

# Policy pay battle lingers as city goes the court way

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on the case last week because he is recovering from a recent heart attack.

His legal partner, Paul Blum, said that he wasn't familiar enough with the case to answer questions concerning the city's position.

"So the city didn't pay the men when it came time to adjust the paychecks after the six-month interval because the wage board said the city didn't have to," Valenti continues.

"Brennan and the city, we believe, knew exactly what the cost-of-living clause was worth to the city and the policemen because we figured it out the same way he did," the union boss explains.

VALENTI SAYS the cost-of-living increase totaled 13 per cent for the first adjustment period back in 1973 and 14 per cent for the adjustment six months later.

"All this time Brennan and the city had acknowledged that the terms of the contract were accurate and there wasn't any mistake in its interpretation," Valenti says.

"What surprises us is that Brennan told the federal wage board that this cost-of-living increase was exactly what the city owes the policemen."

"It is only when the price freeze was lifted that the city began to say there is interpretation differences. When the board wasn't there anymore to tell the city it didn't have to pay the police officers, Brennan began saying that he didn't mean what he had written in the police contract," Valenti claims the city attorney is saying in court.

"He told me the city wasn't going to pay the men what was owed them when all the officers got was a four per cent pay increase the first year of the contract and a three per cent increase the second and third years," he continues.

"The city has enjoyed the men's labor for three years and in the process has reaped quite a savings in that time by not paying the cost-of-living due the men."

"WE DON'T appreciate their methods,"

the union president explains, "and we have no other choice but to sue this thing all the way to the conclusion. If we turn back now, we'll get nothing."

Both parties have indicated they will take their appeal to the state supreme court if necessary.

According to Valenti and other police officers, Brennan refused to take the matter into arbitration. Instead, he went to circuit court to file a contract modification.

"Brennan is telling circuit court," Valenti claims, "that they don't owe the men all that money because he goofed, but the city accountant read over the contract when it was written and readily said he saw nothing wrong with it."

One thing about the whole matter that upsets Valenti and the officers is that they say the city refuses to negotiate a settlement.

"We have agreed to all down and talk this thing out, but the city refuses," he concludes. "They say it's only apples and oranges, and the city has nothing to worry about."



## Honored

Thomas P. Notestine, 17, recently became an eagle scout. He is active in both scout activities and at Harrison High School. He holds the order of the arrow, was a member of the Governor's Honor Guard at Mackinac Island, attended the National Jamboree East, 1973 and has served as patrol leader, scribe and assistant patrol leader in his troop. He is a member of the Farmington Community Band and the Harrison marching and symphony bands.

## Northwestern group to meet Tuesday

The Northwestern Highway Citizens Advisory Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the council chambers of Farmington Hills City Hall, 21555 Eleven Mile.

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# Van Ameyde bids farewell

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High School and as a professor in the Department of Education at Eastern Michigan University for 13 years.

As he looks back, he recalls the chain of events which brought him to the highest position in the district.

In 1957, he became assistant superintendent of instruction and held that post until 1972 when he took over the reins of the district from the resigning superintendent Rodrick Smith.

"During this time, I have watched the district come full cycle and if enrollment projections are correct, maybe we'll see it complete the cycle again," predicts the superintendent.

"DURING MY FIRST several years on the job, enrollments were growing by more than 1,000 students per year. That meant a need for facilities, staffing and services."

"Revenues were increasing because our numbers were increasing. We received about 60 per cent of our revenues from the state and the rest from local sources then," he says.

But that has all changed. Enrollments are now declining and reductions are being made in state school aid, staffs and facilities in the Farmington district.

Sixty-five per cent of the district's revenues now comes from local sources, while the remaining funds are provided by the state.

"Both of these factors have reversed themselves in time. When I started there was a shortage of teachers. Back then everyone could get a job teaching if they wanted. But now there is an oversupply of qualified personnel," Van Ameyde explains.

The retiring superintendent has viewed his administrative role as a very simple function, leading the whole scope of the job on motivating staffers to perform their assigned duties better.

"It's a really simple job based around allowing others to be delegated authority in specialized areas," he says.

"I don't want to leave on a critical note. I feel we need a better working relationship with the board of education."

"I WOULD hope that sometime, somewhere in the future of the district, some one could generate people to serve on the board of education who respect the dignity and humanness of fellow men," Van Ameyde continues.

"Someone who becomes more skilled in the art of respectful dissent and can make decisions contributing to the goals of the district's parents and children without the current destruction of personalities becoming increasingly common in the country today," he adds.

The superintendent claims that on an individual basis, he has gotten along well with the board members, but when they gather as a group, "they are not the same people who you talk to outside their board room," Van Ameyde explains in his usual "tell it like it is" style.

Reflecting on his accomplishments as administrator, he stresses the improved working relationships of employee groups within the district, the strong community support that he has developed, and the expanded instructional program which provides a board and more in-depth learning opportunity for all the "boys and girls."

He has helped the district implement many new secondary courses and has provided parents to become more involved with the schools.

WHILE EXPLAINING the highlights of his career in education, Van Ameyde pointed out that he is leaving the district without doing all the things he would have liked.

"I think more always could be done when education is concerned. Had money and other factors not intervened, we could have developed more meaningful programs for the district," he says.

"I'm sorry that we were unable to move along in that area, but it seems that none other crisis always took our time and efforts into another area."

"I also wish that I could have gotten more involved with individual teachers and buildings, but the job as administrator has been too time consuming," the superintendent says, reviewing his past efforts.

When he returns in July, Van Ameyde plans to remain in the Farmington school district, possibly volunteering his services to those in need of help.

"In retrospect, I just want to say thanks to everyone that contributed to the success of my role as superintendent and hope that those who follow me realize that, as we go from one generation to the next, we manage by standing on the shoulders of those

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