SUN Metro

Street Talk / Gaming / Local / Politics

RTC refuses to purchase items for LV Transit Co.

By JUDY CARLOS
SUN Staff Writer

If the Las Vegas Transit Co. wants two-way radios and new fareboxes on its buses, the firms pay for them, Regional Transporation Commission officials declared Thursday.

The RTC rebelled against what had been expected to be routine passage of a $27,514 grant for the city of Las Vegas to improve the system by building new bus shelters, and buying new bus stop signs, benches and adding amenities like bicycle racks, two-way radios and fareboxes to the buses.

The RTC grant would be added to the city's $38,000 in matching funds to attract $275,461 in federal monies.

County Commissioner Manuel Cortez raised the first battle cry. He wasn't going to vote for the city request until it received a $27,514 check from the bus company.

Cortez reminded city representatives that radios are included as an expense the company has agreed to meet in its contractual agreement with the city. He said the company is in violation of its contract with the city now and he doesn't understand why the City Commission is so lenient with the bus company.

RTC Chairman Ron Lurie, a city commissioner, said if the city tried to enforce every provision of the contract with Las Vegas Transit, the company would shut down the line entirely and "that would hurt the community."

He said the company already owes the city $100,000 but the city hasn't collected it.

Cortez' retort: "They have been hiding behind that for years, hit them up for another $27,000."

The commission, composed of representatives from all governmental entities in the area served by the privately owned bus line, agreed.

Commissioners seemed to be particularly incensed that nobody from the bus company attended the RTC's public hearing that had been set on the agenda month ago and duly advertised and publicized.

"In all the years that I have been a city commissioner," Al Levy told the SUN, I never have had so much as one conversation with the owner of that company — not one. I think he said hello to me once."

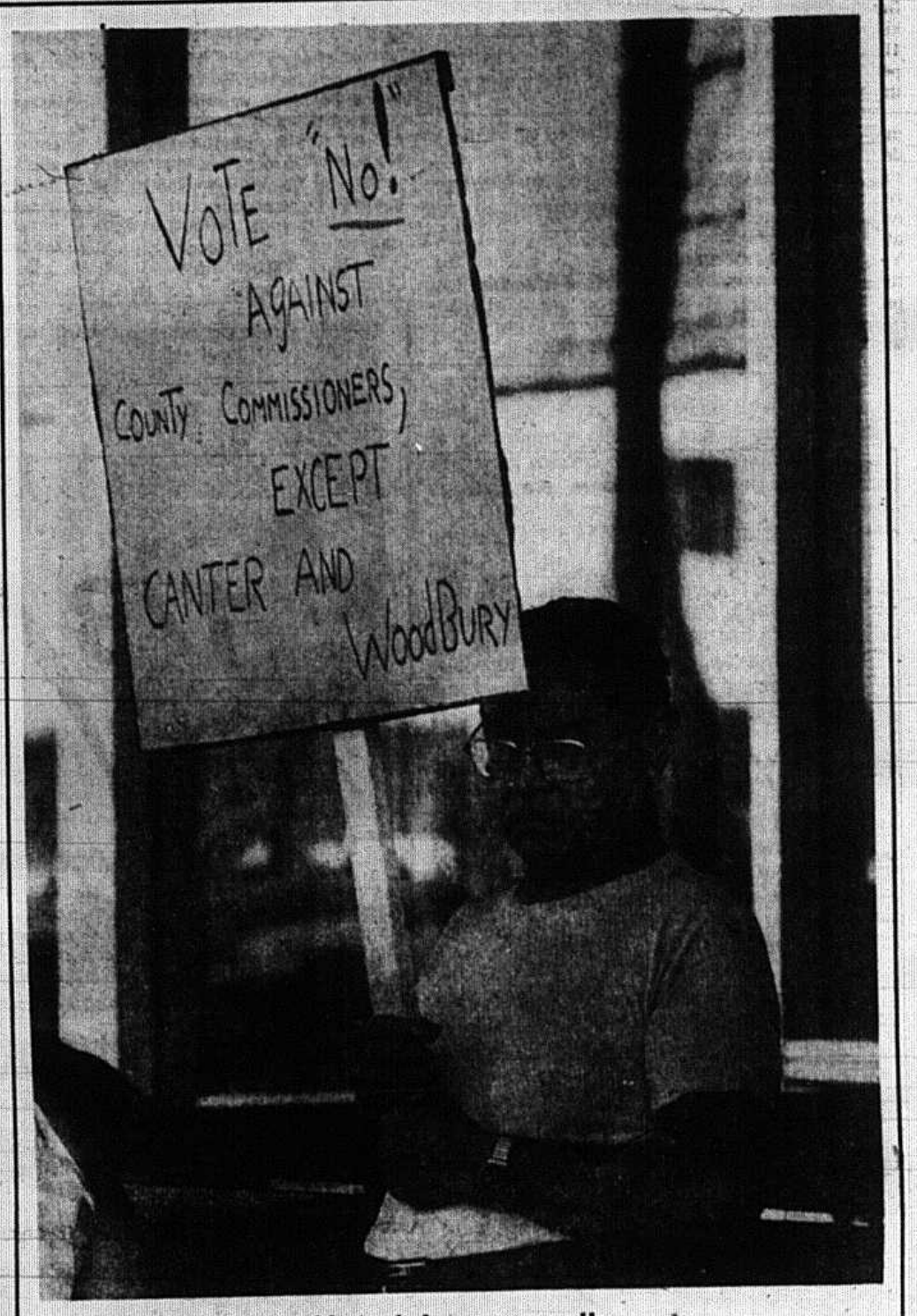
"Why do they get away without paying a dime?" Cortez added.

