

1980's



Vincent C. Campanella

Robert E. Sweeney

Sweeney, Campanella trade campaign barbs in commissioner race

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney and County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella traded broadsides and barbs yesterday at a sometimes heated and occasionally witty City Club debate.

Campanella, a Republican, and Sweeney, the incumbent Democrat, repeated charges each has leveled at the other during the course of their campaigns for commissioner.

Campanella said his experience as Cleveland city budget and law directors and as county auditor provide him with the tools and knowledge to cut the fat from the county's budget — fat that Campanella said Sweeney had added.

Sweeney admitted the county's budget has grown, but insisted the extra dollars were to provide services to the poor and unemployed. He said Campanella, as a member of a party epitomized by Ronald Reagan, would turn county government over to businessmen and bankers.

Sweeney also accused Campanella of being the "architect of default" for his role as budget director under former Mayor Ralph J. Perk, a claim Campanella brushed aside as ridiculous.

But Sweeney insisted that Campanella was part of the reason for the city's financial problems, and read from an Urban Institute report he said supported his claims.

The report said Cleveland, under Perk, borrowed \$44 million in 1972, \$65 million in 1974 and \$20 million

in 1977; that bond funds were tapped to cover operating deficits, and that the city's sewer and mass transit systems were sold and the money used for day-to-day operations.

"And you shouldn't have done that," Sweeney said, pointing at Campanella.

Campanella, however, continued to insist that the city's budgets were balanced while he was in office, and he accused Sweeney of allowing the county's budget to climb from \$452 million in 1976 to \$662 million this year.

"It's the big-spending, big-hearted Bob Sweeney" who did that, Campanella charged.

Sweeney said he endorses State Issue 1, the proposed property tax reform measure promoted by Campanella and County Treasurer Francis Gaul. But Campanella also insisted that Sweeney continue to work for additional legislation after Nov. 4 to improve the lot of homeowners.

"I'll guarantee you, Vince, if you come in right after the first of the year, I'll approve it," Sweeney retorted.

Campanella also continued to remind Sweeney of the commissioner's abortive decision last year to resign. Campanella said his commitment would be full time and, like the farmer in need of rain for his fields, he promised to "bring some rain" to the county to help it grow economically.

Sweeney responded by saying that, "I've been contending he's been wet all along."

Campanella decides to run for county commissioner

Cuyahoga County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella made official yesterday something that has been speculated on for weeks: he will challenge Democratic County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney in November.

Campanella, 37, the only Republican candidate to challenge Sweeney so far, will not have to give up his auditor's post to run for commissioner. His auditor's term expires in 1983.

Sweeney, who won the seat in 1976, is expected to face no opposition in the June 3 Democratic primary.

Campanella said the major issue further expansion of the county airport, continued growth of the county's social service administrative costs and the lack of accountability among the many county boards and commissions.

GOP poll puts Stackhouse, Sweeney in loss column

By Joseph D. Rice

County Commissioner **Robert E. Sweeney** and County Engineer **Ronald A. Stackhouse** are the only incumbent county officers losing, according to a poll taken for the Cuyahoga County Republican party.

The telephone poll of 500 registered voters was taken between Oct. 18 and 21 by Market Opinion Research Corp. of Detroit. The margin of error is 4.5%.

The poll, which was given to The Plain Dealer, showed County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, a Republican, leading Democrat Sweeney in the commissioner's race, 44% to 41%, with 15% undecided.

Stackhouse, a Republican, trailed Democrat Thomas J. Neff, 40% to 37%, with 23% undecided.

Commissioner **Virgil E. Brown**, a Republican, led Democratic County Chairman **Timothy F. Hagan**, 48% to 35%, with 17% undecided.

County Recorder **Mark McElroy**, a Democrat, led Republican **Thomas McSweeney**, 44% to 37%, with 25% undecided.

The races for sheriff and county treasurer were not included on the poll, said Republican County Chairman **Robert E. Hughes**.

Hughes acknowledged that Sheriff **Gerald T. McFaul** and Treasurer **Francis E. Gaul**, both Democrats, are probably leading their GOP opponents, **Vincent H. Fiebig** and **Lois M. Graff**, respectively.

County Prosecutor **John T. Corrigan** and Coroner **Samuel R. Gerber**, both Democrats, are unopposed for re-election.

The poll showed Sweeney has gained ground on Campanella. Another GOP poll, taken between Aug. 29 and Sept. 9, gave Campanella 50%, Sweeney 35% and 15% undecided.

It appeared the race was shaping up along party lines, with Campanella getting 79% of the GOP vote to Sweeney's 13% and Sweeney getting 56% of the Democratic vote and Campanella 29%. Campanella led among independents, 47% to 36%.

In the other commissioner's race, Brown was getting 80% of the GOP vote, compared to 9% for Hagan, and getting 38% of the Democratic vote, compared to 48% for Hagan. Brown led among independents, 46% to 32%. He led Hagan earlier, 45% to 36%.

The biggest shift was in the traditionally Democratic black vote where Brown, who is black, leads Hagan, 56% to 33%. Brown led in the earlier poll among blacks, 46% to 41%. Brown also led among white voters, 46% to 36%. His earlier margin was 44% to 39%.

Many politicians had not expected Brown to do as well with white voters.

Stackhouse, who has been involved in controversy for most of his almost four years in office, had a 21% unfavorable rating, compared to 5% for Neff. Stackhouse's name was recognized by 75% of the voters and Neff's by 36%.

County won't lend Ohio money for roads

By **Pauline Thomas**
Cuyahoga County commissioners will not lend money to the state for highway projects in Cleveland and its suburbs unless they are convinced they have the resources to make such a loan, in Commission President **Robert E. Sweeney's** view.

County Engineer **Ronald A. Stackhouse** proposed a loan from voter-approved highway improvement funds and \$5 license tag revenue after the Ohio Department

of Transportation announced last week it must delay 34 high-priority road projects here because it cannot fund its share of the work.

Stackhouse singled out as crucial the completion of Interstate 480 through Cleveland and the grade separation project near Cleveland Hopkins International Airport to eliminate the dangerous Five Points Rd. railroad crossing.

It would cost the county \$4.2 million to help the state with those two improvements.

Sweeney said the projects are important, "but if we front-end the state's share, that puts a burden on the taxpayers here that they should not be asked to shoulder."

Sweeney contended that Cuyahoga County traditionally "pays the most and gets the least" in highway improvements: "Of the 88 counties, ours was the last to be considered in the development of the interstate highway system. We have suffered year after year of delays."

Even if commissioners approve

the deal — which is legal, according to the prosecutor's office — there is no certainty that the state would accept a loan. Thomas M. Krall, deputy transportation director for this district, termed the proposal "another IOU that would put us further in debt."

"The offer cannot be accepted if Stackhouse is looking for credit from us at some future time," Krall said. "We are in the hole now. To add a debt of additional funds we

don't have would be kind of foolish."

In the search for highway and bridge funds, Cleveland and the county have compiled a list of 89 projects, valued at \$275 million, which could be financed with federal money that had been earmarked for the now-defunct I-490 project.

Listed among the most important projects are: a new Clark Ave. bridge, \$50 million; a new Lake Shore Blvd. bridge over Euclid

Creek, \$950,000, and reconstruction of the Main Ave. bridge at \$30 million, the Brookpark Rd. bridge at \$6.98 million and the Brooklyn-Brighton (Pearl Rd.) bridge at \$16.7 million.

"A highway withdrawal occurs once in a blue moon," said Ralph P. Kelly, executive assistant to Mayor George V. Volinovich. "With the opportunity to use the federal money here, we are getting our act together to sell NOACA on approving these projects."

Meal contracts held up for Campanella's OK

Sweeney doesn't want to bind man who beat him

By Gary R. Clark

Contracts for next year's county-administered hot meal program for the elderly were tabled yesterday by County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney until they are reviewed by Commissioner-elect Vincent C. Campanella.

Sweeney said the four contracts, which call for three catering firms to supply about 5,300 hot meals daily in Cuyahoga, Medina, Geauga, Lorain and Lake counties, should be voted on by commissioners only after consumers have presented evaluations of the catering firms to the commissioners and after Campanella's review.

"I do not feel inclined to bind him (Campanella) to something he will have to live with in 1981," Sweeney said. Sweeney, defeated in his bid for re-election by Campanella, said he would take the same position on other contracts that would be binding on Campanella next year.

DEMOCRATS NEED NOT

APPLY... County commissioners, preparing to advertise for a manager to direct an experimental program designed to match elderly people with useful federal programs, stopped momentarily when Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney, a Democrat, jokingly questioned whether the job would go to a good Democrat. Commissioner Ed Feighan, a fellow Dem, took the joke a step further, asking, "Perhaps you'd be interested."

Sweeney was defeated last month by County Auditor Vince Campanella, a Republican. He and Commissioner Virgil Brown, will form a Republican majority on the board next year and will oversee all hirings.

Campanella is county auditor.

Paul Alandt, director of the Area Agency on Aging, a county office that administers the multi-county hot meal program, said bids for the contracts were opened Nov. 6 and were to be acted on in 30 days. He said he expects the caterers will be willing to wait for the contracts to be awarded.

The meals are provided at 64 sites.

Alandt said he expects the county to be about \$370,000 short of the estimated \$4.7 million needed to fund the program next year. About \$700,000 is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the rest by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The deficit will have to be made up, he said, by limiting the number of meals provided, by asking the elderly to pay more than the average 33 cents per meal they pay now or by finding other money sources.

Average cost per meal next year is \$2.06, compared to the average \$1.90 paid this year. Alandt said if the deficit is covered by eliminating some meals later next year, it could affect 1,200 of the 6,000 meals served daily. Some meals are provided from sources other than the four contracts.

Sweeney also said one of the proposed

caterers, American Automatic Vending Co., was criticized by Alandt's staff for poor service, a decline in the quality of food and insufficient on-site visitation.

Jerry Gardner, company president, said major problems had been dealt with and the staff's criticisms were minor.

MORE POLITICAL STUFF

Michael V. Kelley, administrative assistant to State Auditor Thomas E. Ferguson, is leaving July 1 to become director of the re-election campaign of Robert E. Sweeney for county commissioner.

Headquarters will be at Euclid Ave. and E. 19th St., close by Cleveland State University's

Cleveland-Marshall Law School, where Kelley is a part-time student.

Meeting set here on rules for radioactive shipments

Mayors and other elected officials and community groups are being urged to attend a 9 a.m. meeting today in the Justice Center auditorium to discuss proposed federal rules for shipment of radioactive materials.

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney said the rules proposed by the U.S. Department of Transportation would give the department final say in setting routes for such shipments.

About two dozen Cuyahoga County communities have adopted ordinances regulating shipments, and Sweeney said the proposed federal rules could replace those ordinances.

Sweeney also wants one of three proposed department hearings on the proposals to be in Cleveland.

County is shortchanged on road funds: Sweeney

The state is shortchanging Cuyahoga County on spending for highway construction and rehabilitation projects, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney said yesterday.

Sweeney noted that The Plain Dealer reported last week that 34 high-priority highway projects in Greater Cleveland had been postponed by the Ohio Department of Transportation because of inflation and declining gasoline and diesel fuel-tax revenues.

Among the postponed projects are the final segment of Interstate 180 here and the Berea Freeway grade-separation project at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, where the dangerous Five Points Rd. railroad crossing is to be eliminated.

Sweeney said he will request a meeting between the commissioners and Gov. James A. Rhodes to discuss highway funding.

He noted that the county has paid Cleveland's share of several bridge and highway projects, and he rejected a suggestion by County Engineer Ronald Stackhouse that the county pick up the state's share of some projects.

"For someone to suggest, while we are carrying the city's burden on our shoulders, that we should also carry the state's burden, is imposing an inordinately heavy burden on the taxpayers," Sweeney said.



Campanella

Sweeney, Campanella tangle over tax appraisals



Sweeney

By Gary R. Clark

The confrontation started with a little campaign-style sparring but quickly deteriorated into a finger-pointing shouting match.

County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney and his general election challenger, County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, turned yesterday's county commissioners' meeting into a candidates' debate that left the audience alternating between laughter and stunned silence.

The issues were politics and property reappraisals, both the computerized estimates Campanella's office conducted last year and the on-site inspections planned in preparation for the 1982 reappraisals.

Sweeney declined to act yesterday on Campanella's request to increase the auditor's budget from \$1.6 million to \$2.1 million to hire 30 people to conduct the inspections. Campanella later said he would take the issue to the state commissioner of tax equalization, who has the authority to require the funding.

Campanella, a Republican, and Democratic County Treasurer Francis E. Gaul, have been championing property tax reform for homeowners for several years.

But yesterday, Sweeney, a Democrat, charged that Campanella has alienated the General Assembly with his repeated attacks on legislators for failing to change property tax laws. Campanella said later he has tried working with legislators, but special interest groups in Columbus are more powerful than tax reformers.

Sweeney said that about 80% of those peo-

ple who filed complaints with the county's boards of tax revision obtained reductions of their taxes, leading him to believe that Campanella's computerized method was faulty. Campanella said he has encouraged the tax revision boards to grant reductions, and he said the computerized system was being improved.

The exchange started with some humor. After Campanella had explained the basics of a new accounting system for the county, Sweeney said, "I appreciate that. It will help me in the future." The audience laughed at Sweeney's confidence in his re-election.

"I wouldn't want to give you any more help than that," Campanella countered.

Minutes later, Sweeney was charging that Campanella's computerized system was designed to increase tax revenues. "I have to conclude that the residential owner is getting it in the neck from the system," he charged.

Campanella then accused the commissioners of increasing taxes by placing a health and human services levy on the June ballot.

Sweeney responded by charging that Campanella's computerized system is all wet. "To impose that burden on people is entirely unfair," he said.

"How many signatures did you get to change the laws," Campanella countered.

"Let me give you an answer," Sweeney said.

"I'll take it," Campanella replied.

