

Training phaseout rapped

Committee majority opposes Dix shift

By MARK BROWN
Times Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — A majority of the House Military Construction Subcommittee opposes the Army's plan to close the basic training center at Fort Dix.

Four of the six subcommittee members who attended a public hearing yesterday on Northeast military bases said the Pentagon has presented a poor case to justify the end of recruit training at Fort Dix.

They were supported by a delegation of New Jersey congressmen, who warned that a feverish campaign is being mounted in the state to save Fort Dix and other installations which face cutbacks.

"I think you should know that the people of our state do not understand the connotation that Fort Dix will be phased out," Rep. Edward J. Patten, D-Perth Amboy told Acting Army Secretary Norman R. Augustine.

"There's a terrific campaign on in the state to save the bases. I've never gone through anything like this before," said Patten, who serves on the subcommittee.

Nonetheless, Augustine stood by the Army's recommendation that Fort Dix be phased out as an active training center by 1979. He said several alternatives are being studied to "backfill" Fort Dix once the basic training is gone, such as a training center for National Guardsmen.

Savings cited
"I think of Dix as an induction center," Patten replied. "There is no backfill that is substantial. There won't be a Fort Dix. If there ever was a presence of the Pentagon in the northeast, it was Fort Dix."

Augustine's basic argument was that today's Army is half the size of a year ago, and it is necessary to consolidate to save money.

He said the Army has developed a "dynamic plan" to combine basic combat and advanced individual training at the same station, cutting down the length of training while developing better soldiers. The concept has proven to cut down on disciplinary problems among trainees, he stressed.

Rep. James J. Howard, D-Spring Lake, told Augustine that cutbacks at Fort Dix, Fort Monmouth and the Picatinny Arsenal would be disastrous to New Jersey which already has the highest unemployment rate in the nation.

Rep. Frank Thompson Jr., D-Trenton warned that the political ramifications would be "enormous" if the Northeast is deprived of Fort Dix.

And Rep. Edwin B. Forsythe, R-Moorestown, pointed out that New Jersey communities accept Fort Dix. "It is a very welcome installation," he stated. "You can't equate that in dollars."

Following these statements, four members of the subcommittee said they oppose the Army's plan: Representatives Patten, Gunn McKay, D-Utah; Bob Traxler, D., Mich., and Robert McEwen, R-N.Y. who is the panel's ranking Republican.

Congressman angered
Chairman Robert L.F. Sikes, D-Fla., and Rep. Burt L. Talcott, R-Calif., were more supportive of the Army, while Rep. Tom Steed, D-Okla. did not attend the session.

Sikes noted that the Army can go forward with the one station training concept without consulting Congress. However, Congress can refuse to appropriate the funds needed by the Army to implement the plan.

McEwen, who exploded in anger at one point, challenged Augustine to explain why the Army is asking for \$78.3 million to construct 2,100 family housing units at other bases, while there are no plans to use the 2,201 permanent family housing units and other buildings at Fort Dix which represent an investment of a quarter billion dollars during the past decade.

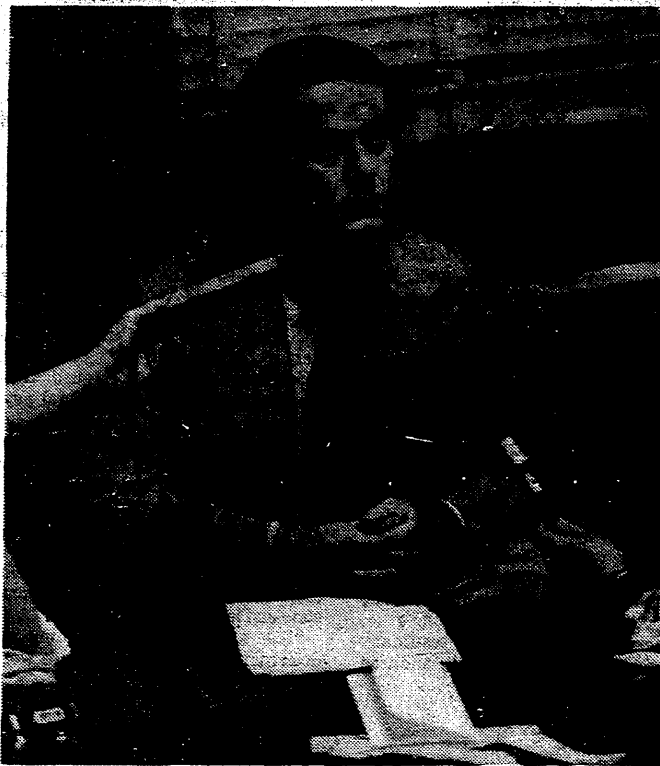
45 Congressmen pen letter backing Ft. Dix training

Times Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — About 45 congressmen have co-signed a letter to the secretary of the Army urging that Fort Dix be retained as a major U.S. Army infantry training center.

