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An Observation Post for what is Happening

COMMON SENSE HERALD STATE OF THE UNION REPORT

On to POTUS 46?

by Dennis Pearson of the Common-Sense Herald

By tradition and law, United States presidential transition is the transfer of federal executive branch power from the incumbent President of the United States to the

president-elect, during the period of time between election day in November (on the first Tuesday after November 1), and inauguration day on the following January 20.

However, in this crazy Covid Pandemic year of 2020 the question must be asked: In an election contest between a sitting President and a challenger, when does the challenger formally be given the informal title of President-elect and what institution declares it.

As stated by Donna Mekouar of the Voice of America “Many people assume the winner of the U.S. presidential contest is determined once the media calls the race and the losing candidate delivers a concession speech. But the truth is that formally declaring a presidential winner is a months-long process that won’t be completed until January.

That process essentially involves Americans voting for electors, the electors voting for the president, and then Congress declaring the winner.

And, I add, the President Elect being sworn in as President on the designated Inaugural day.

The Twentieth Amendment (Amendment XX) to the United States Constitution moved the beginning and ending of the terms of the president and vice president from March 4 to January 20, and of members of Congress from March 4 to January 3. It also has provisions that determine what is to be done when there is no president-elect.

The reason being for this change was as technological advances greatly reduced the times to tabulate votes, report the results and travel, such a long lame-duck period was no longer logistically necessary. As a result, the 20th Amendment, which was ratified on January 23, 1933, moved up Inauguration Day to January 20 and the first meeting of the new Congress to January 3.

In 2020, almost 156 million Americans voted for electors on Tuesday, November 3 or earlier by mail-in votes, the 538 electors reflected these choices in voting in State Capital across the nation and in Washington D.C on December 14, and the House of Representatives and Senate meeting in Joint Session will formally declare the results January 6, 2021. It being the hard-duty or pleasure of Mike Pence the Vice President to carry out this burden or chore

When this occurs, as the media projected informally (mostly with glee) on November 8, 2020, Joe Biden, of the State of Delaware, the long-time former Senator of that State, and former Vice President in the Barrack Obama Administration, will be formally declared President-Elect and transition planning for the Presidency can formally begin even though informally it was begun before with or without the cooperation of the outgoing President, Donald Trump.

It is expected on January 6, 2021 that Joe Biden will be credited with 306 electoral votes to Donald Trump's 232 electoral votes.

Yet the fixed reality was at the time of the electoral college meeting was that the Donald Trump still questioned the results of the November 3rd election in various battle ground states such as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia, Nevada, and Arizona citing many reported instances of election fraud which much of the main-line liberal or progressive media discounted but more Conservative leaning media took seriously. So, which side of the political spectrum has a better take on things? Or is their distortion from both sides?



REP. FRANCIS ROONEY (R-FLA.) wrote this interesting piece on transition in The Hill which appeared on November 15, 2020. In regard to historical transitions, Rooney is quoted as saying:

“Ever since the first presidential transition, from George Washington to John Adams, America’s Founding Fathers set the stage for how to peacefully transition from one administration to the next — a critical process which is necessary to maintain continuity of government and demonstrate to the world that despite our differences, we are all united as Americans. In times of war, depression, Electoral College disputes and occasional recounts, the end result has always been the same — on Jan. 20 at noon (currently), we transition seamlessly from one administration to the next.

Throughout our great history, some transitions have been bitter — as in 1801 when Adams left the city of Washington in the middle of the night so he would not have to attend the inauguration of his rival, Thomas Jefferson, the following day. Although still stinging from defeat, Adams knew that peaceful transition was best for the nation he helped found. It was Adams peaceful departure that created the precedent for every election to follow.

In 1829, despite the refusal of John Quincy Adams to attend the inauguration of his successor, Andrew Jackson peacefully assumed the presidency. The two had previously battled for the White House in 1824 and deeply personal attacks by the candidates made today’s political campaigns seem tame.

The transition from Andrew Johnson to Ulysses S. Grant, which also followed a contentious election, was less than friendly. Johnson refused to attend Grant’s swearing-in, but it was nonetheless peaceful and orderly. For a country still reeling from the assassination of President Lincoln and the reconstruction of the South, this proved to be a critical show of unity to the rest of the world at a time when many foreign adversaries were closely watching.

In 1896, when Republican William McKinley defeated Democrat William Jennings Bryan, Bryan wrote to McKinley, “We have submitted the issue to the American people and their will is law.” Bryan later wrote of his concession, “We were not fighting each other, but stood as the representatives of different political ideas, between which the people were to choose.”

Rooney next stating the reason why the President despite his gut feelings and legal concerns should be gracious to provide his successor enough valuable information to have a peaceful transition for security reason:

“As our nation finishes counting all of the ballots in this year of record voter turnout, we are about to see a transition to a new administration led by Joe Biden. The president should provide the necessary assistance to the transition teams and lead our country in coming together for the good of all its citizens. As a

former ambassador and a congressman who is the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it is dangerous to not allow Biden access to the Presidential Daily Briefings or to any messages that the State Department is receiving for him. During this time of transition, we know from past experiences such as the Cold War dangers of the Eisenhower/Kennedy transition, Iran hostage crisis during the Carter/Reagan transition, and terrorism threats during the Clinton/Bush transition, that our newly elected president must be fully up to speed on world affairs, potential conflicts, and the status of our assets abroad. Our biggest threats in times of perceived national turmoil will come from foreign adversaries. The president also can and should instruct the Government Services Agency (GSA) to allow the Biden transition team access to information and funds necessary to ensure a smooth, thorough transition.

Finally, the Congressman opines why for political integrity the transition from Biden to Trump must in the end be peaceful:

I am concerned that by questioning the integrity of the 2020 election without reliable proof of wrongdoing we undermine the principles of free and fair elections and leave our country distracted and exposed to our enemies. In future national elections, states should strive to adopt the Florida model for how ballots are mailed, received, counted, and reported. Doing so will eliminate many of the negative perceptions that have accompanied ballot counting in Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Nevada. America has always been a beacon of hope and example to the free world. Diminishing our role will empower the forces of oppression and authoritarianism around the world.

It is therefore incumbent upon the United States to ensure to its citizens — and to demonstrate to the world — that we are on course for a peaceful transfer of power. President Trump should concede the election immediately after all long-shot court challenges have been disposed of. The best interests of our nation and our party demand that we acknowledge the winner of this vigorous contest. The American People have made their choice. It is the American way to recognize and honor that choice.

Nevertheless, Donald Trump while relenting reluctantly to allow the United States General Service Agency provide Joe Biden and his transition team essential transition of power help, up to this point he has not yet conceded the election to his opponent. It also must be pointed out that his former opponent in 2016 Hillary Clinton in 2020 had advised Joe Biden not to concede the election to Trump on election evening or at any time. And of course, as we learned, when vote counting for some reason was stopped in many battleground states in the wee hours of November 4 with Donald Trump sporting sizeable leads, they resumed later on in the morning with the President suddenly taking a beating at the polls and being declared by the media first and later the states, the loser of these contests.

Donald Trump's public reaction being to ignore the fact that he had lost these battleground races and as the result the Presidency.. He insisted that cheating had occurred which pilfered his apparent victory.



So as it happened, President Trump's Campaign hosted a press conference at the headquarters of the Republican National Committee in Washington D.C. on Thursday, November 19, 2020. The President as is characteristic used the Social Media vehicle Twitter to assert with great confidence what he suspects is occurring or will occur.. The Tweet implying that the upcoming Important News Conference on that day conducted by his lawyers would indicate that the pieces for a clear and viable path to victory were very nicely falling into place."

Which to me is very optimistic thinking but I also see the danger of showing your pitches too soon allowing the opposition to take advantage of it to hit the ball out of the ballpark.

What the President referred to was the fact that his legal team would be there to outline evidence of what the team believed to be election fraud in the 2020 Presidential election. And Carol King would be there to cover the presser for the Undercover DC.

And according to the Agency itself, those working for Uncover DC are pledged to work hard to bring its public the unvarnished truth, a concept they claim the legacy media had abandoned long ago. They are pledged to hold their journalists to the highest of standards, relying heavily on the Journalist's Creed as they work

to uncover the facts and keep our government, institutions, and representatives accountable

Then too, they are pledged to never rush to be first, but to work hard to always be factually correct. In the event an error is made, they pledge to issue timely corrections, and to ensure those corrections are front and center, receiving as much attention as the original story. They pledge to remain true to we, the public, and to always work with our three bedrock principles in mind: Truth. Integrity. Accountability.

The Journalist's Creed was written by the first dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, Walter Williams established 1908. More than one century later, his declaration remains one of the clearest statements of the principles, values, and standards of journalists throughout the world. Plaques bearing the creed are on display at the School, the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. (since 1958), and many other locations around the world.

I believe in the profession of journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of a lesser service than the public service is betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocketbook is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news, and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that the supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds best – and best deserves success – fears God and honors Man; is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power, constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship; is a journalism of humanity, of and for today’s world.

Having past membership in the Society of Professional Journalists, I ask you to compare the Journalist Code above with the Society’s ethics Code for Journalists

Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. Ethical journalism strives to ensure the free exchange of information that is accurate, fair, and thorough. An ethical journalist acts with integrity.

The Society declares these four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media.

Seek Truth and Report It

Ethical journalism should be accurate and fair. Journalists should be honest and courageous in gathering, reporting, and interpreting information.

Journalists should:

- Take responsibility for the accuracy of their work. Verify information before releasing it. Use original sources whenever possible.**

- Remember that neither speed nor format excuses inaccuracy.**

- Provide context. Take special care not to misrepresent or oversimplify in promoting, previewing, or summarizing a story.**

- Gather, update and correct information throughout the life of a news story.**
- Be cautious when making promises but keep the promises they make.**
- Identify sources clearly. The public is entitled to as much information as possible to judge the reliability and motivations of sources.**
- Consider sources' motives before promising anonymity. Reserve anonymity for sources who may face danger, retribution, or other harm, and have information that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Explain why anonymity was granted.**
- Diligently seek subjects of news coverage to allow them to respond to criticism or allegations of wrongdoing.**
- Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information unless traditional, open methods will not yield information vital to the public.**
- Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable. Give voice to the voiceless.**
- Support the open and civil exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.**
- Recognize a special obligation to serve as watchdogs over public affairs and government. Seek to ensure that the public's business is conducted in the open, and that public records are open to all.**
- Provide access to source material when it is relevant and appropriate.**
- Boldly tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience. Seek sources whose voices we seldom hear.**

– Avoid stereotyping. Journalists should examine the ways their values and experiences may shape their reporting.

– Label advocacy and commentary.

– Never deliberately distort facts or context, including visual information. Clearly label illustrations and re-enactments.

– Never plagiarize. Always attribute.

Minimize Harm

Ethical journalism treats sources, subjects, colleagues, and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect.

Journalists should:

– Balance the public’s need for information against potential harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance or undue intrusiveness.

– Show compassion for those who may be affected by news coverage. Use heightened sensitivity when dealing with juveniles, victims of sex crimes, and sources or subjects who are inexperienced or unable to give consent. Consider cultural differences in approach and treatment.

– Recognize that legal access to information differs from an ethical justification to publish or broadcast.

– Realize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than public figures and others who seek power, influence, or attention. Weigh the consequences of publishing or broadcasting personal information.

- Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity, even if others do.
- Balance a suspect’s right to a fair trial with the public’s right to know. Consider the implications of identifying criminal suspects before they face legal charges.
- Consider the long-term implications of the extended reach and permanence of publication. Provide updated and more complete information as appropriate.

Act Independently

The highest and primary obligation of ethical journalism is to serve the public.

Journalists should:

- Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived. Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel, and special treatment, and avoid political and other outside activities that may compromise integrity or impartiality, or may damage credibility.
- Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money; do not pay for access to news. Identify content provided by outside sources, whether paid or not.
- Deny favored treatment to advertisers, donors, or any other special interests, and resist internal and external pressure to influence coverage.
- Distinguish news from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two. Prominently label sponsored content.

Be Accountable and Transparent

Ethical journalism means taking responsibility for one’s work and explaining

one's decisions to the public.

Journalists should:

- Explain ethical choices and processes to audiences. Encourage a civil dialogue with the public about journalistic practices, coverage, and news content.
- Respond quickly to questions about accuracy, clarity, and fairness.
- Acknowledge mistakes and correct them promptly and prominently. Explain corrections and clarifications carefully and clearly.
- Expose unethical conduct in journalism, including within their organizations.
- Abide by the same high standards they expect of others.

