

Labor union . . .

From page one

The Lawrence City Commission, by a narrow margin, has voted not to extend recognition to City Employee Associations. By this action, the City has declined to bring law and order to employee-management relations, law and order that would protect employees, management and the public from any unfair practices. The consequences of the Commission's vote is to eliminate direct communication between employees and the Commission; eliminate employees' right to appeals and eliminate written agreements that would make both employees and management live up to their word. Above all it will make possible the continuation of many deplorable practices that have demoralized Lawrence City employees over the past years. How this is supposed to improve the quality of life in Lawrence is beyond comprehension.

Instead of the rule of law and order, the City has confirmed the rule of one man, the City Manager. They have done this by setting up an Employee Council in which Buford Watson's word is the final word on employee grievances. The United Employee Associations of Lawrence reject this proposal as totally un-American. The day has not come when Americans will submit to the dictatorship of one person, no matter under what guise. We also reject the strange notion that any government has the right to dictate what form any organization of American people should take. We have our own employee organizations which represent the overwhelming majority of our employees. We are not about to disband in deference to an organization set up by management. This form of "company unionism" was outlawed in private employment in the 1930's. We remind our Commissioners that they were elected to protect citizens, not dictate to them.



MANAGER
WATSON

The three Commissioners who voted against law and order apparently forgot that talks between us and the City Manager have been going on since last May. Despite this there are still:

- employees penalized for time lost because of on-the-job injuries
- massive safety violations despite employee and insurance company requests for correction

--no adequate accounting that the 1/2% sales tax is being properly spent to upgrade the police and fire departments as intended when the tax was initiated

