

BUCKS COUNTY EDITION Sunday Times Advertiser

Trenton, N.J., May 25, 1975

WEATHER

U.S. OFFICIAL FORECAST

Partly cloudy, warm today
Cloudy, chance of rain tonight
Partly cloudy, warm tomorrow
Temperatures last 24 hours:
High 72; low 66

★ 50 cents

Tax ruling: Quo vadis? ITS PRECEDENT

By T. R. REID
Staff Writer

Justice Felix Frankfurter's famous warning that "courts ought not to enter the political thicket" is certainly one of the most quoted but least followed of all judicial pronouncements.

In the 30 years since the late justice issued that dictum, federal and state courts throughout the land have gotten themselves entangled in political, or legislative controversies ranging from the seating of legislators to the spacing of lightpoles.

This New Jersey Supreme Court acted in consonance with a considerable body of precedent Friday when it leaped headlong into the state's thorniest political thicket, the struggle over financing a "thorough and efficient" system of public education.

Viewed in the abstract, the majority decision, directing how the state should spend \$290 million in school funds, might appear to be — as the court's conservative wing described it in a forceful dissent — an "unprecedented step," a case of "imprudent and untimely judicial activism."

Even Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes' majority opinion concedes that the court's action marks "an intrusion into the legislative process." The allocation of public money, Hughes agrees, has traditionally been the province of the law-making branch.

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Poor helped; rich are hurt

By RAMONA SMITH
Staff Writer

New Jersey's public school systems have been carved into two sharply differentiated groups under the state Supreme Court's plan for redistributing state school aid.

The \$303 million redistribution, effective in the 1966-77 school year, would sift the wealthier half of the state's school districts from the poor.

The poorer group, including Trenton and Hamilton Township, are in line for substantial increases in state school aid that year as a result of the court ruling — even if the legislature continues to shun a major new education tax. Trenton might gain \$1.3 million, and Hamilton, an estimated \$2 million.

The other half of the school districts — those of greater than average property wealth — stand to lose, and lose severely, under the court's aid redistribution plan.

Fully 40 percent of the 579 local and regional school systems — including all seven remaining Mercer County districts — would lose all general state aid under the court plan. Another 12 percent of the systems would lose some, but not all, of this aid.

For Ewing Township, the loss is estimated at \$965,498 in the 1976-77 school year. Other losses could come to \$878,988 in East Windsor Regional, \$665,033 in Hopewell Valley, \$642,972 in Lawrence Township, \$622,496 in Princeton Regional, \$441,689 in West Windsor-Plainsboro, and \$130,845 in Washington Township.

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ITS POLITICS

By JIM GOODMAN
Staff Writer

The New Jersey Legislature has its marching orders now courtesy of the State Supreme Court. The question is, will the legislators advance or retreat?

The court ruled Friday that if the Legislature does not meet its constitutional obligation to provide a more equitable way to finance public schools, the court will do it but not until the 1976-77 school year.

The immediate effect of the decision is to make educational financing reform inevitable — but avoidable for the immediate future.

Given the choice of action or inaction, the legislature has consistently come down on the side of inaction.

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Nassau educator says it's only right

By DAVID MARANISS
Staff Writer

PRINCETON — The redistribution of state school aid to the benefit of poorer school districts in New Jersey has been called "a welcome move" by the head of one of the richer school systems in the state.

"I'm pleased that the Supreme Court finally acted on this," said Princeton's controversial superintendent of schools, Dr. Philip Eby McPherson. "It's good for the state in general and it's good for the kids in general."

The Princeton regional school district, which spends more than twice as much per pupil each year as many of the state's poorer systems, could lose as much as \$622,000 per year in state aid as a result of the redistribution.

"This may make it difficult for Princeton in many ways," said McPherson, "but we have a strong and wealthy school system and we'll have to figure out a way to live with it."

Dr. McPherson said he has become convinced that there is a strong correlation between the amount of money spent for schools and the quality of education students receive.



DR. PHILIP E. McPHERSON

... philosophical question



Ah, the first splash of summer. Reenie DiFranco, 4, simply luxuriates in that first cool one at Woodlawn Swim Club, Hamilton Township.



Avalon Adams, 18, hasn't quite found out how refreshing the waters of the pool can be, but give her a few milliseconds.



Ellen Higgins, 16, finds that first plunge uplifting . . . as well as rejuvenating, tingling and, well, just plain wet.

Staff photos by John A. Pietros

Memorial holiday jams Jersey roads

By DAVID A. MARANISS
Staff Writer

Memorial Day weekend in New Jersey has arrived at the midway point in normal fashion: parades and quiet tributes to the nation's war dead mixed with often-frantic reminders that summer is at hand.

As temperatures pushed into the low 90s in several parts of the state yesterday, some 3.5 million people rambled across the Jersey highways to their favorite pleasure spots in the relentless manner of wildebeests

rumbling over the Serengeti plain.

But a forecast of possible thunder-showers tonight and tomorrow afternoon, brought in by easterly winds, may cool the temperatures and keep some would-be travelers at home. The weather predictions are the same for today and tomorrow: partly cloudy with highs in the mid-80s and a 50 percent chance of showers.

The holiday in New Jersey, to this point, has been almost free of tragedy. Only one traffic death has been

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N.J. halts Crossing Park project

By J. STRYKER MEYER
Staff Writer

Three weeks of bitter criticism by Hopewell Township residents and officials has caused the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to halt its \$8 million package of projects for Washington Crossing State Park.