Lawyers present for the Trump campaign were former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Trump Campaign Senior Legal Advisor Jenna Ellis, attorneys Sidney Powell, Joesph DiGenova, Victoria Toensing, and Boris Epstein.

The Press Conference came after a week of reports of discrepancies in hand-recounts in Georgia, threats of intimidation against Republican members of Michigan's Wayne County Board of Canvassers, threats against lawyers working for the President questions about the Dominion voting machines used in 28 states.

Stated King, Giuliani, began the press conference, describing a "pattern" and a "plan" of fraud and/or irregularities that took place in big Democratic cities in various states to steal the election. Then continued by stating that it was obvious to experienced prosecutors like himself that repeating patterns, like the ones their investigations had revealed, suggest a conspiracy where instructions to apply the same tactics came *"directly from the party, or from candidate Biden himself. But what is important here, Trump's opponents had picked the places they thought they could succeed with their alleged plans.."*

Giuliani introduced the report by former President Jimmy Carter, and James Baker, which had concluded that mail-in ballots were most susceptible to fraud or being taken advantage of. That is, it was not necessarily fraud on voters' part, he said, rather the tactics used by election officials, often breaking state election laws. He emphasized the lack of signature authentication that took place in the 2020 election and said that is why "recounts in places like Georgia would tell us nothing." They were not checking the signatures.

Giuliani, according to King, then spoke about problems with "curing" votes. He illustrated the situation in Pennsylvania where voters in Trump heavy districts, who made an error or forgot to put their ballot in a security envelope, were not given the opportunity to "cure" or fix the error. However, Voters making the same mistake in Pittsburgh or Philadelphia were called to come in and amend them. Giuliani insisting that this violated the Constitution's Equal Protection claim, and affidavits by voters, signed under the threat of perjury, confirmed this unequal treatment. And Lawsuits on these claims have been filed in the hope they would be considered by the Courts,

Giuliani acknowledging that The main challenge with lawsuits on these claims is that courts can deem them moot unless there are enough votes affected this way that would affect the election outcome. Giuliani claimed that they have affidavits to support the claim that 682,770 votes were not inspected correctly in Pennsylvania—Biden's lead is said to be 69,140 votes there. If found "outcome determinative," the Supreme Court would likely hear the case... At least that would be Giuliani's hope which in reality was not fulfilled

Giuliani then cited sixty affidavits that supported his claim that observers representing Republicans could not watch the unsealing and inspection of ballots from the areas they were required to stand in. He said three of the affiants saw Biden ballots being processed three times and that there are one hundred such witnesses in a case pending in Detroit. Again he stated they have enough challenged ballots to flip the state. In Wisconsin, 60,000 votes in Milwaukee county and 40,000 in Madison county were not properly applied for under state

law. For Georgia, Giuliani said a major lawsuit was coming November 20, 2020” on detailing fraudulent double voting and vote changing. Giuliani opining that all these problems were magnified by that fact that a lot of votes were counted on Dominion machines used by Communists in Venezuela to fix elections.

Carol King next proceeded to report that Attorney Sidney Powell claimed that she had clear proof of software fraud relating to the Dominion system which has been denied by the system owners with threat of lawsuit. Additionally, she alleged that the influx of so-called communist money may have had a “massive” negative influence on the Trump campaign in the election, which may also have been exacerbated through the use of flawed software said to be developed or tested in Venezuela. Producing evidence of these alleged claims, Powell cited a witness who was said to have created the Hugo Chavez government’s software and argued that he recognized the same pattern in the United States: The software was said to have flipped votes from Trump to Biden.

Powell offered that the algorithm programmed into the Dominion system weighted Biden and Trump votes differently to help the former and hurt the latter. For example, theorized that the machine’s software may have been programmed to count Biden votes as 1.25 value, and Trumps at 0.75. According to Powell one of the telling signs or indications for the affiant was that Trump votes had been coming in at such a high rate on election night prior to an unexplained stoppage of counting of votes in what can be best described as battle ground states, but interestingly, when the counting of votes resumed the votes came in mostly for Joe Biden.

As I would describe it, Trump did indeed win the vote cast in the battlefield states on election day ... And this was reflected in the vote before these unexplained shutdowns occurred However, I surmise that the after-shutdown votes reflected the mail-in votes cast prior election day and were not counted until after the election day vote was counted and these votes went mostly for Biden. I call these the pandemic related votes, or the Corvid is Vote

My gut feeling being that much of this vote reflected the influence of the big city and urban areas of the battleground states which worked to Biden's advantage even without alleged finagling of various sorts

However what Powell's alleged affiant pontificated is that these early morning shutdowns occurred because someone saw the need to shut down to refigure the machines to tally enough Biden votes to beat the Trump margin.

To me that explanation represents a serious charge. If it is indeed factual, then we have a huge problem with the 2020 Presidential election... But if this talk is just speculation with no proof to back it up, nothing will happen to overturn the Biden election in the Electoral College and its announcement on January 6, 2020 when the Senate and House of Representative meet in Joint Session

At this point, Giuliani interrupted Powell and said that his team had completed three vote analysis projects, which Powell then noted confirmed that it was "beyond mathematical possibility" that these votes could come in so heavily for Biden as they were counted." She said their analysis entertains the prospect of "Dominion injecting votes into the system."

Powell acknowledged that a Dominion server had been seized in Germany but said she did not know if it was taken by "good guys or bad guys." She mentioned Democrat members, like Carolyn Maloney, Elizabeth Warren, and the state of Texas, who had been saying Dominion systems were problematic and insecure for years.

At this point Rudy Giuliani again inserted himself in Powell's presentation and claimed that there was enough evidence from irregularities in various states to overturn the election even without the Dominion allegations. He said it is also a national security matter, with ties to Venezuela and to the largest Democrat donor George Soros.

Jenna Ellis spoke next in regard to allegations from the media that the Trump campaign had not provided any evidence of fraud or irregularities big enough to change the outcome. She offered that the media should treat this press conference as the campaign's "opening statement." Ellis urged them to investigate and examine their lawsuits and claims, as proper journalists should to judge their validity and not immediately to dismiss them as leading to nowhere.

Ellis wanting Reporters to note the investigatory role that the Philadelphia Inquirer played in the vote-buying/fraud scheme, which saw an election outcome turn overed in 1994.

Ellis hoping in 2020 that the printed media and the electronic media and the social media would take up the investigatory role to turn the election to President Donald Trump.

To me, the fixed reality being that Ellis might be disappointed in what printed media, electronic media and social media take the baton to take up that role,

And as one expected King reported that CNN did not show up at the Trump Legal Team press conference to hear their opening statement or case why Donald Trump should have 4 more years in Office.

Personally, I think that CNN doesn't want for Donald Trump to spend the next four years planning his Presidential Library which would feature his successes. Perhaps they may be more interested if it were to be planned by Donald Trump's detractor's to only include his alleged failures.

COMMON SENSE HERALD STATE OF LEHIGH VALLEY REPORT

We Present The Truth, But You Do Not Comprehend

Met with a mission to regionalize water supplies or at the least agree to emergency connections

By Dennis Pearson of the Common-Sense Herald

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Franklin L. Kury practiced law in the Harrisburg Office of Reed Smith. As a member of the House of Representatives in 1967, he drafted and introduced the legislation that led to the establishment of Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Kury recalled: as a child visiting his grandparent's home near a culm bank in Shenandoah and wondering why the creek in front of the house was so foul. And he recalled wandering along Shamokin Creek near its entrance into the Susquehanna below Sunbury. The nickname for the creek was "Black Creek". The joke was that, if you fell into Black Creek, you need not worry about drowning. You would dissolve first.

Kury later learned that the state didn't require sewage treatment on Shamokin Creek because it was believed that the sewage would be neutralized by the acid mine drainage from the abandoned mines in the watershed. Later yet, as an attorney searching a title to a property near Kulpmont, he found a deed in which the Pottsville and Reading Railroad Company reserved to itself the right to discharge the waste from its mining operations into Shamokin Creek.

On May 18, 1971, Pennsylvania's voters by a four-to-one margin ratified what is now Article I, Section 27 of our state constitution—the Environmental Rights Amendment:

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including

generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

The amendment – during its soon to fifty years – according to Kury has indeed had a salutary effect. Its principles have been incorporated into the permit and operational programs of all the state agencies that relate to the environment. Municipalities are obligated to implement it. And everyone elected to any public office in Pennsylvania swears to uphold the amendment when he or she takes the oath of office. The amendment has forced developers and others who have an adverse impact on the environment to plan their project so as to minimize negative environmental impact. This in itself according to Kury was revolutionary when considered against Pennsylvania’s history.as briefly discussed above

We are all aware that water is essential to life – both as a basic human need for survival and as an “ingredient” in almost everything we do, from food production to manufacturing to power generation.

And as Benjamin Franklin once stated: *“When the well is dry we know the value of water.* –

In addition when the well is dry and we can’t dig deeper or find a nearby sustainable source of clean and non-toxic water, who are we going to call and say “Hey man, we got a problem.”

In Pennsylvania, the Compacts and Commissions Office coordinates Pennsylvania’s responsibilities as a member of intrastate and interstate organizations and develops strategies to work with established river basin commissions and interstate associations as vehicles to advance partnerships. This Office encourages and promotes multi-state cooperation to address shared issues. It works to implement existing policies of the Commonwealth in a consistent manner; links economic progress, watershed management, and sustainability; and strengthens the relationship of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection with interstate and intrastate organizations and the communities they serve. The Office implements the Department's federally funded Coastal Resources Management Program (CRM) that addresses Pennsylvania's two coastal areas, the Delaware Estuary and Lake Erie. The Office also manages a Great Lakes Program that provides oversight of the Commonwealth's Great Lakes initiatives at a local and international scale

At this this point in history, Pennsylvania retains membership in eight interstate organizations and shares basins with fifteen other states. The eight organizations are:

Susquehanna River Basin

Delaware River Basin

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Great Lakes Commission

Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission

Then too, In Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator manages drought related activities and monitors drought conditions statewide. Drought watches and warning declarations are determined by the Coordinator and other Department of Environmental Protection staff, with support of the Drought Task Force. Drought emergency declarations follow a similar process and are given final approval by the Governor

A drought can be defined by rainfall amounts, vegetation conditions, agricultural productivity, soil moisture, reservoir levels and stream flow. Simply put, a drought is a significant deficit in moisture availability due to lower-than-normal rainfall. As rainfall provides the basis for both ground and surface water resources in the Commonwealth, the earliest indicator of a potential drought is precipitation deficits

Of relevance to our study in regard to the historical development of Lehigh County and its regional unit the Lehigh Valley has been the formation of the Delaware River Basin (DRB) of which the Lehigh Valley is a part.

Commerce was important on the upper course of the Delaware river before the beginning of railway competition (1857). Of the various early canals only two continued to be of any importance—the canal from Trenton to New Brunswick, uniting the Delaware and Raritan rivers, and the canal joining the Delaware River with Chesapeake Bay. The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin (IncodeI) was formed in 1936 by the four states in the watershed of the river (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) to control and prevent water pollution, plan the conservation of water supply for the use of the cities, and plan development along the course of the entire river.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the Delaware River Basin Compact creating the Delaware River Basin Commission. It included all four states — PA, NJ, NY, and DE — as well as the federal government, making it the first federal-state organization to address river planning, development, and regulation.

Thus, In 1962 the staff and assets of Incodel were absorbed by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), the body established the previous year to replace it. The DRBC—which included the four basin state governors and the division engineer of the regional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—as stated above becoming the first equal partnership between federal and state governments in river basin management. To facilitate traffic on the river, channels have been dredged from the deep water in Delaware Bay to Philadelphia and from Philadelphia to Trenton.

And as it happened, the DRBC rolled out programs to regularly test the river for pollution and set goals and standards for industry and municipal wastewater treatment plants. However, many of the plans were hampered by a lack of federal funds.

The Delaware River's drainage basin has an area of 13,539 square miles (35,070 km²) and encompasses 42 counties and 838 municipalities in five U.S. states—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. This total area constitutes approximately 0.4% of the land mass in the United States. In 2001, the watershed was 18% agricultural land, 14% developed land, and 68% forested land.

There are 216 tributary streams and creeks—an estimated 14,057 miles of streams and creeks—in the watershed. While the watershed is home to 4.17 million people according to the 2000 Federal Census, these bodies of water provide drinking water to 17 million people—roughly 6% of the population of the United States. The waters of the Delaware River's basin are used to sustain "fishing, transportation, power, cooling, recreation, and other industrial and residential purposes. It is the 33rd largest river in the United States in terms of flow, but the nation's most heavily used rivers in daily volume of tonnage.

