdup Mar. 7 of the Quonset Credit Union, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, both of West Warwick, today pleaded innocent before Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court. Bail of \$30,000 was continued in each case at the request of Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. attorney.

Michael DeCiantis, defense counsel, indicated to the court that he is ready to go to trial at once and he and Breen were to confer in chambers with Judge Leahy to determine if the trial can get under way this month.

Indictments charge the men with conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States on a government reservation, the offense being the \$100,000 robbery, taking away a revolver and stealing a car; robbery of \$100,000 from Gerald P. Lynch, credit union manager, and Thomas Smith, civilian guard; theft of a government revolver, and larceny of a car valued at \$1800.

P.V. Times June 10, 1952

# POLICE REPORT BREAK AT LOAN FIRM SOLVED

## Hildebrandt, La Plante Are Declared Suspects

Chief Arthur Groleau of the West Warwick Police Department said this morning that the \$2,400 robbery at Knightsville Loan Corp. 723 Providence Street, Natick on Feb. 12 has been solved.

Chief Groleau said that the two suspects in the March 7th, Quonset Point Credit Union \$100,000 holdup, Howard Hildebrandt, 25 of 86½ Church Street and Robert R. LaPlante, 27 of 66 Cowesett Avenue, both of West Warwick, are also the suspects in the Natick robbery and that warrants for arrest have been issued against them.

Chief Groleau would not reveal the result of his department's investigation against the pair. When the FBI became interested in the two young West Warwick men in connection with the Quonset Point robbery the local police gave way to their apprehension of the pair for that \$100,000 theft. The chief did say this morning, however, that none of the \$2400 taken in the loan company holdup has been recovered.

On Feb. 15th two armed robbers held up the Knightsville Loan Corp. and made a get-away with \$2400 in cash, two minutes after the manager had returned from an Arctic bank under police escort with that amount of money in his briefcase.

### Find Escapes

Within a half hour West Warwick police found the escapees' car abandoned on Wakefield Street, Natick, near McChrystals Farm.

Manager Frank Sinapi of Clarent Street, Cranston and his clerk, Mrs. Rose Rhode of 126 Dinelin Street, Cranston, were alone in the loan office that Friday morning when two men both wearing dark glasses and one of them with a handkerchief over his face entered.

Flashing revolvers, one of them jumped up onto the ledge of the cashiers window and hopped over the window to the table on which

Sinapi had put the money from the briefcase. The other went into the back room, forced the clerk and the manager up against a rear wall, with hands in the air.

Within seconds the bandit holding the clerk and manager at bay forced them at gunpoint into the rest room next to the back room, shoved a desk against the door, ripped out the two telephone wires from the wall and then he and his partner made their get-away.

## Hildebrandt Named in Holdups Of Colonial Loan Co. Office

Prov. Journal, June 12, 1952  
**Cranston Police Report Man Indicted for Quonset  
Robbery Confesses Two 1950 Attempts**

Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, one of two men indicted for the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union robbery, confessed yesterday that in 1950 he twice held up the Colonial Loan Co. in Cranston, police there said last night.

Inspector Anthony J. Moretti, head of the detective division, said that while being questioned at the state prison by Detectives John J. Sullivan and Louis Morenzi, Hildebrandt admitted he held up the loan company office at 1277 Cranston Street on Aug. 10, 1950, and again on Dec. 29 of that year.

Moretti said the first holdup net-

ted \$1584 and the second was fruitless as the intruder fled when a girl clerk gave an alarm.

Hildebrandt told the two detectives, Moretti said, that he was alone on both occasions and each time stole a car in Providence for the holdup.

Moretti said Hildebrandt would be questioned further.

He said detectives also have talked with Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, but he claimed he never had a part in any holdup in Cranston. LaPlante is co-defendant with Hildebrandt in the Quonset robbery case.



P. V. Times 6/10/52  
Endorses DeCiantis  
for Lieut. Governor

The Roma Social Club of 288 Providence Street, Nauck at a monthly meeting held on Sunday, unanimously endorsed Michael DeCiantis for the post of lieutenant governor.

The announcement was made by Pasco Petrarca, vice-president, who conducted the business session in the absence of the president, Domenic Coletta.

## Water Firm Cash Thinning Out

Prov. Journal  
Kent County Authority  
Head Cites Delay  
In Approval of Rates  
June 12, 1952

Confirming that the Kent County Water Authority recently stopped making water installations at homes and extending water lines, Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, indicated last night the authority's ability to collect working cash is curtailed by current controversies over rates.

"That's easily answered — no money," he said, when asked about reports that contractors and individuals have been unable to secure the water installations at new homes.

He said the water board has no authority at present to ask anybody to pay anything until the State Public Utilities Division approves a schedule of rates and charges for the authority.

After the General Assembly put the authority's rates under control of the utilities division last spring in the wake of a consumer protest against higher rates effected by the authority, the board filed a schedule of its higher rates with the utilities department. It is still awaiting a hearing on them.

Meanwhile, water bills are being assessed on the basis of the former lower rates charged by the three private water companies, which the authority took over in June, 1950.

Several weeks ago Thomas A. Kennelly, state public utilities administrator, said the hearing on the higher rate schedule could not be held until state auditors complete a survey of the authority's financial records. Colonel Quinn said the audit is still in progress at the authority's West Warwick headquarters, and no date has yet been set for the hearing.

"The new installations have been stopped because the authority has no money to put into them," Quinn said. "The authority is finding it difficult to meet its payroll and take care of its old customers. We feel we shouldn't neglect those we have supplied in the past."

He said that a contractor recently asked for a water main exten-

sion that would have cost between \$600-\$1000, and added, "that was impossible. That looks like a gold mine to the authority now."

He said that, pending an authority meeting, he and Thomas Freeman, board treasurer, met yesterday and, because of troubles being experienced by several contractors with houses ready for water, decided that contractors may make their own water installations if they want.

"We told them they could make the installations at their own expense with the stipulation that the work be done under supervision of our superintendent, Arthur Lavalley, to assure that no inferior material is used," Quinn said.

Although it was reported that some individual home owners have been hit by the no-installation rule, Quinn said that only the problems of contractors with houses half finished and ready for water installation had come to his attention. However, he said, individuals also may have installations made at their

own expense by their own plumbers under Lavalley's supervision.

### Service Charge

Regarding the so-called service charge for water installation in the past, Quinn said it had never been more than \$40. That covered work by authority employes, including digging into the street, cutting to the main, carrying service pipe to the sidewalk or curb and putting the street service back in the original condition, he said.

Although the property owner then may have the installation from the curb to the house done himself, most home owners have asked the authority to do it, he said. The cost of that phase has been about \$35, of which \$24 represents the cost of a water meter, he said. The authority has made no money on the job of carrying the water from the curb to the house and has charged only actual cost for meters, he added.

# PROV. BULLETIN JUNE 11, 1952 Col. Quinn Says Water Authority Lacks Cash

## Kent County Firm Unable to Add Installations Until Rates Approved

The Kent County Water Authority is living from hand to mouth and will continue to do so until the State Public Utilities Division approves a schedule of rates and charges for the authority, Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, said last night.

The authority's tight cash position was revealed when it was learned that contractors and individuals have been unable to secure water installations at new homes.

Before a rate schedule can be set up, the utilities division's field men must complete an audit of the authority's books and records and this should be completed early in July,

a spokesman for the division said today. Then a hearing will be held, beginning shortly after the audit is presented.

When the hearing is completed — it may take a few days or a few weeks — the results will be studied by division experts and then a decision on the rate schedule and charges will be made. The division spokesman said state officials will work as rapidly as possible on the problem.

Meantime, if contractors or individual home owners want water installations they will have to have the work done themselves, but the authority will insist that all such projects are carried out under the supervision of the authority's superintendent.

Col. Quinn said the water board has no authority at present to ask anybody to pay anything until the State Public Utility Division approves a schedule of rates and charges for the authority.

After the General Assembly put the authority's rates under control of the utilities administration last spring in the wake of a consumer protest against higher rates affected by the authority, the board filed a schedule of its higher rates with the utilities administration. It is still awaiting a hearing on them.

Meanwhile, water bills are being assessed on the basis of the former lower rates charged by the three private water companies, which the authority took over in June, 1950.

Several weeks ago Thomas A. Kennelly, state public utilities administrator, said the hearing on the higher rate schedule could not be held until state auditors complete a survey of the authority's financial records. Colonel Quinn said the audit is still in progress at the authority's West Warwick headquarters, and no date has yet been set

for the bulk of it, in bills, was found by Navy divers in a weighted plastic bag in the Pawtuxet River under the Bald Hill Road bridge. About \$1000 in half dollars was found in an Army ammunition box in Johnson's Pond, Coventry, and an additional sum in the gun shop of Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, the other man held for the robbery.

Hildebrandt admitted yesterday that he held up the Colonial Loan Co. office in Cranston twice in 1950, Cranston police said last night.

Hostetter also said today that Hildebrandt and LaPlante divided the \$100,000 evenly, \$50,000 apiece, in Hildebrandt's Gun Cabinet immediately after the robbery.

This is the first time that fact has been made public. The previous understanding of the division was based on a statement by Hildebrandt in New York City after his arrest there.

He was quoted then as saying that the split was to be \$85,000 for himself and \$15,000 for LaPlante, and that actually LaPlante had not yet received any of the money.

The disclosure today made it appear that the remaining mystery is the whereabouts of the rest of LaPlante's share, presumably \$45,000.

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Although the property owner then may have the installation from the curb to the house done himself, most home owners have asked the authority to do it, he said. The cost of that phase has been about \$35, of which \$24 represents the cost of a water meter, he said. The authority has made no money on the job of carrying the water from the curb to the house and has charged only actual cost for meters, he added.

## Prov. Bulletin More Quonset Cash Recovered June 12, 1952 \$5000 Found Buried In LaPlante's Yard

Five thousand dollars more of the money stolen in the \$100,000 Quonset credit union holdup has been recovered, the FBI announced today.

The money was found in a glass fruit jar buried in the back yard of the home of Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, one of the two men under indictment for the robbery.

This is apparently the first money recovered from LaPlante's share of the holdup proceeds.

Announcement of the recovery was made by Donald S. Hostetter, special agent in charge for the FBI at Boston. He said the find was made June 2 by FBI agents and the money was in \$20 bills.

"Approximately \$30,000" had been recovered previously, according to the FBI, "in a number of different places in Rhode Island."

Of the sum previously accounted

Hildebrandt's share is presumed to have been pretty well accounted for by the "approximately \$30,000" previously recovered and the large sums he spent, night-clubbing and otherwise, in New York.

Inspector Anthony J. Moretti, head of the detective division, said that while being questioned at the state prison by Detectives John J. Sullivan and Louis Morenzi, Hildebrandt admitted he held up the loan company office at 1277 Cranston Street on Aug. 10, 1950, and again on Dec. 29 of that year.

Moretti said the first holdup netted \$1584 and the second was fruitless as the intruder fled when a girl clerk gave an alarm.

Hildebrandt told the two detectives, Moretti said, that he was alone on both occasions and each time stole a car in Providence for the holdup.

Moretti said Hildebrandt would be questioned further.

He said detectives also have talked with LaPlante, but he claimed he never had a part in any holdup in Cranston.



# ABATEMENT PLEA FILED

P. V. TIMES

JUNE 12, 1952

## DeCiantis Says U. S. Did Not Hold Jurisdiction in Theft Indictments

Pleas in abatement were to be filed in the U.S. District Court, Providence, today, by Michael DeCiantis, attorney for Howard Hildebrandt and Robert R. Laplante, setting forth that the U.S. Grand Jury did not have any jurisdiction in indicting the defendants in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup last Mar. 7.

DeCiantis gave the reasons in the plea as follows:

1. "The United States Naval Air Station, located at Quonset Point, R.I., was constructed on land partly acquired by the United States government by eminent domain (15 acres), but by eminent domain did not acquire criminal jurisdiction by acquiring title to land only for a specific purpose, to establish an air base."

2. "The chapter 696 of the Public Laws of 1939 of Rhode Island which grants certain lands to the United States of America located at Quonset Point, does not relinquish the state's authority, jurisdiction or other sovereign powers inherent to the State of Rhode Island."

3. "That the offense with which the defendants are charged is not an indictable offense either at common law or under the law of the United States of America."

4. "Said Grand Jury being without authority or jurisdiction to indict said defendants on said offense and the said offense not being an indictable offense either at common law or under the law of the United States of America, this honorable court is without

jurisdiction to try and determine the guilt or innocence of the offense charged in said indictment."

The condemnation proceedings for the 15 acres were filed in the U.S. District Court, July 19, 1940 and Sept. 12, 1940. Rhode Island, by the Public Laws of 1939 thru the legislature, gave title to the United States with the condition that if the land was abandoned it would revert back to the State of Rhode Island, the land being what was known as the old National Guard grounds in Quonset.

## Police Say Hildebrandt in 1950 Case

PROV. BULLETIN  
Cranston Authorities  
Say He Has Admitted  
Loan Firm Holdup  
June 13, 1952

Cranston police said last night that Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, one of the two men indicted for the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union robbery last Mar. 7, has confessed that in 1950 he twice held up the Colonial Loan Co., in Cranston.

Inspector Anthony J. Moretti, head of the detective division, said that Hildebrandt, under questioning at the State Prison yesterday, admitted he held up the loan company office at 1277 Cranston Street on Aug. 10, 1950, and again on Dec. 29, 1950. The inspector said that the first holdup netted \$1584 and the second nothing, as the intruder fled when a girl clerk gave an alarm.

Hildebrandt told Cranston detectives John J. Sullivan and Louis Morenzi that he was alone on both occasions and each time he

used a car stolen in Providence, Moretti said.

Inspector Moretti said that Robert R. Laplante, 27, of 66 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick, also indicted in the Quonset Point robbery, was questioned, but he claimed he never had a part in any holdup in Cranston.

Tuesday of this week, West Warwick police issued warrants against Hildebrandt and Laplante for their arrest in connection with the holdup of the Knightsville Loan Corp. office at 723 Providence Street, Natick, on Feb. 12.

## FBI Finds More Quonset Cash Says Hildebrandt and LaPlante Split Their Loot on 50-50 Basis

The FBI yesterday confirmed a report that another \$5000 from the \$100,000 Quonset robbery loot was dug up on June 2, in a glass fruit jar buried in the yard of Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick.

At the same time, Donald S. Hostetter, special agent in charge for the FBI at Boston, announced that LaPlante and Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street, West Warwick, the two men charged with the robbery, had split the loot 50-50.

The previous understanding was that LaPlante's share was only \$15,000, and that he had not actually received it.

The two disclosures made it appear that LaPlante, at first supposed to have had none of the money, still has to account for \$45,000.

Hildebrandt's share is presumed to have been pretty well accounted for by the "approximately \$30,000" previously recovered from various sources to which he is supposed to have directed FBI agents, and the large sums he spent, nightclubbing and otherwise, in New York City.

Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Hildebrandt and LaPlante, sought yesterday to have the indictment against them in the Quonset case quashed. He filed with the clerk of the U.S. District Court a plea in abatement asserting that the court is without jurisdiction to try them because the grand jury was without authority to indict them.

He based this on the contention that Quonset Naval Air Station, scene of the holdup and robbery, was constructed on land acquired by condemnation for a specific purpose and that the federal government did not acquire criminal jurisdiction there also.

## ASSESSMENT OF TOWN TAX INDICATES NO RATE CHANGE

P. V. TIMES JUNE 12, 1952

West Warwick Assessors Submit Report Confirming Town Solicitor's Statement May 20 That Levy Would Be \$2.25.

The statement of tax assessment on real estate and tangible personal property in West Warwick, released by the tax assessors confirms Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault's announcement at the financial town meeting last May 20th that the \$2.25 tax rate in West Warwick, will remain the same for the fiscal year of 1952. Also remaining the same is the tax rate on intangible personal property which will be 40 cents per \$100 valuation.

From the assessment figures

\$629,691.60 is the amount of tax to be collected in West Warwick which is \$10,821.48 more than last year.

Biggest increase in assessment is the assessed value of buildings and improvements, \$17,939,683, which is \$610,385 more than last year.

The total assessed value of the property in the town is \$30,572,509, \$543,236 more than it was last year. Also higher is the amount of tax exemption including \$1,480,919 on real estate and tangible personal property and \$1,000 on intangible personal property. The tax exemption is \$71,925 more than last year.

### Some Decreases

The 1952 report of the tax assessors released over the signature of Hermenegilde J. Nadeau, chairman also shows decreases in some assessments. They include \$51,880 less assessed value on tangible personal property and \$11,296 less assessed value on intangible personal property.

The complete summary of the

1952 report follows: assessed value of land, \$3,913,272., which is \$3,973 less than last year; assessed value of buildings and improvements, \$17,939,685., which is \$610,385 more than 1951; assessed value of tangible personal property, \$7,375,060, which is \$51,880 less than in 1951; assessed value of intangible personal property, \$1,344,494., which is \$11,296 less than 1951.

Also, total assessed value of land, buildings and improvements, tangible personal property and intangible personal property, \$30,572,509., which is \$543,236 more than 1951. The amount of exemption under Chapter 1867 of the Public Laws on real estate and tangible personal property is \$1,480,919 and the exemption on intangible personal property is \$1,000. Together they total \$1,481,919 exemption which is \$71,925 more than 1951.

The total assessed value of real estate and personal property less the amount of exemption is \$29,090,590.



June 16, 1952  
**Quonset Theft  
 Case Argued**

PROV. BULLETIN  
 Counsel for Two  
 Suspects Question  
 U.S. Jurisdiction

Counsel for two West Warwick men who are charged with committing the \$100,000 holdup of the Quonset Point Credit Union argued before Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court today that the government is without jurisdiction to prosecute them.

Michael DeCiantis, attorney for Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, made the argument on a motion to dismiss the four-count indictment. Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. district attorney, took a contrary position.

Judge Leahy, at the conclusion of arguments, took the matter under advisement and continued the hearing until 9:30 tomorrow morning. He said he wanted to examine the statutes cited by the lawyers.

**Law Argued**

DeCiantis maintained that in acquiring 615 acres by condemnation and 244 by grant from the state, the government did not receive criminal jurisdiction over the property.

State law, he claimed, gives consent to the government for purchases of land but does not do so in regard to land condemned. By condemning land the government acquired right, title and possession and nothing more, he argued.

Furthermore, the defense counsel contended, state law provides a specific method by which the government can condemn land for fortifications and other purposes through action in the Superior Court. The land condemnations were effected through federal court machinery.

**Private Business**

As to the 24 acres ceded by the state to the government, DeCiantis held they were deeded exclusively for the purpose of establishing a naval base. The state never gave its consent to allowing private business on that property, he said, adding that the credit union is a private business which has no right on the land.

**Federal Contention**

Breen argued that under state statutes the government did acquire criminal jurisdiction over all land comprising the naval air station.

Furthermore, he said, the crimes with which the defendants are charged allegedly were committed on the land ceded by the state, which conferred jurisdiction as well as title without restriction.

Breen pointed out also that under a special act of Congress the secretary of the Navy formally accepted jurisdiction.

The credit union, he said, operated in accordance with naval regulations and was necessary to the personnel of the station.

**DECISION ON ABATEMENT  
 PLEA SET FOR TOMORROW**

P. V. TIMES JUNE 16, 1952  
 Judge Leahy Reserves Verdict 24 Hours in  
 Hildebrandt-La Plante Case in U. S. Court.  
 DeCiantis Argues "No Jurisdiction."  
 Breen Says "Yes".

Judge Edward J. Leahy reserved decision until tomorrow morning at 9:30 in the plea for abatement in the case in Federal Court today in Providence against Howard Hildebrandt and Robert LaPlante, both of Crompton, charged with \$100,000 robbery at the Quonset Point Credit Union. The plea had been filed by Michael DeCiantis, counsel for Hildebrandt and LaPlante.

DeCiantis maintained the United States Government held no jurisdiction in the case because the State of Rhode Island gave title to the land at Quonset to the Govern-

ment to operate a U.S. Naval Base only, and not for a privately operated credit union.

U. S. District Attorney Joseph L. Breen said that when the United States Government took over title at Quonset Point it secured jurisdiction over all activities that might be set up at the base.

Hildebrandt and LaPlante were not in the courtroom today. They are slated to be on hand tomorrow.

In attendance today were Mrs. Hildebrandt and her brother-in-law, Walter Hildebrandt, and LaPlante's brother, Andre.

**JUDGE DEFERS  
 HIS DECISION**

P. V. TIMES JUNE 17, 1952  
 Again Postpones Verdict  
 on Jurisdiction Issue  
 in Quonset Theft Case

Possibility that the United States Federal Court has no jurisdiction in the indictments of Howard Hildebrandt and Robert R. LaPlante, defendants in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup last Mar. 7, still stands. At federal court, Providence, this morning, Judge Edward L. Leahy said that the situation, caused by the four-point plea of abatement filed by Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the defendants, is such a one that the court has not had sufficient time to pass upon the motion of DeCiantis, which motion calls for dismissal. "For that reason the decision is continued to next Monday morning at 10," the judge said.

Yesterday, at the court, Judge Leahy heard an explanation of the pleas of abatement filed by DeCiantis and he told DeCiantis he would give his decision this morning.

Attending the court session this morning was Hildebrandt's wife, Mildred, of 86½ Church Street, Crompton, and brother, Walter, and LaPlante's brother, Andre. The defendants themselves were in the building but did not make

an appearance in the courtroom.

DeCiantis told the court yesterday that the United States Naval Air Station, located at Quonset Point, R.I., was constructed on land partly acquired by the United States government by eminent domain but by eminent domain did not acquire criminal jurisdiction by acquiring title to land only for a specific purpose, to establish an air base.

**"Did Not Relinquish"**

DeCiantis said that when the State of Rhode Island granted additional land to the United States of America, located at Quonset Point, it did not relinquish the state's authority, jurisdiction or other sovereign powers.

U.S. Assistant District Attorney Joseph L. Breen took a contrary position to DeCiantis' motion to dismiss the four-count indictment.

DeCiantis also told the court yesterday that the condemnation proceedings for the 615 acres were filed by the federal government in July of 1940. Rhode Island, he continued, by the public laws of 1939 through the legislature, gave title to the United States with the condition that if the land was abandoned it would revert back to the state.

Breen argues that the crimes with which the defendants are charged allegedly were committed on the land ceded by the state, which conferred without jurisdiction as well as title without restriction.

Prov. Bulletin  
**Hildebrandt Lists  
 Debts of \$8760  
 In Assignment**

June 21, 1952  
 Howard Hildebrandt of Church Avenue, West Warwick, one of the two men charged with the \$100,000 holdup last March, has listed debts of \$8760 in an assignment for the benefit of creditors filed in Kent County Superior Court, East Greenwich.

He listed his assets as fixtures and contents in his gun shop at \$12,000 and whatever right and titles he has in a 1952 convertible at \$1000. The biggest debt he listed is \$2300 owed to the Metropolitan Distributing Co. of Albany, gun dealers.

**Quonset Holdup  
 Ruling Deferred**

PROV. JOURNAL  
 Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court yesterday, deferred at least until Monday a ruling on a defense motion to dismiss an indictment against two West Warwick men accused of the \$100,000 holdup of the Quonset Point Credit Union.

Michael De Ciantis, attorney for Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, argued Monday that the government is without jurisdiction to prosecute them. Joseph L. Breen, assistant U.S. district attorney, opposed the motion.

At the conclusion of arguments Judge Leahy continued the hearing until yesterday. Yesterday he said that the nature of the questions raised are such that he has not had sufficient time to pass upon them.

Prov. Journal June 19, 1952  
**W. Warwick Firemen Form Union  
 With Town, R.I. Officials' Blessing**

West Warwick firemen last night organized Local 1104, International Association of Firefighters, AFL, at a dinner meeting in the Valley Country Club on Ledgemont, marked by congratulatory speeches by town officials, state labor leaders and representatives of other firemen's unions.

Edward Kelley of Station 2, Lippitt, was seated as president by Joseph C. Lehan of Somerville, Mass., an international vice president of the association.

Lehan also initiated all members of the town's permanent fire force, organized four-and-a-half years ago to replace five fire districts.

Fire Chief Lionel P. Gareau, who was host at the dinner, joined the union.

Outlining the union's aims to increase firemen's job security, improve working conditions and pool professional information, Lehan said that Rhode Island is one of a few states lacking a pension plan covering retirement and disability for police and firemen. Urging that a plan be adopted soon, he advocated that fire insurance companies, which benefit from firemen's work, contribute to the pension plan.

Lehan emphasized that the association's constitution stipulates

that firemen, as municipal employees, shall not strike or participate in a sympathy strike.

The union received the blessing of several town officers. Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault was toastmaster. Sen. Dion Archambault and Rep. Thaddeus Kraus promised they will continue to do all they can to secure a firemen's pension plan.

Recalling the difficulties of union organization years ago, particularly in the Pawtuxet Valley textile industry, Arthur W. Devine, president of the State Federation of Labor, said it was refreshing to see Chief Gareau playing host to the men, instead of urging they be fired.

Devine declared that, although politicians might be the firemen's friends today, others might not be in the future necessitating a strong organization.



# HILDEBRANDT, LAPLANTE GO ON TRIAL TOMORROW

P.V. TIMES JUNE 23, 1952

Judge Leahy Dismisses Defense Attorney De  
Ciantis' Four-Point Plea for Abatement  
Which Claimed U.S. Has No Jurisdiction.

The federal government's case against Howard Hildebrandt, 26, and Robert R. Laplante, 27, both of West Warwick, whom they charge with the \$100,000 robbery of the Quonset Point Credit Union last March 7th will go to trial tomorrow morning at 9.

At the federal court this morning in Providence, Judge Edward L. Leahy, dismissed defense attorney Michael DeCiantis' four point plea of abatement of the four indictments. In his opinion he said that when the U. S. Government took over the two parcels of land for the Quonset Point Naval Air Station they acquired the right of jurisdiction and that the credit union was an advisable

and necessary part of the base. DeCiantis had previously entered pleas of not guilty for the two defendants. No appeal of the judge's ruling this morning based on the defending attorney's plea that the U. S. Government had no jurisdiction over a private enterprise on condemned land being used for a naval base can be made until the trial which starts tomorrow morning is ended.

After dismissing the motion of the defense, Judge Leahy asked both Assistant U. S. District Attorney Joseph Breen and DeCiantis if they were ready for an immediate trial. Breen said yes. When DeCiantis said he thought he was also ready the judge called the conference and the date was set for tomorrow morning at 9.

Hildebrandt has filed an assignment for the benefit of creditors in Kent County Superior Court, listing debts at \$8760 and assets at \$12,000 for the contents and fixtures of his enterprise "The Gun Cabinet" and \$1,000 for his equity in a 1952 convertible automobile.

The biggest listed debt is \$2300 owed to the Metropolitan Distributing Co., of Albany, gun dealers.

## Quonset Holdup Pleas Rejected

June 24, 1952

PROV. EVEN. BULLETIN

Defense pleas that United States District Court has no jurisdiction to prosecute two West Warwick men charged with robbing the Quonset Point Credit Union of \$100,000 were denied yesterday by Judge Edward L. Leahy.

Judge Leahy set the two cases down for 9 a.m. today at which time it is expected either new pleas will be entered or date set for trial.

Michael DeCiantis, attorney for Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street and Robert R. Laplante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, had asked for dismissal of the four count indictments in arguments before Judge Leahy last week.

Judge Leahy ruled that the United States, in taking exclusive jurisdiction over the area from the state, acquired the right of legislation over it. Whether the land was acquired by condemnation or purchase does not alter this right, he continued.

# Two Get 20 Years For \$100,000 Holdup at Quonset

PROV. EVEN. BULL.  
JUNE 24, 1952

## Hildebrandt, La Plante Plead Guilty

Howard Hildebrandt and Robert R. LaPlante of West Warwick were sentenced today to 20 years in federal prison for the \$100,000 Quonset Point holdup.

Howard Hildebrandt, 26, of 86½ Church Street and Robert R. Laplante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, both of West Warwick, pleaded guilty this morning in U.S. District Court to two of four charges against them for the \$100,000 holdup of the Quonset Point Credit Union on Mar. 7.

At the same time, U.S. District Attorney George F. Troy asked that the third and fourth indictments charging both men with stealing U.S. property—the Quonset civilian guard's gun and theft of the get-away car—be dismissed.

### State's Biggest

In his statement to Judge Edward L. Leahy, Troy called the holdup "the biggest robbery in Rhode Island history. He said that LaPlante and Hildebrandt studied and gained intimate knowledge of the credit union which they held up.

Both men, formerly employed as civilian workers at Quonset Point Naval Air Station, held up the manager of the credit union, Michael Lynch, and a civilian guard, Thomas Smith, as they were entering the credit union on Mar. 7. They wore rubber Halloween masks and made their get-away in a stolen car belonging to Lowell Z. Yoder of 88 John Street, Pawtucket, another Quonset employe.

Hildebrandt was subsequently arrested in New York and LaPlante was arrested here on May 21. A four-count grand jury indictment was presented on June 4. Both men pleaded innocent of all four charges.

### Sudden Move

The sudden move today by Michael DeCiantis, attorney for the two, to enter guilty pleas to the charges of conspiracy and robbery, followed a denial yesterday of a defense motion that the United States District Court had no jurisdiction to prosecute the two men.

A handful of spectators were in court, among them Hildebrandt's pretty wife, Helen; his brother, Walter, and sister-in-law, and LaPlante's brother, Armand LaPlante.

# HILDEBRANDT, LAPLANTE GET TWENTY YEARS

P.V. TIMES JUNE 24, 1952

## Valley Young Men Plead Guilty to \$100,000 Theft

Howard Hildebrandt, 26, and Robert R. Laplante, 27, both of West Warwick, were sentenced to 20 years each in a federal penitentiary by Judge Edward L. Leahy at Federal Court, Providence, this morning, for the \$100,000 holdup of the Quonset Point Credit Union last Mar. 7th.

Defense Attorney Michael DeCiantis, whom the judge said made an intelligent representation and performed exemplary in his profession, was successful in having two of the four indictments dismissed. The maximum penalty under the four indictments would have been 40 years in prison.

The sentence was five years on their plea of guilty to conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States and 15 years on their plea of guilty to robbery by force of \$100,000. The dismissed indictments were theft of a naval revolver and larceny of an automobile.

In passing sentence Judge Leahy commented: "Fortunately for you men that the charge is robbery. You are fortunate you are not here on a murder charge and facing a death sentence. I am not sentencing you to prison, you did

sentence yourselves for your acts.

### Asked About Rest of Money

When asked by Judge Leahy if the defendants could tell where the remainder of the money was, Laplante spoke and said "everything I said is the truth. The only reason we can't find the rest of the money is because it is in a swamp in unfamiliar territory and it is covered with foliage now. I can identify the area. If I had intended to keep any of the money, I wouldn't have told them where it was. I didn't identify the place with marks, I just wanted to get rid of it." After the sentence, Hildebrandt asked to speak but the session was over, and the court said it would be out of order.

Hildebrandt dressed in a tan suit, tan shirt, tan and red colored tie and brown shoes, and Laplante, dressed in a brown suit, white shirt, polka-dot tie and brown shoes, both took the sentence without any sign of emotion. Laplante's eyes filled as he was telling the judge about the location of the money.

Hildebrandt's wife, Mildred, dressed in a beige suit, white blouse, white gloves and shoes and wearing a yellow hat, held a handkerchief to her face as the judge was pronouncing sentence. She made no outburst.

### Report on Loot Given

Of the \$100,000 loot the money reportedly was split, recovered and missing as follows: split—Hildebrandt, \$50,500; Laplante, \$49,500; missing—\$63,581.54 of which \$44,000 was reported to Laplante and \$19,581.54 to Hildebrandt; recovered—\$36,418.46; recovered from Hildebrandt, \$30,908.46; Laplante, \$5,510.



# LaPlante Avers He Can't Find Cache in Swamp

PROV. BULLETIN

## Both Men Change Pleas To Guilty in \$100,000 Credit Union Robbery

Two West Warwick men who staged the biggest cash robbery in Rhode Island history were sentenced to 20 years each yesterday for their part in the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup — and it appeared that nearly half their loot may remain buried forever in some South County swamp.

Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court imposed the 20-year sentences on Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue. They withdrew innocent pleas to a four-count grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob and robbery of \$100,000.

But when Judge Leahy asked whether either man had anything to say about the approximately \$45,000 still missing, LaPlante said he told the truth when he said he couldn't find the money because he was "unfamiliar with the location" of the cache, even though he had buried it.

### Couldn't Locate Spot

"We searched the right area," LaPlante said, "but I can't locate the exact spot," explaining it was swampy land.

FBI headquarters in Boston said later that the two men had split the money equally. When arrested in New York, Hildebrandt said he had spent \$20,000. The rest of his \$50,000 share was recovered by searchers from the Pawtucket River, a pond and in his home.

Only \$5000 of LaPlante's share was found, and that was dug up in a lot buried in the driveway of his home. Inside his home, \$320 in \$20 bills was also found, but was not seized by the FBI.

The FBI said it had "completely explored" the areas where LaPlante said he hid his share "without finding the money" and planned no further searches now.

"But if new information comes our way we will certainly continue to look for the money," an FBI spokesman said.

### Some Indictments Dismissed

When the two men were brought before Judge Leahy, they pleaded guilty to all four charges brought against them, but the judge, on the recommendation of U.S. District Attorney George F. Troy, dismissed indictments charging them with robbery of U.S. property, a gun belonging to the civilian guard at Quonset, and theft of an \$1800 sedan, in which they fled the holdup scene.

On the charge of conspiracy to rob the credit union, both were given the maximum sentence of five years, and on the charge of robbery of \$100,000 both got the maximum sentence of 15 years.

Troy asked for the sentence, and later Michael DeCiantis, defense attorney, in a plea for leniency, accused Troy's office of "bad judgment" in breaking a promise he said the FBI made the men to recommend a lighter sentence if guilty pleas were entered.

He said both men felt "they never could be convicted," and he was "saddened and chagrined" by Troy's request for maximum sentence.

Hildebrandt and LaPlante, their attorney said, "lost their equilibrium" and staged their specta-

lar holdup because of a "prolonged adolescent attitude toward life."

This, he said, was borne out by the fact that even professional criminals did not dare attempt a holdup in the "arsenal" of Quonset Point Naval Air Station. DeCiantis called the robbery "even more daring than the Brink's robbery. Only a fool would do a thing of this kind."

He said Hildebrandt and LaPlante had told him, "A lot of people thought of doing what we did. The only difference is that we did it."

### No More "Cops and Robbers"

DeCiantis called the men "just kids" who were "playing cowboy." He said they realized the seriousness of the crime and "have now found out that they were not playing cops and robbers any more."

DeCiantis questioned a statement by Troy that Hildebrandt had gone to New York to visit a nightclub singer in whose company he was arrested. At this Mrs. Hildebrandt, sitting in a rear seat, buried her face in her hands and sobbed. DeCiantis said Hildebrandt knew he was being trailed by the FBI when he went to New York, but said he went in order "to relax."

He said that in view of their cooperation in helping to recover the holdup money they were "entitled to some consideration."

Before passing sentence, Judge Leahy told the men that it was fortunate "it was only money you stole, or you might be here this morning, pleading guilty to the charge of murder."

### 'Sentenced Selves'

The judge said he was sorry for the men and their families, but that they should have thought of them before they committed crime.

"I am not sentencing you for this crime; you sentenced yourselves," Judge Leahy said. He said he did not wish to be vindictive and impose punishment solely for the purpose of punishment, "but in the hope that the sentence will discipline your future conduct."

After passing sentence, Judge Leahy said he joined with Troy in paying tribute to the FBI, West Warwick and Coventry police for solving the robbery. He complimented DeCiantis on his defense of the pair.

### Attempts to Address Court

After sentence was pronounced, Hildebrandt attempted to address the court.

"I have something to say. . . ." he began, but was escorted from the courtroom by two deputy mar-

shals before he could finish what he planned to say.

Asked later whether he knew Hildebrandt had tried to address the court, Judge Leahy said he "observed the man make a motion as though he were going to say something, but I didn't hear anything."

The judge said he "understood" later that Hildebrandt had tried to speak, but added, "If he'd spoken up I would have heard him."

In reply to a question as to whether Hildebrandt would be brought back to court to say what he had in mind, Judge Leahy replied, "No, the case is closed."

He went on to say that Hildebrandt could file a motion through legal channels if he thought his sentencing was incorrect.

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Hildebrandt was subsequently arrested in New York and LaPlante was arrested here on May 21. A four-count grand jury indictment was returned on June 4. Both men pleaded innocent of all four charges.

A handful of spectators were in court, among them Hildebrandt's pretty wife, Helen; his brother, Walter, and sister-in-law, and LaPlante's brother, Armand LaPlante.

Hildebrandt showed no nervousness when they were brought before Judge Leahy, but LaPlante rubbed his hands together. Both men are veterans and fathers, Hildebrandt of two children and LaPlante of one.

PRINTED JULY, 1952

FIGHT TO GET WATER USERS REBATE OF \$88,628

# WE LIKE MIKE!

For, Single handed, keeping  
the H<sup>2</sup>O rates down,  
and his other good deeds  
beneficial to the town.

But we don't like the rest of  
his party for reciprocating  
our support by not giving us  
any printing in four years.

## The Maynard Press

West Warwick, Rhode Island



# 2 Quonset Bandits Get 20 Years, \$45,000 of Loot Still Is Missing

## \$45,000 Lost PROV. EVEN. In Swamp BULL. JUNE 25, 1952 La Plante, Hildebrandt Change Pleas to Guilty Of Credit Union Robbery

Two West Warwick men who staged the biggest cash robbery in Rhode Island history were sentenced to 20 years each yesterday for their part in the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup — and it appeared that nearly half their loot may remain buried forever in some South County swamp.

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But when Judge Leahy asked whether either man had anything to say about the approximately \$45,000 still missing, LaPlante said he told the truth when he said he couldn't find the money because he was "unfamiliar with the location" of the cache, even though he had buried it.

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**Water Bill  
Refunds Will  
Go to 3,700**  
PV TIMES JULY 8, 1952  
De Ciantis, Advisor  
for Council, Says  
Total \$88,628

Michael DeCiantis, legal advisor to West Warwick Town Council in the controversial water rate hike attempted by Kent County Water Authority said this morning that the checks for overpayment should be received by customers within the next two weeks.

There are 3700 customers of the Kent County Water Authority who paid the increased and unallowed rate hike who will receive checks in the \$88,628 overpayment.

DeCiantis said he checked on the return of the money to the customers on June 13, with Edmund Bennett, trust officer of the Industrial Trust Co. Bank, Providence, and fiscal agent for the water authority.

At that time, DeCiantis said, Bennett said the money was to be refunded when the bills were sent out, and when "I told him I didn't think it was the right thing to do and he should send out the checks in accordance with the decree of the Supreme Court, he agreed to do so."

Bennett when in agreement with DeCiantis in method of refunding the customers their money, said it would take about five weeks including two weeks to have the checks printed and another two weeks to have them made out for mailing, DeCiantis said. That was June 13, over three weeks ago.

