

3198

3198

~~3198~~

Board of Representatives Public Hearing
August 31, 1961

A public hearing on the report of the FOURTH CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION was held in the Auditorium of Dolan Jr. High School at 8:15 P.M. on Thursday, August 31, 1961.

Matters as they appeared on the Charter Revision Commission report to the Board of Representatives as specified in Resolution No. 351 (adopted by the Board at meeting held April 3, 1961 - see page 3008 of Minutes) and in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 455, 1957 Session, as amended, were taken up. The hearing was broadcast over Radio Station WSTC.

The Chairman of the Charter Revision Committee of the Board of Representatives, Paul T. Callahan, presided, together with the following members of the Charter Revision Committee: John DeForest, George Russell, Rose Farina, Clyde O'Connell and Peter Sileo. Messrs. Connors and Shapero were absent.

No roll call was taken of the Board members present, but there appeared to be 24 members present in the audience.

Copies of the Charter Revision Commission report were available and everyone was invited to pick up a copy. Copies had previously been sent to all Board members and the Press and Radio.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Paul Callahan, at 8:15 P.M.

There were 31 speakers. However, some spoke for a second and third time. Those who spoke were: Stearns E. Woodman, Chairman, Zoning Board; Joseph LiVolsi, James M. Morgan, Marine Corps League, Morgan P. Ames, Walter Berges, Umberto Bello, Frank Diley, representing the East Side Taxpayers' Association, Nunzio Lupo, Leonard DeVita, Daniel Ryan, Jr., attorney for the Stamford Police Association; Joseph McCue, Jr., Kevin Tobin, President, SPA, John Hanrahan, Joseph Rinaldi, Samuel Pierson, Frank H. D'Andrea, Donald Zezima, Joseph V. Toner, Town and City Clerk, William J. Lynch, Capt. of Detectives, Nathan E. Silberman, Raymond Cushing, Leonard Kirshner, Secretary-Treasurer, Fire-Fighters; John Hogan, member of Personnel Commission and Secretary, Fire-Fighters Local #145; Saul Kwartin, Counsel for the MFA; John J. Heanue, Business Representative, Teamsters Local #145; W. Patrick Ryan, member law firm representing Police Association; John Considine, Secretary, SPA; John Boesen, member Fire Department, Daniel E. Ryan, Sr., member law firm representing Police Association.

The Chairman introduced the members of the Charter Revision Committee who were present on the rostrum.

The Chairman: "The Committee is here this evening to consider the report of the 4th Charter Revision Commission and will not debate the report with any of the speakers.

"Second, speakers must be recognized by the Chairman; he must identify himself and the proposal to which he speaks.

"Third, speakers will speak into the microphone set up at the stage end of the Auditorium.

"Fourth, speakers may speak on any segment of the Commission's report.

Public Hearing
of August 31, 1961

3199
3176-
3199

"Fifth, time limits for each speaker will be ten minutes.

"Sixth, each speaker may speak only once on any proposal.

"Seventh, speakers are requested to keep their remarks germane to the merits of the proposal. Violators will be prohibited from continuing.

"I have been asked to make an announcement. There is no smoking in the Auditorium; smoking is permitted in the front lobby and the side doors to your left. If the hearing continues to a late hour, we will call a recess."

First speaker: STEARNS E. WOODMAN, 70 Strawberry Hill Avenue, member of Stamford Zoning Board

Proposal (1) Concerning Sec. 501, Appointive Board Members:

Spoke in opposition to having alternate members of these boards. He stressed the fact that alternates might not be familiar with the past history of matters before their boards, causing lack of continuity and it would also cause a tendency to absenteeism in regular board members. He explained that under the present setup an alternate may be called in when a member disqualifies himself; that no meeting is called until all members agree that they will be able to attend and that members should realize at the time they agree to accept the appointment that he has a compelling responsibility to attend all meetings regularly.