The average annual flow rate of the Delaware is 11,700 cubic feet per second at Trenton, New Jersey. With no dams or impediments on the river's main stem, the Delaware is one of the few remaining large free-flowing rivers in the United States.¹

It being fixed reality commissions of the Delaware River Commission have regulatory authority over the waters of the basin. While basin commissions have authority to declare drought emergencies, they rely on respective member states

to implement and enforce any actions they may dictate during a drought emergency.

The major water resources in the Delaware River Basin comprise

1. Delaware River
2. Lehigh River
3. Schuylkill River

In regard to the Delaware River, the northern tier of the River flows from Wayne County to the confluence with the Lehigh River along New York and New Jersey State line with the following tributaries flowing into it:

4. Equinunk Creek
5. Wallenpaupak Creek
6. Lackawanna River
7. Shohola Creek
8. Saw Kill Creek
9. Bushkill Creek
10. McMichaels Creek
11. Broadhead Creek
12. Cherry Creek
13. Martin/Jacoby Creek
14. Bushkill Creek

The Lehigh River from Pike County to confluence with Delaware River at Easton with the following tributaries flowing into it:

15. Tobyhanna Creek
16. Mud Run
17. Black Creek
18. Nesquehoning Creek
19. Maunch Chunk Creek
20. Mahoning Creek
21. Pohopoco Creek
22. Lizard Creek
23. Aquashicola Creek
24. Trout/Bertash Creeks
25. Hokendauqua Creek
26. Coplay Creek
27. Catasauqua Creek
28. Jordan Creek
29. Little Lehigh Creek
30. Monocacy Creek
31. Saucon Creek
32. Nancy Run

The Delaware River from the confluence with Lehigh River to confluence with Schuylkill River along the Jersey State line with the following tributaries flowing into it:

- 33 Tohicon Creek**
- 34 Little Neshaminy Creek**
- 35 Neshaminy Creek**
- 36 Poquessing Creek**
- 37 Pennypack Creek**
- 38 Tacony Creek (Frankford)**

The Schuylkill River from Schuylkill County to confluence with Delaware River with the following tributaries flowing into it:

- 39 Little Schuylkill Creek**
- 40 Sacony Creek**
- 41 Maiden Creek**
- 42 Tulpehocken Creek**
- 43 Manatany Creek**
- 44 Pigeon Creek**
- 45 French Creek**
- 46 Pickering/Valley Creeks**
- 47 Swamp Creek**
- 48 East Branch Perkiomen Creek**
- 49 Skippack Creek**
- 50 Perkiomen Creek**
- 51 Valley Creek**
- 52 Stony Creek (Sawmill Run)**
- 53 Wissahickon Creek**

Delaware River from confluence with Schuylkill River to the Delaware State along New Jersey State line River with the following tributaries flowing into it:

- 54 Cobbs Creek**
- 55 Darby Creek**
- 56 Crum Creek**
- 57 Ridley Creek**
- 58 Chester Creek**
- 59 East Branch Brandywine creek**
- 60 Est Branch Brandywine Creek**
- 61 Sucker Run**
- 62 White Clay Creek (Christine River)**
- 63 Red Clay Creek**
- 64 Brandywine Creek**
- 65 Big Elk Creek (Chesapeake Bay)**

- 66 Little Elk C reek
- 67 Northeast Creek

As expected several reservoirs in the Delaware River Basin have been engineered over the years, all located on tributaries of the major rivers in the Basin. Some are used for water supply, others for hydroelectric power, still others for flood control, or recreation, and some are multi-purpose

Three reservoirs, owned/operated by New York City, are located in the Delaware River Basin's headwaters in New York:

- Cannonsville Reservoir
- Pepacton Reservoir
- Neversink Reservoir

Through the Delaware River Master (a USGS position), releases from these reservoirs are made to meet the Montague, N.J. flow target of 1,750 cfs. Storage in these reservoirs also drives the commission's basin-wide drought management plan.

The DRBC provides storage information for these New York City Delaware River Basin Reservoirs, updated weekly, usually on Mondays.

In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns several reservoirs in the basin:

- Francis. E. Walter Reservoir
- Blue Marsh Reservoir
- Beltzville Reservoir
- Prompton Dam
- Jadwin Dam

Also notable, the DRBC owns water supply storage in two of them, Beltzville and Blue Marsh, which are located in the Lehigh and Schuylkill sub-basins respectively; this storage is utilized to meet the Trenton, N.J. flow target of 3,000 cfs. Storage levels in these reservoirs drive the commission's lower basin drought operating plan.

Then too, the Merrill Creek Reservoir was built by a consortium of power companies in order to provide water releases in times of drought to make up for their consumptive use.

And storage in the Marsh Creek Reservoir, located in Chester County, Pa., is used to support in-stream flow management in the Brandywine Creek.

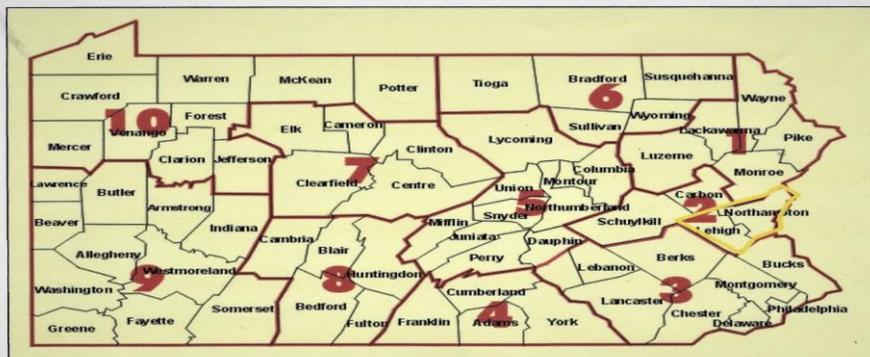
Please take note that In times of drought emergency, DRBC can call for an additional 69 billion gallons (BG) of water for flow augmentation from several other basin reservoirs:

- Mongaup System (15 BG)
- Lake Wallenpaupack (30 BG)
- F.E. Walter Reservoir (11 BG)
- Nockamixon Reservoir (13 BG).

It also is fixed reality that the Location and Extent Droughts are regional in nature and may affect the entire Lehigh Valley, as opposed to individual municipalities within the counties. In general, areas along waterways will show drought conditions later than those areas away from waterways. Climate divisions are regions within a state that are climatically homogenous. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has divided the U.S. into 359 climate divisions. The boundaries of these divisions typically coincide with the county boundaries, except in the western U.S., where they are based largely on drainage basins

According to NOAA, Pennsylvania is made up of 10 climate divisions: Pocono Mountains, East Central Mountains, Southeastern Piedmont, Lower Susquehanna, Middle Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Central Mountains, South Central Mountains, Southwest Plateau, and Northwest Plateau Climate Division (NOAA, Date Unknown). Figure 4.3.1-1 shows the climate divisions throughout the U.S. and Figure 4.3.1-2 shows more specifically the climate divisions

Figure 4.3.1-2. Climate Divisions of Pennsylvania



Source: NOAA NWS Climate Prediction Center, 2005
 Note: Highlight added.
 The climate divisions for Pennsylvania are:
 1 = Pocono Mountains; 2 = East Central Mountains; 3 = Southeastern Piedmont; 4 = Lower Susquehanna; 5 = Middle Susquehanna; 6 = Upper Susquehanna; 7 = Central Mountains; 8 = South Central Mountains; 9 = Southwest Plateau; 10 = Northwest Plateau

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources handbook, the Range of Magnitude Droughts can have varying effects depending on their severity, timing, duration, and location. Some droughts may have their greatest impact on agriculture, while others may impact water supply or recreation. When droughts occur, they can have significant adverse effects on the following:

- Public water supplies for human consumption
- Rural water supplies for livestock consumption and agricultural operations
- Water quality
- Natural soil water or irrigation water for agriculture
- Water for forests and for fighting forest fires
- Water for navigation and recreation

As described in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 2010 Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan (PA HMP), PADEP and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) manage water supply droughts in Pennsylvania using four drought phase conditions. These drought phase conditions are defined in the PA HMP as follows:

- **Drought Watch:** A period to alert government agencies, public water suppliers, water users, and the public regarding the potential for future drought-related problems. The focus is on increased water conservation is made. The objective of voluntary water conservation measures during a drought watch is to reduce water use by five percent in the affected areas. Because of varying conditions, individual water suppliers or municipalities may ask for more stringent conservation actions.

- **Drought Warning:** This phase involves a coordinated response to imminent drought conditions and potential water supply shortages through concerted voluntary conservation measures to avoid or reduce shortages, relieve stressed sources, develop new sources, and if possible forestall the need to impose mandatory water use restrictions. The objective of voluntary water conservation measures during a drought warning is to reduce overall water use by 10 to 15 percent in the affected areas. Because of varying conditions, individual water suppliers or municipalities may ask for more stringent conservation actions.

- **Drought Emergency:** This stage is a phase of concerted management operations to marshal all available resources to respond to actual emergency conditions, to avoid depletion of water sources, to ensure at least minimum water supplies to protect public health and safety, to support essential and high-priority water uses, and to avoid unnecessary economic dislocations. It is possible during this phase to impose mandatory restrictions on nonessential water uses as provided for in 4 Pa. Code Chapter 119, if deemed necessary and if ordered by the governor. The objective of water use restrictions (mandatory or voluntary) and other conservation measures during this phase is to reduce consumptive water use in the affected areas by 15 percent, and to reduce total use to the extent necessary to preserve public water system supplies, to avoid or mitigate local or area shortages, and to ensure equitable sharing of limited supplies.

• **Local Water Rationing:** Although not a drought phase, local municipalities may, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council, implement local water rationing to share a rapidly dwindling or severely depleted water supply in designated water supply service areas. These individual water rationing plans, authorized through provisions of 4 Pa. Code Chapter 120, will require specific limits on individual water consumption to achieve significant reductions in use. Under both mandatory restrictions imposed by the Commonwealth and local water rationing, procedures are provided for granting of variances to consider individual hardships and economic dislocations (PEMA, 2010). Pennsylvania uses five parameters to assess drought conditions: precipitation deficits, stream flows, reservoir storage levels, groundwater levels, and a measure of soil moisture.

As rainfall provides the basis for both ground and surface water resources, precipitation deficits are the earliest indicators of a potential drought. The National Weather Service (NWS) records “normal” monthly precipitation data for each county in Pennsylvania. These figures are generated from long-term monthly and decennial averages of precipitation, updated at the end of each decade based upon the most recent 30 years. Monthly totals that are less than the normal values represent precipitation deficits, which are then converted to percentages of the normal values.

Relevant to our study we now look at a Morning Call Report by Scott Bieber dated July 30, 1983 ... In the report Scott Bieber stated that a group of Lehigh Valley municipal officials agreed at a meeting that all water systems in the valley should be connected and a regional water resource council should be created to deal with water emergencies.

The issue – the municipalities stated that in proceeding years before the meeting about 1599 local jobs were lost after several industries decided not to locate in the valley because of the lack of an integrated water supply system .. This revealed by a DER official who was present for the meeting.

The meeting was held in the Lehigh County Courthouse by the Water Resources Sub-Committee of the Regional Issue Committee which was formed in 1982 comprising City, County, and municipal officials to investigate the idea of regional administration of public services such as water and sewer.

What is lacking in the article is mention whether this meeting was any way connected by the push of Allentown Mayor Frank Fischl and Lehigh County Executive David Bausch to create a Public Service Corporation

Historically, Fischl and Lehigh County Executive David Bausch outlined in a March 12, 1980 letter to the Allentown/Lehigh County Greater Community Council the concept of a Public Services Corporation as it might apply to Lehigh County.

Based on a French model for providing a multi-functional metropolitan public services and/or facilities delivery system, it would involve the establishment of a broadly chartered private, not for profit corporation. In France, these are called SEM's (Societe des Economies Mixe) and can provide for many services including mass transit, water and sewerage, land development, etc.

The corporation would be structured much like a private sector corporation. A governing board of directors would be comprised of both public officials and private sector representatives. The board as envisioned by Fischl and Bausch would be comprised of the following:

1. The Mayor of the City of Allentown.
2. The County Executive of Lehigh County.
3. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Lehigh County.
4. The President of Allentown City Council.
5. The Lehigh County Administrator.
6. The Allentown City Administrator
7. - 10. The presidents or designates of the four major corporations headquartered in Lehigh County; Air Products and Chemicals; Bethlehem Steel; Mack Trucks, and Pennsylvania Power and Light Company.
11. The President or designee of the Allentown/Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce.