## 3700 Water Users To Get Refunds

PROV. JOURNAL 7/9/52  
Some 3700 Kent County Water Authority customers, due refunds as a result of a state Supreme Court decision that the authority charged higher rates illegally, should be getting their money back within two weeks, Michael DeCiantis, special counsel for West Warwick in the water rate case, said yesterday.

Refunds totaling \$88,628.19 will be paid directly by the Industrial Trust Co., which has held the money paid by customers in excess of former, lower rates in a special fund by court order.



PV TIMES 7/15/52

## Village Cafe Hearing Set for July 21

Postponed by Coventry Council at Request of Lawyer

At request of attorney Michael DeCiantis, who said he entered the case for the defendant "only today," Coventry Town Council last night continued to a special meeting Monday evening the hearing on the complaint of the police department against the Village Cafe, Washington Street, Quidnick, that beer was allegedly served to minors. A letter of protest was received from the Washington Branch of the WCTU.

## THE EVENING BULLETIN

JULY 15, 1952

## Quidnick Cafe Hearing Put Off Until Monday

Council President Calls Special Meeting To Air Liquor Charges in Coventry

The expected hearing of the complaint against the Village Cafe, Washington Street, Quidnick, at last night's meeting of the Coventry Town Council was postponed until Monday at 8 p.m.

A special public hearing will then decide on the course of action as the result of a recent raid by Coventry and state police during which it was found that the cafe was allegedly serving beer to minors.

Michael DiCiantis, representing Mrs. Genevieve Routhier, licensee, asked for the extension in order to study the case more fully. The special meeting was then ordered by William C. Fecteau Jr., council president, and Mrs. Routhier, DeCiantis, and Police Chief Shippee were notified to appear.

In connection with this case, Fecteau later read a letter from the Washington Branch, WCTU, protesting the serving of liquor in Coventry.

The actual complaint against the Village Cafe was not heard last night. As Chief Shippee prepared to read his statement, Fecteau asked if Mrs. Routhier was present. It was then that DiCiantis, a West Warwick attorney rose, and said that he had taken the case that day and asked for a later hearing.

This is the case which Charles H. Anderson, Republican town chairman, has said that his group is watching with interest because of the proximity of the cafe to Anthony Grange Hall, where weekly meetings of the Coventry Teen-Age Canteen are held. All council members are Democrats.

Councilman Stanley Malinkowski, a part-time bartender of the cafe, reaffirmed his intention of disqualifying himself from the hearing. He had previously said that he was not in the cafe the night of the raid and has never served a minor.

## Coventry Council Puts Off Hearing On Quidnick Cafe Until Monday

PROV. JOURNAL JULY 15, 1952  
The expected hearing of the complaint against the Village Cafe, Washington Street, Quidnick, at last night's meeting of the Coventry

A special public hearing will then decide on the course of action as the result of a recent raid by Coventry and state police during which it was found that the cafe was allegedly serving beer to minors.

Michael DiCiantis, representing Mrs. Genevieve Routhier, licensee, asked for the extension in order to study the case more fully. The special meeting was then ordered by William C. Fecteau Jr., council president, and Mrs. Routhier, DeCiantis, and Police Chief Shippee were notified to appear.

In connection with this case, Fecteau later read a letter from the Washington Branch, WCTU, protesting the serving of liquor in Coventry.

# ASKING REDUCTION OF 20-YEAR TERMS GIVEN VALLEY MEN

P.V. TIMES

July 16,

1952

## De Ciantis Files Petitions in Behalf of Hildebrandt, LaPlante in Federal Court

Two petitions were presented in the United States District Court, Providence, today, requesting reduction of the 20-year prison sentences handed Howard Hildebrandt and Robert R. LaPlante, both of West Warwick, who confessed to the \$100,000 robbery of Quonset Point Credit Union on Mar. 7.

The motion to reduce sentence, charges that the defendants confessed to the robbery and forfeited their constitutional right to trial because they were promised by the FBI that upon confession they would be charged only with the armed robbery and that leniency would be recommended to the court.

Presented by DeCiantis

Presented by Michael DeCiantis, their attorney, the petitions each contain five motions to reduce the sentences imposed on June 24, on the two counts in the indictments returned by the grand jury on June 4. The defendants received sentences of five years on the first count, conspiracy to rob, and 15 years on the second count, armed robbery. Both sentences included the maximum number of years. Since the judgment, Hildebrandt and LaPlante have been confined at the State Prison, Howard.

The motions, identical in both petitions, follow:

1. "That the confession made by said defendant was involuntary;
2. "That the said confession was obtained by the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation having authority over him, upon

a promise that the defendant would be charged only with armed robbery;

3. "That the confession was obtained by the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation upon a promise that leniency would be recommended to the court.

"Relying Upon Promises"  
4. "That the defendant, relying upon the promises made by the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, entered a plea of guilty.

5. "That upon entering a plea of guilty and the public statement made by the district attorney with respect to the admission of guilt by the defendant, the defendant was without that protection which the law and the United States Constitution affords in criminal cases."

The petitions contain affidavits and both tell of the arrests of the defendants by the FBI and their discussions with the government agents concerning sentences based on confessions up to the time of trial. Both are nearly identical in wording and the affidavit of LaPlante follows:

Affidavit

"I, Robert R. LaPlante, of West Warwick, Rhode Island, on oath depose and say that I was arrested as a suspect in the Quonset Point, Rhode Island robbery by the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I was taken to the headquarters in the Federal Building in Providence, Rhode Island and questioned, but I refused to inform the officials of my part in the robbery. I was later arraigned and committed to the State's Prison for want of bail and during that time until about the first week in June, 1952, I refused to talk. During my confinement in the State's Prison and after the indictment had been returned, I wrote to my attorney on the 26th day of May, 1952, in which I stated:

"Dear Mr. DeCiantis,  
Please advise the FBI that I would like to talk to them.

Robert R. LaPlante."  
"As a result of this letter, my attorney, Michael DeCiantis, came to visit me with an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time I told him that I had about Five Thousand (\$5000) Dollars in a jar buried in the drive-way in the rear of my house. I told the agent a story that there were two other men implicated in the robbery which was not the truth. The agent told me that he did not believe me and that it was better for me to tell the truth and that if I cooperated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation my co-operation would be considered when the case came up for hearing, but I refused to tell the full story.

Says Leniency Considered  
"About the first week in June, 1952, I was asked by the agents if I would confront and talk to Howard Hildebrandt. I agreed. As a result, I was called out from the cell and was escorted to the consultation room on the second floor of the State's Prison. When I reached there I found Howard

and two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We then began to discuss the case and one of the agents told Howard to tell me what he, Howard, had been promised. Howard then told me that the agents had promised him that only one charge of robbery would be brought against him and leniency would be recommended when the case came up for hearing. I then asked the agents what charges would be brought against me and I was told by the agents that one charge of robbery would be brought and that leniency would be recommended when the case came up for hearing if I talked. The agents then left the room and Howard and I were left alone. We discussed the whole matter and finally I agreed to confess, but not until I saw my parents. Howard then called in the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents

and told them what I was going to do and as a result, my mother and father came in to see me and I informed them what my intentions were. As a result of the promise made to me, I made a full confession of the robbery.

"The agents told me that they would later return to take a written statement and that Howard and I would be brought together again to make sure that the statements would be full in every detail. I never saw Howard again until we were brought up in court to be sentenced. Shortly thereafter, the agents returned with a male stenographer and obtained a full story from me and promised to have me sign same, but they never returned. I know that the Federal Bureau of Investigation did not have a case against me and only because of the promise made me did I confess which promise was broken.

"Maximum Asked"  
"I had every reason to believe that the promise which was made to me by the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation would be carried out and the recommendation would be brought to the attention of the court. On the date that we were sentenced and the District Attorney asked the court to impose a maximum sentence upon me, I was stunned.

"Had there been no promise made, I would have taken advantage of my constitutional right: gone to trial, and make the government prove its case. I would never have pleaded guilty.

"Because of these facts I have requested my attorney, Michael DeCiantis, to appeal to the court to hear my case in person and consider a reduction of the sentence."



## Quonset Gunmen Seek Reduction in Sentence

PROV. EVEN. BULLETIN July 16, 1952

The two men who executed the \$100,000 holdup of the Quonset Credit Union today petitioned the U.S. District Court for reduction of the 20-year sentences imposed upon them June 24.

Through counsel, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, both of West Warwick, filed motions for reduction of sentence.

They alleged that promises made to them by the FBI when they confessed had not been kept. Specifically, they contended they had been assured they would be charged only with robbery and that leniency would be recommended to the court if they confessed.

### Now in State Prison

The two men, who are in State Prison awaiting transfer to a federal penitentiary, pleaded guilty to four counts of an indictment; conspiracy to rob, robbery, theft of a gun belonging to a civilian guard and theft of an automobile in which they made their getaway.

Before imposition of sentence, George F. Troy, then U.S. attorney, dismissed the theft counts and the defendants were given the maximum five-year sentence on the conspiracy allegation and the maximum 15-year sentence for robbery. Troy asked for the limit.

Attached to the motions, filed by Michael DeCiantis, defense counsel, were affidavits of the two prisoners detailing what they claimed to be the true circumstances surrounding the confessions and the subsequent pleas before the court.

In his, Hildebrandt averred the

FBI promised that if he talked he would be charged only with robbery and that leniency would be recommended. He said he did not implicate LaPlante in his statement.

### Restrained by Marshal

Later, he maintained, he agreed to talk to LaPlante at the request of the FBI and did so at the prison, where he said LaPlante was told he would receive the same consideration.

Had he not been given the promises, Hildebrandt said, he would have gone to trial and made the government prove its case.

After being sentenced, Hildebrandt stated, he attempted to tell the court what he set forth in his affidavit, but was restrained from doing so by a U.S. marshal.

LaPlante, in his affidavit, related how he had informed the FBI at the prison of \$5000 buried in a jar in the driveway of his home, but that he refused to tell the full story, insisting that two other men also were involved in the robbery.

Later, he said he was asked by FBI agents if he would talk to Hildebrandt. He did so and also allegedly was promised only the charge of robbery would be lodged against him and that leniency would be recommended, if he talked. As a result, LaPlante said he made a full confession.

The prisoner contends that FBI did not have a case against him and only because of the promise did he confess.

Had no promise been made he would have taken advantage of his constitutional rights and gone to trial, he declared.

## Cafe Hearing is on Docket

P.V. TIMES July 21, 1952  
For Coventry Town Council at Meeting Tonight

The Coventry Town Council is expected to act on two matters at a special meeting tonight, one involving an alleged Class B liquor license violation and the other an odor complaint.

The license case is being preferred by Coventry Police Department against the Village Cafe on Washington Street, Quidnick, in which it is charged minors were served beer in the establishment. The case is being observed closely by Charles H. Anderson, chairman of the Coventry Republican Town Committee, who recently expressed concern over the incident because of the cafe's proximity to Anthony Grange Hall, meeting site for the Coventry Teeners Canteen.

The second matter on the council docket involves a complaint by residents of Hopkins Hill Road, Washington, who charged in an appearance before the council July 14 that pollution from filter beds at the Linwood Lace Works is creating an odor nuisance.

Both issues were tabled at the July 14 council session for action at tonight's special meeting.

Attorney Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick is counsel for the Village Cafe.

PROV. EVEN. BULL.  
Kent County Water

## Rate Hike Hearing Stated for July 31

A hearing on the application by the Kent County Water Authority for higher rates will take place in Room 401 of the Old Industrial Trust Building, Providence, at 10 a.m. July 31, state public utilities administrator Thomas A. Kennelly announced today.

Higher rates than the water concern had put into effect last year were cancelled this spring when the General Assembly passed a law giving the state clear jurisdiction over the company's rates.

## Powers Will Ask for Jail Terms For Polluted Area Shellfishing

July 18, 1952

Discloses Stand After Aide Urges Fine for Man Court Said Would Get Prison for Next Offense

Attorney General William E. Powers last night said he will notify every member of his department today that in cases involving the taking of shellfish from polluted waters "the department will move for a jail sentence."

Powers made the declaration after Ovila Lambert, a special counsel for the attorney general's department, had recommended a fine in place of a jail sentence in connection with such a case in Fourth District Court.

Roland A. Brown, 36, of 37 Wine Street, East Greenwich, who was before the court yesterday, had been told when he appeared earlier before Judge James W. Leighton on a similar charge that, "The next man brought before me on this charge and proven guilty is going to jail. You can pass the word along."

But yesterday, Acting Judge Russell H. Hawkins, sitting for Judge Leighton, fined Brown \$50 and costs on his no contest plea to a charge of shellfishing in polluted waters, his third such offense, and discontinued on payment of costs a charge of using a boat to obtain quahaugs between sunset and sunrise.

Powers last night said of such violations:

"Judge Leighton has every right to be tired and I am as tired as he is. There will be no more fines recommended by my department. Judge Leighton's position is thoroughly understandable and will receive our co-operation. No one in my department will recommend fines. We will move for jail sentences."

In yesterday's case, the court said it was taking into consideration the defendant's statement that he was going to quit shellfishing. Brown was apprehended early in June fishing in East Greenwich Cove. At a previous arraignment, he had pleaded innocent to both charges.

Michael DeCiantis, attorney for Brown, said the warrant charging his client with fishing in polluted waters was invalid since it was brought by a deputy of the fish and game department rather than by an agent of the state health department.

He said a recent amendment to the public laws directs health department officials to bring such warrants and the law makes no provision for any other authority to act for the department.

## 2 Gunmen Seek Sentence Cuts

PROV. JOURNAL

Promise of Leniency Cited by Pair in

Quonset Base Holdup July 17, 1952

Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 64 Cowesett Avenue, both of West Warwick, who executed the \$100,000 holdup of the Quonset Credit Union, yesterday filed motions for reduction of their 20-year sentences.

The two men, now in state prison awaiting transfer to a federal penitentiary, pleaded guilty to four counts of an indictment charging conspiracy to rob, robbery, theft of a gun belonging to a civilian guard and larceny of an auto in which they made their getaway.

In their motion, filed by counsel, they argue that they were promised that leniency would be recommended if they made full confessions, and that if they had not received these promises they would have gone to trial and made the government prove its charges.

PROV. JOURNAL July 22, 1952

## Cafe at Quidnick Gets 30-Day Suspension

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

The Coventry Town Council at a special meeting last night imposed a 30-day suspension on the Village Cafe, Washington Street, Quidnick, after a hearing was waived by the licensee, Mrs. Genevieve Routhier, through her counsel, Michael DeCiantis.

William C. Fecteau Jr., council president announced the group's decision to suspend both liquor and victualing licenses after hearing a plea for a short suspension because of mitigating circumstances in the case. The suspension took effect as of 1 o'clock this morning and will continue to 1 a.m., Aug. 22.

DeCiantis surprised the three-man council, sitting without Councilman Stanley Malikowski, when he announced that he had advised Mrs. Routhier to waive the hearing originally requested last week and to leave the matter to the discretion of the town council. Malikowski, a spare bartender at the cafe, had disqualified himself from hearing the case.

"We are going to admit that some minors were served," DeCiantis said in replying to the report by Police Chief Shippee that nine minors were found drinking and playing cards in the cafe on June 19 during a raid by Coventry and state police.

### Defends Licensee

He then defended Mrs. Routhier, stating that she had no knowledge of the infraction outside of what she has read in the newspapers until notified to appear for a hearing last Monday. He asked the council to differentiate between a "licensee behind the bar" and one "who instructs the man behind the bar not to violate the law."

DeCiantis also attacked the policy of holding licensee's fully responsible in cases where minors are served liquor, saying that the law is very difficult to comply with when many boys look older than their real ages and others say that they are over 21.

"Many men are brought before the board as examples for serving minors, but in no case to my knowledge has a minor been taken in, although they have no more right to enter a bar than a man has to serve them," he said.

Another factor brought out was the proximity of the cafe to the Coventry Youth Canteen, which meets weekly in Anthony Grange Hall, and the temptation of some of the teen-aged boys to drink, creating a difficulty for a licensee.

### Cites Recent Cases

In summing up, DeCiantis noted that most recent cases of this type have resulted in suspensions of one week or less and asked the council for similar consideration.

Chief Shippee, who had a score of minor boys on hand ready to testify, if needed, admitted that the license was only in Mrs. Routhier's name while the business was run by her husband, but insisted that the licensee was responsible for actions of her agent.

He also told of notifying Mr. Routhier at the town council meeting last December that there had been complaints of serving liquor to minors at the cafe and warned him at that time.

In pronouncing the council's decision after a brief recess, Fecteau ordered Chief Shippee to pick the licenses up at 1 a.m. and also notify the licensee that if any similar complaint is lodged against the cafe in the future, the licenses will be revoked.



P. V. TIMES JULY 22 1952

# 30-DAY SUSPENSION IS GIVEN CAFE IN QUIDNICK

Village Cafe to Be Closed Until 1 A. M. on August 22nd.—Minors Were Served at Establishment on Washington St.

The Coventry Town Council, at a special meeting last night slapped a 30-day suspension against the Village Cafe of Washington Street, Quidnick, after Michael DeCiantis, counsel for the licensee, waived a hearing.

Charges that the cafe had violated the liquor laws were read by Police Chief Gareld A. Shippee, who said nine minors were

found drinking and playing cards on the premises the night of June 19.

Accompanying Shippee in the council chamber were the minors involved as well as State Police Troopers Larry Breault and Herbert Kohler, who assisted the Coventry department with the investigation.

However, none were called by the council other than Shippee, inasmuch as DeCiantis waived the right of hearing and made a plea to the council for a short suspension.

### Unaware of Offense

DeCiantis said his client, Mrs. Genevieve Routhier, owner of the license, was unaware the offense had been committed until she read the facts in the newspapers and was notified to appear before the council last Monday.

Shippee disputed this and reported the licensee's husband, who manages the cafe, was one of several license holders who had been summoned last December and given warning that violation of the liquor laws must cease.

DeCiantis asked the council to differentiate between a licensee behind the bar and one who instructs the man behind the bar not to violate the law. Shippee, however, insisted the licensee

was responsible for the actions of her agent in breaking the law.

### Only Three Members

The council, who recessed several minutes to deliberate before rendering its decision on the case, sat with only three members present, William C. Fecteau Jr., president, and Councilmen Earle E. Wood and Joseph Fontaine.

Councilman Stanley Malinkowski, who works at the Village Cafe as a spare bartender, disqualified himself from sitting on the council while the case was in progress.

### Given Warning

In announcing the 30-day suspension, Fecteau directed that the establishment be closed as of 1 a. m. this morning and to remain closed until 1 a. m. Aug. 22. He ordered Shippee to pick up both the victualling and Class B beverage licenses, and warned the licensee a similar infraction of the law will mean revocation.

In his remarks to the council, DeCiantis scored the policy of laying blame for such incidents fully at the door of liquor dealers and never on those who bring about the offense by insisting they be served despite their illegal age.

### No Minors Punished

He said he knew of no instance in the state where minors have been punished for the actions yet the licensees always are meted out stiff penalties for having broken the letter of the law.

"Many bar owners are brought in and made examples of for having served minors, yet to my knowledge no minor has been taken in although they have no more right to go into a bar than the man has to serve them," he declared.

DeCiantis said it often becomes a fine point for a bartender to decide whether or not a man who enters a bar is a minor or of legal age, and that the decision to serve him is often aggravated by threats from the customer.

### Should Sign Cards

Shippee retaliated that cafe and other liquor dealers have in their possession cards prepared for just such instances by the Retail Liquor Dealers Association, which a customer is required to sign if his legal age is doubted by the bartender on duty.

DeCiantis insisted it was a hard law to comply with, especially when many juveniles appear much older than they actually are, with many of them in uniform.

He maintained that if the law is going to be enforced, "then take some of the boys who should know better and are causing the person who is selling on the premises to violate the law, and make examples of them, too."

### Asked Short Closing

In his plea to the council in behalf of the licensee, DeCiantis said suspensions for that type of offense usually run from three to 10 days. He said he had never come across one where the time of closing had been longer than that.

He noted also that proximity of Anthony Grange Hall, used as a meeting site by the Coventry Youth Canteen, "is a bad thing for the canteen and for the licensee," and that temptation on the part of the older boys to drink creates a "bad situation for the licensee."

P. V. TIMES JULY 23, 1952

# Hearings on Motions Set for Monday

## In Regards to Reduction of Hildebrandt, LaPlante Sentences

Hearings on the motions of Howard Hildebrandt, 25, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, both of West Warwick for reduction of the 20-year sentences given them for the Quonset Point Credit Union robbery on March 7th was set yesterday for July 29 at 10 a. m. in the U. S. District Court, Providence.

The motions of Hildebrandt and LaPlante state that the FBI did not keep their promise which led to their confessions. They claim they were told they would be charged only with robbery and that leniency would be recommended to the court.

They were given the maximum sentences on two indictments, 5 years for conspiracy to rob and 15 years for the robbery.

7/25/52

### REFUND CHECKS MAILED

All but about 50 refund checks have been mailed to Kent County Water Authority customers, as a result of last month's Rhode Island Supreme Court order that overcharges on water bills be returned. Edmund Bennett, trust officer of the Industrial Trust Co., said today.

The bulk of the checks were mailed Wednesday afternoon, Bennett said, but the few remaining to be distributed are being held up while the bank attempts to find the proper addresses for the customers.

"We're trying to clear them all as soon as possible," Bennett said.

About 3700 customers are receiving refunds.

PROV. EVEN. BULL.

# Water Refund Checks Mailed In Kent County

PROV. EVEN. BULL.  
July 24, 1952  
3700 Customers Will Share \$88,628 Paid Under Higher Rates

Pawtuxet Valley Office  
15 Washington Street  
West Warwick

Telephone  
VA 1-8200  
VA 1-7067

Kent County Water Authority customers today began receiving refund checks on overcharges for water, as a result of a State Supreme Court order last month.

Refunds totalling \$88,628.19 are being paid directly by the Industrial Trust Co., which has held money paid by customers in excess of former, lower rates in a special fund by court order. Michael DeCiantis, special counsel for West Warwick in the fight against the higher rates, said he had received numerous phone calls this morning thanking him for his efforts.

About 3700 customers are scheduled to receive the refunds.

The court found that higher rates in effect from Jan. 1, 1951, to Feb. 5, 1952, were unlawful. It was on Feb. 5 that the General Assembly ordered the old, lower rates re-established and placed the authority under control of the state public utility administrator.

Pending a hearing before the utility administrator July 31 on the authority's petition for higher rates, customers are paying at the rates charged by three private water companies which the authority took over in 1950.

Not all customers are receiving refunds. Some of them refused to pay the higher rates, on advice of town officials in West Warwick.

P. V. TIMES

# Refunds on Water Bills

July 24, 1952  
First Checks for Overpayment Received by Customers

First checks for overpayment to the unallowed rate hike attempted by Kent County Water Authority were received today by some of the 3700 customers of the water authority. The overpayment ordered refunded to the customers by decree of the Supreme Court, totals \$88,628.

The refund is the result of court action instituted by Michael DeCiantis, serving as legal advisor to the West Warwick Town Council in the rate hike issue.

Next week DeCiantis will continue his battle against the higher rates at a hearing before the Public Utilities Administration, now in charge of rate schedules of the water authority. The hearing is scheduled Thursday morning in Providence at 10.



P. V. TIMES JULY 29, 1952

## Motion is Continued

### Requesting Reduction of Hildebrandt, LaPlante Sentences

Judge Edward L. Leahy at United States District Court, this morning continued to Friday morning at 10, the motion requesting reduction of the 20-year prison sentences handed Howard Hildebrandt and Robert R. LaPlante, both of West Warwick, who confessed to the \$100,000 robbery of Quonset Point Credit Union on March 7.

The motion to reduce sentence, filed by Michael DeCiantis, their attorney, charges that the defendants confessed to the robbery and forfeited their constitutional right to trial because they were promised by the FBI that upon confession they would be charged only with the armed robbery and that leniency would be recommended to the court.

PROV. EVEN. BULLETIN

## Lists Missing Bills Numbers

JULY 31, 1952

### FBI Gives Serials Of \$29,500 in Quonset Holdup Loot

The serial numbers of \$29,500 in unrecovered bills taken in the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup Mar. 7 were made public by the FBI yesterday.

After pleading guilty to the robbery, Howard Hildebrandt and Robert LaPlante, both of West Warwick, were convicted and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court here on June 24. Both men have entered pleas for reduction of their sentences, and hearings are to be held tomorrow in U.S. District Court.

At the time of sentencing, all of Hildebrandt's share of the stolen money had been recovered or accounted for, but approximately \$45,000 of LaPlante's share was missing. The FBI unsuccessfully searched a South County swamp area where LaPlante said he had buried the money and subsequently announced on June 24 that it planned no further searches until new information turned up.

The known serial numbers of the unrecovered currency, as announced yesterday by Donald S. Hostetter, special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston office, are:

\$10 Federal Reserve notes:  
A14,672,001A through A14,673,000A, amount \$10,000.  
A14,674,001A through A14,674,500A, amount \$500.  
A14,675,001A through A14,675,500A, amount \$500.  
\$5 Federal Reserve notes:  
A03,644,001A through A03,645,000A, amount \$500.  
A03,645,501A through A03,646,000A, amount \$250.  
\$1 silver certificates:  
J24,889,001F through J24,890,000F, amount \$1000.  
J24,891,001F through J24,892,000F, amount \$1000.

The FBI requested that any information concerning circularization of this money be reported immediately to its Boston office, 10 Post Office Square, or telephone Liberty 2-5533.

July 30, 1952

## Quonset Theft Case Delayed

PROV. EVEN. BULL.

### Hearing Friday on Defense Request for Reduced Sentences

Supported by affidavits of six FBI men, government motions to dismiss the defense motions for reduction of the 20-year sentence, imposed June 24 on two West Warwick men for carrying out the \$100,000 Quonset Credit Union holdup, were filed in U.S. District Court yesterday.

The defendants, through their counsel, Michael De Ciantis, seek a reduction in sentence on the grounds that promises made to them by the FBI when they confessed were not kept. They say they had been assured they would be charged only with robbery and leniency would be recommended to the court.

Denying every allegation of the defendants, the government motions contend that even if the allegations were true, the defendants would not be entitled to a reduction of sentence.

Meantime, Judge Edward L. Leahy, acting on request of the defense counsel, continued the hearing to 10 a.m. Friday. DeCiantis said he has received from Edward M. McEntee, U.S. attorney affidavits made by FBI agents but had not had a chance to let his clients examine them.

The two men, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 65 Cowesett Avenue, are in State Prison pending transfer to the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa.

The government motions will also be heard on Friday.

PROV. EVEN. BULLETIN

## Higher Water Rates Backed

7/31/52

### Engineer Says They Would Give Kent County Firm Cash for Projects

New water rates proposed by the Kent County Water Authority will yield sufficient revenue for a badly-needed \$800,000 improvement program for the system over an 8-to-10-year period.

This was testified today at a hearing in Providence before Thomas A. Kennelly, public utilities administrator, as the authority began presentation of its case for a 125 per cent rate increase.

Joseph D. Guillemette, senior engineer of Jenks & Ballou, said the firm recommended the schedule of rates that it had drawn up for the authority because the water system was inadequate in a number of ways.

P. V. TIMES JULY 31, 1952

## Serial Numbers of Missing Quonset Loot Listed by FBI

Donald S. Hostetter, special agent in charge of the Boston office of the FBI, today made known the serial numbers of \$29,500 which has not been recovered or accounted for in the solution of the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union robbery on Mar. 7.

After entering pleas of guilty to the robbery, Howard Hildebrandt, 25, and Robert LaPlante, 27, both of West Warwick, were sentenced on June 24 to 20 years imprisonment by Judge Edward L. Leahy in Federal Court, Providence. Both have entered pleas for reduction of their sentences and hearings are scheduled tomorrow morning at 10, at the Providence court.

At the time of sentence, former district attorney, George Troy, gave the following account of the \$100,000 loot which was reportedly split, recovered and is missing as follows:

Hildebrandt—\$50,500; LaPlante, \$49,500.

Missing—\$63,581.54, of which \$44,000 is credited to LaPlante and \$19,581.54 to Hildebrandt.

Recovered—\$36,418.46.  
Recovered from Hildebrandt—\$30,908.46; LaPlante—\$5500.

The FBI unsuccessfully searched a South County swamp area where LaPlante said he had buried the money, but on June 24 announced it planned no further searches until new information turned up.

The known serial numbers of the unrecovered currency are as follows:

\$10 Federal Reserve Notes  
Amount  
A14,672,001A through  
A14,673,000A ..... \$10,000.00

A14,674,001A through  
A14,674,500A ..... \$ 5,000.00  
A14,675,001A through  
A14,675,500A ..... \$ 5,000.00  
\$5.00 Federal Reserve Notes  
Amount

A03,644,001A through  
A03,645,000A ..... \$ 3,000.00  
A03,645,501A through  
A03,646,000A ..... 2,500.00  
\$1.00 Silver Certificates  
Amount

J24,889,001F through  
J24,890,000F ..... \$ 1,000.00  
J24,891,001F through  
J24,892,000F ..... 1,000.00

The FBI requested that any information concerning the circularization of this money be immediately reported to its Boston Office, 10 Post Office Square, or telephone Liberty 2-5533.

PROV. EVEN. BULLETIN

## Quonset Plea Change Asked

8/1/52

### West Warwick Men, Sentenced for Holdup, File New Request

New motions to change pleas from guilty to innocent were filed today in U.S. District Court for the two West Warwick men who were sentenced to 20 years in prison for staging the \$100,000 holdup in the Quonset credit union.

They were filed by Robert R. Afflick, West Warwick attorney, who has entered the case as associate counsel with Michael DeCiantis, for Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 65 Cowesett Avenue.

Consequently, a hearing scheduled for this morning on defense motions for reduction of the sentences and on government motions to dismiss the defense motions was continued until Tuesday at 10 a.m. At that time, the new motions also will be argued.

The continuance was announced after defense counsel and U.S. Attorney Edward M. McEntee and Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph L. Breen had conferred in chambers with Judge Edward L. Leahy.

The new motions contend that the pleas of guilty were entered by reason of the promises, coercion, intimidation, and deception of federal officers.

Similar in content to the previous motions, they also contend that the pleas were entered because promises were made by federal officers that a recommendation of leniency would be presented to the court.

The motions claim also that the guilty pleas were entered because of a mistake, misapprehension and ignorance of the defendants' rights and misunderstanding of the consequences of the plea. They said the defendants do not believe themselves guilty of the offense as charged.



## Higher Water Rates Backed

7/31/52  
**Engineer Says They Would Give Kent County Firm Cash for Projects**

New water rates proposed by the Kent County Water Authority will yield sufficient revenue for a badly-needed \$800,000 improvement program for the system over an 8-to-10-year period.

This was testified today at a hearing in Providence before Thomas A. Kennelly, public utilities administrator, as the authority began presentation of its case for a 125 per cent rate increase.

Joseph D. Guillemette, senior engineer of Jenks & Ballou, said the firm recommended the schedule of rates that it had drawn up for the authority because the water system was inadequate in a number of ways.

Under the rate schedule proposed, \$88,000 from the revenue should be spent on capital improvements. Guillemette testified that the outstanding need was a connection with the Providence water supply in Scituate to cover the northwest portion of the Kent County system.

A pipeline for that has been completed and partly paid for, he continued, but a pumping station has not been completed because of lack of money.

He said two standpipes in the Warwick-Coventry and East Greenwich areas are wholly inadequate and should be replaced as soon as possible.

The West Warwick standpipe is very old and in bad condition, he continued. The height of the East Greenwich standpipe also should be increased, he said.

Guillemette further testified that

four-inch hydrant pipe should be replaced with six-inch pipe for adequate fire protection.

### Uniform Rate

The authority's petition proposes a uniform rate of 75 cents per 1000 gallons for all users, whether they are supplied by the old Pawtuxet Valley, the Warwick-Coventry or the East Greenwich water companies. Consumers in the first two areas would have their bills for 50,000 gallons hiked from \$15 to \$37.50. East Greenwich consumers have been paying \$19.39 for the same quantity.

In an opening statement, Stuart H. Tucker, counsel for the authority said that a deficit of \$12,000 is estimated for the year ending last June 30, while 1953 will see an estimated \$6000 deficit. This indicates the authority has "practically no funds for improvements or normal maintenance," he said. He added the cash condition is "extremely critical."

Gross revenue under the old rates in 1951 reached \$277,000, he said, while estimated income under the proposed charges would be \$462,000, a gross increase of \$185,000. He said 14 per cent of the customers would pay no increase over the \$15 minimum now in effect, six per cent of them would pay only a 13 per cent increase, five per cent would pay 37 per cent more and 40 per cent of the consumers would pay 75 per cent more.

### Public Corporation

"Under the new rates the cost of water would be very small," he declared. "The new charges for those using 50,000 gallons would be only 10 cents a day. This is not unreasonable." He told Kennelly that the authority differs from other private utilities in that it is a public corporation and has no stockholders. Profit or losses in operations effect no one individual, he said.

The old rates charged by the three private companies taken over by the authority did not pay all expenses he said, the companies were making no profit and would have had to apply for new rates even without a change of ownership.

Francis J. O'Brien is representing the state for the hearing, Michael Di Ciantis the town of West Warwick, Clinton G. Clough town solicitor of East Greenwich and assistant attorney general Francis J. Fazzano.

## August 6, 1952 Quonset Case Hearing On EVEN. BULL. PROV. West Warwick Pair Seek Cut in Sentence For \$100,000 Job

With a ruling pending on a motion to take oral testimony, hearing was to resume today before Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court on motions to reduce the 20-year sentences of two West Warwick men for the \$100,000 Quonset holdup.

The hearing started yesterday but was recessed to permit the court to examine cases cited by counsel in support of their arguments.

At the start, defense counsel withdrew motions to retract pleas of guilty and enter pleas of innocent. The motion to withdraw came from Robert R. Afflick, counsel with Michael DeCiantis for Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 65 Cowesett Avenue.

In the motions for reduction of sentence, the defendants claim the FBI promised them that if they confessed they would be charged only with robbery and that a recommendation of leniency would be made to the court. The two men were given the limit on charges of conspiracy and of robbery.

### Didn't Question Legality

In response to questions by the court, Afflick agreed that defense counsel did not question the legality of the convictions or the judgments. He agreed also that through the motions for reduction of sentence, counsel was appealing to the discretion and mercy of the court.

In answer to another question, the attorney agreed that even if promises had been made, the court could not be bound by them. But he contended that they should have been kept.

Afflick moved that oral testimony be taken on the motions for reduction of sentence and proceeded to argue that motion.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph L. Breen objected. He said there was nothing that oral testimony could contribute in addition to affidavits already filed by the defendants and by FBI agents who handled the case. He said the rule under which the motions to reduce sentence had been brought presupposes valid convictions.

### Claims Ignorance of Charges

Afflick told the court that in affidavits filed yesterday, Hildebrandt claimed he did not know of the specific charges against him until the day before he was sentenced and that LaPlante never saw the charges until the morning of sentence.

Judge Leahy observed that during the period between the time the men were indicted and sentenced they were represented by counsel and had the benefit of his advice. He said there was nothing on the record to indicate the defendants did

not know what the charges were and what they were pleading to.

Afflick contended that DeCiantis had advised the men to enter pleas of guilty because of promises alleged to have been made by the FBI but the court said there was no evidence on the record that DeCiantis had advised pleas of guilty. Afflick replied that the contention now was on the record in the additional affidavits filed yesterday.

## Quonset Terms Upheld

Holdup Men's Sentences Seen Justified by Judge Leahy

Judge Edward L. Leahy in U.S. District Court yesterday afternoon denied defense motions for reduction of the 20-year sentences imposed June 24 on two West Warwick men for the \$100,000 Quonset holdup.

"I believe the sentences imposed on these defendants are justified and are not harsh and not unusual," the court observed in denying the motions.

Howard Hildebrandt, 25, of 86½ Church Street, and Robert R. LaPlante, 27, of 65 Cowesett Avenue are in state prison but are scheduled to be transferred to the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa.

The court's action came after arguments on the motions by U.S. Attorney Edward M. McEntee and Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph L. Breen for the government and Michael DeCiantis and Robert R. Afflick for the defense.

## PROVIDENCE JOURNAL (Clam, Quahaug) Shell Game Lesson Costs Defendant \$20 Penalty AUGUST 8, 1952

A lesson in the old shell game as it is known in Fourth District Court—quahaug and clam shells that is—was held yesterday in East Greenwich.

Michael DeCiantis, defense counsel for a shell fishing case, had argued that the state had no case against his client as quahaugs are not defined in the law and that the General Assembly realizes the meanings of the varieties of shellfish must be made more clear.

But DeCiantis and Ovila Lambert, special counsel for the attorney general's office, bogged down on the Indian language as it pertains to softshell clams as differentiated from quahaugs.

"Everybody in Rhode Island knows what quahaugs are," said Judge James W. Leighton. "If we went to a clambake and somebody tried to pass off quahaug chowder instead of clam we would know the difference."

The court then proceeded to fine Roland Turgeon, 19, of Old Turnpike Road, West Greenwich, \$20 and costs after finding him guilty of taking quahaugs between sunset and sunrise. The court quashed a second complaint of taking quahaugs from polluted waters. Judge Leighton said Caesar Scotti was wrong in signing the warrant as a senior fish and game warden and that he should have signed as a state health department deputy, who has jurisdiction in such cases.



# BANKRUPTCY PLEA FILED AGAINST HILDEBRANDT

P.V. TIMES AUGUST 12, 1952

(By Staff Correspondent)

An involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed in Federal Court, Providence, today against Howard Hildebrandt, West Warwick gunshop operator, sentenced to serve 20 years in the \$100,000 Quonset Point Credit Union holdup last March.

Hildebrandt is enroute to Lewisburgh Federal Penitentiary and an auction of his West Warwick shop has been advertised.

Last June 19 he made a general assignment for benefit of creditors to Guy E. Gallome of Providence.

The petitioners in the bankruptcy action, which could hold up the auction, are the Travelers Insurance Co. of Hartford which covered the Credit Union under a robbery policy; the Barker-Chadsey Company of Providence, which has a claim for \$1848.12, and Quinns, Inc., Providence sporting goods firm, which has a claim of \$262.74, both for merchandise.

AUG. 16, 1952

PROV. EVEN. BULLETIN

## Dr. Senerchia Dies at 70

Natick Resident Was Ex-President of Kent County Medical Society

Dr. Giovanni Senerchia, 70, of 525 Providence Street, Natick, former president of the Kent County Medical Society and a physician in Natick since 1921, died early this morning at his home after a long illness.

A native of Fornelli, Italy, Dr. Senerchia was the son of the late Davide and Silvia (Ciummo) Senerchia.

He received his medical degree from the University of Naples in 1915.

During World War I he served with the Italian Army as a captain in the Medical Corps. He was decorated three times, receiving the Italian Cross of the Merit of War, the Medal of the Allied Armies and the Memorial Medal.