Second speaker: JOSEPH LIVOLSI, 65 Parker Avenue, Glenbrook

Proposal (3) Concerning Special Events Commission - To amend Sec. 500 and add Sec. 502.3 and 502.4

Spoke concerning non-observance of Veterans Day in Stamford this year and urges that the City continue to observe it in the future.

Third speaker: JAMES M. MOLGANO, 12 Leroy Place

Proposal (3) Concerning Special Events Commission, etc.

Spoke in favor of the proposal, but urged that it be amended to provide for the appointment of at least three veterans to the 5 member Commission, from a list furnished by the Veterans' Board. He urged that those who handled these affairs in the past be asked to lend "their experience" in future planning for special events. He noted that the proposal mentioned nothing about whether the Commission should contain any veterans.

Fourth speaker: MORGAN P. AMES, (attorney) 15 Whittaker Street (or Place)
(Former General Chairman, Stamford Veterans
Celebration Committee)

Proposal (3) Concerning Special Events Commission (Proposal (8) rejected)

Spoke in opposition to any change in the way things have been done in the past.

Objected to the way reference was made in the press to calling people who have

3200
3177

Public Hearing
MINUTES of August 31, 1961

handled the Veterans' Day celebrations "professional veterans". He deprecated the fact that no money has been appropriated this year so far in order that the veterans could go ahead and make plans for a Veterans Day celebration. He said he thought the creation of a "Special Events Commission" to handle other events besides Veterans Day was a good thing. He also said he thought the Charter Revision Commission should not have rejected Proposal No. 8 for the creation of an Advisory Commission for Veterans Affairs. He said it was his opinion that patriotic observances should be under the control of those who had "established contacts: with marching units and other organizations of military, naval and allied backgrounds, so that these observances would be put on by people who have a real enthusiasm and a demonstrated interest in putting them on, rather than putting them in charge of a "Special Events Commission" which would have jurisdiction over ALL TYPES of celebrations and might be apt to slight patriotic holidays. (applause)

Fifth Speaker: WALTER BERGES, 290 Mill Road (Member of Veterans Day Celebration Committee)

Proposal (3) Concerning Special Events Commission - Rejection of Proposal (8)

Spoke in opposition to the elimination of Proposal (8) for the creation of an Advisory Commission for Veterans Affairs. He objected to the elimination of the word "Veteran" in Proposal (3), in view of the many sacrifices made by living and dead veterans.

Sixth Speaker: UMBERTO J. BELLO, Commander Italian-American War Veterans (Mayoralty candidate - 1961 election)

Proposal (3) Concerning Special Events Commission

Mr. Bello challenged John DeForest, a member of the Committee hearing the speakers, to a debate on the veterans' issue.

THE CHAIRMAN: "Mr. Bello, none of the members of this Committee will debate with you-----"

MR. BELLO: "I am here issuing a pre-emptory challenge to him here, so that he cannot vote."

THE CHAIRMAN: "That would be up to Mr. DeForest and his own good conscience - you are here to speak on the merits of the proposal - please continue."

MR. BELLO: "Does he think that he can be unbiased?"

THE CHAIRMAN: "Mr. Bello, if you would like to speak on the proposal before you, you may - otherwise you will be ruled out of order and will not be allowed to continue."

MR. BELLO: "Well, then - let me ask you this: If a man has already discussed it -- against the proposal that we all are speaking about - and he is sitting here in judgment on it - what good is it, Mr. Callahan?"

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Mr. DeForest is a member of this Committee and he will act as his conscience dictates, Mr. Bello - will you please continue on the proposal?"

MR. BELLO: "How then are we veterans going to get a fair shake?"

THE CHAIRMAN: "He doesn't represent the majority of the Committee, Mr. Bello -- will you PLEASE continue?"

The speaker reiterated what the previous veterans who spoke on this proposal have already said. He said it was his opinion that the creation of a Special Events Commission was merely a camouflage to eliminate veterans participating in patriotic celebrations.

