

N.J. Opens Study On Merger Of 521 Magistrate Courts

By EARL JOSEPHSON
Staff Writer

The state is spending \$50,000 to design plans for the merger of New Jersey's 521 magistrate courts into the county district court system.

The money, denied by state Senate Republicans for two years, has been obtained from federal sources — the National Highway Safety program. The theory is that since 83 percent of the magistrate court business deals with motor vehicles, a reorganization of that court system is in the interest of highway safety. A merger of the court system has been advocated for more than a decade by Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub.

Governors Robert Meyner and Richard J. Hughes and by the commission which studied the causes and prevention of crime.

Stymied By Politics
In 1968, the Republicans own commission, which studied criminal justice, recommended a \$50,000 study, but politically-oriented senators were reluctant to even go that far.

The study will be made by a consultant firm known as Synectics, which is headed by Ronald Zweig, who is former Bergen County administrator, former manager of Bristol Township and once a member of Meyner's staff. Zweig also is doing consult-

ant work for the Community Affairs Department and the commission studying possible changes in the system of regulating occupations and professions.

Under the contract, his firm will provide the format for a merger, including the number of courts needed, the number of judges, the cost, the effect on the public and the legal, political and social implications.

Statistics will be developed on the distance between the residence of violators and the location of the violation. This will help determine where to locate the courts.

One area under study will be the loss of revenue to

municipalities if they give up the magistrate's court. In many communities, the fines are an important source of local funds. The consultant proposes to develop alternative sources.

The most convenient time at which to hold court hearings also will be studied.

In his study proposal, Zweig identified these characteristics of magistrate courts which he said makes it "difficult . . . to be just, professional and efficient."

— Widespread practice of appointing part-time judges.

— Appointment of court personnel by the municipality.

— Frequent lack of adequate staff.

— The often "close ties" with local law enforcement agencies.

— The large number of courtroom locations.

— The absence of uniformity in facilities and procedures.

The study will be completed in nine months. Edward B. McConnell, administrator of the courts, said he hopes answers can be developed to the questions which have held back the merger.

Critics of the magistrate system say that this is the court with which the public has the greatest contact and which determines the average citizen's attitude toward judicial institutions.



Staff Photo By Calvin Soliday

Mayor Carmen J. Armenti, right, was the cheerful host at today's fourth annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Judge J. Wilson Noden, standing, presided, and Dr. Ernell Watson, city school superintendent, left, was main speaker.

Ex-Consul Attacked On Greece

PRINCETON — Philip Talbot, former U.S. Ambassador to Greece, told a gathering of 50 people yesterday that the U.S. does not in any way support the present military regime in Greece, but he failed to convince a handful of impassioned Greek students and supporters in the audience.

Speaking at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, Talbot, after finishing a 45 minute speech on "Problems in Greece," was peppered by a variety of questions, doubts and accusations from the small group which included several Greeks.

Questions Fired
Talbot, currently president of The Asian Society, was the U.S. Ambassador in Greece from 1965 to 1967, when an April 27 coup led to the establishment of a military junta headed by Premier George Papadopoulos.

The irate students charged that the U.S. is supporting the Greek military regime with arms and that it was responsible for the junta's rise to power.

"We are a key factor in holding up the military junta in Greece at the present," a young female member of the audience said. "How can you deny that we supply the junta with power?"

One student even charged that Talbot himself because of his position at the time, was most responsible for the success of the coup.

Talbot claimed repeatedly that he had no knowledge of the coup before it took place, and as far as the military regime being supported by the U.S. "It just simply isn't so," he said.

Describing the present regime as "ideologically imprecise," the former ambassador maintained that it is in our interest that Greece move towards a more broadly based government, but that we are in no position to intervene in their affairs.

Hair Rebel In Mercer Jail Charges 11 Days In 'Solitary'

By THOMAS GREER
Staff Writer

A 17-year-old boy, his parents charge, was held in solitary confinement in the Mercer County jail for about eleven days because he refused to let jail officials cut his hair after he was locked up.

The allegation is cited in a letter to Freeholder Clifford W. Snedeker, chairman of county Department of Correctional Institutions.

The parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Meade, of Elkins, Va., alleged that their son was "subjected to indignities, cruel and inhuman treatment . . . (and) no formal charges have been lodged against him" by the county.

The youth, William J. Meade, was living and working in Princeton when the incident occurred on March 15. He had come to New Jersey with friends of his parents from West Virginia.

Standing Order
Snedeker yesterday said he is "vaguely familiar" with the alleged incident. But he said he has not received the Meade's letter, which was dated April 22. He said he would take no action in the matter until he has heard all the facts.

However, Snedeker said Michael Bajek, jail warden, is "under orders to place anyone in solitary confinement who refuses to have his hair cut after 24 hours of confinement."