After his discharge from the Army, Dr. Senerchia practiced in the province of Rome and served as health officer in the town of Ripi.

He came to this country in 1921 and settled in Natick. He was a member of the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital, Providence; a member of the American Medical Association, Order of Sons of Italy, the Italian World War Veterans Association, the American Veterans of Foreign Wars, the West Warwick Lodge of Elks and the Natick Old Timers Jamboree committee.

He was also an honorary member of the Roma Social Club of Riverpoint and the D'Abormida Club of Natick.

Dr. Senerchia leaves his widow, Mrs. Ernesta (Pennacchia) Senerchia; a daughter, Miss Sylvia Senerchia of Natick; three sons, Davide, Carlo and Aldo Senerchia, all of Natick; three brothers, Luigi, Vincenzo and Tobia Senerchia, also of Natick.

Funeral services will be held from the Prata Funeral Home, 78 Providence Street, West Warwick, Tuesday, at 8:15 a.m., with a solemn high Mass of requiem at the Sacred Heart Church, Natick, at 9 o'clock. Burial will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Arctic.



Dr. Giovanni Senerchia

Home, 1488 Westminster Street, with a solemn requiem Mass in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Brayton Avenue, at 10 o'clock. Burial will be in St. Ann's Cemetery, Cranston.

Born in Bitetto, Province of Bari, Italy, on May 17, 1875, the son of the late Angelo and Anna (Carbonari) Troccoli; Mr. Troccoli had been a resident of Providence for 50 years. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Silvia (Lapalombella) Troccoli; two daughters, Mrs. Domenica DiCarolis of Providence and Mrs. Anna Troccoli of Bitetto, Italy; a son, Angelo Troccoli of Providence; a sister, Mrs. Rachele DeLia of New York City and eight grandchildren.

## Town to Buy Transcript of Testimony at Hearing on Proposed Water Rates

P.V. TIMES AUGUST 16, 1952

Funds to purchase a transcript of testimony given by the Kent County Water Authority at a hearing on its petition for a 150 per cent increase in water rates were appropriated last night at a meeting of the West Warwick Town Council.

The transcript was requested by Michael DeCiantis, who is serving as special counsel for the town without fee in the fight against a rate increase. He is working with Francis O'Brien, special counsel for the state in the case.

The hearing for increased rates opened July 31 before state public utility officials and was recessed. The water authority seeks to increase the rate from thirty cents per 1000 gallons, which is now in effect following General Assembly action placing the authority under control of the State Utilities Department, and a R. I. Supreme Court order that the

money received from the higher rate scale the company instituted earlier be refunded.

DeCiantis was a leader in events which lead to those actions and requested the transcript for use in cross-examining witnesses when the hearing reconvenes.

The water authority seeks a ruling to permit it to raise rates to 75 cents per 1000 gallons, which would mean an increase of 150 per cent in consumers' water bills. Authority officials maintain that they cannot operate and make needed improvements without more money. One case cited was the planned tie-in with the Scituate reservoir partially completed, which they said could not be completed without more funds. The tie-in would provide an increased water supply for some Valley residents from the Kent Dam in Scituate.

THE EVEN. BULLETIN

## Records of Water Hearing Are Sought by DiCiantis

August 16, 1952

West Warwick Council Authorizes Purchase of Transcript to Aid Protest

The West Warwick Town Council has authorized funds to buy a transcript of testimony by the Kent County Water Authority in its hearing on a petition for a 125 per cent rate increase, now underway in Providence.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, said Michael DeCiantis, who is serving as special counsel for the town without fee in the fight against higher rates, requested the transcript.

The hearing opened July 31 be-

fore State Public Utility officials and was recessed. DeCiantis is working with Francis O'Brien, special counsel for the state in the case.

DeCiantis was leader in events which lead to General Assembly action in placing the authority under State Utilities Department control and a R. I. Supreme Court order that money received from higher rates charged without permission be refunded. He planned to use the transcript of authority testimony in framing questions for cross examination.

As a result of the court and Assembly action, Pawtuxet Valley domestic consumers now are paying \$15 for 50,000 gallons, the rate charged by private water companies which the authority took over in 1950. The authority seeks to charge 75 cents per 1000 gallons, which would amount to \$37.50 for 50,000 gallons.

Authority officials claim they cannot operate and make needed improvements, particularly a tie-in with Scituate reservoir, partially completed without more money. The tie-in would provide a better supply of water from the city's Kent Dam for some Valley residents.

Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, announced this week that authority customers in Oaklawn have been connected to nearby Providence water lines in that area and the authority is buying water from Providence to assure a good supply for them. The connection expense was borne by the authority.

Oaklawn residents complained they were without water at times this summer. Quinn said the reason was that their water was being pumped from a supply in East Greenwich and customers in between monopolized it during the hot spell.



## 300 Enjoy Outing Conducted By County Deputy Sheriffs

PVT 8/22/52

About 300 sheriffs, judges, lawyers, political dignitaries and businessmen joined yesterday in the 17th annual clambake and outing held by the Kent County Deputy Sheriffs' Association at Club 400, Natick.

The sheriffs' tug-o-war team, with big 265-pound Deputy Sheriff Thurston Albro of West Greenwich as anchor man, dragged the lawyers' team to defeat then handed members of the bar another decisive defeat in a softball game 17-9.

The latter event was captained by Sen. George Roche of Coventry for the losing side while the sheriffs' were spurred on to victory by Deputy Sheriff Louis St. Jean, also of Coventry.

Judge John E. Mullen of Superior Court served as field judge for the tug-o-war event. The winning sheriffs' team in addition to Albro had Harry Lindberg, St. Jean, Henry C. Hoxsie, Charles Kenahan, Harry Gustafson, M. Russell Leyden, Edgar LeBeau,

Louis Debaene, Alfred Abrahamson and Thomas H. Conroy.

Tugging for the lawyers were Joseph Reed, Charles J. Bour-gault, Harry F. McKenna Jr., West Warwick council president; Israel Moses, Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere; Jack Doyle, Robert Afflick, Leo Charbonneau and Roland O'Neil, 280-pounder who was commissioned to be anchor man.

**Judge Leighton Coach**

Judge James W. Leighton of  
(Continued on page 3, col. 6)

Bureau of Circulations

PVT 8/25/52

## To Sell Phone Exchange Bldg.

### Property To Go For Highest Acceptable Offer

The disused telephone exchange building at the corner of Main and Pike Streets in Riverpoint, is for sale according to the board of directors of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company and the town of West Warwick is interested in the property, it was learned this morning.

Edwin Ray, manager of the local district, announced that the property will go to the party making the highest acceptable offer. The building will be cleared of all apparatus and other furnishings by Sept. 5.

Harry F. McKenna Jr., president of the West Warwick Town Council subsequently confirmed that the town is interested in the property. He said that the telephone company property abuts the town owned land on Pike Street and that the building could be used to house some of the offices in the present town hall in which their services are taxed to the limit.

McKenna also said that he expected it would take the action of a town meeting (a special town meeting could be called for this purpose) to buy the property.

Although the telephone company said the property would go to the highest bidder, if the town of West Warwick held a special town meeting to make an appropriation for a bid on the property, whereby its purchase price would be made known, the town has an out in that the telephone company could reject other offers.

The exchange was discontinued the day the new dial phone system went into effect here with headquarters in the new and larger building on Main Street, Riverpoint, near the Advent Church.

## Public Hearing On New Posts

### Utilities Engineer's Position, Accountant's Job Under Study

A public hearing on the specifications for the new post of public utilities engineer at \$6720-\$7920, which have been prepared by the state division of personnel, will be held Wednesday at the State House.

The position is one which Governor Roberts announced he had approved as a means of strengthening the public utility division. The public utilities engineer and a utilities accountant, whose duties are still under study by the personnel division, would head new units.

As drafted for hearing before Director of Administration Howard A. Kenyon, the public utilities engineer would survey utility plants both to determine value for rate-making purposes and to assure they were in efficient condition. He also would make surveys to determine the need from an economic point of view for construction of new facilities. In addition he would supervise investigations of accidents caused by faulty equipment, and would draft rules and regulations covering standards of service by utility plants.

He would be required to be a graduate engineer, and if an out-of-state resident, to secure a Rhode Island engineer's certificate within six months of appointment.

Also open to hearing Wednesday will be a recommendation that the salary of the deputy public utility administrator, George B. McLaughlin, be raised from a range of \$4140-\$5100 to \$6720-\$7920.

In addition, changes in regulations are proposed to remove from the 35-hour work week and place on a non-standard week—the latter permitting no overtime payments—the following positions: materials engineer, road design engineer, bridge engineer, road maintenance engineer, secondary road engineer, location engineer, right of way engineer and road construction engineer, chief public assistance supervisor, public assistant business manager, senior public assistant supervisor, senior child welfare case-work supervisor and institution admission and collection officer.



8/26/52

14

**Planners See Zoning Law  
Draft Delayed in Coventry**  
Evening Bulletin 8/26/52  
Chairman Hopes Proposed Ordinance  
Can Be Submitted to Voters in March

Fawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

The zoning law for Coventry, work on which was delayed this summer, probably will not be ready for submission to taxpayers for their approval until the annual town meeting next March.

Chairman Earl E. Wood of the planning board said that George Mason, chairman of the subcommittee studying zoning, has been tied up with private business, much of the time since the subcommittee began meeting Apr. 17.

Wood said the committee hopes to get the ball rolling on zoning plans shortly.

Prior to going into executive ses-

**Other Pawtuxet Valley  
News on Page 21**

sion on the zoning question at a meeting in the town house last night, the board was urged by Wood to set its sights on having an ordinance ready next spring.

Wood, who has shown a strong interest in zoning, said several residents have told him that zoning is needed to prevent erection of industrial plants next to their homes.

Some residents have complained about small lace mills and even a piggery next to their homes. Town officials have said there is no rule against it without a zoning law.

The board received a report from George North, who fathered the move that resulted in organization of the planning board, that about 1000 copies of its industrial development report will be ready in 10 days.

Board members approved a glossy red, white, and black cover for the report. The front cover shows a map of Coventry in relation to Providence, Cranston and Warwick and, by a red arrow, indicates the movement of population out of Providence toward the town. A back cover map shows the railroad line and Coventry's relation to Boston and points in Connecticut.

Copies of the report, which lists town resources by graph and text and sets forth possible industrial areas, will be distributed by the board, R.I. Development Council, New England Council and the Federal Reserve Bank. It is hoped that these and other organizations will be aided in attracting new industry to the town through use of the report.

Taxpayers received a similar report, although less comprehensive, at this year's annual town meeting.

Wood said he is concerned because the board lacks a member, inasmuch as it has not replaced Dr. Thomas Szymkowicz of Anthony, who resigned. He urged members to try to find a citizen in Dist. 3 who is interested in planning, particularly zoning, to accept the post.

**To Consider  
Buying Pike  
St. Building**  
PVT 8/26/52

West Warwick Democratic Body Cites  
Phone Exchange

The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee will consider purchase of the abandoned telephone exchange building at corner of Main and Pike Streets in Riverpoint.

Alfred Richard, committee chairman, said this morning that there is interest in purchasing the property which the telephone company announced yesterday they will turn over to the party making the highest acceptable offer.

Richard said he believed the town committee would be concerned over the property, which would be an asset to the town, if the price is right. He said the committee may hold a special meeting of their own in the near future to talk over the proposition.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of the West Warwick Town Council said yesterday that he thought the town would be interested in the property for two reasons, one that it abutts the town owned land on Pike Street and the other in that the building could be used to house offices which are taxed to their limit in services at the present town hall building.

The telephone company announced yesterday that the property will go to the party making the highest acceptable offer and the building will be cleared of all apparatus and other furnishings by Sept. 5.

**Dr. Wittig Bows**  
Carol Valley

**GOP Primary**  
Even Bul. 8/26/52

Dr. Joseph E. Wittig, West Warwick physician, this morning confirmed a report he plans to withdraw as endorsed Republican candidate for nomination as No. 2 councilman in the GOP primary Sept. 15.

Dr. Wittig said that, after reconsideration of the GOP offer, he feels that he would do too busy with his medical practice and hospital duties to give the necessary time.

Although he accepted the GOP offer because he wanted to be of service to the town, Dr. Wittig said he had never professed to be a party man, that is, either a staunch Democrat or Republican. On the contrary, he said, he has always been an independent thinker who voted for the man, regardless of party affiliation.

**RENT CONTROL  
CONTINUATION**

**IS ADVOCATED**  
PVT 8/26/52

Michael DeClantis, former town solicitor of West Warwick, today called for an extension of rent control and said that he advocates such by the West Warwick Town Council because there is a shortage of housing and until there is a universal repeal of the control it should be extended.

It is expected that the West Warwick town council will act on the rent control issue at its next meeting, Sept. 9.



## PETRARCA ASKS NEW TOWN BUILDING AT RIVERPOINT

PVT 8/27/52

Site on West Side of Main Street Advocated For Construction of Combination Municipal Structure by West Warwick

Horace L. Petrarca, former Democratic representative of West Warwick, today spoke against purchase of the abandoned telephone exchange building at Riverpoint and reiterated his plea for building a new combination town hall, police and fire station on the land located on Main Street, Riverpoint, between the Lamb Motor Sales and the Hector Gilman property, also in Riverpoint.

Petrarca, pointing to a letter which he said he mailed to the town planning commission, July 12, 1951, said the funds could come from the Post War Capital Improvement Fund, and action should be taken now before the money in the fund disappears, and neither the funds nor the lo-

cation will be available.

### No Action Taken, He Says

The former representative said that "altho the planning board has since acknowledged my letter and promised it would consider my suggestion no action has been taken to date. My reason for bringing this matter up at this time is due to recent news reports that some members of our town council favor purchasing the old telephone building. This is known as penny wise and dollar foolish.

"Our present town hall is bulging at the seams and is totally inadequate for a town of this size. If the taxpayers approve the purchase of the old telephone building it would merely add to the confusion as well as the oper-

(Continued on page 2, col. 5)

PVT 8/27/52  
Petrarca Asks New Town

(Continued from page 1)

ating costs without solving the main problem—concentrating all our offices under one roof in a modern building commensurate with a progressive town of about 20,000 people.

### New Town Hall

"Many taxpayers believe that the answer to all our much needed improvements lies in the suggestion—that we lump all our projects such as new town hall, street improvements in Arctic, needed school buildings, new fire station and others into one total and float a new bond issue to cover the difference between it and the Post War Fund to be paid for over a period of 25 years.

"By adopting this latter suggestion the taxpayers would not only save money in the long run but would have modern buildings and improvements."

Referring to his proposal to the planning board that they recommend for immediate purchase, by condemnation if necessary, the land located on Main Street, Riverpoint between the Lamb Motor Sales and the Hector Gilman property, Petrarca said "Many of us believe this to be the ideal spot, centrally located for our future town hall, police and fire station. This land appears to be large enough for the proposed building and required parking area as well as necessary landscaping. By recommending the purchase of this land for the above project, the board will not be asking for any funds since the taxpayers have already appropriated for this purpose. Unless we take hasty action on this matter, neither the location nor the funds will be available (both political parties have been digging into these funds)".

## THE EVENING BULLETIN

BUL. 8/27/52

## Bourgault Suggests Town Buy Old Phone Exchange

West Warwick Solicitor Says Space Badly Needed for Municipal Offices

Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault of West Warwick last night advocated that the town planning board investigate the suitability of the old telephone exchange building adjoining the town hall for possible expansion of town offices.

If the planners believe the building, a one-story brick structure with basement, is adapted for town use, the town should attempt to buy it, Bourgault said.

Edwin W. Ray, telephone company manager in Kent and Washington Counties, announced this week that all equipment in the building will be moved out by Monday. He said the building will be sold to the highest bidder at private sale. The building this year was superseded by the new dial exchange on Main Street, Arctic.

Bourgault said the town hall is badly overcrowded, particularly since the new canvassing authority and its deputy registrars have moved into the council chamber, and more office space is needed. He pointed out that the public is sometimes inconvenienced when probate court is held in the small town clerk's office because the council chamber is being used to register voters.

It would be more convenient for taxpayers if the tax collector's office could be placed on the street floor, a possibility in such a location as the telephone building, Bourgault said. It is now on the second floor at the top of a narrow stairway.

"I'd like to see the town secure additional office space," Bourgault said. "I don't know how feasible it is to use the telephone building. I think the planning board ought to look at it. If that's the answer I'm for it."

Deputy Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic town chairman, said he will call a special meeting of the Democratic town committee to discuss the possible purchase. He said the present town hall, the former Pike residence, is overcrowded and especially needs more storage space.

"I don't know whether anything will ever come of it, but it's worth a try," Richard said.

If the Democratic administration decides the town should try to buy the building, a special town meeting would be necessary to appropriate the money to cover the purchase and renovations needed to adapt it for town offices, Bourgault pointed out.

Bul. 8/27/52  
PETRARCA OPPOSED

Former Rep. Horace L. Petrarca, West Warwick, today declared that purchase of the old telephone building, Riverpoint, for use of town officials would not solve the town's problem.

Petrarca asserted that "it would merely add to the confusion, as well as the operating costs, without solving the main problem, concentrating all our offices under one roof in a modern building commensurate with a progressive town of 20,000 people."

Petrarca noted that the planning board had taken no action on his proposal of July, 1951, that it consider recommending that the town buy land for erection of a combination town hall, police and fire station.

Saying that some members of the town council favor buying the telephone building, Petrarca characterized it as penny wise and pound foolish.

He said many taxpayers favor floating a new bond issue to lump together projects such as a new town hall, street improvements in Arctic, needed school buildings, a new fire station, and other needs.

"By adopting this suggestion, taxpayers would not only save money in the long run, but would have modern buildings and improvements," he said.



# Evening Bulletin DiCiantis for Utilities Dept. Engineer Plan

### Asks Appointment By State as Aid In Rate Fight

Immediate appointment of a state public utilities engineer and his assignment to the hearing on the rate increase petition by the Kent County Water Authority was urged yesterday by Michael De Ciantis, West Warwick special counsel.

De Ciantis made his appeal at a State House hearing that had been called by the Division of Personnel for consideration of specifications proposed for the position of utilities engineer in the public utilities administration. Howard A. Kenyon, director of the Department of Administration presided.

Already the Kent County Water Authority has introduced expert testimony by an engineering firm to support its need for higher rates, and the state has no means of checking on the reliability of this testimony until it gets its own engineer, De Ciantis said.

De Ciantis said that when he was chairman of the public utilities commission in 1938, he had urged appointment of a full time engineer, and added that he now believed more than one was needed. He also supported the proposal that would increase the salary of George A. McLaughlin, deputy utility administrator, to the \$6720-\$7920 range proposed for the engineer.

"There isn't another department in the state government that has so direct an effect on the public, and for that reason it should have the help it needs to do a competent job," De Ciantis said.

# SLUDGE FROM 'DIGESTER' AT SEWER PLANT DUMPED INTO PIT NEAR TOWN FIELD

PVT 8/29/52  
McKanna, West Warwick Council President,  
Explains to Times Reason for Odors  
Which He Says Soon Will Cease.

"Sludge from the big digester at the sewer plant in Natick is what is being emptied in the gravel area next to the West Warwick athletic field," West Warwick Town Council President Harry F. McKanna Jr., told a Times reporter early today.

In an exclusive article in this newspaper yesterday the fact that several trucks have been seen nightly emptying sewage into a large crater just a short way from the left field fence at the athletic field in Riverpoint, was brought to the front and that the odor at the baseball and softball games and at the daily high school football drills was obnoxious.

Council President McKanna said that the big digester at the sewer plant in Natick has to be cleared of the sludge before repairs can be made and that the spot in Riverpoint was chosen for two reasons. First, because it is town owned land and secondly, because the site chosen is a gravel area and just as soon as the project is completed, the crater will be covered with sand and dirt.

**Only Few More Days**  
McKanna also said that it is only a matter of a few more days before the trucks stop emptying the sludge near the town field.

Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca was called today and he explained the situation along the same lines as McKanna but did say that the project is not in the hands of the highway department.

Coach Frank "Monk" Maznicki of the West Warwick high school football team was asked about the odor late last evening and answered in this way: "It's terrible."

Several parents of the candidates for this year's high school team called the sports department at the TIMES early today and said if something isn't done about the odor by this week-end, they will not allow their sons to report to the football drills at the town field.

**Breakfast Came Up**  
A local businessman also phoned the sports desk after reading yesterday's "Ambling With Amby" column and said that because of the new filter bed at Riverpoint, his son was unable to keep his breakfast down shortly after reporting for the grid drills.

One man who called said that the very offensive odor from the sludge being emptied at the new location reaches his section of Clyde.

This same gentleman went on to tell that the present situation could very easily cause an epidemic of some sort among the candidates for the football team or the fans who attend the soft-

ball and baseball games.

**"Quite Some Time"**  
"That smell has been coming from there for quite some time now, it seems as though the end should be near," added another gentleman who asked that his name not be used because of the business he operates here in town.

At the softball game last night, four trucks emptied their contents near the field and thanks to the wind blowing in an opposite direction, the odor was not as offensive at the field as the two previous nights.

A few of the golfers who display their talent at the West Warwick Country Club course have said that the odor has been "really bad" along the first and second holes.

# Says \$40,000 Required For Change-Over

PVT 8/29/52  
Petrarca is Opposed  
to Town Purchase  
of Phone Building

Horace L. Petrarca, former Democratic Representative of West Warwick said today the estimated cost to purchase and remodel the abandoned telephone building at corner of Main and Pike Streets, Riverpoint for town hall purposes would exceed \$40,000, and it would be only a temporary project. Petrarca said this amount would be taken out of the only source available, namely the Post War Capital Improvement Fund, depleting this account to the point where it would be useless for the real project—the building of a modern town hall. "At least the taxpayers were told so through the years," he added.

Petrarca said that expenditure of over \$40,000 is a huge sum and is a "terrific waste of taxpayers money." "It's like throwing money down the sewer" he added.

**Must Come "Eventually"**  
Petrarca continued by saying, "This town will eventually have to build a modern town hall—why not build it now? Competent engineers have told me that \$200,000 will build a new modern town hall adequate for a town the size of West Warwick. We have this amount in our Post War Capital Improvement Fund—all we need now is somebody such as the planning board or the town council to give the go ahead signal. The taxpayers would probably approve such a recommendation at a special meeting."

"I have not patience with those who have just one answer, that this is not the time. These same people said the same thing ten years ago, they will say it ten years from now, they will always say it. They are shortsighted, to them it will always be the wrong time."

**Asks Others' Views**  
"I urge more taxpayers to express their views on this very important matter. Let us have action before our funds run out. Both political parties have been sniping at the surplus. Unless we act now, neither the money nor the land will be available."

"The location on Main Street next to Lamb Motor Sales is an ideal address, centrally located and could be landscaped to be a credit to our progressive community. In closing let me repeat we will have to build a new town hall someday, why not now before the money runs out."

186



# Sewer Disposal Plant Under Fire of G.O.P.

PVT 8/29/52

The West Warwick Republican Club held a prelude to the coming political campaign last night and hit strongly at "The great smell in Natick," referring directly to the municipal sewer disposal plant.

Although the official Republican campaign on the town level won't be planned until the GOP Town Committee meets next Tuesday night, candidates and party workers lost little time last evening in opening their guns on the odor nuisance in Natick.

Joseph Pelleccione, candidate for Representative from the Third District, which includes Natick, said that Wednesday night while introducing himself in the Brookfield Hills section of the town, the first thing the people wanted to know was what would he do about the sewer plant. Pelleccione placed the blame on the staff at the plant.

## "Coldn't Take Care"

Gaetano Lombardi, town committeeman and former highway commissioner said that Andrew H. Gough, sewer commissioner told the Republican Town Council in 1946 that it wasn't being wise in extending the sewer system because the plant couldn't take care of any more sewerage. "Now they are making an expansive extension and there is no en-

largement of the plant," Lombardi said. He charged that the cause of the odors is because the present plant is too small and that raw sewerage is being by-passed. "They aren't making repairs, they are only fooling the people," Lombardi added. He asked the question "Are we who pay the sewer taxes going to have to pay for the extra expansion?"

Della Imbriglio, secretary of the Republican Club said "The situation just stinks." Last night the TIMES carried an article on the nightly trips of sewerage-carrying trucks hauling sewerage to the rear of the athletic field at Riverpoint. She said the trucks leave drippings all along the highway, adding to and spreading the nuisance.

Norman E. Gillespie, executive assistant to the State Central Committee Chairman said that Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, is not running for re-election, "but is going to get a newly-created position as special counsel to the sewer commission." The town council is the sewer commission and they have a paid town solicitor; "let him handle it" Gillespie added.

R. I. Outing Sept. 7

Gillespie joined with Harold C. (Continued on page 6, col. 4)

Evening Bulletin 8/29/52  
**Cost of Phone Building Plan  
Put at \$50,000 by Petrarca**

### Says West Warwick Proposal Would Be 'Throwing Money Down Sewer'

Continuing to oppose a proposal that the town of West Warwick buy the old telephone exchange, Riverpoint, to expand town offices, former Rep. Horace L. Petrarca today declared that the cost of buying and remodeling the building would be more than \$50,000.

"This is a huge sum and terrific waste of taxpayers' money on a project which can only be temporary. It's like throwing money down the sewer," he declared.

He said the money would have

big enough to handle more extensions but that now a big extension project is under way with Gough still in charge, "with no plans for enlarging the plant. You'll have the odor because the plant's too small."

"They're not kidding anybody that they're making repairs to the plant," Lombardi said. "The only way they can do it is to enlarge it. Another thing, are those who paid for the sewers before going to have to pay for the sewers they're adding now? If we are, God help them."

Asked if he knew of Democratic announcements that part of the present sewer bond issue is for sewage treatment plant improvements, Lombardi questioned whether there would be enough money left after sewer line installations.

The meeting also heard Michael Gallucci, Edward Nelson, unendorsed candidate for Congress, and John Cioci, candidate for lieutenant governor.

Other speakers introduced by Lionel Belisle, club president, were Harold C. Knight, town chairman; Henry Regauld, candidate for number one councilman; Joseph Henault, number five council candidate, and Eugene Lemoine.

to come from the post war fund, depleting it to the point "where it would be useless for the real project, the building of modern civic buildings.

"This town will eventually have to build a modern town hall. Why not now? Competent engineers have told me that \$200,000 will build a new, modern town hall adequate for a town the size of West Warwick. We have this amount in our post war fund."

Petrarca said all that is needed is for the planning board or town council to give the go-ahead signal and taxpayers would approve such a recommendation at a special or regular town meeting.

"I have no patience with those who have just one answer—that this is not the time," Petrarca said. "These same people said the same thing 10 years ago. They will say it 10 years from now. They will always say it. They are shortsighted and to them it will always be the wrong time."

He urged taxpayers to express their views on the question, saying that unless action comes soon, neither the money nor the land will be available.

"Let us have action before our funds run out," he said. "Both political parties have been sniping at the surplus war fund. The location on Main Street next to Lamb's Motor Sales is an ideal place, centrally located, and could be landscaped to be a credit to our progressive community."

## Warwick Meetings

TONIGHT  
Permanent registration, city hall, until 9 p.m.  
William Shields Jr. Post, American Legion, carnival, Legion grounds, Conimicut, 7.



# Assault Count Holds Wilson

Prov. Jnl. 9/1/52

## E. Greenwich Resident Accused of Using A Dangerous Weapon

Wilver L. Wilson, 23, of 153 Marlborough Street, East Greenwich, pleaded innocent of assault with a dangerous weapon yesterday in Fourth District Court, Warwick. Judge James W. Leighton set bail at \$3000 and a hearing for Thursday in East Greenwich.

East Greenwich Police Chief Johnson charged Wilson with inflicting gashes behind the left ear and arm of Edward L. James, 42, of 277½ Willard Avenue, Providence, with a caulking hook late Saturday afternoon on the East Greenwich dock, near the Bayview Cafe. Both wounds were deep, police said, and required several stitches.

The chief said James was one of four men sitting on the dock fishing when Wilson came nearby in a boat and exchanged a few words with them. Later, when Wilson came ashore, he exchanged more words with James and then assaulted him with the instrument used to drive wicking into the seams between the planks of a boat to prevent leaking.

Wilson was put on probation for a year last February after he pleaded no contest to a charge of obstructing a game warden. It was charged that he and another man had threatened to break into a warden's car and drag him out.

Two Warwick men pleaded guilty of reckless driving charges and were fined varying amounts as the result of an accident on Warwick Avenue in Hoxsie Saturday afternoon. The men, police said, had been at a wedding party and were racing. Thomas J. Mayor, 27, of 15 Stanmore Street, Oakland Beach, was fined \$20 and costs, and James E. Radcliffe, 18, of 6 Yale Avenue, Gaspee Point, \$10 and costs.

Police said Mayor passed Radcliffe on the right at a high rate of speed and clipped his right front fender, causing Radcliffe to lose control of his car and crash headon against a car operated by Thomas R. Vernerbeck, 32, of 77 Maple Hurst Avenue, Warwick. Damage to the Radcliffe car was estimated at \$400, and to the Vernerbeck vehicle, \$100.

Ronald L. McKinnon of 82 Strawberry Field Road, pleaded guilty of driving to the left of center of a highway and was fined \$5 and costs. He was involved in a slight accident on Warwick Avenue, July 27, police reported.

Gennaro Catalano, 21, of 149 Valley Street, Central Falls, pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to slow at an intersection and was fined \$5 and costs.

# Governor's Comm Evening Bulletin Sept. 4, 1952 Lack of Sufficient Fire Protection Seen

West Warwick's water supply from the Kent County Water Authority is inadequate and the distribution system needs improvement to provide for better fire protection, a report by the governor's commission to study water resources said today.

Even if the authority completes a proposed tie-in with the Scituate Reservoir of the City of Providence to improve its supply, the distribution system must be improved before the supply can be classed as adequate, the report said.

Col. Patrick H. Quinn, authority chairman, has said the authority lacks funds to complete the connection to Kent Dam purification plant of Scituate Reservoir. Pipe is laid, but a pumping station for forced line feeding remains to be built.

Future development in the town must be dependent on the water supply system of the city, or a metropolitan water district, according to the study committee, which was headed by Rudolph F. Haffenreffer.

At 24 locations tested by the New England Fire Insurance Rating Association in 1935, fire flows were adequate at only one location, the report said.

### Two Tests Made

Of two tests made in the Arctic business center July 8, 1949, only one proved satisfactory, it was said. This was made at Washington and Pond Streets, where a static pressure of 72 pounds per square inch reduced to 54 pounds per square inch in residual, with 110 gallons per minute flowing. This is equivalent to 3750 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch.

The other test, at Washington and Main Streets, where a static pressure of 66 pounds per square inch reduced to 30 pounds per square inch in residual, with 1520 gallons per minute flowing. This is equivalent to 1740 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch.

The required fire flow to principal business districts is taken as 1000 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch, the survey said.

### Bul. Most Mains Small 9/4/52

In July, 1949, the fire insurance rating association said the distribution system was weak, with more than 75 per cent of mains being only four or six-inch diameter, according to the report.

"There is essentially only one artery in the main part of West Warwick, which is a 12, 10 and 8-inch line on Washington and Main Streets," the report noted.

The report stressed that even completion of the 16-inch forced main from Kent Dam will not solve the problem, because of the inadequate distribution system.

Highest pressure in the system was 130 pounds at Main Street, Clyde, according to the study group.

It is evident that the system's present wells and surface water supplies "cannot be relied upon to continuously furnish required current demand," the survey committee found.

Average daily consumption in the West Warwick division of the authority from 1941 through 1950 varied from a low of 1.428 million gallons daily in 1945 to a high of 1.665 million gallons daily in 1941. Maximum daily demand during the past 10 years was 3.073 million gallons daily in 1950, according to the report.

Other factors cited follow:

### Ownership

Water system has served the town since 1886; two private water companies, Pawtuxet Valley Water Co. and Warwick and Coventry Water Co., served town until 1949, when both incorporated into the new publicly owned Kent County Water Authority, together with the East Greenwich Water Supply Co.

Since the East Greenwich system has its own supply source, the authority is divided into divisions for operational purposes, the West Warwick and East Greenwich divisions.

### Area and Population Served

West Warwick is supplied by the West Warwick division of the Kent County Water Authority. Sections in Natick are also supplied from sources of East Greenwich division. West Warwick division also serves areas in Cranston, Warwick, Coventry and Scituate. Water authority served an estimated 19,000 persons in 1950.

### Sources of Supply

West Warwick division uses both surface and ground water sources. Major source of surface water is Carr's Pond, West Greenwich, a spring fed pond enlarged by construction of an earthen dam in 1886; safe yield of Carr's Pond is about 6 million gallons daily; about 3½ miles of 18-inch gravity line connects pond to booster pumping station on Washington-Tiogues Road, about two miles north of pond; this line will furnish 1.2 million gallons daily by gravity flow and 1.9 million gallons daily when both pumps are running, an average of 512 million gallons daily was taken from Carr's Pond in 1950.

At present there is a 200 million gallon surface reservoir near Fiskeville, in Cranston, used for emergency storage; water was withdrawn from this reservoir during 15 days only in past two years; his reservoir will be discarded when proposed forced main connecting Scituate Reservoir with the system is installed.

The ground water supply source is a well field at Wood's Lot, Washington; well field consists of 18 inch Bowler-Layne gravel-packed wells, three 8-inch gravel packed wells and 19 2½-inch driven wells; all wells extend about 40 feet into a

gravel aquifer; wells installed in 1940; have potential capacity, at simultaneous pumping, of about 1.4 million gallons daily.

### Water Treatment

Both surface and ground water is disinfected through addition of bleach water at pumping stations by Proportioners pumps. Sodium hexametaphosphate is also added to both surface and ground water.

### Distribution Mains

There was a total of 101.42 miles of mains ranging from 16-inch to 4-inch in the West Warwick division in 1950; most of pipe is cast iron Class B and C, American Water Works Association; system has emergency connection with East Greenwich system near Natick, but valves separating the two systems are normally kept closed.

### Distribution Storage

A 450,000 gallon underground concrete tank is located in Fiskeville. There is also a 470,000 steel standing pipe on West Street, West Warwick.

*Wilson was found not guilty  
convicted  
of assault  
by Dept. of Health*



## West Warwick Action Revealed:

### Board Rents Classrooms To Parochial School

Sept. 14th, 1952

The West Warwick School Committee, at an unannounced meeting last month, voted to rent three rooms at the Highland Street School in the Phenix section, to SS. Peter and Paul's Parish, Phenix, for parochial school classes, Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, superintendent of schools, said last night.

Dr. Quinn acknowledged the action when queried after persons called the Journal-Bulletin inquiring about such a report, which was circulating in the town.

The school board meeting was held the first week of August, a week ahead of the regular time. Dr. Quinn called reporters the next morning to report on the meeting, but said nothing about the vote to let the parochial school use part of the building. She said last night that she didn't disclose the action at that time because "I didn't think it was news."

She said that parochial schools in Providence and Pawtucket hire public school property for their use, and that St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Coventry, hired the old Quidnick Public School after it was no longer used for public school purposes.

(Dr. James L. Hanley, superintendent of Providence schools, said last night that three Catholic parochial schools are renting six classrooms for academic teaching in three different public schools at the same hours as the public school meets. The schools are Manton Avenue, Sisson Street and Putnam Street schools. He said they have rented the space for the past couple

of years on an emergency basis, to meet an overflow.

(In Pawtucket, the Pawtucket Christian Day School of the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, which will open Monday, will use three classrooms in Nathanael Greene School until the St. Matthew's School is ready in October. The old Lincoln Avenue School is being used in its entirety by St. Teresa's parochial school until St. Teresa's is completed.)

The Rev. John J. Kenney, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's Church, requested use of the three rooms on a rental basis, saying he understood there was a low public school registration there and that the rooms would not be needed, Dr. Quinn said.

She said that there is a corridor in the Highland Street School with four rooms on each side. Parochial school classes will occupy three of four rooms on one side of the corridor, she said.

The school committee has not yet decided what rental fee it will charge the church, she said.

The parochial school has been using a former Baptist building, which it acquired several years ago. The school has gradually been building up and will add a fifth grade this year.

A recent survey of West Warwick public school buildings by Engelhardt, Engelhardt and Leggett, New York educational consultants, noted that enrollment showed a steady drop at Highland Street School in recent years, because many of the pupils in that area attend SS. Peter and Paul parochial school.

## Sav Federal Law Covers Shellfish

Prov. J. 9/5/52  
Fisheries Commission

### Members Tell Rego It Can Curb Truckers

By LEONARD O. WARNER  
Journal-Bulletin Staff Reporter

Boston—Members of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission told Rhode Island officials yesterday that they believed strongly that the new federal law imposing harsh penalties for the transportation of illegally taken fish can be used to curb trucking of undersized shellfish in Rhode Island.

John L. Rego, Rhode Island's new acting director of agriculture and conservation, posed the question to the new federal law to his fellow commissioners at the group's annual meeting at the Parker House here. With him was his administrator of fish and game, Edward C. Hayes Jr.

The other commissioners and their advisers, almost in unison, answered Rego's query by saying they believed definitely that illegal shellfish truckers can be arrested under the terms of the federal law and prosecuted in U.S. District Court.

Rego asked the question because the new law has not made it plain whether shellfish are included in the law which gives federal force and effect to all state laws prohibiting the shipment of fish illegally caught. Rego's question was: Are shellfish fish within the wording of the law?

U.S. Fish and Wildlife legal experts in Washington several days ago told the Journal-Bulletin they also believed that illegal shellfish truckers in Rhode Island can be prosecuted under the new law.

Rego said he will confer immediately with Attorney General William E. Powers to obtain from him an official state interpretation and to work out arresting procedure.

The new law, an amendment to a 1926 federal statute, was signed by President Truman last July 16 and makes it a federal offense to transport in interstate commerce any fish that are "undersized or otherwise illegal according to the

Continued on Page 5, Col. 3

## Shellfish Curb

Prov. J. 9/5/52  
Continued From Page One

law of the state wherein such fish were netted, taken, possessed, transported or shipped."

At the time the law was signed by the President, Hayes said the state's hand against illegal shellfish truckers would be strengthened immeasurably if the law applied to shellfish. Rego had not been named director at that time.

Journal-Bulletin investigations have revealed wholesale shipments of undersized quahaugs leaving the Greenwich Bay area for Pennsylvania.

### Face Fines or Jail Terms

Violators of the new federal law face \$200 in fines or jail for three months for each offense, or both.

In addition to Rego and Hayes, several other Rhode Islanders are attending the three-day commission meeting. They are Sen. Raymond A. McCabe and Rep. Earle M. Byrne of Providence and Otto Alletag of Warren.

The Rhode Island members of the commission also heard a discussion of a proposal by the group to attempt to draft a federal compact to circumvent the U.S. Supreme and Circuit Court opinions which have held that states cannot bar out-of-state residents from obtaining licenses to fish for migratory fish.

Only last January, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out Rhode Island's 1948 law which had attempted to keep out-of-state menhaden boats out of Narragansett Bay.