--arbitrary harassment and insulting of employees

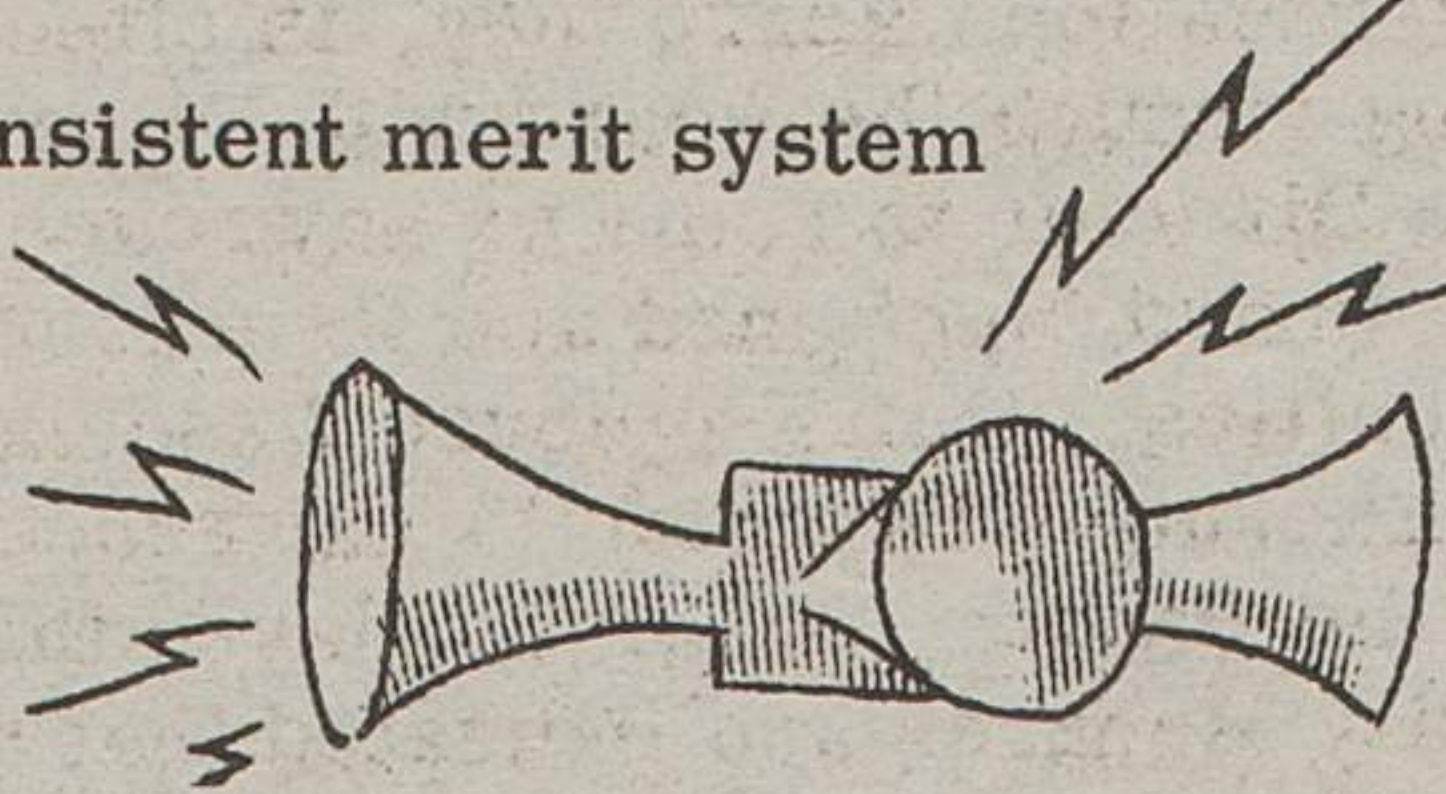
--threats of dismissal of employees

--favoritism in work assignments and promotion

--secret files are still kept on employees

--no programs for upgrading of employees

--no consistent merit system



--no consistent grievance machinery

--no improvement in equipment maintenance

--no probation policy

--contradictory policies on termination of employees

--inadequate hospitalization

--employees receiving threatening letters from collection agencies for medical bills for on-the-job injuries

--employees required to operate unsafe equipment

--no consistent employee evaluation procedures

--inconsistent policies on overtime payment and distribution

--no consistent training programs

--failure to abide by wage commitments made at time of hiring

--no consistent work standards

--no consistent chain of command

--no consistent disciplinary policies

--no policy on employee uniforms

WE ARE PREPARED TO AMPLY DOCUMENT ALL OF THESE MALPRACTICES.

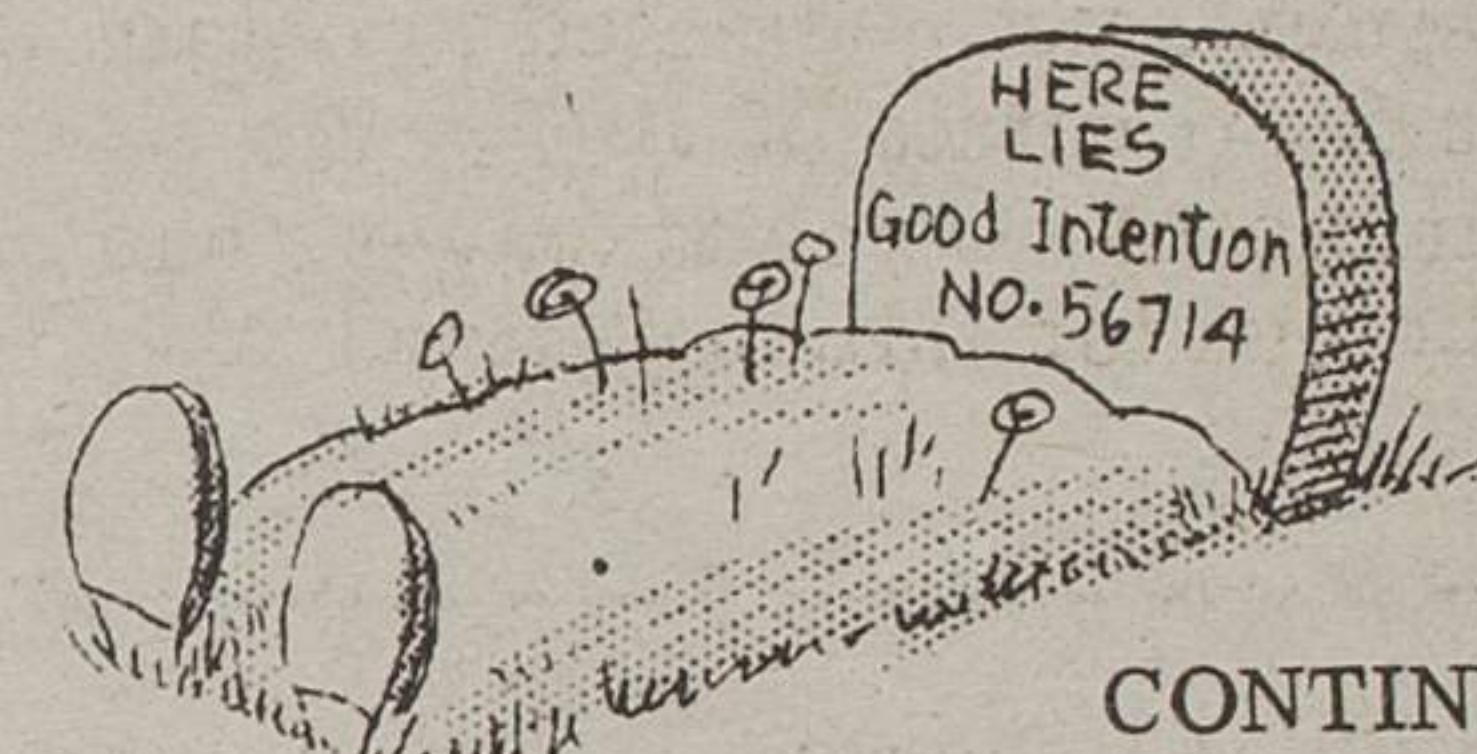
THE AFFLICTION

Quite simply, the City is grossly mismanaged causing great loss in service efficiency and loss to the taxpayers. Commissioners have been informed of these violations, but instead of investigating them or setting up a system, under law, that would peacefully and rationally correct these violations, three Commissioners have chosen to sweep the issues under the rug.