Young Meade, in a statement to Snedeker, said he was arrested about 2 a.m. on Sunday March 15 for trespassing on the Princeton University campus where he and friends were shooting pool in a dormitory.

Princeton University officials said this was the second time he was arrested on the same charge this year.

'Ordeal' Described
He said he was transferred from the Princeton jail to a county jail about 6 p.m. Sunday. On Monday afternoon he said he was ordered to "the hole" by the warden after he repeatedly fought off jail barbers.

"The hole is a room about 10 feet long and 8 feet wide, with a commode built into one wall," Billy Meade's statement reads.

There are no windows. On the floor was a filthy mattress, and on the ceiling was a bright light which was never turned off. I wasn't given any clothes to wear for about 12 hours, not even a blanket."

Billy said he was made to go for long periods without water. He said a couple of times guards approached, asked if he were ready for his haircut, and when he said no, turned and walked away.

Policy Cited
He said after a few days during which he was not allowed a bath or to brush his teeth, he began to hear voices.

The freeholders established a "hair cutting policy" last year after a controversial bout with a jailed Hamilton Township youth. The policy states that all inmates must have their locks trimmed after they have been in jail for more than 24 hours, exclusive of Sundays and holidays.

The 24-hour period was set to afford each inmate an opportunity to win release.

The Meades say their son suffered "emotional shock" and may have to be "hospitalized" as a result of the ordeal. They claim he "lost 20 pounds" and "his eyes still are bothering him from the bright light which was never turned off."

Billy's parents claimed Frank Kirkleski, a county probation officer assigned to Billy's case, contacted them only once during the 11 day period and never told them their son was in solitary confinement.

Boy Released
They said it was not until Dr. William E. Phipps, chairman of the Philosophy department at Davis and Elkins College now on sabbatical leave at Princeton University, demanded to see Billy that the youth was permitted a visitor.

Billy was released shortly thereafter.

"We seriously question the right of the authorities to hold our son under these conditions," the Meades said, "especially since no formal charges had been lodged against him."

They urged appropriate action be taken to prevent it from happening again.

Inspection Bill Aims At Rejects

A bill requiring special treatment for motorists when they bring back their rejected autos for reinspection is scheduled for a vote in the State Senate today.

The measure has been offered as a way to reduce the lines at inspection stations, but Motor Vehicle Director Ronald Heyman is skeptical. In fact, Heyman opposes the bill on grounds that it probably would have the opposite result and would result in a "staggering" cost.

Study Under Way
Moreover, the new director notes that a comprehensive study is being made of the inspection system and he questions whether changes should be made until it is finished.

The bill says the director must provide for reinspection "at such time or in such manner without the necessity of waiting in line with vehicles not being presented for reinspection."

This would mean the designation of separate lanes or special hours.

Tried Before
A legislative commission proposed reinspection lanes five years ago, and the division experimented with them for six months and concluded the experiment was unsuccessful.

The experiment showed there weren't enough rejected vehicles to justify separate lanes and that there was a problem segregating the first-time vehicles from those being reinspected.

Heyman said there are only 71 lanes at the 40 stations and that most of them are fully used.

The bill is sponsored by Frank Italiano, R-Camden.

Tornados Rip Into Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Two tornados smashed into sections of northwest Oklahoma City early today, leaving a checkered path of debris and twisted trees.

Twenty-five persons were reported injured, none seriously. No deaths were reported.

An apartment complex in northwest Oklahoma City received heavy roof damage when a tornado touched down in the area.

Estimates of the loss were not immediately available, but numerous homes had roofs damaged and windows broken. Streets were littered with broken trees and power lines.

The funnels skipped from the far western side of the city through the crowded residential area and on into the northeastern sector.

Electric power and telephone service were knocked out in several scattered areas. Spokesmen at area hospitals said injuries appeared to be minor, with most limited to cuts and bruises.

In the apartment complex, several roofs were torn off and bricks were torn off walls.

The Gaslight apartments, about one block away, also was heavily damaged.

The Habana Inn, a motel in northwestern Oklahoma City, also was damaged and two tenants injured.

A television newsman said he saw one funnel dip down in northwest Oklahoma City. "It appeared to have gone right down the 39th Expressway," said Bill Collard of station KOCO-TV.

Watson Places Top Priority On Man Controlling Himself

By HARRY BLAZE
Staff Writer

"There is little question as to the need for a re-focus or reemphasis in our system of values," Trenton's superintendent of schools, Dr. Ernell Watson, told 60 public and business officials at this morning's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

"Armageddon . . . may be brought on by the most educated men of our time," he declared.

