

Times-Leader claims NLRB 'vindication'

by Tom Mooney

Wyoming Valley had a July 4 fireworks display a little early this year.

Management of the struck Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader and leadership of the four striking newspaper unions held rival press conferences Tuesday afternoon to express their quite different understandings of a reported National Labor Relations Board decision in regard to the eight-month-old strike.

Neither Times-Leader publisher Richard Connor nor union leader Paul Golias, however, was able to present a copy of the text of the reported NLRB decision.

Connor read a prepared statement extrapolating upon a decision he said the NLRB had just announced, which, in his words, "totally vindicated" Capital Cities, the national newspaper chain that bought the Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company in mid-1978.

Just about 45 minutes later, Golias read a prepared statement of his own accusing Connor of "misrepresentations" and "lies" and claiming that any actual findings by the NLRB will wait upon hearings which he said he expected to see held soon.

The two press conferences were completely opposite in atmosphere and tone. Connor, speaking in a room filled with jubilant Times-Leader employees, appeared highly en-

thusiastic over what he said the NLRB had concluded.

Said Connor, "The National Labor Relations board has announced it will issue four complaints against the four unions who have been striking this newspaper for eight months. All the complaints allege unfair labor practices by the unions. No complaints will be issued against the Publishing Company."

He castigated the striking unions for "dishonesty" in their dealings with the public and said that the report—when it is issued—will show that "the unions were not serious in their negotiations" and "that the company was sincere."

Times-Leader staffers applauded Connor vigorously as he concluded his remarks.

Golias, on the other hand, opened his press conference on a note of sternness and anger, ordering three Times-Leader reporters out of the room, with, "We do not deal with scab newspapers." He later said that the Citizens' Voice, the newspaper being published by the striking unions, did not have any of its reporters at the Times-Leader press conference.

According to Golias, the NLRB's present activity is much broader than as presented by Connor. He began by announcing, "Capital Cities Communications, Inc., has agreed not to use fire extinguishers and hoses on pickets in front of the Wilkes-Barre

Publishing Co. and not to assault union members." However, he did not specify whether the agreement was a new matter or one developed during the early days of the strike when violence flared periodically.

Continued Golias, "The NLRB will conduct hearings next week in Wilkes-Barre on some charges, and additionally, it was learned Tuesday, the NLRB may issue complaints which will mean additional hearings in the future."

Connor, visibly happy, said that essentially the NLRB was about to level four categories of unfair labor practice charges at the four unions.

Two specific charges he described as being about to be levied against the Newspaper Guild—one of the four unions. They include, he said, "surface bargaining" (not actually trying to negotiate for a contract) and engaging in "competitive work" (publishing the Citizens' Voice strike newspaper).

Other specific charges he described ranged from illegally insisting on medical benefits for retirees to stalling negotiations.

Golias denounced Connor's remarks as "intemperate" and as fabricated to counteract a "morale problem" within the publishing company, which has been operating largely with employees hired during the strike.

He said that the unions have filed their own charges of "bad-faith bargaining" against the Capital Cities

paper and are eagerly awaiting the results. Any report by NLRB in the near future, he predicted, "very likely is going to deal with charges of both sides."

Golias pronounced Connor's statement "an outgrowth of their frustrations" and distributed a packet containing an NLRB consent order enjoining the Times-Leader to cease using violence against pickets and three photographs allegedly showing the company's security guards last fall using fire extinguishers, chemicals, and gas to disperse people near the newspaper building.

According to Connor, the NLRB decision opens the way for Capital Cities to seek compensation from the

unions (both the locals and the nationals) for damage done to its property by physical acts and to its financial position by "illegal" publication of the Citizens' Voice. He enumerated financial losses of more than \$3 million in the first six months of the strike.

He said that the NLRB will bring the unions to trial if they do not adequately respond to the charges, and he urged striking union members to reject "outside union agitators" and stop being "pawns of national labor interests." Some strikers, he continued, have returned to work, and he said that additional people wishing to return would have their cases considered on a one-by-one basis.

Golias, on the other hand, accused Connor and Capital Cities of twisting words in an attempt to stampee the strikers back to work. He said that the ultimate goal of Capital Cities is creation of "a union-free environment" and pledged that the Citizens' Voice would cease publication the day a new contract is signed.

The strike paper, he added, is an accepted tool of unions engaged in bargaining and striking and can in no way be considered a violation of any labor law.

(Continued from P. 1)

HL beach vote

Becky Casterline. Council opposition includes Guy J. Giordano, Margaret Purcell and Andrew Morgus. The pending transaction was the key issue in Harveys Lake's Republican primary, which saw Republican incumbents DeRemer and Wintersteen defeated for their party's nomination.

Both men, however, picked up sufficient write-in votes to appear on the Democrat ticket in November—Wintersteen attaining the highest total popular vote when write-ins's, absentee ballots and GOP votes were all included.