Seventh Speaker: FRANK DALEY, 27 Webb Avenue (Representing East Side Taxpayer's Association)

Rejected Proposal #3 concerning establishment and approval of powers and duties of the URBAN REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Spoke in favor of submitting to the voters the question of the retention of the Urban Redevelopment Commission and urged that this proposal be reactivated so that the people can decide whether or not they wish to pay for redevelopment of the Southeast Quadrant. (applause)

Eighth speaker: NUNZIO LUPO, 21 Burr Street - Commander of Disabled American Veterans, member of Central Veterans Association

Proposal (3) Concerning Special Events Commission

Spoke in opposition to this proposed Charter amendment. Said his group believed the veterans over the years had been performing a great job for the city and saw no reason the established policy should be changed at this time.

Ninth speaker: LEONARD DEVITA (attorney) 87 Sawmill Road (Former Prosecutor of Stamford City Court)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification in Charter and \$500 pay increase

Spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. (applause)

Tenth speaker. DANIEL RYAN, JR. (Attorney) 14 Long Hill Drive (Member of law firm representing the Police Association)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification in Charter and \$500 pay increase

Spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. (applause)

Eleventh speaker: JOSEPH T. McCUE, JR. (Attorney) 22 Lanark Road

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. (applause)

Twelfth speaker: KEVIN TOBIN, 32 Plymouth Road - President of Police Association for 4 years and Policeman for 8 years.

3242
1179

Public Hearing
August 31, 1961

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. Said the Police Department was unable to fill vacancies - that there were 40 applicants for the last Civil Service test out of which 8 qualified - that there are now 18 vacancies on the force and by September it will increase to 23 and the Personnel Director had to ask those who failed the test the first time to come back and take it over again in the hopes that they might pass the second time. (applause)

13th Speaker: JOHN HANRAHAN (Attorney) 68 Hope Street

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

14th Speaker: JOSEPH RINALDI (Attorney) 21 Fairmont Avenue, Glenbrook

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

15th Speaker: SAMUEL PIERSON, 1717 Shippan Avenue

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

16th Speaker: FRANK H. D'ANDREA, JR. (Attorney) Twin Brook Drive

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

17th Speaker: DONALD ZEZIMA (Attorney) 17 Shelburne Road

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

18th Speaker: JOSEPH LI VOLSI (speaking for second time)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

19th Speaker: MORGAN P. AMES (Attorney) (speaking for 2nd time)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

20th Speaker: JAMES M. MOLGANO (Speaking for 2nd time)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

21st Speaker: JOSEPH V. TONER (Town and City Clerk)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

THE CHAIRMAN declared a recess at 10 P.M.

The recess being over at 10:20 P.M., the hearing reconvened.

22nd Speaker: WILLIAM J. LYNCH, 803 Cove Road (Former Captain of Detectives,
retired)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

23rd Speaker: NATHAN B. SILBERMAN (Attorney) 1241 High Ridge Road

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause)

24th Speaker: UMBERTO BELLO (Speaking for 2nd time, as candidate for Mayor)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. (applause) Also urged that all city employees get increases in salaries, as well as the Police.

25th Speaker: RAYMOND G. CUSHING (Attorney) 182 Toms Road (Former Corporation
Counsel)

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Police Classification, etc.

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment, but said he also thought it did not belong in the Charter, but should be handled through regular channels. In view of the fact that the Police Association has been trying to get an increase through other channels and these methods have failed, he now believes that it should go before referendum.

26th Speaker: LEONARD KIRSHNER, Secretary-Treasurer of the Uniformed Fire Fighters
Association of Connecticut

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Classification and increased salary to also
include members of the Fire Department

Spoke in favor of including the Fire Fighters in the same category as that proposed for the Police men.