The above Board would hire a corporate president who would manage the affairs of the corporation and be responsible for its day-to-day operation. Customer Committees would be created to "guide and direct" the corporation. For example, in the area of sewerage, the committee might consist of signatory community representatives, voting on a weighted basis determined by the service area population, municipal flow qualities or other criteria.

Guests of the subcommittee were DRBC Executive Director Gerald Hansler and DER Associate Deputy for Management Resources R, Timothy Westin, who made the statement about loss of jobs.

Bieber in describing the meeting said it became apparent as the meeting progressed that individual water suppliers were reluctant to give up their control over normal operations of water systems.

And in regard to this study, I believe now is a good time to reveal that later in life Scott Bieber was appointed to serve as a member of the Lehigh County Water Authority.

But getting back to the meeting, Geoffrey Reese, a senior planner with the Lehigh-Northampton Counties Joint Planning Commission, predicted a regional council might be difficult to establish because local water utilities would have to give up some of their autonomy.

And Attorney James Keller representing Salisbury Township offered that a regional council would become a burdensome extra layer of government bureaucracy.

In rebuttal, Hansler said the autonomy issue was difficult but it could go away “when you get good, hard technical facts on the table and everyone” was playing with the same deck of cards.

Also in rebuttal, Lehigh County Administrator Terry Schutten opined that the proposed council would not become a super agency and would only be active during emergencies such as drought or contamination. With Whitehall Township Executive Edward Galgon concurring that the proposed Council would only have jurisdiction during emergencies.

Bieber acknowledging the reality that no one at the meeting objected to the notion of connecting separate water systems to each other so that problem areas can be assisted from other water sources.

In regard to a proposed Little Lehigh aquifer study by the U.S. Geological Survey and DRBC, DER would commit \$80,000 to the study which would develop a computer model to help manage the water supplies of the Little Lehigh Basin which covered most of the southern half of Lehigh County. The rest of the money for the \$220,000 study would come from the DRBC.,,, But left out of the meetings discussion would be how local communities would raise \$30,000 to pay their portion of the tab.

Rese according to Bieber said the computer study would be an excellent way to begin laying the foundation for an emergency council. He claimed the study would provide the necessary information to understand the problems of how water consumption in one area can affect water supplies in another area.

Commenting from the public sector. Representatives from Western Electric the region’s largest water user at the time, and the PPL said their companies support a Regional Water Council

Of interest, Dan DiLeo who was Lucent Technology’s Electric’s Wireless and Multimedia Vice President for the integrated business wrote this editorial in the Electronicle newsletter at Western’s Allentown plant dated Nov-Dec. 1997 many years after the Western Electric Representative spoke ... The brand names AT&T, Lucent Technologies and Agere being the successor to Western Electric

I only had access to this edition of the Electronicle because as a representative of East Allentown to Lucent and later Agere’s Allentown Local Environmental Action Group I was supplied with it.

To quote DiLeo: “One of the most fundamental principles of business is that its continued success depends on being able to serve its customers better than anyone else.

It is also true that analysts predict that 70 percent of the growth in our industry will be outside North America.

The conclusion of this syllogism quickly becomes obvious Lucent's continued success depends on it being able to better serve its customers outside North America.

In a word, globalization.

Globalization has been talked about, written about, warned about, and practices to various extents by people and organizations throughout our business, But what does Globalization mean to us?

The first thing it means is the opportunity for more customers, If the projections cited above are correct, adding to our customer base will depend to a great extent on what we are able to do outside North America. To do that, we must act, think, and respond globally. More customers means more sales, more revenue, more profit, and more work for everyone.

Globalization also means partnering: We gain access elsewhere while others gain access here, We learn about other cultures, their expectations, and their communication equipment needs, while they learn about us.

By being global we achieve the ability to take advantage of the best talent in the world \, no matter where that talent may be.

And of course, globalization gives each business unit and individual a different perspective. It opens us to an additional set of possibilities, gives us the opportunity to solve a different set of challenges, and enables us to use our expertise to a greater extent than was thought possible imaginable,

The end result is a stronger bottom line that benefit customers, shareholders, and employees at every location.

Globalization is the inevitable next step in widening the horizons, a step that in many ways was created by Lucent – and AT & T and Western Electric before it – through the continuous march of technology. While there may be some uneasiness about venturing beyond traditional horizons, there is also the adventure, excitement, and opportunity.

So, if it's true that globalization is one of the keys to our continued success, failure to embrace globalization will be costly. Logic dictates that globalization be part of our road to the future."

In 1983, at the meeting that Bieber is reporting about, Western Electric representatives thought too that embracing the Regional Council in regard to water sources was the key to further Lehigh Valley economic development and a key to keeping their facility viable in Allentown and the Lehigh Valley.

The environmental Council that Lucent and later Agere established for their plant was a way for them to make the by-product or emissions of their plant less toxic to make the neighborhood around them less impacted by environment problems and at the same time improve plant operations by making costs cheaper, environmental safer and meeting the management standards of the world so they could conduct their business worldwide with world iso 14001 approval.

ISO 14001 being the international standard for environmental management systems (EMS) and the most widely used EMS in the world, with over 360,000 ISO 14001 certificates issued globally.

ISO 14001 being the principal management system standard which specifies the requirements for the formulation and maintenance of an EMS. This helps to control your environmental aspects, reduce impacts, and ensure legal compliance. Studies show that as much as 70% of total office waste is recyclable; however, only 7.5% reaches the recycling facility.

ISO 14001 being accompanied by ISO 14004 Environmental Management Systems – General Guidelines on principles, systems, and support techniques. The standard covers issues such as the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and improvement of an EMS.

Please note – on December 17, 1998 Lucent's Allentown Plant LEAG was there to begin a final review of the Project Agreement for EPA's Project XL But before that was done Deb Wenger commented on the background of that project. She said that the Final Project agreement was the general guidance document for implementing Project XL throughout Lucent Microelectronics. About two years before, Lucent began to develop and implement its Environmental Management System (EMS) under ISO 14001. The company then decided to participate in EPA's Project XL by using its high-quality EMS to demonstrate superior environmental performance and develop a new model for cheaper, cleaner, smarter environmental regulations.

Debra next reviewed the Local Strategic chart in the Final Agreement to show how the EMS was a continual process which would be updated in annual cycles. With this operational plan, Lucent was able to integrate environmental performance into its strategic business decisions. Then she noted that LEAG added a different perspective to the annual process in its review of the environmental aspects, objectives and targets and the overall performance.

Deb next asked the LEAG to divide into small groups to review different aspects of the Final Project Agreement. She noted that the Final Project Agreement was the umbrella document for Microelectronics/ Each facility would have a site-specific projects. A LEAG member next was curious to know if the group's suggestions would be used to rewrite the Final Project Agreement. The question I suppose made to see if the purpose of LEAG's meeting this evening was simply to rubber stamp what was before us or would constructive changes be made from our comments. Ted Polakowski, Microelectronics EH & S Safety Assurance Officer, said the current language is the result of many discussions with PADEP and EPA. It was his request or answer that LEAG review the FPA to if the content is acceptable and understandable.

In response, the Allentown LEAG generally approved the approach and format of the Final Project Agreement. They liked its emphasis of being proactive and transferring lessons from one Microelectronics facility to the others... Additionally the multi-media approach of the EMS-based matrix appealed to LEAG. They felt the matrix was more understandable and provided a better measurement system than what existed before.

Concerning Lucent and Agere, many thought that despite an aging building on Union Boulevard that the Company would be here to stay even in a global market ... But with the continuation of time continuum events occurred which undermined this thinking

As it happened. The Allentown City Council overcame 40 years of opposition to fluoridation Wednesday night when it voted to add the cavity-fighting chemical to the water supply.

On January 21, 1999, the Allentown Council listened to comments from 45 people -- 30 of them in favor of fluoridation and 15 opposed -- before it voted 5-2 on the measure. Council members Emma D. Tropiano and Ernest E. Toth cast the "no" votes.

Mayor William L. Heydt has said he will sign the bill into law.

Morning Call Reporter Bob Wittman said that the approval of the ordinance gave the administration the go-ahead to hire a design engineer to write up the specifications for altering the water system to accommodate the addition of fluoride at the water treatment plant, officials cautioned that the law would take time to implement.

"It's a fairly complex matter," noted Daniel E. Koplisch, Allentown's manager of water resources. "It would have to be integrated into the system. Realistically, we're looking at probably a year-and-a-half to two yea

Every Allentown mayor since John T. Gross in 1961 has had to deal with the fluoridation issue, and it has been the subject of vociferous debate in the city ever since the U.S. Public Health Service conducted a test program on 500 boys and girls at the Allentown Boys Club in 1949.

Still, many thought it a dead issue until the Allentown Health Board raised the issue again in 1998, and Councilmen Frank J. Concannon and David M. Howells Sr. agreed to sponsor a bill.

Howells said that he heard from many people on both sides of the issue in recent weeks. He challenged opponents to supply him with credible information to persuade him to vote "no."

"I received volumes," said Howells. "But I have not received any information to change my opinion."

Over calls by some residents, including Tropiano, to study the issue in more detail, Concannon said the issue had been given a thorough review.

"I have immersed myself in this for a year," said Concannon. "I have become totally convinced of the merits of fluoride in our water."

Still, opinions were divided.

Koplish said fluoridation equipment could cost up to \$340,000 to install, and Stader said the city has commitments for up to \$200,000 in funding from the Poole Trust and state Department of Health to cover some of the cost.

"I can celebrate now," Barbara Stader of the Allentown Department of Health said after the vote, "but until the valve gets turned 18 months from now, I have some work to do," she said.

Over time the Allentown Board of Health had endorsed fluoridation of the city's water supply since 1952. Then, just 214 U.S. cities and towns had fluoridated water. Now, nearly half the U.S. population live in communities with fluoridated water.

So In Allentown after 40 some years of local opposition, Allentown started fluoridating its water in November 2000, bringing the percentage of Lehigh County residents being served with fluoridated water from 4% to 65%...when it voted to add the cavity-fighting chemical to the water supply.

In regard to the Lucent/Agere reaction to the vote, the biggest Allentown water customer was reported saying publicly that infusion of fluoride into Allentown drinking water would be no problem for their operations. The fact is that in reality it would be a problem because the microelectronic company needed actually

needed distilled water to produce its main product – Computer chips which were made from silicon. ... Previously before fluoridation the company had to remove all minerals in the water that was supplied by piping from the Allentown Filtration Plant to the Plant. The City had no separate line carrying distilled water to the plant. So with fluoridation of Allentown water this element or mineral was also in the water the Microelectronics plant received and this too had to be treated in some manner out of the water adding to the cost of making the product... The LEAG committee which I was a member tried to lower costs for the microelectronics company in making environmental improvement in the area around the plant.

As it happened In December 2001, Agere sold its field-programmable gate arrays (FPGA) business to Lattice Semiconductor Corp., raising \$250 million in cash. In June 2002, when the cord connecting Agere and Lucent was finally cut, Dickson sold the company's wireless LAN equipment business to Proxim Corp., gaining \$65 million from the sale.

And as it happened, Allentown's biggest water user closed its doors in Allentown living a big hole in Allentown's water filtration budget.

And indeed fluoridation presented no problem for the Allentown Microelectronics plant due to the late November 2002 addition of fluoridation to the water because the company left town.

As it would occur, the site of the former Microelectronics plant would be reused as a site for a new Allentown minor league baseball team called the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, a site for a Pennsylvania Unemployment Office and a site for the Executive Charter School.

Please note – A prime motivation of the Bell Labs team that invented the transistor was to devise a way to pull unreliable mechanical relays out of telephone exchanges and make the connections electronically. So, it made sense that the first commercial use of the transistor was the telephone equipment in the early 1950's

The first applications were rural telephone carrier amplifiers and headset amplifiers for operators. Another early amplification was the transistorized hearing aid. In honor of the founder, Alexander Graham Bell. A lifetime advocate for the hearing impaired. Bell Labs waived the patent royalties for the hearing aids. In 1954, IBM announced it would no longer use vacuum tubes in its computer designs by announcing their first fully transistorized computer. The machine had 2,000 transistors.

In 1954, as well, the transistor became part of popular culture with the sale of the first transistor radio. By the late 1950's the transistor became an integral part of the electronic telephone switching system, But also a key component of other

important products and services, such as portable radios, computers, stereo equipment, television sets, cameras, clocks and radar.