The commission's inland waters committee, while requesting and getting a time continuance for further study, reported that it had evolved an approach to the problem which it believed might stand court test.

### Would Appeal to Congress

The crux of this latest approach is that Congress would be asked to give the states along the coast permission to work together in a compact so that the residents of one state would be forced to obey the laws of the other.

The committee's proposal also contains a definition of inland waters, something which the courts never have given. Under the proposed compact, inland waters would be all waters within bays which have openings no wider than 10 miles. That would cover Narragansett Bay.

The proposal also contains a specific recommendation that Block Island Sound, which is part of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, also be considered inland waters even if Block Island is more than 10 miles from the mainland. The committee said the distance between Point Judith lighthouse and the south-easterly point of Block Island is 13.9 miles.

The mouth of Cape Cod Bay also is more than 10 miles wide, but the committee would have the proposed compact also include that bay by specific mention.

The Atlantic States Commission now operates under a compact sanctioned by Congress. The latest inland water proposal would be suggested as an amendment to the existing compact.

## Water Report Heid Accurate

Prov. Journ. 9/5/52  
Col. Quinn Agrees That  
West Warwick's  
Supply Inadequate

Pawtucket Valley Office  
15 Washington Street  
West Warwick

Telephone  
VA 1-4200  
VA 1-7087

Col. Patrick H. Quinn, Kent County Water Authority chairman, said last night that a report yesterday by the governor's water resources study commission that West Warwick's water supply is inadequate is "absolutely right."

The committee reported that, even if a proposed tie-in with Scituate Reservoir at Kent Dam is completed, West Warwick's supply will not be adequate because of an inadequate distribution system. Improvements in supply and distribution are needed for better fire protection, it said.

Since the study commission completed its investigation, Quinn said, the authority has had trouble with water quality, as well as quantity. Because of a short supply from Washington wells, the authority had to use much water this summer from an open reservoir at Fiskeville, which he described as "unfit for domestic use."

So much chlorine has to be added to water from the open reservoir that it becomes offensive to the taste and sometimes to the smell, Quinn said.

Concerning need for better fire protection, Quinn recalled that the authority this summer notified Fire Chief Gareau of West Warwick and other chiefs in the area that they should be very prudent in use of water in case of fires. That warning still holds, he said.

He said the authority has had to repair several breaks in the lines this summer, including one in an old-fashioned wooden main on Providence Street, Westcott, last week.

"We agree with the study committee that we ought to be connected with Kent Dam," Quinn said. "Immediately after our appointment, we started to do that. The pipe is all laid from the underground reservoir at Fiskeville to the dam. All that remains is to build a pump house and connect it there is no money to finish it."

Some improvements have been made by the authority since it took office in 1950, but they were impeded for lack of money when the general Assembly, after a consumer protest, rolled back a rate increase proposed by the authority and put the authority under public utility commission control, he said. An appeal for higher rates is pending before the state director of public utilities.



## Water Report Called 'Right'

Ev Bul 9/5/52  
Col. Quinn Agrees Supply Inadequate In West Warwick

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## Mothers Are Satisfied After Their Meeting with Dr. Quinn on Phenix Issue

PVDTimes 9/5/52

A group of mothers whose children are attending the public classes at Highland Street School, Phenix, a portion of which the school board has rented to SS. Peter and Paul's parish for use as three parochial school classrooms met with Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, public school superintendent this morning at the school department office in the town hall and went away satisfied.

Following the meeting Dr. Quinn said she thought the mothers went away satisfied. "They came to me for information, I gave them the answers as best I could and I think they went away satisfied", she said. There was no antagonistic attitude, Dr. Quinn said. One of the mothers contacted this newspaper after the meeting and said that now they are perfectly satisfied.

Wednesday, opening day, was the first time the parents discovered that the school had been rented and one of them told the TIMES that they were "shocked" of the idea. The school committee voted to rent three classrooms at its August 5th meeting, but they did not announce the plan.

A parent said this morning that the chief point was the lack of warning, she added.

Charles Bourgault, in a "letter to the editor" which he said he wrote as a citizen of the town and not as town solicitor takes issue with the parents' expression of "two different elements" in one school. His letter follows:

### Mr. Bourgault's Letter

"Your issue of September 4th contained the report of a decision of the School Committee regarding the rental of a portion of the Highland Street School for use by SS. Peter and Paul's Church for parochial school purposes. In that article you quoted the spokesman for a group of "shocked" individuals who objected that such action by our school authorities results in there being "two different elements" in one school.

"You did not name the individual who expressed that opinion. The cloak of anonymity you conferred upon that spokesman is well merited. The classification of children who attend parochial schools as 'another element' involves thought processes not widely shared in our community. Such classification indicates the classifier is possessed of a parochialism one does not expect to find in an enlightened democracy.

"The thousands of people in the Pawtuxet Valley who provide the financial support required for parochial schools and who send their children to such schools are exercising a right conferred upon them by the American constitu-

tion. They resent the suggestion that their exercise of such right marks their children as 'another element'. They are shocked at thinly veiled suggestions that such children become infected with some form of social leprosy.

"Those who pay for and who patronize parochial schools will continue to insist upon their fundamental right under our law to maintain such establishments. And they will continue to decry the narrow mindedness of the few in our population who maliciously use phrases such as 'two different elements in one school.'"

## Council Votes For Rent Controls In W. Warwick

Ev Bul 9/10/52

The West Warwick Town Council last night voted to continue rent controls in the town until next Apr. 30. Controls were scheduled to expire Sept. 30 unless the council acted by then.

Councilman Thomas F. Mello read a resolution asserting that a substantial shortage of housing accommodation requires continuation of controls. Mello's motion was seconded by Councilman Antonio Paul. There was no other comment.

The copy of the resolution was ordered sent to the director of rent stabilization, Washington, D. C.

## W. Warwick Vets Council Asks Action on Memorial

Ev Bul 9/10/52

### Urges Plan for Municipal Building

### Be Brought Before Annual Town Meeting

The West Warwick Veterans' Council yesterday wrote the town council asking that it give consideration to its previous plea that a veteran's memorial municipal building on town-owned land in Arctic be brought before the taxpayers at the next annual town meeting.

Lawrence Beron, council secretary, said the veterans had noticed recently that the town administration had considered purchase of additional property for municipal affairs. This apparently was a reference to a discussion by the Democratic town committee of the possibility of buying the old telephone exchange, Riverpoint, for town hall office expansion. The idea was tabled by the committee.

"The various veterans' organizations in the town have voiced a belief that the town has set aside a special fund for post-war improvements and that the town has now grown in stature to the point where present facilities are outmoded and overtaxed and should be improved in the best interests of our community," Beron said.

He recalled that veterans asked for municipal building action, as a veterans memorial, prior to last May's town meeting.

"The veterans posts are still in favor of a municipal building being built in Arctic, as the ideal spot," he declared.

Beron announced appointment of the following committee of post commanders to arrange an Armistice Day celebration:

John Werren, Langevin Post, VFW; Edward Flanagan, West Warwick Post, American Legion; Howard Rivers, Senerchia Post, American Legion; George Schopac, Amvets; Robert Tucker, Crompton Veterans Organization; Stuart Northup, Marine Corps League, and Maurice Pion, Pawtuxet Valley Chapter, Disabled American Veterans.

Beron said the Armistice Day parade would start at Andrews Avenue and proceed along Washington Street and Main Street to Columbus Square, where a speaking program will be held. Bands taking part will be the Warren Indian Band, Royal Highland Pipers, John F. Deering High School Band and West Eagles Junior Bugle and Drum Corps.

The veterans will award plaques to the post turning out the largest delegation of marchers and to the organization sponsoring the best

## CHIEF GROLEAU ASKS DE CIANTIS BE MADE SOLICITOR OF TOWN

PVDTimes Sept. 10, 1952

Police Chief Arthur Groleau, a member of the West Warwick Democratic Town Committee, today called for the appointment of Michael DeCiantis as town solicitor to fill the term of Charles J. Bourgault who last night resigned from that post effective Oct. 1.

DeCiantis stepped down from the office of town solicitor after three and one half years of service, last Feb. 16, and became special counsel for the town, without fee, in the town's fight against the Kent County Water Authority over higher water rates. Chief Groleau said he hoped

that the town committee would ask DeCiantis to serve again, even if its only until November when the regular term of appointment expires.

Alfred Richard, Democratic Town Committee Chairman is away on vacation and when he returns the committee can be expected to meet to recommend a replacement for Bourgault, to the town council. When DeCiantis resigned it took only three days for the town council to make a recommendation from the town committee and to name a replacement.



# W. Warwick Solicitor Submits Resignation

## Bourgault Cites Demands of Position But Observers See Politics Involved

In a surprise move, Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault of West Warwick last night submitted his resignation to the town council effective Oct. 1. The resignation letter was dated yesterday.

Bourgault said he appreciated the confidence implied in his original appointment but that the demands the position makes "on the time of a young lawyer with family obligations impels me to request you to relieve me of my duties."

Bourgault was appointed to the office last Feb. 16 to replace Michael DeCiantis, who also resigned. DeCiantis then became special counsel for the town, without fee, in the town's fight against higher water rights charged by the Kent Water Authority.

Neither Bourgault nor DeCiantis brought any party troubles out into the open, but it was learned

reliably that both resigned, at least in part, because of disagreements involving them within the Democratic administration.

### Not Eye-to-Eye

At least one member of the Democratic Town Committee reportedly has not seen eye to eye with Bourgault, particularly with respect to the change of the annual town meeting date from May to March, which necessitated a 10-month fiscal year this year to advance the town meeting date for the first time starting next year.

The council, on motion of Harry F. McKanna Jr., council president, accepted Bourgault's resignation with regret and appreciation for his services. McKanna said he was sorry to hear Bourgault's decision.

Bourgault informed the council he hopes to straighten out one legal matter, the waiving of land rights by about 50 residents of Kulas Road, Crompton, to permit straightening of the road before his resignation becomes effective.

Observers said there is a possibility that Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere, Mortimer W. Newton, canvassing board chairman, or even McKanna, might be named. McKanna is not a candidate for re-election and reportedly is slated to serve as special counsel to the sewer commission. Judge Laferriere and Newton hold appointive offices and could hold another appointive office, a legal expert said.

After Acting Postmaster Henry A. Melancon had presented a petition from about 50 residents of Coit Avenue, Crompton, asking that they receive mail through West Warwick post office, instead of Warwick post office, the council adopted a resolution endorsing the change.

The residents said most of them shop and work in West Warwick; that, although they now get mail through Warwick post office, some of them formerly got it from West Warwick post office, and that they feel carrier delivery service would be instituted faster through West Warwick post office than Warwick post office.

### 300 Ask Delivery

Melancon said about 300 residents in the West Warwick post office district have requested delivery of mail and he hopes their demands will be met by next month. Approval must come from Washington, he said. A survey is now being made.

On recommendation of McKanna, the council instructed the town clerk to write George G. Permut, rodent control specialist, state department of health, advising him it has no objections to his proposal to conduct a rodent survey of the outside of dwellings and inside and outside of business establishments, but that it is dubious what authority it has to grant the request.

The request had been referred to the council by Dr. John A. Mack, health officer.

McKanna said he doesn't believe the council has authority to authorize anyone to go onto private property, and that it is up to the owners.

### Health Menace

Dr. Mack also wrote the council, urging that it appoint a committee to investigate with Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca a health menace on Cowesett Avenue. He explained that Marco Hudyma, owner of land opposite 73 Cowesett Avenue, had complained that a drain which runs under Cowesett Avenue and onto his land apparently includes matter from cesspools, oil from a nearby filling station and drainage from the highway.

Hudyma complained of an offensive odor, he said, and of breeding of flies and mosquitoes in the drainage during hot spells.

"The drain should be cleaned from its source, a proper pitch established, and the whole should be piped and covered its entire length," Dr. Mack said. If cesspools are connected to it, they should be removed and septic tanks put in, he added. Any drainage from the highway should be taken care of in another way, he said.

"I consider this to be a positive health menace to all concerned, doubly so if cesspools are connected to the drain," Dr. Mack wrote.

McKanna instructed Petrarca and Bourgault to investigate the problem both from the highway drainage and legal angles. He said he knows there is "violent disagreement what flows into the brook, and it goes under a state highway and onto private property."

### Other Business

The council also: Appointed the following police constables: Larry G. Walker, 41 Holmes Street; Anthony Bruno, 31 East Main Street; William T. Semon, 53 Crossland Road; James F. Tullie, 58 Epworth Avenue, and Peter Moretti, 10 Overhill Drive.

Granted permission to the Pawtuxet Valley Columbus Day committee to conduct a parade Oct. 12 from the town athletic field to Natick ball park.

Granted permission to Senechia Post, American Legion, to conduct a dance Nov. 10 at Club 400.

Authorized the Narragansett Car Club to sponsor an auto exhibit on the First National Store parking lot, Arctic, Sunday, from noon to midnight.

Granted oil burner installation licenses to John Kilmowicz, West Warwick, and Henry A. Davy, Pawtucket.

Approved the application of Joseph Clafrel for permission to operate a filling station at 442 Providence Street, with three pumps and tanks having 7000 gallons capacity.

Granted tax abatements of \$14 to the estate of Horace Senechia, because a mortgage had been discharged prior to Dec. 31, 1951, and of \$4.05 to Stella T. Biglie, owing to an error in assessment.

Deferred until the next meeting, when similar applications previously received also will be considered, requests for sidewalk reconstruction aid from the following: James E. Field, 9 Colonial Way; Florian A. Joyal, 8 Mill Street, and Ernest Charland, 17 Water Street.

Granted pole locations to the Narragansett Electric Co. on Schofield Street, Oakland Drive, Canna Street and Hollywood Avenue.

Referred to itself, sitting as a sewer commission, and to sewer engineers a proposal by John Lawson that a pumping station needed in connection with extension of the sewer system be installed on Shortway Drive, Brookfield Hills.

Filed a report from Building Inspector Willie J. Regmaiere listing permits issued for eight new buildings valued at \$100,000, among a total of \$120,275 in new building of all types during August.

# C. J. BOURGAULT RESIGNS AS SOLICITOR OF TOWN

## West Warwick Official's Successor Yet to Be Named.—Council Has Until Oct. 1 to Make Its Appointments.

Attorney Charles J. Bourgault in a surprise move last night resigned as town solicitor of West Warwick, effective Oct. 1.

The Town Council accepted the resignation with regret and extended a vote of thanks to the lawyer, who has held the post since last Feb. 16.

Bourgault gave cause as the time the office of town solicitor imposes on a young lawyer with family obligations. His letter of resignation, written in longhand, follows:

"I submit to you herewith my

resignation as town solicitor effective Oct. 1. I am appreciative of the confidence implied in your appointment of me to the post. However the demands which the position makes upon the time of a young lawyer with family obligations impels me to request you to release me of my duties."

Bourgault was appointed town solicitor by the town council last Feb. 16, three days after Michael DeCiantis resigned from that post. The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee endorsed Bourgault as town solicitor on Feb. 15th and the town council met in special session Feb. 16, during the morning, and appointed him.

No one would speculate last night who his successor would be.

The West Warwick Democratic organization has had several major changes this year. In addition to the resignations of DeCiantis and Bourgault, Council President Harry F. McKanna Jr., and Councilman Toby Pucino are not up for re-election to their offices, and Edward F. Hand is not seeking re-election to the school committee.

# Groleau Backs DeCiantis

Even Bulletin 9/10/52  
Police Chief Favors 52  
Returning Attorney to W. Warwick Post

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7057

Police Chief Groleau of West Warwick, an influential member of the Democratic Town Committee, said today he will recommend Michael DeCiantis for appointment as town solicitor to replace Charles J. Bourgault, who resigned last night.

DeCiantis, who resigned as solicitor last February, reportedly in part because of a disagreement with some members of the town council, is himself a member of the town committee. His endorsement by the town committee would be tantamount to appointment by the town council.

"I am only one member of the town committee, and it's my personal opinion, but I am going to recommend that Mr. DeCiantis be endorsed by the town committee to take over as town solicitor again," Groleau said.

Apprised of Groleau's plan, other Democratic leaders said this morning that they believed DeCiantis is certain to succeed Bourgault as solicitor.



# Wailey Dai

T WARWICK, R. I., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1952

## DeCiantis Would Accept Solicitor Appointment

Attorney Michael DeCiantis said this morning he would accede to the wishes of his party in accepting appointment as town solicitor of West Warwick as suggested yesterday by Police Chief Arthur Groleau a member of the Democratic Town Committee.

The office of town solicitor will be vacated Oct. 1 through the resignation of Charles J. Bourgault. DeCiantis himself resigned from that position last Feb. 16 after three and one half years of service, to become special counsel for the town, without fee, in the town's fight against the Kent County Water Authority over higher water rates.

DeCiantis added, "I am a Democrat and I will continue to be eligible in rendering service to the party, having in mind how-

ever that the interest of the people of the town are involved."

Speaking of the duties of the office of town solicitor, DeCiantis said "I do believe the people of the town realize by now our town has grown and progressed a great deal and the town solicitor's job has become a real big one and it is a terrific responsibility on any one man. But I intend to do everything I can to be of service to my party and to the people."

## DeCiantis Is Silent

On Groleau Boost  
Prov Jnl. 9/11/52

Michael DeCiantis, West Warwick Democratic leader, last night had no comment on a proposal yesterday by Police Chief Groleau, an influential member of the Democratic Town Committee, that DeCiantis be endorsed by the committee for town solicitor to replace Charles J. Bourgault.

DeCiantis said he might have something to say about his attitude toward the proposal today.

Bourgault submitted a surprise resignation to the town council Tuesday night.

DeCiantis, who resigned as solicitor last February, reportedly in part because of a disagreement with some members of the town council, is himself a member of the town committee. His endorsement by the town committee would be tantamount to appointment by the town council.

"I am only one member of the town committee, and it's my personal opinion, but I am going to recommend that Mr. DeCiantis be endorsed by the town committee to take over as town solicitor again," Groleau said.

Apprised of Groleau's plan, other Democratic leaders said yesterday that they believed DeCiantis is certain to succeed Bourgault as solicitor.

## THE EVENING

9/11/52

## Club Retains Party Label

W. Warwick Women Democrats Accept Founder's Resignation

Backing up its executive board's stand against changing the club's name and becoming solely a social organization, the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club last night accepted the resignation of its founder, Mrs. Agnes Blanchet.

Mrs. Blanchet, who is a Democratic state committeewoman from the town, gave no reason for resigning in her letter. However, Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, president, and other executive board members said that Mrs. Blanchet this summer sought

## Other Pawtuxet Valley And Warwick News On Page 31

their approval of her idea of taking the political label off the club, and they refused.

The club secretary, Mrs. Rita Morin, said after the meeting in Nurses' Hall, Arctic, that 85 members present felt unanimously that the club was founded as a Democratic Women's Club and should stay that way. They strongly disapproved Mrs. Blanchet's plan to make it an independent social club, she said.

In her letter, Mrs. Blanchet expressed thanks to club members for their co-operation in the past, but indicated that the club had not received full recognition from the Democratic Party. She expressed a hope "the club will continue to grow and someday get the recognition it deserves as the political instrument I believe it to be."

Admitted as members last night were Cecile St. Jean, Loretta and Lucille Fricot, Edith Coutu, Jeanette Charpentier, Mrs. Edgar Lanoue, Mrs. Jean Dubeau and Yvonne Plante.

Mrs. Irene Yarborough was soloist. Plans were made for the annual dinner to be held late next month at a date to be announced.

Named to the refreshments committee were Mrs. Emily Young, chairman, Mrs. Alfreda Chartier, co-chairman, and Mrs. Coranna Jarbeau. Mrs. Yarborough was appointed social committee chairman, with Mrs. Rose Mailoux as a member.

Bridge winners were Mrs. Yvonne Regnaiere, Mrs. Rose Duchesneau, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Mary Robidoux, Mrs. Guiot, Mrs. Marie Bonenfant, Mrs. Alphonsine Bertrand, Mrs. Laura Martin, Mrs. Josephine Nadeau and Mrs. Georgianna Petit.

## DeCiantis Says He'd Accept Solicitor Post

Ev. Bul 9/11/52  
Would 'Accede to Wish Of Democratic Party' In West Warwick

Michael DeCiantis, former West Warwick town solicitor, said this morning he will "accede to the wishes of the Democratic Party" and again accept appointment as town solicitor to succeed Charles J. Bourgault, resigned this week.

Police Chief Groleau, an influential member of the town committee, advocated yesterday that the party put DeCiantis back in the office.

DeCiantis said he also had been approached by several members of the town committee, of which he is also a member, and that all urged him to accept party endorsement. The committee's endorsement is considered tantamount to appointment by the town council.

"I should call to the attention of the people, however, that this is a terrific responsibility because the solicitorship has become a job and a very difficult one," DeCiantis said.

DeCiantis resigned the solicitorship last February, at least in part because of a disagreement with some members of the town council which was kept secret at the time. His return as town solicitor would appear to indicate that he is going to become the political spokesman of the town because of the importance attached to the office, particularly as spokesman for the party. By custom in West Warwick the town solicitorship has included much work in preparing annual budgets with the town council and playing a major role in all party activities.

"After all, I am a Democrat and will do anything I can to assist the party in any way whatsoever, having in mind, however, that services must be rendered to the people of our town and someone has to do it," DeCiantis said.

Bourgault's resignation is scheduled to become effective Oct. 1.



September 17, 1952

## Democrats Name Staff for Primary

PVDTimes 9/13/52  
West Warwick Party Completes Plans for September 24

Party workers for the Democratic primary Sept. 24 were filed yesterday at the town hall by the West Warwick Democratic Town Committee.

Subject to confirmation by the canvassing authority the workers for each of the seven polls follow:

Rep. Dist. 1, Vol. Dist. 1, moderator Joseph M. H. Parenteau, 24 Pleasant Street, clerk, Robert A. Bonenfant, 2 Snell Court, supervisors John L. McGill 43 Fairview Avenue, and Helen A. Beaudoin, 28 Highland Street; Vol. Dist. 2, moderator Pasquale M. DiCarlo, 4 Prospect Hill Avenue, clerk Joseph E. Ciafrefi, 9 Blossom street, supervisors John Ricci 10 Alden Drive and George N. Gagnon, 719 Providence Street.

Rep. Dist. 2, Vol. Dist. 1, moderator David W. Barlow, 7 Bridge Street, clerk Antonio M. Andrade, 21 Pike Street, supervisors Mary C. Medeiros, 26 Harris Avenue and Mary E. Eldridge, 19 Maple Avenue; Vol. Dist. 2, moderator Lorenzo Bergeron, 8 Tucker St., clerk Annebelle Mello, 15 Shippee Avenue, supervisors, Violet Y. Brousseau, 158 West Street and Alice Leroux, 5 McNiff Street.

Rep. Dist. 3, Vol. Dist. 1, moderator William E. Lambert, 8½ Laramée Avenue, clerk Joseph H. Burton, 15 Robinson Way, supervisors, Joseph Begos, 11 Robinson Way and Vincent A. Antonaccio, 8 Colonial Way; Vol. Dist. 2, moderator Wilhelm J. P. Joubert, 30 Mill Street, clerk Andrew E. Flanagan, 43 Epworth Avenue, supervisors Bessie Kosteck, 23 Earl Street and Yvonne Lachapelle, 1439 Main Street; Vol. Dist. 3, moderator Andre Godin, 34 Andrews Avenue, clerk Norman Fontaine, 183 Andrews Avenue, supervisors, Joseph A. Fernandes, 39 Andrews Avenue, Claire M. Whitmore, 37 Holmes Street.

## W. Warwick Approves Fire Protection Change

### Council Turns Over Protection Of East Natick Section to Warwick

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

West Warwick councilmen in a special session agreed last night to turn over responsibility for fire protection of the East Natick section of Warwick to that city and to retain town responsibility for the Centerville area of Warwick. Final action pends upon concurrence from the Warwick council.

The decisions were the outcome of discussions held by representative groups from the neighboring communities Monday night in which the Warwick group indicated that the city was prepared to take over control of East Natick but felt incapable of providing for Centerville.

Charles J. Bourgault, retiring town solicitor, and Chief Lionel P. Gareau of the West Warwick Fire Department are scheduled to present the results of the council meeting to the Warwick council at its regular meeting tomorrow night. Concurrence from the city body in the decisions is expected, because of the groundlaying session already held.

Representing Warwick in the negotiations were Hailes L. Palmer, city solicitor; Charles Miller, sup-

erintendent of fire alarms, and Vernon S. Allen, Lambert Lind and Ralph S. Kenney, members of the city council's fire and water committee. Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic town committee, was on the West Warwick body in addition to Bourgault and Gareau.

According to the West Warwick action, responsibility for fire protection of East Natick will revert to the city on Nov. 5, the fifth anniversary of an agreement the then newly-created town fire department continued to care for what was a section of the old Natick Fire District. Centerville was protected under a similar arrangement.

#### Approval Awaited

Termination of the agreement demands that the Centerville area legally be protected by Warwick. However, pending approval from the state legislature for continuance of Centerville within the West Warwick domain, the town department and city companies will cooperate in affording protection on an emergency basis.

Harry McKanna, president of the town council and author of both resolutions that carried unanimously, stipulated that if no legislative approval was forthcoming by Feb. 1, the Centerville agreement would be off.

Also made a part of the West Warwick assumption of responsibility for Centerville was an item forbidding any capital expenditure by the town in extending the fire alarm system or in any other matter.

"Under no circumstances would we do more than roll apparatus in there when needed," explained Bourgault to allay expressed fears that the town department might become saddled with increasing outlay of funds in properly caring for the expanding community.

#### Would Reimburse Town

In return for its protection under an agreement that would run three years with an option for Warwick whereby the city could pull out anytime, \$500 annually would be paid to West Warwick. The councilmen arrived at this figure by basing it on past fire rates paid it for that area and figuring in added construction there.

The city would also pay a hydrant rental.

Dissolution of the town-city agreement on East Natick calls for a settlement of fire alarm apparatus that is the property of West Warwick under terms of the entrance of the Natick fire district into the town department.

According to Chief Gareau, Superintendent Miller has agreed to recommend to the Warwick council that the three of the area's 15 boxes that are on a border street be moved across the road to the town property. He would also recommend that for every two of the remaining dozen, which would be undisturbed, the city would furnish one new box to West Warwick.

It is expected that Warwick will, when its fire officials feel prepared, take over responsibility for the Centerville area.

## Hands Off Policy Asked

### Muschiano Requests No Party Interference In School Board Race

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

Albert Muschiano, unendorsed candidate for a school committee nomination in the Democratic primary this Wednesday in West Warwick, today declared party workers should keep "hands off" the primary voting for school committee, inasmuch as all candidates say the office is non-political.

Muschiano pointed out that, although Vincent J. Lukowicz and Dr. Richard P. Duffy, the two endorsed candidates, have said the office is non-political, Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic chairman, has urged all party workers to put across the endorsed slate and said that cars will be available on a volunteer basis to transport voters.

"Dr. Duffy and Lukowicz have said the office is non-political, and I feel the same way," Muschiano said. "So why not let us all battle it out fairly. That's how I feel the school committee should be run—non-political—so why not give the people a chance to put in the man they desire?"

A check with the secretary of state's office today indicated that Muschiano's name has been placed in the unendorsed column next to Lukowicz's name on the primary ballot because it came in that way on the list of certifications by the West Warwick Canvassing Authority.

"The ballot is made up according to law, and no candidate's names are twisted around here," a spokesman at the secretary of state's office said.

Muschiano, who is in a three-way race in which the two top vote getters will win the two nominations available, has said that the primary is stacked against him by placing his name opposite that of Lukowicz, a 12-year man on the school board, instead of against that of Dr. Duffy, a newcomer.

Pointing out that his own campaign posters stress that the school committee is non-political, Muschiano said, "Party workers should keep hands off the school committee election. I want a fair and honest election."

If elected, Muschiano said, he plans to look into the school bus situation. He said many families in Natick complain their children must take private busses to go to the junior high school and that the same is probably true in other sections.





A BREAK IN ORATORY left time for refreshments at a meeting of the West Warwick Republican Club in Natick. Florent Hebert (left), candidate for state representative, serves sandwiches. Others enjoying themselves are (l-r) Raoul Archambault Jr., candidate for governor; Harold C. Knight, Republican town chairman; Lionel Belisle, club president, and Norman E. Gillespie, who was toastmaster for the event.

## 4 Ticket Changes Listed By West Warwick GOP

Florent Hebert to Replace Vanasse As Candidate for Representative

West Warwick Republicans yesterday revealed four changes in their Nov. 4 election ticket, as their 1952 campaign got under way with a call for a top-to-bottom change in national and local administrations at a rally on Patsy's Cafe grounds, Natick.

Introduction of candidates at the affair, billed as a family get-together under sponsorship of the West Warwick GOP Club, revealed that Florent Hebert, Arctic businessman, will replace Donald E. Vanasse of 20 Kenmore Street, as candidate for state representative from representative district two.

Replacing Dr. Joseph E. Wittig, who had previously announced his intention to withdraw as candidate for councilman No. 2, is Harold Hayes of Knight Street, Clyde, operator of a lace finishing business and a GOP town committeeman.

### Other Changes

Peter Lemoine of 37 Knight Street replaces Manuel Moniz of 101 Summit Avenue as candidate for councilman No. 4. Another change finds Paul Z. Curtis of 681 Providence Street running for tax assessor in place of Medard L. Caron.

Harold C. Knight, GOP town chairman, said the required withdrawals and substitutions had been filed with the town canvassing authority over the weekend. He said Vanasse and Caron withdrew for reasons of health and that Moniz, whose name had been inadvertently left off the primary ballot, gave no reason. Dr. Wittig had previously said he had always been an independent and he concluded he didn't have time to serve as councilman.

As master of ceremonies before the crowd estimated at 450, Norman E. Gillespie flailed local Democrats in between addresses by Raoul Archambault Jr., gubernatorial candidate; Bayard Ewing, candidate for U.S. Senator; James O. Watts, candidate for Congress; John Cioci, lieutenant governor aspirant, and Sen. Leon W. Brower of Cranston, candidate for general treasurer.

Saying that the town has been poorly represented in the General Assembly by Sen. Dion Archambault, Gillespie predicted victory for Ernest E. Lefebvre, the Republican state senatorial candidate.

### Lefebvre Speaks

Noting that chairman Vincent J. Lukowicz of the school committee, a candidate for re-election, had nothing to say about his candidacy because his office is non-political, Gillespie said, "I don't know who he thinks he's kidding. He was chosen by the Democratic town committee. I think it's absolutely illegal to be a civil service worker and run as a candidate for a political office. But we're going to have a change anyhow. Dr. Mozart Maynard is going to succeed him."

Lefebvre, state senator candidate, declared that "not only the national situation, but the state situation calls for a change." Saying it would be a privilege to serve under Raoul Archambault Jr. as governor "with the program he started as senator from West Warwick," Lefebvre declared the present Democratic General Assembly delegation "has just about kept the chairs warm for many years and they can't point to a single piece of legislation they supported or proposed for the good of the local community."

If elected, he said, he would see that the town gets back in improvements its just share of taxes its residents pay. When he was on a special bipartisan advisory committee, Lefebvre said, former Gov. Robert E. Quinn noted that the town had gotten no road improvements since he had served as governor. This year, Lefebvre said, "They got about a half-mile done."

Joseph V. Pelleccione, candidate for representative from representative district one, declared that Senator Pastore, while governor, "failed to read the Kent County Water Authority bill." He said he would read all bills that affect West Warwick.

### Mills Problem

Richard Salvas, candidate for

representative from representative district three, asked for a chance to work with Archambault "to keep what textile industries we have left in the state."

"You have first-hand knowledge of the Warwick Mills problem," Salvas said. "Our town council—a Democratic town council—led by the nose by a Democratic town committee, refused to help in any way even after the workers themselves appeared before the council to plead their cause. This was the Democratic town council, they who call themselves the friends of the people."

"The nation is going to go Republican. The state is going Republican. The town of West Warwick must go Republican if it is to do its part. The Republicans in this town must work hard to elect our candidates so that the welfare of the whole nation and the whole state will be placed once again into the hands of men who can be trusted."

Henry Regauld, candidate for councilman No. 1, said he is confident the state and nation are going Republican and "the voters in West Warwick are going to do some fancy housecleaning, too."

"All over America they are going to the polls in November to make a change because they are completely fed up with the corruption and scandals and immorality prevalent in our highest offices," Regauld said. "After we are elected, we'll do the mopping up, because this town is no different from the rest of the country and has a Democratic administration which has been asleep at the switch for four years."

Gillespie and several candidates alluded often to the "big smell" from the town sewage disposal plant in Natick.

"All the smell in West Warwick doesn't come from the sewer plant," said Regauld. "What happened to Bourgault (Charles J. Bourgault, who recently resigned as town solicitor)? Who runs their party—Chief Groleau, Mike DeCiantis? What's going on? Is it falling apart?"

Others introduced in addition to the new candidates announced, were Knight and aspirants for office as follows: Luke Smith, town clerk; Domenic Petrarca, councilman No. 3; Joseph Henault, councilman No. 5; Rosario J. Russi, tax assessor; Mrs. Olive Knight, town treasurer; Lionel Belisle, town sergeant; Dr. Mozart Maynard and Peter D. Petrarca, school committee.

26

*Evening Bulletin 9/22/52*



GOVERNOR ROBERTS IS CONGRATULATED after his speech by Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic town committee of West Warwick. The governor spoke at the rally and clambake sponsored by the organization in Natick.

—State Staff Photo



EVENING BULLETIN 9/22/52

## 800 Democrats Reassured By State, Local Leaders

### 'Militant Defense' of Record Asked By Speakers at West Warwick Bake

West Warwick Democrats yesterday were assured by town and state officials headed by Governor Roberts and Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of the town council, that the Democratic record—nationally, statewide and locally—was one that they could go to the polls in "militant defense of" in 1952.

More than 800 people—termed a "significantly" large number—attended a clambake sponsored at the Club 400, Natick, by the town committee.

On the speakers' platform to greet them were most town officeholders and several local candidates, while Senator Pastore and Congressman Fogarty dropped in, like Governor Roberts, amidst other engagements, to address the assemblage.

#### Urge Big Turnout

All three state officials, along with several townsmen, urged a big turnout for the Democratic primary on Wednesday. A large-scale

#### Slogan

The slogan, Archambault said, is "nix on Ike."

Also, Archambault added, the Democrats "do not start six weeks before the election to hang around mill gates for votes. They are there 365 days a year." This was an evident allusion to campaign tactics of Raoul Archambault, a cousin of the speaker, who is Republican gubernatorial nominee.

DiFiore a veteran of 10 years in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, said he was "proud" of the Democratic "team" with which he had worked there. He promised to look out for the interests of the people and the party if re-elected.

Colonel Quinn, who is a sort of elder statesman of the Democratic Party in West Warwick, noted that large registrations, such as in this year, usually meant victory for the Democrats. He urged all to go to the polls to insure this victory.

Albert Muschiano, unendorsed candidate for school committee on the Democratic ticket, sat in the audience and made no attempt to address it.

Miss Irene Yarborough sang a solo number. An amusing note was provided when it was announced that there would be no clams for the bake, although there was chowder, "since the only ones that could have been obtained would have been too small to satisfy you." Macaroni was served instead.

trek to the polls, they said, would be "significant, inspirational and a source of confidence."

McKanna, commenting on the "huge" attendance at the rally, predicted that the Democratic plurality of "2100" in the 1950 elections was bound to move upward nearer the 3000-mark this November.

Not a candidate for re-election, the council president said that the town officials "had worked hard the past two years to get the best government possible." He urged election of the entire slate of endorsed Democratic candidates since "they will continue to do the job."

#### Seated on Dias

Seated on the dias were Charles Bourgault, outgoing town solicitor; Eugene J. Laferriere, probate court judge; Herve Niquette, candidate for No. 1 council position tantamount to the council presidency; Antonio Paul, councilman and candidate for re-election in the No. 3 spot; Frank Fazzano, assistant state attorney general and council candidate in the fourth position; Alfred Richard, chairman of the town committee and master of ceremonies at the affair.

Also State Sen. Dion Archambault, who seeks re-election; Col. Patrick H. Quinn, chairman of the Kent County Water Authority; State Rep. Gerard DiFiore, a candidate for that office again; Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk; Mrs. Yvonne Gujot, president of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club and assistant to Police Chief Groleau, general chairman, in arranging the clambake, and State Sen. Raymond McCabe of Providence, Senate floor leader.

Bourgault, who has resigned his solicitorship effective Oct. 1, remarked that "my appearance here is intended to underline the fact that no change in the town government will change the policy of good government."

#### 'Nest Egg'

Noting that "despite the increased cost of materials and supplies, the government continues to act on a \$2.25 (per \$100) tax rate," Bourgault said that in the treasurer's office there was a "substantial nest egg" for future expansion when townspeople desire it.

Fazzano, showing excellent platform poise to belie his introduction as a "political unknown," said he believed in running the town government according to "three simple laws—laws by the Almighty, laws by man and the law of pure, ordinary common sense."

Senator Archambault, who exhibited a humorous approach toward his political opponents not dissimilar from that of Adlai Stevenson, Democratic presidential nominee, jibed at West Warwick Republicans who were meeting a few hundred yards away at another clambake.

"The wake is being held today," he said, in reference to the GOP gathering, "the funeral will be Nov. 4."

Archambault said that a new slogan has been proposed for Democrats since Sen. Richard Nixon, Republican vice-presidential nominee, "caught his fingers in the cash register." He referred to recent revelations of private financial assistance rendered to the California senator.

## W. Warwick Candidate To Resign If Nominated

Pawtucket Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

Because he is a civil service employe at the Davisville Navy Depot, Chairman Vincent J. Lukowicz of the West Warwick school committee will withdraw after today's Democratic primary, if he is nominated for re-election, Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic town chairman, said yesterday.

Lukowicz, who has been on the school board for 12 years—three four-year terms—handed Richard a letter yesterday saying he is a civil service employe and, therefore, was withdrawing as a candidate.

The letter said Lukowicz was unaware he could not be a candidate until he obtained a definite ruling yesterday at the Naval Depot.

But Richard said it was too late for Lukowicz to withdraw from the primary and his name must remain on the voting machines today. If he is nominated, he will have to withdraw afterward and be replaced by an appointee of the town committee, Richard said.

#### Opposes Mushiano

Lukowicz and Dr. Richard P. Duffy, optometrist, are endorsed candidates for the school committee. They are running against Al-



Vincent J. Lukowicz

bert Mushiano, Natick barber, unendorsed, for the two nominations available. The top two vote-getters of the trio will win nomination.

A spokesman at the personnel office at the Naval Depot said yesterday he had advised Lukowicz to withdraw because his candidacy is a violation of the Hatch Act, passed by Congress in 1939 to keep civil service workers out of politics.

Any further comment on Lukowicz's case would have to come from Lt. Comdr. Mounger, public relations officer at the depot, he said. Commander Mounger could not be reached last night.