City of Las Vegas Department of Funding chief Richard Blue urged the RTC members to go ahead and pass the city grant request for funds for so-called amenities quickly so they don't endanger their chances of getting federal monies before they are passed on to some other urban area.

Cortez said first he wants "to see their name on the dotted line," so Lurie proposed a motion to send the bus company a letter demanding the $27,000 "even if the letter has to be hand-delivered today." The motion passed unanimously.

Meantime Cortez hinted that "some people" might not want to give up the right-of-way along "certain streets" because they "don't want a bus shelter in front of their business."

(See LVT, Page 17)



Not giving up easily

SUN photo by JIM LAURIE

Charles Gonzalez of the East Las Vegas Concerned Citizens pickets the Bridger Building Thursday in protest of a low-income Housing Authority project under way in his neighborhood. Even though the County Commission has approved the project and construction has started, residents plan a lawsuit.

Paul Price

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS

Capsule comments on Tuesday's election by a shrewd observer of the political scene:

"As far as the governor's race is concerned, the primary is a formality because indications are that Gov. Bob List is a lost cause. Dick Bryan appears to be running easily and confidently and will win the statehouse for the Democrats in November.

"List's decline in public support has been dramatic. His supporters recognize this and scramble in despair. They need a near-miracle to turn away what promises to be a disaster — but they haven't been able to find it.

"There is an interesting facet to this contest. It will not necessarily be a pro-Bryan vote that wins for the Democrats but an anti-List rebellion.

"Question: can this be interpreted as a rejection of President Reagan's policies and the Republican national philosophy?

"Either way, List is down the tube."

— — —

"You can't make an intelligent prediction on the barnburner between Senator Cannon and Congressman Jim Santini, who lay it all on the line in the Democratic party.

"It may be too close to call today, but won't be after this weekend, with major media pushes to be expected from both camps.

"They won't be holding back because there's no tommorrow.

"Santini appears to have the edge in the weekend media blitz because his campaign funds seem to pour from an everflowing cornucopia.

"'On the contrary,' a top strategist in the Cannon camp told me rather forlornly. 'God, I wish we had the money that Santini had. That could swing it.'

"The pros are calling it a squeaker. I believe Santini will show more strength than most people believe. Check with me Monday morning on this one."