The public should be aware that under City regulations, any employee who brings employment problems to the Commission is subject to dismissal. With such a closed system, how is it possible for anything to change or services improve?

We, the United Public Employees Association of Lawrence, are acutely mindful of our public trust. We want to provide quality services to the people of Lawrence. Some Lawrence City Commissioners seem to be obsessed with wage demands. (We have made none despite some major inequities.)

These Commissioners also seem obsessed with the thought of employees bringing in powerful outside labor organizations. (None have been brought in. The only powerful outside influences planned for Lawrence were national waste disposal monopolies initiated by the City.) These Commissioners conveniently forget that most of the issues raised by the Employee Associations have been designed to improve the poor quality of management. We believe that some Commissioners keep raising the wage and outside union issue as a smoke-screen to cover up managerial chaos and inefficiency.



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HOME INTERESTS

Health By Elanore Smith

The League of Women Voters of Lawrence is making a study of how well health and medical needs of people in Lawrence are being met and how these services might be improved. As one part of our investigation we are looking at various health delivery systems, what they cost and how successful they have been in other communities.

One of the most interesting of these community attempts to bring medical care to residents regardless of ability to pay is called Clinicare. It is a clinic in Kansas City, Kansas which charges its patients according to their ability to pay. No one is turned away, even if they can pay nothing.

Of course Medicare and Medicaid pay for many of the people who are served but the clinic is also dependent on the support of several local churches and on private donations, many of which are very small. The most important donation is made by the staff. Although most of them are paid, they all could earn much more in other jobs.

Of course Kansas City is very different from Lawrence and perhaps the most important difference is in mere numbers of people. From rather a small beginning the clinic now sees about 2,000 patients a month. There is no evidence that Lawrence needs or could support anything on this scale, but it is a good example of what can be done with strong community support.

But what does Lawrence need?

Are there many Lawrence residents who find that they cannot get medical care when they need it because they have no insurance or do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid?

The League does not need and does not want names. It does need fact and numbers. We would be most grateful if the citizens of Lawrence would help us collect this information by filling out information cards. They can be obtained at the Public Health Department, the Salvation Army, Penn House, the Ballard Center and Eckan.

HOOSIER FRIEND?

By Harry Puckett

A short time ago one of our citizens was looking for a location for a private business to deal in furs. He was directed to contact one of our local real estate dealers, who knew where this citizen could operate such a business. They contacted the zoning board and were told that they could operate a fur business as long as no tanning or drying was involved. So, an agreement was made for the property in the 900 block of Delaware. The citizen made a down payment and began work to put the place in condition for the business.

The planning board had thought of some technical point, however, as an excuse to reject his request for a permit to do business.

The citizen contacted an attorney to find out why he couldn't operate his business. Since our city manager has control of all our city employees in each department, the attorney tried to get an interview with him but so far has been put off.

This citizen has spent considerable money and time on this place. Why is he denied a right to do a legitimate business that hurts no one or interferes with no one? This is denying him of his constitutional rights. . . an injustice.

We need someone to manage our town who will give justice to all, not just a few special privileges.

HUMAN VALUES

By Barbara Willits

One of my pleasures this fall has been my daily walks with two energetic five-year-olds from 12th and Delaware to the New York School.

The 1000 block of Pennsylvania must be one of the most peaceful spots in Lawrence. Neat houses of all sizes line both sides of the street. Most of the houses have flowers around them and on the porches. Every yard shows loving attention. Mrs. Ida Price was out one day enjoying the bright sun. Her neat garden defied a weed to show its head on the north side of her lot.

Every person I meet while walking is amiable, ready to speak and give attention to the children. I find myself wondering what arrangements will be made for kids to get across 11th and 9th streets after the "Loop" is channeling traffic into the downtown business area. I hope our school officials recognize the dangers inherent for our children in the Loop plans.