Lukowicz also was reported to be ready to resign from his present school committee post, but he could not be reached last night, despite repeated calls.

#### Withdrawal Deadline

The final date for withdrawals of persons nominated for town office in today's Democratic primary is Sept. 29. Vacancies must be filled by the town committee by Sept. 30.

The Hatch Act prohibits any classified civil service employe from taking part in any political management, campaign or activity, on his own part or in open or secret collaboration with others.

Candidacy for nomination or for election to any national, state, county or municipal office is not permissible, and the prohibition extends not only to the formal candidacy announcement, but to any candidacy preliminaries, the 1939 law says.

The law says any person who violates any provision of the act, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than \$1000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. It further says any person violating any provision of the law shall be immediately removed from the position or office held by him and his compensation stopped.

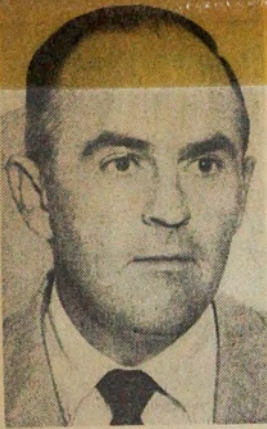
#### Good Vote-Getter

When the three school board candidates were asked for statements on their objectives last week, Lukowicz was silent. He said he did not want to leave himself open to any possible accusation of making political statements that might hurt him under civil service regulations.

At the time, he said he understood it was legal for him to hold such an educational post as school committeeman because it was not considered political.

Lukowicz is considered a good vote-getter on the Democratic ticket, particularly among the large Polish-American population in his home section of Crompton. He is president of the Polish National Alliance, Crompton, and active in other Polish-American units. He also is chairman of the committee named by the West Warwick town meeting this year to study school building needs.





Dr. Richard P. Duffy

Vincent J. Lukowicz  
PRIV. JOURNAL 9/25/52

## Machine Victor in Only West Warwick Contest

Pawtuxet Valley Office  
15 Washington Street  
West Warwick

Telephone  
VA 1-8200  
VA 1-7067

The West Warwick Democratic machine beat down the only attempt to buck the organization's endorsed slate in yesterday's primary, as Albert Muschiano of Natick, unendorsed candidate for school committee, lost to the two endorsed candidates, Vincent J. Lukowicz, present school board chairman, and Dr. Richard P. Duffy, Arctic optometrist.

Lukowicz, although nominated, plans to withdraw and be replaced by a selection of the Democratic town committee. He announced his intention to withdraw a day before the primary because he is a civil service employe at the Naval Ad-

vance Base Depot, Davisville, and had been warned his candidacy was illegal under the Hatch Act, designed to keep civil service out of politics.

As an estimated 501 voters went to the polls yesterday, however, Lukowicz's name was on the voting machines because he made his withdrawal announcement too late. He has been on the school board for 12 years.

In the town-wide count of seven voting districts, Dr. Duffy led with 395 votes in the three-man race for two nominations. Lukowicz polled 391 votes and Muschiano, 280.

Muschiano, who conceded he had lost about 9:30 p.m., said he was pleased that he had carried his home voting district in Natick by more than 50 votes. The total there was: Muschiano, 175; Lukowicz, 122, and Dr. Duffy, 116.

### Carries Home District

Muschiano's lead in his home district was not large enough to offset the leads of the endorsed candidates in the other six voting districts. This was especially true in Lukowicz's home Crompton district, where he polled 109 to 94 for Dr. Duffy and only 20 for Muschiano.

Dr. Duffy carried his home district in polling at the town hall garage, Riverpoint. He had 46 votes there, compared with 43 for Lukowicz and 10 for Muschiano.

Deputy Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic town chairman, said last night the Democratic town committee will meet next week to choose a replacement for Lukowicz. He said he had no idea who the successor would be. However, it is known that Frank Lachapelle, long active in Valley sports circles, has some support on the town committee.

Lukowicz has until Sept. 30 to file a formal withdrawal with the canvassing authority. The town committee must fill the vacancy by Sept. 30.

Governor Roberts, in the only other contest, defeated Arthur E. Marley in the town by 436 to 65.

### Totals of Other Candidates

Other totals received by uncontested candidates are Senator Pastore, 318; Congressman Fogarty, 305; Lieutenant Governor McKiernan, 284; Armand H. Cote, secretary of state, 290; Attorney General Powers, 283; Raymond H. Hawksley, general treasurer, 273; Dion Archambault, state senator, 282; Gerard DiFiore, representative from District one, 106; Ulysses LaRoche, representative from district two, 59; Thaddeus Kraus, state representative from District three, 142.

Also, Susan V. Lamb, town clerk, 289; Hervey Niquette, councilman No. 1, 274; Thomas F. Mello, councilman No. 2, 282; Antonio Paul,

councilman No. 3, 276; Francis J. Fazzano, councilman No. 4, 282; Chester Kulasewski, councilman No. 5, 294; Robert J. Harrop, town treasurer, 285; Frank D. Boisvert, town sergeant, 275; Joseph O. Laurence, director of public welfare, 283; Hermenekilde J. Nadeau, tax assessor for four years, 280; Richard S. Hughes, tax assessor for four years, 270.

Also, George W. Hughes, state committeeman from representative district one, 95; Lillian A. Miller, state committeewoman from representative district one, 84; Patrick H. Quinn, state committeeman from representative district two, 60; Agnes Blanchet, state committeewoman from representative district two, 65; James S. Scully, state committeeman from representative district three, 129; and Aline L. Hill, state committeewoman from representative district three, 118.

Also, moderator, representative district one, voting district one, Joseph Parenteau, 34; clerk, representative district one, voting district one, Robert Bonenfant, 36; moderator, representative district one, voting district two, Pasquale M. DiCarlo, 67; clerk, representative district one, voting district two, Joseph Ciafrei, 60; moderator, representative district two, voting district one, David W. Barlow, 46; clerk, representative district two, voting district one, Antonio M. Andrade, 49; moderator, representative district two, voting district two, Lorenzo Bergeron, 17; clerk, representative district two, voting district two, Annette Mello, 14; moderator, representative district three, voting district one, William E. Lambert, 81; clerk, representative district three, voting district one, Joseph A. Burton, 82; moderator, representative district three, voting district two, Wilhelm J. P. Joubert, 21; clerk, representative district three, voting district two, Andrew L. Flanagan, 20; moderator, representative district three, voting district three, Andre Godin, 28; clerk, representative district three, voting district three, Norman J. Fontaine, 27.

P.V. TIMES  
9/25/52  
**Lachapelle  
and Walczak  
Seeking Post**

Willing to Be Democratic Candidate for School Body

Biggest political interest in West Warwick today is the question who will get the favorable nod from the Democratic Town Committee to replace Vincent Lukowicz as candidate for school committeeman in the general election, Nov. 4. Two young men have already been suggested.

Lukowicz will resign as candidate from the office which he won in yesterday's Democratic primary because of his civil service status in holding a job at the Davisville Naval Depot.

This morning the names of two young men were brought to the forefront. They are Frank Lachapelle, well known baseball umpire who resides at 1439 Main street, Centreville, and Manuel Walczak of Pulaski street, Crompton. Both have reportedly said they will be willing to run as a candidate for school committeeman on the Democratic ticket if they received the offer.

Lachapelle, previously sought the endorsement as candidate for school committeeman. It was given to Dr. Richard P. Duffy, who with Lukowicz, won out over Albert Muschiano of Natick, the unendorsed candidate in yesterday's primary.

### U.R.I. Graduate

Walczak is being suggested by a group of his friends who feel that the graduate of the University of Rhode Island and a former U.S. Army Air Force captain, being a Polish-American and resident of Crompton, like Lukowicz, should receive the offer. His backers also feel that they warrant consideration because they are chiefly responsible for getting out the majority party vote in yesterday's primary in Vol. Dist. 1 of Rep. Dist. 3, which offset Muschiano's big plurality in his own district.

Muschiano won't say at this time whether or not he will continue to strive for a school board candidacy. He made a good showing in the primary, polling 280 votes to 391 for Lukowicz and 395 for Dr. Richard P. Duffy. He carried his own district Vol. Dist. 2 of Rep. Dist. 1, the Natick area, by a count of 175 to 122 for Lukowicz and 116 for Duffy. Natick has long been predominantly Democratic. Some say Muschiano should be appointed by reason of the showing he made at the polls yesterday.

Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, said last night the town committee will meet next week. At that session they are expected to name a replacement for Lukowicz. Lukowicz said last night that he definitely is going to resign as a candidate for the election and that at the next meeting of the school committee he will also resign from his position on that body.



# LUKOWICZ AND DUFFY VICTORS

## Win Over Muschiano in West Warwick Democratic Primary

Endorsed candidate Vincent J. Lukowicz who with Dr. Richard P. Duffy also endorsed, won nomination as school committeeman in the only contest in the West Warwick Democratic primary, said last night, one hour after the polls closed, he will withdraw his name as a candidate for the Nov. 4 election. He also said that because of his civil service status he will resign from the school committee at

their next meeting.

Lukowicz and Duffy were winners over Albert Muschiano of Natick who sought nomination as school committeeman without party endorsement. Lukowicz polled 391, Duffy 395 and Muschiano 280 votes. Muschiano carried his own Natick district. Vol. 1 of Rep. 1 with 175 votes, a margin of 53 over his nearest rival Lukowicz who received 122 votes in the Natick area. He also tied Duffy with 23 votes in Vol. Dist. 2 of Rep. Dist. 3.

On the state level, Governor Dennis J. Roberts polled 436 votes to 65 for Arthur Marley the unendorsed candidate for governor. 501 Votes Are Cast

Total number of votes received by each candidate in yesterday's primary in which 501 voters cast a ballot follow: John O. Pastore, U. S. Senator, 318; John E. Fogarty, congressman of the Second Representative District, 305; Governor Roberts, 436; Marley, 65; John S. McKiernan, for lt. gov., 284; Armand J. Cote, secretary of state, 290; William E. Powers, attorney general, 283; Raymond Hawksley, (continued on page 3, col. 4)

### LUKOWICZ AND DUFFY VICTORS (Continued from page 1)

general treasurer, 273; Dion Archambault, state senator, 282; Gerard DiFiore representative from the First District, 106; Ulysses LaRoche, representative from the Second District, 59; Thaddeus Kraus, representative from the Third District, 142.

Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk, 289; town councilmen—Hervey Niquette 274, Thomas Mello 282, Antonio Paul 276, Francis J. Fazzano 282, Chester Kulasewski 294; Robert J. Harrop, treasurer, 285; Frank Boisvert, town sergeant, 275; Joseph Laurence, director of public aid, 283; Herminigelde Nadeau, 280 and Richard Hughes Sr. 270, tax assessors; school committee—Lukowicz, 391, Duffy, 395, Muschiano, 280.

#### School Committee

The contestants for school committee received the following votes at the seven polls as follows: Rep. Dist. 1, Vol. Dist. 1, Lukowicz 43, Duffy 46 and Muschiano 10; Vol. Dist. 2, Lukowicz 122, Duffy 116, Muschiano 175; Rep. Dist. 2, Vol. Dist. 1, Lukowicz 52, Duffy 65, Muschiano 37; Vol. Dist. 2, Lukowicz 17, Duffy 19, Muschiano 7; Rep. Dist. 3, Vol. Dist. 1, Lukowicz 109, Duffy 94, Muschiano 20; Vol. 2, Lukowicz 22, Duffy 23, Muschiano 23; Vol. Dist. 3, Lukowicz 26, Duffy 32 and Muschiano 8.

### Council Asks New Petition

#### E. Greenwich Action In Accepting Street Omitted Some Steps

Marion Street property owners who wish the street to be formally accepted by the Town of East Greenwich will have to submit a new petition to the town, it was decided at a meeting of the town council last night.

The council voted to include the street in the town highway system at its August session, but it was learned later that the action had been taken without meeting the requirements of the law.

The law, according to Town Solicitor Clinton G. Clough requires formal notification to property owners who do not sign a petition for acceptance and an advertised public hearing on the petition.

A protest by Miss Rose E. Rochford of 56 Marion Street, who objected to the resurfacing of the street by the town highway department, brought to light the council's oversight in passing its August resolution.

Michael DeClantis, attorney for Miss Rochford, appeared at the meeting last night to inquire what action the town would take on the matter.

Kurt G. Haeseler, highway commissioner, recommended that if a new petition be submitted it should call for the acceptance of both Marion Street and a portion of Revolution Street which intersects with it. Revolution Street, except for a 70 or 80 foot portion, he said, has already been accepted by the town.

If a new petition is received by the council at its next session no action can be taken on it until it is advertised and a date set for a public hearing.

### Democrats Eye Three Men for School Board

#### Vacancy on Ticket In W. Warwick Must Be Filled by Oct. 1

Three persons today were in the running for endorsement by the West Warwick Democratic Town Committee for nomination to the school committee to fill the vacancy created by the withdrawal of Chairman Vincent J. Lukowicz, who was nominated in Wednesday's primary.

Lawrence Mailloux of 19 Crossland Road, Natick, former teacher and vice principal of the high school and now vice president and sales manager of Bradford Soap Works, said today he had been

#### Other Pawtuxet Valley And Warwick News

##### On Page 29

urged to seek the office and that he would accept if endorsed. He is a graduate of Providence College and also studied at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design.

Manuel Walczak of Pulaski Street, Crompton, a University of Rhode Island graduate and former Air Force captain, is reported to have strong support in Crompton, especially among members of the Crompton Veterans' Organization, of which he is a member.

Frank LaChapelle of 1439 Main Street, Centreville, a UTC bus driver who has long been active in Valley sports circles, is also a candidate.

Supporters of Walczak reportedly feel that the endorsement should go to him, in as much as Lukowicz is from the Crompton section.

Mailloux said today that his friends feel he should try for the office because his district has not had a representative on the school board since his late father, Ernest Mailloux, held the office.

The town committee is expected to meet next week to make an endorsement. It must file the name of a successor to Lukowicz by Oct. 1.

Lukowicz, who announced he would withdraw because he had discovered his candidacy was illegal under civil service regulations at the Naval Advance Base Depot, Davisville, where he is employed, had not formally withdrawn by filing with the canvassing authority this morning. He has until Sept. 30.



# LUKOWICZ <sup>P.V. TIMES 9/27/52</sup> TO REMAIN

## Will Not Withdraw His Candidacy; Not to Resign

The political stir in West Warwick was stopped, suddenly and surprisingly this morning, when Vincent J. Lukowicz announced he is not going to withdraw his candidacy for re-election to the school committee and he is not going to resign from the school board, of which he presently is the chairman.

Lukowicz received a new ruling at the Davisville Naval Depot where he is employed and that ruling, he said, gave him the green light to continue on the school board and to seek re-election if he so desired.

Lukowicz was told at about 10:30 this morning that the civil service law had been fully examined and it was found that a school committeeman's job is non-political. He said because of the ruling and "the vote I received in the primary on Wednesday, I feel that I should run."

Subsequent to Lukowicz's prior announcement that he was going to resign, because he thought he would have to, three aspirants announced they would accept the candidacy if it was offered to them, including Frank Lacha-

pelle of Centreville, Manuel Walczak of Crompton and Lawrence Mailloux of Natick.

The stir has been stopped and Lukowicz together with Dr. Richard P. Duffy, will be the candidates for school committeemen on the Democratic ticket in West Warwick for the general election, Nov. 4.

30

# Congratulation Mr. DeCiantis!!

We admire your courage in taking over as leader of your disorganized party. How about Frank and Dion will they line up and take orders?

We like Dion, he's a nice kid; as a pugilist he has his points. But as Senator he's in the lightweight class. As for Frank how come everybody jumps when he says "Rabbit"? Nevertheless we wish you luck in your coming campaign, and if you happen to run out of Candidates for your School Committee, give us a ring . . .

# The Maynard Press

West Warwick, Rhode Island

Sept., 30, 1952

# 11,001 ELIGIBLE TO VOTE <sup>P.V. TIMES 9/27/52</sup> IN WEST WARWICK NOV. 4

Canvassing Authority's Report Shows Only 28 More Men Than Women on Town Voting Lists.—Real Estate Voters in Majority.

There are 11,001 citizens of West Warwick eligible to exercise their franchise and vote in the general election, Nov. 4.

The canvassing authority in announcing the total number of eligible voters said that the figure is the revised total of voters since they began registrations last January and includes deductions made for deceased persons and those who have moved away and can vote by absentee ballot.

Some interesting statistics are found in the totals submitted by the canvassing authority. For instance there are only 28 more men eligible to vote than women. There are 5476 males and 5448 female voters. Real estate voters outnumber the other classification of voters by a wide margin. There are 4894 real estate, 2175 personal property and 3855 registry voters in the town. There are 77 absentee voters.

Not only is Vot. Dist. 1 of Rep. Dist. 3 again the largest, as far as the number is concerned but in the breakdown of the classification of voters, either real estate, personal property or registry voters there are more real estate voters in that district than any other of the town with 2468. It is also a near certainty that the Crompton - Centreville area will always be the biggest district

as far as the number of voters is concerned because there are large tracts of undeveloped land there for future housing developments.

### Summary of Voters

A breakdown of the number of eligible voters in each of the three representative districts of the town follows: Rep. Dist. 1. Vot. Dist. 1—men, 834; women, 814; total, 1648; classifications—real estate 720, personal property 341, registry 587; Vot. Dist. 2—men, 697; women, 704; total, 1401; classification — real estate 633, personal property 292, registry 476.

Rep. Dist. 2, Vot. Dist. 1—men, 812; women, 800; total, 1612; classifications—real estate 610, personal property 346; registry 656; Vot. Dist. 2—men, 516; women, 564; total, 1080; classification—real estate 389, personal property 208, registry 483.

Rep. Dist. 3, Vot. Dist. 1—men, 1263; women, 1205; total, 2468; classification — real estate 1409, personal property 412, registry 647; Vot. Dist. 2—men, 834; women, 823; total, 1657; classification —real estate 707, personal property 554, registry 396; Vot. Dist. 3—men, 520; women, 538; total, 1058; classification — real estate 426, personal property 222, registry 410.

## W. Warwick GOP <sup>P.V. JOURNAL 9/30/52</sup> Launches Attack

West Warwick Republican officials and candidates last night launched a concerted attack against the record of a Democratic town administration.

The meeting attracted approximately 30 persons to the home of Domenico A. Petrarca of 8 Tripoli Street, Natick.

During the rally, attended by John Cioci, GOP candidate for lieutenant governor; Ernest E. Lafebvre, candidate for state senator; Joseph Pelliccione, district one representative aspirant, and town council hopefuls, the speakers slammed what one of them termed the "do-nothing policies" of the incumbents.

Henry Regauld, candidate for the number one councilmanic position tantamount to the council presidency, said the Democrats either "forget" to fulfill their promises or "appoint committees to forget them."



# 31 Holds Hatch Act Affects Lukowicz Candidacy

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VA 1-7067

No civil service employe may run for any office as a political party candidate, a high legal official of the U.S. Civil Service Commission in Washington said yesterday.

The ruling, given the Journal-Bulletin by Charles Barnes of the commissioner's legal staff, apparently affects the controversial candidacy of Vincent J. Lukowicz, civil service employe at Davisville Ad-

vance Base Navy Depot, for the West Warwick School Committee.

Barnes said that Section 18 of the Hatch Act, designed to keep civil service employes or officers out of partisan politics, permits employes to hold office only as the result of a non-partisan election. (One in which a candidate runs without a party label).

However, in West Warwick, school committee candidates run on the ticket of their political party at regular elections, and this is not permissible for a civil service employe, Barnes said.

## Cites Off-Year Poll Trend

Barnes said he was surprised that West Warwick School Committee members are elected on party tickets. He said the trend is to hold school board elections in off-years at special elections without the party labels.

The West Warwick Democratic Town Committee last night discussed the Lukowicz candidacy, but concluded that, since Lukowicz was nominated and it is up to him whether he chooses to withdraw his candidacy.

"As far as we know, he's still running," said Dep. Sheriff Alfred Richard, party chairman. He said Lukowicz had said nothing about withdrawing since he changed his mind about doing so last week, and that he had filed no withdrawal with the town canvassing authority. (Candidates nominated in the Democratic primary for local office have until 5 p.m. today to withdraw by filing withdrawals with the canvassing authority.)

Lukowicz could not be reached last night to determine whether he had changed his mind again about withdrawing, in the light of Barnes' ruling.

## Gillespie Issues Denial

Meanwhile, Norman E. Gillespie, prominent West Warwick Republican, denied last night that he had been taken to task by Harold C. Knight, GOP town chairman, for saying, at a GOP rally a week ago last Sunday, that he believed Lukowicz's candidacy was illegal. Gillespie, a town committeeman and administrative assistant to Charles H. Eden, GOP state chairman, said he hadn't even seen Knight between the day of the rally and yesterday.

Knight said Sunday night that he believed Lukowicz was right that he could run for school committee because it is not a "political" post, and added that a speaker at the rally had been taken to task in connection with the Lukowicz case. He did not mention any name.

Lukowicz announced early last week that he planned to withdraw as school committee candidate because he had been warned at the Navy depot that it was against civil service regulations. Later in the week, he said he had received a new ruling at the industrial relations office at the base and that he intended to remain a candidate.

## Unable to Verify Ruling

A Navy spokesman at Davisville said yesterday he was unable to verify where Lukowicz had gotten the second ruling and that, as far as he knew, the candidacy was still inconsistent with civil service regulations.

If Lukowicz should change his mind and withdraw by the deadline today, the town committee will hold a special meeting tonight to select a successor for filing by the deadline for filling such vacancies tomorrow at 5 p.m., Richard said.

When Lukowicz first said he planned to withdraw, three candidates offered themselves to succeed him. They are Manuel Walczak, University of Rhode Island graduate and Crompton businessman; Frank J. Lachapelle of Centreville, a UTC employe, who graduated from La Salle Academy and attended Bryant College, and Lawrence Mailloux of Natick, former West Warwick teacher and school administrator, who now is a manufacturing plant executive.

## Knight Re-elected

Stays As West Warwick GOP  
Town Committee Chairman

Harold C. Knight of Riverpoint last night was re-elected chairman of the West Warwick Republican Town Committee, at a length reorganization meeting in Congdon's Hall, Arctic.

Other officers renamed are: Zach Gonsalves, vice chairman; Richard Salvas, secretary, and Arthur Hebert, treasurer.

Ernest E. Lefebvre, candidate for state senator and committee publicity officer, said the group discussed a proposed party platform and will continue the discussion at a meeting tomorrow night.

Lefebvre said a note of confidence that the GOP will win the coming election permeated the meeting. Reports from committeemen in various districts, he said, indicate that the local Democratic Party is disorganized and that the recent resignation of Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault is evidence of it.

The committee feels that Democratic internal troubles and the expected pull of Independent voters by General Eisenhower will be important factors in a West Warwick GOP victory, Lefebvre said.

## PROV. JOURNAL 9/30/52 W. Warwick Gets Town Solicitor

### Democrats Endorse DeCiantis, Appointment Expected This Week

The West Warwick Democratic town committee last night endorsed Michael DeCiantis to fill the unexpired term of Town Solicitor Charles J. Bourgault, whose resignation becomes effective tomorrow.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, who attended the meeting in the town hall, said DeCiantis will be appointed at a special meeting this week.

Endorsement of DeCiantis, who is a member of the committee and a veteran public official, thus will assure again a top position in the party. The town solicitor usually is the spokesman of the party and takes a large part in drawing up annual town budgets.

DeCiantis resigned as town solicitor last February and was succeeded by Bourgault. It later was reported that DeCiantis had a disagreement with some members of the town council. But he was appointed by the council to be special counsel without fee in the town's fight against higher water rates sought by the Kent County Water Authority.

He is a former probate judge, assistant attorney general and chief of the state division of public utilities.

Noted as a colorful campaigner, DeCiantis is seen by observers as being drafted to play a major role in the election campaign just getting under way.

Until he resigned last February, he had been solicitor since 1948.

In other business, the committee last night named two polling place officials to replace two elected officials who had resigned. The new men will be appointed by the canvassing authority.

Pasquale DiCarlo of 4 Prospect Hill Avenue replaces John Gallucci of Providence Street as moderator of the Natick School polling place, and Manuel Walczak of Pulaski Street replaces Joseph A. Burton of 15 Robinson Way as clerk of the Crompton polling place at Murray Square. Gallucci, a town committeeman, resigned as moderator because he now is a member of the canvassing authority.

## Ruling Sought On Lukowicz

### PROV. JOURNAL 10/2/52 Navy Officials Ask For Opinion on W. Warwick Candidate

Officials of the Naval Advance Base Depot, Davisville, have requested an opinion from the U.S. Civil Service Commission on legality of the candidacy of Vincent J. Lukowicz for West Warwick school committeeman on the Democratic ticket, a Navy spokesman said yesterday.

Lukowicz, apparently convinced his civil service status at Davisville is not a bar to his seeking reelection to the school board, failed to withdraw his candidacy by the deadline for doing so Tuesday at 5 p.m.

The Navy spokesman said Lukowicz, a materials worker, is a classified civil service employe and, as such, comes under regulation of the Hatch Act, designed to keep civil service employes or officers out of partisan politics.

Two weeks ago Lukowicz received a warning at Davisville that his candidacy apparently was in violation of the Hatch Act and, at that time, he announced he would withdraw. Subsequently, he said he had received a different ruling at the base industrial relations office and he would remain a candidate.

Since Lukowicz said he received the favorable ruling, a Navy spokesman has been unable to verify that he did receive it officially. Barring a higher ruling, Navy officials believe the candidacy is inconsistent with the regulations, the spokesman has said.

Charles Barnes, legal adviser to the U.S. Civil Service Commission, told the Journal-Bulletin this week that no civil service employe may run for office as a political party candidate.

The deadline for withdrawing having passed, Lukowicz now is slated to go on the No. 4 election ballot. He and Dr. Richard P. Duffy, both endorsed by the Democratic Party, were victorious over Albert Muschiano, unendorsed, in a Democratic primary contest for two nominations on Sept. 24.



# West Warwick Record Lashed

Olson Says If Town Is  
Clean It's Because  
GOP Scoured It in 1946

Pawtucket Valley Office Telephone  
15 Washington Street VA 1-5200  
West Warwick VA 1-7057

If the town of West Warwick is clean gambling-wise, it's due to the fact a Republican administration cleaned it up in 1946, Gustaf Olson, former police chief, declared last night, in a two-fisted attack on the Democratic administration.

Speaking at a West Warwick Republican Club rally in Congdon's Hall, Arctic, Olson, a GOP town committeeman, asserted "from 1936 to 1946, under Democratic administrations, the town was known the world over for more slot machines, pin ball machines and gambling crap games per square foot than any other town in the world."

Olson, who was chief after the GOP victory in 1946, declared, "if the town is clean, it's because the Republicans made it clean and they don't dare to do anything else. It was quite a mess, and don't you forget it."

He noted that Francis Fazzano, assistant attorney general who is running for councilman, has said that the town is "clean" and that Police Chief Groleau had "racketeers offer him a house and money and they couldn't get in."

"I don't think Fazzano knows a clean town when he sees one," Olson asserted. "He's working in the attorney general's office on the city of Pawtucket."

Until Republicans cleaned house, Olson declared, "they ran the crummiest town in the world, and they can take that from me."

Hitting at Michael DeCiantis, about to be named town solicitor again to replace Charles J. Bourgault, Olson said he had high respect for Bourgault, "but they're taking the scrubs out and putting the first team in, Mike is the No. 1 mud-slinger of the Democratic Party and don't forget it. He's not running for office, but he's going to do all the mud-slinging for the party. He's a veteran at it. It's about time the GOP stood up on its feet and started giving Mike just as good as he can send."

Saying that Democrats had a big turnout at a recent dinner because Democrats and their families on the state and local payrolls had to attend, Olson took issue with a remark made there that the town has a nest egg in a postwar improvement fund. He said, "they're hinting that the GOP put a dent in it and would clean it out. The Republican administration probably left the town in better financial condition than ever and lowered the tax rate."

# G. O. P. Says DeCiantis Top Campaigner of Democrats

West Warwick Republicans Declare He Has  
Replaced Bourgault and McKanna As  
Spokesman.—Rally is Held.

West Warwick Republicans last night tabbed Michael DeCiantis to be the No. 1 standard bearer for the Democrats in the election campaign, even though he isn't going to run for an office.

Both Ernest E. Lefebvre, candidate for state senator and former police chief Gustaf Olson, said that with Harry F. McKanna Jr. and Charles J. Bourgault out, the Democrats want DeCiantis, scheduled to be reappointed town solicitor, to be their spokesman.

Lefebvre said that the Democrats can't have McKanna speak about his record in office because he hasn't any to be proud of and Bourgault resigned to keep the party in line. Both Lefebvre and Olson said that Bourgault was a very capable town solicitor, but he was informed he was too busy to continue because of the condition of the sewer plant and because the party had to go into a primary.

Olson said that with the resignation of Bourgault and the assured appointment of DeCiantis,

because Chief of Police Arthur Groleau recommends his appointment, it means that "Mike is on the No. 1 team." He hates everything Republican and I think its time we stand up to him," Olson added.

"What's Happening?"

Lefebvre told the group assembled in Congdon's Hall, Arctic, that Col. Patrick H. Quinn, former Democratic Town Committee chairman, must be wondering what's happening to his party. Lefebvre continued, "Years ago we had financial town meetings and they were businesslike and orderly and meant something. Today it isn't the same. Rather

(Continued on page 3, col. 1)

## G. O. P. Says DeCiantis Top Campaigner of Democrats

(Continued from page 1)

than raise the tax rate this year they changed the fiscal year and can operate for 10 months on 12 months' income. Twenty years ago the taxpayers appropriated money for a sewer project. Today they get the sewerage at the plant in Natick and then haul it

by truck to the athletic field at Riverpoint. I understand it costs \$200 a day to do this hauling."

In speaking about changes being made by the Democrats in handling the town government, Lefebvre said the town formerly appointed a chief of police to carry on police work, and today we find the chief appointing his town council. He said that Chief Groleau selected Francis J. Fazzano to be the next president of the town council.

Lefebvre said the town can get back to their former type of government with a Republican win at the polls in November.

At the close of his address, Lefebvre said he understood that his opponent, Sen. Dion Archambault, isn't interested in winning in November because of his present employment.

Olson said that recent developments make him think that the Republicans will certainly win in November.

Says Democrats Bragging  
In addition, Olson said that the Democrats are already bragging—about the number of people they had at their clambake and about West Warwick being a clean town. The attendance at the clambake was swelled by 200 town employees and 300 on the state payroll, "a cheering section which follows him about the state."

Continuing, Olson said Fazzano, assistant attorney general, keeps hopping on West Warwick being a clean town. If this is a clean town, it is because the Republicans cleaned it up. In 1946, it was a mess. From 1936 to 1946 the town was known for its slot machines and pinball machines. They had more per square foot than any other town in the world. If it's still clean it's because they don't dare do anything else. The Democratic party and the present big wigs are the same ones as when the town was known

throughout the world."

"Better Financially"

Olson said the Democrats are also bragging about having money in the town treasury and about maintaining a careful watch over it, indicating the Republicans did or would clean it out. "The record shows the Republicans left the town better financially than ever before or ever since," Olson added. "In addition, the GOP lowered the tax rate," he said.

Florent Hebert, candidate for

representative from the Second District, said he was putting politics before his business because "I have the strong conviction the country needs a change." He said, "I am dissatisfied with the present government in the nation, state and at Pike Street, Riverpoint. The Republicans are pledged to get rid of unnecessary public works and to rid the taxpayers of their unnecessary taxes."



# West Warwick Democrats Promise New Town Hall, Police, Fire Quarters

## Seven-Point Platform Is Released

Construction of a new combination-type building or several buildings, depending on taxpayers' wishes, is promised in a seven-point platform released today by West Warwick Democrats.

The platform, as announced by Deputy Sheriff Alfred Richard, Democratic Town Committee chairman, follows:

1. Recommended construction of a new municipal building consisting of a town hall, fire station, and police station. Whether this should be a combination town hall, police and fire station in one building, or three separate build-

## Other Pawtuxet Valley And Warwick News On Page 23

ings, shall be decided after taxpayers have had an opportunity to express their views at open public hearings held by the planning board.

2. We favor prompt and definite action on the recommendations to be submitted by the committee on school building needs.

3. We recommend purchase of land for recreational purposes and as a site for an athletic field.

4. We represent a department of recreation be created under supervision of the school committee, with the appointment of a full time director by the school committee.

5. eW favor prompt and definite action on the Myers Traffic Survey Report.

6. We favor expansion of parking facilities within the town.

7. The Democratic Party will continue to give the people of the town efficient and clean administration of government.

## DeCiantis Hits

### GOP Record

PROV. JOURNAL 10/9/52

#### Democratic Leader

#### In W. Warwick

#### Flays Olson, Lefebvre

The West Warwick political campaign got into high gear last night with Michael DeCiantis, Democratic party leader who is about to become town solicitor again, lashing Gustaf Olson, former Republican police chief, and Ernest E. Lefebvre, GOP senatorial candidate, as "bedfellows who don't trust each other," and local Democratic candidates defending their record.

DeCiantis was featured speaker at a West Warwick Democratic Women's Club meeting in Nurses' Hall, Arctic, which was also addressed by Sen. Dion Archambault, Rep. Thaddeus Kraus, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb, former town solicitor Charles J. Bourgault, Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Francis J. Fazzano, assistant attorney general who is running for councilman.

Answering Olson and Lefebvre, whom he called "the little man from Centreville and the little fellow from Curson Street," DeCiantis was obviously irked at their calling him "the number one mud-slinger of the Democratic Party" at a recent GOP meeting.

"Talk about mud-slinging, two years ago there was a Republican primary and everyone in town was disgusted with the actions of the two factions," DeCiantis said. "They were calling each other names behind doors and lambasting each other publicly."

Hitting at Olson for saying that West Warwick was "the crummiest town in the world from 1936 to 1946," and that the Republicans had to clean it up, DeCiantis said the Democrats "two weeks after we got back into power had to clean up the slot machines in Centreville. He (Olson) was police chief, but when the people saw their rights and freedom violated, the Democratic Party came into power again. Our 2000 pluralities show they're not wanted."

Saying Olson and Lefebvre had gotten off on the wrong foot and that he would stick to issues after answering them, DeCiantis added, Republicans don't like it. These two men will be abandoned by their own rank and file. Before we get through with them, we'll give them the worst licking they ever got."

DeCiantis declared that Olson and Lefebvre were against the legislation which created permanent police and fire departments. Derriding Lefebvre's promise to work for better roads, he said, "why, he couldn't get you peanuts. He tried to get on the Democratic ticket, and the Democrats didn't want him, as he didn't have the ability."

DeCiantis called Harold C. Knight GOP chairman, "an honest, clean and upright individual, and it's been hard for him to keep them in line. Their speeches the other night will lose them a great many votes out of their own ranks."

## Council Oversight Makes Street's Status Uncertain Question in East Greenwich

The East Greenwich town council in August voted to add Marion Street to the town's highway system, but it now appears, according to Town Solicitor Clinton G. Clough, that the council took the action without meeting the legal requirements for formal acceptance of a street by the town.

Councilmen John W. Corr Jr. and Walter R. Hazard said the council acted favorably on a petition from Marion Street property owners upon the advice of Clough.

The town solicitor, however, said that when he advised the council to take the action he did so in the belief the council already had taken all the steps required by law.

These, he said, include publication in a newspaper of the intention to accept the street, formal notification to property owners on the street who do not sign a petition for acceptance, and a public hearing on the matter.

The question of the status of the street in the town's highway system arose as the result of a protest by Miss Rose E. Rochford of 56 Marion Street, who objected to the resurfacing of the street by keeping her car parked in the street while road crews were at work.

Kurt A. Haeseler, highway commissioner, said Miss Rochford has since voluntarily moved her car and is co-operating with the department.

He added that resurfacing of the street was discussed as far back as

1948 and that the job finally was put on the department's schedule before the August session of the council.

The petition addressed to the council by Marion Street property owners was dated Aug. 15 and said: "We, the undersigned, property owners abutting Marion Street, respectfully request said street to be accepted by the town."

It was signed by Edwin P. Hanks, Beatrice P. Hanks, Edwin L. Lyon, Carrie D. Lyon, Elizabeth A. Horton, Howard C. Swan, Hazel C. Swan, Annie R. Wickes and Louis H. C. Huntoon.

The action of the council on Aug. 28 was recorded in the official minutes of the meeting:

"After due consideration of a petition by Edwin P. Hanks and eight others, it is voted that Marion Street, as laid out on the plat of record, be and the same hereby is added to the town highway system."

The town solicitor said that when he advised favorable action on the petition he had assumed that if the council had a petition before it that the "requirements of the statute had been met."

Clough said that, under the circumstances, he did not know what the action of the council signifies, but, in his opinion, the vote does not constitute formal acceptance of the street because the legal requirements had not been met.

The town solicitor and other officials pointed out that many of the streets in the town have not been formally accepted by the town but are nevertheless maintained by the town.

In the case of Marion Street, Clough said that the town had acquired it through long public use and is legally obliged to maintain it as it has been doing for many years.

Before the council can accept a street, Clough also pointed out, the petitioners must bring the street to a condition approved by the highway department.

Commissioner Haeseler said that there "are no clearly defined conditions" for an old street such as Marion which has already been brought to grade and which has been maintained by the town for some time.

The town solicitor could not elaborate on the advantages of having a street formally accepted by the town. He said, however, that in the case of Marion Street, for example, formal acceptance would make it unnecessary for the town to continually move in court that it had acquired the street through use.

The town, he pointed out, successfully proved that it had acquired Marion Street by use in Fourth District Court several years ago.

It could not be learned yesterday whether the council intends to take up the matter at its next session.

33

October 1952



# DEMOCRATIC SPEAKERS SAY THEY WILL FIGHT FOR 1952 PLATFORM, DEFEND ATTACKS

P.V. Lewis 10/9/52

McKanna, Bourgault, De Ciantis and Fazzano Praise Stewardship of Party in West Warwick.—Olson and Lefebvre Scored.

West Warwick Democrats opened their election campaign last night and lost little time in turning their guns on the Republicans to inform them they are ready to defend their record of the past 2 years, are ready to fight for their 1952 platform and will defend accusations made by the GOP against their party members.

Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of the town council, said the statements of Republicans made at their own rally last week when they said McKanna doesn't have a record to stand on "not only accuses me but it accuses the Democratic party and you as members."

### Women Sponsor Rally

Speaking at the rally sponsored by the Democratic Women's Club at the nurses home, Arctic, McKanna pointed to five items which he said are only a few in the record the Democratic administration has made. He outlined them as follows:

1. Safety of citizens—increased the police department with two additional members; equipped the fire department with two-way radio and installed more fire hydrants; drew up ordinances in regulation of installation of oil burners and hot water heaters.

2. Traffic problem—parking meters.

3. Addition to Crompton library building.

4. Sewer extensions and sewer plant treatment.

Spent \$30,000 last year for improvements to the school buildings.