Mr. Kirshner said he felt compelled to call a certain matter to the attention of the Charter Revision Committee. He said: "There is a serious question as to whether or not this hearing has any legal status", but said he also wished to make it clear that no discourtesy to any city official is intended, and that he merely wished to

point out a certain fact-----that under the Home Rule Act, under which the entire action has been initiated and authorized, provides that the "appointing authority" shall hold a public hearing within 30 days after the Charter Revision Commission has submitted its original report.

He said: "I submit, gentlemen, that when the Home Rule Act refers to 'the appointing authority' that it refers to the entire body. There are repeated references throughout the Act to the 'appointing authority' and in each and every instance when you read this in its context, I am sure that you will conclude that it refers to the entire appointing authority. The particular language of the Act to which I refer is Sec. 7-191, states in part, and I will read:

'.....within 30 days thereafter, the appointing authority shall hold at least one public hearing on such report, and shall within 15 days after such hearing, make recommendations to the Commission for such changes in such report as it deems desirable.....'

"I think, gentlemen, that this makes it eminently clear, and if you read the rest of the Act, I am sure that you will arrive at the same conclusion that we have, that the Act refers to the appointing authority, which is the Board of Representatives, as defined in the Statutes by Sec. 7-187."

THE CHAIRMAN: "Mr. Kirshner, if I may at this time-----for the record, I would like to state that at 9:04 P.M. this evening at this public hearing, it has been observed by the members of the Committee that the following members of the Board of Representatives were in attendance here at this hearing:

David Johnson, Daniel Baker, James McDonald, Edwin Cole, Anthony Truglia, John DeForest, Paul Callahan, George Russell, Peter Sileo, Clyde O'Connell, Henry Nolan, Gerald Rybnick, James Mulreed, Rose Farina, Mrs. Austin, Paul Kuczo, John Nolan, Benjamin Kozlowski, Stephen Kelly, Fred Blois, Bernard Geronimo, Patrick Scarella, George Connors and Carmine Longo

"A total of 24 members were in attendance here at the hearing at 9:04 this evening, just so we can be recorded as such."

MR. KIRSNER: "I am pleased to hear this, because we are calling this to your attention only for the purpose of making sure that this matter is not lost by default, or because of some technical question.

"I would simply add this: I would like to have this given very serious consideration and have it checked with your legal counsel - it is our firm opinion that under the Act, in order to comply with its requirements, the appointing authority as such, must call for and conduct the hearing and that a quorum must be present and sitting as a Board when both the 'Call' is made and the hearing is conducted. I simply call this to your attention and request that you give it some consideration and check with your legal counsel.

"Now, if contrary to our understanding of the law, this is a legally constituted meeting, we would now like to take this opportunity to present our views with respect to the merits of the matter now before you.

"Proposal No. 4, as reported by the Charter Revision Commission to the appointing authority, proposes in effect, that a separate classification shall be established for the members of the Police Department and such members shall receive a salary increase of \$500 per year.

"We have no quarrel whatsoever with this proposal, except for the fact that it fails to include the members of the Fire Department. It would be manifestly unfair and unjust to attempt to divide these two fine protective services by giving one an advantage over the other."

MR. KIRSHNER went on to urge that the members of the Fire Department be given the same treatment as that suggested for the Police Department, as traditionally throughout the country these services have always been grouped together as a unit, both in terms of pay, pensions and general working conditions.

27th Speaker: JOHN J. HOGAN, JR., Secretary of Stamford Firefighters Local 145

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Classification and salary increase - To also include members of Fire Department as well as Police Department

Spoke in regard to giving the same consideration to the members of the Fire Department, or the Fire service, as will be given to the members of the Police service in any action on the classification and salary proposal. He said that the hazards faced by members of the Fire Department are equally as serious as those faced by members of the Police Department.