"I think you're all wet," Sweeney repeated.

"He's irresponsible" Campanella said after the meeting. "It's political harassment."

Sweeney seeks to limit power of state for tax reappraisals

The powers of the state commissioner of tax equalization to approve property appraisal plans for Ohio's 88 county auditors should be restricted, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney said yesterday.

Robert R. Kinney, the state official, recently ordered that the county give an additional \$368,000 to County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella's office to complete the reappraisal. Campanella is vying in the November elections for Sweeney's seat.

Sweeney voted against the increased budget May 5, saying that the method being used by Campanella to conduct the appraisals would increase residential taxes.

The extra funds are to hire 30 additional people to conduct on-site property appraisals in

preparation for the 1982 tax year. Kinney's order noted that Ohio law gives the tax commissioner the authority to approve an auditor's appraisal plans, and to approve an auditor's budget if local county commissioners refuse.

Sweeney said he would ask legislators to support a bill limiting that authority. He said he would contact State Sen. Neal F. Zimmers Jr., D-5, of Dayton, chairman of the Senate's Ways and Means Committee; State Rep. Patrick A. Sweeney, D-6, of Cleveland, a member of the House's Ways and Means Committee, and House Speaker Vernal G. Riffe Jr. about the situation.

Sweeney said he also requested Thomas P. Gill, chief of the county prosecutor's civil division, to determine if entering homes to conduct inspections would be a violation of privacy laws.

Sweeney calls for a subsidy to aid theaters

By BETTY KLARIC

If Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert Sweeney has his way, public money will come to the rescue of those Playhouse Square theaters slated to be dark for the next 18 months.

Sweeney, who says that the Playhouse Square Foundation is in financial distress, urged that an emergency meeting be held of representatives from the county, the city, Playhouse Square Foundation and others involved in the Square's revitalization moves.

He said the groups should meet "to decide if this community is able to keep one theater going."

Sweeney said he would be willing to commit county money for theater operations to stimulate financial support by the city, state, foundations, corporations and individuals.

Last week, Charles Raison, executive director of the Playhouse Square Foundation, said the theaters would be closed — for the most part — for 18 months because renovation work would prevent long-range commitment in booking acts.

Sweeney attributed the planned closing to an operating loss of \$237,000 between January and May and a \$143,000 operating loss from the Paul Anka appearance alone.

"I don't believe that the theaters can make it on just box office receipts," said Sweeney.

Corporations, individuals, the city and county governments have failed to recognize that they must consider a subsidy for operations apart from the capital cost of the complex, the commissioner declared.

The county bought the Loew's Building that houses the State and Ohio Theaters for \$681,000 and has spent more than a million dollars to renovate and furnish the office space for the Juvenile Court child support operations.

In addition, a \$3.1 million federal grant has paid for restoration of the State Theater.

Sweeney said that restoration will be completed in several months, but that the State stage still must be rebuilt and efforts are being made to secure additional federal funding.

"It is distressing and discouraging to have an auditorium without a stage," said Sweeney.

While a large amount of public money has been spent on the buildings, none has been used toward theater operating costs thus far.

Sweeney suggested the Playhouse Square Foundation's survival might be in jeopardy.

"A city's cultural appointments are critical to its vitality and attract commerce and tourism," said Sweeney.

Playhouse Square operating subsidy asked by Sweeney

By Gary R. Clark *A16*

Representatives of area governments and private foundations will be asked to consider subsidizing operations of the Playhouse Square theater complex downtown.

Only a partial season of events is being planned for this year and next, mainly in the lobby of the State Theater, because of renovation and money problems, said Charles W. Raison, executive director of the Playhouse Square Foundation.

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney said yesterday that the foundation has lost \$237,000 since the beginning of the year, mainly from operation of the Palace Theater.

He suggested that area governments and private foundations and contributors consider an operating subsidy so that the complex can fulfill its promise of becoming a regional cultural center.

"What we ought to be doing is turning the lights on, not turning them off," Sweeney said.

Raison declined to confirm the \$237,000 loss, but did admit the theaters have "lost quite a bit of money."

County commissioners have been renovating the Loews' Building, which includes the State and Ohio theaters, with federal funds originally earmarked for Cleveland's Gateway project. Little has been done to the Ohio Theater, but the State Theater is 90% completed.

The Palace Theater, Raison said, has been remodeled with private funds. But the Palace needs improvements in its electrical wiring and stage rigging.

The foundation launched an \$18 million fund-raising campaign in March to finance renovations at all three theaters. If successful, the

complex, once completed, would have three operating theaters and restaurants.

However, the foundation has not received any firm commitments toward its \$18 million goal, Raison said.

Sweeney said government subsidies for the arts are not a new idea. He listed the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the commissioner's \$200,000 subsidy to the arts here as examples.

A meeting will be scheduled soon with representatives of the county, city of Cleveland, private foundations, individual contributors, the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland and state and federal agencies to discuss the subsidy proposal, Sweeney said.

Sweeney is accused of political retaliation against labor agency

A proposal to eliminate Cuyahoga County's funding of the United Labor Agency (ULA) has prompted charges that Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney is retaliating for the AFL-CIO's endorsement of Sweeney's opponent in the November election.

ULA executive director Mel Witt, who is also president of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federation of Labor, made the accusations after he learned commissioners were considering a proposal to cut \$318,157 in ULA funding.

Witt said Sweeney is irritated by the federation's endorsement last month of Cuyahoga County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, Sweeney's Republican opponent.

Sweeney denied the charge, noting he has long been a supporter of organized labor. But he said a welfare department study of the ULA found the services funded by the county duplicate services provided elsewhere by county government and the city of Cleveland.

Sweeney and Commissioner Edward F. Feighan said the welfare department study, and its proposals for cutting funding for the ULA and other agencies, was initiated

because of a projected \$2.3 million shortfall this year in federal Title XX funding for social services.

Welfare Department Director John P. McGinty said commissioners ordered the study in February and that the budget-cutting proposals were completed in early May, before the AFL-CIO endorsed Campanella.

McGinty said \$53,975 was paid in the last year to the ULA for finding jobs for referrals from the welfare department. McGinty said of 273 referrals, 17 persons, or 1.4 per month, found employment.

Witt argued that the ULA, which also receives funding from United Way and other sources, has found jobs for 87 persons since last July. Most were non-welfare department referrals, but Witt said the ULA located the jobs and provides an important service.

McGinty also said a \$204,000 information and referral program, and a \$60,182 family-life education program for the elderly, are duplications of services provided by other area agencies.

Sweeney said he would debate Witt's charges in any union hall in the county.

Officials here offering money, hall for debate

JUL 13 3 30 PM '62 *A12*

By Joseph L. Wagner

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney pledged \$100,000 in county funds and Mayor George V. Voinovich said he might offer the Cleveland Convention Center rent-free as the city began bidding for one of the League of Women Voters' presidential debates.

The offers came during a luncheon for Lee Hanna, coordinator of the Presidential Forums for the league, and his assistant, Milton Weiss. They are in town inspecting facilities and divvying for money to underwrite the cost of the debates.

"If we expect to get the debates, we must come up with the seed money," said Mildred Madison, president of the league's Cleveland chapter.

Hanna, while admitting cash is needed by the league to pay off primary debate debts and finance the four anticipated debates, said, "I must emphasize, the debate is not for sale. . . . The decision will be based on more objective criteria."

Sweeney's offer caught most of the 50 government, media and

business executives off guard, including his Republican colleague, Commissioner Virgil E. Brown.

"If we expect this town to be a big league town, we have to act like big leaguers," Sweeney said. He said later the money could come from the county's general fund.

The expense would be worth it if a debate and surrounding publicity enhances the city's image, Sweeney said.

Brown, however, was less enthusiastic, saying, "We'll just have to study it."

Voinovich, in response to a Plain Dealer inquiry, said if it would be legal, he would consider giving the center to the league rent-free.

Voinovich said the city could receive sufficient tax revenue generated by the debate from hotel and sales taxes to compensate the city for loss of rent. Plus, it would be good for the city "to have people see what a great city it is," the mayor said.

Hanna said Sweeney's offer was very persuasive but said he expects that other cities in the 16 they expect to visit will make public auditoriums available rent-free for debates.

Sweeney backed hospital board boycott, PD learns

By John Nussbaum **A20** of Common Pleas and Probate courts — Roy F. McMahon and Francis J. Talty. As commission president, Sweeney presides over the panel.

The dissidents were lawyers Lawrence Landskroner, Lawrence S. Dolin and Owen L. Heggs; Edward J. Wagner, vice president of Cardinal Federal Savings & Loan Association, and Sara K. Robechek, a certified financial planner. Several said they felt they were punished by Sweeney for doing his bidding.

At the end of the hearing earlier this month, the five were dismissed for their action, along with the board chairman, lawyer William F. Snyder, with whom they were feuding. The charge was "conduct impairing the faithful, efficient and intelligent administration" of the hospital system.

It also was learned that on the last day of the hearing, Sweeney vetoed a proposed compromise that might have ended the boycott and enabled Snyder to remain as chairman.

For dissidents and Snyder are appealing their removal.

Hospital trustees are appointed by county commissioners — Sweeney, Edward F. Feighan and Virgil E. Brown — and the senior judges

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to step down. Snyder would not agree to have any of the dissidents in the chair.

But late in the afternoon of Oct. 10, Wagner hit on a possible compromise. He discussed it with Ballew. Each thought members of their

former Cleveland Councilman Albert A. Ballew and Dr. Henry A. Zimmerman, a cardiologist — sided mostly with Snyder. They faced no charges at the hearing, but were asked to resign. They refused.

On Sept. 15, after repeated clashes, the dissidents notified Snyder they would stay away from meetings as long as he remained chairman.

The next board meeting had been set for Sept. 24. The boycott prevented a quorum and halted conduct of the hospital system's business affairs. Snyder and the trustees loyal to him asked the appointing officials to intervene. Sweeney got a hearing for Oct. 1.

State law requires the board to meet once a month as a last attempt to achieve a compromise to handle the monthly business. Snyder called a special meeting for Sept. 30.

The weekend before that meeting, boycotting trustees met and considered attending.

"Some of us felt we now could attend," Wagner recalled. "We

would be scheduled so representatives of the medical staff could attend, and the nominating committee to pick Snyder's successor and other new officers would be agreed on immediately.

Wagner and Ballew borrowed a secretary in the county administration

Also, monthly board meetings

could say, "This in no way changes the issues which will be decided at tomorrow's hearing, but meanwhile we are here because of our concern for the hospital."

"Sweeney counseled us not to go. I had a message that he tried to call me Saturday (Sept. 27), and when I finally reached him Sunday afternoon, the gist of what he said was, 'Don't you people go to that meeting. Get your charges against Snyder down here in time for the hearing.'"

Sweeney confirmed the telephone conversation, but took issue with what he called Wagner's interpretation of it.

"Ed Wagner told me the same thing, and I told him he misunderstood what I said," Sweeney told The Plain Dealer.

Robechek reported a similar telephone conversation with Sweeney Sept. 27. She said she discussed her apprehension about being vulnerable at the upcoming hearing.

"He told me, 'You have my personal and professional word you will not be removed,'" she said.

Sweeney said members of the panel felt the hearing had progressed too far, and the evidence showed the rift in the hospital board was so deep that there was no point in halting the nearly completed hearing to explore another compromise proposal.

Four days later the officials announced the dismissal of the six trustees and requested the resignations of the remaining four. It was announced as a unanimous decision. The panel felt it best to name an entirely new hospital board.

Most of the trustees and former trustees disagreed. Some dissidents said they would be willing to testify for the remaining four trustees, if they were forced to defend their refusal to resign.

They said 10 freshmen running

Thus, the dissident trustees went into the hearing confident they had Sweeney's support.

Snyder was represented by lawyer Stephen D. Walters, who insisted on court-like procedure. His first move was to have the charges defined. He then asked for and obtained a week's delay, to Oct. 8, to prepare a defense. But the dissidents — three of them lawyers — said they felt they needed no lawyer and were willing to submit to the jurisdiction of the panel there and then.

"I didn't know I was getting into anything that deep, or I would have hired counsel," Robechek said later. "I had been working with the people at the county. The whole issue was the board's accountability to the commissioners. They have absorbed a great deal of my time."

"I really thought we would handle the issues of the hospital at the hearing. But it was just the same personality things, like another bad board meeting. We never got to the real issues. I just feel as used — and I don't even have a state-

trator's office, had the proposal typed up, started circulating it among the trustees and sent copies in to Sweeney and the other officials.

At the next hearing recess, Wagner said, a county aide caught him in the hall and told him, "Sweeney won't buy it."

the complex hospital system would be a disaster. They would rather see at least four experienced trustees remain on the board, despite past differences.

On Friday, the deadline for appealing the ruling, Walters filed a notice of appeal on Snyder's behalf in Common Pleas Court. Landskroner appealed on behalf of Wagner, Robechek, Dolin and himself. The cases were assigned to Judge Lloyd O. Brown. Walters has asked for a stay of the dismissals and of appointment of new trustees while the appeals are pending.

Heggs did not appeal. Formerly the spokesman for the dissidents, he is the only one who has been unwilling to discuss the episode on the record since the ruling. He said he did not want to continue the public confrontation.

ment on the record about my stand on the hospital issues, why I acted as I did.

"He (Sweeney) really set me up," Robechek said. "This hospital was had by the people who ultimately are supposed to protect it, the county commissioners."

The hearing, when it finally got under way, took about 25 hours — from 9 a.m. Oct. 8 to 1:30 the next morning, with recesses for lunch and dinner, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 10. The officials considered the evidence and testimony over the Columbus Day weekend and announced the ruling Oct. 14.

Before reconvening the hearing after the Oct. 8 lunch recess, Sweeney asked the 10 hospital trustees to retire to a closed conference room for 30 minutes for one last try at reconciliation. They took more than an hour, but were unable to come to terms.