Many Motives
The superintendent then went on to observe that cheating, stealing, hating and killing are not always the acts of the poor or the hungry. Some cheat out of vanity; some steal because they are greedy; some who would be called patriots hate out of

ignorance; some who are pronounced wise kill because they lack identification with their fellow man.

"Man has achieved control of his environment," Watson concluded. "The same amount of effort may produce the desired accomplishment of control of himself."

Watson's talk, in Kuch Hall of the Trenton YMCA, was somewhat solemn, but appropriate for a prayer breakfast.

Mayor Carmen Armenti, host for the fourth year, assured everyone that the prayer breakfast has no connection with the fact he is running for reelection, by noting this is the fourth annual breakfast. It was greeted with a chuckle, and the mayor smiled as he made the pronouncement.

The invocation was by Victor S. Pollack, chairman of the board of Atlantic Products; Eugene V. Howard, president of the Heart of Trenton Businessmen's Association read from Leviticus for the Old Testament.

Maurice T. Perilli, Hamilton Township committeeman and police commissioner, read from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, urging faith, hope and love, and Broad Street National Bank's president, Raymond L. Steen, gave the benediction. Charles Higgins, who had opened the breakfast with the National Anthem, concluded it with "Let there be Peace," to the piano accompaniment of Charles Wertman.

The "Y's" Men's Club served the breakfast of eggs, bacon, potatoes and coffee.

Second This Week

Woman Mugged At Station

The second mugging and robbery outside the Clinton Street Station this week was reported last night by a 55-year-old Roosevelt woman.

Mrs. Adeline Weiner, of North Rochelle Avenue, Roosevelt, was knocked down and robbed of her handbag containing \$45 by a youth near the Clinton Street station.

Mrs. Weiner said she was walking eastward on Walnut Avenue when the youth came up behind her, threw her down, stole the handbag and ran through a parking lot toward Hollywood Avenue.

Monday Mugging
An elderly Hamilton Town-

ship woman was severely beaten on Monday night, very near the spot where Mrs. Weiner was robbed.

Mrs. Weiner refused treatment for bruises, said Patrolman Dominick Cileo, to whom Mrs. Weiner reported the robbery at Stockton and Front Streets 15 minutes later.

She described the suspect as black, 16-18 years, five feet five, 150 pounds; wearing light shirt and dark pants.

Mrs. Alice Golembiewski, 20, of 33 Walt Whitman Way, said two youths, 14 to 15 years old, robbed her of her purse containing \$40 in the 600 block of New York Avenue.

Run To Bridge
The two fled eastward across a lot towards the Olden Avenue Bridge and vanished under the span.

Mrs. Vera Thompson, 72, of 408 Bellevue Avenue, said she

was thrown to the pavement at Prospect Street and Bellevue Avenue in an attempted handbag robbery by two boys, one about 14 years old.

Mrs. Thompson said when one boy grabbed her bag, she held on to it. The handle broke and the boy got the bag. He ran toward Marion Street but dropped it without rifling the purse.

Charles Coombe, 66, of 1814 Greenwood Avenue found his wallet missing when he got home and told police he had been bumped and robbed by a pickpocket when he boarded a bus on State Street near Montgomery Street. The wallet contained \$1.

Melvin James, 16, of Thompson Street, was arrested for an attempted robbery on Charles Nichols, 54, of 5 Davis Avenue, Ewing Township.

Pit. Daniel Povic said the

suspect was with a group of youths who tried to rob Nichols but scattered when he jumped out of his patrol car. The policeman said six other Trenton High School pupils were with the suspect he arrested.

Stereo Equipment
Joseph W. Baker, 32, of 309 Park Lane reported the theft of \$133 worth of stereo equipment from his car on South Broad Street.

Mrs. Martha Brown, 30, of 21 Steamboat Street said a \$275 television set was stolen from her house.

Edward Jones, 18, of 827 South Warren Street, reported the theft of a \$60 radio and \$30 in stereo tapes from his car on Chancery Lane.

A thief stole cigarettes from a Capitol City Vending Company truck while the driver was servicing a machine in the Hustler Pool Room at 345 North Warren Street.

Pintella Quits Race For Freeholder

Paul Pintella, who last week filed to run for Mercer County freeholder as an independent in the November general election, has bowed out of the race, apparently to preserve his job with United Progress Inc. (UPI), the city's anti-poverty agency.

Pintella yesterday sent a telegram to the county clerk's office advising the clerk of his decision.

Albert (Bo) Robinson, UPI executive director, advised Pintella and Lewis Rosser, a part-time UPI community consultant seeking the Democratic freeholder nomination in the June primary, their candidates violated the U.S. Hatch Act which prohibits federal employees from participating in partisan politics.

Pintella is coordinator of UPI's Operation Mainstream and earns \$8,200 annually.

Rosser's part-time job pays \$2,250. He has given up the post.