As the semiconductor technology improved, the transistor became faster, cheaper, and reliable. In 1961, a huge breakthrough took place with the invention of the integrated circuits – the ability to organize numerous transistors and other electronic components on a silicon wafer – complete with wiring. These microchips took the transistor innovation to an exciting new level and spurred the evolution of the information age.

Transistors have become an invisible technology that is part virtually any electronic device – from satellites to cell phones, from PC's to Porsches. Every major Information Age innovation was made possible by the development of the transistor. Lasers, cell phones, networked computers, (The Internet) fiber optics, compact discs, personal computers, remote control, fuel injection global positioning systems, electric music equipment, CAD drawing, medical imaging, pacemakers, artificial limbs, laptop computers color monitors, fax machines, copiers, scanners. You name it, it's all based on the transistor. In fact, here's some things that wouldn't be possible without the transistors,

Space exploration

Microsurgery

Cellular phones

Personal computers

Video cameras

Portable Tv and radio

Fiber optics and undersea cable

Advanced telephone system

The Internet

Self, reliable jet travel

Cable TV

Hand-held calculators.

The transistor was invented December 23, 1947

The legacy of the building built on the 500 block of Union Boulevard by Western Electric that it was the first place or one of the first places that the commercial transistors was manufactured .. And you know what, as a long-time resident of

East Allentown I take pride that when Western Electric officials flew in from New Jersey to the Allentown, Easton, and Bethlehem Airport, they drove to Union Boulevard on Airport Road. Turned left on the Boulevard at the site of Walp's Restaurant drove west on Union Boulevard almost to the Tilghman Street Bridge and saw a piece of land on the right which they liked and wanted... The problem, the Allentown Chamber of Commerce actually did not include this site on the list of four sites they wanted to show the Western Electric officials... As a former East Sider I find that fact stunning,

Commented [DP1]: tyt

Getting back to Bieber's July 30, 1983 report, Lehigh University educators who were studying how the valley's water quality and quantity affected economic development said they perceive a potentially severe water quality problem with the valley's water. Their concern was that there was no composite data on the region's water quality.

DRBC spokesman Hansler lastly made this suggestion that water problems are always best to solve on a regional basis instead of waiting for a dictator (DRBC) to tell you what to do.

According to Ray Snyder, his subcommittee would take this information and begin working on a report on whether the proposed council should be formed and if so, how it would come about.

But interestingly, while this report has concentrated on how municipalities must connect together like musketeers working together as all for one, one for all to connect their systems during drought conditions, the Allentown League of Women voters after a two year study in June 1973 worries that an overabundance of water could make the Lehigh Valley grow at a too rapid or uncontrolled pace or growth.,

In its June-July newsletter the League said that such growth would endanger our natural resources and quality of life. Asserting that all decisions regionally should take into account both immediate and long-term environmental effects.

As it was, the center of most regional political debate during the 70's was the construction of the proposed Trexler Dam and Reservoir. Yet, of interest, the League did not itself judge whether this major water supply project would create an overabundance they feared, could make the Lehigh Valley grow at a too rapid or uncontrolled pace or growth,

The League terming the preservation of watersheds of paramount importance And to the League the way to do this was the conservation of South Mountain by a combination of zoning and public acquisition to prevent acquisition to prevent development from encroaching on flood plains. The League pontificating that

South Mountain was an important part of the Little Lehigh Creek Watershed which supplied Allentown and its suburbs.

The Preservation of South Mountain also being an important issue of members of the Allentown Community of Neighborhood Organizations Environmental Issue Committee in the late 70's and 80's in which my colleagues Harry Forker, Kenneth Haas and myself were members as well as Arlene Wallace of the South Mountain Area Residents & Taxpayers was chair.

In my estimation the League of Women's voter Study announcement was either the impetus of the creation of the Wildlands Conservancy In the Lehigh Valley or the media means to promote the creation of organization dedicated to achieving the mission that the League advocated.

So, as it states in its website The history of the Wildlands Conservancy of the Lehigh Valley began with one immovable mountain and a handful of forward-thinking citizens.

This was nearly fifty years ago when community members put pencil to paper to say yes to a future for their beloved South Mountain with its exact ecological importance, they solidly knew it mattered and were inspired to protect it forever.

The Conservancy, in fact, admitting that many of their supporting founder were perhaps unfamiliar with South Mountain's

With the committed support of Robert "Bob" Rodale, a local champion of organic farming and then chairman and chief of Rodale Press, these neighbors formed the Lehigh Valley Conservancy, a land-protection focused organization based in Bethlehem, Pa.

In 1975, Air Products founder Leonard Parker Pool, an earnest caretaker of the local natural environment and skeet-shooting friend to Rodale, bequeathed his 72-acre wildlife sanctuary to the Conservancy to preserve it "in its natural state for its open space, aesthetic and wildlife values and the enjoyment of those values by the public." The Conservancy soon moved its main office and education headquarters to today's location, known as the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary property in Emmaus, Pa.

In the late 1980s, the organization further developed its education offerings, emphasizing more than ever the need to engage and nurture future environmental stewards. To better reflect the broadened scope of its mission, the name was formally changed to Wildlands Conservancy.

In its study announcement, the League also urged Allentown to enhance its new industrial waste control ordinance.

Additionally, the League urged the Lehigh County Commissioner to investigate further the possibility that Trexler Dam would have significantly adverse effects if build and operated as planned. The League instead advocating greater consideration of the Lehigh River as a source of water supply,

On November 30, 1979 Allen R O'Dell, Chief Planner for the Joint Planning Commission Lehigh-Northampton Counties wrote a letter to David Longmaid of the Delaware River Commission

His letter responded to the Joint Planning Commission's receipt and review of the DRBC's Draft Final Level B Study. O'Dell wrote that the Commission had criticized previous versions of the report for not dealing directly with the major key issues facing the Basin such as salinity goals, the low flow objectives, projections of future consumptive water use, water exportation rights for New York and New Jersey, water demand reductions which could be obtained from emergency conservation Basin, O'Dell now stating that the most recent draft did clearly present these factors and how they relate to the additional storage needs of the Basin. Therefore, he commended the Longmaid for significantly improving the Draft Study,

The letter next raised about nine questions and gave comment on all of them.

Of these questions and comments, this study will only concern O'Dell's question and comment on the Trexler Dam. The same proposed Dam that the League of Woman's Voters felt inclined to suggest would cause of problem of too much growth.

According to O'Dell the Joint Planning Commission had supported the construction of the Trexler Dam in the past and continued to do so as a way of providing for long range water needs in the Allentown/Lehigh County area. However, the JPC recognized that, based upon the November 1977 referendum, it would be very unlikely that this project would be built within the foreseeable future. Therefore, the JPC would examine alternatives in their water supply planning. O'Dell believing that as things then were evolving, it appeared that a Lehigh River water intake would be a suitable alternative for the area. However, the JPC could not be certain that DRBC would permit the Allentown/Lehigh County area to construct a river intake without also requiring the communities to provide their own facilities to offset consumptive water use in drought periods O'Dell next offering if the DRBC would permit the Allentown/Lehigh County area to utilize a Lehigh River intake while relying on existing or future storage facilities elsewhere in the Basin to make up for consumptive water use, then the JPC does not believe that Trexler Dam is essential as a local water supply. However, if the DRBC would permit a Lehigh River intake only contingent upon our developing facilities to make up

consumptive uses during drought periods, then the JPC thinks that construction of Trexler Dam would be the logical local water supply source.

O'Dell understood that the DRBC's estimates of the net yield from Trexler reservoir assumed that the entire water supply storage capacity of the reservoir would be available for low flow augmentation. However, the JPC's support for the project would be contingent upon the stipulation that water from that reservoir would be available to meet local water supply demands with precedence over any other allocations which may exist for users outside the region. Since full use of water supply storage facilities for low flow augmentation only during periods of low river flow would be partially incompatible with use of the storage capacity for an outgoing local water supply source, the net yield calculations for the reservoir to reflect its use primarily as a local water supply source

It being obvious that the meeting held in 1983 was an attempt to work out the difficulties that all these earlier discussions had produced, especially in the Little Lehigh Basin area.

We Present The Truth, But You Do Not Comprehend

E PLURIBUS UNUM - LEHIGH VALLEY

by Dennis L. Pearson of The Common-Sense Herald

For many years we have presented in the pages of the Common-Sense Herald the story of the transformation of Lehigh Valley from its historic agricultural roots to that of enhanced urban sprawl --- 1955 to the present. We initiated the study believing that we can come to a general understanding concerning the chronology and decision-making that has led to the planned or unanticipated destruction of the character of the Lehigh Valley's landscape from largely rural to urban sprawl in the name of an ideal called Megalopolis.

A megalopolis, of course, is an urban complex encompassing several major cities. Its application in the Lehigh Valley region would be the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (S.M.S.A) of Allentown-Bethlehem and Easton (A-B-E). The A-B-E S.M.S.A comprises the Counties of Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton in Pennsylvania and Warren County in New Jersey.

As a boy with the Carlisle Papooses and the East Side Rams I came somewhat familiar with the concept of Lehigh Valley in the old Lehigh Valley Little Baseball League co-founded by my father. Our stops were in Allentown, Bethlehem, Egypt, Cementon, Hokendauqua, Coplay, Fullerton, Northampton, Nazareth, Bath, Jacksonville Lehigh Township and Phillipsburg, In those days city baseball fields were better than country fields. When we said that we played in cow pasture we

were approximately correct. Today playing on city fields in the heat of summer can be a dusty experience.

Before the devolution of recent years when you talked about the East Penn Conference you were talking Lehigh Valley high school sports with competitors from Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Phillipsburg, Emmaus, Parkland, Whitehall, and Northampton. After the devolution we only had the pennants of Dieruff High School, Allen High School, Allentown Central Catholic, Bethlehem Central Catholic and Emmaus remaining on the wall of Dieruff's East Side Gym now renamed for long time Dieruff H.S Basketball Coach and Sport's Director Richard Schmidt

As it occurred, there had been widespread discussion about high school league realignment in the Lehigh Valley starting in late 1990 or early 1991, But not until the fall of 1993 that the formation of the Mountain Valley Conference was announced. The new league comprised all the public high schools in Monroe County at the time: Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg, Pocono Mountain, and Pleasant Valley High Schools, plus Nazareth and Northampton High Schools from Northampton County. Lehigh Area High School would also join the new league, giving it an initial membership of seven schools when competition began with the 1994-95 school year.

After the 1997-98 school year, the MVC added more schools from Lehigh and Northampton Counties, that is, : Easton Area, Freedom, Liberty, Parkland, and Whitehall

The Mountain Valley League which took in most of the successionist East Penn High Schools had vetoed any early admission of these teams. The concept of Lehigh Valley unity as promoted by some politicians did not seem to be a reality in the high school sports circuit.

After 2001-02 the seven schools in Lehigh and Northampton Counties left the league to help form the Lehigh Valley Conference.^[4] East Stroudsburg school district had opened a new high school near the turn of the century, and Pocono Mountain district opened a new high school in 2002; both new schools were added to the MVC for the start of the 2002-03 school year.^[5] MVC membership had been stable from 2002 to 2012.

Starting in 2012, Dieruff High School and William Allen High School joined the MVC as associate members for football only. All schools voted to allow both Allentown teams into the conference with only Lehigh Area voting against it. The teams would stay a part of the Mountain Valley Conference for a maximum of four years.^[6]

Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, the six Monroe County schools became part of the Lehigh Valley Conference, expanding that conference to a large 18-

team "super-conference", which was renamed the East Penn Conference.⁷² Lehigh left the Mountain Valley Conference in most sports and now participate in the Schuylkill League. They play football in the Anthracite Football League and act as an independent team in field hockey.¹

It was in 1752 that Northampton County with Easton as the county seat was created. The Northampton County of those days stretched from Bucks County to the border with New York. Gradually, other counties such as Carbon, Luzerne and Lackawanna plus additional counties were carved out of it. On March 6, 1812., Lehigh County with Allentown as the county seat split from Northampton. I am proud to say that Peter Rhoads of Allentown was one of the first justices of Lehigh County. I am also proud to say that he married into a Whitehall Township family which is of my lineage also.

Frank Whelan of the Morning Call in his column dated December 27, 1998 was candid with the following reason for Lehigh County's emergence: "By the early 1790s the population of western Northampton County was increasing at a rate that far exceeded numbers before the American Revolution. The residents had about had it with hitching up their oxen and traveling over the region's nearly impassable roads all the way to Easton when they needed to conduct legal business.