Commissioner David J. Bardin of the DEP told the Sunday Times Advertiser that all major plans for the park have been postponed for a year.

He declared that DEP will begin its planning for the park all over again.

Bardin said he has cancelled his call for designing bids for the first two phases of the five-phase project. The cost of the first two phases had

been estimated at \$4 million and the design contract at \$300,000.

"Callous," "secretive"

Bardin's actions ended a 20-day attack against DEP by Hopewell officials and residents who charged DEP with being "callous" and "secretive" about revealing plans for the park. Some residents were so upset that they were preparing for "guerrilla warfare" against DEP, according to one resident.

Bardin altered the department's planning approach after state Sen. Ann Martindell and Hopewell Township Mayor Michael Arcieri conveyed the public's dissatisfaction and demands for hearings to him.

He made no mention of threats by Committeeman Christopher Bannister to ask the Public Advocates Office to investigate DEP for

U.S. may set peace terms for Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday that diplomatic progress be resumed in the Middle East and may unveil its own ideas if Israel and Egypt remain far apart.

At a news conference after visiting Europe, Kissinger outlined some of the expectations of President Ford's own 11,110-mile European trip beginning Wednesday.

Kissinger said Ford's meeting in Salzburg, Austria, June 1-2 with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will aim at furthering the Middle East negotiating process.

Options considered

After the Sadat meeting and Ford's meeting in Washington later with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Kissinger said he expects one of two outcomes:

— A finding by the Ford administration that resumed negotiations, aborted with the March 22 breakdown of Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy, can be encouraged with some hope of success.

— A determination that Egypt and Israel are so far apart, the United States "may suggest an avenue to proceed."

At one point, Kissinger spoke of a Geneva conference on the Middle East as the "probable outcome."

But he said he thinks the Soviet Union as well as the United States understand it is less complicated to initiate a conference "than to bring it off."

The Secretary of State also left open the possibility of resumed step-by-step diplomacy of the type that failed him in March.

Summit at Brussels

Ford's first stop in Europe will be Brussels and a summit meeting of government heads of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In Brussels, Kissinger said, there would be talk about the future of the alliance in changing circumstances and an effort by Ford to reassure allies of the U.S. commitment to NATO.

As Ford did in a televised interview with foreign newsmen Friday, Kissinger said the presence of Communists and other Marxists in the Portuguese government does

The Evening Times will not publish tomorrow, Memorial Day.

raise questions about that country's participation in a NATO created as a bulwark against Eastern European communists.

The Secretary said he expects Ford to take up the question of Portugal's role as he meets individually with European leaders rather than at one of the summit sessions. In addition, Ford is scheduled to meet with the prime minister and foreign minister of Portugal while in Brussels.

Yanks lifted out of Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — More than 170 Americans were evacuated from Vientiane yesterday as U.S. embassy employees burned documents and angry Laotian employees demonstrated outside the embassy gate demanding payment of back wages.

About 350 Americans have been flown from Laos to Bangkok in the past two days while students, influenced by growing anti-Americanism apparently fueled by the Communist-led Pathet Lao, called for the ouster of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The students held the AID compound for the fourth day to back their demands that the Americans leave, while Laotian AID employees demanded payment of their wages. The embassy declined to pay until the students leave the compound.

Most of the Americans flown out of the country were women and children. While U.S. Charge d'Affaires Christian A. Chapman said some non-essential documents were being "trimmed" and Marines could be seen burning papers, a spokesman said there were no plans to evacuate the embassy. About 650 Americans remain in the country.

In other Indochina developments:

— In Saigon youth parades are condemning the "decadent culture" left behind by the Americans as a new society is shaped by Communist leaders, AP Correspondent George Esper reported from the South Vietnamese capital. Regimentation and austerity are being introduced, he said, and

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Inside

The president of the Ford Motor Company says the day of the American mini-car is at hand — page 3, part 1.

Ben Bradlee's "Conversations with Kennedy," last of seven parts: The Assassination — page 1, part 2.

The proms of '75 the agony and the ecstasy — page 1, part 5.

A dog's life: Just how bad is it, cuisine-wise? — page 1, part 6.

Today's Sunday Times Advertiser consists of 10 sections:

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| 1—General news. | 4—Sports, outdoors. | 7—"This Week" magazine, TV listings. |
| 2—World page news, features. | 5—Accent on Living, fun and games, Action Line. | 8—Color comics. |
| 3—Editorials, features, obituaries. | 6—Real estate, financial, classified. | 9—Family Weekly. |
| | | 10—Milestones. |

"stonewalling the people" about its park plans.

"I regret the misunderstandings we (DEP) had with the people in Hopewell Township. The department was making designs for the park and had planned on receiving public input. However, I can understand their concern and I only hope we can work together to handle it in a way that really makes sense," Bardin said.

He said he has ordered Alfred T. Guido, the chief of environmental review for DEP, to set dates for public hearings in order to "work out a realistic plan for a public decision-making program for the park."

Artificial landscape

On June 6 Bardin will meet with Martindell, Arcieri, Bannister and Guido to discuss the hearing format,

Arcieri said.

Bardin has dismissed the present guidelines, the Main — Reutter Plan of 1973.

"I don't agree with trying to create an artificial landscape of 1776, as that plan did, and try to go back to those conditions," he declared.

"I think the fascination with the area is the fact that people have lived there for 200 years. Combine that with all the various forms of transportation in that area — canal, train bridge, boats, autos — and you have a fascinating area to work with," Bardin said.

After hearing procedures are set up, Bardin said he has two general concerns about the park.

"One, we have an immediate prob-

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