

County nurse debate begins

The first debate of the new county legislature Monday came on a resolution to reduce the grade level of nurses in the Cayuga County Health Department by two steps.

On a resolution by Laverne Stock (D-Dist. 8) the legislators rescinded a resolution adopted Dec. 20, 1970, which granted an increase in step and a corresponding pay increase for the nurses.

In introducing the resolution Stock noted that an arbitrator ruled that the 1970 resolution was improper and illegal. The resolution to rescind carried 14 to 6 with one member voting present and some others indicating they were unhappy about the whole matter.

William Keeley (R-Dist. 7), the new legislator from Owasco, said according to his interpretation of the law the nurses could be reduced in step but their salaries could not be curtailed. He said that those nurses who received a salary increase could not lose it, but nurses newly hired would have to start on the lower scale. He asked for a review by the county attorney.

Raymond S. Sant, county attorney, explained the supervisors had granted the increase to the nurses after the board had signed a contract with the CSEA (Civil Service Employees Association), and two groups from county welfare and the environmental health office staff lodged

complaints that the case for the nurses had not been carried through regular CSEA grievance procedures.

He said the arbitrator had agreed with the position of the three groups who lodged the complaint that the pay increase for the nurses was against CSEA regulations, because it did not extend to other employees.

Thaddeus Fus (D-Dist. 13) said he understood the CSEA was in agreement with the nurses that the increase in step was justified. The nurses also maintain the CSEA had been informed of the intended move.

Keeley then asked that the matter be reviewed by the Welfare Committee and the county attorney.

Supervisors received letter on lack of black employment

A letter deploring the lack of employment opportunity for black persons in Cayuga County government was sent to Arbon Hatfield, chairman of the now defunct Cayuga County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday by Reginald Carter, director of ABCD (Auburn Black Community Development Corp.).

The Board of Supervisors held its last meeting Thursday. The letter was not included in the agenda. As of today county government is taken over by the 21-member county legislature. Carter sent copies of the letter to Assemblyman Steve Riford, the county Department of Public Works and the news media.

It is not known whether the letter will be handed on to the new chairman of the county legislature.

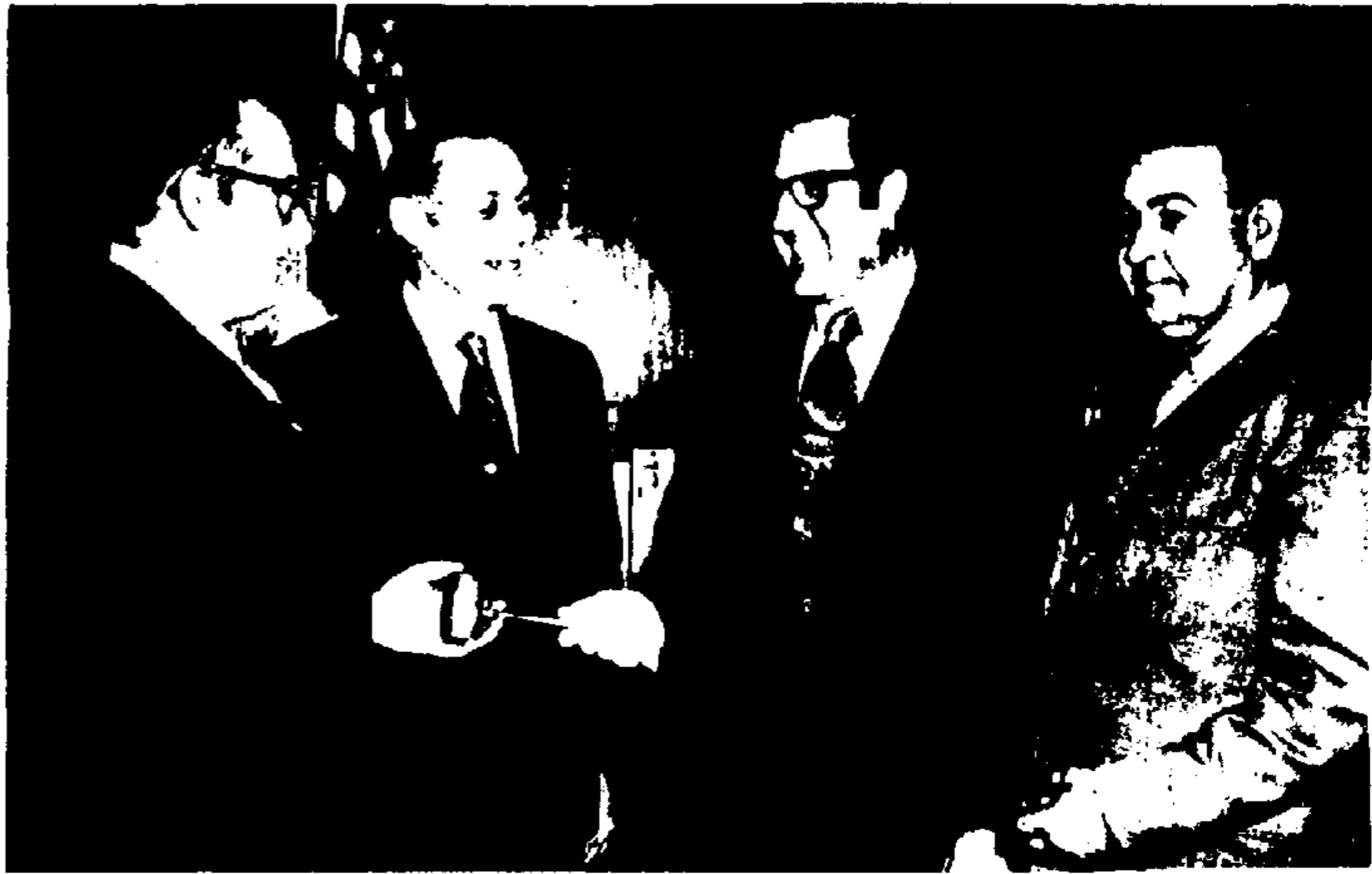
Carter wrote: "The opportunity for black employment in Cayuga County is very limited, and this is evident in the lack

of employed blacks on the payroll of Cayuga County.