Today things are different, the Lehigh Valley of 1998 has a multitude of roads connecting the major cities of the region. Residents can get in their motorized vehicles and travel from Allentown to Easton and vice versa in less than an hour. Except for snow storm, accident or construction, Route 22 and Interstate 78 are nearly always passable.

Lehigh County Executive Jane Baker gave a call for the political merger of Lehigh and Northampton counties that took political observers back to the future when she grabbed headlines at the Lehigh Valley Partnership's unveiling of its strategic plan for regional revitalization December 22, 1998..

As expected, Northampton County Executive Glenn F. Reibman welcomed Lady Jane's suggestion with as much enthusiasm as Lester Pearson, the Canadian Prime Minister in the mid 60's, welcomed Charles De Gaulle's call for an independent Quebec. Diplomatically, he said it would make more sense for municipal or school-district consolidations to occur before considering something as massive as Baker's call for the melding of the two counties. It being Reibman's professional opinion that the "mother of all mergers" would not occur in his lifetime.

Another Northampton County official finding neighboring Lehigh County's presence too close for comfort these days. joked that he's ready to put up sandbags and razor wire to protect Northampton County's borders. Hey now - didn't Northampton County once propose that they construct or take over

buildings at the Allentown State Hospital to meet their mental health needs. What should the reaction of East Allentown in Lehigh County been? During an earlier period of so-called Lehigh County economic development residents of East Allentown needed gas masks to protect themselves from Allentown/ Lehigh County biochemical warfare. At that time Harry Forker and myself appeared before the Office of former Allentown Mayor Joseph S. Daddona with a sleeping bag to facilitate his promised bivouac at Allentown's Kline's Island Wastewater

In October 1996, Jane Baker took part in a panel discussion that ended the Lehigh Valley Partnership Strategic Planning Symposium held at the Allentown Hilton. Lehigh Valley business and community leaders joined Baker in learning how regional consolidation can be the key to revitalizing the area.

But after hearing the success stories of other areas, they came up with the same conclusion they had before: Theories need action.

Baker said in 1996: "We're willing to talk the talk ... I don't see a commitment in our area to walk the walk."

The symposium, sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Partnership and the Rider Pool Foundation, featured speakers from around the country who have dealt with urban revitalization

After examining economic decline in the Lehigh Valley, David Rusk, an independent consultant on urban and suburban policy, said Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton are suffering because they do not expand into the suburbs. Unlike some states, Pennsylvania law does not allow communities to easily change their borders.

"When you have growth constraint in cities, there's no direction but down," said Rusk, former mayor of Albuquerque, NM, and author of "Cities Without Suburbs. "Whatismore, Problems in the cities with crime and deteriorating neighborhoods force people into the suburbs, and they take their money with them, Rusk said.

He said it is vital for the area to look past the historic conflicts between cities and suburbs and work together. The townships, he found, are suffering or will suffer the same financial problems as the cities.

In the past in the pages of The Common-Sense Herald we took this view: --- What we had in the Allentown-Lehigh County area was a clash of what individuals, groups, corporations, and government units viewed as the undefined future. Simply stated --- one facet of the argument was the growth-no growth issue, the other facet was a creation of a new balance of power.

Allentown, the County Seat of Lehigh County, the declining industrial, and besieged retail, and cultural center of the Lehigh Valley, still tended to view the

suburban and rural areas of the Lehigh County as the tribute-paying colonies they once were. It still regarded itself as the real center of power in the area, not having come to grips with a change in population demographics and the inexorable slide of jobs and money in other directions.

In want of a better word, the townships and municipalities of western Lehigh County might have considered Allentown as irrelevant. Outside the municipal boundaries of Allentown were locating the industries which hopefully would keep Lehigh County and the Lehigh Valley a growth area throughout the rest of the century and beyond. Its natural markets and lessons about living was inclined toward influences other than Allentown.

We note --- as this process gained momentum, it produced within the region's chief city (Allentown) a more urban style population with all its related social and economic problems and had fostered a tax base that in the best scenario had grown only slightly. A development which in the course of time had affected the city's ability to provide needed services in such areas as parks and recreation, health delivery, police, and fire protection. Yet, the water and wastewater treatment service provided by Allentown had historically been the focal point around which suburban units sought growth for their communities.

For almost three years, a group of volunteers known as the Lehigh Valley Partnership had worked intently on a project of civic betterment. With committee meetings, research, and public forums, it had developed a framework upon which to build a plan which they hoped would lead to a prosperous future for all the communities in this region. Indeed, the heart of this strategic plan was the recognition that the problems afflicting the inner cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton also come to bear upon suburban and rural environs -- or eventually will -- and that the solutions to the former require participation from the latter.

The aims of the Lehigh Valley Partnership as local politicians go back to the future are the following

1) Change state law to allow the enforcement of regional land-use planning to control urban sprawl and to allow more equitable taxing authority between the cities and suburbs to better finance the urban zones.

2) To reconnect individuals and institutions among the cities and suburbs to increase "social capital." The Lehigh Valley is rich in social capital, which means resources beyond money and the usual physical, capital assets. It includes a skilled work force, the arts and educational institutions and opportunities. Just as importantly, it includes a sharing of the attitude that people have a common, public stake in each other's well-being.

3)To restructure educational, government and community services at low cost. The Lehigh Valley has seized some opportunities to do this, but it has let just as many slip away.

To state it simply --- The Lehigh Valley Partnership headed by two local business executives -- Bethlehem Steel Corp. Senior Vice President John A. "Jack" Jordan and Robert M. Episcopo, business development director at Alvin H. Butz Inc. is a supporter of tax base sharing and it also seeks to re-invent local government along regional lines. The central thrust of the drive is to consolidate the region's economic development planning to see if better ways can be found to promote cooperation among Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton and the surrounding municipalities. An effort that earlier groups such as The Allentown/Lehigh County Greater Community Council in the eighties had also promoted with limited success.

"We cannot have a successful Lehigh Valley unless we figure out what to do with the inner cities," said Jordan. "That's our starting premise."

Charles Snelling, a former Allentown City Councilman wrote a free-lance article in the Morning Call: this past year in which he stated::"The belief that we can have a healthy Lehigh Valley with sick core cities is, in my opinion, simply wrong. It's not possible. The perception that suburbanites can live comfortably, happily, and prosperously, and that great industries can prosper in their lush and beautiful suburban industrial parks while our cities go to ruin is a delusion. Studies have shown that the nation's healthiest cities are all located in states that permit their cities to grow. Business and industry locate where people want to live. In the recruitment of key employees, the prospects want to see what their new community will be like. Of course they want to see the suburbs, but they also want to see the museums, the courthouse, the libraries, and the downtown, and to know about the crime rate.

Community and Economic Development Secretary Samuel A. McCullough announced October 31, 1998 on behalf of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, the award of \$11.8 million in Community Revitalization grants to fund projects in 45 counties. This package includes \$94,850 in Community Revitalization Grant money which was awarded to the Lehigh Valley Partnership for a revitalization planning effort for Lehigh and Northampton counties.

For the moment let us digress to the past Allentown Mayor Donald V. Hock placed the problem of urban growth on the agenda of the Tri-City Conference which comprised the mayors and municipal officials of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton. Historically, The Tri-City Conference can be best described as an early predecessor of regional planning that has been resorted to by the region's mayors from time to time despite the existence of the Joint Planning Commission of Lehigh and Northampton Counties

It was this Tri-City Conference that sponsored a historic gathering of representatives from twenty-three political subdivisions of Lehigh and Northampton Counties that met at the former South Mountain Junior High School in Allentown during a snow storm, October 7, 1957... Furthermore, it was this association that invited or arranged for Genevieve Blatt, the Secretary of Internal Affairs in the George Leader Administration, to be the main speaker.

. Genevieve Blatt, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Internal Affairs in the George Leader Administration (1955 - 1958) once likened Metropolitan area growth in the United States to the human life. She said:

"We're now suffering the same growing pains that at the same time depressed us and exhilarated us as individuals in our adolescence ... Adolescence goes hand in hand with boundless energy, limitless imagination, chronic optimism, and in some instances a bit of naivete that comes from lack of experience,"

Our response in the past being the following:

Secretary Blatt suggested that our communities were leaping from infancy to adulthood without being able to afford the luxury of casual youth. To which we reply: " The thought has occurred to us that this sudden rush of the Lehigh Valley from infancy to adolescence to premature adulthood could lead to a dramatic decline into maturity and senility in rapid succession if the destruction of moral considerations resultant from uncontrolled and mismanaged economic development became too severe to be corrected within acceptable monetary limits."

Ralph C. Swartz, a Vice President for Commercial Operations for the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, explained to the Tri-City Conference, an association comprising public officials of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, that a community can be stable, can grow and expand in wealth only " by mining, manufacturing, and processing commodities to sell." Hence, the wealth of a community depended upon its industry.

During the mid to late fifties the Lehigh Valley was predominately agricultural in both orientation and thought. The then existing industrial complex being primarily concentrated in the cities (that is, Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton in Pennsylvania and Phillipsburg in New Jersey) and a few outlying suburban communities. We note the heart of this four-county industrial complex comprised the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, New Jersey Zinc Company, Ingersoll-Rand, Mack Trucks, Air Products & Chemicals, Lehigh Portland Cement and Western Electric (now Lucent Technologies)

But what factors are important to an industry seeking a site for location or expansion? Mr. Swartz spelled out that an industry seeking a site for location or expansion looks for a desirable industrial climate, good labor markets,

reasonable tax rates, plus good schools, churches, residential areas, and recreational and cultural facilities. But what Mr. Swartz stressed most was that industry wanted to be accepted not just by public officials but by the public as well. He said: " The attitude of the public reflects on its public officials and healthy relationships result."

The Mayors of the Tri-City Conference --- Orion Reeves of Easton, Earl E. Schaeffer of Bethlehem, and Donald V. Hock of Allentown --- had developed an interest in regional planning due to the influence of Francis A. Pitkin, Director of Urban Development for the State Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Pitkin said: "Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton will soon become one big urban region with no discernible boundaries."

Importantly, this thought was echoed by Easton Mayor Orion Reeves upon question imposed by an interested borough official at the historic South Mountain meeting attended by Secretary Blatt.

Mr. Reeves said that the historic South Mountain meeting (sponsored by the Tri-City Conference) was called in the belief that it was time to forget imaginary municipal boundaries in order to work together as a metropolitan area. A novel idea given the fact that in 1957 the space-based technology called remote sensing imagery which would have showed the Lehigh Valley as a borderless unit was yet to be invented. But clearly, it was Reeves' wish that a regional council would be formed and that, it would study the needs of all communities in the region so that plans could be made to help all. Examples of these needs inferred to by Reeves might be inter-urban arteries, reciprocal fire protection, cooperative police action, water and sewer extension, civil defense, and health and welfare services.

Note --- this regional desire voiced by Reeves would eventually receive regional support with the establishment of the Joint Planning Commission, Lehigh --- Northampton Counties. And historically, more effort placed on region in 1997 when the name of the Joint Planning Commission, Lehigh --- Northampton Counties would be changed to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Former Bethlehem Mayor Gordon Payrow apparently received inspiration from the messages of Genevieve Blatt, Francis Pitkin, and Ralph Swartz. or direction from Earl E Schaeffer his predecessor. In the 1960s it was Gordon Payrow who became the primary advocate for the creation of joint Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton. Payrow claimed that in 20 years the region would be under one government, "as it makes a lot of sense geographically."

Unfortunately for Payrow, the idea was met with varying degrees of enthusiasm and skepticism.

Morning Call columnist Frank Whelan stated in his December 27 column: " The mayors agreed that certain aspects of the plan had merit. But no one could agree on who should give up authority to what. And the major question of what the new metropolis would be named caused concern But what it really boiled down to was the fear of big government's imposing its urban taxes and urban problems on smaller communities. The proposal never got out of the talking stage.

Indeed, Lehigh and Northampton counties managed to create a Valley-wide mass transit system during that era, and the Joint Planning Commission of Lehigh-Northampton Counties, now the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, was established a few years before.

But the real objectives of regionalization -- tax equity, broad-base planning for development, elimination of government overlap -- remained intriguing discussion points that nobody could quite figure out how to achieve according to Dan Shope of the Morning Call

Planned industrial development "arrived" October 7, 1957 in the Lehigh County as the City of Allentown neared its 200th year (1962). There were some who said Allentown lagged in industrial growth. There were others who looked to other cities and the cited the results of development elsewhere. Then too, there were still others who argued that Allentown's economy was strong enough but that it was better to act from strength than from weakness. In any case, whatever the reason, Allentown and Lehigh County jointly turned to the Industrial Development Corporation of Lehigh County (IDC) to build upon an already diversified economy and make it stronger with the addition of new industry.