Later it was reported they could not agree on who would replace Snyder as chairman if he agreed

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Sweeney, Campanella trade blows on finance

By Joseph L. Wagner and Gary Clark **A18**

County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney yesterday accused his challenger, Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, of being the "architect of default" and Campanella counterattacked with charges of government waste against Sweeney.

The cross-fire signaled an escalating battle between Sweeney and Campanella at a time when a Republican poll shows Campanella with an 18-point lead over the Democrat who beat him for the commissioner's seat four years ago.

Sweeney was taking aim at Campanella's campaign theme of being a professional financial executive. Campanella's strategy is

to portray Sweeney as an advocate of big and costly government.

"I feel he is the architect of default in that he submitted to council a very false report as to the financial liquidity of the city of Cleveland," Sweeney said in a Plain Dealer interview.

Sweeney said former Mayor Ralph J. Perk could boast of balanced budgets because Campanella, Perk's budget director from 1971-75, juggled capital improvement bond funds and manipulated federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) money to finance "an army of political cronies."

Campanella responded: "It's been five years since I was the budget director. For him (Sweeney) to lay the blame of (former Mayor Dennis

J.) Kucinich's default on me is like blaming George Washington for the Vietnam War.

"In 1971, we inherited a \$27 million deficit and balanced the budgets from 1972-75. One of the last things I did was negotiate the highest note rating from Moody's Investors Service. When I left, the city also had an A credit rating.

As for the accusation he manipulated the CETA budget, Campanella said, "I had absolutely nothing to do with the budgets for federal funds. That was the responsibility of the Human Resources Department."

Campanella said Sweeney "has hired 1,000 employes for his own political army the past 10 months and the cost of county government has risen \$200 million the past four years. I guess he's presuming everybody does the same thing."

Sweeney released a summary of a U.S. Labor Department audit of the city's CETA program in which administrative and budget problems were pinpointed and said the federal government had a \$10.4 million finding against the city. At present, the city is negotiating a repayment schedule for some \$4 million owed the Labor Department.

"The audit report is a tremendous indictment of anyone associated with this public administration (of Perk). He (Campanella) has never been called out on this as he is about to be called out in this campaign for his handling of public funds."

Campanella called Sweeney's charges "political hogwash" and added Sweeney should be "indicted for intellectual dishonesty. He is obviously misinformed."

In a related move, Mayor George V. Voinovich is expected to endorse Campanella and County Commissioner Virgil E. Brown today during an 11 a.m. news conference. There had been speculation that Voinovich would remain neutral in the race between Campanella and Sweeney, with whom Voinovich served with as commissioner before election as lieutenant governor.

Funds for debate debatable Sweeney would dip into another till for county share

By Joseph L. Wagner **A21**
Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney is generous when it comes to another agency's money.
Several weeks ago, Sweeney offered \$100,000, on behalf of the county government, to help underwrite the \$300,000 tab of a presidential debate here to be sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Now that the city has definitely been chosen for a debate, tentatively scheduled about a week before the November election, the fine print on Sweeney's offer is coming into focus.

"The money should come out of the Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau budget," Sweeney said yesterday. "The 3% bed tax is generating some \$1.4 million a year and I don't know of any better way to dump \$100,000 of it."

So, in effect, the convention bureau is making the donation, right?

"Warren's indicated he's supportive of the whole idea," said Sweeney, referring to Warren Traflet, president of the convention bureau.

Traflet was out of the city yesterday, but his assistant, Dale Finley, expressed surprise about Sweeney's statement.

"That's the first I've heard of it," said Finley.

Sweeney's willingness to use the convention bureau subsidy could be because his colleagues, while they support the city's efforts to be the host for a debate and believe it could produce economic dividends for the area, are skeptical about the funding.

"I don't see it coming out of the general fund," said Commissioner Virgil E. Brown. "Talk to Mr. Sweeney, he's the one that made the offer."

Commissioner Edward F. Feighan said, "I think \$100,000 might be a little more than we can afford right now."

Although Feighan said using the convention bureau subsidy for the debate "is a possibility," the commissioners cannot dictate that the bureau must spend it for that purpose.

Under the law authorizing the

subsidy, which was lobbied for by the convention bureau, the county "has no discretionary use over those funds," said Feighan.

Meanwhile, league and ABC network officials said a flap over a potential scheduling conflict for the Cleveland debate is "academic at this point."

The Cleveland debate has been tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27, the night of a network Monday Night Football game between the Miami Dolphins and New York Jets.

"From what we understand, the league is still taking suggestions for dates," said an ABC spokesman in New York.

A league official in Washington, D.C., said, "This date is very tentative; we still have to have discussions with the candidates to set the exact dates."

James Lowe, public relations official for WEWS Channel 5, the local ABC affiliate, said, "The whole issue is academic until the date is finally set."

For Hagan and Sweeney

PRESS OCT 13 '80

In the two contests for county commissioner on Nov. 4, The Press endorses TIMOTHY HAGAN and ROBERT SWEENEY.

Hagan's opponent is the incumbent Virgil Brown, who has been a capable commissioner. Our recommendation of Hagan is not meant to reflect poorly on Brown, but is made in the belief that Hagan would bring some extraordinary qualities to the post of commissioner.

Hagan at one time was the legislative liaison for the Regional Transit Authority. He is now chairman of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and intends to resign that position if elected commissioner.

As county chairman, Hagan has at times been a controversial figure. More important, though, his tenure has been marked by an energetic attempt to bring fresh leadership and new ideas into the stream of Democratic politics.

He would bring the same kind of zeal and innovative thinking to the board of commissioners, where the impact of his efforts would be more widely felt.

If elected, Hagan would work to improve social services, particularly for youths who enter the correctional system for some relatively minor scrape.

He believes commissioners have granted industrial revenue bonds unwisely in some instances, and would work to see that pro-

gram more closely monitored.

Hagan also intends to see that there is more accountability on the part of boards and agencies whose members are appointed by the commissioners.

The proposal to reform county government with an elected executive and nine commissioners has Hagan's support. The Press also agrees with this measure.

In sum, Hagan's intelligence and vigorous approach to whatever he does recommends him highly for election as a county commissioner.

In the other commissioner race we believe Robert Sweeney should be elected to another term, although he has a worthy challenger in County Auditor Vincent Campanella.

Sweeney is president of the board of commissioners and its most effective member.

He had one term in Congress and also was on the board of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, where he served with distinction.

As a commissioner he is noted for being a hard worker, is well informed on the issues that come before the board and is patient in listening to opposing sides in a dispute.

Sweeney has taken the lead in the planning for a county solid waste disposal plant. This complicated project has been proceeding at a slow pace, but only Sweeney's persistence has kept it going faster than a crawl.

Sweeney's previous Washington connection serves him well in obtaining federal grants for this area. He recently joined with Mayor Voinovich to get federal funds to retrain unemployed auto workers.

Among his concerns for the future are improving health care services and working for better coordination in county-city programs.

If both Hagan and Sweeney win, along with Edward Feighan they would comprise an all-Democratic board.

Ideally, we would prefer that the board have one member of the opposition party. But we think enough of the qualities of Hagan and Sweeney to recommend their election.



Hagan



Sweeney



Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert Sweeney takes time out from a rather dreary election night to serve a piece of birthday cake to a supporter. Sweeney, who lost his bid for re-election, turned 56 yesterday. **PRESS NOV 5 '80** (Press photo by Larry Nighswander)

Campanella credits Reagan groundswell for win over Sweeney

By Joseph L. Wagner ¹³⁴

Republican County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, claiming he benefited from a Ronald Reagan groundswell in the suburbs, defeated incumbent Democratic County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney.

With 600 of 1,761 precincts reporting, Campanella led 100,181 to 70,459.

Campanella, who campaigned on an anti-big government theme, said his victory is a message from the voters for government to "take your hand out of my pocket."

Campanella added, "People are more conservative. They're at the end of their belts and they want government to tighten its belt."

Campanella's victory is expected to fuel a drive to run Campanella for lieutenant governor in 1982. Republican sources said last night.

Those sources said Campanella would team with Columbus Mayor Tom Moody, who is expected to run for governor.

Campanella said he has heard the speculation, but would not comment.

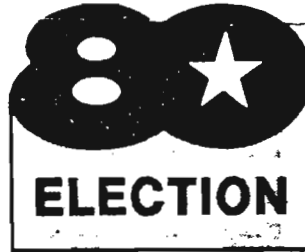
Campanella said his staff, which had been stationed at key precincts throughout the county, reported that he was posting margins of 2 to 1 and 3 to 1 in Republican suburban strongholds, while keeping pace with Sweeney in strong Democratic pockets in Cleveland.

Sweeney said a conservative trend helped defeat him. He said he did not lose because of President Carter, but because of Ronald Reagan.

In his concession speech, Sweeney said, "I sense the country has taken a sharp turn to the right and I'm very concerned about the republic being in the hands of the Republican party."

He said Campanella's image as a tax reformer played a major role in Campanella's victory. "There was a great reaction about less spending. I want to know where they are going to make the cuts. I know one thing, big business is in the saddle in this country," he said.

Sweeney and Campanella squared off once before in 1976. That was Campanella's first try for political office against the veteran campaigner and popular Irishman who had once been a congressman at large.



This fall's race produced sharp differences along partisan lines between the two candidates. Sweeney portrayed himself as a liberal Democrat, interested in social programs that would benefit the poor and unemployed. Campanella's theme was one of conservatism, less government and less taxes.

In the campaign crossfire, Sweeney called Campanella a one-issue candidate, a reference to Campanella's push for the State Issue 1 tax reform referendum. Sweeney was hard-pressed to criticize Campanella on State Issue 1 as Sweeney's fellow Democrat, Treasurer Francis E. Gaul, was allied with Campanella on the referendum.

Campanella picked up on a favorite theme of politicians, charging Sweeney with advocating big government.

Campanella said Sweeney's support of the county charter symbolized Sweeney's expansionist views and added that bigger government did not necessarily mean better government.

Sweeney emphasized his incumbency and his experience, while Campanella stressed his experience and style as a "government technician" in the campaigns which featured an advertising blitz the last weekend.

County Republican party chairman Robert E. Hughes said the GOP would hold a convention in January to pick a new county auditor. Campanella's auditor's term ends in 1982.

Hughes said possible successors include State Reps. Donna Pope, R-12, of Parma, and Matthew J. Hatchadorian, R-17, of Mayfield; Claudia M. Guzzo, deputy director of the elections board; former Probate Court Judge Joseph J. Nahra, who lost the 22d District Congressional race yesterday to State Rep. Dennis E. Eckart; and Probate Court Judge Robert S. Malaga, who was defeated yesterday.

Forgeries alleged on charter petitions in recheck

By Gary Clark

More than 2,700 rejected petitions asking for a change in Cuyahoga County government are being given a second, more thorough, inspection as the result of charges that the first check was conducted improperly.

The second inspection of the petitions submitted by proponents of a county charter began yesterday and led to the discovery that 10 petitions, and perhaps more, may contain forged signatures.

Robert E. Hughes, chairman of the Board of Elections, ordered the

second inspection in response to complaints from County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney.

Sweeney charged Monday that election board employes conducted an incompetent inspection of the charter petitions by invalidating the signatures of registered voters,

such as County Administrator Gordon L. Mulleneaux, that the board's main index of registered voters was not up-to-date, and that many of the temporary board employes who conducted the first check were inexperienced.

Sweeney was informed of the

problems by members of the Citizens League of Greater Cleveland, who monitored the first inspection.

Hughes and Thomas R. Jackitch, the board's supervisor of registration, denied Sweeney's charges. Jackitch said the main index is

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The Plain Dealer/Kurt Mutchler

Handwriting expert Joseph Tholl inspects county charter petitions that he said contained forged signatures.

From First Page

updated daily and that the people who checked the charter petitions were trained by experienced board employes.

Hughes said Mulleneaux' signature was ruled invalid because he is registered to vote in Lakewood, but listed a Shaker Heights address on the charter petition. Mulleneaux was unavailable for comment yesterday.

The alleged forgeries were on petitions circulated by a Berea man, who was one of 50 to 60 people whom charter proponents paid 40 cents for each signature they obtained. Paying people to obtain signatures on petitions is permitted, Hughes said.

Joseph Tholl, a handwriting expert with 25 years' experience, said many signatures on the 10 petitions appeared to have been signed by the same person in blue, black and green ink.

"These are completely phony," Tholl said, pointing to several signatures. "You've got a real good case of fraud here. There's no doubt about it. It's flagrant."

Hughes said the second inspection would be more thorough than the first one and that he would not oppose a suggestion by Sweeney to hire an independent firm to double-check the board's accuracy.

"Once a flap like this starts, we're going to check these (peti-

tions) backwards and forwards," he said. "This (charges of an improper first check) was a cheap shot by the citizens league to cover up their own sloppy (petition) effort."

Charter proponents had submitted 47,538 signatures, and 18,191 were invalidated by the election board. Hughes said 12,858 signatures were invalidated because the signers were not registered voters, 191 because the signers used pencil, 190 because the signatures were printed, 35 because the signers were not county residents and 939 because no address was listed.

The citizens league and the League of Women Voters are the main proponents of the charter proposal, which, if approved by voters in November, would replace the county's three elected commissioners with an elected executive and nine assemblymen, elected from districts.

Citizens League President Gerald L. Gherlein said the league stands by the charges made by Sweeney. He said the group may decide this week whether to formally protest the first inspection to the secretary of state.

The proponents have until Sept. 5 to obtain the 13,703 valid signatures needed to place the issue on the November ballot.

Hughes said the Berea man, and circulators of any other petitions that appear to contain forgeries, would be requested or subpoenaed to appear before the elections board Monday.

Commissioners write last chapter of '80: Goodbye Sweeney; hello wage increases

By Gary R. Clark

Some final, official acts — including pay raises for most elected county officials — were sandwiched between handshakes, back slaps, laughs, color portraits, warm words and promises at the county commissioners' final meeting of the year yesterday.

