

Ralph M. Snyder  
R. D. 2  
Mount Joy, Pa.

# SUSQUEHANNA BULLETIN

Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy Bulletin  
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY, PA.

Volume 75 No. 37 September 24, 1975

Ten Cents

## Donegal School Board approves teachers' contract by 5 to 3 vote after a 4 to 4 first vote; members express concern on rising taxes

The Donegal School Board narrowly passed a new one-year contract with the teacher's union last Thursday.

On the first vote, the Board was deadlocked 4-4.

Jere Duke, J. Edward Charles, Harold Fellenbaum and president William B. Landis, voted against the new contract.

Robert Eshleman, Dale Arnold, John Weidman, and Donald Kugle, voted in favor of the contract. Lewis Bixler was ill and was unable to attend.

The Board recessed to meet privately for half an hour.

After the recess, J. Edward Charles reluctantly changed his vote to "Yes", and the contract was approved by a vote of 5-3.



J. Edw. Charles

### Mr. Charles's statement

Explaining his original opposition to the contract, Mr. Charles said, "I think that the never-ending fountain of taxation at the local level is just about finished."

Charles described the plight of New York City, which has been "milked dry of funds" through union negotiations.

Sooner or later, Lancaster County may face some of the same problems, Mr. Charles feels. It may become impossible to finance new school buildings, if teachers salaries get much higher, Mr. Charles fears.

"What do we have as an alternative?" Charles said.

"I think the future of schooling is necessarily going to involve a lot of mechanization. What I mean by that is audio-visual equipment... Therefore it's going to

eliminate many of these teaching jobs...in order to balance the budget and operate."

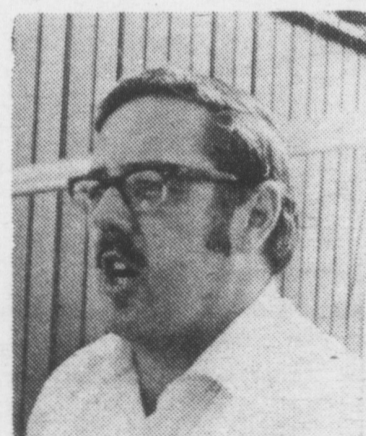
When that happens, "We're going to be in really bad shape," Mr. Charles said.

Noting that the average teacher will get an annual raise of nearly \$1000 under the new contract, Mr. Charles added, "There are not many people in industry that are going to get a \$1000 increase this year. All they're doing is thanking the Lord that they have their jobs...or hoping to get back to work soon."

### Mr. Duke's statement

Jere Duke explained his opposition to the new contract with these words: "I personally have to express the feeling that the bottomless pit has been exceeded," Mr. Duke said. "I can't in all honesty meet constituents of this district on the street and tell them that I voted for a package that's going to give the average teacher a thousand dollar a year increase, when a gentleman has just told me he's been unemployed for a month, and that I just raised his taxes to cover such an agreement."

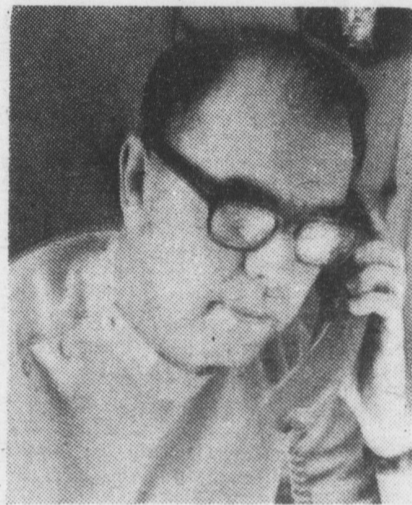
"I feel that, in light of the economic conditions...in this county and this area... the tentatively approved contract went beyond the bounds of fiscal responsibility."



Jere Duke

### Dr. Fellenbaum's Statement

Dr. Fellenbaum also spoke against the contract. "It just scares me, at the rate we're going today, to project the present trend 5 or 10 years, when the cost of education is going to be exorbitant," Dr. Fellenbaum said.