— — —

"About 15 minutes ago I would have conceded the Democratic nominee for the attorney general's office to Mahlon Brown over George Franklin and Jim Kosinski.

"You can bet the winner in the general will come from that party.

"I had this figured as the classic 'money race' where the dollars would win over the talent and credentials of other contestants. There seemed little doubt that Brown was buying himself an election because he had the 'big bucks' and Franklin and Kosinski have been running short.

"But I heard a stunner this morning. Some Strip hotel executives commissioned a private poll from a Chicago survey firm and the results came back: 'Brown, 20 percent; Franklin, 20 percent; Kosinski, 19 percent.'

"There is a story there yet to be told."

— — —

"Harry Reid wants to capture Jim Santini's vacated Congressional seat (District 1) over four Democratic rivals, and Mary Gojack will carry the same banner out of the north for the new Dist. 2 seat.

"These are two shoo-ins. They are absolute cinches in the primary — but not so in the November finals. Each may draw a worthy opponent from strongly supported and attractive Republican candidates.

"Mark these contests as slambang roughhouses in November."

— — —

"The try for the sheriff's badge opens in the primary with John Moran and Beecher Avants as top runners on the Democatic side against Don Draken and Larry Hennessey. The latter two must be out for name recognition.

"Sheriff John McCarthy hasn't made a serious move to win the Republican nomination. He's almost been a non-campaigner against what he must consider a weak field. He may be right.

"Moran and Avants? You would have to pick Moran because he has out-campaigned Avants and out-moneyed him with the media.

"Some people maintain that McCarthy already represents a lost cause and will be whipped by Moran in the runoff. That would be a misconception. McCarthy hasn't begun to fight and will be tough in the stretch."

— — —

The above comments do not reflect the opinions of the SUN or this column or anybody I know of beyond the man responsible.

I can only assure you he has the background and the credentials.

Other agencies want share

EOB bus funding policy to be reviewed

By JUDY CARLOS
SUN Staff Writer

The Regional Transportation Commission Thursday supported the Economic Opportunity Board bus system for senior citizens, but called for a review of its policy of exclusively funding the EOB in transportation programs for the handicapped and disabled.

The EOB will receive $24,000 from funds supplied by Nevada and controlled by the RTC. The $24,000 is matching money to enable EOB to request a $333,147 federal grant to buy new buses and pay operating expenses.

EOB officials told the RTC their projected budget for the bus system for 1982-83 is $668,894. The balance would come from block grant programs already allocated by Las Vegas and Clark County, and an additional $240,000 they will have to seek later from the RTC and federal funding sources.

The review of their policy of funding only EOB transportation for the special needs of disabled citizens came about because the Southern Nevada Association for the Handicapped asked the RTC for a grant so it can buy its own buses.

EOB representatives argued that their agency is struggling financially, that it has provided adequate service to the handicapped and other special needy persons, and the RTC shouldn't encourage duplicative efforts.

They warned that Opportunity Village officials are already exploring grant funds for their own transportation plan. They said another organization, HandiTransit, a United Way agency for people who need transportation to help find a job, may also seek RTC help.

Vince Triggs, director of the handicapped association, said arrangements between his group had existed before he took over. But he said he has received many complaints from clients who said they could not afford to pay $3 per ride EOB charges regular riders or $5 for occasional riders.

(See EOB, Page 17)

Prosecutor describes 'hole-in-wall' attempt as an 'organized operation'

By BILL BECKER
SUN Staff Writer

The July 4, 1981, burglary of Bertha's Gifts & Home Furnishings shop was described Thursday as an "organized operation" involving a cast of seven lead characters and some 30 law enforcement officials in supporting roles.

A Clark County prosecutor Thursday made that characterization as jurors heard opening statements in the "Hole in the Wall Gang" trial.

Charged with burglary, possession of burglary tools and conspiracy are Leo Guardino, 48, 4509 Paseo Del Rey Drive and Ernest Davino, 35, 720 E. Karen Ave. A third co-defendant, Lawrence Neumann, 54, of McHenry, Ill., faces all but the conspiracy charge.