### Bourgault vs Lefebvre

Charles J. Bourgault, former town solicitor, took issue with Ernest E. Lefebvre, Republican candidate for state senator who at the GOP rally said the Democrats changed the fiscal year to receive 12 months income for 10 months operation. The Republicans, he said, have October spokesmen who read the papers and get their information two days before election.

The legislation to change the fiscal year in West Warwick was extensively advertised in the Pawtuxet Valley but no member

of the Republican party throughout the state said anything about it. Continuing he said, after passage of the act we placed it in the call of the meeting. We held a budget hearing and they sent Norman Gillespie to it and he got all the information. At the town meeting, with the entire GOP leadership in attendance, the measure came up for a vote and not one of them raised their hands in opposition.

### "On First Team"

With McKanna and Bourgault defending the administration's record, Michael DeCiantis leveled his attack at both Lefebvre and Gustav Olson for their attack on him at the Republican rally. He said "Let me tell Lefebvre that the Democratic party is just as united today as it was four or 20 years ago and always will be and all of its members are on the first team and the Republicans will know it when we get through with them. The disorganization isn't in the Democratic party it is in the Republican party. If it was n't for their town committee chairman Harold C. Knight, they would be like wandering sheep. If they want to talk about disorganization any longer I will reveal what happened behind closed doors in their own party."

### "On Wrong Foot"

"The Republicans again in this campaign have started off on the wrong foot when they talk about mud slinging," he said. Continuing, he said, "Two years ago the Republicans waged a primary and everyone became disgusted with the two factions who didn't trust each other and had to take a pledge they would conduct a clean primary campaign. 'I have seen the likes of the little man in Centreville and the little man on Curson Street, I have seen them go and I will see them go while I am still representing the Democratic party'," he added.

DeCiantis said that Olson has tried to get control of the Republican party for four years. "When he talks about a clean town I want to remind him that two weeks after the Democrats took office in 1948 we cleaned up a slot machine in Centreville," DeCiantis stated.

"The trouble with Lefebvre and Olson is that they can't find anything wrong with the Democratic party," DeCiantis said.

### "Platform Carried Out"

DeCiantis said that the entire Democratic platform on which they won two years ago was carried out with exception of the building of a comfort station in Arctic and the reason for that was because land couldn't be found for a suitable site.

DeCiantis said he doesn't care to discuss Lefebvre and Olson any longer in the campaign because the Democrats want to talk issues with the people and give them an account of their stewardship.

Francis J. Fazzano, candidate for town councilman said that it isn't Olson and the Republican party who deserve credit for West Warwick being a clean town, it is Michael DeCiantis. Fazzano said that West Warwick is one of the best communities of the state in which to live because of its services and yet they are offered at the lowest cost to taxpayers.

Evening Bulletin 10/9/52

## DeCiantis Hits GOP's Olson And Lefebvre

### Democratic Leader Keynotes Meeting In West Warwick

The West Warwick political campaign got into high gear last night with Michael DeCiantis, Democratic party leader who is about to become town solicitor again, lashing Gustaf Olson, former Republican police chief, and Ernest E. Lefebvre, GOP senatorial candidate, as "bedfellows who don't trust each other."

DeCiantis was featured speaker at a West Warwick Democratic Women's Club meeting in Nurses' Hall, Arctic, which was also addressed by Sen. Dion Archambault, Rep. Thaddeus Kraus, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb, former town solicitor Charles J. Bourgault, Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, and Francis J. Fazzano, assistant attorney general who is running for councilman.

Answering Olson and Lefebvre, whom he called "the little man from Centreville and the little fellow from Curson Street," DeCiantis was obviously irked at their calling him "the number one mud-slinger of the Democratic Party" at a recent GOP meeting.

"Talk about mud-slinging, two years ago there was a Republican primary and everyone in town was disgusted with the actions of the two factions," DeCiantis said. "They were calling each other names behind doors and lambasting each other publicly."

Hitting at Olson for saying that West Warwick was "the crummiest town in the world from 1936 to 1946," and that the Republicans had to clean it up, DeCiantis said the Democrats "two weeks after we got back into power had to clean up the slot machines in Centreville. He (Olson) was police chief, but when the people saw their rights and freedom violated, the Democratic Party came into power again. Our 2000 pluralities show they're not wanted."

DeCiantis declared that Olson and Lefebvre were against the legislation which created permanent police and fire departments. Deriding Lefebvre's promise to work for better roads, he said, "why, he couldn't get you peanuts. He tried to get on the Democratic ticket, and the Democrats didn't want him, as he didn't have the ability."

DeCiantis called Harold C. Knight, GOP chairman, "an honest, clean and upright individual, and it's been hard for him to keep them in line. Their speeches the other night will lose them a great many votes out of their own ranks."

DeCiantis said the Democrats are unified and can stand on their record. He said the Democratic administration had kept every promise except a comfort station proposal for Arctic, and that was held up by failure to find a proper site. It will be included in a proposed municipal building program, he said.

DeCiantis defended Fazzano, declaring that Olson's statement that Fazzano "wouldn't know a clean town if he saw one," was "the lowest statement he could make." He asserted that everyone knows Fazzano, in his state position, has been prosecuting racketeers and gamblers.

Fazzano, a resident of the town for only two and a half years, reiterated that he had seen in that time that West Warwick is a clean town. He said that Michael DeCiantis, when he was solicitor, "was a man who would put a stop to anything night right." He said Police Chief Groleau was "one of the finest police chiefs in the state, and there is no better police officer in the state than Captain Miller."

"There's not one bit of organized crime in West Warwick," Fazzano declared. "It's true we had a murder here, but it had no bearing on the job the police in this town have done. They have been honest and have tempered justice with mercy. Much credit is due to the work of Michael DeCiantis and Charles Bourgault as solicitors."

Senator Archambault declared that his party is unified, pointing out that Albert Muschiano recently lost as an unendorsed candidate for school committee in the party primary, but "he's a real Democrat and is not joining the renegades."

McKanna, defending his administration for the past two years, said the town council had added two men to the police force, equipped the fire department with two-way radios, passed an ordinance regulating oil burner installations, added fire hydrants, established a successful parking meter system, assisted in adding on to the Crompton Library, and started a \$1,200,000 sewer extension program.

Bourgault defended the legislation which will advance the town meeting two months next year, requiring a 10-month fiscal year this year. Although Republicans are saying the administration will have 12 months income for a 10-month operation, Bourgault said it is not true. He pointed out that the legislation passed the General Assembly unanimously, without a Republican dissenting anywhere.

Town Clerk Lamb, whose office was praised by Fazzano as highly appreciated by lawyers for its service, revealed that a sample voting machine will be available at her office soon for instruction of voters of both political parties. She said that the Democrats have men voters, who are exceeded by male voters in the town by only 28, to turn out in force on Election Day.



35

*Prov. Journal 10/15/52*

## W. Warwick Democrats Again Elect DeCiantis

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Michael DeCiantis, stormy petrel of West Warwick politics, last night emerged as key man in the town's Democratic Party after he again was named town solicitor to fill the unexpired term of Charles J. Bourgaunt who resigned.

DeCiantis had resigned the office last February, when Bourgaunt replaced him. Later there were reports he had had a run-in with certain councilmen which led to his resignation.

His return indicates that he is in a stronger position in the party, apparently having been asked to re-assume the office.

He is a colorful platform speaker, and some observers see him as being drafted to play a major role in the current campaign. Formerly, he had been solicitor since 1948. On the state level, he served as public utilities head under former Governor Quinn, and as assistant attorney general.

### Ratifies Warwick Pact

Since resigning as solicitor, he has served as special counsel without fee in the town's fight against higher rates sought by the Kent County water authority.

The council also ratified an agreement with the City of Warwick, under which West Warwick will furnish fire protection for three years starting Nov. 5, 1952, to the Centreville section of Warwick. The city will pay for hydrant rentals in the area and also will pay \$500 annually to West Warwick.

The agreement, which takes the place of an expired agreement under which West Warwick protected the Natick and Centreville sections of Warwick, can be terminated by

Warwick on Nov. 5 of any year by notice before Oct. 1 of such year.

The council voted to ask the town's General Assembly delegation to introduce legislation authorizing West Warwick to furnish the fire protection. The agreement provided that, if the legislation is not passed, the town shall be at liberty to discontinue supplying protection.

### Veterans Ask Action

In connection with West Warwick's equipment interest, Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president, was authorized to execute and deliver to Warwick a bill of sale transferring his town's interest in that part of the fire alarm system lying in Warwick, upon delivery to West Warwick of six new fire signal boxes.

Councilman Thomas F. Mello, who presided over part of the meeting in McKanna's absence, said: "According to our platform, something will be done about that," after reading a letter from the Veterans' Council asking action on a previous request that a new municipal building be erected and dedicated to veterans. The veterans said the facilities are outmoded and should be improved.

The council granted the application of Edward and Catherine A. Sheridan for a zoning exception to move a house from one part of Weaver Street, Arctic, in the rear of the First National Store parking lot, to another Weaver Street lot, where there already is a house on 5000 square feet of land.

Also granted was the application of Colvino Nardiella for transfer of the Class B liquor license held by him at 7-11 Cafe, Crawford Street, Arctic, to Michael and Pasco Paliozzi of Cranston.

## WEST WARWICK DEMOCRATS PROMISING AN EXTENSIVE PLAN FOR NEW BUILDINGS

*RU. TIME 10/17/52*

Municipal Structure and School Houses Included in Proposed Program of Party Says Town Solicitor De Ciantis.

The 150 West Warwick Democratic party workers attending the campaign meeting last night at the 400 Club, Natick, were told by their party leaders that they are seeking re-election not only on their record, but also on their platform, through which they are going to launch a new building program at the lowest possible cost, to keep West Warwick the best town in the state, if not the entire nation.

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis revealed that the Democratic party is planning an extensive building program which not only includes the new municipal building for a combined town hall, police and fire stations as advocated in the party platform, but also new school buildings.

He said that in four years from now the town will be free of all its old indebtedness, including the school bonds and sewer notes. Not counting interest the town annually pays about \$50,000 to retire its total indebtedness. In addition to the debt retirement the town has \$201,000 in its Post-war Capital Improvement Fund for new buildings. Additional bond issues for remainder of cost of new buildings would keep the annual outlay low.

### Wants to do More

After extolling each department in the town government for the service it has given to the people, DeCiantis said the Democratic party now wants to do more as stated in the platform. "We have got to have new school buildings. We have got to have up-to-date facilities for our children and we intend to do it," he said.

Continuing to speak about the building program, DeCiantis said: "The decision rests with the people. We take the position of doing what the people want and not what we want. If we can come back two years from now and can show them a job well done with new school buildings, and advancements in recreation facilities

for our children—win or lose—we ought to be satisfied."

Calling the past four years of Democratic administration the best West Warwick has ever had DeCiantis said: "We have never broken a platform promise. The problem of the comfort station is not a broken promise, it is the unavailability to find land. We are going into a building program." (Continued on page 10, col. 3)

## West Warwick Democrats Promising An Extensive Plan for New Buildings

(Continued from page 1)

gram. If we break our pledge we may as well quit because we don't deserve the support of the people."

### Interest of People

Adding to what DeCiantis said about every department of the town working for the best interest of all people, Democrat or Re-

publican, Francis J. Fazzano, assistant attorney general and candidate for town council, agreed that the West Warwick Police Department from top to bottom was the best in the state. There is no crime to speak of in West Warwick, he said. Fazzano said that West Warwick has the best of services for the lowest possible costs. "We have got to sell to our neighbors the realization that the town government is there for the people. The only time for a change is when a lousy job has been done and it hasn't been done here," he said.

The Democrat workers were also reminded by state legislators Rep. Gerard DiFiore and Rep. Thaddeus Kraus that West Warwick with its solid Democratic representation in the General Assembly can and will continue to get legislation passed if it is fair, decent and good for the people. DiFiore hit at the Republican candidates on the state level for criticizing the Democratic record. "It's a darn shame how the Republican candidates forget the dark days when they were in power. Every good piece of legislation that comes up that will be of benefit for the man on the street or for labor they kill it in the Senate," he said.

### "Enviably Position"

Rep. Kraus told the workers that DiFiore with 10 years of service in the House of Representatives has an enviable position in the General Assembly and a position which means much to West Warwick. He told how the Republicans when they gained control of the Senate and Senate committee this year, pigeon-holed bills that were passed by the House and were designed to benefit labor and general public.

Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, also called on Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere. Laferriere said that although he was relatively young in age, he could remember back to the early '30's when there were no social welfare benefits and how he used to go to agencies weekly to get a meagre supply of food for an el-

## DeCiantis Charge Denied by Lefebvre

Ernest E. Lefebvre, Republican candidate for state senator in West Warwick, yesterday categorically denied an assertion Wednesday by Michael DeCiantis, Democratic leader, that he once tried to get on the Democratic ticket without success.

"It is very obvious that Mr. DeCiantis has not changed his tactics in the last few years, although he has now become a high price lawyer and chooses to call everyone who works for a living a little fellow," Lefebvre said. "Two years ago he claimed that I was a newcomer to the town, although I have lived here all but two years since 1924. This year he would like to have people think that I once wanted to be considered by the Democrats."

"The truth in the matter is that in 1936 the Democratic town committee named me as a clerk for the district, unknown to me, and the very same night, when I was advised of this fact by Mr. Mailloux, who was then town clerk, I immediately told him that I wanted my name removed from the ballot because I was not a Democrat and would not accept any position from them."

"For two weeks they sent Democratic workers to induce me to stay on the ticket and refused to take my name off until I released a statement through The Providence Journal that I would not accept the position."

*Prov. Bulletin  
Evening Bulletin  
10/17/52*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1952

## 70 FAMILIES ARE RECEIVING AID IN TOWN

There is an average of 70 families receiving aid from the Public Welfare Office in West Warwick. When called upon last night at the meeting of West Warwick Democratic party workers, Joseph O. Laurence, director of public wel-

fare said that in the 70 families, 330 people are affected. Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, in introducing Laurence, said that faced with a tough job, Laurence has done very good work and "I don't believe any one who has been to him will say anything about him. We Democrats must consider ourselves lucky for having a man like Joe Laurence."

derly woman neighbor of his. Laferriere called on the workers to increase the voting plurality which was over 2000 in the last election by virtue of the increase in registration. He extolled DeCiantis for his work in reducing the water rates, raised by the Kent County Water Authority.

Town Clerk Mrs. Susan V. Lamb called on the women in attendance to make the best showing ever at the polls. Only 28 more men are registered than women she added. Mrs. Lamb also recalled depression and how the Democratic Party overcame it. Mrs. Yvonne Guioit, president of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club said that the club by increasing its membership is helping the party.



# R. I. REPUBLICAN FINANCE COMMITTEE

2110 INDUSTRIAL TRUST BLDG.

PROVIDENCE 1, R. I.

STANLEY LIVINGSTON, JR.

October 17, 1952

*Chairman*

*Telephone Gaspee 1-1200*

34

Dear Mr. DeCiantis:

This year the Republicans can win in Rhode Island. Here are the reasons:

Eisenhower and Nixon have tremendous public appeal since they represent the leadership that Independent and even Democrat voters of Rhode Island know is needed.

Our state and local candidates are young, aggressive and most energetic. They are working long, hard hours in carrying their message directly to the people and even in strongly Democrat districts they are being received with enthusiasm.

Candidates for Mayor in the several cities and for local office in the towns comprise a stronger group than we have ever had before. The candidacy of Christopher DelSesto for Mayor of Providence is of extreme importance since one-third of the vote in the state is in this city. In addition to his legal and accounting background he is displaying outstanding administrative qualities in putting together a team that has been working on a planned schedule since August 1st. Three thousand volunteer workers will reach into every one of the 89 districts of the city to get out the vote and protect it at the polls against illegal voting.

The degree to which these factors have been successful is illustrated by the Democrat announcement that Governor Stevenson, President Truman, Senator Kefauver, Averill Harriman and other important figures are scheduled to speak in Rhode Island, a state that until recently they had regarded as a sure thing.

If you believe that we need a change in Washington to rid our Government of corruption and communists; if you are horrified by the spectacle of the President indulging in personal "gutter politics" while American casualties increase daily in an unsolved and stalemated Korean War; will you send us the largest contribution you can - now?

The problem which faces us is one that only you and the other recipients of this letter can solve. We are in immediate and urgent need of funds. Will you help us in our effort to reach out to others by telling your friends and neighbors of this need?

The most important contribution we can make to the Eisenhower and Nixon crusade is a Republican victory in Rhode Island on November 4th. RHODE ISLAND CAN GO REPUBLICAN IF YOU WILL DO YOUR PART.

Sincerely yours,

*Stanley Livingston Jr.*  
Chairman

P.S. Checks should be made payable to this Committee and forwarded in the enclosed envelope. A receipt will be sent by return mail.



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# WEST WARWICK DEMOCRATS PROMISING AN EXTENSIVE PLAN FOR NEW BUILDINGS

*P.V. TIMES 10/17/52*  
Municipal Structure and School Houses Included in Proposed Program of Party Says Town Solicitor De Ciantis.

The 150 West Warwick Democratic party workers attending the campaign meeting last night at the 400 Club, Natick, were told by their party leaders that they are seeking re-election not only on their record, but also on their platform, through which they are going to launch a new building program at the lowest possible cost "to keep West Warwick the best town in the state, if not the entire nation."

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis revealed that the Democratic party is planning an extensive building program which not only includes the new municipal building for a combined town hall, police and fire stations as advocated in the party platform, but also new school buildings.

He said that in four years from now the town will be free of all its old indebtedness, including the school bonds and sewer notes. Not counting interest the town annually pays about \$50,000 to retire its total indebtedness. In addition to the debt retirement the town has \$201,000 in its Post-war Capital Improvement Fund for new buildings. Additional bond issues for remainder of cost of new buildings would keep the annual outlay low.

#### Wants to do More

After extolling each department in the town government for the service it has given to the people, DeCiantis said the Democratic party now wants to do more as stated in the platform. "We have got to have new school buildings. We have got to have up-to-date facilities for our children and we intend to do it," he said.

Continuing to speak about the building program, DeCiantis said: "The decision rests with the people. We take the position of doing what the people want and not what we want. If we can come back two years from now and can show them a job well done with new school buildings, and advancements in recreation facilities

for our children—win or lose—we ought to be satisfied."

Calling the past four years of Democratic administration the best West Warwick has ever had DeCiantis said: "We have never broken a platform promise. The problem of the comfort station is not a broken promise, it is the unavailability to find land. We are going into a building program."  
(Continued on page 10, col. 4)

## West Warwick Democrats Promising An Extensive Plan for New Buildings (Continued from page 1)

gram. If we break our pledge we may as well quit because we don't deserve the support of the people."

#### Interest of People

Adding to what DeCiantis said about every department of the town working for the best interest of all people, Democrat of Re-

publican, Francis J. Fazzano, assistant attorney general and candidate for town council, agreed that the West Warwick Police Department from top to bottom was the best in the state. There is no crime to speak of in West Warwick, he said. Fazzano said that West Warwick has the best of services for the lowest possible costs. "We have got to sell to our neighbors the realization that the town government is there for the people. The only time for a change is when a lousy job has been done and it hasn't been done here," he said.

The Democrat workers were also reminded by state legislators Rep. Gerard DiFiore and Rep. Thaddeus Kraus that West Warwick with its solid Democratic representation in the General Assembly can and will continue to get legislation passed if it is fair, decent and good for the people. DiFiore hit at the Republican candidates on the state level for criticizing the Democratic record. "It's a darn shame how the Republican candidates forget the dark days when they were in power. Every good piece of legislation that comes up that will be of benefit for the man on the street or for labor they kill it in the Senate," he said.

#### "Enviably Position"

Rep. Kraus told the workers that DiFiore with 10 years of service in the House of Representatives has an enviable position in the General Assembly and a position which means much to West Warwick. He told how the Republicans when they gained control of the Senate and Senate committee this year, pigeon-holed bills that were passed by the House and were designed to benefit labor and general public.

Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, also called on Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere. Laferriere said that although he was relatively young in age, he could remember back to the early '30's when there were no social welfare benefits and how it was to go to agencies weekly to get a meagre supply of food for an el-

derly woman neighbor of his. Laferriere called on the workers to increase the voting plurality which was over 2000 in the last election by virtue of the increase in registration. He extolled DeCiantis for his work in reducing the water rates, raised by the Kent County Water Authority. Town Clerk Mrs. Susan V. Lamb called on the women in attendance to make the best showing ever at the polls. Only 28 more men are registered than women she added. Mrs. Lamb also recalled depression and how the Democratic Party overcame it. Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, president of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club Club said that the club by increasing its membership is helping the party.

## DeCiantis Cites Party's Record

*PROV. JOURNAL 10/17/52*  
'Can Face Voters in Full Confidence,' He Tells 150 Democrats

Pawtuxet Valley Office, 15 Washington Street, West Warwick Telephone VA 1-8200 VA 1-7087

About 150 West Warwick Democratic workers, at a pep rally in Club 400, last night heard Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis and other speakers assert that their party can go before the voters on its record Nov. 4 with full confidence.

DeCiantis praised the work of the police, fire, welfare, highway and other departments; saying that all had given the citizens good service and will continue to do so.

Other speakers were Francis J. Fazzano, council candidate, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb, Reps. Thaddeus M. Kraus and Gerard DiFiore, Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere, Police Chief Groleau and Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, president of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club.

DeCiantis, who was praised by Judge Laferriere for leading the fight that resulted in a reduction of higher rates put into effect by the Kent County Water Authority, said the administration "has never meddled politically with any of the town departments. In the last four years all departments have been operated for the good of all, Democrats and Republicans. The only time we talk politics is in October of an election year."

Despite higher costs, he said, the town has continued to operate on a \$2.25 tax rate, which he declared was lower than that of any community in the state considering the services, such as garbage and rubbish collection, rendered.

He said the financial status of town is excellent, and that by 1956 the town would be free of all bonded indebtedness, except for the new sewer extension bond issue and any new bond issues that may be approved.



Evening Bulletin 10/17/52  
**Record Cited  
By DeCiantis**

**W. Warwick Solicitor  
Speaks at Rally  
Of Democratic Aids**

Pawtucket Valley Office, Telephone  
15 Washington Street, VA 1-8200  
West Warwick, VA 1-7067

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Other speakers were Francis J. Pazzano, council candidate, Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb, Reps. Thaddeus M. Kraus and Gerard DiFiore, Probate Judge Eugene J. Lafer-

**Other Pawtucket Valley  
And Warwick News  
On Page 31**

riere, Police Chief Groleau and Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, president of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club.

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He said the financial status of town is excellent, and that by 1956 the town would be free of all bonded indebtedness, except for the new sewer extension bond issue and any new bond issues that may be approved.

"We're now starting on a new program to build and equip our schools and provide modern facilities for recreation and we will follow our platform and provide new municipal buildings if taxpayers are willing," he declared. "We have fulfilled every pledge except for a comfort station in Arctic and that has been held up because it is difficult to locate in the proper place."

DiFiore asserted that the Republican-controlled Senate had pigeonholed most legislation passed by the House to benefit labor. Kraus declared that all legislation to benefit "the man on the street" had been initiated in the Democratic House.

DeCiantis said the administration has operated the town "in such a way that we have no organized crime, but a clean town, and we shall see to it that it remains so." He complimented the police department on the ambulance service it provides.

Pointing out that DeCiantis had again accepted the bid to the town solicitorship recently out of party loyalty, Mrs. Lamb said the party should distribute pins reading, "We Like Mike."

PROV. JOURNAL 10/19/52  
**Progress Hits  
Political Rally**

**Voters Stay Home,  
Get Speeches on TV  
Or Radio in Comfort**

Pawtucket Valley Office, Telephone  
15 Washington Street, VA 1-8200  
West Warwick, VA 1-7067

Pawtucket Valley political leaders are fast concluding that the political rally with the fiery oratory that wowed 'em 20 years ago is on its way to becoming as extinct as the dodo bird.

Coventry Democrats are holding only one major rally in the current campaign, and their Republican opponents have announced only one so far.

Both parties in West Warwick are scheduling several rallies, but they admit the old voter interest is not there and hasn't been for years.

Time recall, the politicians recall, when voters were practically hanging from the rafters in Valley halls and theaters to hear their favorites lash the opposition and call for throwing the rascals out or keeping the efficient administration in, as the case happened to be.

**Television Final Spike**

The decline and fall of the rally started with the increase in the number of radios in homes, but has really hit the skids with the advent of television. Today voters prefer to sit in the comfort of their homes and see and hear the top political office-seekers, the politicians say.

Even a meeting of Democratic workers in West Warwick last week showed effects of the changing times, when many party stalwarts showed up late with the excuse they had been watching Congressman Forand on TV.

The change brings a feeling of nostalgia to veteran party men who whooped it up and liked it at the once-popular rally. They can't get them out in any numbers even with refreshments now. But time was when the "Three Musketeers," now Judge James W. Leighton of Fourth District Court, Chief Judge Robert E. Quinn of the U.S. Military Court of Appeals and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, stirred packed Democratic houses in Arctic theaters, under the guiding hand of Col. Patrick H. Quinn, Democrats recall.

**Street Corner Rallies**

Then there were the street corner rallies of 15 years ago, like the one in Clyde, where crowds turned out by torchlight to hear the orators dish it out from a porch at Clyde Square. Communications weren't so varied then, and the voters had to turn out of get the party line first hand.

"People read the newspapers, listen to radio or watch TV and make up their minds that way today," says a Coventry political chieftain.

Coventry politicians are going in more for district meetings of party workers, at which the workers are exhorted to go out and contact the voters personally at home and work. "We find that's more effective than a local rally," said one leader. "You just can't get people to come to a hall to listen to you. You've got to get the workers to go out and see them."

PROV. JOURNAL 10/19/52  
**GOP in West Warwick  
Urges Charter Reform**

**Republican Platform Also Calls for Prevention  
Of Political Activity by Police, Firemen**

West Warwick Republicans, in their platform released yesterday, call for charter revision and the "prevention of political activity" by police and firemen.

Three construction planks align the GOP on the side of an Arctic comfort station, new town buildings as "necessity dictates" and storm sewers "to eliminate flood conditions."

Prefaced by expressions of support for state and national Republican tickets, the platform as released by Harold C. Knight, chairman, calls for:

"Full disclosure of expenses and revenue by complete department reports and a balanced budget.

"A scientific tax survey by experts to end unjust assessments and to equalize the tax burden.

"A necessary charter revision to give the town a more efficient and economical operation of town services for the people.

"Restoration of recreational facilities sadly neglected by the Democrats and improvement and expansion of the recreation program including teen-age activities.

"Correction of the bad conditions existing at the town dump and athletic field.

"Construction of storm sewers for street drainage to eliminate flood conditions.

"Creation of a local police-training program open to all qualified citizens and elimination of favoritism in police appointments. Prevention of political activity by members of the permanent police and fire departments.

"A dental clinic for the school children of the town.

"Creation of an enlarged bipartisan planning commission with staggered terms of office to insure continuity of formulated plans.

"Improvement of the foul odors at the sewerage disposal plant.

"Improvement in the traffic and parking situation including a renewal of snow removal in the business sections.

"Reinstatement of the sidewalk construction program for home owners.

"Construction of a centrally located public comfort station when a suitable site is available."

Coventry Democrats in recent years have also adopted a plan of putting out their own one-edition newspaper to help get their message across to the voters.

About the best you can say for holding rallies today, party leaders say, is that they pep up some of the faithful workers who do attend and afford candidates newspaper publicity.

But, gone forever, apparently, are the days of the howling, shouting, partisan crowds at Palace Theater, Arctic, Mason's Hall, Summit, McManus' Hall, Coventry Center, and the hall next to Cardin's drug-store, Phenix.



# De Ciantis <sup>10/21/52</sup> Asks GOP to "Come Clean"

## Dares Them to Name Firemen Who Are "Playing Politics"

Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick today called on the Republicans to "come clean" in their "accusation" against members of the permanent police and fire departments of playing politics made in their platform, "Prevention of political activity by members of permanent police and fire departments."

DeCiantis said that if the Republican Party fails to name each and every individual who holds a permanent job in the fire department who is guilty of the charge set forth in their platform, then the Republican Party stands accused of being untruthful and deceitful in the eyes of every citizen of the town of West Warwick.

The town solicitor said in his statement today that "after this question has been disposed of, then we will go into the permanent members of the police department."

DeCiantis said he feels that he is somewhat responsible, along with the Democratic administration, for taking the police and firemen out of politics and making them permanent and "we have felt that none of the members of the two departments have in any way involved themselves in politics or have taken any active part in the activities of either party. This is a shocking charge."

DeCiantis continued:

"The men of the two departments stand accused before the  
(Continued on page 3, col. 5)

## De Ciantis Asks GOP to "Come Clean" (Continued from page 1)

public as violating their oath of office. This is a serious matter. It, therefore, becomes the duty of the Republican Party to name each and every permanent member of these departments who is guilty of having taken any political activity in the politics of either party. In fairness to the Republican Party, we will take one department at a time.

"I, therefore, ask the Republican Party to name each and every individual who holds a permanent job in the fire department that is guilty of the charge set forth in the platform. If this question is not answered, then the Republican Party stands accused as being untruthful and deceitful in the eyes of every citizen of the town of West Warwick.

"If any person is named who has violated the duty of his office as charged, I shall immediately call the town council to hold a special hearing and the party that is making the accusation shall come in and prove the charge.

"After this question has been disposed of, then we will go into the permanent members of the police department."

"The Republican Party should realize that, in making these accusations against these men, it involves not only their character and reputation, but it also reflects upon the families. And in my opinion, the Republican Party has got to come clean, because I don't know any men under the supervision of Chief Lionel Gareau who would dare to mingle in politics."

## GOP Asked For 'Proof'

### De Ciantis Says Platform Of West Warwick Party Slurs Firemen, Police

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick yesterday in a sharply worded statement challenged the town's Republicans to prove "political activity by members of the permanent police and fire departments."

He accused the GOP of having made a "very serious accusation" against permanent policemen and firemen and of having indirectly cast a slur "upon the men's families" by calling in the Republican platform for "prevention" of such activity in the two departments.

"The men of the two departments stand accused before the public as violating their oath of office," he said. "This is a serious matter.

"It therefore becomes the duty of the Republican Party to name each and every permanent member of these departments who is guilty of having taken any political activity in the politics of either party."

DeCiantis, who many observers think was recently renamed as solicitor to carry the brunt of the battle for Democrats in the election campaign, said that he was "responsible, along with the Democratic administration, for taking the police and firemen out of politics by making them permanent.

"We have felt that none of the members of the two departments have in any way involved themselves in politics or have taken any active part in the activities of either party....

"If any persons is named who has violated the duty of his office as charged, I shall immediately call on the town council to hold a special hearing and the party that is making the accusation shall come in and prove the charge."

"I therefore ask the Republican Party to name each and every individual who holds a permanent job in the fire department... guilty of the charge set forth in the platform," DeCiantis declared, saying that "in fairness to the Republicans, we will take one department at a time."

"After this question is disposed of, then we will go into the permanent members of the police department.

"The Republican Party should realize that, in making these accusations against these men, it involves not only their character and reputation, but it also reflects upon the men's families.

"And in my opinion, the Republican Party has got to come clean, because I don't know any men under the supervision of Chief Lionel Gareau (of the fire department) who would dare to mingle in politics."

Should the GOP avoid answering his challenge, DeCiantis said, it will "stand accused as being untruthful and deceitful in the eyes of every citizen of the town of West Warwick."

## West Warwick Party Elects

### Deputy Sheriff Richard Again Heads Democratic Town Committee

Deputy Sheriff Alfred Richard of Phenix last night was re-elected chairman of the West Warwick Democratic Town Committee at a meeting in the town hall.

Other officers, also re-elected, are John Gallucci of Natick, secretary, and John L. McGill of Phenix, treasurer.

The only committee newcomer is Town Sgt. Frank D. Boisvert, who replaces Williams Mailloux, former police chief. Mailloux was dropped when the party submitted the endorsed slate of primary candidates last August.

District committees within the general committee and their officers are: District 1, McGill, chairman; Robert J. Quan, secretary; Richard, Gallucci and Frank Giorgio.

District 2, John J. Flynn, chairman; Michael DeCiantis, secretary; Boisvert, Manuel Silva and Police Chief Arthur Groleau.

District 3, Stanislaw Maznicki, chairman; Richard S. Hughes Sr., secretary; Herman Gilde J. Nadeau, Rep. Thaddeus M. Kraus and Councilman Antonio Paul.

## State Candidates to Attend Banquet at Natick Sunday

Four state candidates have indicated they will attend the banquet of the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club, Sunday, at Club 400 Natick, the president, Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, has announced.

Sen. John O. Pastore is scheduled to return along with Gov. Dennis J. Roberts Cong. John E. Fogarty and Secretary of State Armand Cote. Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis is also scheduled to speak.



# Lefebvre Says GOP Plank 'Assures' Police, Firemen

## Party Won't Interfere in Departments Says Candidate in Answer to DeCiantis

A plank in the West Warwick Republican platform calling for meeting to discuss the causes and "prevention of political activity by remedies . . . relief was promised members of the permanent police and fire departments" intends . . . "merely 'to assure' those employees that a GOP administration would not interfere with them in the performance of their duties," a spokesman for that party explained last night.

Ernest E. Lefebvre, Republican candidate for state senator from the town, thus delivered the GOP rebuttal to Democratic charges that the platform policy constituted a "very serious accusation" against town police and firemen. Addressing a party rally that attracted about 75 persons to St. John's Hall, Natick, Lefebvre accused Democrats of trying to "disfranchise" (Republicans) from speaking on the real issues "in making the charge.

Democratic Town Solicitor Michael De Ciantis, on Monday, had challenged Republicans to cite instances of political activity amongst permanent police and firemen. He had interpreted the GOP plank to have placed "the men of the two departments . . . before the public" as having violated their oath of office.

Lefebvre labeled De Ciantis' statement as a Democratic attempt "to cover up lack of planning in their own administration."

He said that he "would leave it to the men themselves" to say whether or not at present "they can do their jobs without political interference."

After the rally, Lefebvre affirmed that his statement on the subject composed the official Republican reply to De Ciantis' "challenge." He denied that the platform plank had reflected discreditably on the men's families, as De Ciantis had charged, and said it would make the police and firemen "feel well to know they would face no interference from Republicans" should the GOP win the election.

Others on a slate of six speakers, which included John R. Cioci, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor of the state, centered their fire on purported Democratic failure to solve the problem of sewer odor in the Natick section.

Also appearing on the platform were Henry Regauld, council candidate for the number 1 position usually tantamount to presidency of the body; Domenico A. Petrarca, council candidate; Joseph V. Pelleccione, candidate for District 1 state representative; and Secondo Siniscalchi, town committeeman and chairman of the rally.

Ettore Del Grande of Charlestown addressed the predominantly Italo-American audience in the Italian language.

Regauld charged that "the sewer department . . . has been operated in such an inefficient manner that it is a disgrace to the town . . ."

He said that sewage odor from the disposal plant in Natick was denied by the Democrats at first, who, he said, produced a "phony report" alleging the plant was operated efficiently.

The survey, he said, stated that "it was absolutely impossible for this plant to release odors." Democratic officials had "ridiculed, laughed at, and often insulted" residents who began to complain "when the odors became unbearable," Regauld declared.

"But now we are coming close to another election," the council candidate said, "so the administration suddenly became aware in July of this year that obnoxious, unhealthy odors were coming from the sewer

plant, so they decided to hold a Republican platform calling for meeting to discuss the causes and "prevention of political activity by remedies . . . relief was promised members of the permanent police and fire departments" intends . . . "merely 'to assure' those employees that a GOP administration would not interfere with them in the performance of their duties," a spokesman for that party explained last night.

Such moving of the sewage, Regauld said, is the basis for "complaints of people who attend events at our town athletic field (adjoining the dump) being made sick by the odor coming from sewage dumped there from sewer plants."

Petrarca also remarked that "we still have that terrible smell from the sewage disposal plant." He is a resident of the Natick area from which the perennial "odor" complaints have emanated.

In a prepared statement which he read in addition to his extemporaneous rebuttal on the challenged GOP plank, Lefebvre charged that "the sewage plant is completely broken down."

When transporting sewage to the dump "was highly criticized," he said, "I am told a new method is now being employed . . . to drain Johnson's Pond so as to have the water to wash the sewage down Narragansett Bay.

"I am afraid this method is also a very temporary one because Johnson's Pond is now practically dry, and though it seemed to have been the strategy of the town administration to appease the people until after the election, that will also prove to be improperly timed."

Petrarca accused the Democratic administration of having "neglected" the townspeople and labeled as "lies" charges that the Republicans "will take social security and old age pensions away."

Pelleccione accused Democrats of claiming "all the good laws" passed while asserting that Republicans have "done nothing" or were responsible for bad legislation.

The assembly candidate asked of Governor Roberts defeated request for "\$1,000,000 to build plants to attract industry," what was "going to be done (under it) with the factories now idle."

He accused Roberts of insincerity in not submitting the proposal to a popular referendum as "the Republicans wanted."

In West Warwick, he charged, Democratic plans for recreational improvement had amounted to "a checker board, two trees and an instructor" being installed in a playground, enabling youngsters "to play checkers all day."

Siniscalchi, in remarks interjected between his introduction of speakers, ridiculed Democratic jabs at the Republican platform. He said, carrying on the sewage theme of other speakers, "if you want to eliminate the sewer smell, you've got to eliminate the Democrats."

Other GOP candidates introduced at the meeting included Arthur J. Hebert for director of public welfare, Mrs. Olive L. Knight for town treasurer, Florent A. Hebert and Richard J. Salvus for state representatives in the second and third districts, respectively, and Peter Lemoi and Joseph A. Henault for numbers 4 and 5 council positions, respectively.

Also introduced were Harold C. Knight, GOP town chairman and Norman E. Gillespie, executive assistant to the chairman of the Republican state central committee.

# McKanna Dares GOP to Speak

## W. Warwick Democrat Challenges Foe to Give Water Rate Data

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

Harry F. McKanna Jr., West Warwick Town Council president, yesterday challenged town Republicans to tell the voters why they did not aid in the successful campaign by West Warwick and Coventry Democratic leaders against higher Kent County Water Authority rates.

McKanna said it is up to the GOP to answer these questions:

1. Why it did not join the citizens' committee that was opposing the water rate increase?
2. Why the bill to oust the water authority passed a Democratic House and never passed a Republican State Senate?
3. Why the Republican Party in West Warwick did not join in action before the Public Utilities Commission opposing the increased rates?
4. Why the water authority, composed of four Republicans and one Democrat, did not give the water users an opportunity to be heard on the question of the increase in rates.

He recalled that he and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, Coventry Democratic officials and a citizens committee went to Price Administrator Michael DiSalle in Washington at their own expense in protest over the rates, then appealed to the Public Utilities Commission and finally helped carry the case successfully to the Rhode Island Supreme Court, where the K.C.W.A. was classed as a public utility subject to regulation.

