

1950's

## Sweeney Son to Run for School Board Post

Robert E. Sweeney, son of Martin L., former congressman from the 20th District, has taken out petitions for School Board candidacy, he said today.

The younger Sweeney, who is in the city law director's office, said he isn't pursuing the matter at the moment but is "giving it some thought and watching the field."

Sweeney, 3274 W. 157th St., was an unsuccessful candidate for the State Legislature in 1948. He studied at St. Ignatius' High, Georgetown University, Baldwin-Wallace College and Cleveland-Marshall Law School.

## Hibernians Elect Cleveland Lawyer

Attorney Robert E. Sweeney, 29, of 4324 W. 208th St., today was elected national director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at the group's 67th annual convention in Chicago.

A member for 13 years, Sweeney has served previously as Cuyahoga County president of the order, which is the oldest Irish Catholic organization in America with a membership of some 34,000.

Married and the father of four children, Sweeney has law offices in the Engineers Building.

## Sweeney's Son In Mayor Race

Sixth candidate to announce his intention to run for mayor of Cleveland was Attorney Robert E. Sweeney, 31, formerly an aide in the City Law Department, and son of Martin L. Sweeney, former congressman and municipal judge. The elder Sweeney was also a candidate for mayor in 1933 and 1941.

The younger Sweeney, a Democrat, announced he would run as an independent. He is the father of four children and lives at 26839 Bruce Rd., Bay Village. He plans to sell his home and take residence in the city.

Sweeney said he had been urged by his friends to run. His campaign secretary is Richard A. Finn, an engineer.

## Robert E. Sweeney in Mayor Race

Another candidate last night added his name to the growing list of men who want to be mayor of Cleveland.

This time it was Robert E. Sweeney, 31-year-old attorney and formerly an aide in the city law department. He is the son of Martin L. Sweeney, former

congressman, former municipal judge and himself a candidate for mayor in 1933 and 1941.

Young Sweeney, a Democrat, announced he would run as an independent. He said the decision to enter him in the race was made by a committee, which he declined to name except for Richard A. Finn, an en-

gineer, who is secretary.

"Neither the organized Democratic nor Republican party has to this date presented an intelligent program," Sweeney said. "Both parties are deliberately putting up weak candidates against Mayor Celebrezze. I believe the people deserve an opportunity to vote for more effective opposition. As long as this is going to be a young man's race, I want to be in it."

Sweeney said circulation of his petitions would start immediately. The father of four children, he lives at 26839 Bruce Road, Bay Village, but said he would sell his house and move into Cleveland.

He attended St. Ignatius High School. Following his graduation from Georgetown University, Washington, in 1947, he worked as a claims investigator in the law department.

### Six Declare

Meanwhile, he attended Cleveland Marshall Law School, from which he obtained his law degree in 1951. Admitted to the bar that year, he entered the practice of law with his father in the Engineers Building.

If all who say they intend to run stay in the race Sweeney's entrance makes six candidates. These include Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze and Joseph W. Barunek, the regular Democratic candidate. Others who have indicated they will be in-

## TAXPAYER GYPPE IS SWEENEY VIEW

### Crime Figures 'Slanted,' Candidate Says

By ALVIN SILVERMAN

Clevelanders are not getting the services for which they have been paying, but they are getting "slanted figures" to make the crime record here look better than it actually is, Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democratic candidate for mayor, charged last night.

He said the municipal bureau of complaints "has received more complaints under the (Anthony J.) Celebrezze administration than any other and has become the most overworked department at City Hall."

Turning then to the crime situation, the former assistant city law director said to say about the incumbent's statement that crime was decreasing:

"The reports have been confined to major felonies—murders, car thefts and housebreakings."

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"But the juvenile delinquency experience of our courts was never higher. Misdemeanors and street attacks are on the up-grade. Traffic maps suggest a



ROBERT E. SWEENEY

## Raps Mayor's Methods

"Government by committees" was rapped today by Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democratic candidate for mayor.