Wayne Matecki, 31, Northridge, Ill., also is charged in the crime, but has been hospitalized in Chicago where he was involved in a car accident. Former Metro Police intelligence officer Joseph Blasko, 45, 53201 Varsity Ave., will be tried separately after the Supreme Court rules on an appeal related to the charges.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Bill Koot told the eight female and four male jurors that FBI agents were notified of the eventual breakin about two weeks before it took place by Salvatore Romano, a federal informant.

(See HOLE-IN-WALL, Page 17)

State OKs Lake Mead water quality standards

By MARY MANNING
SUN Staff Writer

The state Environmental Commission adopted water quality standards Thursday for Lake Mead and Las Vegas Wash, ending months of squabbles between state and local governments.

However, the city of Las Vegas threatened to block the commission's action in federal court long before the commission reached the late afternoon decision.

It means the state will begin issuing discharge permits to city and county wastewater treatment plants allowing certain levels of phosphorous and other chemicals.

"That means I'll be able to issue discharge permits to those SOBs," State Division of Environmental Protection Administrator Lewis Dodgion said, referring to the city's and county's wastewater treatment plants.

But the city attempted to delay commission action on water quality standards until an amended consent decree, signed by Gov. Robert List, the city and the county, is finalized by the federal EPA and a federal judge. The amended consent decree would require the commission to act according to procedures that the present one does not.

The decision agreed with state Division of Environmental Protection proposals to meet water quality standards already in effect under a 1979 consent decree between Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

But Joseph Karaganis, representing the city, promised a "dogfight" if the commission passed any water quality standards, including a federal court injunction against the action.

"Take it to court," growled Commission Chairman John Fransway, "You've wanted to do it anyway."

City Attorney George Ogilvie said he did not know if the city would go to federal court until the commission's action had been analyzed.

The state did agree to allow flexible temperatures requested by the city in the wash during flash floods.

(See STATE, Page 17)

Tola Chin opens doors for new slot arcade

Tola Chin is a young man on the move.

At 36, Chin has seen his career shift from that of a 21 dealer, to small restaurant owner, to big restaurant owner to small restaurant-casino owner.

Last week he opened Quarter Corner, a cozy hamburger-hot dog-slot operation next door to the old Jolly Trolley on Sahara and the Strip.

"We deal in quarters here," Chin pointed out. "All the slots (50 of them) are a quarter to play, soft drinks are a quarter, beer's a quarter and the hamburgers and hot dogs are four quarters each."

Chin said he prides himself on dishing out good food at affordable prices.

"It's my firm belief that I have to do things right or forget about it," Chin declared. "I know this is a very tough business, very competitive, but I have the confidence that people will keep returning to the Quarter Corner because of the made-to-order quality food, the service and the low cost."

Confidence could be Tola Chin's middle name.

Born in China and raised in Hong Kong, Chin and his parents moved to Los Angeles in 1961. He graduated from Marshall High School, College of San Mateo and earned a business degree at San Jose State.

Moving to Las Vegas in 1971, Chin wanted to ply the trade his father was in in Vancouver, British Columbia. But his deal to buy a restaurant fell through, so he turned to dealing 21 at the Golden Gate downtown.

After a year there, he went to the Holiday Inn and then to the Las Vegas Hilton where he worked for four years.

During his tenure at the Hilton, he opened Chin Chin's on West Sahara and had a thriving business from 1975-80. He gave up dealing and then branched out and opened Chin's Drinking and Eating Place at 2300 E. Desert Inn Road.

"I found that trying to operate two specialty restaurants didn't work too well," Chin confessed. "After six months I had to give up Chin Chin's.

"But Chin's on Desert Inn is my pride and joy," he boasted. "There, I prepare original recipes that include Chin's beef, shrimp puffs and a vegetable plate. It's all top quality food. I don't compromise when it comes to obtaining the finest meats and vegetables. And, it's a culinary art to prepare specialty dishes.

"The same thing applies here at Quarter Corner," Chin said. "Just because it is small (2,400 square feet), customers will find that I don't compromise on the quality and type of food served from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m."