MR. HOGAN stated that records show that during the past year there have been more serious injuries to members of the Fire Department than to any other department in the City of Stamford. (applause)

28th Speaker: SAUL KWARTIN, Counsel for Municipal Employees' Association

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Classification and salary increase - To also include members of the Classified Service

Spoke in regard to giving the same consideration to members of the Classified Service, who are not members of the Fire Department or the Teamster's Union or the School Custodial Employees.

MR. KWARTIN: "This group represents well over half of all employees of the City. Although the MEA supports wholeheartedly the application of the Police for a raise, that discrimination against them should not be practiced at this time. I use the word 'discrimination' because there is existing discrimination. Even were this Board and this Committee to favorably report and recommend a Charter change which would grant the members of our organization the \$500 raise, we would still be behind many of the other city classified employees insofar as benefits are concerned, which is one of the main reasons for concern by our organization.

"The actual consensus of our request is the fact that we are way behind other city employees. The two major fields where we're behind are in pensions and in sick leave. The members of the MEA out of all the employee groups in the city have the poorest situation as far as their pension setup is concerned. They pay 2%, as do others. In fact, one of the classifications pays a maximum of \$100 a year. They

pay a minimum of 2% of their salary up to the amount that is covered by Social Security - 5% above that, plus paying Social Security. The City is the main beneficiary of the payments of Social Security. While we pay on a parity for our pension rights, we do NOT GET THE BENEFIT of those Social Security payments! They are set off by the City against the eventual amount applicable to any person retiring.

"let's take the retirement situation. Any member of the MEA may retire at age 60, providing he's got 25 years in service. This is very different from other classified situations, where retirement can be had after 25 years at ANY AGE.

"Another discriminatory provision is the fact that when they retire at 60, they don't start getting their benefits even at that time. They have to WAIT until they qualify for Social Security! And, it's only then that they get the benefit of their pension ----- perhaps they can get a five year vacation between 60 and 65, but they cannot get the benefit of their pension provisions.

"There are, in other of the classified employees pension classifications, a right to retire at 25 years, at 50% of their salary, plus 2% for every year thereafter up to two-thirds of their pay. These others - not the ones covering the MEA -- also contain survivorship benefits. The only way that the members of the MEA now can get survivorship benefits are by dying on the job as a result of their work, by giving up a portion of their benefits, while they are still alive, after they have retired, so that their widow might get something if she dies after they do. Or, if they die after retirement, before they have used up the full amount that they put into the Pension Plan. Now, none of this is applicable to any of the other services. This lack of survivorship benefits is of great importance to the members of the Municipal Employees Association - they are put at a very great disadvantage by not having it.

"As regards to sick leave - they are limited to 15 days, up to a cumulative of 90 days if they don't take it. Other members of the classified services have UNLIMITED PAID SICK LEAVE! The net result, as the situation now stands, is that the Pension Plan which covers the members of our organization, is full of money, creating not very much of a problem for the city, whereas the opposite is the fact for the other services.

"The original provision of the Charter when it was originally adopted, gave the Board of Representatives the right, at that time, to adopt Pension Plans, to provide for retirement and so on.

"The eventual outcome, I'll describe to you - the previous Boards in their wisdom, or perhaps the lack of it, made these discriminatory differences.

"To pass this particular proposal would be an excellent thing. I also believe that the Police should be in a different classification. For that matter I believe that the Firemen should be in a different classification, and there are others. This Board knows that there is no more of a comparison between the Police and the Municipal employees than the Firemen.

"Many different sorts of classifications should be set up and this is exactly what we are asking this Board to do. At the same time, we feel that the members of our organization should also get the benefit of this \$500 request, insofar as the pay is concerned. I know of very few people in this City, if any, who would deny that the members of our organization and the employees of the City at large, whether they be

Public Hearing

~~MINUTES~~ of August 31, 1961

29.41
2184

police, firemen, teamsters, custodians or anybody else - they are woefully underpaid and everybody agrees with this. As a matter of fact, I think that our Mayor so declared and the article was in the paper just a couple of days ago.