"As director of the Auburn Black Minority Coalition and the Auburn Black Community Development Corporation, I request that a meeting be established in which representatives of the black community meet with you and chairmen of your departments to discuss recruitment and training of potential black employees.

"Cayuga County is composed of approximately five per cent black, and we pay more than our share of taxes and have made many contributions to the growth of this community. To deny the black community the opportunity for employment is an injustice I know you nor the Board of Supervisors will tolerate.

"We are in an age when economic opportunities cannot be limited to the very few. I will anxiously be awaiting word from you."



Contiguglia elected

Robert A. Contiguglia (R-Dist. 17), second from right, was elected chairman of the new Cayuga County Board of Legislators at its first meeting Monday. From the left are

Arbon Hatfield of Moravia, chairman of the old Board of Supervisors; Thomas Costello (D-Dist. 18), minority leader; Contiguglia; Ward O'Hara (R-Dist. 12), majority leader.

Legislature sets first work session

By WALTER W. REWALD

The new county legislature, under chairman Robert Contiguglia, has scheduled its first working session for 10 a.m. Jan. 14, a Friday. As a general rule the board meets on Tuesdays, with the first meeting at 8 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month and the second meeting at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday.

This rule has not been changed, but a meeting on the evening of Jan. 11 would be too soon to give the chairman a chance to appoint members to the 14 committees and a daytime meeting on Jan. 19 would be in conflict with the annual meeting of the Association of Towns.

When the board meets again the oval chamber designed to accommodate 32 desks for the 33 supervisors will be rearranged. The chairman sits on the dais. All the desks were still in the chamber at the organization meeting Monday, but a dozen were empty.

Contiguglia appointed a committee to decide how the 20 desks for the legislators should be arranged. As the legislators picked their seats Monday it became apparent that many felt more comfortable as "backbenchers," seeking out the seats in the last row of the central section.

Under the original setup, there was a central section and a right wing and a left

wing. The designation right and left only referred to the location, as seen from the chairman's position, and had no political connotation. Maybe in the new arrangement everybody can sit in the center.

As the session opened Monday holdover chairman Arbon Hatfield told the legislators that the re-elected members could hold on to their accustomed seats while the new ones have the choice of those left vacant. Malcolm Kellogg stayed where he had always been, the extreme left seat in the back row. As nobody sat near him he was literally out in left field.

Laverne Stock stayed where he had always been, front row just right of center. But Ward O'Hara, the new majority leader, abandoned his old seat front row center to join the backbenchers, maybe as a notice to fellow Republicans that from this vantage point he could keep a better eye on them.

But all this may change when the committee decides how the 20 desks are to be arranged in future. One thing is certain with 12 desks removed, there will be a lot more room for visitors who in the past were either confined to the left and right front sections or flowed over among the elected solons when public interest was aroused as during budget hearings.

Before the 1972 session gets under way in earnest members of the press have one request. Would it be possible to activate the elaborate microphone system in such a way that it is easier to hear what is being said so that lip reading is no longer an essential part of the job of reporters.

Area police investigate two accidents

Auburn police investigated one property damage car accident Monday. Involved, with the time and location were:

Frances E. LoPiccolo, 48, 276 Genesee St., and Linda DeMassi, 20, 169 Garrow St., in front of the Genesee Mall, on South Street at 4:25 p.m. The LoPiccolo woman was issued a summons for having an expired operator's license.

Sheriff's deputies
Deputies from the Cayuga County Sheriff's office investigated one property damage accident Monday. Involved was: Frantz J. Muhnicket, 19, RD 2, Cato, on Townline Road, Victory near Rt. 370, at 2:50 p.m.

Hospital admissions Auburn Memorial

Among those entering the hospital up to midnight were the following who wished their names to be printed:

- Mrs. Alice B. Fletcher, Auburn;
- Wilson M. Van Norstrand, Port Byron;
- Rodney R. Holbrook, Memphis;
- Edward F. Breeds, Cato;
- Samuel Casbarro, Auburn;
- Donald E. Stock, Weedsport;
- Michael J. Shells, child, King Ferry;
- Jacobus J. Fey, Skaneateles;
- Mrs. Lorraine Granatiero, Savannah;
- James O. Bishop, Jordan;
- Mrs. Cheryl E. Wright, Clyde;
- Mrs. Elizabeth G. Brier, Auburn;
- Mrs. Sandra L. Walsh, Auburn;
- Mrs. Florence E. Gillus, Weedsport;
- Elmer Kilmer, Sr., Port Byron.

High incidence of virus force hospital restrictions

Officials of Mercy and Auburn Memorial hospitals today requested restriction of visitors during the present high incidence

of respiratory illness in the community. The restriction does not apply to families visiting seriously ill patients.

Spokesmen for both hospitals said that restriction of visitors is necessary for the protection of both hospital patients and staff members while colds and a "flu-like virus" are prevalent in the community.

The hospitals report some depletion of staff members with illness but state "the situation does not constitute an emergency at this time."

O-F Kiwanis to meet

Owasco-Fleming Kiwanis Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at RJordan's Restaurant. Members will discuss the purchase of property on Sand Beach Road.



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