

Two Nassau Projects Get 68-G Poverty Aid

Washington—The Office of Economic Opportunity has approved two grants for Long Island poverty programs totalling \$68,583.

The larger grant, announced by Rep. Lester Wolff (D-Kensington), provides \$41,456 to Manhasset and Great Neck for the establishment of a neighborhood service center and family consultation and referral service. Wolff said that 800 families are expected to benefit from the funds which will help to provide classes for consumer protection and financial and legal advice.

The other grant, announced by Rep. Herbert Tenzer (D-Lawrence), provides supplemental funds totalling \$27,127, which Tenzer says will make it possible to hire 12 neighborhood aides in the poverty areas of Hempstead, Freeport, Elmont, Roosevelt and Rockville Centre to help develop anti-poverty projects.

Carl Valentine, area coordinator for the North Shore, said the Manhasset-Great Neck funds would be used to set up three neighborhood centers. He said the main one would be in the former Valley School, 65 High St., Manhasset. The others will be located in Great Neck, one in the Spruce Street Towers Apartments, 4 Spruce St. and the other in the St. Pauls AME Zion Church, 1 Potters Lane. He said he hoped the program would be set up in two months. Richard Lippe, assistant county attorney, said the neighborhood centers would be provided with legal aid services for free legal aid to the poor as soon as the Nassau Law Services Committee Inc. is approved by the Appellate Division.

The president of the Great Neck-Manhasset Economic Opportunity Council, Hector Gayle, said last night: "We feel this is a very important start.

We hope that with additional funding and with the cooperation of the entire community we can begin to break the cycle of poverty in the area. If this program fails it will not be the fault of any one individual but of the entire community since it is a community responsibility."

Hit Kennedy, Tenzer For Wetlands Plans

Freeport—A group of Freeport residents told Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Herbert Tenzer (D-Lawrence) last night that they should devote more time to their jobs in Washington and stop muddying the waters of a Long Island wetlands dispute.

In a telegram to Kennedy, the group, known as the Freeport Waterfront Improvement Committee, said that local residents "have owned these 16,000 acres (of wetlands) for several hundred years and have not asked any senator or congressman to have the federal government take them over." It concluded, "We further suggest that you permit our elected Presiding Supervisor Ralph G. Caso to run the Town of Hempstead while you and Congressman Tenzer devote a little more time to your pressing duties in Washington."

The two legislators have introduced bills in Congress to convert 16,000 acres of South Shore wetlands into a national recreation area. Neither could be reached for comment on the telegram. Kennedy's bill would also permit the Interior Department to collect a user fee. Caso has bitterly opposed the bills.

Phone Company Starts Bureau To Track Down Crank Callers

Hempstead—Prompted by concern at what it said was an increase in the number of abusive telephone calls being received by its customers, the New York Telephone Co. announced yesterday a new program for dealing with the problem.

A special bureau, the Annoyance Call Bureau, was set up about a month ago, the company said, to provide assistance to customers who have been harassed by persistent calls of an abusive, threatening, or obscene nature. The company suggested that persons bothered by such calls get in touch with the business office. They suggested also that the victims of such calls maintain a record of the calls, listing all pertinent data such as the time the calls occur and whether the voice is male or female.

A telephone company spokesman said that the company now has in operation in most of its Nassau offices equipment which will enable it to trace such a call if it is made within a single exchange. In addition, the spokesman said, the company is considering installing equipment that would make it possible to trace calls no matter from what exchange they are made.

The spokesman said that cooperation among customers, the telephone company and law-enforcement authorities led to 34 arrests and 33 convictions last year in New York State. A Nassau police spokesman said of the new equipment: "It sounds like it could make a lot of people think before making these phone calls."

Bookmakers Fined in Suffolk

Two men, who police say have been booking about \$1,000 weekly in horse bets, pleaded guilty to bookmaking charges after they were arrested last night at their homes in Setauket and Brightwaters.

The men, both Newsday circulation department employes, were identified as Robert Gosse, 40, who gave his address as Carriage Lane, Setauket, and Louis C. Henn Jr., 42, who gave his address as 411 Ackerson Blvd., Brightwaters. They pleaded guilty to possession of bookmaking records and were fined \$250 each. Police said the men had been bookmaking for at least several months, taking the bets over office phones. Gosse worked at the Riverhead

circulation office and Henn at Centereach and Ronkonkoma.

Henn and Gosse were arrested by Gambling Squad detectives at 9:30 PM at their homes. Capt. David Prince, commander of the squad, said betting slips totaling about \$200 in wagers for the day were found at the homes. Prince said the men handled between \$100 and \$200 daily in bets on flat and trotter racing, working together, but did not appear to have any connection with a syndicate. "They were not laying it (the bets) off," Prince said. Henn and Gosse had been under surveillance about two months, police said. The men were arraigned before District Court Presiding Judge Lincoln Schmidt at the Fifth Precinct in Patchogue.

Franzese Pal Indicted in Robbery

Brooklyn—A former chauffeur and bodyguard for Long Island Cosa Nostra boss John (Sonny) Franzese was indicted yesterday on charges of planning and executing a series of bank robberies across the U.S.

John (Johnny Irish) Matera, 33, who gave his address as 253-53 149th Ave., Rosedale, Queens, pleaded innocent in U.S. District Court to an indictment which charges him, Franzese and seven others with robbing five banks of \$76,076 in 44 days and with planning others.

Franzese and seven others were arrested April 12 but Matera was being held at the time in Miami in lieu of \$250,000 bail on charges of taking part in the robbery of the Harbor Island Spa Hotel for more than \$2,000,000 in jewels last month. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Gillen, Matera was a principal in connection with the planning of the robberies.

Matera, who was held in lieu of \$100,000 bail by Federal Judge Leo F. Rayfiel, faces up to 50 years in prison.



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