The Sandy Beach purchase action which set the tone for the acrimonious meeting may have developed over what may be a moot point. Bank officials have indicated that it is customary banking practice to require a "no litigation certificate" in municipal financing of this sort. One banking source indicated that it would be unlikely that the Harveys Lake solicitor could provide such a certificate in that the Taxpayer Association suit has already been filed.

The tension in the Thursday meeting increased when Councilman McManus raised complaints about road problems caused by the installation of sewers in the borough.

McManus said that ditches and laterals were not properly repaired after sewer installation was completed and said he felt that the

Lake Twp. receives \$20,000 for municipal building

by Jean Kingsbury
Atty. James Anzalone, Lake Township solicitor, reported on Wednesday night that approval has been received from the Department of Community Affairs for a \$20,000 loan for the township building. Anzalone explained that although the loan has already been approved by United Penn Bank, and funds have been dispersed this formal approval from the Department of Community Affairs is necessary.

Last month Anzalone reported that the first approval application had been denied due to a minor discrepancy in addition and subtraction. When questioned by two township auditors at Wednesday's meeting about quotes appearing in a local newspaper article, Anzalone stated that the quotes had been correct. He stressed that there was no suggestion of wrongdoing on the part of township officials, that the mistake was minor and did not hold the township liable in any way.

Donald Grey was appointed road foreman at \$4.50 per hour. Larry Meeker, former road foreman had his pay reduced to \$3.50 per hour. These changes became effective as of Monday, June 11.

Township resident Edward Ungvarsky, who is attending King's college studying a criminal justice

authority should help defray the cost of repairing the drainage.

McManus then complained about the Taxpayers Association's road committee's direct communication with PennDOT concerning the lake's road problems. He said he believed PennDOT had done a commendable job in the borough and suggested that council write a letter to PennDOT stating that since council is the governing body of Harveys Lake, they would appreciate it if PennDOT deal directly with the council.

Councilman Giordano disagreed with McManus, noting that he too felt the PennDOT roads needed attention. Giordano said he felt citizens have a "right" to get together and opposed sending a letter to PennDOT on the association.

Council voted 4-3 to send the letter over the objections of Giordano, Morgus and Purcell.

The subsequent exchange of insults brought the meeting to an end, also by a 4-3 vote, with Giordano, Purcell and Morgus objecting.

The meeting was to adjourn until June 11 but that meeting was changed to June 19 due to lack of public notice for the meeting date. DeRemer said Monday that the June 19 date may also require changing since a planning commission meeting is scheduled for the Daniel Roberts Fire Hall at that time.

continued

Lehman Twp. appoints new solicitor

On Monday night Lehman Township supervisors appointed Attorney Joseph Vanjura solicitor for the township. A Back Mountain resident, Vanjura is an attorney whose office is in the United Penn Bank Building in Wilkes-Barre. Vanjura replaces former solicitor William Valentine.

The board approved paving of four roads in the township. Paving of Slocum Road and Old Route 115 will be financed by a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Community Development. Route 580 at Lake Silkworth known as Ceases Terrace and Route 587 at Hayfield Farms will also be paved.

It was noted that the balance of monies for the Back Mountain Ambulance Association federal grant has been received and will be dispersed to various fire companies in the association.

Fire companies involved are Dallas, Kunkle, Kingston Township, Franklin Township and Back Mountain Medical Association. Application for this federal grant was made through the Lehman Township municipal government.

Lake zoning issue hearing

continued

A show cause hearing for contempt of court against Melvin M. Myers, Jacqueline J. Myers and Richard D. Myers in a Harveys Lake zoning dispute was continued Tuesday in Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Attorneys for neighboring property-owners, Mortimer I. Slavin and Norman J. Wienckowski had filed the request for the hearing following a decision by Judge Robert Hourigan directing the Myers to remove boat mooring poles.

The Feb. 28 decision by Hourigan sustained an appeal by Slavin and Wienckowski regarding the boat mooring facilities installed by Myers and permitted by Harveys Lake's zoning hearing board.

The decision also dismissed Myers appeal from a zoning hearing board decision denying an apartment as a prior nonconforming use.

A review of the Hourigan decision by the court en banc was scheduled for June 13.

Comment & Opinion

BURNHAM

UFO at Super Saver

by L.D. Burnham

So, you think I'm just another one of those UFO kooks? No sirree! I'm telling you it all happened right there in the Super Saver parking lot. I was walking out, wheeling my super-saving values, and there they were, these little guys, pushing along a cart and signaling me to stop.

No, no, no, they weren't green and they didn't have little antennae. They were just plain, ordinary, scaly-white guys, about 3-feet high with egg-shaped heads and long, spindly fingers. Look, I'm not the type to go telling stories about little green men in the parking lot. I never drink before go shopping.

So, there I am, and there they are, and one of them waves a spindly-fingered hand at me and says, "Hey bub, come here a second, will you?"

