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# DALLAS POST

Vol. 97, No. 46

Wednesday, November 26, 1986

25 Cents

## LIU flap!

### Back Mountain members welcome legislative changes

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

Recent published reports focusing on the business practices of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) 18 have prompted area legislators to initiate a number of recommendations to reform the system.

A six-part series published recently by The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader on dealings by both administrators and board members of the LIU has raised

many ethical questions to how the program is run.

The questions raised after The Times Leader series have caused legislators, including Senator Charles D. Lemmond of Dallas, to offer suggestions for straightening out the program.

Among those recommendations made by the legislators to reform the LIU system include a price cap that would be placed on all personal expenses (travel, meals, etc.) incurred by administrators and board members which would not exceed a

combined total of \$5,000 annually.

Also, it was further recommended that no director or administrator should be eligible for reimbursement for meals unless they are on LIU business. Under the list of improvements submitted, both groups would further be required to receive prior case by case approval before incurring any expenses they expect to be reimbursed for.

Board members representing the LIU from the Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts don't feel there has been any legal wrongdoing, but welcome suggestions to improve the system.

"No, I don't think the LIU has done anything wrong as far as the law is concerned," said Ernest Ashbridge from Dallas. "But I welcome any suggestions that would improve the system. I know there has been a lot of things written and if they (legislators) want to change some things, then that's fine with me."

Ashbridge has come under only some mild criticism over a



WILLIAM PRICE  
...has no response

reported nepotism incident involving his wife, Betty. But he says that charge is unfair.

"My wife was employed by the LIU before I became a board member," Ashbridge explained. "I became a member in 1973 and she was working there since 1972. So I had absolutely no input into her hiring."

Donald Jones, who has also taken some heat over eating practices at LIU expense, says he, too, doesn't feel the Unit has



ERNEST ASHBRIDGE  
...accused of nepotism

done anything illegal.

"I don't think we have done anything wrong, but yeah, I think some changes could be made," the Lake-Lehman representative said. "Based on what's been written, I think we could tighten up on spending and some other things."

William Price, Director of Curriculum/Enrichment Services at the LIU, also a Back Mountain resident, did not return any phone calls to The



DONALD JONES  
...welcomes changes

Dallas Post despite repeated attempts to reach him.

Price has come under heavy criticism for his spending practices at LIU expense and has already has a letter of reprimand placed in his file because of an incident involving his wife, Barbara.

That incident happened last spring when there was an attempt to pay Mrs. Price \$1,632 for teaching an LIU course that her husband actually taught.

## News you need

### Railroad office renders service

The Scranton District office of the Railroad Retirement Board renders service to all railroad employers and employees in Luzerne County.

The office, located in Room 301 of the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building in Scranton, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The telephone number is 346-5774.

For the convenience of persons who cannot use the facilities of the office in Scranton, regularly scheduled itinerant service is provided during 1986. For Luzerne County residents, business may be conducted at the Social Security Administration Office, Room 2227, Penn Place, 20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of every month. (Except: Thursday, November 27 is changed to Friday, November 28 and Thursday, December 25, is changed to Friday, December 26.)

Persons who plan to visit any of the itinerant points or who need assistance but are unable to call in person can help the office give better service if they telephone or write the District Office in advance. Persons should always furnish their social security account number and the purpose of the visit.

### School district conducts survey

The Dallas School District is presently conducting a needs assessment survey. Results of the survey will give the Long Range Planning Committee the information necessary to establish goals and objectives that will be incorporated into a five-year plan.

It is important the survey be filled out as accurately as possible. District administrators would appreciate the return of the survey by November 28.

### Township sponsors decorating contest

The Kingston Township Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Christmas Home Decorating Contest. Any resident of Kingston Township is eligible to participate. There are no age limits. The only requirement is that the home must be located in Kingston Township. Prizes will be awarded by the Recreation Commission following judging which will be held on December 21, 1986.

Judging will be conducted by members of the Recreation Commission. Commission members include Edward Carey, Everell "Cy" Chadwick, Mike Williams, Carl Goeringer, Jr. David Morris is chairman of the Commission. Township Supervisor Dan Wisneski serves as liaison to the Commission.

Participants are urged to register at the Township Office in person or by calling the office at 696-3809 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Deadline for registration has been set at 4:30 p.m. on December 15, 1986.

### UGI reminds customers of LIHEAP

The UGI Electric Utility Division wishes to remind its customers of its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Because some of UGI's customers will face financial hardships with the payment of their electric bills this coming winter, funds from this program may be available to help them.

Funds are limited so residents wishing to participate in this program are urged to complete and application and mail it immediately as money will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

Anyone not yet receiving an application, should call the UGI office at 288-7641. Those who have completed their applications should mail them to the UGI Corporation, 247 Wyoming Ave., P.O. Box 1389, Kingston, PA 18704-0389.

## Dallas road superintendent upset over position elimination

By JOHN HOINSKI  
Staff Writer

If the proposed 1987 Dallas Borough budget is approved at the December 16 meeting, road superintendent Jerry Machell will probably be out of a job.

Due to the loss of \$18,300 in Revenue Sharing Funds plus an increase of approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000 over last year's budget, Council has been forced to take a number of steps to

meet next year's expenditures. Two of those steps include raising the millage from 9 to 14 and eliminating the road superintendent position, a move that doesn't sit well with Machell.

"I think it's very unfair," Machell said. "I've been living in Dallas all my life and to be treated like this is just not good business."

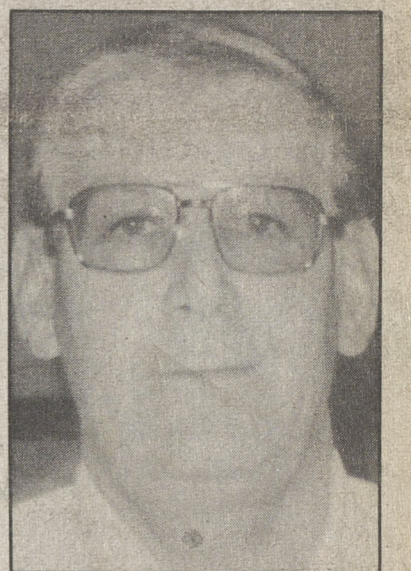
Machell was at the first part of last Tuesday's monthly board meeting, but had to leave to

plow the borough streets before Council made the proposal to cut his job.

Board President Donald Shaffer did not know if anyone on Council had officially informed Machell about the decision, but Machell said he did know about it.

"I had to read about it in the paper," Machell said. "No one ever sat down with me and talked to me about it. Sure, I

(See ROAD, page 10)



JERRY MACHELL



### Learning to give thanks

Third grade students in Mrs. Gelsos's and Mrs. Utter's classes at the Dallas Elementary School used dried beans, pasta and nuts to make cornucopias as a Thanksgiving project. They

also made hats and shirt fronts to portray Pilgrims. Shown here, from left, are Frank Geskey, Leah Vincelli, Greg Riley, Melissa Hughes, T.J. Browne and Cheryl Race.

Dallas Post/Jane Renn

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