Behind the good cheer was a po-

litically sobering fact that has been on the minds of county Democrats since Nov. 4: When the three-member commission reconvenes Monday, control will shift from Democrats to the Republicans.

That control means directing the flow of the \$500 million each year through the county for health and human services, justice and general government.

It means hiring employees, from janitors to department directors, and making appointments to the many boards and agencies that oversee everything from sewers and buses to port operations and hospital services.

Republican Commissioner Virgil E. Brown, who is expected to become commission president next year, joined Democratic Commis-

sioner Edward F. Feighan yesterday in saying farewell to outgoing Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney, a Democrat who served the last two years as commission president.

Sweeney was defeated Nov. 4 by County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, who will be sworn in as commissioner Friday. Campanella, Brown, and whoever is selected by

the county Republican party to replace Campanella as auditor, will be the only Republicans among the county's 11 elected officeholders.

Sweeney was presented with a color portrait of himself. Feighan complimented him on his ideals and integrity and Brown promised to keep Sweeney's home and law office phone numbers handy in case he

Continued on Page 6 A

★ From First Page

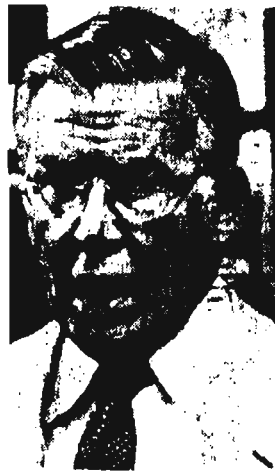
needed more advice. And two rows of seats were occupied during part of the meeting by some of Sweeney's 13 children. One said they were there for their father's "last hurrah."

Amid the compliments, commissioners approved a resolution that assures funds will be available during the next four years for pay raises for elected county officials, including the commissioners, treasurer, recorder, prosecutor, clerk of courts, coroner, engineer and sheriff.

The pay hikes were approved by the Ohio Legislature, but the authority to implement them was passed on to local commissioners. Feighan said he thought it was ill-advised for the legislature to require commissioners to approve pay raises for their political peers.

Sweeney said the pay of elected county officials is below that of comparable positions in business and industry. He said former Commissioner Seth Taft, a Republican, earned \$22,500 while directing the county's business.

The amounts of the raises will vary depending on the office. Feighan, for instance, earns \$34,500. That will go to \$39,330 in 1984.



The Plain Dealer

Robert E. Sweeney

Brown and Campanella also will earn that amount in 1984.

David K. McClurkin, director of the county's Office of Budget and Management, said the combined salary and fringe benefit costs for the elected officeholders, plus those of the appointed public defender, who usually earns the same as the prosecutor, will go from \$331,850 annually this year to \$424,000 in 1984.

Sweeney, Voinovich ignore parties, jointly sponsor aid for unemployed

By Christine J. Jindra **A23**

County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney running for re-election, and Mayor George V. Voinovich held a joint news conference yesterday to announce they had big plans for helping unemployed auto and steel workers gain new skills and find new jobs. They are seeking \$1.2 million for planning and training.

Sweeney, who had a camera crew from Media Group Inc. of Columbus at the conference to film for television commercials, seemed embarrassed when reporters asked him about the timing of the conference.

When asked if he was trying to trade in on Voinovich's popularity or to get an endorsement for re-election, Democrat Sweeney discussed the good that has come from recent cooperation between Republican Voinovich and the county commissioners in getting federal highway money.

Voinovich has not endorsed Sweeney's Republican opponent, County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, although the mayor has endorsed Republican County Commissioner Virgil E. Brown.

Voinovich noted this was an election year and said some of the money for their plans might be approved by President Carter's administration.

Voinovich predicted if their plan worked, it could help 3,500 laid-off workers get training and find jobs.

Sweeney and Voinovich said their program hinges on getting three funding requests approved.

They want \$150,000 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to develop joint "policies and programs that create a positive environment for automotive innovation, technology transfer and production."

Voinovich admitted "that sounds like a lot of gobbledegook, but we have lost a great deal of employment in the area and want to create jobs."

They are supporting the United Labor Agency in its request for \$400,000 from Gov. James A. Rhodes' discretionary funds to be used to find and retrain laid-off workers who most likely will not be recalled by auto and steel plants.

Sweeney said the county has asked the U.S. Labor Department for permission to use \$734,000 in unspent federal jobs funds to train the unemployed.

Sweeney piqued with sewer board, stalks out

By John Nussbaum **AX**

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney angrily stalked out of a joint meeting with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District board yesterday when only two trustees showed up.

After he left, Commissioner Edward F. Feighan adjourned the meeting and told sewer board representatives, "I guess we'll be meeting across the street (in the Justice Center)." He renewed the commissioners' threat to ask Common Pleas Court to force the sewer board to meet with county and suburban officials.

Sweeney and Feighan suggested sewer district trustees resign. "It may be time for the trustees to seriously consider whether they can continue to serve the community in light of their unwillingness to attend a meeting," said Feighan.

Sweeney pointed out that unlike members of other public boards, sewer district trustees are paid \$8,000 a year.

It was the second time in two weeks that the county and sewer district officials have clashed over what commissioners called the sewer board's arrogance and unresponsiveness. The commissioners called a meeting for Oct. 27, but were told most of the seven trustees were unable to attend because of insufficient notice.

Only Board Chairman Mary J. Coleman and secretary Gloria Battisti showed up yesterday, accompanied by Erwin Odeal, deputy director, and William Schatz, general counsel. About a dozen suburban mayors also attended.

The commissioners wanted to discuss the sewer board's timetable for construction of the Northeast Interceptor, which will serve Richmond Heights, Highland Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield and surrounding communities. The commissioners plan to build a \$2.5 million temporary treatment plant in Richmond Heights to serve the area until the interceptor is built, but residents object.

Odeal, questioned by Commissioner Virgil E. Brown, said construction of the interceptor could be accomplished in three years, "assuming total cooperation of the state and federal EPAs (environmental protection agencies)," but that it could take as long as seven years.

Coleman said the sewer board has cooperated with county officials in the past, and suggested the commissioners consult the board before scheduling meetings.

Help with face lift of Terminal Tower delayed by county

By Gary R. Clark

Cuyahoga County commissioners yesterday declined to appoint a law firm to prepare a bond issue for the proposed renovation of the Terminal Tower concourse until the developers release more information on the project.

County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney said he wanted commissioners and the county prosecutor to review all documents dealing with public access to the concourse and rapid transit platforms before taking further action.

"I remain committed to your project," Sweeney said, "but I want to take a look at your documents."

In an unusual move, commissioners approved a resolution indicating their willingness to help finance the \$8.3 million project with \$7 million in tax-free industrial revenue bonds, but declined to appoint the bond counsel. Normally, the resolutions are approved at the same time.

Sweeney at first said he was unwilling to approve the revenue bond resolution or appoint the bond counsel. But developers asked that the revenue bond resolution be passed since it could have a positive impact in winning a \$2.5 million Urban Development Action Grant for Cleveland to begin bridge repairs near the Terminal Tower.

Approval of the revenue bond resolution merely indicates the commissioners are willing to finance the project with industrial revenue bonds, but it does not commit them to do it. That action

would have to come later.

But declining to appoint a bond counsel means the law firm of Hahn, Loeser, Freedheim, Dean & Wellman cannot yet collect its fees and costs for writing the bond offering. Sweeney said he did not want to commit the county to any possible expenses until he reviewed the documents.

The project includes the purchase of 600,000 square feet in the Terminal Tower, including 475,000 square feet in the concourse; adding 20,000 square feet of commercial space in the concourse; improving the concourse with new lighting, paint and security; adding a moving stairway between two of the lower levels and adding four acres of parking.

The project is to be financed by the \$7 million in industrial revenue bonds and \$1,250,000 to be provided by the developers, Concourse Development Inc., a subsidiary of Forest City Rental Properties, and Tower City Properties, a subsidiary of U.S. Realty Investments.

Hearing will resume next week over hospital rift

By John Nussbaum

Yesterday's hearing into the dispute that has paralyzed the Cuyahoga County Hospital Board was continued until Wednesday after Board Chairman William F. Snyder's lawyer asked for time to prepare a defense.

At the outset, Robert E. Sweeney, president of the county commission, said the proceedings could result in the removal of any or all of the hospital trustees.

Sweeney presided over a panel of five officials who appoint the hospital board — including the other county commissioners, Edward F. Feighan and Virgil E. Brown; Senior Common Pleas Judge Roy F. McMahon and Senior Probate Judge Francis J. Talty.

The hearing was on a complaint by Snyder and four trustees loyal to him that the five remaining trustees' boycott of meetings prevents a quorum and has brought hospital administrative business to a standstill.

The boycotting trustees responded with a 13-page complaint accusing Snyder of stonewalling their attempts at reform, trying to deny them important committee assignments in an effort to stifle dissent, trying to hide and ignore flaws in the hospital system's fiscal management and dissatisfaction among the medical staff, and trying to control information available to the trustees.

The boycotting trustees, polled by Sweeney, waived their rights to formal notification of charges and said they were willing to submit to the panel's judgment.

Snyder's lawyer, Stephen D. Walters, refused to waive the legal requirement, forcing Sweeney to continue the hearing.

Owen L. Heggs, spokesman for the boycotting trustees, labeled Walters' insistence of legal procedure "a dodge."

"Time to prepare a defense against what?" he asked. "All of us have been living with this issue for months. There are no surprises here."

The boycotting trustees include, besides Heggs, board treasurer Sara K. Robeček, Lawrence Landskroner, Lawrence S. Dolin and Edward J. Wagner. Heggs is vice chairman.

Trustees siding with Snyder are Sydney S. Friedman, board secretary; Albert A. Ballew, John F. Lipaj and Dr. Henry A. Zimmerman. Asst. County Prosecutor Thomas P. Gill, head of the prosecutor's civil branch, ruled that they were not affected by the dissidents' charges against Snyder, but that the appointing officials could initiate their own charges against any trustee.

In another development, Timothy F. Hagan, county Democratic chairman and a candidate for county commissioner, called for Snyder's resignation. He said if he wins election, he would oppose Snyder's reappointment when his term ends next March.

"He is chairman of the board and his should be a conciliatory role," Hagan said. "The board is at an impasse. It is his responsibility to steer the board away from impasses."

Sweeney opposes more port authority power

By John Nussbaum

Robert E. Sweeney, outgoing president of the Cuyahoga County commissioners, says he will urge county and city officials to dismantle the Cleveland Cuyahoga County Port Authority if the Ohio Legislature broadens the authority's powers.

Sweeney will testify today at a House Ways and Means Committee hearing on House Bill 628, which would authorize regional port authorities to issue unvoted revenue bonds for public service and recreation projects and own land anywhere, not adjacent to the port. The land would be exempt from property taxes.

The bill is opposed by the county and the mayor's office. The port authority is on record as opposing it, but several port officials, including some authority board members, are known to favor it.

John Habat, legislative assistant to Mayor George V. Voinovich, said the mayor has written several letters to the legislature, contending the bill would "extend to an appointed board unprecedented powers."

Habat said no city officials will testify before

cause the bill has little chance of passing.

Sweeney contended the bill would make the authority less accountable to voters and the governmental bodies it is designed to serve.

"But the county commissioners and the mayor created the port authority, and the commissioners and the mayor can uncreate it," he declared. "If this (bill) passes, I would certainly recommend the next board (of county commissioners) and the mayor consider such action. At this point, I don't think the port is served as well as it was as a city department."

Sweeney contended the bill was designed "to put the port authority into the arena business." He was referring to speculation that the authority could be used to finance construction of a proposed downtown arena.

Anthony J. Russo, deputy director of the

authority, said he sees the bill as "a tool to grow and create new jobs." He said other ports — notably Tampa, Fla., and Toronto — have used such powers to prosper.

Russo added that he did not speak for the port authority, but as an individual port official.

State will be asked to force larger budget for appraisals

MAY 1 1980
By Gary R. Clark

State officials will be asked to force Cuyahoga County commissioners to approve a larger budget for the county auditor's office to finance on-site property appraisals.

County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella asked commissioners to increase his budget from \$1.6 million to \$2.1 million to hire 30 people to conduct the on-site appraisals in preparation for the 1982 tax year. About 25 additional people have already been hired and have begun inspections.

Commissioner Edward F. Feighan voted yesterday to approve the increase, but Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney voted no. Commissioner Virgil E. Brown is still recovering from an auto accident, and did not attend the meeting.

After the meeting, Campanella, through a staff aide, said the issue would be taken to the state commissioner of tax equalization, who has the authority to grant the additional funds and order the commissioners to pay.

Sweeney, a Democrat, is opposed in the November general election for his commission seat by Campanella, a Republican. They quarreled over the same issue at last week's commission meeting.

Sweeney asked Campanella last week to obtain cost estimates for having the on-site appraisals conducted by a private firm, rather than by Campanella's staff. Campanella said the cost estimates ranged from \$1.2 million to \$2 million, compared to the maximum of \$684,000 that Campanella said would be needed to have his expanded staff conduct the inspections.

Sweeney also said Campanella's staff had increased the number of characteristics to be obtained by the appraisers from 30 to 65. Sweeney suggested the added characteristics concerning a lot and home would result in larger valuations and increased homeowner taxes.

Campanella denied the charge. He claimed better information could result in lower appraisals and taxes. Campanella's aide said 15 of the additional characteristics apply only to condominiums.

Welfare levy with yearly hike discussed

MAY 1 1980 PD
By John Nussbaum

A levy whose millage would rise each year to offset inflation is being considered by Cuyahoga County commissioners to replace the 3.4-mill welfare levy that runs out this year.

The concept, never before tried in Ohio, was proposed yesterday by Robert E. Sweeney, president of the commissioners, for the June 3 primary ballot. The commissioners have been agonizing whether to ask voters for a straight renewal of the levy or for an increase

The levy has been at 3.4 mills

since 1976. According to figures developed by the Office of Budget and Management, 6.6 mills are needed just to keep abreast of inflation if the new levy is to run another six years. But the commissioners fear they might lose everything if a renewal-plus-addition is offered to voters.