Because of these moves, he said, the authority was forced to refund excess charges to water users. He added, "This is the type of service, this is part of the record, of which the Democratic Party is proud, and the people of West Warwick are entitled to know why the Republican organization sat still and did not take part in this effort."

# LEFEBVRE BACKING PLANK TO PREVENT POLITICS IN POLICE AND FIRE FORCES

## Republican Candidate for Senator from West Warwick Firm in Reply to DeCiantis. Odors from Sewage Plant Scored.

Ernest E. Lefebvre, speaking at the Republican rally in Natick last night, said Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis who has said the Republicans, in their platform, infer the permanent police and firemen are playing politics, is again trying to misrepresent the facts.

Lefebvre told the gathering of 100 at St. John's Hall that the Republicans know what they are doing in their platform and that they still maintain it is a good platform plank. That plank follows: "Prevention of political activity by members of the permanent police and fire departments."

Lefebvre, who is running on the GOP ticket for state senator, said: "Let the police and firemen decide for themselves whether or not they have been able to operate without the influence of the politicians. If they have, that is the kind of treatment they will receive from us. Our platform is an assurance to the police and firemen they will not be molested when the Republicans win in November," he added.

**DeCiantis Wants Names**  
Yesterday, in a newspaper article, DeCiantis asked the Republican Party to name the firemen who are playing politics. He said when that question is answered he would ask the same about the police force.

Henry Regauld, candidate for town council president, said that the people who are affected by the foul odors from the sewer plant and who have invested in property, are forced to live in atmospheric conditions that would not be tolerated in another city, town or country. He said that if he is elected "I intend to secure the advice of people who are qualified to give us a true picture of what is needed at this sewer plant. Be it new equipment, new personnel or any improvement necessary. Furthermore, I will advise the people of West Warwick of the needs of this plant. I will not keep it a dark secret as is being done at present by the present administration."

**Claimed "No Odors"**  
Regauld charged that when residents complained to the Democratic Town Council in 1948 they were ridiculed by being told there were no odors coming from the plant. When they protested again in 1950 they were told before election time that a survey showed nothing was wrong and when they complained again last summer, they were told new equipment had been ordered.

Secondo Siniscalchi, emcee last night, said that one can't make the people believe it takes that long with all the resources and ingenuity that the people have.

Joseph Pelleccione, Republican candidate for representative from the first district, said that the only thing the Democrats have done for recreation in West Warwick is to bring in a checker board. "Yes he said there are two trees down by the grammar

school and beneath it they set up a checker board and they called it a recreation program for Natick." He asked why the Democratic administration did not take advantage of the offer of John Lawson to give the town a free piece of land in Brookfield Hills if the town could use it for a recreation site, including a swimming pool.

**Credits Republicans**  
Speaking on the state level, Pelleccione said that the Democrats are trying to make the people believe they passed all good legislation including the cash sickness benefit plan which was drawn up by a Republican senator, Senator Broomhead and passed as the Broomhead bill. Governor Roberts recently said the Republicans killed his \$1,000,000 aid to industry bill. The Republicans wanted the issue decided by the people in a referendum, he added.



## McKANNA ASKS WHY GOP KEPT QUIET ON WATER RATE HIKE

Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of West Warwick Town Council today called on the Republican Party to explain why they did not object to the increase in water rates by the Kent County Water Authority.

McKanna said if the Republicans want to talk about the real issues it must answer the following questions to the voters of West Warwick:

1. Why it did not join the citizens committee that was opposing the increase in water rates?
2. Why the bill to fire the Water Authority passed a Democratic House of Representatives and never passed a Republican State Senate?
3. Why the Republican Party in West Warwick did not join in action before the Public Utilities Commission opposing this increase in water rates?
4. Why the Kent County Water Authority composed of four Republicans and one Democrat did not give the water users an opportunity to be heard on the question of the increase of water rates?

**Immediate Action**  
"When the Kent County Water

Authority raised the cost of water from \$15 for 50,000 gallons to \$37.50 for the same 50,000 gallons, the Democratic town government of the Town of West Warwick, headed by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis, immediately took action to have these increases set aside," McKanna said.

McKanna continued, "The Democratic town government in the persons of the town solicitor and the president of the town council in association with the Democratic town solicitor and president of the town council of the Town of Coventry and two members of the citizens committee, went to Washington at their own expense to present the case to the Office of Price Stabilization and to Mr. DiSalle, the administrator of that office. The town government of West Warwick further took action by directing the town solicitor to take all action necessary to cause these water rates to be set aside. The town government of West Warwick filed an appeal to the Public Utilities Commission asking that the Kent County Water Authority be ruled a public utility subject to the commission's regulations and the Democratic town government of West Warwick car-

(Continued on page 2, col. 5)

### McKanna Asks Why GOP Kept Quiet on Water Rate Hike

(Continued from page 1)

ried this case to the Supreme Court of the State of Rhode Island where it was successful in its plea.

"Because of these actions by the Democratic administration in West Warwick, the Kent County Water Authority returned to the water users within Kent County the increased amount of water rates that they had paid to the water authority.

"This is the type of service, this is the part of the record of which the Democratic Party of West Warwick is proud and the people of West Warwick are entitled to know why the Republican organization in this town sat still and did not take part in this effort. The voters of West Warwick are all waiting for answers to these questions."



Judge Luigi DePasquale Pours Coffee at his annual venison dinner yesterday at the Club 400, Natick, for Luigi Scala, center, president of the Columbus National Bank, Senator Pastore and Mayor Mills of Warwick.  
—Staff Photo

## Annual Venison Dinner Held

### Judge DePasquale's Charity Affair Draws 650 to Natick

Temporarily putting aside the charges and countercharges of the hot political wars, about 650 political leaders of both major parties, jurists, businessmen, law enforcement officials and newsmen, yesterday sat down in good fellowship at Judge Luigi DePasquale's 29th annual charity venison dinner in Club 400, Natick.

Keeping a custom set shortly after the first dinner served by Frank Giorgio, Club 400 owner, to about 15 persons in 1923, Judge DePasquale had no dinner himself. He moved about welcoming guests and introducing officials at the \$6 a plate affair.

Senator Pastore, paying tribute to Judge DePasquale for his sponsorship of the underprivileged, said it had become a tradition in the state and "the greatest demonstration of good citizenship I know of."

Former Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, present for the first time in recent years, said that he had always considered the affairs a worthy opportunity to forget racial and political differences in a common charitable cause.

"When the sun rises on the Wednesday after election, the world will still be here and we'll still be going on as before," McGrath said. "I hope it will be a Democratic world, but, if it should be otherwise, I think I will feel as one does on a remorseful Monday morning after Notre Dame has been defeated on a Saturday."

He urged all citizens to express their opinions "in the silence of the confessional of the voting booth."

The Rev. Anthony DeAngelis, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Natick, delivered the invocation, and the Ven. Anthony R. Parsley, Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, gave benediction.

Among others introduced were Thomas L. Paolino, Republican national committeeman, General Treasurer Raymond H. Hawksley; Mayor Mills of Warwick; Berthelot A. LeClaire, GOP candidate for Congress; Thomas F. Sullivan, police commissioner of Massachusetts; Judge Jeremiah E. O'Connell of the Rhode Island Supreme Court; Probate Judge Justin McCarthy of Providence; Judge John M. Booth of Rhode Island Juvenile Court; William J. Roach, superintendent of Waterbury, Conn., police.

Also, Judge Frank Tomasello of Boston Municipal Court; Judge John Pescatello of Stonington, Conn.; David B. Goldberg, immigration agent; Edward M. McEntee, United States district attorney; U.S. Marshal Charles M. Eldridge; Laure B. Lussier, registrar of motor vehicles; the Rev. Joseph J. Lamb, moderator of St. Vincent's Assembly; Luigi Scala of the Sons of Italy.

Also Police Chief Donovan, North Providence; Police Chief Crosby, West Warwick; Judges Guillaume Myette and Joseph Janas of Central Falls; Chief Fouchecourt, Cranston; William McGair and George Beane, Democratic and Republican candidates, respectively, for mayor of Cranston; Senator Santoro of Westerly; James Fitzpatrick of the U.S. Secret Service; Dr. William J. Sullivan, manager of the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Providence; Police Chief Nolan of Tiverton; Dr. Bernardo and Sen. Daniel Coggeshall, both of Bristol; Clerk Arthur N. Votolato of Eighth District Court; Rep. Gerard DiFiore, Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis and Sheriff Alfred Richard, all of West Warwick.

"Happy" Stanley played the guitar for the guests, as he has since the dinner's inception.



# Text of 26-Point Platform Adopted by Rhode Island Democratic Party

## PREAMBLE

As we assemble here, there exists the same struggle for freedom that fired the souls of our founding fathers when they sought these shores in the quest for freedom from tyranny, oppression and enslavement.

In this age of advanced scientific development and in this period of Godless threats to the peaceful existence of the entire world, the United States of America stands, not alone, but strongest, in opposition to the threats of a totalitarian philosophy of government.

Our philosophy of government is democratic, charitable, just and humane, respecting the sanctity of the individual and recognizing as fundamental the principle of freedom and justice to all. There is no room for compromise between our system of government and that of the Communists.

The Democratic Party has enriched the American philosophy of government. The Democratic Party has provided and will continue to provide the leadership to make real these democratic ideals and aspirations of freedom, justice and equality.

## Confident of Election

The people of the United States have the choice of placing in the hands of either major political party the responsibility of guiding our nation's cause through to final world peace. The people have for 20 years placed their confidence and trust in the Democratic Party and we firmly believe that they will again fall upon us to continue to serve them in this stewardship.

Imagination, vision, foresight and a keen sense of the people's wants were inherent attributes of the recent Democratic administration under the leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman. From the depths of national despair caused by a near fatal depression under the last Republican administration through times of great crisis to our present peak of prosperity the American people have traveled with the Democratic Party administering our government. The people in 1932 demanded imagination, vision and new leadership and found them in the Democratic Party. If the people still demand progress and not reaction, they still prefer prosperity to poverty, if they crave peace with honor and not another world conflict, if they desire to retain the world leadership we have attained and not retreat to the isolationism of a bygone era, then we know they will again direct the Democratic Party to continue its faithful service to the nation. With the help of God world peace will be realized and our national prosperity further advanced.

Progressive and humane government has been attained in Rhode Island under the leadership of the Democratic Party for nearly twenty years.

## Roberts Praised

Governors Green, Quinn, McGrath and Pastore pioneered this new era of social and economic partnership of labor, industry and government in promotion of the common interest, and full realization of this era has been developed under the able, energetic and forthright approach of Governor Roberts to the changing economy of Rhode Island.

Governor Roberts has exhibited a keen perception and sincere understanding of this changing economy, with its impact upon the average citizen. Governor Dennis J. Roberts has diligently sought to attract new and diversified industries, to curtail the public utility monopolies and to afford the consumer protection against greed and spiraling inflation.

What prevented the fulfillment of these endeavors? The determined opposition of the conscienceless Republican Party of Rhode Island.

The Democratic Party pledges itself to the people of Rhode Island to continue to fight for the speedy development of a sound economy and to initiate wise and bold programs designed to promote a favorable climate for industry and labor.

## Economic Development

An important function of government is to promote economic stability and effect maximum employment. We recognize the obligation of the state to provide the legislation and the machinery to permit the partnership of labor and industry to function effectively, efficiently and harmoniously, to the end that the legitimate aims of both may be fully realized. In addition, and in order to meet the competition offered by other sections of this country, we recognize the fact that the state, without sacrificing any of the social gains which were brought about under Democratic Administrations, must not impose



THEY LIKED EVERYTHING THEY HEARD: Full house of Democrats whoop it up during a speech at state convention last night.

burdens upon industry or labor which will put either at a competitive disadvantage.

Where private capital is lacking or inadequate and the need is present, we feel it is the legitimate function of the state to assist industry to provide job opportunities for the citizens of Rhode Island; we commend Governor Roberts for his forthright proposal to create an Industrial Development Corporation which would assist industry now located in Rhode Island and which would attract new industry to the State.

A realistic vocational and retraining program to meet the needs of the state's economy is urgent. Institution of such a program will be undertaken immediately. Travel-tourist business is an industry of the state with great potential. Improvement of private and public facilities, as well as development of new recreational features for in-state and out-of-state residents, will be ambitiously promoted. Well-planned scenic routes and attractive highways will be accentuated in the effort to develop the growth of this industry.

## Consumer Interest

We recognize the need of protecting the public interest from excessive utility and other regulated rates and extortionate profiteering on the necessities of life.

We propose the establishment of a consumer council to compile, analyze and present data concerning the cost of necessities of life, including public utility consumer rates, and, when indicated, to initiate action in protection of the public interest.

We propose the establishment of a consumers' council to represent the public in rate and price matters before all regulatory bodies, federal, state and local.

We recommend that Rhode Island take the initiative to establish, in co-operation with her sister New England states, a staff of technical experts who may be utilized to mutual advantage in connection with these rate matters. Pooling of resources in this manner would result in a maximum of economy to the taxpayer.

## Public Utilities

We propose to strengthen the Division of Public Utilities in order to safeguard the consumer against repeated assault upon his pocketbook by the corporations which furnish the public with its telephone, light, power, water and transportation service. Congress did not freeze the prices charged by public utilities but left the job of policing this cost of living item to the state.

We propose that the General Assembly enact sound legislation which will enable the Division of Public Utilities to carry out its work in the interest of the people of Rhode Island.

## Veterans

The welfare of each man and woman who served in the armed forces in past wars or who is now serving in the armed forces of the United States is of grave importance to each of us. Under Democratic administrations, national and state, various programs of benefits for veterans and their families have been instituted and developed. Benefits of education, the best medical care and proper hospitalization for disabled veterans, are

examples of what has been and is being done to assist the veteran in his postwar adjustment. We are determined to help provide every veteran an opportunity to resume his place in the community.

## Labor

The men and women who contribute the brains and skill to produce the many different products for which Rhode Island is famous know that successive Democratic administrations have been sympathetic to their aims and cognizant of their needs. We pledge ourselves to a continuation of this policy.

Two commissions, consisting of leaders in the fields of industry, labor and social sciences, have unanimously concluded that the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Law in Rhode Island, results in excessive cost to the employer without corresponding benefit to the injured employee. The problem has been adequately studied. The solution has been clearly pointed out. We promise that a fair and adequate plan be enacted into law at the earliest possible moment, which will simplify and expedite the adjudication of claims.

We believe that the savings thus effected will go a long way to permit an increase in the weekly benefits which are now out of line with the present day cost of living with a proportional saving to industry.

We again advocate enactment of a minimum wage law which would fix a minimum wage of 75¢ per hour for all workers who are engaged solely in local industry, and who do not now receive the benefits and protection of the Federal Wage and Hour Law, or minimum wage orders for particular occupations set up by our Department of Labor.

Under the leadership of the present administration an adequate and fair anti-injunction bill was passed. Acts beneficial to retired policemen and firemen have been given initial study. Discrimination in employment on the ground of race, color or creed is being eliminated by the operation and administration of the Fair Employment Practices Act. We propose that steps be taken to eliminate discrimination in employment because of age and sex.

We recognize that the weekly payment received by unemployed workers is woefully inadequate in view of soaring prices for the necessities of life. However, in order to provide increased benefits, the unemployment compensation fund must be strengthened. We urge the members of our congressional delegation to fight vigorously for passage of the Green-Forand bill providing for federal re-insurance of the fund. We pledge our cooperation to labor and industry in the attainment of a practical solution which will be equitable and just.

## Social Security

Retrospective Social Security benefits for employes of town and cities will be made possible by the early presentation of enabling legislation to permit the state of Rhode Island and the cities and towns of this state to take the fullest advantage of the recently amended Social Security Act providing for state and municipal employee coverage.

## Civil Defense

The United States and its Allies have made great strides in bringing to a halt the spread of Communism. Our foreign policy has been highly successful. It must not be forgotten, however, that we are engaged in conflict with Communism, not only on the battlefields and in the hills of Korea, but also here at home. We must be constantly on the alert. We must not mistake apathy or complacency for security. We cannot allow ourselves to lapse into any form of false security. These enemies of all we stand for are determined to destroy us if they can, and destroy they will if we are not fully prepared to repulse their every

effort. We must be powerful, prepared and poised for any and all eventualities.

A vital civil defense is an organized phase of our preparation program. Rhode Island was among the first to activate its civil defense plan which is now a part of the integrated program for the entire nation. Operation "Rhode Island," sponsored by our State Civilian Defense organization last year, attracted national attention and commendation. Of this we in Rhode Island should be proud. But we should not rest on our laurels. Much more can be done by each Rhode Islander. Each of us, regardless of political affiliation, places his country next to his God. All of us should dedicate ourselves to each and every program which will enhance our internal security.

The Democratic Party of Rhode Island firmly pledges to continue and advance the operation of the timely civilian defense program inaugurated under the administration of Governor Pastore and developed under the administration of Governor Roberts.

## Education

Education is a state constitutional responsibility. It is basic to good citizenship.

Health and safety programs of broad scope are now being developed and instituted by the Department of Education in order to assist the towns and cities to meet this responsibility promptly and effectively.

Handicapped children are now participating in normal school programs made possible by initial state appropriations. This school program will be implemented by future training, especially for repetitive skills to insure that handicapped children may become articulate and healthy adults.

The teachers of our school system are our prime educational resources. The state must conserve this resource by assuring to the teachers good training and adequate salaries. Development of adequate salary schedules for teachers will accord a truly "universal education" for the children of our state.

Governor Roberts advocates and will continue to advocate the establishment of a single salary schedule for the teachers of Rhode Island.

Adult education is a fundamental need to the citizens of a changing civilization. New horizons will be made attainable by means of increased adult education programs in existent school curricula. Radio and television media will be employed to enrich these worthwhile endeavors to better equip for living the average citizen in Rhode Island.

## Civil Rights

In a democratic government the sanctity of the individual is paramount and the protection of his civil rights and liberties is imperative. Each should be accorded to all regardless of race, creed or color and the Democratic Party in Rhode Island shall always fight, as it has in the past, to see that no American is denied either his lawful position in our government or in our social and economic structure, or his rights and privileges as an American citizen.

We believe that under the State's Fair Employment Practices Act, enacted by a Democratic Administration, all of us have reaped benefits, and not only those for whom it was designed to protect from unwarranted discriminations. We believe that when all Americans enjoy the individual rights and liberties now enjoyed by Rhode Islanders, this nation will be healthier and happier in spirit and stronger in faith.

The Democratic Party in Rhode Island has always championed the cause of Civil Rights and has always endeavored to protect these rights from unjustifiable and undemocratic attacks. It again renews its pledge to continue to support this cause on all levels of our government and to keep intact the

protective bulwarks erected to insure the life of the rights already secured.

Amending our laws against discrimination because of sex (in certain fields of endeavor) is advocated. Legislation abolishing the discrimination in the hiring of persons over 45 years of age is also strongly urged.

## Social Welfare

The Democratic Party continues to place the needs of the people above all other considerations. To this end we propose to initiate new programs, where human need dictates, while improving the facilities at our state institutions in line with the best scientific development in the field of treatment.

Modernization of facilities at the Exeter School and Children's Center is still in process with greatly improved care resulting to the children.

The now overcrowded State Hospital at Howard will be renovated with the approval of a \$3,000,000 bond issue submitted to the people of the state for their approval at this election. The proposed renovation will bring to the mentally ill improved diagnostic and treatment services.

Veterans' facilities will be expanded upon the approval by the voters of the proposed \$1,500,000 bond issue for the Veterans Home in Bristol. A positive program of community and institutional care will be undertaken.

Care of the aged is a happy responsibility of a healthy democracy. State agencies for employment and the proposed geriatrics building at the renovated state hospital will afford to our senior citizenry a more secure and respected place in our state community.

Rehabilitative services for children under sixteen will be further developed through the Department of Education, Health and Social Welfare in an effort to serve the younger citizens of the State.

Retarded children will be served by the development of a special educational, psychological and psychiatric services. This program will afford planned services to the retarded children in all the communities of the State in fulfillment of an urgent need.

A new Division of Alcoholism has been created and the positive results achieved indicate a high degree of success worthy of public acclaim. Future advances in technique and treatment of alcoholics will be fostered in order that this problem may be minimized.

## Health

Believing that economic health and public health go hand in hand we pledge that we will expand and strengthen our recently inaugurated program in public health education. Through this program we will help our people to recognize their opportunities to attain and maintain good health for themselves and stimulate them to help their community and the State to improve public health.

We will expand our programs to prevent diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus; to prevent as far as possible conditions that might lead to crippling; to prevent the deaths of children in their first critical year of life; to prevent the deaths of mothers during childbirth; to prevent measles from complicating other serious illnesses; to prevent unsanitary conditions in any establishment under our control; to prevent or postpone the advent of heart disease; to prevent further pollution of our waters and to reduce existing sources of pollution.

We pledge that programs for the control of cancer, heart disease and rheumatic fever, together with all other activities of the Department of Health of our state, will be continued and expanded.

## Recreation

Higher family incomes and a shorter work week, gained through the efforts of the Democratic Party, have created a need for additional leisure time facilities easily accessi-

ble to all. The Division of Parks and Recreation, in the Department of Public Works, was created during the last session of the General Assembly at the request of the governor. It is the first step in this program to provide the leadership and supervision necessary for the improved operation, maintenance, development and expansion of such facilities.

Rhode Island's state operated beaches, parks, roadside picnic areas and recreational facilities will be developed and expanded to provide safe and wholesome relaxation for every age and interest of our people.

## Agriculture and Conservation

Agriculture is still one of our largest industries. The Democratic Party pledges its every effort to maintain the economy of our farmers.

We will aid, assist and protect our dairy industry in every possible way in order to guarantee to the consumers an adequate supply of wholesome, healthful milk produced by the Rhode Island farmer and sold at a price which is equally fair to the consumer and to the farmer. Conservation of forests and natural resources is vital to the strength and welfare of the state.

Our forests must be protected and used wisely in order to produce a continual supply of basic raw materials for industry.

We pledge a program of forest protection, reforestation projects and sound practices of production and harvesting which will promote sustained yield of forest crops.

We propose to establish and demonstrate such successful policies of forest and land management on state property as will materially assist private land owners in their conservation efforts.

We will continue our efforts to eradicate Dutch Elm disease.

We favor increased research and exploration to conserve and better utilize our fishery resources, to promote new fishery products and to acquire new markets for the industry.

We have devoted our efforts to the preservation, restoration and increase of the wildlife in our State. We intend to improve the forests, streams and wilderness areas throughout the State.

To the \$3,000 of our citizens who annually purchase fishing and hunting licenses we pledge continued efforts to improve all recreational areas.

## Water Resources

During the past two years a survey was made of the water resources of the state available for domestic and industrial purposes. We advocate that the initial steps of a long range program be taken to conserve our natural supplies of water, and to provide an equitable distribution of water to all parts of the State.

## Pollution

We advocate that the program to eliminate water pollution, initiated by and advanced under the able and efficient direction of the present administration, be pursued with continued vigor.

## Home Rule

The people of Rhode Island are to be congratulated upon their adoption of the Home Rule Amendment to the Constitution which was initiated and vigorously pressed by the Democratic Party. We propose that all legislation necessary to clarify and to implement this amendment be passed by the General Assembly at an early date.

## Government Integrity

The Democratic Party takes pride in the record of loyalty, faithfulness and integrity of its public officers and employes of the State of Rhode Island. This record results from a careful selection of candidates, a considered judgment with respect to appointments and an uncompromising quest for efficient, well-qualified state employes. Within the dictates of sound economy, every effort has been made to attract personnel of high caliber to the service of the State of Rhode Island.

It is our duty and trust to the people of Rhode Island to retain the high standards we have set. We pledge ourselves to continue honest government for the people of Rhode Island.

## Government Thrift

The cost of government should be held to a minimum. We should have only as much government as is demanded by the circumstances of our society and it should be economically operated at all times. Waste in any form should be prevented and thrift in all departments should be maintained.

We are proud of our record and of the economic and efficient operation of the government of this state under Governors Green, Quinn, McGrath, Pastore and Roberts. We are determined to continue to bring to the operation of government all the tested techniques and successful practices of sound, modern business administration.

## Law Enforcement

Prompt detection and swift prosecution are the essential elements of law enforcement. Under succeeding Democratic attorneys general, the prosecution of all persons charged with crime has been vigorous and courageous. We pledge ourselves to a continuation of this policy. To ensure that prompt detection of crime be continued, we advocate that the personnel of the Rhode Island State Police be increased, and the program of training of prospective police officers for cities and towns be inaugurated. We also advocate

the establishment of a central crime laboratory for the state, the facilities of which will be available to all cities and towns.

## Assembly Rules

We recommend the revision and improvement of rules and procedures of the General Assembly to the end that legislation may be carefully considered, fully debated and acted upon in the best interests of the public.

Claims against the state which are now submitted to the General Assembly can be more efficiently and economically disposed of by judicial process. A consent statute permitting the adjudication of such claims by the Superior Court is advocated.

## Primaries

A thorough study and revision of the Primary Act and the General Election Law will be made in order to insure presentation to the next session of the General Assembly of a well-integrated Primary Act providing for the holding of the primaries of both political parties on the same day, the elimination of frivolous contests, deletion of outmoded technicalities and to advance the date of the holding of party primaries. The revision will be designed to encourage wider participation by the citizens of the state in the selection of their candidates for public office.

## Voting

Because of the enactment of our new permanent registration law many Rhode Island citizens necessarily absent from the state during the period allowed for registration will be deprived of the right to vote. Some of these people are on patriotic missions, some are wives and dependents of servicemen stationed in distant places.

The Democratic Party believes that the right to vote is one of the most cherished rights of each American and that no one should be deprived of this right without good and serious cause. We therefore advocate the enactment of adequate legislation to provide for absentee registration for those civilians who find it impossible to return to Rhode Island to register in person. The serviceman is already adequately provided for in this regard under our Constitution, so the recommended legislation would not directly have any effect on his present rights and privileges.

## Corrupt Practices

We believe that the expenditure of an excessive amount of money in a political campaign results in the eventual destruction of a democracy. We believe that there should be enacted into law a state corrupt practices act which would apply to primaries as well as elections. We pledge our every effort to secure the adoption of such an act.

## Public Power

It is a well established fact that one of the greatest contributory causes of the loss of industry in this state, as in New England generally, is the high cost of power. Certain other competitive areas in the country, with public power at their disposal, have been able to attract industry mainly because of the low cost rate of such power in those areas.

The State of Rhode Island could benefit greatly from a public power project in the New England area and we urge our Congressional delegation to continue its fight for federal sponsorship of such a project.

In the meantime we shall do everything possible to establish a more equitable cost rate of power for the public and for industry in our state without infringing upon any reasonable profits made by the power companies.

## Highways

The Democratic Party has been ever alert to keep Rhode Island in the lead in the construction of modern highways. Under the leadership of Governor Pastore a comprehensive plan of highway expansion and development was inaugurated. The people of Rhode Island gave the program their enthusiastic approval by their action at the polls in making the funds available. Governor Roberts has vigorously carried the program forward, and has initiated further study and steps which will keep pace with the requirements of the ever-changing demands of our modern age.

## Gas Taxes

The Democratic Party recognizes the merit of reinvestment in highways, traffic aids and control

and lighting facilities the taxes and fees paid by the motorist. We also recognize that such a program will require a re-adjustment in our tax structure. As an initial step, we propose that this matter be placed before the people in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment.

## Conclusion

These wise and bold programs designed to foster a richer economic development of the state can best be achieved under the continued leadership of the Democratic Party, the leadership of demonstrated successful performance.

We pray that God will continue to bless the Democratic leaders of Rhode Island with courage, vision and vigor that they may bring to fulfillment those ideals which have merited the confidence of their fellow men and have brought to the little state of Rhode Island a place of distinction and respect in America.

## Platform

### Continued

and the public without taking away "reasonable profits" of the utilities.

In this connection, the party promised that if it is returned to power the state public utilities division will be strengthened to safeguard consumers against rising rates for all utilities, including telephone and water services.

To help consumers further, a pledge was made to create a consumer council to keep abreast of the cost of necessities of life, and to establish the office of state consumers' counsel to represent the public in all rate matters before federal, state and local agencies—long advocated by the Rhode Island CIO.

And the party promised to initiate a program of co-operation with the other New England states to establish a pool of utility rate experts whose services would be available to all in helping state regulatory officials decide what rates are fair to the public.

### Social Welfare

On social welfare, the platform noted that modernization of Exeter School and the Children's Center is in process, with improved care for children resulting.

It also noted that if voters approve a \$3,000,000 bond issue in November, overcrowded State Hospital will be renovated to give improved diagnostic attention and treatment to the mentally ill.

A \$1,500,000 bond issue also on the November ballot will enable expansion of facilities at the Veterans' Home, Bristol, and "a positive program of community and institutional care (of veterans) will be undertaken."

### Aid to Aged and Children

The aged were promised "a more secure and respected place in the community" by means of state agencies for employment and improved facilities at the State Hospital. And retarded children, the platform said, will be served by development of a special educational, psychological and psychiatric service. Also promised was the development of advanced techniques in the new division of alcoholism to minimize the alcoholics' problem.

On public education, the platform said the state must assure teachers both good training and adequate salaries.

The platform revived the promise of Senator Pastore, when governor, to work for holding both political party's primaries on the same day, instead of nine days apart.

### Primary Law Changes

It said a "well-integrated" primary bill will be submitted to the General Assembly for elimination of "frivolous" primary contests and to advance the date of the primaries, now held in September. All these steps, it said, are designed to encourage wider voter participation in the primaries.



# HARROP SAYS TOWN IN AS "GOOD FINANCIAL STATUS" TODAY AS HAS EVER BEEN

West Warwick Treasurer Charges Republicans with Increasing Expenditures 100% Over Amount Spent by Democrats.

"The Town of West Warwick is in as good financial condition today as it has ever been", remarked Treasurer Robert Harrop at the Democratic rally in Portuguese Sporting Club hall, Bridge Street, Riverpoint, last evening. "We were able to readily sell the bond issue, which indicated the Town was sound and stable," he added. Councilman Thomas Mello presided. There were 100 in attendance.

The Town never saw such a spending orgy as when the Republicans were in power", Harrop declared. "In the first half of the fiscal year the Republicans spent 60 to 65 per cent of the total budget. If the Democrats had not taken over God only knows what would have happened", he added.

He said the Republicans showed a fairly good balanced budget, and on paper it looked so because of receiving State revenue for the sales tax. The Republicans he said placed a portion of the funds in the savings and the rest in the checking account, and then "when 1948 came around they put all the money in the checking account and then remarked: 'look what we've got.'"

Mr. Harrop charged the Republicans with increasing town expenditures 100% over the disbursements of the prior Democratic administration. "What did you get for the Republicans' expenditures?", he inquired. "The Republican party gave you absolutely nothing", he exclaimed in closing.

### Newton Is Speaker

Mortimer W. Newton, former Council President and chairman of the Canvassing Board, said the Democrats put what they have to say down in black and white, and that every plank of the 1950 Democratic plank in the town has been adopted. He described the present Republican platform as a "lot of ballyhoo. They don't get down to real issues."

Emphasizing that "peace shall prevail in the world" is the real goal of this year's political campaign, Mr. Newton said it should be the first thought of every citizen.

As for the administration Mr.

Newton said: "I don't know of another town that has a better set of officers."

"I defy anyone to say any members of the police or fire departments engage in politics," he remarked.

He pointed out that the Democratic party secured social security, unemployment compensation, cash sickness benefit and workmen's compensation for the people of Rhode Island.

Mr. Newton closed by predicting Governor Stevenson will be elected by the greatest majority ever accorded a presidential candidate.

### In House For Ten Years

Rep. Gerard DiFiore reviewed the activities in the last two sessions of the State General Assembly.

(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

# Harrop Says Town in As "Good Financial Status" Today As Has Ever Been

(Continued from page 1)

bly, defending Governor Roberts for his stand on what he termed imperative legislation for the good of the people of the State. He said it was most unfortunate that the \$1,000,000 industrial bill to pave the way for building manufacturing plants to induce concerns to establish in Rhode Island. He said the plan had the backing of the banks, press, chamber of commerce and the court. There were 40 companies who would employ 8,000, and an electronics concern with 1,200 employees which wanted to locate in the State under such a program, inaugurated at first by an industrial conference, set up by Governor Roberts.

The House passed the act but it died in the State which took over the majority when the replacement Senator elected in Pawtucket's special election to fill a vacancy, was a Republican.

### McKanna Harks Back

Council President Harry F. McKanna, Jr. harked back back to the Hoover administration in 1932. He said he watched some of the last Republican national convention, and saw a parade about the huge auditorium hailing former President Hoover, but was reminded of the days of 1932 when people were out of work in Rhode Island.

Getting back at local matters, he said: "We have done things in West Warwick, and pointed to parking meters, increased police and fire departments, improved highways, sidewalk construction and work on school buildings."

"I still am waiting for an answer on why the Republicans did not do something when the Kent County Water Authority jumped the price of water from \$15 for every 50,000 gallons, to \$37.50. Mike DeCiantis was Democratic Town Solicitor, and he went to work. He went to the public utilities, Washington and to the courts.

P.V. TIMES 10/24/52

# De Ciantis Gives Younger Voters Earful; He Recalls Yesteryear's Hectic Days

43

"I give you Mike!" shouted Councilman Thomas Mello as he presented Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis as one of the major speakers at the Democratic rally in Portuguese Sporting Club hall, Bridge Street, Riverpoint, last evening.

Mike didn't talk about Ike, and he didn't use a mike. His robust tenor resounded through the for-

mer old Odd Fellows' Hall, and even made the rafters shake. He didn't need a mike. His only rival in the "battle of resonance" was Sen. Dion Archambault, late in arriving because of attendance at a Senator Kefauver dinner in Providence. In a powerful baritone, the senator went to town in the shortest speech of the evening and punctuated his pointed remarks with resounding fist-pounds on the platform table. He climaxed with: "I'm going to win as Dion Archambault and nothing else!"

Biggest Laugh of Evening DeCiantis produced the biggest (Continued on page 2, col. 6)

# DeCiantis Gives Younger Voters Earful; He Recalls Yesteryear's Hectic Days

(Continued from page 1)

laugh of the rally when he read a letter from the Republican Party headquarters in Providence asking him to "make a donation" to the campaign fund. "Don't they know I'm a Democrat and always will be one?" he commented.

He stressed the value of having young men on the town council, saying the Democrats have three this year.

DeCiantis said the Republicans of West Warwick have been "caught in a trap" after making the charge that "there is politics in the police and fire departments." He declared that as town solicitor he brings before council action to discharge any police officer or fireman found to be practicing politics. He highly praised the ability of Chief of Police Arthur Groleau and Fire Chief Lionel Gareau.

DeCiantis took an envelope from his coat pocket and remarked: "I'll show what the Republican party attempted to do in 1947; but I'll hold it until later."

As for West Warwick finances he stated they are sound, and pointed out that "we have money, bonds and cash of \$350,000 to \$400,000 in the bank. Not one cent was saved by the Republican party when it was in power."

### Like Old-Fashioned Rally

Then DeCiantis ventured back a generation or more to recall several hectic periods in the history of the Pawtuxet Valley, in

### Kraus Praises Roberts

Rep. Thaddeus Kraus told of fifty important bills the Democratic administration advocated, but many of them were killed in the Senate committees after the Republicans gained control after the special Pawtucket election and re-organized the committees. He pointed out that the bill to oust the Kent County Water Authority was among those dying in committee.

Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, Town Clerk, inquired if her listeners in the audience "wanted to go back to the Hoover days?" She stressed the necessity of being staunch Democrats, and back up every plank in the Democratic platform.

### DeCiantis Cites Finances

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis pointed to the surplus possessed by the Town of West Warwick in the form of cash and bonds, amounting to between \$350,000 and \$400,000; and as an example of contrast he exclaimed that "not one cent was saved by the Republican party when it was in power."

"Two years ago Council President McKanna said we would have sewers at every house in the town; and in answer, a Republican said: 'he is talking through his hat'; but today we are in the midst of the sewer extension."

He declared the Republicans have not had the experience the Democrats have had in running the town. He cited the value of bringing the issues before the younger voters.

From the national standpoint Town Solicitor DeCiantis revered the name of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and referred to a statement in 1932 by Roosevelt: "I am going to work for the forgotten man." He listed the many facilities created by the Roosevelt administration for the welfare of the people.

Then returning to West Warwick, he pointed to the appropriation of \$16,000 for the Department of Public Welfare, administered by Joseph Laurence, and which today is aiding about 350 families.

### Sen. Archambault Heard

Senator Dion Archambault, who arrived during the closing minutes of the rally, said he had attended the dinner in Providence at which Senator Kefauver was principal speaker. He declared he expected to win Nov. 4 on his record in the General Assembly.

Called upon to make bows during the progress of the rally were Chief of Police Arthur Groleau, Chairman Alfred Richard of the Town Committee, John Gallucci of the Board of Canvassers, Town Sergeant Frank Boisvert, Director of Public Welfare Laurence, School Committeeman Lorenzo Bergeron, Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca, Councilmen Herve Niquette and Antonio Paul and Building Inspector Willie Regnaire.

Refreshments were served.



# Republicans Say Democrats "Falling Down on the Job" in Operating West Warwick

P.V. TIMES 10/24/52

Declare Present Incumbents in Town Government Unable to Continue New Type Installed by G. O. P. in 1948.

More leading issues were fired last night by the West Warwick Republicans at Falcon Hall, Crompton. Candidates and party leaders flayed the Democratic administration for "falling down on the job" by not being able to continue the new type of government installed in the town by the GOP in 1946, through 1947 and in 1948. They hit the Democrats on sewer installations, recreation, water rates and surplus spending.

In addition, the Republican platform of 14 planks was enlarged when Peter Lemoi, candidate for town council, said the Republicans will sponsor Little League baseball.

Secondo Siniscalchi of Natick walking to the rostrum, said: "I will tell Harry McKanna, president of the town council, who kept still when the Kent County Water Authority was created and who made the first protest. I was the first who protested and my protest was made June 20, 1951, on the front page of the Pawtuxet Valley Daily Times. We did not keep still, but the Democrats did. The water bill was presented in the General Assembly by a Democrat. It was passed by a Democratic legislature. It was approved by a Democratic governor. The chairman of the water board was a Democrat. Some people got

their money back but I didn't, because I didn't pay the rate increase. I ask McKanna in his capacity as president of the town council, why didn't the Democratic administration make a replacement for the vacancy in West Warwick? Why didn't the Democrats in Coventry make a replacement for their vacancy of two years? McKanna was in a position to make a replacement on the water authority and he didn't."

**Surplus Drained**  
Former GOP Committee Chair  
(Continued on page 2, col 4)

## DeCiantis Denies Meunier Charge

Says West Warwick  
Used Surplus Funds for  
Capital Improvements

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick, replying to a charge by Roland E. Meunier, former Republican town chairman, denied that the Democratic administration has used surplus town funds for anything except capital improvements.