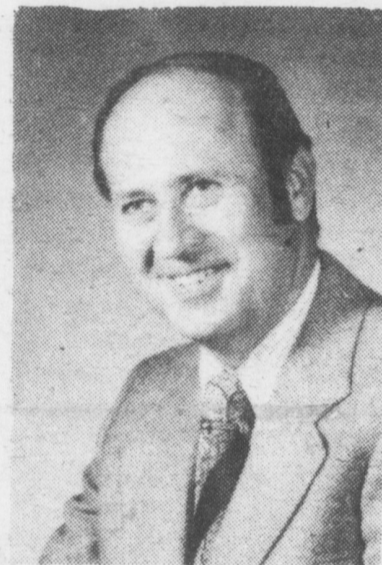
Dr. Fellenbaum

"It is exorbitant now," he added. "I feel for the taxpayers whom we represent. I'm aware that unemployment in Pennsylvania today is at a near record-high of 9.6 percent." "I think it's time we bite the bullet," he said.

### Mr. Weidman's statement

John Weidman, explaining why he voted in favor of the contract, said "I'm a firm believer in quality education."

Mr. Weidman also voiced some reservations about the future. "I'm also concerned about the cost of the contract," he said. "I know that many of our property owners are already overburdened with taxes. It's not going to be an easy road from here on out," Mr. Weidman said.



John Weidman



**Dr. Eshleman's Letter of Recommendation:** Robert Eshleman, who headed the Board's negotiating committee presented a letter recommending that the Board accept the new contract. The letter read, in part, "I would like to express appreciation to Dr. Ralph Coleman for the competence demonstrated in working within the guidelines established by the board, and the profes-

sional role he played as chief negotiator..."

Dr. Landis, Mr. Kugle, and Mr. Arnold did not make statements.

The exact cost of the new contract is not yet known.

Under the contract, a beginning teacher with a Bachelor's Degree will start at the old salary of \$7,500. Beyond that level, teachers will get a \$900 increase over last year's salary.

A teacher with one year's experience and a bachelor's degree will earn \$8,900. A teacher with two year's experience and a Bachelor's degree will get \$9,300.

The maximum salary is \$14,700, for a master's degree and 13 years' experience.

Other benefits include life insurance hiked from \$5,000 to \$7,500 coverage; major medical increased from \$35,000 to \$200,000; an income protection plan to pay 1/2 salary when a teacher is sick, and tuition reimbursements of 50 percent, up to a \$200 maximum,

## Greider can't understand board opposition to contract, which was "their own package"

Teacher's union president Ted Greider can't understand why so many school board members opposed the new teacher's contract at last Thursday's board meeting.

Mr. Greider says the new salary schedule is just what the school board offered the teachers during negotiations.

"The board almost turned down their own package," Greider said.

"We didn't get a thing we asked for," he added. "We got a counter-proposal from them, and this is what we accepted."

"This is what we can't understand."

Mr. Greider rejects the idea that taxes will go up

because of the new contract.

"If the board had accepted or rejected the contract, it would not have affected taxes in Donegal School District," Greider said.

"The taxes are set for this year. They have already been raised."

Most teachers in Lancas-

ter County are still better paid than Donegal teachers, Greider noted.

"It isn't the biggest contract around," he said.

Mr. Greider also doubts that the local economy is as weak as school board members think. The wage tax system brought in more money this year than ever before, he noted.

## Firemen summoned to put out flaming sunset

by Bill Martin

An unusual series of coincidences brought Mount Joy firemen out Monday evening, September 25.

At 6:45 p.m. Mount Joy Fire and Ambulance Base received a call that stated there was a mobile home fire on Old Market Street. The caller stated that smoke was coming from the home and that nobody was home.

Friendship Fire Co. was dispatched.

As the first engine proceeded toward the scene, smoke was noticed going across the street. However, upon arrival, firemen found no fire. After talking to the caller, firemen were told that a red glow in the neighbor's window (the setting) had been observed

and that smoke from a neighbor burning trash enveloped the house, giving the appearance of a structure fire.

Wednesday, September 17 at 9:26 p.m. Friendship responded to the Pensu-preme Grocerette on South Barbara Street in Mount Joy for a smoke investigation. Upon arrival firemen noticed light smoke at the cellar

steps. The origin of the smoke was soon located. During the evening someone had carelessly discarded a cigarette in a window well alongside the store. An extinguisher was used to put out a smoldering fire in the leaves and wood beam in the well. Approximately 35 men were on the scene until 9:52 p.m.