Sweeney's proposal would enable the county to campaign for a renewal rather than an immediate tax hike. But after 1981 the levy would grow in yearly half-mill increments until it reached a 9-mill rate in 1986, its final year.

The problem is, no one is sure it is legal. Thomas P. Gill, who is head of the civil branch of the county prosecutor's office; County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella; Secretary of State Anthony J. Celebrezze Jr., and the staff of the Ohio Board of Tax Equalization all say that state laws do not prohibit a staggered levy, nor do they specifically authorize it.

Celebrezze said he would approve the ballot, if properly worded, and the tax board spokesmen say they would not object. Gill and Campanella said the proposal was very risky because, if challenged, the

levy could be ruled off the ballot or its proceeds could be tied up while lawsuits are pending.

Sweeney's fellow commissioners, Edward F. Feighan and Virgil E. Brown, favored the proposal. Action was postponed, however, to seek a written opinion from State Atty. Gen. William J. Brown.

Deadline for placing levies on the June ballot is March 20. The 3.4-mill levy helps finance a wide range of health and social service programs in addition to the administrative costs of welfare programs.

6 trustees named, filling county hospital board

By John Nuschaum **A3**

The Cuyahoga County hospital system has a functioning board of trustees for the first time in four months with the appointment yesterday of six new trustees to replace those removed by county officials.

The new trustees are David Roth, director of the Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland, William S. Gaskill, former county administrator, Dr. Craig R. George, Cleveland Clinic radiologist, Armond D. Arnson, a lawyer, Barbara Brown-Daniels, executive director of the Community Guidance and Human Services mental health clinic, and Lois Selhorst, a sociologist turned manufacturer's representative.

Robert E. Sweeney, president of

the county commissioners, said the six were picked from a list of more than 200 candidates by the five officials who name the hospital board — the three county commissioners and the senior judges of Common Pleas and Probate courts.

The new trustees will replace former hospital board chairman William F. Snyder and trustees Owen L. Beggs, Edward J. Wagner, Sara K. Robocheck, Lawrence Landskroner and Lawrence S. Dohn. The five trustees started boycotting board meetings in September in a demand for Snyder's resignation as chairman. The boycott prevented the six-member quorum needed for meetings. County officials removed all six.

State law requires equal representation of the two major political parties on the hospital board. Roth, Gaskill and Brown-Daniels are Democrats, George, Arnson and Selhorst are Republicans. They will join the four incumbent trustees, Albert A. Ballew and Dr. Harry A. Zimmerman, Republicans, and Sydney S. Friedman and John F. Lapa, Democrats. The appointing officials had asked them to resign so an entirely new board could be named, but they refused. Sweeney said there will be no further attempt to remove them.

The six new trustees will be sworn in Monday at the county commissioners' weekly meeting.

Henry E. Manning, president of the hospital system, was out of

town. Henry T. Jacques, assistant to the president, said a meeting will be called as soon as the 10 trustees can be gotten together so they can elect interim officers and be briefed on pending business. It will be the first meeting of a hospital board since August. State law requires monthly meetings.

Sweeney urged the four incumbent trustees to cooperate with the new appointees "to end conflicts and fashion a united board." He also urged cooperation between the trustees and Manning's administration.

George, 30, is a former resident at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, which is administered by the board, and a former assistant professor at Case Western Reserve

medical school. He lives in Parma. Arnson, 56, managing partner of the law firm of Kahn, Kleinman, Yanowitz & Arnson, lives in Beachwood and has served several stints as interim judge of Shaker Heights Municipal Court.

Brown-Daniels, of Shaker Heights, heads a staff of 123 at the mental health center. She has been a social worker with Garden Valley Neighborhood Center and the county welfare department.

Gaskill, of East Cleveland, served briefly as executive director of the Federation for Community Planning when he left the county early this year. He now is administrator of the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. As county administrator, he was very involved with the county hospital.

Selhorst, a former sociologist and former registered nurse, holds a master's degree in sociology from Kent State University. She now represents several New York gift firms. She lives in Moreland Hills.

Roth, 32, earned a law degree from Cleveland State University while running the Free Clinic and recently passed the Ohio bar examinations.

Hospital trustees serve six years, but since the new trustees fill unexpired terms, their appointments vary from four months to more than five years. George and Brown-Daniels were named to terms expiring next March and may be reappointed to full terms. The terms of Selhorst and Roth run to 1984 and those of Arnson and Gaskill to 1986.

Commissioners hike pay for county's top executives about 6%

By Gary R. Clark **A1C**

Raises averaging more than \$1,000 per year were awarded yesterday by Cuyahoga County commissioners to most of their 23 top administrators.

The amount of the raises ranged from the \$2,400 received by David K. McClurkin, director of the county's office of budget and management, to the \$625 awarded Rosemarie DeRousse, clerk of the board of county commissioners.

Most raises, however, averaged a bit more than \$1,000, such as the \$1,050 given Gwen Baskett, director of program development. Several directors, such as Eugene Burns, the new director of the proposed alcoholism center, received no raise because they were hired recently or because they were evaluated recently and received raises then.

A spokesman for the commissioners said the raises averaged 6% annually and were retroactive to Jan. 2.

Commissioners approved the raises by adopting a new salary schedule for directors that places them in one of four director classifications.

Salaries in the four classifications range from a minimum of \$20,330 to a top of \$41,280, although none of the directors have reached the top salary limit.

discuss the team idea was Edward F. Feighan, the other Democrat on the commission. Feighan, who is not up for election this year, said, "I expressed my strong opposition to any consideration of it."

County Democratic Chairman Timothy F. Hagan, one of Brown's Democratic opponents, said he did not believe the reports.

Brown said he had not heard the reports and it appeared the idea had never crossed his mind.

"I enjoy working with Sweeney and have no problem with him but I'm a Republican," Brown said.

Under the new system, Feighan said, all directors will be evaluated during December and January. Commissioners will determine how far each director has gone in reaching goals set for his department by the director and commissioners, and the raise will be based on that performance.

Commissioner Edward F. Feighan said the new salary schedule reflects a change in management style. Previously, directors were evaluated on the anniversary date of their hiring by the county and were then given raises by the commissioners.

Commissioner Virgil E. Brown warned, however, that Cleveland and its board of education have been having financial problems, and he suggested part of the reason might be the salaries paid top administrators. "We also have to be careful because we have to bring the rest of the staff along," he said.

Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney, who was re-elected president of the board of county commissioners yesterday, said the salaries paid by the county in the past have not been competitive with those of the city of Cleveland. Cleveland Board of Education and state of Ohio. As a result, he said, top county administrators were often leaving the county.

Talk of Sweeney-Brown ticket for commission roundly denied

There goes the dream team. **A1**

Though Democratic County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney insisted yesterday he never considered it, several people have said Sweeney had mentioned his idea of running as a team in November with Republican Commissioner Virgil E. Brown.

Sweeney said running with a Republican is out of the question.

"He's a fine fellow and it's been a pleasure each and every day I've worked with him," Sweeney said. But he quickly added, "I filed as a Democrat and I see no way it could happen."

One person who admitted hearing Sweeney

Familiar names are on county office primary ballot

By Gary R. Clark

Well-known names were among those filing yesterday for the Cuyahoga County offices up for election this year, but a number of candidates remain unopposed in the party primaries.

Yesterday was the deadline for Democrats and Republicans seeking party nominations for the two county commission seats up for election, and for the offices of prosecutor, engineer, sheriff, treasurer, coroner and clerk of courts.

Among the last-minute filings were former Commissioner Mark R. Pokorny, who resigned in 1976 after having pleaded guilty to misconduct in office, former Cleveland Safety Director James W. Barrett, who is running for sheriff, Cleveland School Board

President John E. Gallagher, who is running for commissioner, and Cleveland Councilman Terence E. Copeland, D-13, who is running for recorder.

The failure of the local GOP to field candidates for prosecutor and coroner guarantees the re-election of incumbent Democrats John T. Corrigan and Samuel R. Gerber, respectively. Gerber and Corrigan are unopposed in the Democratic primary. Gerber first won office in 1926 and Corrigan in 1957.

Also unopposed in the Democratic primary are Clerk of Courts Gerald E. Fuerst and Treasurer Francis E. Gaul.

Unopposed in the Republican primary are Lois M. Graft, 54, a self-employed certified public accountant who is running for treasurer; Mark K. Fritz, 28, a marketing



CAMPAIGN

and sales specialist who is running for clerk, and Vincent Fiebig, a retired Cleveland policeman who is running for sheriff.

Fiebig will face the winner of the Democratic primary, where incumbent Sheriff Gerald T. McFaul is opposed by Shelley Nowells of Cleveland and Barrett.

Richard R. Mackay, a Democratic candidate for county engineer, will compete with Thomas J. Neff in the primary. In November, the winner will face incumbent engineer Ronald A. Stackhouse, who is unopposed in the Republican

primary.

In the Republican primary for the two commission seats, incumbent Virgil E. Brown will face Mary M. O'Malley of Fairview Park.

County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella is unopposed in the Republican primary for the commission seat held by Democrat Robert E. Swcney. Swcney will face former Garfield Heights Mayor Raymond A. Stackewicz in the Democratic primary.

In November, Brown, who was appointed to the commission last year, will face the winner of the

Democratic primary for his seat, where six candidates are competing.

They are Timothy F. Hagan, chairman of the county Democratic party; Jeffrey Friedman, a Cleveland lawyer; Theodore E. Sliwa, a former five-term Cleveland councilman; Jeffrey C. Kille; Pokorny and Galligan.

The busiest party primaries will be for recorder, where Democrat Mark McElroy, 78, who has held the post since 1963, will face Democrats Joseph R. Compoli Jr.

of Cleveland, Joseph P. Corlison of North Olmsted, Frank P. Russo of Mayfield Heights, Thomas J. Coyne, a vice chairman of the county Democratic party, and Copeland.

Republican candidates for recorder are James P. Brihan of Euclid, Richard W. Sander, 26, who is self-employed in the metal and woodworking business, and Thomas L. McSweeney, 52, a former employee in the state auditor's office. He also worked for a year as a budget analyst for the county commission.

Board of elections officials set salaries for county officials effective next January. They are: commissioner, \$27,500; prosecutor, \$35,000; coroner, \$27,500; recorder, \$27,500; clerk of courts, \$29,500; sheriff, \$29,000; engineer, \$32,000 and treasurer, \$28,000.

ROBERT SWEENEY: *Untiring fighter runs hard against words of the past*



By Gary R. Clark

Robert K. Sweeney, barrel chested, ruddy, with starched collar points curling up at the edges, is stretching a wide grin across his face for the third time in four minutes.

Another promotional photo with another civic leader, foreign dignitary or new county appointee. Part of the job, perhaps, of the president of the three-member county commission. And a way into the limelight.

Sweeney, 56, Irish father of 13, well-beeled lawyer, former congressman, former Cleveland law director, unsuccessful candidate for Cleveland mayor and state attorney general, is at center stage.

He says the proper things, verbalized with long and lingering sentences, so long they sometimes take a quick right just before the punch line.

But Sweeney, a liberal Democrat growing more liberal with the years, running hard for commissioner against Republican County Auditor Vincent C. Campanella, is tough. A bottomless pit of stamina, an untiring fighter for what he thinks is right and humane and a man untouched by any public accusation of scandal or lack of integrity.

But those words keep lingering, keep coming back. Like a pesty fly, they just do not seem to go away.

It was March 15, 1979: "I cannot pretend to the people of Cuyahoga County that the commissioner's office is a part-time job," Sweeney said then. "I find myself flying all over the country. It is something that I honestly admit I can't take care of."

Ouch. He has added lawyers to his staff, made administrative changes in his law firm so that it can operate day-to-day without him, and now claims to have more time for the county's business.

And Sweeney devotes long hours to the public: Attending meetings, closeting himself with social activists, taking telephone calls, listening understandingly to suburban mayors and conferring with his aides.

But Campanella will not let him forget those words.

Campanella is a man Sweeney considers to be a one-issue candidate, a Republican who worked with Democratic County Treasurer Francis E. Gaul on what Sweeney considers to be an ineffective attempt at property tax reform.

A man Sweeney considers to be a technician, a cold duck with little understanding of human problems. A man Sweeney hopes to crush Nov. 4. But it will be tough.

Nov. 4. Election day. And Sweeney's birthday. He hopes to give himself a present, the plum of public office, the personal thrill of another win for a man with many wins.

Sweeney takes the campaign very seriously. He drafted another Irishman named Mike Kelley to organize the campaign. They are raising money for a televised advertising blitz. Sweeney is spending his nights attending every candidates' night and ward club meeting he can find.

It is a well-orchestrated campaign. While a driver drives, Kelley briefs Sweeney on the next stop. He tells Sweeney of a daughter just born to a woman who will be there. Sweeney drops the child's name at the right time and wins applause.

"Planning counts, huh?" Kelley asks a reporter.

With a cadence and volume to his voice groomed before many other audiences, Sweeney tells a group of the county's accomplishments under his command: Expanded facilities, expanded social services, government and business working together to create jobs.

"Our county's got some serious problems," Sweeney tells a group of ethnic Democrats in southeast Cleveland. "But I don't want to dwell on the problems because you know what they are.

"And I think we have some things to celebrate," Sweeney says. He speaks of health facilities - such as Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital - and mental retardation centers.

"This is a darn good county to get sick in," Sweeney says, one hand pointing and one resting on his suit coat.

"We're running a dynamic program in terms of our health care. Now we've got to do one thing in the Board of County Commissioners. We've got a serious problem involving our youngsters. Little kids are getting into alcohol. Those a little older are getting into crime.

"We've got to attack the problems of joblessness and idleness," he says, shouting.

"I think every mother and father in this room right now understands what the Democratic program is. The results...