He declared that any money used from surplus was used for capital improvements and cited the purchase of garbage trucks, highway department equipment and more than \$40,000 in major repairs to school buildings.

"Those things can't be classified, even by Mr. Meunier, as operating expenses, and they were voted by taxpayers at a town meeting where GOP leaders were present," DeCiantis said.

"The cost of materials, labor and general operations has increased over 100 per cent since we've been in office, and we have operated efficiently on a tax of \$2.25, which is the smallest tax rate in the state for our size," DeCiantis said.

"The people of this town cannot be misled. All that is necessary is for the citizens to consider the cost of living — their own living costs — and the people are no different in the operation of their homes than the town is in the operation of the town. One can see readily that town costs have increased as much as costs that a head of a family must meet, yet the Democratic administration has not increased the costs one nickel to the ordinary homeowner in the town.

"We intend to carry out the wishes of the taxpayers."

# Democrats Level Heavy Blast at Republicans

PROV. JOURNAL 10/27/52

W. Warwick Party Hits Opponents' Record;  
Town Solicitor DeCiantis Leads Assault

West Warwick Democrats yesterday unleashed the heaviest barrage of the campaign at their Republican opponents in the town.

The attack was made at the Club 400, Natick, where a trio of local speakers addressed the annual dinner of the West Warwick Woman's Democratic Club. The heaviest assault was made by Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor, who received ardent backing from Harry McKanna, town council president, and Dion Archambault, state senator running for re-election.

Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, club president, dinner chairman and toastmaster also introduced Congressman Fogarty to the audience of about 150 persons.

Charges against the GOP ranged from outright scorn of their avowed intentions not to interfere with the police and fire departments to having "sat and twiddled their thumbs" while the Democrats saved the town from the excessive rates imposed by the Kent County Water Authority.

The Republicans were derided by Archambault as having resorted "to rallies which are merely plucking parties . . . where they spend their time telling jokes and betting on how many votes the Democrats will win by."

DeCiantis waved alleged evidence to the audience purportedly proving that the Republicans had meddled in school committee business when they held office in 1947-48. He charged they would do it again in the police and fire departments despite recent statements that a GOP platform plank calling for "prevention of political activity" by those employees meant merely to assure the men they would not be disturbed in their duties.

McKanna declared that election of the Democrats was necessary in order to prevent an increase in water rates. He warned that a hearing was coming up shortly before the public utilities adminis-

trator regarding a requested rate hike by the authority.

"Do you want DeCiantis to represent the town of West Warwick?" he asked.

"Unless the Democrats are elected . . . the Republicans will not appoint him to go up and represent you. Without him you will have the same situation as before, with the Republicans sitting still and twiddling their thumbs."

## DeCiantis Hits GOP on Plank

W. Warwick Solicitor  
Flays Republicans  
On Platform Point

Pawtuxet Valley Office } Telephone  
15 Washington Street } VA 1-8200  
West Warwick } VA 1-7067

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis of West Warwick last night told a rally of about 65 persons in the Portuguese Sports Club, Bridge Street, that town Republicans were only "backwatering" by saying they did not mean that police and firemen are taking part in political activities by their platform plank calling for prevention of such acts.

Despite assertions by Ernest E. Lefebvre, GOP candidate for senator, that the platform meant only that the police and firemen would be kept free of political interference and activities, DeCiantis declared, "a child five years old knows what that plank means."

He declared that he was ready to call a council meeting after the GOP platform appeared and, if after a hearing any police or firemen were found guilty of political activity, they would be discharged.

But, he said, the men have not been engaging in political activity, except for Police Chief Groleau, who is the only member of either department who is not permanent. He said Groleau, a member of the Democratic town committee and the policy maker, is one of the best police chiefs in the state. This brought applause from the spectators. He also praised Chief Gareau of the fire department.

Other speakers, all of whom cited their party's record, were Reps. Gerard Difiore and Thaddeus Kraus; Town Treasurer Robert J. Harrop; Town Clerk Susan V. Lamb; Mortimer W. Newton, canvassing authority chairman; Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president; Councilmen Antonio Paul, Hervey Niquette and Thomas F. Mello; Sen. Dion Archambault, Rep. Ulysses Laroche, Chester Kulasewski, councilmanic candidate, and Town Sergeant Frank D. Boisvert. Mello was master of ceremonies in his home district.



P.V. TIMES 10/27/52

# De Ciantis Says Meunier Holds As Much Power As Ever in Republican Party

Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor of West Warwick, said yesterday that Roland E. Meunier today holds as much power as he ever held in the Republican party and that if the GOP wins in November, he and Ernest E. Lefebvre will instill politics in the permanent fire and police departments and in the school committee.

DeCiantis told the gathering of 150 at the West Warwick Democratic Women's Club annual banquet at the 400 Club that Meunier "whom the people and the party repudiated", showed at the Republican rally last Thursday that he has as much power as he ever had with the GOP party in town. (Meunier spoke on town finances at that rally).

Bringing Lefebvre, the Republican candidate for state senator into his charges, DeCiantis said that when he asked the Republicans to clarify their campaign platform and to name any member of the permanent fire department who had been involved in political activity, Lefebvre gave the answer by saying we intend to let the permanent men know we would not bother them.

"I recall in 1946", DeCiantis said, when a young man, Leonard Hennessey, treasurer of Centreville National Bank, was elected to the school committee, but he resigned. Why? Because Meunier and Lefebvre attempted to dictate to him and wanted him to fire the superintendent of schools. They replaced him with Harold Hayes and he and Gerard Theroux, the other Republican member of the school committee, couldn't do anything unless Meunier and Lefebvre told them what to do."

### Cites School Contract

Reaching into his suit coat pocket, DeCiantis said, "I will show you." He pulled out a letter from his pocket and said "a school had to be fixed. Who got the contract? Did the school committee award it? Was the job put out on bids? No." Holding up the letter, DeCiantis said "this letter was a contract between Lefebvre, a Woonsocket plumbing and heating firm to do a \$3535 repair job on toilets in Highland Street School. A West Warwick plumber, and we have several of them, could have done the job, yet they went outside of the town while our own plumbers pay the taxes in West Warwick."

Continuing, DeCiantis said, "I

don't believe it when Meunier and Lefebvre say they will work for benefit of the town, because they won't." Dion Archambault the Democratic candidate for re-election as state senator, has a good record. He wanted to fire the members of the Kent County Water Authority, but the Republican Senate said no. Where were Lefebvre and Meunier then? Two years ago Harry F. McKanna Jr., president of the town council, campaigned for sewer extension, and Lefebvre was against it, but now he wants it.

DeCiantis said the Republican candidates on all levels are saying they will continue the social gains adopted by the Democrats. "We don't have to go any further," he said. In 1947 the teachers in West Warwick came into the town meeting with a form for a wage scale which they thought was proper. Meunier and Lefebvre and the rest of the Republicans were against it. They put it over. Even here in West Warwick the Republicans are against labor."

### DeCiantis Will Go

McKanna said that if the Democrats are not re-elected in November the Republicans will not reappoint DeCiantis to represent the town council in the battle against the Kent County Water Authority and their rate schedule. "I know that. Without him you will have nothing but what you had before the rates went up, a Republican party which sits still and twiddles their thumbs," McKanna said.

Citing the services the Democratic administration has done in the past two years, McKanna charged that when the water authority raised its rates from \$15 to \$37.50 for 50,000 gallons, the town council immediately took that situation under control by calling on DeCiantis the town solicitor to go to work on it and not to stop until the rates were lowered. He said, DeCiantis and I went to Washington and conferred with the director of OPS for four hours. We went to the state public utilities administration and asked them to make the water authority subject to its regulations; when the water authority refused this subjugation, the case was taken to the Supreme Court and they ruled the water authority had no right to raise the rates before a hearing was held before the public utilities administration; the \$80,000 in overpayments was returned to the people in Kent County.

### "Where Were They?"

McKanna said, "I asked the Republicans where were they all this time? Why didn't they join the protesting citizens committee? I asked them these questions a week ago and I haven't had an answer. You are entitled to know. They ask you to vote for them."

The third local speaker was Sen. Dion Archambault who said that the Republican party in West Warwick is "dead." "It committed suicide immediately after the last election," he added. Archambault said the Republicans still have a few days left to come out with some campaign issues.

Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, women's club president, was in charge of the dinner meeting. She also introduced the following candidates: Antonio Paul and Herve Niquette for the town council; Frank Boisvert, town sergeant; Joseph Laurence, director of public aid; Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk; and Lorenzo Bergeron, school committee. She also introduced Alfred Richard, Democratic town committee chairman, and Police Chief Arthur Groleau.

Among the women at the head table were club directors, Mrs. Guiot, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Rose Groleau, Mrs. Alice Leroux, chairman, Mrs. Rose Mailloux, Mrs. Elise Paul, Mrs. Marie Bonenfant, Mrs. Azilda Lemay, and club officers Mrs. Rita Morin, secretary, Mrs. Helen Chevalier, treasurer, and Mrs. Betty Kostecki, assistant treasurer.

EVERING Bulletin 10/27/52

# W. Warwick Democrats Level Heavy Blast at GOP

## DeCiantis Cites 1948 Plumbing Bill To Show Interference in School Affairs

Pawtuxet Valley Office, Telephone  
15 Washington Street, VA 1-8200  
West Warwick, VA 1-7067

West Warwick Democrats yesterday unleashed the heaviest barrage of the campaign at their Republican opponents in the town.

The attack was made at the Club 400, Natick, where a trio of local speakers addressed the annual dinner of the West Warwick Woman's Democratic Club. The heaviest assault was made by Michael DeCiantis, town solicitor, who received ardent backing from Harry McKanna, town council president, and Dion Archambault, state senator running for re-election.

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Charges against the GOP ranged from outright scorn of their avowed intentions not to interfere with the police and fire departments to having "sat and twiddled their thumbs" while the Democrats saved the town from the excessive rates imposed by the Kent County Water Authority.

The Republicans were derided by Archambault as having resorted "to rallies which are merely plucking parties . . . where they spend their time telling jokes and betting on how many votes the Democrats will win by."

DeCiantis waved alleged evidence to the audience purportedly proving that the Republicans had meddled in school committee business when they held office in 1947-48. He charged they would do it again in the police and fire departments despite recent statements that a GOP platform plank calling for "prevention of political activity" by those employees meant merely to assure the men they would not be disturbed in their duties.

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"Do you want DeCiantis to represent the town of West Warwick?" he asked.

"Unless the Democrats are elected . . . the Republicans will not appoint him to go up and represent you. Without him you will have the same situation as before, with the Republicans sitting still and twiddling their thumbs."

McKanna claimed that he and DeCiantis were responsible for having had the Kent County Water Authority placed under the jurisdiction of the public utility administrator by going to Price Administrator Michael DiSalle in Washington, D.C., and giving him the facts. DeCiantis exploded what might

prove to be the biggest bombshell when he read a letter which he described as a copy of one in the town hall records.

Dated Aug. 9, 1948, the missive purported to be a bill from a Woonsocket plumbing firm to the town for plumbing installed in the Highland Hill School. The cost amounted to \$3535.

It was addressed to Roland Meunier, then town solicitor, and cited fulfillment of the plumbing contract "per verbal agreement with Lefebvre." Ernest E. Lefebvre, present GOP State Senate candidate, was town council president under the Republican administration.

DeCiantis charged that the two men "were interfering in the school committee" in having arranged for the purchase. Such negotiations were in the province of the committee, he said.

"And could not West Warwick plumbers have done the job?" he inquired. "There are plenty of plumbers in town, paying taxes . . . but they went outside the town to get the job done."

The town solicitor cited the resignation of Leonard Hennessey from the school committee in 1946 and said it was because "Roland Meunier and Ernest Lefebvre wanted to dictate to the committee . . . He could not call his soul his own . . ."

"And they are now telling the police and firemen they will not involve them in politics," he said.

Referring to sewer lines installed in West Warwick, DeCiantis said that Lefebvre, although he looked askance two years ago at Democratic promises to expand the system, "now wants the pipes laid in his yard so he can move from Curton Street to Harpin Heights."

The solicitor said that his party would "build a new town hall, fire station and new highways so as to make West Warwick one of the most beautiful spots in the state."

He said improvements "cost money . . . but we'll spend because it is going for the good of the people, notwithstanding the criticisms of Meunier and Lefebvre." Authorization for the expenses comes from the people at the town meeting, he said.

The Democrats have scheduled four rallies in West Warwick this week at the Eagle Hall, Lippitt, Tuesday night; PNA Hall, Crompton, Thursday night; the Roma Social Club, Westcott, Sunday afternoon; and Turcotte's Hall, with state candidates, that night.

Expected appearances of Senator Pastore and Governor Roberts at the Democratic rally did not materialize.

On the date were the following members of the woman's club executive board, who assisted in arrangements for the dinner—

Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk candidate for re-election; Mrs. Rose Groleau, Mrs. Alice Leroux, board chairman; Mrs. Rose Mailloux, Mrs. Elise Paul, Mrs. Marie Bonenfant and Mrs. Azilda Lemay.

Also Mrs. Rita Morin, board secretary; Mrs. Helen Chevalier, treasurer, and Mrs. Betty Kostecki, assistant treasurer. Many local candidates were present in the audience.



# Lefebvre Asks Who is to Pay for Extension

G. O. P. Candidate for  
State Senator Refers  
to Sewers

Ernest E. Lefebvre, West Warwick Republican candidate for state senator, charged last night that the Democratic administration is reluctant to "come clean and tell the people" who it is that is going to pay for the \$1,250,000 sewer extension.

Speaking at a Republican workers' meeting at Congdon's Hall, Lefebvre said that the majority of the total amount of the \$1,250,000 sewer bond extension will have to be paid by veterans who have bought homes in the new developments and if the veterans' property valuation is \$5000, the assessment for the new sewer extension will be between \$1300 to \$1500.

## On Basis of Real Estate

Lefebvre said that the cost could even be more because "the act provides that the total cost be apportioned on the basis of valuation of real estate only in the sections where the sewers are to be installed. This amount, of course, can be divided in several years of payment, but the interest alone will be between \$60 to \$65 per year, plus the yearly portion of the original cost."

Continuing, Lefebvre said, "The assessment of \$1000 to \$1500 or more that will be placed on your property is equivalent to a first mortgage which has priority over any other mortgage you now have and must be paid whether you are connected to the sewers or not."

## "75 Per Cent Coverage"

"When the original sewers were installed, it was generally accepted that it covered approximately 75 per cent of the assessable property of West Warwick. The project cost, at that time, over \$1,000,000, the cost to be divided equally among the taxpayers that received the service. An assessment was made of \$65 per \$1000 of valuation. For example, an average home which was assessed at \$5000, the share of tax was \$325. On the same basis, the people who are to be served by this new extension of sewers are responsible for \$1,250,000, and it must be assessed on less than 25 per cent of the total assessable property. In other words, the majority of the total cost will have to be paid by the veterans who have bought homes in the newly developed sections with the result that the cost per \$1000 of assessed property will be at least four times the original cost."

## "Should Have Been Told"

Lefebvre said "I feel that it

(Continued on page 6, col. 4)

## Lefebvre Asks Who is to Pay for Extension

(Continued from page 1)

was the duty of the present administration to make these facts known to you so that you could be guided accordingly. It is very evident that the Democratic administration, by its action, has shown that they were more interested in getting \$1,250,000 to spend than they were interested in the welfare of the people of the town. I ask you if you think this is important enough so that you should have been told what this meant to you and if you should have been given an opportunity to decide based on the condition of drainage and the need in different sections of the town whether or not you wanted this extension of sewers on your street at this cost."

# GOP Is Accused Of Interfering

DeCiantis Charges Foes  
Meddled in W. Warwick  
School Board Matters

Pawtuxet Valley Office,  
15 Washington Street,  
West Warwick

Telephone  
VA 1-8200  
VA 1-7067

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis last night struck deeper into the camp of West Warwick Republicans by charging that GOP officials, when in power in 1948, had interfered with the school committee.

Robert J. Harrop, Democratic town treasurer, defended the administration against Republican charges that "\$85,000 out of the town's savings account" had been "used up" since the incumbents were returned to office four years ago.

Scene of the latest action on the campaign front was Eagles' Hall, Lippitt, where Democratic speakers addressed 50 persons at a party rally.

Also on the platform were Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president; Reps. Gerard DiFiore and Thaddeus M. Kraus, seeking re-election; Sen. Dion Archambault; Probate Judge Eugene J. Laferriere; Francis Fazzino, town council candidate, and Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk, candidate for re-election.

## "Secret Board Meeting"

DeCiantis, who on Sunday accused two Republicans of having meddled with negotiations actually in the province of the school committee, last night said the "interference" was accomplished at "what I don't doubt was a secret meeting" of the board.

He produced a copy of a letter, purportedly taken from town records, and charged that Roland E. Meunier and Ernest E. Lefebvre, town solicitor and council president, respectively, in the last GOP administration had corresponded with a Woonsocket plumbing firm regarding plumbing installations at the Highland Street School.

Lefebvre is the Republican candidate for the state Senate. Meunier, former GOP chairman, was described by DeCiantis as "still running the Republican Party."

## No Previous Bids

DeCiantis declared that \$3535 for the plumbing had been appropriated at a "special meeting" of the school committee on Aug. 27, 1948. He said only Republican members were present when the contract was approved and that neither the Democratic minority member, the committee clerk, nor the school superintendent had been notified of the session.

DeCiantis added that the contract had been concluded with the firm—Eddie P. Gouin, plumbing and heating contractors of 115 High Street, Woonsocket—without previous bidding.

This was proved, he said, by receipt of a letter at a regular meeting on Sept. 7, 1948, from the firm asking for the contract, "when it had already been approved by Meunier and Lefebvre at the special meeting."

Saying that Democrats "never went outside the town to get jobs done," DeCiantis demanded an explanation from the Republicans.

# Harrop Says Mrs. Knight's Claim Faulty

Denies Administration Has Used Up  
\$85,000 Fund

Robert J. Harrop, incumbent Democratic treasurer of West Warwick last night said that Olive L. Knight's charge that the Democrats have used up since Nov. 1948 the sum of \$85,000 out of the town's savings account is "not the truth, and is absolutely incorrect." Both Harrop and Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis said that Mrs. Knight's statement was a speech of Roland E. Meunier.

"I would like to take this opportunity to correct an erroneous set of facts concerning the financial conditions of this Township, which set of erroneous facts the Republican party is attempting to have people of this Town believe. In statements made at prior times by certain Republican candidate for the office of Town Treasurer, the Republican party states that the Democratic Administration has used up, expended for current expenses, or otherwise unwisely spent the sum of \$85,000.00, from the town's surplus funds. This is not the truth. It is absolutely incorrect.

"Mrs. Knight, because she was once town treasurer, if no other of the Republican party, should know that in speaking of Town finances, one does not take one isolated fund out of the general picture. A town has many funds. I could say that whereas the Post War Capital Improvements Fund a savings fund like the Old Col-

(Continued on page 8, col. 4)

## Harrop Says Mrs. Knight's Claim Faulty

(Continued from page 1)

ony Fund, was only \$145,000.00 in 1948 when the Democrats took over, and is now \$201,000.00, we have saved the Town, in this fund alone, \$56,000.00. In the overall picture, this statement is no truer than the statement issued by Mrs. Knight, and appearing in this evening's edition of the Times.

"So lets look over the record, the whole record, of all the funds, not only the one fund padded by the outgoing Republican party in 1948, and let's back the statements with citations, from the reports of the State Auditors and from the Audit put out by the firm of Lees, Bauer and Hanover, a firm of private accountants that audited the Republicans' books.

"In all funds (excepting the sewer funds earmarked to pay outstanding bonds) the Republican party left to the incoming Democratic Administration, the sums of \$288,243.116 in the General fund, both savings and checking (See L. B&H Page 10, Exh D) and \$145,142.15 in the Post War Reserve Fund (See L. B&H Page 7, Exh B), for a total of \$433,385.31. This was in the month of November, just after the yearly taxes had been paid.

"The financial meeting that year of 1948 was Republican run and Republican controlled. They appropriated \$646,989.25 for expenditures in appropriations ac-

counts for the 1948-1949 fiscal year. The Town and Town's spending for the first half of that year was in the hands of the Republican party. For citation of appropriations total and breakdown see the P. V. Daily Times, May 19th 1948. By November 15th of that year, the Republican party had spent \$496,848.60 of the total appropriations. In other words, the Republican party had spent in one-half year 4.50 of every 6.00 appropriated. See L. B&H Page 9, Exh C. This left the Democratic party with only \$150,000.00 to finish out the remaining six months of the year, something that could not be done. If we had continued the wild spending of the Republicans, the deficit for the year 1948-1949 would have been over \$340,000.00. However, by carefully husbanding the small inheritance the Republicans left us, the year 1948-1949 resulted in an overexpenditure of only \$82,000.00. See State Auditors report for last half of 1949 Exh. A. The Republican party going out of office at the crest of income time, and by padding one account to the detriment of others, was able to show a paper profit.

"Now let us look at the end of the last fiscal year. The balance in the Town funds was \$35,065.68. Of this decrease, \$56,500.00 was spent directly from surplus by mandate of the voters at the various Town Financial Meetings. See Exh. B of the State Auditors Reports for 1949-1950-1951 and 1952. Thus, fig-

ures show that between Nov. not the end of the 1948 fiscal year, but Nov. 1948 and May 1952, there was a drop in town money of \$11,800.00. In other words, we have been able to replace some of the money that the Republicans used up, dissipated is a better word, in the wild six months of 1948. This Town would not have had to spend one cent from surplus, but for that spree. This party has not spent or used up for current expenses \$85,000.00 as charged by the Republicans. We have however, in preventing economic chaos in 1948, been able to save about \$3,000.00 in the time we have been in office."



P.V. TIMES 10/29/52

# SAYS ADMINISTRATION DOING ALL BUSINESS IN TOWN AND WILL CONTINUE

47

De Ciantis, Speaking at Democratic Rally,  
Again Asks Republicans to Name Police-  
man or Fireman Influenced by Politics.

"Regardless of party affiliation, the Democratic party of West Warwick, contrary to Roland E. Meunier and Ernest E. Lefebvre, who again are controlling the Republican party of this town, still does and will continue to do all the business we possibly can in West Warwick."

This promise was made last night at the largely attended Democratic rally at the Eagles Home, Lippitt, by Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis who reiterated that Meunier and Lefebvre have insinuated that the incum-

bent administration has applied politics in the permanent police and fire departments. DeCiantis called upon Lefebvre last week to name the man in the fire or police departments who had been influenced by a politician, and last Sunday he charged that Meunier and Lefebvre themselves dictated to the school committee while they were in power from 1946 to November of 1948.

DeCiantis said that Meunier and Lefebvre contracted with a Woonsocket plumbing and heating company to do a \$3535 plumbing job at the Highland Street School while West Warwick plumbers were not even contacted, "and they did this while it was the business of the school committee."

### Town Garage

Showing how "this business" compares with the Democratic record, DeCiantis said "at the financial town meeting in 1948, Highway Commissioner Henry Petrarca wanted to fix the town hall garage. We prepared a special resolution asking the taxpayers to appropriate \$4500 for the job to be done by the General Engineering and Construction Co. of Providence, owned by Alex Di Martino of Wakefield Street, West Warwick, who is presently a member of our planning commission. Who do you suppose got up and hollered that we were going to give this job to an 'out-of-town resident'? Lefebvre did. Di Martino, attending the meeting, stood up and said, 'I don't want the contract. You couldn't give it to me if it was gold.'"

### Owned by Gillespie

"Petrarca rebuilt the town hall garage himself. Did we go looking outside of the town for a Democrat from whom to buy the cement for the new floor? No, we went to the Valley Ready Mixed Concrete Company operated by Norman E. Gillespie and he furnished the cement for us. We operate for the good of all the people of West Warwick, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, and that's how we will continue to operate."

"What else have I got? I found, in looking over the records at the town hall, and they are open to all the citizens of the town, that Lefebvre himself was paid \$192.50 for gasoline and oil from the Democratic administration which he has criticized. We have not discriminated against him as far as business is concerned. Sure, we have given most of the business to Democrats, but the same is true when Meunier and Lefebvre were in office. Lefebvre sold plenty of oil and I don't make anything of that, but I do of the fact that they bought the oil for the high school from another man who doesn't even live in the town, but who lives in Warwick. Why, I ask you, why? If they want to know, I will tell them. I say this needs an explanation in this town, but they can't give you one. These are records."

"When they try to tell us and to insinuate we have been playing politics, then the time has come to show it isn't so."

## Says Administration Doing All Business in Town and Will Continue (Continued from page 1)

ing politics, then the time has come to show it isn't so."

### Plumbing Contract

Referring to the \$3535 plumbing contract made between Meunier, Lefebvre and a Woonsocket plumbing and heating contractor, DeCiantis said "here is the second chapter of that contract. On Aug. 9, 1948, Meunier received a letter from the Woonsocket firm which stated in part: 'I am pleased to submit the price of \$3535 for the plumbing as per agreement of Mr. Lefebvre.' On Aug. 27, 1948, 18 days later, a special meeting of the school committee was called and Harold Hayes and Gerard Theroux, the Republican members, were present. Where was Vincent Lukowicz, the Democratic member? He wasn't notified. Where was the clerk, then Miss Alice Pryor? Where was Miss Maisie Quinn, the superintendent of schools? They were not notified either. Who acted as secretary? Hayes did. What did they do? They voted to give the job for the plumbing at Highland Street School to the Woonsocket firm for \$3535. We find nothing in the records of asking for a bid for this work. That's the type of business we have had in this town. Why did Meunier and Lefebvre interfere with the school committee? This needs an explanation because we Democrats and the people of West Warwick are not used to this type of business. They thought they had the town in their vest pocket. In 1946 they changed the locks on the doors at the town hall, that's how sure they were. But the people found out about them, and they threw them out of office."

### Recreation in Platform

DeCiantis said in our platform we promise to provide a permanent director for recreation. "It will be kept." We need to do something at the athletic field, either the dump or the field must go. "In tonight's publication of the Pawtuxet Valley Daily Times there is a report of an interview of me by Ambrose Smith, sports editor, and it tells what we intend to do. If you haven't read it yet, I urge you to read it and to tell your friends to read it. I promise as an individual that I will do as much as I can for that program."

Taking a postal card from his pocket, DeCiantis said it was a note from Miss Mary C. McKenna, a student at the University of Rhode Island, asking for support to the \$600,000 referendum that will be on the voting machines Nov. 4 for improvements and equipment for the Ranger Hall science building at the university. DeCiantis asked the group to talk and vote in favor of this referendum item.

### Sewer Extensions

Harry F. McKanna Jr., retiring president of the town council, said that Lefebvre, the GOP candidate for state senator, is asking questions about who is going to pay for the new sewer extensions. "Lefebvre knows how the sewer

er system was installed in 1939 and 1940. The same law, and same procedures apply and if he doesn't know it, he shouldn't be running for state senator."

"I have asked the Republicans so many times now where were they when the Democrats were fighting the water rates? The people of this town must know my question, word for word, by now because I have asked it so many times, yet we don't hear any answer from the Republicans. Why don't they answer, because they are Republicans and they don't care for you or for me," McKanna said.

Rep. Thaddeus Kraus, candidate for re-election as representative from the third district said the only hearing the Republicans attended in the State House affecting West Warwick, was the one concerning making the police department permanent, and then they became so violent in their protests they irked the members of the General Assembly committee. "They were no where to be found on issues which would have benefited the people," he said.

### Tell About "Dark Days"

Rep. Gerard DiFiore, seeking re-election in the first district, urged parents to tell their children "about the dark days, when they were out trying to sell apples, when mortgages were being foreclosed." DiFiore said "tell them what the Republicans took away from us and what the Democrats have given us." In asking for support for his re-election, DiFiore said that with his 10 years record in the House of Representatives, "I have seniority rights and I rate a good spot in the state government for benefit of the town of West Warwick. I enjoy the respect of the Democrats and of a good many Republicans because I play fairly. If you make a change you know what you are leaving but you don't know what you are getting."

Senator Dion Archambault said that Lefebvre should withdraw from the campaign because he

has no issues and hasn't anything to say about 'my record.'

### Praises Town

Francis J. Fazzano, candidate for town councilman, said that he was induced to run on the Democratic ticket in West Warwick because of the personnel in the government of the town and because of the services the administration has given for the cost in comparison with other communities of the state. "As a member of the attorney general's department I have never heard anything that wasn't good concerning the town of West Warwick with exception of the tragic O'Brien murder in Natick which was in no way connected with the town. I think West Warwick is the cleanest town in the state, bar none. When I moved to the town I was surprised at the services given for the cost. I ask the people who say it is time for a change, what is wrong? From what I see in the papers, and they are doing a good job of reporting the events, West Warwick should be proud of its services and administration."

### "Like Stockholder"

Eugene J. Laferriere, probate judge, said "I am a Democrat and I have lived in West Warwick all of my life. I am like a stockholder and I want to get my money's worth. In West Warwick I pay a tax rate of \$2.25 while in Coventry they pay \$2.40 and in Warwick they pay \$2.75 and every-

one knows what I get in comparison with citizens of the other towns." Laferriere said he "could remember the days of the bread lines in West Warwick during the depression. I heard a fellow Republican say, 'I want a change but I don't dare make it.'"

Herve Niquette, seeking re-election to the town council, was in charge of the rally. He also called on Town Councilmen Thomas Mello and Antonio Paul; Alfred Richard, chairman of the Democratic town committee; Police Chief Arthur Groleau; town clerk, Mrs. Susan V. Lamb; School Committee member Lorenzo Bergeron; Henry Petrarca; Willie Regnaire, building inspector; Mrs. Yvonne Guiot, president of the Democratic Women's Club; and Joseph H.

Parenteau, candidate for moderator of the first district.



# De Ciantis Demands GOP Explain 1948 'Interference' Says Plumbing Job for Schools Given Out by Lefebvre, Meunier

EVENING Bulletin 10/29/52

Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis last night struck deeper into the camp of West Warwick Republicans by charging that GOP officials, when in power in 1948, had interfered with the school committee.

Robert J. Harrop, Democratic town treasurer, defended the administration against Republican charges that "\$85,000 out of the town's savings account" had been "used up" since the incumbents were returned to office four years ago.

Scene of the latest action on the campaign front was Eagles' Hall, Lippitt, where Democratic speakers addressed 50 persons at a party rally.

Also on the platform were Harry F. McKanna Jr., town council president; Reps. Gerard DiFiore and Thaddeus M. Kraus, seeking re-election; Sen. Dion Archambault; Probate Judge Eugene J. Lafriere; Francis Fazzano, town council candidate, and Mrs. Susan V. Lamb, town clerk, candidate for re-election.

## "Secret Board Meeting"

DeCiantis, who on Sunday accused two Republicans of having meddled with negotiations actually in the province of the school committee, last night said the "interference" was accomplished at "what I don't doubt was a secret meeting" of the board.

He produced a copy of a letter, purportedly taken from town records, and charged that Roland E. Meunier and Ernest E. Lefebvre, town solicitor and council president, respectively, in the last GOP administration had corresponded with a Woonsocket plumbing firm regarding plumbing installations at the Highland Street School.

Lefebvre is the Republican candidate for the state Senate. Meunier, former GOP chairman, was described by DeCiantis as "still running the Republican Party."

## No Previous Bids

DeCiantis declared that \$3535 for the plumbing had been appropriated at a "special meeting" of the school committee on Aug. 27, 1948. He said only Republican members were present when the contract was approved and that neither the Democratic minority member, the committee clerk, nor the school superintendent had been notified of the session.

DeCiantis added that the contract had been concluded with the firm—Eddie P. Gouin, plumbing and heating contractors of 115 High Street, Woonsocket—without previous bidding.

This was proved, he said, by receipt of a letter at a regular meeting on Sept. 7, 1948, from the firm asking for the contract, "when it had already been approved by Meunier and Lefebvre at the special meeting."

Saying that Democrats "never went outside the town to get jobs done," DeCiantis demanded an explanation from the Republicans.

De Ciantis said Lefebvre's Pawtuxet Valley Oil Co. had received orders from the Democratic administration, but that Republicans, when in power, conducted oil business outside of the town with a Warwick firm.

Harrop said that Republicans leaving office in 1948 had "deliberately denuded the checking account of the town, taking every cent from this operating fund and placing it in the savings account, and then saying, 'look what we did!'"

The money left in the operating account "was not sufficient to run the town for a month," Harrop said. He explained it was necessary to withdraw funds from the savings account to conduct town business.

Harrop also charged the last Republican administration had "spent in one-half year \$450 of every \$6 appropriated" at the 1948 town meeting for the entire year.

"This left the Democrats (who assumed office in November, 1948) with only \$150,000 to finish out the remaining six months of the year," he said, citing that the GOP had spent \$496,848 in the preceding six months. The entire budget appro-

riation for 1948-49, Harrop said, was \$646,989.

He charged the Republicans had endangered the town's financial structure for "future cheap political publicity."

He concluded that Mrs. Knight's statement "was worse than a lie—it is a half truth." It made no difference whether the two was credited with funds in its general account, used for operating expenses, or the postwar reserve (savings) fund, he said.

McKanna, replying to a published Lefebvre inquiry as to who would pay for the prospective sewer system expansion, said that the work would be accomplished "in the same way . . . and under the same laws" as set up for "the sewer commission in 1922."

Lefebvre had charged that beneficiaries of the new sewer lines would be assessed between \$1300 and \$1500. This was in contrast to a cost of \$325 to property owners included in the already existing system, he said.

Fazzano retorted on the topic: "The people who get the sewers will pay, it's that simple."

Although no reference was made by either Democratic speaker to the probable sewer assessment, Fazzano said that West Warwick sewers are installed "at less cost than in other towns."

DeFiore attacked the Republicans as being "stooges for the moneybags." Kraus said GOP assembly candidates in West Warwick have "not taken a stand on state issues."

Archambault accused the Republicans of "doing nothing short of treachery" to their followers in the Valley by apathetic campaigning. He challenged them to "withdraw if they didn't want to come out and fight."

Mrs. Lamb assailed Republican criticism of the administration for failure to erect a comfort station in the business area. The Democrats were looking for a place to put it, she said.

"Where would the Republicans put it?" the town clerk asked, "hanging from a telephone pole?"

# W. Warwick GOP Replies To Charges of De Ciantis

## Says No Local Plumber Could Do School Job; Hits Democrats on Finances

EVENING Bulletin 10/29/52

West Warwick Republicans last night defended their action in hiring a Woonsocket plumber during their 1946-48 regime to make repairs at Highland Street School, saying no local plumbers had the men or materials necessary at the time.

Roland E. Munier, former town solicitor, and Ernest E. Lefebvre, state senate candidate and former GOP council president, denied Town Solicitor Michael DeCiantis' charges of political interference in school affairs. He said they had assisted the school board by request, as members of a special building committee. This was confirmed by Harold H. Hayes, a GOP school committeeman at the time.

Declaring that unsanitary conditions at the school were deplorable, Meunier asked, "Is helping to bring about better conditions in the schools interference, or is it interference to get confidential files and use them for political purposes? Who authorized DeCiantis to take papers on the contract—the school committee or the superintendent? As town solicitor, can he take any paper and use it for political purposes in untruthful and self-serving statements?"

He said officials at the time approached every plumber in town to do the job and were refused "so we found a contractor, with the full consent of the Democratic member of the school committee, Vincent J. Lukowicz, who joined in hiring the Woonsocket contractor."

Meunier said both Lukowicz and Dr. Maisie E. Quinn, superintendent, said at the time no one could be found to do the job among local plumbers.

## Turns Tables

Turning the tables, Hayes said an East Greenwich plumber now is in-

stalling a boiler at Harris Avenue School and asked, "Why wasn't this job completed last summer, and why wasn't it given to a local plumber?"

Mrs. Olive Knight, former treasurer and candidate for that office again, took exception to remarks by Town Treasurer Robert J. Harrop that her recent charge that \$85,000 had been spent by Democrats from surplus funds in four years was a half-truth. Obviously riled, she said records will bear out that the \$85,000 is gone from \$200,000 which was in an Old Colony Savings Bank account when the GOP went out of office in 1948.

The rally, attended by nearly 150 persons, also heard talks by Raoul Archambault Jr., gubernatorial candidate, and James O. Watts, congressional candidate, who said they are convinced that the voters are not going to put Democrats back in power on their record of corruption and Communist infiltration in government.

## Other Speakers

Others who spoke or were introduced are Henry Regauld, candidate for number 1 councilman; Domenico Petrarca, No. 3 councilman candidate; Arthur Hebert, aspirant for public welfare director; Joseph Pelleccione and Richard Salvas, state representative candidates; Harold C. Knight, GOP town chairman; Peter Lemol, councilman candidate; Lionel Bellis, town sergeant candidate; Rosario Russi, candidate for tax assessor.

Contrasting the last GOP administration with the Democratic record, Lefebvre said the GOP set up four fire stations with living facilities, storage and alarm facilities and two new heating systems, meanwhile eliminating a fire tax which averaged \$2.50 per \$1000 valuation.

## Improved Equipment

Police cars were in such bad shape that new ones were bought, and two-way radio systems were purchased, he said. The GOP bought a town ambulance that has been used by almost every family in town, he added. He cited also purchase of recreation equipment, establishment of snow removal and construction of bleachers at the athletic field, now "neglected by the Democrats."

The GOP increased the postwar fund by \$50,000 "and remember this was done while we reduced the taxes from \$2.35 to \$2.25," he declared.

"Now let's look at the Democratic administration," Lefebvre said. "There have been no major improvements in fire stations; they did not have to buy police radios, they did not have to buy an ambulance; they have absolutely forgotten about snow removal; they did not purchase any more equipment for playgrounds."

"They have ceased to take out \$25,000 a year from income to put into the postwar fund. They have increased the valuation of properties in the business center by as much as \$16,000 on one single building—absolute discrimination, but it's easy to get it out of businessmen as it doesn't mean a loss of votes."

## Cites Fiscal Change

Besides using up \$85,000 of surplus funds, he asserted, Democrats have changed the fiscal year so that this year they are operating on a 12-month income for 10 months' expenses.

Regarding DeCiantis' assertion that Democrats treat men of both parties alike and that they had given Lefebvre's oil company \$192.50 in gas and oil business, Lefebvre said, "If he can show me the bills in the last four years, I'll pay for an ad to print them. I did sell them what they couldn't buy elsewhere. They've been buying products elsewhere and my list price is 20 per cent less, but they don't buy from me as I'm a Republican."

Meunier said it is a matter of record that Democrats have had a cumulative deficit of over \$79,000 in four years, adding, "DeCiantis says the almost coincidental amount of \$85,000 taken from surplus was used for capital improvements, but it's not so. They've been wasting money and had to take it out of surplus."

Hayes, town council candidate, said that, when he became a member of the school board in 1946, "Miss Quinn informed us that the wages of teachers could not be raised on the existing school appropriation, but we raised the teachers' wages the first of that next year, 45 days after taking office. The Republican Party gave the teachers more increase of salaries in two years than Democrats gave them the previous 15 years."