"I think it was Mr. Tobin who said this -- that we are happy with what we got. A specific request was made for a \$600 overall across-the-board increase when our people met with the Mayor. After that meeting, we were given this so-called three step proposal. Let nobody think that there was jumping for joy in the ranks of the Municipal Employees Association. I'm certain that I speak for the Firemen and the Teamsters also. This was to a large extent, reluctantly and grudgingly accepted by them only because they felt, in considering the previous three years history when they got a minimum amount of increase, that it's either THIS, or our wives and children will suffer because we won't get anything if we don't play ball. It's just as plain and as bold as that. This has ALWAYS been our position and is still our position.

"The last point that I want to make is this: Why the necessity for more pay for my clients? Every year, more technical help is needed by the City - more specialized help is needed. And, the City grows more complicated every day. We now try and fight private industry and when I say 'we' I mean the City. Try and fight private industry for qualified people. We can't conceivably fight with them - we can't hope to get qualified people if we offer them so much less than private industry is offering to them."

MR. KWARTIN continued speaking for some time, urging that the Municipal Employees be included in the contemplated raise for the Policemen.

29th Speaker: JOHN J. HEANUE, Business Representative, Teamsters Local 145

Proposal (4) Concerning Separate Classification and increased salary - To also include members of the Teamsters Local

MR. HEANUE: "Speaking on behalf of the employees in the Public Works Department, the Parks and Trees Department, the Parking Authority and Hubbard Heights Golf Course, I would like to briefly review why we find ourselves in this position.

"Back in December of 1960, the first proposal submitted to the Personnel Commission on a wage increase was submitted by the teamster's Union before the Police, Fire Department, Custodians, or anybody else submitted a request. That's a statement of fact that can be checked out at any time.

"After no action by the Personnel Commission, we tried to arrange a meeting and eventually did arrange one, with the Mayor. We've had several meetings with the Mayor, but the people who come here only heard about one. The first meeting that was arranged, after we had requested a meeting with the Mayor, and all the groups of employees in Stamford were notified, with the exception of the Teamsters, because we're a little vocal when we go in and ask for certain things. After that oversight was remedied by the Teamsters being contacted by other employees, who were willing to wait for us until we got there and got invited to the meeting, it being then late in the day, another meeting was set up.

"At the first meeting we had with the Mayor, at which there were present two representatives from the Teamsters Union - Joseph B. Cleary and myself. The Police Department was represented by their able member, the Custodians were

3206
3185

Public Hearing
Minutes of August 31, 1961

represented the Municipal Employees Association were represented and the Fire Fighters.

"Now, at this time we found ourselves in the position of being wholly underpaid, and I'm now talking about ALL the employees -- I'm not talking for them, because they are well qualified to represent themselves. We found ourselves in a position of being badly underpaid, having made a survey ourselves by different groups, by comparing the wages prevailing in this area. So, now we're all in the same boat. The reason that we got in the same boat is some of the reasons that Mr. Tobin set forth tonight-----the previous administrations let years go by. The next administration got in - they made promises - they wanted to get their feet on the ground first. And then there were years when the employees got no increases at all. Subsequently, we now find ourselves two years behind the prevailing scale of wages for all the cities and towns in this area and quite substantially underpaid.

"So - now, how are we to solve the situation? In private industry, we can solve it by negotiating an agreement, projecting into the future for the next two or three years. We feel that if we could get a commitment on this, that it would then eliminate some of the inequities that were then in existence. After some time, the Mayor did not see eye-to-eye with us and the meeting was adjourned.

"We subsequently tried to arrange another meeting with the Mayor and was successful, and all of the other groups were notified. Again we came into a meeting and the situation was discussed thoroughly with the Mayor, and he, after several discussions, agreed that our position was fair - that we WERE underpaid - that he realized the situation, but he could not at that time, as he said, make up for all the sins of the past.