~~top Vincent (C) Amorella~~

"I think every mother and father in this room right now understands what the Democratic program is: To provide employment opportunities not only for the laid-off auto workers or the steelworkers but for our youngsters. It's their future. And our kids, yours and mine - are having a difficult time fitting in, a difficult time finding out the resources to buy a house."

Leaning against a wall, County Democratic Chairman Timothy F. Hagan, who is running for the second commissioners post up for election this year, is wide-eyed.

Sweeney continues, telling the group how he cleaned up county government after replacing former Commissioner Frank Pokorny, who left office and later pleaded guilty to misconduct in office.

"I've been a principal contributor, a principal contributor along with (County Commissioner) Ed Feighan and myself down there to bring county government up to a point of universal respectability," Sweeney says.

At another stop, Sweeney speaks to a Polish audience.

"Everybody who has lived in the shadow of St. John's out here, and along Fleet street, knows that this is the heartland of the working people."

He tells them the county has lost 48,000 jobs in the past decade. "That's a lot of breadwinners that went down the drain," he says.

Sweeney again tells the audience that jobs and economic development are the key to the future and the key to the future of their children. And he reminds them of his 13 children - eight boys and five girls.

The 30 or so people in the audience break into appreciative applause, just as Sweeney expected.

"You ought to thank Mrs. Sweeney," he says of his wife, Patricia. And turning to a group of women, he says, "I wish she was here, right girls?"

Robert E. Sweeney learned liberalism at father's knee

Robert E. Sweeney became a liberal and a Democrat quite literally at his father's knee.

Sweeney, the former Cuyahoga County commissioner swept out of office last November, grew up during the Depression when his father, Martin, was a New Deal congressman from Cleveland's West Side.

One of his earliest memories, he says, is of unemployed men coming to his family's home on Rocky River Dr. to plead for jobs.

P.D. SEP 13 '81

"I remember seeing 50 or a 100 men in our back yard every Sunday morning," Sweeney said. "My mother would serve coffee and my father would sit in his shirtsleeves, and these men would cry for jobs. My father would sign slips for them to get on with the WPA (Works Progress Administration)."

Sweeney paused. The smile vanished from his ruddy face.

"These were people," he said slowly, "who were broken in spirit."

Those Depression Sundays left a mark on Sweeney. When he followed his father into politics, he did so as an enthusiastic liberal, believing in social welfare programs and government regulation.

Sweeney's elegant Bond Court law office reflects those beliefs. It is decorated with pictures of his father, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey and Robert F. Kennedy — plus religious artwork.

"I feel that liberal programs are not out of style and never will be," said the Irish-Catholic Sweeney. "It's social

his work. "We're finding that more than one challenge in a lifetime is wonderful."

Actually, Sweeney's involvement in worker safety issues began long before county voters turned him out of office. Nearly 15 years ago, he filed one of the nation's first lawsuits alleging that a death had resulted from exposure to asbestos.

He has become a leading expert on such suits. Lawyers in other states seek his advice. He confers frequently with doctors studying cancer and other diseases linked to industrial contaminants. In 1979, he testified before a House subcommittee investigating workplace safety, and called for a ban on importation of asbestos.

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As he spoke, Sweeney rose from his black leather swivel chair. He stood behind his glass-topped, dark wood desk, holding his glasses in his right hand, setting off statistics and

humanizing them with stories of people whose lives he believes were cut short by years of inhaling poisons at work.

He spoke rapidly and emotionally, not unlike his late friend Humphrey, for a generation the most eloquent — and long-winded — voice of the Democratic party's traditional liberals.

A man used to seeking and winning large awards for his clients, Sweeney



Robert E. Sweeney

P.D. SEP 13 '81

PHOTO BY MITCHELL J. ZAREMBA

of Cleveland — included his name in a subject. Sweeney's effectiveness may be

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"I feel that liberal programs are not out of style and never will be," said the Irish-Catholic Sweeney. "It's social justice, that's all it is ... It comes back to the idea that we are our brother's keeper."

"I think educated people have a commitment to the ignorant. I think rich people have a commitment to the poor."

Such beliefs were fashionable in 1964, when Sweeney rode the Johnson landslide to Washington and a seat as Ohio's congressman at-large in the do-everything 89th Congress that launched many of the president's Great Society programs. (The seat was abolished two years later).

Those programs had fallen out of favor by last fall. Sweeney feels the swing in voter sentiment, which led to the Reagan landslide, affected his own quest for a second full term on the county commission. He was defeated easily by Vincent C. Campanella, the man he beat by more than 100,000 votes in 1976.

Today, private citizen Sweeney is deeply involved in environmental litigation, and brings the same intensity to his crusade for "industrial hygiene" that public servant Sweeney did to his defense of food stamps and Medicaid.

"It's very exciting," Sweeney said of

In 1979, he testified before a House subcommittee investigating work place safety, and called for a ban on importation of asbestos.

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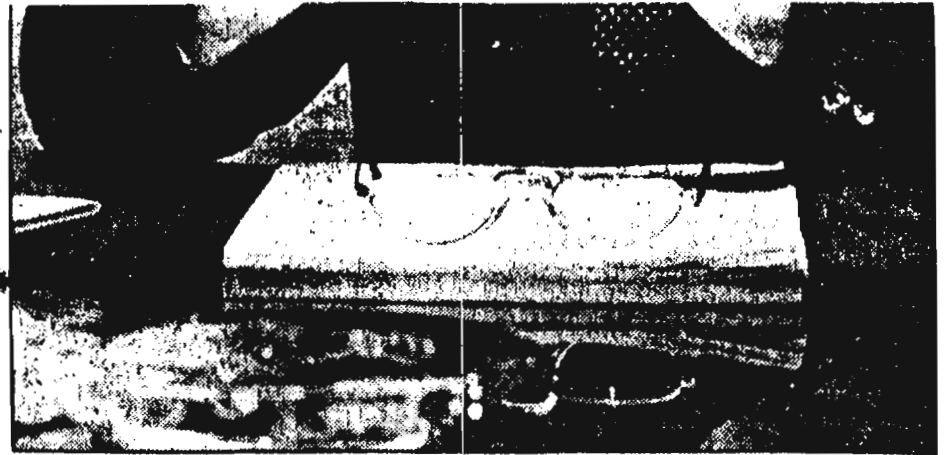
A man used to seeking and winning large awards for his clients, Sweeney said industries that don't clean up their factories face economic ruin.

"It took 25 years to get our industrial leaders conscious of the need for good industrial hygiene," said Sweeney. "But I'm concerned that people like Gov. Rhodes and President Reagan are now messaging industry not to worry about these industrial hygiene rules. I think they're encouraging a return to the old ways just when industry was beginning to show some responsibility."

That is only one part of the Reagan program that disturbs Sweeney. He believes the president does not understand the complexities of the American economy.

"I feel we are going to see a very great class struggle in this country that's going to be characteristic of the class struggle of the 1930s," said Sweeney. "I think people at the bottom of the pyramid are going to react against a government that puts as its No. 1 priority the consolidation of the advantages of those who were born of the velvet."

Despite his strong convictions and his belief the Democratic party will rise from last November's ashes, Sweeney — twice defeated for Ohio attorney general and once for mayor



Robert E. Sweeney

P.D. SEP 13 '81

PD/MITCHEAL J ZAREMBA

of Cleveland — insisted he is not planning a political comeback.

"I think there is a point where you really and truthfully and honestly can say, 'I've got that out of my system,'" he said. "I've reached that point."

Others are not so sure. County Democratic Chairman Timothy F. Hagan said, "Bob's spent his whole life in politics, and I would expect him to maintain an active interest. I would hope so."

Sweeney clearly enjoyed politics. He is a warm, friendly man, a backslapper by nature. He liked talking to reporters, visiting ethnic festivals, mingling with Cleveland's civic, business and cultural elite.

"In public life, you have access to the labor leader and also to the business leader up the street," Sweeney said. "You get a feel for the tempo of the times. That's exciting."

But not everything about politics is pleasant. There often is a personal price.

Earlier this year, Sweeney and his wife, Patricia, separated. The couple has 13 children, aged 13 to 30. A family portrait fills an entire wall in his office.

The separation is obviously a painful

subject. Sweeney's effusiveness vanished when it came up.

"We're trying to work it out," he said, managing a weak smile.

"Public service is a very selfish mistress," continued Sweeney. "It is difficult to balance your personal commitment to your family, your wife, your loved ones and your commitment to your community."

He said he admires Mayor George V. Voinovich's practice of devoting one day a week to his family.

"This is something I often wish I had done," he said.

Sweeney began a story about how he once bought a bus, planning to haul his brood along on his political rounds.

"I thought it might keep us together," he said. His voice trailed off. He didn't finish the story.

"I think people in public life have more than an average risk when it comes to personal relationships," he said, toying with a paper clip. "Public figures do have an excess problem of private grief."

"But so be it," he said firmly. "I have no guilt trips."

— Joe Frolik

His "alleged" narcissism: A permanent tan that gives frequent golfer Oxley the "George Hamilton" award, according to an anonymous lobbyist quoted by Spy.

APR 22 '90 PD SUN 3

STILL PRACTICING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS: Jim Stanton has left the law firm of Reid & Priest to form his own Washington-based operation, James V. Stanton and Associates. Former Rep. Stanton is sharing a townhouse near the DuPont Circle area with an old pal, former House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, who owns the building. Stanton's new firm is also "of counsel" with Robert Sweeney and Associates of Cleveland. Sweeney, a well-known name in Cleveland Democratic politics, is a former Cuyahoga County commissioner.

ONE LINERS: Sen. Metzenbaum, on the energy department's slowness in correcting violations at its nuclear weapons facilities: "We know the problems are complex, but that is no

Ex-commissioner backs Voinovich

Robert E. Sweeney, former Cuyahoga County commissioner and a widely known Democrat, yesterday announced his endorsement of Republican George V. Voinovich for governor. AUG - 5 '90 PD SUN 86

"George and I have been personal friends over the years, and we were county commissioners together," Sweeney said. "Nobody inspired me more. He is a dedicated public servant."

Voinovich is running against Democratic Ohio Attorney General Anthony J. Celebrezze Jr. in the No-

vember gubernatorial election.

Sweeney and Voinovich were county commissioners in the late 1970s. Sweeney, who was elected commissioner in 1976, was defeated in 1980.

In 1980, then-Mayor Voinovich complained to the county Board of Elections that Sweeney had used a campaign videotape showing them together that falsely implied Voinovich endorsed Sweeney for re-election.

Tradesmen, county to confer on layoffs

SEP 01 '87 PD TUE

By MAXINE L. LYNCH
STAFF WRITER

Cuyahoga County commissioners yesterday unanimously approved an 18-month contract in which they agreed to consult with the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council before laying off any county tradesmen.

The collective bargaining agreement was ratified by the tradesmen last week after three months of acrimonious negotiations over layoffs among the county's 125 tradesmen.

So far, 36 tradesmen have been taken off the county payroll due to layoffs and early retirements. The layoffs were necessary

because of an expected \$67 million year-end county budget deficit, commissioners said.

Even though the union will be notified of potential layoffs, that does not mean those layoffs are negotiable, said Myers Rollins, the county's personnel manager.

Nevertheless, former County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney, a lawyer who represents the union, said the county's "willingness to consult and confer was a major step" toward reaching an agreement.

"If they confer and consult it will avoid any misunderstanding in the future," Sweeney said.

But there was some confusion yesterday

about whether the commissioners had signed a new contract or an extension to the previous three-month contract that expired April 30.

Rollins said yesterday's agreement was a new contract. "We took the basic terms and conditions that were present in the prior agreement and adopted it in a new contract," he said.

Charles R. Pinzone, executive secretary of the union, called yesterday's agreement an extension of the old contract.

Sweeney said it was an "interim agreement" until the State Personnel Board of Review rules on an unfair labor practice complaint the union filed against the county about the layoffs. Sweeney said

after the union contract expired, the county had laid off tradesmen under the provisions of the old contract, which he said was a violation of civil service rules. Under the old contract, the county did not have to notify the union of layoffs.

The extension, or new contract, expires June 30, 1988.

The 17 classifications of tradesmen include sign painters, roofers, plumbers, ironworkers, electricians, bricklayers and carpenters, whose hourly salaries range from \$19.24 to \$20.78. The union backed off of its request for a 10% wage hike and agreed to a wage freeze.

Under the approved contract, the county included the tradesmen in its tax-deferred

pension program. The county agreed to pay full hospitalization benefits for tradesmen.

"Neither side got everything it wanted, but we negotiated in the spirit of cooperation," Rollins said.

At yesterday's commissioners meeting, Commissioner Timothy F. Hagan moved the contract from 12th on the agenda to the first order of business so the union wouldn't feel that commissioners "were any way displeased."

"We hope that out of these difficulties over the last couple of months it will strengthen our relationship," Hagan said.

Also contributing to this story was William Onyango.

Sweeney drops bid for mayor

JUL 5 '87 PD SUN

By HARRY STAINER
STAFF WRITER

Robert E. Sweeney, a former congressman and county commissioner, took himself out of contention for the 1989 Cleveland mayor's race yesterday, three months after he had raised the possibility of running for office.

But in doing so he raised several candidate-oriented issues, such as school busing and the failure to lure corporations here.

Sweeney said he had met with Democratic leaders and received support for a possible candidacy, but decided his law firm, which has gained expertise in asbestos and environmental cases and has become regional in scope, needed his direction.

Sweeney, 61, said he was searching for a younger candidate to support. "The ideal age would be in the 35-to-45-year group, which has energy and creativity," he said.

In early April, Sweeney said he was considering running for mayor because of what he called the continuing decline of Cleveland. A serious bid for the office, he said, would take two years of fund-raising and campaigning.

Sweeney said yesterday that the city boasted about the things that affect its image, such as a new tavern in the Flats and the Cleveland Orchestra, but has done little to increase the population and improve the economy.