Employee Arrested In Tire Theft

An employee of Sudny Tires on the Brunswick Pike was arrested for the theft of two tires priced at a total of \$130 there yesterday.

David Lee Duncan, 31, of the 100 block of Monmouth Street was released in \$200 bail to appear for a May 7 hearing in municipal court. Patrolman Thomas Prettyman said.

Five Mayor Candidates Stage A Doubleheader

By PAUL NINI
and JOYCE PERSICO
Staff Writers

Trenton's five mayoral candidates made their pitches for votes in the East and West Ward last night with large audiences attending each candidates night.

More than 300 people poured into the spacious Roman Hall to hear Mayor Carmen J. Armenti once again defend his record after his four opponents attacked his administration at the Forni Federation sponsored affair.

But the most exciting action at both functions came after the 70-minute Forni affair as supporters of several candidates tamed the others' supporters as a large gathering milled around watching in amusement.

Later, speaking before an audience of about 130 at a candidates night, sponsored by four West Ward civic associations, the candidates all agreed that campaign signs should be removed.

But when pressed by a resident to remove them by 5 p.m. Monday no agreement was reached.

A West Trenton resident asked the candidates if they thought "site pollution" by campaigns was necessary.

Replying that he didn't think they were necessary, candidate S. Louis Belli said he would have all his signs taken down if the other candidates would agree to do the same. Armenti, former mayor Arthur J. Holland, councilman Gerard S. Naples and Herbert H. Fitzgerald agreed.

Naples said he would introduce a beautification ordinance in city council to prohibit the signs.

Wide Range Of Topics
"Some people around here are already helping take down my signs," Holland laughed.

The campaign sign issue came after almost 2 1/2 hours of routine questioning and discussion of topics ranging from vandalism to alleged corruption in city government.

At Roman Hall, Holland promised to return the orderly process to government if elected.

He charged the people's and

potential investors' confidence in government officials isn't there under Armenti.

As proof, Holland mentioned the Rider College Building deal and the court suit brought by taxpayers and the Greater Trenton Chamber of Commerce over the city's awarding a private bidder the garbage incinerator contract.

Armenti's Turn
"Decisions, that's the difference" between his and previous administrations, Armenti retorted.

He said the Chambersburg Villa Park storm drain project, police and railroad station construction, housing in John Fitch Way III and purchase of the Civic Center could have been accomplished at earlier dates "at a lot less money."

"We're catching up," Armenti said. "And it's happening now," he added.

Naples blasted both Holland and Armenti for their role in the "downward trend of the city." Naples said the men he hopes to succeed presided over "the administration of failure and the administration that started it."

Fitzgerald, calling the city

crime could be reduced by about 80 percent with special emphasis placed on controlling narcotics.

Spotto said a police training course in narcotics could be set up with police attending class to familiarize themselves with the drug problem.

"The main concentration would be in high crime areas," Spotto said. "The assignment of police would be made accordingly," he added.

Meanwhile, Angelo V. Candolero, campaign manager for East Ward candidate Anthony P. Carabelli announced that a "Carabelli Night" will be held tomorrow at 9 p.m. in the Fantasy Lounge.

Sam Barge, owner of the Fantasy, is sponsoring the affair.

"These police would become familiar with the people in the areas they're assigned," Spotto maintained.

The candidate estimated

Five Mini-Stations Proposed By Spoto

Leonard Spoto, East Ward City Council candidate, today proposed setting up five mini police stations, strategically located around the city, as a means of reducing crime.

Spoto, in his first release of the campaign, called it "ridiculous" to be spending \$2.6 million on a new police station when it would cost only between \$700,000 and \$800,000 to realize his proposal.

He said the two present police stations could be maintained with the five mini-stations divided so that each mini-station would be covering a little over a square mile.

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He said after a few days during which he was not allowed a bath or to brush his teeth, he began to hear voices.

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They urged appropriate action be taken to prevent it from happening again.

Burleo Driver Seriously Hurt In Car Crash
MOORESTOWN — Miss Mary C. Welsh, 23, of 629 East Main Street was injured critically when her car smashed into an abutment of the underpass of the Penn Central tracks across the Marne Highway at Centerton Road at 12:04 a.m. today, police said.

Miss Welsh, an RCA secretary here, was jammed into the wreckage of the car. She was extricated by the Moorestown First Aid Squad.

Taken to the Burlington County Memorial Hospital, she was admitted to the intensive care unit suffering head injuries and a compound fracture of the right thigh. Patrolman Albert Pearson said.

Mail-Order Clergy Can't Do Weddings
SALEM, Ore. (UPI) — The state attorney general has ruled that a mail-order minister is not entitled to perform marriages. To qualify, he said, a minister must be assigned to a church located in, having congregations, and doing work in the state.