"Now, I understand that all city employees were to receive equal treatment - that is a big problem to try to solve and he (the Mayor) attempted to try to solve it, on the basis of not having any vacant years, with a two-year, three-step plan. Not a three-year plan, as some people have said-----with a minimum of \$200 on July 1st, 1961, and a minimum of \$200 next July and a discussion on the option of the city employees that on our request and nobody else requested it - none of the other groups - that the city pick up the tab for the full cost of the hospitalization for the employee and all the members of his family - the same as is done in private industry. We also requested a change in the pension system and in the obsolete plan for retirement, if a man had to retire before he could receive his Social Security. Those plans, we agreed to waive in order to get into the question of wages so that everybody could get fair treatment, including the Police and Fire Departments.

"Now, primarily what has been discussed at this meeting, has not been mentioned. The Mayor came out with a proposal that he had worked out with the financial officer of the city and said that all he could go for was \$200 and then came up with a three step proposal, so that in the future the employees would not keep getting further behind all the time. The plan, in effect was a good one, but the amount of money was not adequate and at that time, and I have a pretty good memory, we did express our dissatisfaction with the plan.

"All the group present was told by the Mayor that that was all they would go for, and that was it - they couldn't go for any more - it was impossible in the face of the re-evaluation program which had been handed down to them - that he would try,

in the next year, to make up some of the inequities, but he couldn't now. Knowing that we were not satisfied and obviously that brother Tobin wasn't satisfied, he then made a statement that he would oppose any group trying to get any more than 'we have set forth in this formula'.

"Well, then we went out - we had a recess - rather than everybody being on the spot in front of the Mayor - I don't have to worry myself about being on the 'spot' because I don't live here in Stamford. So, we all went out in the hall. We went into Commissioner Canavan's office and we went into recess - and it was finally agreed amongst the people, reluctantly, that we would go along with it.

"Now, the Police Department, evidently at that time had something arranged where they would go out on this referendum, and of course, it is their right to do so. Now, why did all the other city employees suddenly try to get into the act? They're not trying to live off the Police Department - they're in there for this reason: We got a little suspicious, because now, all of a sudden, the Mayor who is controlling the City, has his Charter Revision Commission overwhelmingly come out in favor of the Police situation. So, now with this situation where quietly on the side the Police Department was to get taken care of and the rest of the city employees neglected - in the face of THAT - it was then that all of the other city employees felt that if that was going to be the case, they ought to get into the act - and that's why we're into the act. And, we want all the same consideration, just the same as any other group - why play favorites? Thank you." (applause)

30th Speaker: W. PATRICK RYAN (Attorney) member of law firm representing the Police Association

Proposal (4) Concerning separate classification and increased salary for Police Department

Spoke in favor of the proposed amendment for the Police Department. (applause)

31st Speaker: JOHN CONSIDINE, Secretary of Stamford Police Association

Proposal (4) Concerning separate classification and increased salary for Police Department

MR. CONSIDINE: "Before I start, Mr. Callahan, I have a letter here from Attorney Levister addressed to you, sir." (Handed letter to Chairman)

MR. CONSIDINE spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. (applause)

32nd Speaker: JOHN BOESEN, 29 Van Buskirk Avenue (Fire Fighters Local)

Proposal (4) Concerning separate classification and increased salary - To also include members of the Fire Department as well as the Police Department

Spoke in regard to giving the same consideration to the members of the Fire Department as to the Police Department.

MR. BOESEN: "It seems to me that there has been a lot of distortion here tonight as to what a Civil Service classification really means. I have here a definition of what the word 'classification' means, just in case anyone here is rather vague on it.

" 'Classification' means a group of positions whose duties are essentially similar, serve the same title, can be used with clarity, so that the same tests of fitness can be used and so that the SAME SALARY can be paid with equity.