The letter was sent out a week ago to the 104 congressmen who represented the nine northeastern states, by Rep. Robert C. McEwen, R., N.Y., the ranking Republican on the House Military Construction Subcommittee.

The letter basically urges the congressmen to consider the consequences of the Army's plan to downgrade military installation in the Northeast, in favor of those bases in the South.

It singles out Fort Dix and Fort Drum, N.Y., where most of the Northeast's National Guardsmen and Army Reservist units train, warning that enlistments may drop when the volunteers learn the army cannot station them near home.



AP photo

Back to the ballot box?

Democrat John A. Durkin was expected to reach an agreement with his party's leaders in the U.S. Senate for a new election to settle the disputed election in which he and Republican candidate Louis C. Wyman were, at different times, declared victors. The state has been left with only one senator while members of the Upper House have fought a filibuster blocking a decision on who is the winner. Wyman has already agreed to a new election.

Reconciliation saves jobs of Rosser, Leib

By JOHN REILLY
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA, Me. — A reconciliation between Gov. James B. Longley and Maine Mental Health and Corrections Commissioner Dr. John Rosser, a former New Jersey education official, apparently has saved Rosser's job and that of Clyde Leib, a former Trenton newspaperman and education official.

On Monday, Longley asked Rosser to resign saying he had "lost complete confidence in Dr. Rosser and our ability to work together for the best interests of the people of Maine."

But after a two-and-a-half hour meeting yesterday between Rosser and Longley, the governor withdrew his request.

Rosser said today there was a "breakdown in communications" between his office and Longley "but the problems have been worked out."

Hiring flap
Although the "problems" have never been clearly defined by either man, Longley's resignation demand was prompted by Rosser's hiring of Leib as a \$20,000 a year assistant.

The governor objected to the hiring of an out-of-stater instead of promoting a Maine resident already employed by the state.

Speaking from his Maine office, Dr. Rosser said it was his understanding that Leib would continue in his job.

He termed a report out of the governor's office that Leib would leave as part of the reconciliation "a misinterpretation" by the Augusta press corps.

Leib said today he has had no direct communications with Longley's office but he understood he would remain on the job.

"I don't foresee any difficulties. It helped get my name known," Leib quipped. "I learned a lot about politics in a short time."

Would not quit
Rosser, a former assistant commissioner of the New Jersey Department

of Education, had refused to quit after Longley, an independent, asked for his resignation. Longley's change of heart means that he will not have to go through the tricky political process of getting the all-Democratic Maine Executive Council to agree to remove the commissioner.

In addition to the hiring of Leib, a former managing editor of the Trentonian, Rosser and Longley also differed about budgeting for the mental health and corrections department.

Rosser first said the budget for his agency was unworkable but he later changed his position and said he could live with the allocations recommended by the governor.

Longley said his concern about the use of community mental funds and the hiring of out-of-state personnel "are on their way to being resolved."

Rosser said hiring practices in the future will be discussed with the governor to make sure they are "proper and appropriate" but he quickly said that he, and not Longley, will be running the Mental Health and Corrections Department.

Reformatory escapee captured

Ira Bacon, 25, who escaped from the Bordentown Reformatory seven months ago, was picked up near Maple Avenue by Ewing Township police yesterday.

Bacon, who was serving an indeterminate term for robbery and credit card theft, will be returned to the segregation unit of the reformatory while escape charges are forwarded to the Burlington County Prosecutor's office, according to a spokesman for state Institutions and Agencies.

The escaped inmate was apprehended by Patrolman Richard Jones after residents in the Glendale area of Trenton complained of a prowler hanging around between houses and on the street.

Bacon, whose home address is list-

Hamilton Twp. vetoes townhouse application

By JEFF WEATHERSBY
Staff Writer

The Hamilton Township Committee has unanimously turned down a controversial townhouse proposal application from developer Ted Dolci to build 98 units on Quimby Avenue.

The action came at last night's special township committee meeting.

The issue became heated when the zoning board approved the application without first seeking the planning board's recommendation. The planning board, which normally gets a chance to comment on such proposals, is on record opposing townhouses until the master plan is revised to provide for them.

The committee last night decided against Dolci's proposal on the basis that the master plan does not mention them.