Hitting at Mayor Celebrezze, Sweeney charged:

"The present mayor isn't living up to the charter and to his responsibilities by appointing a committee to solve every important problem that comes up."

"Although the gentlemen named to the committees are generally men of merit I want to point out that the people did not elect them mayor."

"When I am mayor, I shall appoint a cabinet that will be made up of men of such capacity that I can rely upon them and through them can avoid the necessity of solving

problems though appointing committees."

Sweeney charged that the Celebrezze administration has failed to clear slums, that it has been lax in enforcing the building code and that the deaths of six children in a fire in the Central Area was the result of bad enforcement of tenement laws.

"The investigation of that fire by the Fire Department," said the candidate, "shows that even the fire hydrant nearby was out of order and useless. Further, the survey showed that hundreds of others all over the city are out of order."

# Seaway Bond Debate Asked by Sweeney

Mayorality Candidate Robert E. Sweeney, challenging his four rivals in the city primaries to debate, today announced his support of the \$8,000,000 seaway bond issue.

Meanwhile, Republican Candidate Kermit K. Neely was preparing to open headquarters in the building occupied by the Election Board at E. Ninth St and Superior Ave. The GOP choice has obtained a store room on Superior Ave. just east of E. Ninth St.

Sweeney, hitting at Neely and Democratic Organizer Choice Joseph W. Bartunek—who have come out against the bond issue—said he will support the bonds and will debate Mayor Celebrezze and all other candidates on the issue.

"The taxpayers will get back their money and more in 10 years through rentals of facilities which will be built with the bonds," Sweeney said.

"Bartunek wants to put this on a county-wide basis. That's not feasible. Surveys indicate that the only lake front land available for development lies between Edgewater Park on the west and Gordon Park on the east. That's all within the city of Cleveland."

"The city is the proper agency for carrying out this development."

"My opponents are missing the boat on this issue—and since they are challenging me to debate, let me say I would like to meet Bartunek, Neely, the mayor and the other candidates. Alexander H. Martin is a discussion of this important issue."

# Mayor Destroys Morale of Police, Sweeney Charges

Robert E. Sweeney, Independent candidate for mayor of Cleveland, yesterday charged in a press release that Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze had destroyed the morale of the city's police department.

He said that the mayor in launching "campaigns against his own police department" had broken down "the public's confidence in the Safety Department."

The mayor, through his safety director, "have engaged in wholesale 'witchhunts' within the police and fire departments — destroying the incentive of young men today to take on the uniform of the blue," said Sweeney.

Sweeney said he was convinced 95% or more of the personnel of the city's safety forces were competent, highly skilled career men who deserved the public's confidence.

If elected, he said, he would call for the safety director, chief of police, and other superior officers to support and back the men within the ranks. He added that he would weed out "effectively, quietly and conservatively" any man who disgraced the uniform.

# City Inertia Is Outlined by Sweeney

By NATE SILVERMAN

Contending the city had "stagnated and fallen behind" other large communities, Robert E. Sweeney last night urged creation of a municipal public relations department to help attract business and aid in solution of city problems.

"I do not believe Cleveland is progressing and taking advantage of its civic potential," he said. "Cleveland has not moved forward to the extent of areas like Pittsburgh, Baltimore and St. Louis."

The independent Democrat, who seeks to unseat Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze, charged the administration has lagged in enforcement of air pollution ordinances and has failed to enforce the building code as a means of slum clearance.



ROBERT E. SWEENEY

# Sweeney to Offer 7-Point Promise

Robert E. Sweeney, Independent Democratic mayoralty candidate will kick off his campaign tonight at Hotel Cleveland by proposing a seven-point program for civic improvement. Sweeney will also issue a roundhouse blast against two of his political opponents.

Sweeney will tell his followers at Hotel Cleveland tonight that:

"if and when he is elected mayor" he will set about enacting the following seven-point program:

- Better garbage and rubbish collections; more efficient operation of police and fire departments;
- solve air pollution problems;
- ease traffic congestion;
- revise city employment wage levels;
- support the Rogers plan for lake-front development; and
- eliminate city government by committees.