Some black leaders feel discouraged because of continued flight from the city caused by school busing, Sweeney said. Many families do not move into Cleveland because of busing.

"School busing hasn't worked in Cleveland," Sweeney said, adding that the federal court should be asked to modify the busing order.

Many companies have recently moved their headquarters out of New York City area, but Volnovich administration has not been selling the city on any real basis, Sweeney said.

Sweeney was elected a county commissioner in 1976 and was defeated by Republican Vincent C. Campanella in 1980. He was congressman-at-large from Ohio in 1965-66.

Fighting back: Prominent Cleveland lawyer Robert E. Sweeney has taken up the cause of at least 15 of the Democratic workers laid off in a shameful and despicable manner by Democratic board members Martin J. Hughes and Thaddeus Jackson. Sweeney has asked the board for a hearing in which Jackson and Hughes would explain why veteran board members were laid off while new employees were not. He correctly referred to the layoffs as "totally immoral, unjust and in violation of the rights of employees to job security." The silence from other Democratic officials over the way longtime party workers have been unceremoniously tossed aside has been both deafening and sickening.

AUG 04 '88 PD

5 honored for saving downtown theaters

The Playhouse Square Foundation honored five people last night who played key roles in saving the Ohio and State theaters from demolition and worked toward restoration of those and the Place and Allen theaters.

John F. Lewis, foundation president,

praised the five at a dinner for contributors of \$10,000 or more to the foundation.

Last night the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival opened its season at the renovated Ohio Theater.

Honored were Ray K. Shepardson, former

Playhouse Square executive secretary who started the movement to save the theaters; Elaine Hadden, former head of Playhouse Square Associates, a volunteer group that raised money and supplied volunteers to work on theater restoration; Oliver C. Henkel Jr., former foundation president who spearheaded

fund-raising efforts in the 1970s; Charles W. Raison, a veteran theater rebuilder who became foundation executive director in 1979, and Robert E. Sweeney, former Cuyahoga County commissioner who helped arrange the county's purchase of the Loew's Building, which houses the State and Ohio theaters.

Industry to follow Manville?

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 10, 1982

NEW YORK (AP) — Creditors of Manville Corp., meeting yesterday to safeguard their interests, expressed concern that the company's reorganization under federal bankruptcy law could have a "domino" effect throughout the asbestos industry.

The 59 top creditors formed a 20 member committee of banks, insurance companies and trade representatives to oversee Manville's debts.

Cleveland lawyer and former Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney has been nominated to the committee by the Asbestos Litigation Lawyers of America, he said yesterday.

Sweeney already is on the creditors' committee in the Unarco Industries Inc. case, the first asbestos case filed.

Many at the committee meeting

said the government would have to limit such lawsuits or bail out firms that otherwise would be forced to follow Manville's example.

"The ramifications are widespread," conceded Mitchel H. Perkiel, an attorney for Manville. "I think it's going to have a wide-ranging effect on all companies subject to lawsuits by virtue of occupational hazard."

Manville, the largest asbestos manufacturer in the country with \$2 billion in sales last year, has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code.

Under Chapter 11, a company is protected from creditors' lawsuits while it tries to reorganize its finances.

The Denver firm took the action because it faced more than 16,500

lawsuits from those with health problems because of exposure to asbestos. Manville said legal settlements could force it out of business.

One creditor, who requested that he not be identified, said Manville's action will force the entire investment community to examine its holdings in the asbestos industry.

William M. Kahn, attorney for United States Trust Co., the trustee for \$175 million of Manville's publicly held notes, said the implications for the industry were "fairly clear."

"Anybody who buys a bond of a company besieged with suits has to be a little concerned," he said.

Manville, which has liabilities of \$1 billion and consolidated debt for borrowed money of \$600 million, has estimated its potential liability from its existing and at a maximum of \$2 billion.

There was a strong reaction to Manville's filing on the part of the present and former asbestos workers who attended the meeting.



Robert E. Sweeney

"They've denied me my day in court," said Nancy Rossi, a Manhattan woman whose \$10 million suit against the company in the death of her husband was scheduled for trial Sept. 14. Her wife unfortunately died of asbestosis, a lung disease.

TUNING IN Former County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney is scheduled to be on CBS' "Sunday Morning" Sunday. He'll talk about asbestos litigation, a field in which he is an expert.

ROLL WITH THE CRUNCH: A Chinese food fan reports that some of the not-so-fancy Chinese restaurants in town used peanut butter as a filler in egg rolls. Now, however, they are complaining because peanut butter is in short supply. The chefs had to replace the peanut butter with a more expensive spread: shrimp.

ALONE: Former County Commissioner Robert Sweeney, father of 11 children, has moved into a one-bedroom apartment in Broomfield. He is separated from his wife.

Take the profit out of cancer

JUN 25 '83 P.D.A.

By Robert E. Sweeney

No one doubts that Chief Justice Warren Burger is correct in his assertion that we are a very litigious society or that the volume of products-liability suits across the country presents a serious challenge to our entire tort system.

Additionally, article after article reminds us that asbestos producers are having a difficult time surviving when all the victims of asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma continue to assert claims. The poor Manville Corp. has only \$2½ billion in annual sales with about a \$1.7 billion net worth to retire the deserving claims of injury Manville caused.

There is also a lot of weeping and gnashing of teeth concerning the survival of the casualty insurance companies that insure these producers, and they have displayed a reluctance to live up to their contracts of insurance to indemnify the victims as they are identified.

As a result of all this, we now have about 20,000 cases of asbestos injury piling up in our state and federal court dockets.

But the real tragedy is that notwithstanding the fact that the vast majority of scientific authority has identified asbestos fiber as an extremely dangerous carcinogen, the United States continues to import from Quebec about 975,000 tons a year. The asbestos mining and manufacturing industries roll on, and materials such as brake lining and insulation materials continue to be incorporated in American buildings, homes and automobiles.

We are encapsulated in this dangerous mineral and have failed to develop safe substitutes. There is no way a national prevention program can be developed if the General Services Administration continues to authorize the importation of this cancer-causing material.

If there is to be a reduction in cancer, common sense dictates that Congress put an embargo on asbestos. Our economic interests must yield to this important health program.

Isn't it also common sense that through our elected representatives and senators we tell the representatives of North Carolina that the American public no longer will subsidize that state's tobacco industry?

Tobacco subsidies, if permitted by law in the future, will be nothing more than confirmation of congressional hypocrisy in dealing with the cancer death

rate. The United States can no longer disregard the medical facts of life and go on ignoring the surgeon general's warnings of the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer which is now particularly severe among women.

Preventing injurious exposures to carcinogens such as asbestos and tobacco are far more important than adopting federal and state compensation schemes which allow the victim to become injured and then compensate him.

The National Cancer Institute's statistics indicate that 25% of the cancer deaths are occupationally inspired. This death rate continues to grow in direct relationship to our refusal to adopt sensible industrial hygiene standards in the workplace. Toxic fumes, dusts and other contaminants are causing far more workers disability than the traumatic type of injuries of the past.

Occupationally induced disability claims have increased because modern pathology can identify causation of disease with far more accuracy. The challenge to our society is, "Are we going to continue to ignore the scientific data and to proceed in the industrial environment as we have in the past?"

Often, the federal government is one of the worst offenders. Recently, the General Services Administration has located potential asbestos hazards in 208 of its 2,500 buildings. Of those 208, 44 office buildings were identified as being seriously hazardous situations, rated in terms of the degree of hazard and given priority for attention. One building cited was the A.J. Celebrezze Federal Office Building here.

Asbestos insulation and fireproofing materials present a serious health hazard for approximately 5,000 federal workers and the general public who use that building daily. Evidence exists which tends to indicate that GSA authorities of the past have indicated that the structure was asbestos-free. But recent testings

confirm that 35% of the fireproofing materials in the building are asbestos-laden.

It seems to me that the GSA's asbestos abatement program must be carried out with the utmost efficiency, so these materials are removed from Cleveland's Federal Building and that while this work is going on, the public and the federal employees not be in areas of danger there. It's hard to believe, but the cold air return plenum is lined with asbestos materials that are now flaking off and being recirculated into the building's ventilation system.

It's no exaggeration to say then that Cleveland's Federal Building is the 14th most dangerous federal office building in the United

U.S. should not encourage use of asbestos and tobacco

States. Already maintenance workers from this building are receiving federal worker's compensation for asbestosis sustained as a result of exposure to these asbestos materials during their working careers in this building.

Adequate information concerning health risks must be supplied to all users of this building. People are entitled to knowledge so as to be able to protect themselves against injurious exposure to asbestos dust.

The majority of scientific opinion indicates that even persons incidentally exposed, such as housewives washing the work clothing of their spouses, come down with asbestos-related disease. Testimony from many scientists has also placed persons within the community adjacent to where asbestos is used as being at risk.

We have let the asbestos and tobacco industries get away with murder. There is a great deal of profit in cancer and it seems that many people in these industries don't give a damn about the problem.

Sweeney, a lawyer here, is a former Cuyahoga County commissioner and U.S. representative. He is attorney for a number of asbestos disease claimants.

Commissioners ponder park statue of Don C. Miller

JUL 31 '84 PD

A statue of the late Don C. Miller, one of the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame, has been proposed for a county-owned downtown park.

Robert E. Sweeney, former commissioner, made the suggestion yesterday to county commissioners. He asked the county to come up with half of the expected \$30,000 cost for the sculpture.

It would be anchored in Huntington Park, at the northeast corner of Lakeside Ave. and W. 3d St., across from the Justice Center. There is already one statue of an athlete there — of the late Cleveland-born Olympian Jesse Owens.

Sweeney said that when he was a commissioner, the board's aim was to create an outdoor sports hall of fame in the park to memorialize city athletes.

"Every public park seems to have a memorial with implements of destruction in it, like cannons

and tanks. It's about time we do it for something else," Sweeney said. "This is a good location because it is on the threshold of the Stadium."

Sweeney said Miller was a good choice because, like Owens, he was never really honored here for his accomplishments while alive.

Miller died in 1979 at the age of 77. He played for Knute Rockne at Notre Dame from 1922 to 1924. His accomplishments and those of his backfield mates earned them perhaps the most famous nickname in college football history.

After coaching eight years, Miller began to practice law. He was U.S. district attorney here for 10 years, returned to private practice, then was named a U.S. bankruptcy judge here in 1965.

Commissioners did not commit themselves to allocating money for the sculpture, but did name Sweeney chairman of a commit-



Don C. Miller

PD/1985 PHOTO

tee that would draw up criteria for choosing to choose honorees.

"The criteria would not necessarily be based on residence," Sweeney said. "The hall of fame would be for those that brought a particular renown to Cleveland for his or her contributions in his particular sport."

The Owens statue was put up in 1982. It cost \$35,000. The Gund Foundation contributed \$10,000, and commissioners paid the rest.

Dirtiest end of the stick

BY ROBERT E. SWEENEY

Minority workers suffer disproportionately from job health hazards posed by such substances as pesticides, ethylene oxide, and a host of other toxic substances.

Black American workers have been found to have a 37% higher risk of contracting occupationally-related disease and a 20% higher death rate from such illnesses than white American workers. This was the substance of a recent report by the Urban Environment Center, Inc., a respected group composed of labor, minority and environmental groups concerned with health and social issues.

It goes without challenge that black and Hispanic workers are overrepresented in types of work that have above-average injury and illness rates. Such jobs include laundry and dry cleaning, smelters, hospital and service industries.

Not only do minorities work in unsafe industries, but often they are assigned the dirtiest jobs there. Black steel workers are most likely to work at coke ovens, and black textile workers at the more dusty opening, picking and sorting operations. Cotton dust exposure and brown lung disease are minority health problems of great magnitude because an average of 25% of America's textile workers are black.

When one considers that 28% of nursing aides, hospital orderlies and attendants are either black or Hispanic, it is little wonder that there is a great volume of health-related injury as a consequence of exposure to ethylene oxide, which is used as a sterilizing agent for medical equipment and which is known as a potential human carcinogen.

We are all familiar with the dangers that attend pesticide exposures and which cause deaths to 800 to 1,000 farm workers annually, along with 80,000 to 90,000 injuries. But we must consider that some 75% of farm workers are Hispanic and that, setting a general standard for worker exposure to such pesticides has fallen by the wayside, according to former OSHA director Eula Bingham.

The opposition party in the election documented a strong case for concluding that there is a systematic dismantling of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration effort with regard to worker health training. Grants formerly funded for training and education of minorities to remove them from injurious exposure have been eliminated under the current administration in Washington.

Also eliminated have been federally sponsored grants to minority-oriented groups such as the National Urban League and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Latin American Council for Labor Advancement and Working Women.

Under the current central government policies, minority workers are truly getting the dirty end of the stick, and a greater concern for the health of all workers, majority as well as minority, ought to be reinstated along the Potomac.

Sweeney, a lawyer here, is a former Cuyahoga County commissioner.



L.A. C. ANDERSEN

Richard K. Mellott, who is dying from a disease caused by asbestos, with his daughter, Tracy, and wife, Georgia.

Slowly dying from asbestos

Insulation workers not told of danger

By Michael K. Frisby

Richard K. Mellott, 41, sits in his home near Youngstown, watching his wife and three daughters, knowing that he is about to die.

The ranch-style home in Columbiana is neatly furnished and get-well cards are displayed near the chair where he lies. His daughters, Jody, 17; Tracy, 18, and Carrie, 21, sadly watch their disabled father.

From 1957 to 1973, Mellott was an insulation mechanic. Last year, doctors told him he had pleural mesothelioma, a cancer that started behind his lungs and engulfed them, slowly suffocating him.

No one recovers from the disease, which

medical experts say is caused by breathing asbestos fibers in insulation material. Mellott has about two months to live.

Once he renovated a building after work and on weekends, fixed items around the house and enjoyed family outings, Mellott recalled.