Organized October 7, 1957, the IDC emerged as a potent force in the late 1950's as steel employment in neighboring Bethlehem lagged due to recession and labor difficulties. Under Presidents Ralph C. Swartz and I. Cyrus Gutman, the IDC added its first professional, Executive Director John W. Trauch, a Red Hill native, and former industrial development associate for the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and the Pennsylvania State Department of Commerce. The IDC, we note, being the brainchild of the Allentown Chamber of Commerce.

In the light of Jane Baker's apparent trial balloon in regard to merger and in the light of The Lehigh Valley Partnership's strategic plan, let us now revisit a call for governmental restructuring in an earlier period.

Former Allentown Mayor Frank Fischl and former Lehigh County Executive David Bausch outlined in a March 12, 1980 letter to the Allentown/Lehigh County Greater Community Council the concept of a Public Services Corporation as it might apply to Lehigh County. Based on a French model for providing a multi-functional metropolitan public services and/or facilities delivery system, it would involve the establishment of a broadly chartered private, not for profit corporation. In France, these are called SEM's (Societe des Economies Mixe) and

can provide for many services including mass transit, water and sewerage, land development, etc.

The corporation would be structured much like a private sector corporation. A governing board of directors would be comprised of both public officials and private sector representatives. The board as envisioned by Fischl and Bausch would be comprised of the following:

1. The Mayor of the City of Allentown.
2. The County Executive of Lehigh County.
3. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Lehigh County.
4. The President of Allentown City Council.
5. The Lehigh County Administrator.
6. The Allentown City Administrator
7. - 10. The presidents or designates of the four major corporations headquartered in Lehigh County; Air Products and Chemicals; Bethlehem Steel; Mack Trucks, and Pennsylvania Power and Light Company.
11. The President or designee of the Allentown/Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce.

The above Board would hire a corporate president who would manage the affairs of the corporation and be responsible for its day-to-day operation. Customer Committees would be created to "guide and direct" the corporation. For example, in the area of sewerage, the committee might consist of signatory community representatives, voting on a weighted basis determined by the service area population, municipal flow qualities or other criteria.

As stated in the Sewerage Task Force Report of the Allentown-Lehigh County Greater Community Council of November 1980 the provision of multijurisdictional public services by a private entity should increase the cost effectiveness of such services. And what is more significant savings should result as efficiencies of scale are employed, i.e. central purchasing and cost sharing. But dissenters of the plan in 1980 stated that regional experience with existing authorities then operating proved otherwise

Individuals associated with the mission of the Allentown-Lehigh County Greater Community Council were: David K. Bausch, County Executive, County of Lehigh; Frank Fischl, Mayor, City of Allentown, Dexter F. Baker, President, Air Products & Chemicals(Co-Chairman); Robert K. Campbell, President, Pennsylvania Power & Light Company (Co-Chairman); A.W. Pelletier, Chairman of the Board, Mack Trucks, Inc.; Anna Rodale, proprietor, Ann Ar Book Shoppe; Fred J. Jaendl, President, Jaendl's Turkey Farm; Philip I. Berman, Chairmen of the Board, Hess's Inc.; Harold G. Fulmer, President, H.G.F. Management Corporation, William Albert, President, Allentown-Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce; J. Walton St. Clair Jr., President, First National Bank of Allentown; Howard Loar, General Manager, Western Electric Company; Lolly Siegel, Supervisor, Corporate Policy

and Procedures, Mack Trucks, Inc.; and Carl J. Feichtel, President, Merchants National Bank.

Individuals identified as members of the GCC Sewerage Task Force included: Robert K. Campbell, PP&L, Chairman; William J. Graul, Allentown-Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce; Robert P. Daday, PP&L, and Steward H. Stabley, Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.

Individual identified as Members of the Project Team of the GCC included: Thomas J. Shaughnessy, PP&L, Project Coordinator; Charles E. Anderson, Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.; Raymond R. Carmon, Pennsylvania Economy League; Richard A. Muessig, Pennsylvania Economy League; and Denise A. Tobolla, CPA, PP&L.

Individuals identified as members of the Sewerage Task Force Advisory Committee included: From the City of Allentown --- William H. Hansell - Business Manager, Harry Bisco - Director of Operations, James G. Schultz - Community Development Director; From the Lehigh County Authority --- Raymond R. Snyder - General Manager, Aurel M. Ardnt - Deputy Manager; From the County of Lehigh --- Robert W. Fulton - Director of Planning and Development, Terry B. Schutten - County Administrator; From the Lehigh/Northampton Planning Commission --- Michael N. Kaiser, Executive Director, Allen R. O'Dell - Chief Planner.

Among the advantages listed for the public services corporation by the Sewerage Task Force Report was the assertion that the corporation would operate on a less political setting. That in theory, it would be independent from anybody in its operation and administration... After Board approval, traditional business plans could be implemented without ongoing intergovernmental conflict on regional issues. The private entity could also deal more effectively with various personnel issues that must be addressed in a more limited way in government.

Also, another advantage of the public services corporation suggested by the report would be its ability to expand into other more traditional services as the need arises. Fischl and Bausch identified six areas, other than sewerage, where there is potential for joint services delivery: data processing, emergency communications, water supply and distribution, parks, and recreation; specialized public safety services; and public works.

As stated by the report there was one apparent disadvantage in 1980. According to the Internal Revenue Code at the time, as interpreted by the Philadelphia Regional Office, bonds issued by a private not for profit corporation would not qualify for tax exemption. This would affect the ability of the corporation to directly issue bonds for capital additions or improvements.

To circumvent, this problem, two operational options were offered by the Sewerage Report in lieu of direct purchase of the sewerage system by the corporation.

1. The corporation would contract with the signatory communities for operation and maintenance of the system. Ownership would remain with the municipalities. Current indenture agreement or agreements would remain unchanged. But an apparent strength, central control, would be sacrificed.

2. After the creation of a regional authority to finance the "buyout" of the system, the operating function could be leased back to the corporation. The not-for-profit corporation would be little more than an operating authority.

In the end the GCC Sewerage Task Force Report made this analysis of the issue and recommendation in regard to the public services corporation: " The GCC saw merit to the Public Services Corporation concept. A broadly charged delivery system is a dramatic and innovative idea for the Lehigh Valley and could serve as a model for other metropolitan areas. Considerate of the present conflict between the City and suburban community on sewerage and the recent failure to establish a countywide health bureau (all municipalities except Allentown voted against it), the GCC feels multifunctional regionalism cannot be achieved in the near future. An effective regional sewerage authority should be established before undertaking the public services corporation concept. A working regional sewerage program will help justify expanding into other services.

Indeed we live in interesting times in the Lehigh Valley, while officials in Lehigh and Northampton Counties seek economic development activities that use up valuable farmland at an alarming rate, we also see the reverse trend of industrial abandonment in our urban core areas.

Lehigh County economic development leaders are very delighted that brand name companies such as Nestle and Pillsbury have decided to locate land consuming new warehouse operations in what remains of the alfalfa, corn and wheat fields of Western Lehigh County and that Perrier Water of Switzerland and the Coca Cola Bottling Company of Atlanta, Georgia have followed suit ...

In Northampton County, we see more of the same in the Industrial Parks along U.S. route 22.

However, I ask --- Can these leaders be satisfied with this short list of industrial sites in the urban core of Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon Counties of Pennsylvania and Warren County in New Jersey that will be or have been totally or partially abandoned: Mack Trucks, Lehigh Structural Steel, Black and Decker, Neuweiler Beer, Horlacher Beer, Bethlehem Steel, Durkee-French Foods/Spice Factory, Champion Spark plugs, New Jersey Zinc Company, and countless garment mills.

Does this mean that the Lehigh Valley is: lacking in providing a desirable industrial climate? Does this mean that the Lehigh Valley is lacking in providing good labor markets? Does this mean that the Lehigh Valley is lacking in assessing reasonable tax rates? And also, does this mean that the Lehigh Valley is lacking in providing good schools, churches, residential areas, and recreational and cultural facilities? And finally, does this mean that public support for industry is lacking in the Lehigh Valley?

I will reserve judgment to such a time when I can compare data detailing how many are now employed as compared to an earlier period. I will reserve judgment to such a time when I can compare data detailing the average weekly salaries of hourly workers at present as compared to an earlier period. I will reserve judgment to such a time when I can compare data detailing the hours an employee must work to obtain their average weekly salaries as compared to an earlier period. I will reserve judgment until I see how the above data is impacted by the combined effects of Projects such as Bethlehem Works in Bethlehem and Lehigh Landing in Allentown and Lucent Technology expansion in Allentown/Hanover Township.

These are the words of former Northampton County Executive Bill Brackbill, who in 1996 believed that momentum for regional economic development was growing: "Everyone seems to support the idea of cooperation, but everyone also seems to know why it is slow to happen. You look at it as change. Am I going to lose anything? Am I going to lose my turf?"

Most notably, in 1995 the Northampton and Lehigh counties joined business leaders in forming the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp., whose mission was to promote the entire region and attract new businesses. But what Bill Brackbill and Jane Baker did not do in 1995 or perhaps could not do was to eliminate the existent economic development corporations that promoted their client county for new businesses. This would come later

In 1996, the Industrial Development Corp. of Lehigh County announced that it would merge its staff with LVEDC's staff and move into LVEDC's office at Lehigh Valley International Airport.

Said Jane Baker: "I think this is a good move by the IDC to join with the LVEDC. The goal is to market the Lehigh Valley as one entity, and not as Lehigh and Northampton counties. Our idea is to pool the dollars to speak with one unified voice and get businesses to come here.

Then In late 1998, Officials of Northampton County Development Corp. and the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. said negotiations have begun to consolidate under the LVEDC, which would be the primary agency to recruit new businesses for the Lehigh Valley. This being an evolutionary process to promote

the Lehigh Valley as one of the state's largest distinct regions and magnify it as an East Coast population center.

Still, Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton each have their own development offices at City Hall, their own economic development corporations, and their own chambers of commerce. Although it has been announced that the Allentown/Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce will be renamed the Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce January 1, 1999. Along with a new name, the chamber on Jan. 1 will put in operation a new Allentown Council, a sub-group that will focus on city concerns and an Emmaus Council A Western Lehigh Council and councils focusing on Hispanic-owned businesses and women executives already exist.

Proponents of regionalism point to early projects such as the Lehigh Valley International Airport and the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, which probably wouldn't have happened without support from more than one community. Then too, The Lehigh Valley Partnership already touts some successes it can point to as accomplishments on the road to regionalization. The merger of the United Way organizations in Lehigh and Northampton counties came about as a result of a partnership recommendation. So did creation of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp.

The Lehigh Valley Partnership Strategic plan recommends reconnecting inner cities to suburbs; restructuring educational, governmental and community services to meet the needs of an information-age economy and stopping the damage of urban sprawl.

Toward those ends, Allentown Mayor William L. Heydt said the region should consider merging municipalities and school districts before regionalizing the counties. He said services they provide directly affect more people than county programs. Declares Heydt: "There's so many duplication of services". that "some consolidation of school districts are more important priorities" for the average person..

Bert Daday, a community affairs assistant at PP&L who has been helping gather information for the partnership's strategic plan wants the plan to be given a fair shot. As far as image is concerned, he states that the Partnership "doesn't want to be seen shooting from the hip on this,"

But there are still skeptics of the plan., Paul A. Goudy, executive director of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society has stated: "I think the practical position of Lehigh County is that Easton is a non-entity in the region. It almost seems like it's a way to drop the name Easton from the area" And others believe the Allentown area wants to dissociate itself from its "poorer" neighbors to the east. In any case they believe that their county won't approve a merger that could worsen its services, increase taxes, and ultimately lay people off.

Indeed the debate will bring us back to the future ... I remember the stunned looks of public officials from various communities at a candidate's night sponsored by the former Allentown Community of Neighborhood Organizations. I simply raised the question: Do you contemplate the time when there will be no Whitehall Township, South Whitehall, Township Emmaus, Macungie, Lower Macungie Township, Bethlehem, and Allentown, only the community of the Lehigh Valley? And explain why this may or may not become so?

We Present The Truth, But You Do Not Comprehend

PUBLIC SERVICES CORPORATION REVISITED

by Dennis L. Pearson of the Common-Sense Herald
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News Item: Jeffrey Skinner, the Chairman of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners, has recently suggested that the County of Lehigh put its newly constructed Industrial Wastewater-Pre - treatment Plant on the real estate market. Well, should Skinner's suggestion be carried out, below is a suggested advertisement.