In a "no holds barred" speech designed to fire up his workers for the Oct. 4 primary election, Sweeney will tell his followers tonight that:

Democratic organization candidate Joseph W. Bartunek "led the attack upon organized labor and the working masses of this state when he voted in the General Assembly in support of the adoption of the Ferguson Act... against the extension of the unemployment benefits deserving of the people... and for the Junior Hobbs Act."

Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze has "pursued the dictates of a few individuals during his tenure at City Hall and has accommodated exclusively one ear for the voice of an influential journalist of this area and the other ear for the state's leading citizen."

In a long and vehement attack on the two-year record of Mayor Celebrezze at City Hall Sweeney will tell his audience tonight that the mayor has been deficient in the fields of law enforcement, fire prevention, garbage and rubbish collections, traffic congestion, off street parking, air pollution and utilities service.

"I say Mr. Mayor that you have embarked upon what I term a vicious, unwarranted, and dishonest campaign against the Cleveland Police and Fire Department... and that you have construed that the function of the safety department is to conduct investigation after investigation upon its own personnel," Sweeney will say tonight.

# Sweeney Hits Neely for "Low Blows"

Mayorality Candidate Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democrat, today suggested to one of his rivals, Councilman Kermit K. Neely, Republican standard bearer, that he keep his campaign "on a high plane."

Referring to Neely's charge that Mayor Celebrezze is building his campaign on "half-baked slogans," Sweeney remarked:

"Neely was one of the first to suggest keeping the campaign on a higher plane. Now we find him swinging from the fence and hitting low. I suggest to him that he keep his blows higher. I'm disappointed at his choice of language."

Sweeney today notified the Election Board he will challenge its right to rule out certain of his petitions because of irregularities in signatures.

Meanwhile, another mayoralty candidate, Alexander H. Martin, also an independent Democrat, whose petitions will be some 150 names short, said he is prepared with additional signatures when the Election Board makes its final decision on his papers.

# Sweeney at Sea in Attempt To Win Votes at Water Crib

BY PETER BELLAMY

Because Bob Sweeney, independent candidate for mayor, believes in being "nautical but nice" when it comes to getting votes among the lonely tenders of the five mile crib—

Cleveland today nearly lost a candidate for mayor and Cuyahoga Heights its mayor to the melancholy waters of Lake Erie.

Sweeney, the Democratic son of former Congressman Martin L. Sweeney, went out to the five mile crib in the process of a serious tour of the lakefront

and Cuyahoga River during which he inspected sites of the proposed seaway development and air and lake pollution by plants along the Cuyahoga River.

## Nearly Fell In Lake

He nearly went into the drink from a 34-foot Chris-Craft owned by Emil Krizman, a meat dealer, in getting off the crib.

The lake was choppy and Sweeney was jammed against the side of the crib by the unwieldy boat with his straining outstretched hands grasping the crib landing ladder.

Cuyahoga Heights Mayor William Gerdon nearly had a pre-seaway dunking when he tried to keep the boat near the crib to assist Sweeney in getting on and off the craft. For a few crucial seconds, while he was hovering over the brink, Mayor Gerdon looked like an ad for a body stretching course.

## Friend Named Kelly

It is a fact that Sweeney has the votes of the two crib tenders in his hip pocket. One of them, Edward Mueller, of 1936 W. 56th St., said he and Sweeney had a mutual friend named Kelly in the Third Ward. That seemed to settle things, even though Sweeney doesn't know to which Kelly in the Third Ward Mueller was referring.

Art Moore, the other crib tender, whose address was lost in the roar of the waves, said he too was a Sweeney man. He also said the crib would produce a third vote for Sweeney, although Sweeney couldn't tell

from where, since there were only two crib tenders.

## Defends Survey

"If you write a story about this," Sweeney said, please stress that the \$8,000,000 seaway bond issue facing the voters in November is more important to the city's future even than the identity of the candidates."

Commenting on his electioneering at the crib, Sweeney said: "If it's allright for City Traffic Engineer Bob Kelly to charter a helicopter to survey traffic bottlenecks, I think it's allright for me to get a boat to survey the seaway."

