Better Transit Eyes Link Of JFK-Subway—Fetscher

"Better Transit (an independent committee) has recommended that a high-speed rail link be made into an existing rail link, such as the Rockaway Independent line, just south of the Aqueduct Station" as a John F. Kennedy International Airport rail connection. This recommendation was pointed out to the Metropolitan Transportation Administration last week by John J. Fetscher, president of the Hammel Holland Seaside Civic Association.

"The prodigious committee... cites past experiences and/or designs at Cleveland, London and Chicago, and their conclusion is that a high-speed rail link exclusively for airport riders only generates high fares and high deficits," Fetscher told Harold Fisher, chairman of the MTA.

"The committee's recommendation, he continued, is "based on research voluntarily given to all of us..."

State Will Not Run Casinos!

—Senator Farber

"No state-operated casinos will be created!" This assurance was transmitted to John J. Fetscher, president of the Hammel Holland Seaside Civic Association, this week by State Senator Sheldon (See State Will Not Page 18)

Advisors Listen To Gerdi Lipschutz

Gerdi Catches "Home Run Hit"

For the late Gil Hodges, it was a line drive right to the bridge between Rockaway Point and Marine Park—but to Assemblywoman Gerdi E. Lipschutz it was a challenge—and she stopped it, for at least a week.

What actually happened, Mrs. Lipschutz reportedly excitedly on Monday, March 7, was that without warning, without discussion, Assembly Speaker Stanley Stein­gut, of Brooklyn, and Minority Leader Perry Duryea, of Riverhead, L.I., pushed up a bill to rename the Marine Parkway Bridge, at Rockaway's West End, as the Marine Parkway Gil Hodges Bridge.

Immediately, Mrs. Lipschutz objected vehemently, and had the bill laid over for a week, a week in which, hopefully, Mrs. Lipschutz' constituents, and the constitu­ents of Assemblyman Charles E. Schum­ner, whose district touches the other end of the bridge, will make their views known.

Schumner, added Mrs. Lipschutz, was caught as much by surprise as she was, and was equally adamant about the fact that people living in the area of the bridge, had been given no chance to express their views.

"We must get some indication from the community about naming this bridge," said Mrs. Lipschutz.

"We must find out how the people in the 22nd Assembly District feel about renaming the bridge, and the constituents in the 22nd Assembly District must not let their dele­gates down.

Remember, said Mrs. Lipschutz, "we need information to fight both the speaker of the Assembly and the minority leader."

Remember, too, that they dared to put up this bill "without even talking to me."

Mrs. Lipschutz repeats: "Act now! Call visit or write Assemblywoman Lipschutz, district office at 257 Beach 116 street, and let us know about renam­ing Rockaway's link with Brooklyn."

'Ability Not Disability' Slogan At Rockaway Training Center

Their slogan is "ability not disability" and informa­tion about the program emphasizes this saying: "It isn't that they cannot—It is that they have not yet..."

Training at the Far Rockaway Annex of the Queens Occupations Training Center, which is funded under the auspices of the Divi­sion of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Service, is among the early sup­porters of the OTC. It worked for those years on the project until it finally became a reality in 1973.

It serves a population of students between the age of 16 and 21 who are either mentally retarded, brain­injured, visually handicapped or multi-handicapped. Each of the trainees is assigned to a specific area depending on job interests.

Trainees at the Far Rockaway OTC learn such diverse trades as publica­tions, plant ecology, food service, and building maintenance. In the print shop, for example, things are done in an assembly line style. On one side of the room is a table where a pamplet is being collated and stapled by one group of students.

On the other side of the room, another trainee is operating an offset printing press under the careful supervision of the teacher.

At still another table sits a girl who is multi­handicapped using a stapler with a foot pedal to bind booklets. Other classrooms operate in a similar man­ner—learning by doing. As teacher-in-charge, Marilyn Stadtmauer said, "We teach but everybody taken for granted."

She adds that often when a retarded person loses a job Support Casino Gambling In The Rockaways it is not because they cannot handle the job but because they did not come in on time or took too long a coffee break, for example.

Therefore the training center concentrates in mak­ing the school situation similar to a job. The trainees learn to handle money, to

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Rockaway OTC learn such diverse trades as publica­tions, plant ecology, food service, and building maintenance. In the print shop, for example, things are done in an assembly line style. On one side of the room is a table where a pamplet is being collated and stapled by one group of students.

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