FOR Sale- --- Lehigh County Wastewater Pretreatment Plant, 7676 Industrial Boulevard, Allentown, Pennsylvania (Upper Macungie Township)... Plant currently operated by County of Lehigh, Pennsylvania and James M. Montgomery Operational Services, Inc., A Public-Private Partnership... Average Plant Capacity is 5.75 MGD, 76,500 lb./day BOD, and 25,500 lb./day TSS... Peak plant capacity is 11.05 MGD, 107,700 lb./day BOD and 35,790 lb./day TSS... Waste Sources : Industrial --- Stroh Brewery - 70% , Kraft Food Products - 10%; Trucked ---Various - 10%; Municipal --- Upper Macungie Township - 10%... Plant performance: Influent--- 1,000 BOD (mg/l), 500 TSS (mg/l); Primary Effluent --- 900 BOD (mg/l), 200 TSS (mg/l);Final Effluent --- 25 BOD (mg/l), 25 TSS (mg/l)... Interested parties should make inquires to the Jeff Skinner Realty Company.}

Meanwhile in the City of Allentown, interested parties should contact the Allentown City Council if interested in acquiring title to the Allentown Health Bureau, the Allentown Human Relations Bureau, emergency services and Allentown's interest in 911... Indeed - the opportunity is now as City Council would like to downsize its financial liabilities.

But that is not all ...In Allentown, City Councilman Lee Gaumer has broached the subject of the sale of the following parks in the Allentown park system: Trexler

Memorial Park, Lehigh Parkway, Cedar Beach and Jordan Park... No mention is made how this would effect Allentown's annual contribution from the Harry C. Trexler Trust which pays among other things the annual salary of Don Marushak, the bureau chief of the Allentown Parks Bureau. But the sale or transfer of these particular parks would benefit those who favor regionalization of the City's resources. And the sale of these particular parks would end Allentown's environmental control over construction activities concerning the highways of wastewater that run through one or all of these parks.}

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Allentown Mayor Frank Fischl and Lehigh County Executive David Bausch outlined in a March 12, 1980 letter to the Allentown/Lehigh County Greater Community Council the concept of a Public Services Corporation as it might apply to Lehigh County. Based on a French model for providing a multi-functional metropolitan public services and/or facilities delivery system, it would involve the establishment of a broadly chartered private, not for-profit corporation. In France, these are called SEM's (Société des Economies Mixe and can provide for many services including mass transit, water and sewerage, land development, etc.)

The corporation would be structured much like a private sector corporation. A governing board of directors would be comprised of both public officials and private sector representatives. The board as envisioned by Fischl and Bausch would be comprised of the following:}

1. The Mayor of the City of Allentown.
2. The County Executive of Lehigh County.
3. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Lehigh County.
4. The President of Allentown City Council.
5. The Lehigh County Administrator.
6. The Allentown City Administrator (See Note Below);}
7. - 10. The presidents or designates of the four major corporations headquartered in Lehigh County; Air Products and Chemicals; Bethlehem Steel; Mack Trucks, and Pennsylvania Power and Light Company.
11. The President or designee of the Allentown/Lehigh County Chamber of Commerce.}

(Please Note --- Allentown at the present time has no office of City Administrator. Therefore should this plan be revisited it must be determined whether the Director of the Department of Administration and Finance or the Director of the Department of Community Development or the Director of the Department of Public Works or whether the City of Allentown Cabinet Director would be the individual to fill this slot.)

The above Board would hire a corporate president who would manage the affairs of the corporation and be responsible for its day-to-day operation. Customer

County Administrator; From the Lehigh/Northampton Planning Commission ---
Michael N. Kaiser, Executive Director, Allen R. O'Dell - Chief Planner.}

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Among the advantages listed for the public services corporation by the Sewerage Task Force Report was the assertion that the corporation would operate on a less political setting. That in theory, it would be independent from anybody in its operation and administration... After Board approval, traditional business plans could be implemented without ongoing intergovernmental conflict on regional issues. The private entity could also deal more effectively with various personnel issues that must be addressed in a more limited way in a government.

Also, another advantage of the public services corporation suggested by the report would be its ability to expand into other more traditional services as the need arised. Fischl and Bausch identified six areas, other than sewerage, where there is potential for joint services delivery: data processing, emergency communications, water supply and distribution, parks, and recreation; specialized public safety services; and public works.}

As stated by the report there was one apparent disadvantage in 1980. According to the Internal Revenue Code at the time, as interpreted by the Philadelphia Regional Office, bonds issued by a private not for profit corporation would not qualify for tax exemption. This would affect the ability of the corporation to directly issue bonds for capital additions or improvements.

To circumvent, this problem, two operational options were offered by the Sewerage Report in lieu of direct purchase of the sewerage system by the corporation.}

1. The corporation would contract with the signatory communities for operation and maintenance of the system. Ownership would remain with the municipalities. Current indenture agreement or agreements would remain unchanged. But an apparent strength, central control, would be sacrificed.}

2. After the creation of a regional authority to finance the "buyout" of the system, the operating function could be leased back to the corporation. The not-for-profit corporation would be little more than an operating authority.}

In the end the GCC Sewerage Task Force Report made this analysis of the issue and recommendation in regard to the public services corporation: " The GCC see merit to the Public Services Corporation concept. A broadly charged delivery system is a dramatic and innovative idea for the Lehigh Valley and could serve as a model for other metropolitan areas. Considerate of the present conflict between the City and suburban community on sewerage and the recent failure to establish a countywide health bureau (all municipalities except Allentown voted against it),

the GCC feels multifunctional regionalism cannot be achieved in the near future. An effective regional sewerage authority should be established before undertaking the public services corporation concept. A working regional sewerage program will help justify expanding into other services."

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We ask --- are the recent pronouncements of City officials in regard to transferring some of their services to another entity and the pronouncement in regard to the Lehigh County Industrial Pretreatment Plant by Lehigh County Commissioner Jeff Skinner a form of revising the dormant idea of creating a French-styled public services corporation in the Lehigh Valley.}

Reference:

Allentown-Lehigh County Greater Community Council, u-Sewerage Task Force Report- - --analysis of the Issues and Recommendations", November 1980, pp. 1-5 - 1- 6.}

COMMON SENSE HERALD CULTURE REPORT

Cancel Culture Continues

By Dennis Pearson

Now that the Cleveland Indians are indicating that by 2022 they will carry a new nickname joining the Washington Football Team in ditching long-time brands due to the pressure of groups associated with the cancel culture I will give this memory ... In 1956 and 1957 I played baseball for an East Allentown based team called the Carlisle Papooses .. They were a traveling team before that term became popular and played in the newly formed Lehigh Valley Bidy League which pitted teams from Allentown, Bethlehem, Fullerton, Hokendauqua, Cementon, Egypt, Bath, Jacksonville, Nazareth, and Phillipsburg New Jersey against each other. A sister team one age bracket higher than the Papooses was the Carlisle Warriors and they played in the Midget category of the newly formed Lehigh Valley League ... When not playing on the road both of these teams played at Irving Street Park for their home games. and still one step higher was the Carlisle Indians coached by Jack Snyder who was the original founder of the Carlisle Indians ... They played in the Knee-High bracket of the Allentown Recreation League ... Their home base was Central Park on the border between Allentown and Bethlehem

All these teams are gone but their names which were never questioned while they existed will live in history including their nicknames ...

But in Allentown, the cancel culture was successful in convincing the Allentown School District ever so sensitive to social justice causes to change the brand of one of their Middle Schools. So quoth the Raven nevermore shall the blue and white of the Raub Middle School cheer on the Indians in their sports contests, For ever more or at least to the next change their brand will be the Ravens.

Well anyway ... I don't know what moniker the Cleveland Baseball team will put on themselves in 2022 ... But it would be something that they come up with the name Indians You may say... Hey, that can't be so. Didn't they say that they were going to rid themselves of that heinous name which so offended the social sensitivities of the people associated with the cancel culture ... Well. we are not now talking about about the term Indians which refer wrongly to Columbus's mistaken term for the original population of the native people of North America ... No definitely we are not ... But we refer to the country in Asia called India and their people called Indians ... So they can still call their team the Indians if there is no opposition to this change of definition of what the nickname means

Speaking about words that are changing their meaning What does the word court-packing mean? You tell me, first the historic definition and second, today's political definition of that word currently authored by one American political party to make the words of its Presidential nominee sound more middle of the road and more centerish rather than the power grab the historic term suggests.

And also what does the phrase translate the concerns from your block to the board room mean?.

Does it have anything to do with taking the concerns of the people who live in the distinct districts of the community and present them to the Board Room as they were given not as you interpret them to be?

When running for office in 2019, I visited a lot of homes. In these visits I learned a lot about what was on the voter's minds, and clearly, as a would-be public official that sought to be a watchdog in government for the public and sought to do the right thing for East Penn Township taxpayers, residents, and stakeholders, it must be my mission to give to my fellow board members a true and correct representation of what they told me, and I did



That's What it Is

By Dennis L Pearson of the Common-Sense Herald

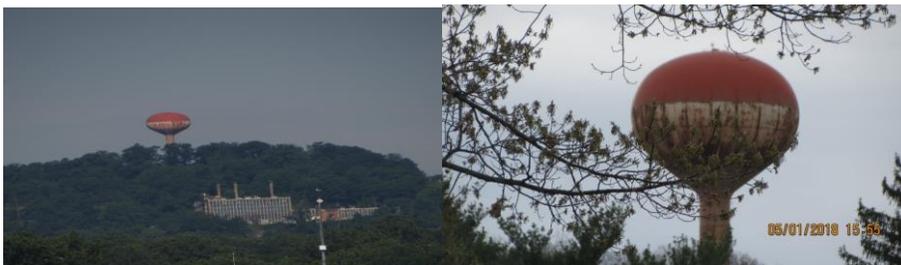
Elections are supposed to be a non-violent way to elect the leaders of our nation, state, or municipal governments ... Some people have not bought into that credo. By hook or crook they seek to pound their choice of leaders into the heads of those who disagree with them. Bully politics in my mind is a no-no This non-violent way of electing people is better than the other way --- We do not need armies or militias to combat each other to win elections ... We need an educated public who looks deeply at the issues and the qualifications, visions, and potential of doing good for the people of the candidates that seek their vote.

When it comes to matters of policy, the public now a days tends to look to the federal government to lead the way, but the local governments actually determine educational policy. Early in our nation's history, lawmakers passed the 10th Amendment to the Constitution which is the basis for making education a

function of the states. Each school district is administered and financed by the community along with that district's state government. School districts with higher socioeconomic levels tend to give more resources to their schools. Standards and quality of education consequently vary widely from state to state, town to town, and even district to district. However, federal and state government can still play some role in education policy especially in eliminating some inequities ... But a local school district accepting these funds must agree to the rules for the acceptance of the funds ... Local school districts that were closed for Pandemic reasons during the 2019-2020 school term by decree of their State Government can only re-open for the 2020-2021 school term physically if their respective state government would allow ... And if they open up, stay open as long as pandemic case histories allow The federal government has no real power to force them to force them to re-open or stay closed other than urging them either way from the bully pulpit.... Certainly, the federal government through the CDC can create guidelines for states and local districts to follow if they should choose in making decisions about school reopening ... But it is suspected that many states choose to create their own guidelines for this task.... And of course, as one anticipated, the political parties conveniently argue over all this for their political benefit ...

Views of the Water Tower on the former Allentown State Hospital Property

Water Tower from the former Allentown State Hospital as seen from the former Bethlehem Steel's Hoover Mason Trestle guarding the former Plant's Ironmaking Blast Furnace ... The water tower is seven miles away Then you see the same Water Tower in two shots from Hanover Avenue ... And the last set of shots come from the Tow path in Allentown's Canal Park ... The shots were taken on the backside of Lehigh Mountain guarding the Allentown State Hospital grounds Spent Monday walking from Bethlehem's Sand Island to the vicinity of the Allentown State Hospital grounds.





On **December 21, 2020**, a rare event will occur in the night sky... And it has not been seen in over eight centuries. On this date, Jupiter, and Saturn, the two largest planets in our solar system will conjunct to form what's sometimes referred to as the "Christmas Star" or the "Star of Bethlehem."

As best as you can have in this pandemic year of 2020, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021 ..May 2021 be a far different year than we experienced this past year



Allin Sorenson Photography ---December 20 at 9:16 PM .

Jupiter and Saturn t. Taken with iPhone through a telescope eyepiece on a 4 inch reflector. Jupiter is too bright to show detail but you can see four Galilean moons and the rings of Saturn.