Chin's Quarter Corner, which employes nine people, has a full-fledged kitchen which, he says, can produce anything from a hamburger to a gourmet meal.

"I'm in the service business," Chin said. "And my customers feel at ease here. If you handle people correctly, they respect you and come back.

"I have found that it takes time to cultivate business. Chin Chin's on West Sahara did well for me. Chin's on East Desert Inn is doing great for me.

"I think Quarter Corner will be successful, too."

EOB funding reviewed by commission

(Continued from Page 15)

He said most of his clients receive Title 19 funds that amount to only $25 per month for transportation to and from the rehabilitation programs he runs. Triggs' group transports 30 people a day on eight separate runs in the morning and again at night.

County Commissioner Manuel Cortez said he believes that rather than duplication, the result of more agencies entering the field would help the EOB, not hurt it. He said that way the EOB could concentrate on giving better service to seniors and relieve it of the financial pressures of being all things to everybody.

The handicapped association application was held for further study and a review of the overall RTC master plan for transportation.

LVT request shot down

(Continued from Page 15)

Despite the ultimatum to the Las Vegas Transit Co., Chairman Lurie sought to remind the board of hard times ahead.

"Unless we can convince the taxpayers they ought to subsidize a new transit system," he said, "we all know today that this month we are losing all the dollars we are going to need to other cities, such as Los Angeles, who are supporting mass transit. When these 12 new buses come and this application for amenities is submitted, that will be the end of it, the end of any new buses coming to Clark County.

"And this is the final phase of our expansion of the bus system. The staff has worked very hard on all these plans. It is very sad. We have no money to build new roads and no money for a mass transportation system. Any money already designated to Clark County we are losing to maybe LA. We know this."

Arizona law officers honor comrade

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (UPI) — About 110 law enforcement officers from throughout Arizona rode in a mile-long funeral procession Thursday afternoon to honor and bury Dr. John B. Jamison, a reserve sheriff's deputy.

The Coconino County sheriff's deputy was gunned down Monday afternoon as he went to the aid of another deputy east of Flagstaff.

Coconino County sheriff's officials estimated by the time the procession reached Citizens Cemetary there were 250 participants.

Federal officials cleared in Teamster union probe

CHICAGO (UPI) — U.S. District Judge Prentice Marshall Thursday ruled the Labor Department has not interfered with attorneys for two Teamsters Union pension fund officials.

Fund trustee Thomas O'Malley and former trustee Andrew Massa charged the government was pressuring the fund to stop paying for their lawyers. The men are among five people charged with trying to bribe Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev.

"I don't think the government is playing hardball," Marshall said in denying a request that he take action. "I don't think the government has interfered with the right to counsel in the least bit."

However, Marshall said he is "disturbed" by reports the government has tried to convince O'Malley to step down from his position with the pension fund. And he said he finds the contents of some of the documents submitted as evidence in the case "utterly amazing."

State finally adopts Lake Mead standards

(Continued from Page 15)

By state and federal law, the commission may set water quality standards for any body of water or stream in Nevada.

Exasperated, commissioners called the city's alternatives to the proposed standards as "nitpicking."

Karaganis called several experts who termed the state's proposals "nonsense" and "leading to a logical absurdity."

Pierre Sprey, a U.S. Defense Department consultant and statistician from Maryland, said he had studied the city's data gathered on Lake Mead and the Wash for the past 2 ½ years. He claimed the standards won't protect the lake or prevent shocks to its ecosystem.

Gordon Culp, the city's chief consultant, said the state's standards surprised the city.

"We had no information at all as to what he (Dodgion) proposed today," Culp said.

Culp and Sprey both maintained the state's standards are unattainable without expensive and long studies of the lake and wash.

STREET TALK

Is retirement in the 'Golden Years' all that it's cracked up to be?

By KEN JONES

IRA JOHNSON
Retired

Well, I have to think for a minute. No, the years are not all that golden. In other words, you have to sometimes pay through your teeth. Economically, its not as good as its cracked up to be.