"But I'd hate to drown a mayor of Cuyahoga Heights to elect a mayor of Cleveland."

# Sweeney Hits at Bartunek Visit

Support by all "true Democrats" for himself rather than for Joseph W. Bartunek, mayoralty candidate of the Democratic organization, was sought last night by Robert E. Sweeney, independent candidate at a ward 33 rally in Gannon's Hall.

Referring to a reported snub of Bartunek by Gov. Frank J. Lausche, Sweeney said:

"The mere fact that Mr. Bartunek would slip away from Cleveland to romance the support of the governor indicates that Party Chairman Ray T. Miller has not properly investigated the background of the candidate and that Mr. Bartunek is not representative of the thinking of the leadership and the rank and file of the party."

Sweeney urged "true Democrats" to join in his campaign for nomination and election.

## Bartunek Turned Back, Says Sweeney

In rallies in Wards 8, 13 and 31, Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democrat, charged the party organization candidate, State Senator Joseph W. Bartunek, had "turned his back on the people." As Senate minority leader to R.M. film censorship bill in the last session of the Legislature, 1955.

"Every church club, fraternal organization, business interest

and welfare agency supported with vigor this bill," Sweeney said. "I had the pleasure to circulate petitions for its adoption and to lobby for it."

"I contend that if Mr. Bartunek went against the public interest in the Assembly he would avoid the public interest if ever, God forbid, he became mayor of the city of Cleveland.

"The fact that the motion picture exhibitors of the Cleveland district did take Mr. Bartunek to their bosom and throw open their theaters to him in this campaign is evidence enough to me and to all the people of Cleveland that this is a payoff by the motion picture industry for a job well done in their behalf in killing the censor."

# Sweeney's First Rally Draws Fewer Than 100

BY THOMAS VAIL  
News Political Writer

Candidate Robert E. Sweeney today faced an uphill fight for mayor today after the young independent Democrat attracted less than 100 persons to his opener at Hotel Cleveland's Empire Room.

Although the young candidate failed to attract a large audience, last night, the tore into two of his opponents, Joseph W. Bartunek, the Democratic organization choice, and Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze.

On Bartunek, Sweeney said: "I say that I could not accept my party chairman's choice as the standard bearer in this municipal election. I withdrew from the Democratic executive committee for the reason that I do not believe that Mr. Bartunek represented the views of the majority of the membership of my party."

"Because of the vicious anti-labor feeling on the part of Bartunek I say that I could not accept my party chairman's choice for mayor."

On Celebrezze, Sweeney said: "Certainly, Mr. Mayor, you cannot expect the people of Cleveland to believe that police enforcement within this city has been effective when they look about and see a multi-billion dollar numbers racket in operation.

"Yours is a record of compromise and inaction, Mr. Mayor. It is nothing that I would submit with pride to the people of my city."

Sweeney outlined a seven-point program he would work for if elected mayor. His program includes better garbage and rubbish collections, more efficient operation of the police and fire departments, correction of air pollution, curing traffic congestion, revision of city employees wage levels, support of the lakefront bond issue, and elimination of "government by committees."

Sweeney's father, Martin L. Sweeney, former congressman and 1933 mayoralty candidate, spoke for his son and urged his election.

Sweeney is opposed on Oct. 4 by Mayor Celebrezze; Bartunek, the Democratic organization choice; Kermit K. Neely, the Republican organization choice, and Alexander H. Martin, a Negro Democrat.

# SWEENEY SLAPS CITY DUMP FLOW

Cites Army Report of '31 on Pollution Cure

By GEORGE J. BARMANN

A 1931 Army engineers' report concerning the possible reversal of the flow of the Cuyahoga River to stop the pollution of Lake Erie was the subject of discussion by Robert E.



ROBERT E. SWEENEY

Sweeney, independent Democratic candidate for mayor, last night.

