

Legislature Votes Contract Change

The County Legislature last week modified its contract with county workers to provide that present employees who are promoted will remain on the pre-1977 salary schedule, which is more generous than the new contract.

The Legislature took the action on the advice of the personnel committee, which said the change will foster in-house promotions. Estimated cost of the change was not disclosed.

The new two-year contract approved by the Legislature last month gave workers increases of \$875 over the next two years, but starting salaries and increments for new employees were sharply cut from the 1975-76 contract.

Before the change that was approved last week, an employee promoted to a new position could have suffered a cut in pay as a new employee. Under the change, he will retain his former base salary and increment schedule.

In other action at its meeting last week, the Legislature added five jobs to the 1977 budget at a total salary cost of \$36,663. The amount of fringe benefits was not specified. Three of the positions were formerly funded under CETA. The five jobs were "essential to the functioning" of county departments, according to the resolution passed by the Legislature.

The jobs were: two stenographers in the District Attorney's office and the data

processing department, a senior account clerk in the personnel department, a support investigator in the probation department, and a security guard for the county building.

The Legislature also voted to seat William E. Dyer as legislator from the fifth ward in Fulton. Dyer was chosen by the Fulton Republicans for the post, vacated when Joseph Chalfoux resigned last November.

The appointment has been challenged by Fulton Mayor Percy Patrick, who wants to name Raymond Rebeor to the seat. Patrick has claimed that under the Fulton city charter and under state law only he and the Governor can fill the vacancy.

A similar dispute arose two years ago, when the Legislature appointed a Republican to fill a seat formerly held by a Democrat. The Democrats challenged the move in court and were rejected at the State Supreme Court level. The case went no farther when a Democrat, Louis Fabrizio, was elected to the seat in the next election.

Last week, County Attorney Robert Nicholson advised Dyer that he could begin voting as a legislator immediately. In the previous case, Nicholson had advised Republican Sam Galizia not to vote pending the outcome of the court case.

Democrats said they planned to take the case of the current appointment to court. They said they were encouraged by a recent appellate court decision in the case of Ulster County that appeared to support their view.

Democrats Present 1977 Party Goals

Democrats in the County Legislature have again asked for a "fair share" of committee chairmanships based on their proportion of the legislators, according to the Democratic platform statement made public last Thursday.

The Democrats last year held two of the more than 20 committee chairmanships, and one of these committees—the laboratory committee—will be defunct after the County Laboratory goes out of business this spring.

There are 11 Democrats in the 36-member Legislature.

In other platform points, the Democrats asked that charter government for the county be put on the 1977 ballot for

referendum, that bonding be used only for capital projects, and that the Legislature consider adopting a "zero-based" budgeting process, in which each department would have to justify its programs at every yearly budget session.

The Democrats also urged that the county adopt the recent recommendations on purchasing and bidding made by a grand jury that investigated charges that some businesses in the county had to kick back five per cent of their sales to the county in return for county business. The grand jury recommended that bidding be made more competitive, that the county use state bids whenever possible, and that a central purchasing office be created.

Personals

CHRISTMAS EVE, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hinman entertained their children, Mr. and Mrs. James Hinman and Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hinman, Mr. and Mrs. William Carp and Beth, Collette, Mike, and David Hinman.

EDDIE LINDO, 211 Buffalo St., recently spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bristol of Rochester.

MICHELLE CROUCH of New Haven spent the weekend with her grandmother, Mrs. Treva Crouch of Mt. Pleasant.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT CROUCH and Michelle of New Haven were Wednesday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Fay in Oswego. East Syracuse gathered at their home Sunday, Dec. 19 for an early Christmas dinner.

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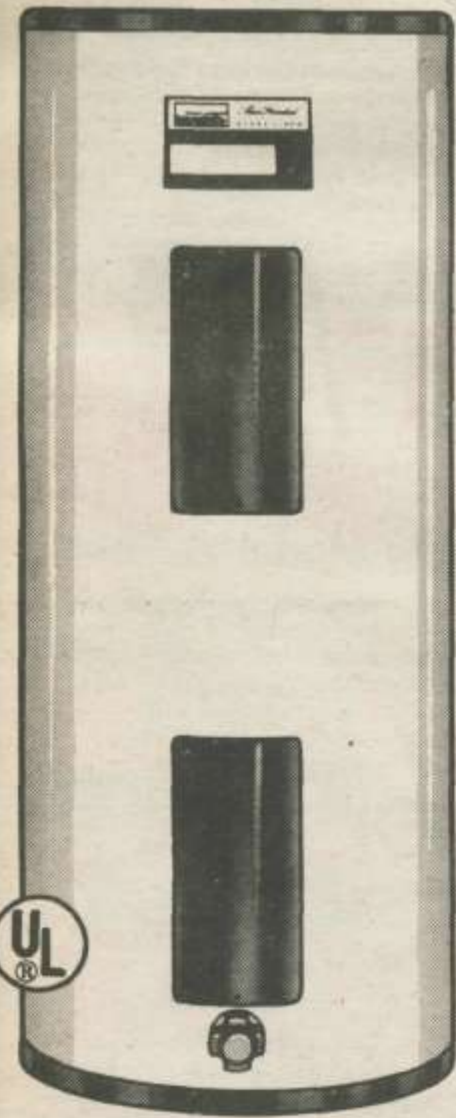
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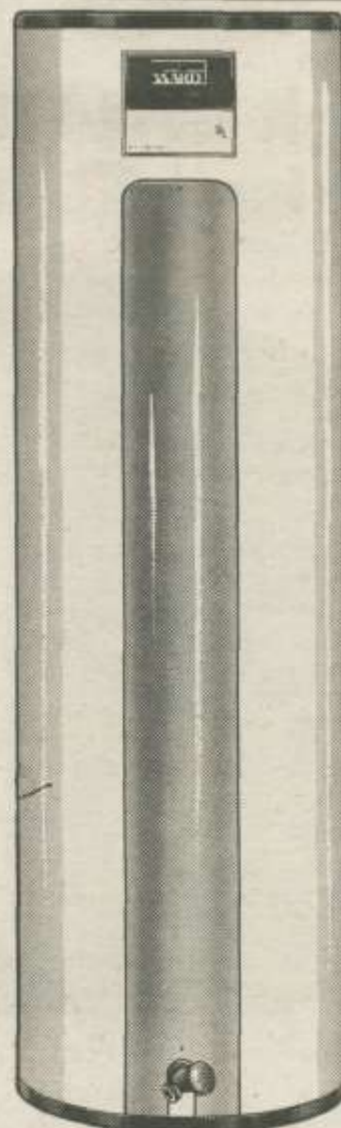
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