Probable court appeal

Both opponents of the townhouses and Dolci brought court reporters to take transcripts of the meeting, leading to speculation that Dolci would appeal the committee's decision to the courts.

Neither Dolci nor his attorney, William Groh, could be reached for comment today.

The 5-0 vote last night was anticlimactic because two committeemen, Jack Rafferty and Fred Gmitter, opposed it from the

beginning, and Mayor John Marion and Committeemen Victor Mowat and Fred Mann had announced their opposition one-by-one during the past few weeks.

During the height of the controversy, Gmitter had threatened to call for an investigation if the committee had approved the application. He had said something "stunk" about the application because it had been quickly approved by the zoning board and sent to the committee in 18 days.

Political observers had been quick to point out that Dolci had been an active Democrat and most of the members of the zoning boards have held high Democratic Club positions.

Hundreds jam committee room

Hamilton hears flooding gripes

By JEFF WEATHERSBY
Staff Writer

If there was anyone in Hamilton Township government who didn't know that recent flooding has devastated homes and bank accounts, he got the word last night.

The township committee had called a special meeting to discuss other matters but what the hundreds of people who jammed the committee meeting room wanted to talk about was the flood damage and what officials planned to do to prevent it from happening again.

Probably the most popular suggestion made from the floor at the meeting was a moratorium on all future commercial and apartment building until township creeks are deepened and widened enough to handle flood-state water.

Mostly, the committee listened sympathetically, although Commit-

teeman Fred Gmitter, received loud applause when he suggested using \$500,000 raised in 1971 through bonds to finance a new road department garage for "whatever" it could be used for to stop flooding.

Not enough money

The committee did not formally vote on the proposal. John DiMemmo, township engineer, noted that the money was not much to stop flooding. He explained that it would cost \$2.5 million just to channelize part of Pond Run in the Greenwood Avenue area.

In response to questions about why the flooding was so bad, DiMemmo said there had been two bad storms back-to-back — producing too-much water to handle.

Responding to questions about why building permits were being issued before the creeks were enlarged, DiMemmo said the planning board had

approved the applications and added, "Why do we keep building? Why does the world keep going around?"

A sore point with many of the flood victims was what they perceived as "discrimination" against the "working man by the federal government."

Several residents complained that because they earned salaries they had to borrow money to repair flood damage while people on welfare were getting grants of federal money.

Frank Girard, township business administrator, said the residents probably were being misled by screening procedures used by officials at federal assistance centers such as the one set up at Trenton High School this past weekend.

Girard said that decisions on loans and grants were going to be made by federal officials in New York, not in Trenton, based on individual applications submitted by flood victims.

Hopewell asks for bicen aid

By J. STRYKER MEYER
Staff Writer

HARTS CORNER — For the past 2½ months, Hopewell Township Committee members have been lambasting state and county officials for leaving the township with the responsibility of handling numerous problems expected when bicentennial visitors come to Washington Crossing State Park next year.

Last night Committeeman Christopher Bannister met with state, county and federal officials and told them Hopewell Township was being stuck with expensive bicentennial problems which it could neither afford, nor should have sole responsibility for.

The response from state and county officials was that Hopewell Township hadn't communicated with them and that the problem of defining bicentennial problems within the township lay strictly with township authorities, no one else.

Assemblyman Carl Weidel warned that if the township committee was hoping to get some state money to finance any bicentennial problems, it had better forget the idea because "there is none."

He said the state has allocated \$400,000 for bicentennial activities in New Jersey.

Coleman Brennan, chairman of the Mercer County Bicentennial Committee, said "This is the first time the county has been advised of the township's problems." And he asked Ban-

nister and Mayor Michael Amieri where they had been for the past five years, the duration of time his committee has been meeting.

Hopewell Township began sending a representative, Jack Imrie, to the meetings last April.

David Earling, of the state Bicentennial Commission, also questioned why the township hadn't responded to the state commission in October 1974 when it tried to help the township plan for bicentennial problems. He said the committee ignored the state then.

He got no response.

Help offered
After an hour and a half of questions and answers, all officials agreed that a committee should be formed to identify the problems. Once they are identified, state and county officials said they would help the committee to search for money and solutions.

Last night township officials also unveiled new calculations for the number of visitors that will be in the township during next year.

Bannister said he figures that there will be 150 prime visiting days next year from May through September. He estimated that during those 150 days the township will have an average of 26,000 visitors a day, as opposed to earlier estimates of 10,000 people per day.