The 31-year-old Sweeney, with a party of seven, yesterday toured the lake front and the river in a 40-foot cruiser. He said he found "tremendous evidence" that Cleveland itself was one of the chief violators in lake pollution.

In a statement after the tour Sweeney took note of the engineers' report and said he understood the reversal of the river was "financially sound and technically feasible." He added: "If it was so then, it is today."

## Tells of Water Tour

He said he had asked his campaign manager, John P. Butler, to go to Washington to look up the report, which he said came about through the efforts of the late Congressman Charles A. Mooney. And Sweeney said he was asking Congressman Michael A. Feighan to help get the report.

Speaking of his water tour, Sweeney said he observed, at E. 30th Street, "a city operated and owned dump . . . and rubbish flowing all over the area between E. 30th Street and E. 49th Street."

"If the city asks individuals to comply with the sanitary code it might well enforce its own operation," he said.

Sweeney spoke of the air pollution issue, and said that on the boat trip, from two miles out, "Cleveland looks like it's on fire."

## Calls Flare Terrible

"The flare of fire is terrible," he said. "The whole city seems to be afire."

"I repeat," he said, "how can the city get the co-operation of industry if the city itself is one of the worst offenders?"

Sweeney talked at the American Turners Hall, W. 39th Street and Lorain Avenue, and said he "deeply resented the attack that Mr. Bartunek (Joseph W. Bartunek, the Democratic organization mayoralty candidate) made Sunday on Lee C. Howley."

Sweeney served in the city law department under Howley when Howley was law director.

## Cites Sacrifice

Bartunek, at the Democratic steer roast at Euclid Beach Park, mentioned, as "evidence" of Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. "influence" on city affairs, that Howley, the CEI chief counsel, was chairman of Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze's port and harbor committee.

Howley was listed on the steer roast program as a purchaser of one of the \$100 patron tickets to the roast.

"I am aware of the fine sacrifice that Mr. Howley has made in the service of the city," Sweeney said. "Mr. Bartunek's ungratefulness is evidence of his selfish attitude when he thus

# 'Compromise' Is Charged by Sweeney

By RAY DORSEY

Robert E. Sweeney formally opened his independent Democratic campaign for mayor last night by repeatedly attacking Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze's administration as one of "inaction and compromise."

A sparse audience of little more than 100 was present for the Sweeney campaign kickoff in the Empire Room of Hotel Hollenden.

The 31-year-old Sweeney also struck out at Joseph W. Bartunek, the Democratic organization's endorsed candidate, with the charge that Bartunek was "antilabor" and had been "hand-picked" by Democratic County Chairman Ray T. Miller.

"I resented the undemocratic manner in which this candidate was picked," he said of Bartunek.

Sweeney departed frequently from his prepared 25-page ad.

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## Air Problem

Switching the subject, he asserted that "air pollution is a more stressing problem today, Mr. Mayor, than it was when you took office."

Also worse today, he said, were pollution in Lake Erie and traffic congestion.

Charging that "every time a great decision must be made, Mr. Celebrezze calls in a committee," Sweeney said:

"I shall be unafraid to assume the responsibilities the people confer upon me."

## Supporting Bond

Saying he was supporting the \$8,000,000 bond issue for lake-front development, he added: "I don't consider lake-front development a political issue. I resent Neely and Bartunek trying to make a political football out of it."

This was his only reference to Kermit K. Neely, Republican-endorsed candidate for mayor.

## GOP Will Try to Put Leaders in Precincts

The Republican organization . . .

n. Mr. Mayor. . . that I would submit with pride to the people of my city."

## Garbage, Rubbish

Sweeney asserted he could "prove that rubbish and garbage collections are six to eight weeks in arrears. Adding that the mayor would attempt to defend this by saying the city had no money, Sweeney continued:

"While you slept in City Hall, the operating levy was defeated because the taxpayers knew they were not getting value for dollars spent."

He charged that Celebrezze had "compromised away" \$16,000,000 in electric power consumers' money by agreeing to permit a rate increase that the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. will put into effect soon.