ANNA GRAEBER
Retired businesswoman

My life as a senior citizen has not changed a great deal as far as household duties are concerned. I volunteer two days each week to help others. I have more time to spend with my grandchildren.

EVERT C. HOUCHIN
Retired

Yes, quite a bit. Las Vegas is a young city and it offers eniors a considerble amount of activities, espicially at the Senior Citizens Center on Bonanza. I have a good retirement and in addition to that, social security. My wife and I get along very nicely.

ALLETHA ROBINSON
Retired attendent

Senior years are wonderful. We are not getting older we are getting better with age. I want the world to know what the non-senior can do, we, the seniors, can do better.

WILLIAM FAGAN
Retired

The golden years I feel, the ones that I am living now, are a good time to be alive. I get along fine in every way.

Hole-in-wall: 'organized operation'

(Continued from Page 15)

He said FBI officials set up a video and audio surveillance operation to monitor the activities of the defendants as they allegedly carried out their burglary plans. The defendants did not know at the time that Romano had been an FBI informant since 1979.

Jurors will view a series of videotapes and hear one audio tape containing conversations in which the defendants are heard discussing the $1 million break-in. And Romano, who has been given a new identity, is expected to testify.

Co-prosecutor Jim Erbeck said the state does not intend to call Frank Cullotta as a witness. Cullotta engineered the breakin, but turned government informant this summer after a District Court jury convicted him of possessing stolen property in a residential home burglary.

Officials have not acknowledged the extent of Cullotta's assistance in preparing the case against his former associates.

Koot related how the defendants were watched by FBI agents and police detectives as they set up drilling equipment on roof of the store at 896 E. Sahara Ave.

He said the defendants utilized a sophisticated store of communications equipment, including CB radios, descramblers, scanners and walkie-talkies, to monitor police transmissions and communicate with each other.

But authorities were communicating with special high-frequency transmitters, undetected by the alleged burglars. When a hole was drilled through the roof of the gift shop and entry was made, authorities used normal radio channels to call in a bogus report of suspicious activity at the scene and watched the alleged burglars "running around like mice."

Neumann's lawyer, Tom Pitaro, in his opening statements, said evidence will show that Romano was "allowed to commit felonies in various jurisdictions without fear of being punished" while Neumann was implicated in just the single offense.

Attorneys Bill Terry and Gerry Neal reserved their opening statements until after the state has rested its case. Testimony is slated to begin on Friday morning.

MUST VACATE WAREHOUSE

ABSOLUTE FINAL 3 DAYS

DUAL KING SHOWN

THURS., FRI., SAT.
SEPT. 9, 10 & 11

SAVE MORE THAN ½ OFF!

ONE OF THE LARGEST ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE BEDS DISTRIBUTORS MUST VACATE WAREHOUSE INSTEAD OF MOVING ITS INVENTORY

We Are Offering It To The Public at Tremendous Savings!

	NOW
Sugg. Retail $799 SIMMONS BEAUTYREST Twin, 1 Motor, Discontinued Model	$388
Sugg. Retail $899 Position-Ease Twin, Hospital Type Bed	$488
Sugg. Retail $1199-$1299 Position-Ease Full-Queen Sizes, All Electric	$588-$688
Sugg. Retail $1199 Sleep-N-Comfort Twin, Comparable to SEALY POSTUREPEDIC	$748
Sugg. Retail $1399 Massage Bed, Comparable to NIAGARA Twin	$748
Sugg. Retail $2795 Dual King Set, Comparable to CRAFTMATIC	$1388
Sugg. Retail $2597 Dual King Set, (Name Withheld) Highest Quality	$1588

Many Floor Models At Even Greater Savings
All With New Bed Guarantee

H. KRAUS & COMPANY

3441 INDUSTRIAL RD.
½ Block North of Spring Mountain Rd.

We will ship your order anywhere in the U.S.

Immediate delivery & installation

THURSDAY 10-9
FRIDAY 10-9
SATURDAY 10-6

369-3331