"Hi, nice afternoon isn't it," I say. I think it has a nice friendly earth-greeting sound to it.

"My friend and I are aliens from another world, and we're interested in learning some junk about your planet. You got a minute so's we can talk?"

"Sure, sure, I can answer a few questions. Hey, you speak pretty good English for an alien, have you guys been here before?"

I have found it is always good to compliment alien beings. It relaxes them and makes them feel more at home. Later I'll tell them about some real super savings waiting for them right inside the nifty mechanical doors.

"We're just passing through actually. We listened to a Berlitz record before we landed, and we through we'd pick up on some liverwurst and some information. You really think I

talk good?" he asks.
"Hey, just like a native," I say, glad my compliment has made a friend.

"So what we, meaning my friend and I, want to know is what is happening here on your earth. What I mean is, what is there to do?" he asks.

"Well, you've come to the right place," I say. "Summertime in Northeastern Pennsylvania is one pretty exciting place to be. Why there's..."

"What is this 'summertime' you're telling me about here, earth man?" he asks.

"You don't know what summer is? Wow, this really is beginning to sound like a close encounter."

"We're not going on a date, big fella, just having a little talk about summer. Now what is it?"

"Well, it's a season, you see. It stops snowing, and it gets hot, and the grass grows and..."

"It's a climactic condition caused by the relative positions of your sun and your earth causing a variance in temperature and atmospheric conditions? Is that what you're laying on me?" he asks.

"Sure, sure. You got it," I say.
"What goes on? Is it worth hanging around for?" he asks.

"Oh, is it! In the summer you can go to the beach," I tell him.

"Why do you go to the beach?" he asks.

"Because it's hot," I say. I love explaining cultural phenomenae to newcomers.

"And what do you do there?" he inquires.

"Well, you take off most of your clothes and you lie in the sun," I say.
"Isn't it hot lying in the sun?" he asks.

"Sure," I say. You have to be careful or your skin burns. That's very painful."

"So let me get this straight, when it gets hot you go to the beach so you can lie in the sun and let your flesh burn up. Is that right?"

"In a way, I guess, I think it loses something in the translation. But the beach is fun. You can cool off in the ocean as long as you're careful and don't drown, and you watch out for jelly fish and sharks."

"Sounds far out, if you'll excuse the expression, but not our style. Tell me, are there any chicks at the beach?" he asks.

"Chicks?" I stutter.
"Sure, man, you know, chicks, honeys, women. Are you spaced out or something?"

"Well, sure there are women at the beach," I say.

"Wild!" he says. He and his silent associate begin to communicate, using their alien tongue. They are jumping up and down, with what I assume to be excitement. Tiny giggling sounds emanate from their throats.

"My friend and I think we're going to like it here. Which way to the beach?" I asks.

I point with my very best this-way-to-the-beach pose. After all, these aliens are our guests. They abandon their shopping cart and strike off in the direction of New Jersey.

They walk away, their fingers snapping, their hard-boiled heads bobbing, and I can hear them singing that sweet refrain—"It's summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime. Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime, summertime!"

GROSSMAN

Circuit rider?

by Howard J. Grossman

A new and exciting program has been undertaken by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania to "circuit ride" the 48 school districts in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"Circuit Riding" means providing technical resources to those school districts wishing to participate in a program to supplement social studies curriculum and related study areas with information concerning Northeastern Pennsylvania, its problems, prospects, challenges, and opportunities. The Circuit Rider School District Program is being implemented through a grant from the Luzerne County Human Resources Department under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), a federally funded program to provide jobs for the unemployed.

The program is patterned after the now established and nationally recognized circuit rider program for local governments which the

Economic Development Council has pioneered in Northeastern Pennsylvania through the use of a federal grant from the Economic Development Administration and grants from various CETA prime sponsors in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Carbon, and Schuylkill Counties.

The school district effort is designed to allow maximum participation by elementary and secondary students in the image improvement effort through educational programs such as an audio-visual presentation concerning Northeastern Pennsylvania. The theme for the region is the Pocono Northeast: A Place to Grow.

Every school district in Northeastern Pennsylvania in the counties of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne are encouraged to contact the Economic Development Council and participate in the circuit rider program. The technical services offered by the council are free, and three circuit riders have been specially trained to provide the ser-

vice directly to the school districts.

In addition, volunteers are being trained to provide similar services and to extend to operation to all service clubs and community organizations.

The Image Improvement Campaign is initially designed to be a public information program which provides a source of research information concerning the assets of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The concept is that many of our regional citizens are not familiar with the many assets that pervade Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Pocono Northeast represents a major undertaking which demonstrates that the region truly is a place to grow in many different ways.

Parent teacher organizations, faculty, administration, community organizations, etc. can all benefit through participation in the circuit rider program. All that has to be done is a telephone call or a letter to the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Box 777, Avoca, PA 18641 (655-5581).

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