Police Chief Mathew J. Maloney and Earling increased their attendance figure estimates for the Dec. 26, 1976 reenactment of Washington crossing the Delaware from around 100,000 to between 200,000 and 250,000.

Bastecki gets full Mercer GOP support

By JOHN REILLY
Staff Writer

Walter Bastecki has been okayed by the entire Mercer County Republican committee to run as the GOP candidate for the unexpired term of Freeholder Charles Farrington.

The committee endorsed Bastecki last night in a special meeting at Rider College. He will oppose Democrat Eugene Howard in the November election.

Last Tuesday, the executive committee recommended that Bastecki, a former Trenton Republican municipal chairman, be given the nod.

County GOP chairman Nancy Schluter said the county committee last night also approved plans for a bi-monthly county Republican newspaper to be called the Mercer County Record.

She termed the newspaper "a long range fund raising project" and said county committees in other parts of the nation have raised as much as \$25,000 a year with similar projects.

The first issue is scheduled to appear in September and the second one by the end of October, in time for the Nov. 4 general election.

The annual subscription price will be \$3. Mrs. Schluter said, and subscribers will be able to have one dollar returned to their municipal Republican organization.

A contest to name the newspaper was won by John Leverence, chairman of the Mercer County Young Republicans. His suggestion was among 65 entries.

Mrs. Schluter also said the county GOP headquarters will be moved in August from 176 West State Street to the M.O.N.Y. Building on Route 1 at the Brunswick Circle.

Detroit rampage continues 2d night

DETROIT (AP) — Young blacks set fires and smashed windows for the second straight night and vowed to renew their assault on a bar owned by a white man charged with the fatal shooting of a black teenager.

About 300 riot-equipped police advanced in military fashion last night behind waiting clouds of tear gas, pushing a crowd of several hundred out of a decaying business strip in northwest Detroit.

Police said 36 persons were arrested last night, bringing the two-day toll to 99.

Patient chooses death over life via machine

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Chuck McCracken unplugged himself from his kidney dialysis machine last week because he says the life-saving treatment was "sheer agony for me."

Now he is waiting to die. His wife is resigned to his decision. His children are confused. He figures he has less than two weeks to live.

He says that each day he grows weaker. He sits at home, passing the time talking to friends and family.

"Uremic poisoning causes a loss of strength," he said candidly in a telephone interview yesterday. "I look forward to a pleasant death, not painful, not traumatic. I'll go peacefully and quietly."

He adds, "I don't believe a person should commit suicide, but to be kept alive by doctors is not quite humane. A person has a right to choose between life and death."

3 months of treatment
McCracken, 36, went off dialysis July 22. He had been taking the treatments — in which a machine filters the wastes from his blood — for three months after he suffered kidney failure.

He had to leave his job as a television repairman eight years ago when he lost his vision. He also has diabetes and a diseased thyroid gland. He suffered leg paralysis last March.

"During the (dialysis) treatment my blood pressure would suddenly drop, and I wouldn't be able to

breathe," McCracken said. "They would raise my legs above my head to help me recover and that was sheer agony for me. It was more than I wanted to bear."

McCracken says that once he had made the decision to die the "world lifted from my shoulders. I have felt extreme inner peace."

Resigned to decision

Barbara McCracken says she is resigned to her husband's decision. But she says the McCrackens' four young children — his by an earlier marriage — "don't quite understand the full impact of it yet."

McCracken has already made his funeral arrangements: "It's one less thing my wife will have to worry about when I'm gone," he says.

Mrs. McCracken — who works at the General Telephone Co. — has supported the family since her husband's paralysis.

McCracken's physician, Dr. Siegmund Teichman, says, "When a patient leaves dialysis, it is usually a death sentence. But he was very depressed. He was unable to do more than go back and forth from the treatments here and his home. So, the life he faced was a very limited one."

Teichman said McCracken had "less than a 30 percent chance of living for one year" if he had stayed with dialysis.

The doctor said McCracken has signed a release which testifies that he was of sound mind when he made his decision to die.



MARY C. TANNER
Woman to head local Sayen races

Mary C. Tanner, a Republican candidate for the Lawrence Township council, has been named municipal candidates coordinator in the campaign of GOP county executive candidate W. Harry Sayen.

A graduate of Vermont University with a Ph.D. from Radcliffe College, Mrs. Tanner is a former president of the League of Women Voters in Princeton and a LWV lobbyist.

"Mary Tanner has unique qualifications to head this particular project with her League of Women Voters experience and her wide knowledge of state, county and, particularly, local issues," Sayen said.

Mrs. Tanner's runningmate is Jack Tibbets.