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STATE EXECUTIVE

ADDRESSES CAPITOL

by Bob Bonaker

Last Thursday evening, January 13, the Honorable Ronald Lench, Pennsylvania Secretary of Administration, addressed a group of students representing the Business Club and Delta Tau Kappa, the Social Science Honor Society.

Mr. Lench spoke about what he considered were the important accomplishments of the first year of the Administration of Governor Shapp. Lench said it was a year in which the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was quoted as saying, "The Shapp team had a remarkable record."

Lench is responsible for managing the Office of Administration which handles matters concerning personnel, labor relations, accounting, and data processing. His office is often described as the most important and powerful cabinet post in the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth.

The Secretary originates from Beaver Falls in Western Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Penn State and received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently a member of the American Bar Association and was an officer in the Army Reserves.

Lench thought the biggest story of the year in Pennsylvania was, "The income tax hassle where the Governor got the state on a firm fiscal foundation." He explained that after the 3.5% graduated income tax was declared unconstitutional, Shapp, "Was desperate to terminate the use of stop-gap funding and end the economic crisis, so he gave in to the passage of the 2.3% flat levy, which meant that numerous programs would suffer."

Another major accomplishment of the Shapp Administration was the passage of a state lottery. The initial drawing is scheduled for February 1st. The lottery is expected to raise over \$60 million in the coming year. Its proceeds will go to a senior citizens tax relief fund.

Lench has much political and professional experience. He served as the Assistant District Attorney in Beaver County and was a counselor and officer in local government in that area. More recently he was the legislative assistant to K. Leroy Irvis, Pennsylvania Senate Majority Leader.

The Secretary continued to tell the audience of about 120 the achievements of Gov. Shapp. He felt that giving 18 to 20 year olds the vote franchise before the passage of the federal amendment to the Constitution was, "a significant demonstration of the progressiveness of the Shapp Administration."

Among the other achievements mentioned by Lench were: The passage of tax exemptions on 200 miscellaneous items; an increase in state aid to public schools; the passage of a bill to allow Sunday

liquor sales; the creation of a task force on civil rights to give more jobs to members of minority groups; a collective bargaining guarantee to state blue-collar workers; and ecology reform along state highways.

As for future legislation, he saw some tax relief for business, "as Gov. Shapp, as a former businessman, tries to keep a good rapport with businessmen." He also predicted property tax reform for Harrisburg residents: "Because of the existence of so much tax free property in the city, Harrisburg citizens are shackled with a tremendous burden. We must do something to change this situation." Lench believed something will be done to reimburse the capitol city for Fire Department services rendered to the state. "Allocating only \$1,500 is ludicrous; it's like a slap in the face", he asserted. Among other legislation in the works is a program to hire more Vietnam veterans.

Lench also expressed his views on how the state legislature operates. He stated, "While I was working in the legislature and a bill was passed the governor usually got the credit. I was angry with that procedure. But now that I'm in the Executive Branch I like the idea," he added jokingly. He also explained the most important difficulty which a legislator constantly faces; the conflict between the interests of his constituents and the remainder of the state. He related how tough his present job is by saying, "previously I was just a politician. Now I am a politician and an administrator."

Public Interest Group Formed

HARRISBURG — The Penna. Assn. of College and University Student Governments announced today unanimous approval of formation of the first Pa. Public Interest Research Group, fashioned at the request and on guidelines of consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

The group met at Harrisburg Area Community College before Christmas in their first major student body leader meeting since the Association's founding earlier this year.

State Chairman Stephen R. Reed stated that a petition drive on major campuses in the state will start almost immediately to garner student body support before approaching Boards of Trustees for permission to raise student activities fees to pay for the new venture.