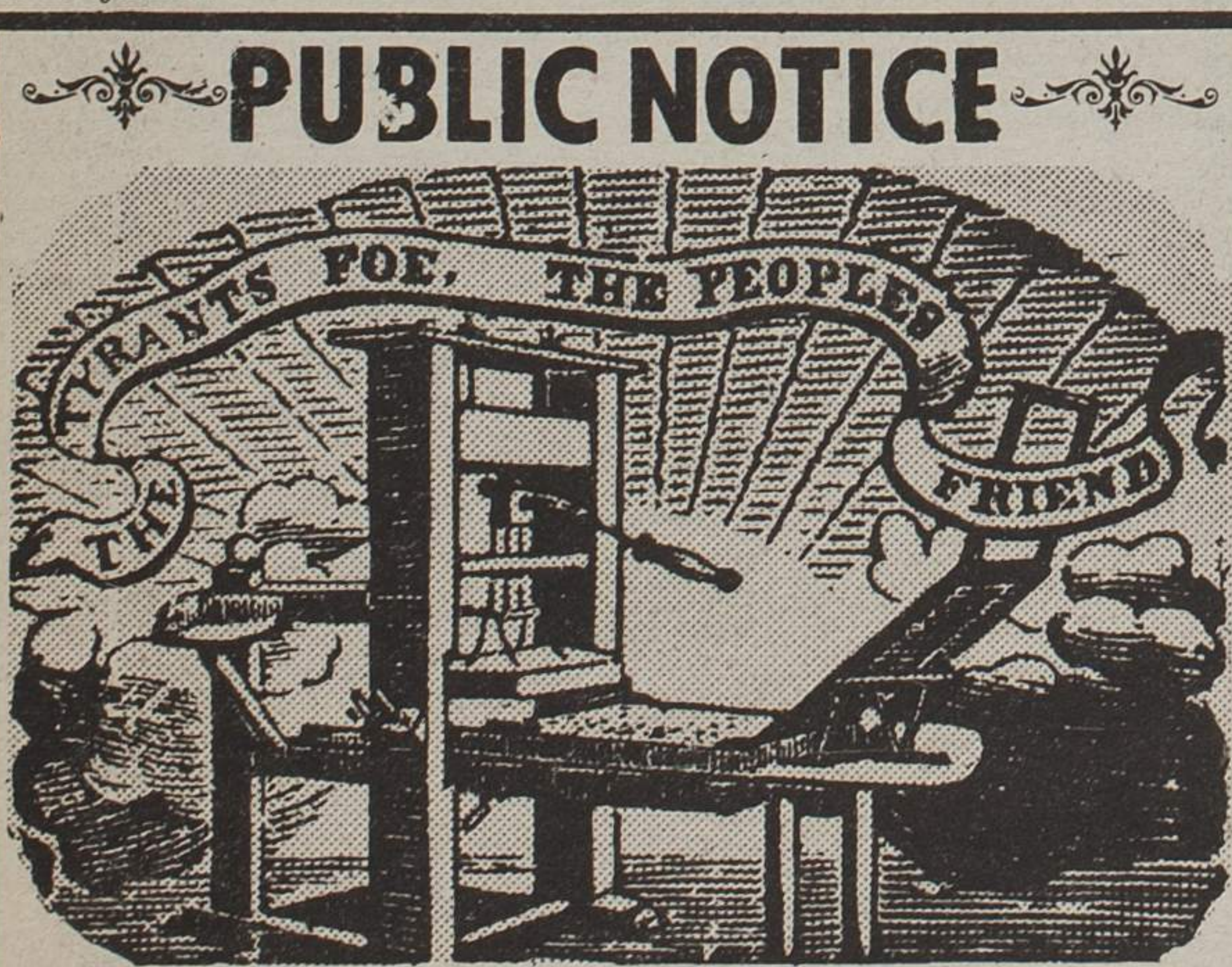
Isn't the power and authority of city staff appalling? The city and USD # 497 Board members meet and all the Loop propaganda is spread out by Planning Director Dick McClanathan. He spouts words--energy crisis, development, boost school population--no matter that he can't spell out what development! Families need low and moderate cost housing. A row of garden apartments along the Loop just won't cut it!

We hear high flying plans about a new neighborhood center, but no mention of it in the six-year capital improvements plan, of course. It's just more pie-in-the sky. Where are East Lawrence kids to fly kites--play football and baseball-- just plain run off their energy?

I'll believe a new neighborhood center when I see it in the flesh, not a second before! The mood of the City in East Lawrence is BULLDOZE--the ball park, houses, 235 people who signed a petition against the Loop--tear down not build. Don't anyone hold your breath until the new center, please!

Believe It or Not!

Savoring the construction boom in town? Well think again. Unless you are the developer or the contractor, you're out of luck, particularly if you're one of those who needs a place to live. Only eight permits for the construction of multi-family dwellings have been issued this year, all high-rent. Hundreds of new homes, \$30-50,000 range please, high society only. Poor people, working people, look elsewhere. Hats off to the planners, McClanathan, & all the rest.



★★ THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC NOTICE ★★

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