Now he lies in a living room chair. Plastic tubes bringing oxygen are inserted in his nose. His face is drawn; the brown hair on his head has thinned, revealing a pale scalp. The legs protruding from under a yellow bathrobe are thinner than they once were. His head rested on a pillow as he talked about his life and certain death.

Continued on Page 6-A

Dying asbestos workers were unaware of danger

■ FROM FIRST PAGE

"Yes, I am bitter. I could die at any time. I am being taken away from my family," he lamented. "I am real bitter. We filed a lawsuit that will take care of my family, but it doesn't help me."

• • •

Edward P. Moran fixed insulation in Cleveland area buildings for 31 years. Like other insulation mechanics, he was unaware the insulating material contained a dangerous mineral.

As Moran worked, he smoked cigarettes, unaware a person who smokes and works with asbestos runs a high risk of contracting lung cancer.

Cleveland lawyer Robert E. Sweeney, an expert in asbestos litigation, said Moran inhaled asbestos fibers released when an asbestos product in the insulating material was torn, cut or damaged.

While asbestos entered Moran's and other workers' bodies, where it often lingered for years before causing a deadly disease. Sweeney said industry executives manipulated research and failed to tell workers about the dangers.

By April 1979, Moran, 61, of Avon Lake, had learned that asbestos had been linked to cancer, asbestosis and pleural mesothelioma, all diseases that damage the lungs. It was too late to save his life. Moran died from lung cancer that month.

Sweeney insisted Moran was one of many American workers who died needlessly from diseases caused by asbestos because manufacturers concealed knowledge that their products are dangerous.

"Asbestos companies have shown an insensitivity and lack of concern for human suffering," Sweeney said. "Their products were killing



Curtis G. Linke



Robert E. Sweeney

legedly failing to tell employees they had diseases caused by asbestos.

The company's report for 1980 also said it disposed of 403 asbestos claims last year at an average cost of \$23,300 each, compared with an average of \$13,000 in previous years.

The company also admitted that the cost of the claims to the company could be substantial.

Sweeney has filed about 400 suits on behalf of workers injured by asbestos. He hopes the Moran decision will fuel an effort to ban asbestos.

"Victims and their families use the courts to strike back," he said, "but all the money in the world doesn't help a dying man. It might ease his conscience by letting him know his family will be taken care of, but it won't make the victim any better. It won't give him back his life."

• • •

files in a wall cabinet in his office in Bond Court Building last week. Each was a suit against an asbestos company; each represented a victim or his survivors.

One file contained information on Betty Greene, 43, an Indiana woman who died of pleural mesothelioma in 1979 after breathing asbestos that was on her husband's work clothes as she washed them.

Sweeney said safety improvements have been made in the workplace and some items containing asbestos have been banned, but asbestos companies caused a great deal of human suffering by concealing information.

He has a stack of scientific studies on asbestos, some completed decades ago. The companies had this information, Sweeney said, but did not share it with workers so they could make a choice.

During the Moran trial, Sweeney presented evidence that asbestos companies were aware that smokers who work with asbestos faced a far greater cancer risk, but delayed in relaying the information to those who worked with their product.

In addition to insulation, asbestos is used in some floor and ceiling tiles, paints, pot holders, rugs, draperies, flower pots, ironing board covers, rugs and other items. It has been estimated asbestos is used in 3,000 products.

Curtis G. Linke, senior director for corporate relations for John-Manville, denied in a recent interview that his company had been involved in any coverup of asbestos-related research.

"It was not until 1964 that anyone realized that people like insulation workers, who are exposed to a fiber that is less than 100% asbestos might contract diseases," he said. Linke said his company ac-

are certainly aware of possible dangers.

He added that new incidents of diseases are not a problem and maintained that the suits filed against his company are the result

of things that occurred 20, 30, or even 40 years ago.

"It (asbestos disease) is a diminishing disease," he said, "and will eventually just go away."

lated research and failed to tell workers about the dangers.

By April 1979, Moran, 61, of Avon Lake, had learned that asbestos had been linked to cancer, asbestosis and pleural mesothelioma, all diseases that damage the lungs. It was too late to save his life; Moran died from lung cancer that month.

Sweeney insisted Moran was one of many American workers who died needlessly from diseases caused by asbestos because manufacturers concealed knowledge that their products are dangerous.

"Asbestos companies have shown an insensitivity and lack of concern for human suffering," Sweeney said. "Their products were killing good, hard workers, but all they were interested in was making a profit."

He said a stern message was sent to the asbestos industry last week when a U.S. District Court jury awarded Moran's wife, Dolores, \$500,000 in punitive and \$350,000 compensatory damages from Johns-Manville Sales Corp., the country's largest importer and manufacturer of asbestos products.

The jury's award in Moran's suit may have jolted executives at Johns-Manville, whose corporate offices are near Denver.

Although compensatory damages are paid by their insurance company, a Johns-Manville spokesman said punitive damages must be paid by the company. The punitive damages in the Moran case were the most ever awarded. The company plans to appeal.

Johns-Manville officials recently disclosed to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that as of March 4, it was a defendant in 5,800 suits brought by 10,200 people, most of them insulation workers or their survivors.

The suits, like those filed by Moran and others, accuse the company of negligence in not warning workers the product is dangerous.

Johns-Manville also said 65 former employes have sued doctors working for the company for al-

The company also admitted that the cost of the claims to the company could be substantial.

Sweeney has filed about 400 suits on behalf of workers injured by asbestos. He hopes the Moran decision will fuel an effort to ban asbestos.

"Victims and their families use the courts to strike back," he said, "but all the money in the world doesn't help a dying man. It might ease his conscience by letting him know his family will be taken care of, but it won't make the victim any better. It won't give him back his life."

Mellott's suit in federal court here charges that Johns-Manville and 12 other asbestos companies failed to warn him their product is dangerous and asks for \$2.5 million in damages.

Mellott said he would have found a different occupation had he known asbestos is dangerous. In recent years, his father and uncle, who held similar jobs, have died from asbestos-related diseases.

Mellott recalled that at the buildings where he worked, white asbestos dust would be scattered on the floor. At the end of the day, the white powder often covered his clothes.

Mellott said workers were not warned about the dangers because "the companies are the big guys and they were looking out for their profits and dollars. They didn't care about the little guys."

Last year, he saw a doctor after feeling weak and was told he had the disease. Mellott knew it would be fatal.

"It was really hard on the children," he said, "but we have accepted it and had long talks about it. There really is nothing you can do, but accept it."

Mellott said the disease has not been particularly painful, except in recent weeks when he was forced to use oxygen to breathe.

"It was real hard to breath. It is scary trying to get air. What you

later became district manager for AC&S Insulation Co.

Asked his reaction when he learned about the possible dangers, he said:

"I wondered then if I would live to be 50 or 60 years old. I had no dream it would strike this soon. I have been out of the business for seven years, but it still got me. Something must be done to stop it."

"I can't describe what I feel," his wife, Georgia, said. "I guess that will come later. I am busy looking after my husband."

She said Mellott has been remarkable, even displaying humor at times. Recently when she couldn't find a thermostat to lower the temperature, he remarked:

"Honey, you are going to have a hard time without me."

Sweeney pointed to hundreds of

4 Ohio school districts join U.S. asbestos class action

By DON BEAN

STAFF WRITER

A lawyer representing four school districts suing for asbestos damages has withdrawn the lawsuits from Common Pleas Court here and refiled them in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

Robert E. Sweeney, who represents Cleveland, Cleveland Catholic Diocese, Independence and South Euclid-Lyndhurst schools, said the suits would become part of a class action by school boards that was recently approved by a federal judge in the eastern Pennsylvania court district.

"Transfer of the cases to the U.S. court will be in the best interest of the schools," Sweeney said, adding that David Berger, the lead lawyer in the class action, has invited him to join a team of trial lawyers to represent the plaintiffs.

Sweeney is known in his profession

for his asbestos expertise.

He said he was optimistic that court proceedings would be accelerated by the consolidation.

The suit by Cleveland schools asks for \$1 billion in damages from suppliers and manufacturers who sold or installed flooring, wall coverings, paint and heating pipe coverings with materials containing asbestos.

Sweeney said he hoped the U.S. Office of Education would soon make funds available to school boards to clean up asbestos.

"I should also hope that Congress, by the end of year, would provide some funds to alleviate the problem and clean up the American schoolhouse by getting as much asbestos as possible out" of them, he said.

The lawsuits here, which involve scores of defendants and almost as many lawyers, had been assigned to Judge James J. McMonagle.

Though he has not opposed Sweeney's action, McMonagle said he did not view consolidation as a panacea.

In denying a consolidation motion last year, McMonagle wrote, "The invitation to declare a multiplicant, multidefendant and multiproduct class (action) creates an allure of a legal paradise where we all may picnic together. This vision seems attractive from afar, but upon closer inspection, is a quicksand upon which this court will not venture, for the result of such a step would be fear, panic and confusion."

Martin J. Murphy, of Davis & Young, lawyers for many of the defendants in the asbestos suits, pointed out the enormity and complexity of the litigation when he said there were at least 25 defendants in the Cleveland schools' suit and 19 in the South Euclid-Lyndhurst suit.

County says strike notice is improper

NOV 20 '87 PD WED B2

Tradesmen allegedly failed to exhaust all alternatives

By META McMILLIAN

STAFF WRITER

Tradesmen violated a provision of their contract with the county when they gave Cuyahoga County commissioners a strike notice before all negotiating tools had been exhausted, the county's chief negotiator said yesterday.

"It is our contention that the notice is deficient. Before they serve notice, we have to be at an impasse and exhausted all the means we have," said Myers Rollins Jr.

"The final move would have been to require a federal mediator, and that has not been satisfied," he said.

The 125 tradesmen, represented by former County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney, gave commissioners a 10-day strike notice after a two-week extension of their contract expired last Thursday.

The 17 classifications of tradesmen include carpenters, bricklayers, roofers and plumbers. They intend to strike at midnight Sunday if no agreement is reached.

"We hope they will reverse themselves and elect to utilize the procedure," Rollins said.

Sweeney last week said the strike notice was given because the tradesmen's contract had expired and he was required by law to give the county notice. Sweeney could not be reached for comment yesterday.

His and the county's bargaining teams are expected to begin a marathon session tomorrow to resolve differences. Rollins would not say what action the county would take if tradesmen went on strike before the issue of the strike notice had been resolved.

While wages and benefits have figured in talks, job security apparently is a key issue. Sweeney has declined comment on the issues, but commissioners alluded to the stumbling block yesterday, saying the county was not a private corporation that unions could make demands to about job security.

Commissioners are considering layoffs and reductions of jobs to offset a year-end deficit that could reach \$6.7 million.

The county's argument about financial hardships has persuaded several unions in the last couple of weeks to forego wage hikes this year. Commissioners yesterday approved three-year contracts for 14 window cleaners and wall washers and 14 sanitation employees that call for a wage freeze this year.

However, the sanitation employees, who work at the county waste water treatment plant in Middleburg Heights, won a 5-cent shift differential. As with a recently approved three-year agreement with 400 central-services employees, these two contracts call for a wage reopener in the second and third years.

Robert Sweeney plans bid for mayor

APP 8 '87 PD WED B3

By STEVE LUTTNER

POLITICS WRITER

Former Cuyahoga County Commissioner Robert E. Sweeney, citing what he called the continuing decline of Cleveland, said yesterday he was seriously considering running for mayor.

Sweeney, 61, said he would decide by July 4 whether he would run for mayor in 1988. He said he thought it would take two years of fund-raising and campaigning to make a serious run.

"I feel that the city of Cleveland has been standing still," he said yesterday. "The media has been creating a false impression that the city has been moving ahead."

Sweeney, a Democrat, said the city had been so desperate for positive reinforcement that many residents had willingly inflated the importance of minor developments, such as the opening "of a saloon in the Flats."

Sweeney, who served as a congressman at large from Ohio for one term in the 1960s, said he had been encouraged to run in recent months by a number of people. He declined to name them but said the group included some influential Democrats.

Cuyahoga County Democratic Chairman John M. Coyne said yesterday he was unaware of any movement to encourage Sweeney to run for mayor.

"This is the first I've heard of it," Coyne said, adding that Sweeney would be a viable candidate.

"He's a former congressman, and he's got a good running name," Coyne said.

Sweeney, a lawyer, is regarded as an international authority on environmental law and the cancer-causing effects of asbestos. He left public

'The media has been creating a false impression that the city has been moving ahead.'

— Robert E. Sweeney
former county commissioner

office in December 1980 when he failed to win re-election as a county commissioner. He lost that year to Republican Vincent C. Campanella, who clobbered him in the suburbs. But Sweeney collected about 7,000 more votes in Cleveland than Campanella did. When Sweeney was first elected as commissioner in 1976, he beat Campanella. Sweeney was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Cleveland in 1955 and twice lost bids to be elected state attorney general.

Sweeney grabbed headlines for weeks in 1979 when he said he couldn't simultaneously be a private lawyer and county commissioner. He announced he would resign his elected office. He later changed his mind and remained as a commissioner.

Sweeney, who lives on the West Side, talked like he had already given a great deal of thought to running. He said any campaign he would wage would be styled to both whites and blacks who are interested in improving Cleveland. He said too much emphasis had been placed on boosting Cleveland's image while not enough attention had been given to creating and retaining jobs.

He said that because of the comparative low cost of homes in the Cleveland area, municipal leaders here should do more to woo corporate headquarters from high-price East



ROBERT E. SWEENEY: "I feel that the city of Cleveland has been standing still."

Coast cities. He said Cleveland should divorce itself from its dependence on steel and other declining industries and try to develop other economic bases.

Sweeney said he planned to begin making public appearances soon to measure interest in him as a mayoral candidate. He said he would not base his decision on the political future of Mayor George V. Voinovich, an unannounced candidate for the Senate in 1988. Sweeney said his decision would be unaffected if Voinovich, a Republican, was unsuccessful in his Senate bid and sought re-election to a fourth term in 1989.