



League of Women Voters Criticizes *New Era* Practice

In a response to an inquiry from *NewsLanc*, Lora Lavin, Vice President of the League of Women voters of Pennsylvania, criticized the *New Era* for publishing morning exit poll results in its Election Day afternoon edition:

"At the national level the League has historically tried to pressure broadcasters not to air projections of election results before all the polls in a race have closed. This was aimed at the fact that the winner of presidential races was called before polls closed in the west and it was believed that this discouraged voters in western states from going to the polls with an obvious impact on local races. I would think that the same logic would apply in the case below."

"If, for example, the afternoon papers in Lancaster were to project that one of the presidential candidates is ahead in local exit polls this could discourage people from turning out who do not understand that Pennsylvania's electoral college votes depend on the popular vote statewide and their vote will still influence the statewide outcome."

"The same would be true of projecting the winners of other statewide races on the ballot this year. Also, using the western state analogy, depressed late day voter turnout could influence the outcome of local races."

Will the *New Era* take heed? Or does Editor Ernie Schreiber put "scoops" ahead of fair elections?

WATCHDOG: Intelligencer Journal

In endorsing John Morganelli for Attorney General, the *Intell* states: "*Morganelli suggested earlier this year that [Attorney General Tom] Corbett 'botched' the '[Bonusgate] investigation ...and that the probe is 'politically tainted' as a result.*"

WATCHDOG: Since Corbett recently censured the illegal activities of four *Intelligencer*

Journal reporters for unlawful access to a state confidential web site and Editor Ray Shaw had reportedly approved the improper activities of the reporters, the *Intell* endorsement is itself "tainted."

Given the circumstance, the editors should have refrained from commenting on the race.

TRRAAC attorney fires back at F&M; Charges false allegations

In an Oct. 20 letter to Keith Orris of Franklin & Marshall College, TRRAAC attorney William Cluck denies that he misrepresented the contents of EPA reports he has obtained. Further, Cluck raises a number of important questions as to whether asbestos containing materials were dumped at the proposed rail yard relocation site, at the former Lancaster Brickyard north of the railroad tracks.

Cluck summarized his responses by saying *"We are extremely disappointed by the defamatory comments attributed to you and Mr. [John] Fry in the Lancaster New Era and your demand in the October 9 letter for a 'public retraction and public apology from TRRAAC regarding these material misrepresentations.' There is nothing to retract and the only apology should come from yourself and Mr. Fry."*

Did dumping cease at the north site in 1962, as the project partners have asserted? If so, Cluck asks, "How do you explain the presence of asbestos containing material from Armstrong, some of which is on the surface of the property?"

He also asks, *"If dumping ended in 1962, according to the RI Report, how do you explain the presence of foundry sand in the material found in the waste on the north side, as documented by ARM Group?"*

"If the north side was also used as a solid waste disposal site from 1955 until 1962, why did EPA limit its investigation to the south side?" he continues.

The questions are important both because construction equipment disturbing the site could release harmful asbestos into the air. Also, because if waste was disposed of at the site after 1980, the environmental standards for the project fall not under Pennsylvania Act 2, but under the stricter Solid Waste Management Act of 1968.

Cluck further notes *"These questions could not have been raised at the June 19, 2008 public meeting as the RI report was not available and F&M had not provided the public with the Step One document nor the 2002 Environmental Due Diligence Investigation.*

Letter: County Administrators should be elected

The proposed charter greatly expands the county administrator's duties, while significantly reducing the responsibilities of the county commissioners. A county administrator with such extensive duties should be elected, not appointed. I also believe the proposed five county commissioners should be chosen by district, not "at large". The "citizen initiative" in the current proposal is nothing more than an empty promise.

Does this sound familiar?

"What seems in retrospect to have been an inexplicable decision, an unacceptable risk, may have been the result of a desire to move forward quickly after years of frustrating delay; perhaps it reflected the certitude that a well connected local developer would act in the best interest of the city."

From "A City Transformed, 1940 - 1980" by David Schuyler and in reference the commencement of demolition in 1965 in anticipation of the construction of Lancaster Square.

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