"Naturally the reason the Fire Fighters have to be included in this proposal, is the fact that when this thing goes before the voters and is approved by the voters, you are going to create a condition of inequity which is going to be equally as hazardous for members of the Fire Department as that claimed by some of the speakers that it happened to the Police Department. In other words, if you are going to eliminate the conditions that the Police have had investigated by the Board of Representatives you are going to have the same condition in the Fire Department. All because of the fact that a little political maneuvering was done and no thought was given to keeping the Civil Service on a merit system and on the plane that it should be kept. It should be IMPROVED, instead of destroyed.

"We have had a little experience on that. We have worked 72 hours and 56 hours for eight or nine years, waiting for the promises of some past political figures, who had promised to give the Firemen decent working conditions commensurate or near that of the Police Department. Well, we waited in vain. We finally had to go on the machine ourselves, the same way the Police wish to go on now, and we won overwhelmingly acclaim by the voters of this city and got a reduction in hours.

"The same thing right now is going to take place for the Police Department, if you people approve it. We think that your Board should rise above the political implications and maneuverings that are implicit here tonight.

"So much has been said here tonight and by the last speaker, Attorney Ryan, about ipso facto - the Fire Department receiving the same treatment - we have had those problems for years and we would rather see it a fait accompli instead of ipso facto. (applause)

"I would like to leave this one last word with you and that is that if there is anything to be said as far as professional status for Fire Fighters as compared with Police, we both feel that our jobs are on a similar plane, even though our positions call for different duties. The Policeman is always out and meets his constituents and his fellow citizens, in fair weather as well as foul weather. The Fireman is always out in foul weather - there is always trouble happening when the Fireman is out. The Fireman has always been in the forefront as regards getting a \$6,000 salary. To paraphrase a comment made here tonight by brother Tobin, if he thinks anyone here is trying to ride on the coat-tails of the Police, it is only because the Firemen's coat-tails are worn out. Thank you." (applause)

33rd Speaker: DANIEL E. RYAN, SR. (Attorney) member of the law firm representing the Police Association

Proposal (4) Concerning separate classification and increased salary for Police

Spoke in favor of proposed amendment. He said he wished to point out that as a member of the legal fraternity, that he and the other members of his firm were not appearing as paid counsel.

MR. RYAN: "The merits as to whether or not there should be other adjustments made in the working conditions and in the wages and in terms of employment of the other city employees, are matters that should receive considerable study and consideration.

"We have been waiting for many years to have our local problems and our local responsibilities determined here in Stamford and not in Hartford, not in the General Assembly. This could not be accomplished in a great many respects. It is only recently, since the Home Rule Act has been established in Connecticut that these problems can be brought down here to Stamford and determined by the Stamford voters. Your Board authorized the appointment of the Charter Revision Commission. That Commission was July set up, composed of fine citizens. They invited all interested people to bring in any proposal that they thought would be for the betterment of the government of Stamford. Your Police Association took advantage of this opportunity and submitted its proposal. The proposal was simple and direct. However, it is exclusive. It proposes that the Stamford Police Department should be classified. Upon this classification a pay plan should be established. This should also be sepe-ate.

"The point I wish to make is this. Anyone who has any suggestion about the government of the City of Stamford can, through following the rules laid down by the Home Rule Act, make suggestions - it's just like a ball game. This is simple A, B, C."

Mr. Ryan spoke at some length. (applause)

Concerning Proposal No. 1: There was one speaker.

Concerning Proposal No. 2: No speakers, either for or against.

Concerning Proposal No. 3: There were seven speakers.

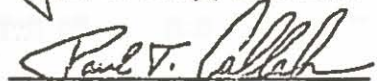
Concerning Proposal No. 4: There were twenty-five speakers.


There being no further speakers, the Chairman announced that the Committee would meet next week in executive session and submit its recommendations to the full Board of Representatives at its September 11th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 P.M.

APPROVED


John R. Nolan, President


Paul T. Callahan, Chairman
Charter Revision Committee


Velma Farrell
Administrative Assistant and
Recording Secretary
Board of Representatives