He said the plan is working very successful in Minnesota and that new PIRG's are starting in Oregon, Wisconsin and Vermont. "The petition specifically asks for an increase in student activities fees for this purpose in the amount of two dollars per semester. This amount is

LIBRARY FACES A CRITICAL SITUATION

Interviewer: Tom Black

Our library, however small or inadequate it may seem to some, is growing at a fast pace and may soon burst its physical seams if nothing is done in the immediate future. To get an accurate picture of exactly what the present situation is and what the future holds in store for the library, this paper held a candid interview with Dr. Jacob, Head Librarian.

Doctor Jacob, what is the present situation concerning available space in the library and what will it be in the near future?

I would say that the library does face a somewhat critical space situation. Now and within the next two years the library will face an increasingly grave situation with respect to space accommodation for its various operations.

What has and is the cause of this situation?

Basically the facts are we presently hold 60,000 volumes. Our total capacity in our present physical setting is approximately 80,000 volumes. We are growing at a rate of 13,000 to 14,000 volumes a year. Also, our library owns about 50,000 volumes that were recently acquired through the purchase of several New York book stores by the main library at University Park. These books will be filtering in over the next three years. It can easily be determined that at our present growth rate and the addition of books we will be adding from the New York book store purchases, we will be straining our physical seams within a very short period of time. In periodicals for example, we have less than one year to go. The room used for the periodical collection can support



Dr. Jacob

approximately 16,000 volumes. At present we have somewhere in the neighborhood of 13,000 volumes already contained. Therefore, the situation in periodicals is near critical.

Doctor Jacob, what would you consider the basic space requirements of the library?

The first obviously is space to contain the collection. Shelving and other facilities are needed to contain the collection of books,

periodicals, and other kinds of materials (such as; microfilm, government documents, reference material, college catalogues, etc.) that a library is normally expected to carry.

The second is seating space for those who use the library. With our present facility we can seat 133 people. The least generous allowance in library formulas is 25% of the student body which in our case would mean that we should be able to seat at least 375. The seating

capacity is the most vulnerable area. We are planning to rearrange our periodical room to make the bound journal collection an open stack affair. In doing this we may have to remove the six study carrels presently contained in the periodical room. I really do not know where, if anywhere, we will be able to relocate them. This is only an illustration that, as other problems manifest themselves, seating space is the component which is likely to suffer. In our present facilities, even if the student enrollment were to remain constant, the library will continue to lose seating space due to the already stated demand on that space.

The third consideration is staff work space. To provide sufficient service to the patrons, the library staff must have not only work space, such as desks, typewriters, etc. but also adequate support facilities for example; reference facilities, technical operations facilities, card catalogues, microfilm readers and so forth. These valuable facilities do consume a portion of the library's physical layout.

How long do you think the library could survive without any additional space?

We will survive, but without any additional space the situation will become awkward within two years. It all depends how bad you want the situation to become? We could put the books on the floor.

What could be done to alleviate the present situation and what have you done?

The faculty library committee has had several reports from me and they have these under consideration. There has been no direct contact between

the physical planning committee and me, but I'm sure they will become involved with this before too long. Besides informal meetings between myself and certain concerned individuals there has been no action taken, but perhaps it is time that serious consideration be given to this problem. I'm sure the administration is concerned, but I don't know what can be done other than making all members of the campus community aware of how serious the problem is. It is imperative that something be done as soon as possible.

National Health Society Plan bill now before the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee.

— formation of State Consumer Protection Committee with campuses forming individual units; they will have a direct tie-in with the Penna. Bureau under Dept. of Justice to work on student as well as citizen complaints and problems.

— named Harrisburg entertainment promoter Robert Hubbard, Jr., as state entertainment consultant.

— electing Steering Committee members Blake Markes, Muhlenberg College, David Cargill, Elizabethtown College, Thomas Gingrich, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and Keith Walborn, Williams Area Comm. Col.

— established first statewide collegiate newspaper.

— called for Gov. Shapp to substantially increase resources and staff of Penna. Bureau of Consumer Protection from present 13 field investigators, who last year had 13,000 complaints to investigate, to 50

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He also reported other actions of the conference including: approval to Kennedy-Griffith