# Sweeney Hits Rapid Transit as a Failure

By EUGENE SEGAL

Failures in public transportation policy, in relieving traffic congestion, in the off-street parking program and in air pollution elimination were charged to the Celebrezze administration last night by

Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democratic candidate for mayor.

Sweeney appeared on a television program at WNBK with four friends as interlocutors giving the cues to lead him into his attack.



ROBERT E. SWEENEY

"One thing unfair about our transportation system," he said, "is that preference is given to the people of the suburbs while the people who bought and paid for the system get the worst service of all."

Sweeney referred to the Rocky River express bus, which he said has few seats left for Cleveland riders at the few stops it makes on its way downtown.

"To me," he said, "the rapid transit is a railroad that goes no place. It gives you a fast ride to a slow bus."

Rapid transit, he continued, has failed to accomplish its purpose of relieving traffic congestion.

## Expert Defined

"The only thing that has been done lately to relieve this congestion was to import a man named Kelly from Chicago who didn't even know the names of Cleveland streets," he said.

"In Cleveland an expert is a man from out of town who needs a job. Traffic on the High-Level Bridge is so slow that motorists sit in their cars and watch pedestrians go by."

Cleveland, Sweeney asserted, is so far behind in providing off-street parking facilities that suburban shopping centers are draining business from the city.

He cited Pittsburgh's and Baltimore's success in reducing air pollution and added:

"Why has not Cleveland taken advantage of their experience? People say it would be expensive to effect complete elimination of air pollution. Of course it would, but how much would the community be willing to spend for the health of its children?"

## Sweeney Is Aiming

### Pamphlets at Bartunek

Ten thousand pamphlets blaming State Senator Bartunek for the death of the state movie censorship bill will be sprinkled among city voters, Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democrat, said.

To uncork this salvo he called together campaign workers at his headquarters, 105 St. Clair Avenue.

Sweeney said the pamphlet "puts the finger on Bartunek (who is using free movies to draw campaign audiences) for using a legislative device to dispose of censorship."

Sweeney reprimanded — but did not name — another of his four rivals, Alexander H. Martin Jr., for "using a racial appeal." Martin on Tuesday told voters he was "running as a Negro" and pledge "to change the status of the colored man" here.

"For political expediency this candidate attempts to destroy

the cosmopolitan character of Cleveland that has made this city nationally outstanding."

Sweeney said in his statement to his workers.

"I mean the spirit exemplified in the Cultural Gardens, dedicated to advancing the traditions and cultures of all races and creeds."

Turning his shots toward the present mayor, Sweeney said the numbers racket here is "broadening daily, due to the lack of an aggressive campaign to curb it."

As mayor, Sweeney said he would put cases of numbers bosses before the grand jury on the charge that they are habitual misdemeanants.



ROBERT E. SWEENEY

## Sweeney Replines Mediation 'Inaction'

Robert E. Sweeney, independent Democrat, in his talks, hit at the "inaction" of Mayor Celebrezze in helping to settle labor disputes in Cleveland.

Sweeney spoke at a clambake of Local 33 of the Plumbers Union in Euclid and at another clambake of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, E. 17th Street and Chester Avenue S. E.

"It is the responsibility of the mayor in a city this size to cooperate effectively with organized labor in labor problems," the candidate said. "I am speaking of the inaction of the present administration in this field."

Sweeney said that when he became mayor he would "create, in the department of public and labor relations, a working harmony between management and labor to minimize labor disputes and to bring about collective bargaining."

He renewed his attacks on the Celebrezze administration for its "lack of a long-range work on traffic congestion and lack of service to the people."

"Labor's gains in the wage field have been reduced because the administration has permitted utility costs to rise to an all-time high," Sweeney said.

"Water rates, for example, are the highest in the history of the city."



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**SWEENEY AND SWEENEY AND SWEENEY** is a law firm that has become a family affair today specializing in labor law and personal injury. Martin L. and Robert E. pose here before the picture of their late father, former Cong. Martin L. The brothers plan to extend their offices into the western suburbs as well as maintaining their downtown location in the Engineer's Bldg.

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