

# Mine Tomb For 22 Men

## PAS Aide's Idea

### JOINT COUNCIL, SCHOOL BOARD?

By JOHN BLOOMFIELD

Should the Court of Common Council also be the Board of Education — and simply change hats as the occasion requires?

This is a proposal that has been tossed into the laps of the Charter Revision Commission by Charles Winter of the Public Administration Service. The PAS is here under contract to overhaul functions of the city government, particularly in the purchasing and personnel fields.

The reaction of the Charter Revision Commission to Winter's proposal was a stunned silence. The Commissioners seemed too flabbergasted to grapple with it and quickly passed on to other blazes.

When Winter dropped his little bombshell in the midst of the charter revisers, he was speaking only as an invited guest of the commission and not as a representative of the administration.

Here's how Winter sums up his idea:

"To promote harmony and the use of common facilities between the Board of Education and the Council, these two bodies should be composed of the same persons."

Winter sees his idea as a means of resolving what appears to be a built-in conflict between the city council and the Board of Education, particularly on appropriation matters.

The PAS representative said he has searched Connecticut state statutes and can find nothing in them that would prevent the membership of the Court of Common Council from also being the Board of Education.

"I can't find anything against it," Winter said today. "Everyone takes it for granted (that the two bodies should be of different composition) but I don't find it."

Asked if his proposal has ever been tried out or is in effect anywhere, Winter replied that he had not done any research on this but he knew of one place — the Virgin Islands — where the idea is carried out in substance.

Winter said he drew up a draft of a law that was subsequently passed by the U.S. Congress under which the Virgin Islands now operate. The framework provides that the islands' single elective body controls all functions, including education.

Winter says he is aware that many people find his idea startling, if not revolutionary. His answer:

"I'm afraid I take a view that is unfettered by tradition . . . I really believe people are looking for a fresh way to solve this problem . . . I don't know if I'm too fresh or not!"

Winter's reason for exploring his proposal is the virtual autonomy the Board of Education has in spending its budget money, once it is approved by the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Winter admits he is thinking in terms of a new city charter in putting out his proposal. Under the charter proposed by the commission, the city council would have full powers over the budget and the Board of Apportionment and Taxation would be abolished.

Also, the commission proposes a reduction in the size of the council from 20 members to 11.

"There is this conflict between the authority of the council and the authority of the Board of Education . . . having the same membership would change that."

**In Southington**

**Brush Blazes Set**

**Rusk Scheduled**

**For 1-Day Stop**

**BULLETIN**

Clarksburg, W. Va. (AP) — Clinchfield Coal Co. announced shortly after noon that 14 bodies of 22 men trapped by an explosion in its Compass No. 2 Mine near here have been recovered.

Clarksburg, W. Va. (AP) — Rescue workers this morning found the bodies of two miners trapped by a gas explosion in the Clinchfield Coal Co. Compass No. 2 mine. Hope dwindled for the lives of 20 others.

Announcement of the finding of the first victims of the Thursday's explosion was made by mine Supt. Harry Chapman, whose brother is one of the missing miners.

The bodies, Chapman reported, were found near the opening of a drift in which 13 miners were scheduled to be working when a rumbling gas explosion hit the mine.

Seven other men were assigned to a drift 2,000 feet farther into the mine and two men were assisting both crews.

Outside women, coal miners in working gear, police and coal company officials kept vigil.

There was nothing on the outside to indicate what had taken place. Fans which circulate air through the mine continued to operate. The shaft was not damaged. The elevator which can carry 10 men down into the working area was still operating.

About 60 men were in the way of mine rescue methods took turns clearing a path to the 22.

It was difficult. The air had to be checked constantly to be certain it was clear of any explosive gas.

Timms said the trapped men were about 1½ miles from the mine rescue crews, equipped with

oxygen breathing apparatus.

Teams rushed to the mine from Clarksburg and Fairmont. Five six-man teams were on the job before dawn.

Stephen Canonico, Clinchfield vice president, said the lead rescue team encountered traces of methane gas about 3,000 feet from the area in which the men were working. Blowers dispersed the deadly fumes.

The explosion, tentatively laid to deadly and explosive methane gas, possibly in combination with coal dust blew dirt and debris out the 38-foot main mine shaft just after 11 p.m. twenty-nine miners working away from the explosion area tumbled out of the mine.

But 22 others—14 working on one seam, seven on another and a foreman who could have been with either group—did not appear. The area was a mile and three-quarters from the nearest mine opening.

A hurried call was put in for the mine rescue crews, equipped with

oxygen breathing apparatus. Teams rushed to the mine from Clarksburg and Fairmont. Five six-man teams were on the job before dawn.

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The rescue groups penetrated to within 1,500 feet of the work area by dawn. Smoke thickened as the teams advanced. No rock falls were encountered and Canonico was hopeful the area of the trapped men could be reached in a matter of hours.

"If they were physically able, they would have tried to throw up a bulkhead or barrier," he said. "But in the circumstances, I don't know if they had the chance."

Names of the trapped men were not immediately available. Canonico said a list would be released after their fate is determined. All were local men from the Clarksburg area.

The Compass No. 2 mine, a shaft and drift operation as opposed to open surface mines, employs 185 men.

## RESCUE TEAM GOES INTO MINE