

National Cathedral's outspoken ex-dean dies

By ADAM BERNSTEIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Francis B. Sayre Jr., who as dean of Washington National Cathedral for 27 years oversaw much of its completion and used his pulpit to confront McCarthyism, racial tensions and the Vietnam War, died Oct. 3 at his home on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. He was 93 and had diabetes.

Sayre, whose grandfather was President Woodrow Wilson, was appointed to the cathedral in 1951 and quickly became a leading national voice of conscience. As the church's fifth dean, he presided over daily operations and focused on finishing the massive Gothic structure whose cornerstone had been placed in 1907.

Washington National Cathedral is now the sixth-largest cathedral in the world. Attracting thousands of followers, Sayre continued its tradition of preaching the social gospel, which applies Christian ethics to matters such as war, race relations and economic inequality. "Whoever is appointed the dean of the

cathedral," he told The Washington Post in 1977, "has in his hand a marvelous instrument and he's a coward if he doesn't use it."

From the pulpit, he denounced the tactics of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy at the Wisconsin senator's peak of influence investigating Communist influence in government and Hollywood. He called McCarthy part of a crew of "pretended patriots" and also chided the American people for letting demagogues achieve prominence.

"There is a devilish indecision about any society that will permit an impostor like McCarthy to caper out front while the main army stands idly by," he said in a 1954 sermon.

His criticism of politicians extended to presidential candidates, and he once likened Lyndon B. Johnson's ethical foundations to a termite-ridden house. He did not spare other preachers, reproaching evangelist Billy Graham for overemphasizing personal spiritual renewal and not sufficiently addressing the need for social reform.

"The salvation of the world doesn't come about by arithmetic," he said, referring to the

mass gatherings hosted by Graham. "There is a dimension to sin that goes beyond the individual."

He was elected to President John F. Kennedy's Committee on Equal Opportunity and was among a group of several leading Washington-area clergymen to accompany the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on his 1965 voting rights march in Selma, Ala.

He spent a decade campaigning for King to speak at the cathedral before prevailing. King gave what became his last Sunday sermon — a speech favoring civil rights and world peace — before being assassinated in April 1968.

His prominence and eloquence made him one of the church's leading figures of the period, said James D. Anderson, a retired Episcopal priest who worked at the cathedral from the late 1960s to the late 1980s.

Sayre's legacy was also in the building itself. Although not officially completed until 1990, the cathedral's bell tower and nave were finished on his watch. So were a majority of the stained-glass windows, including one containing a moon rock from the Apollo 11 mission.



TARIQ ZEHAWI/Staff Photographer

Ammonia at the Haworth Water Treatment Plant could pose a significant risk in case of an accident.

Tighter rules urged for chemical sites

Report notes risks of disaster in Jersey

By JAMES M. O'NEILL
Staff Writer

Despite recent efforts by the state to make New Jersey safer from toxic chemical disasters, Gov. Jon S. Corzine needs to push for even more regulation to reduce the risks, according to a report by labor and environmental organizations.

New Jersey has 97 facilities that use or manufacture highly hazardous chemicals and pose a "potential catastrophic safety and health risk" to workers and the public, according to the report, issued Tuesday by the New Jersey Work Environment Council, an alliance of 70 labor and environmental groups.

Those facilities include seven in Bergen and Passaic counties, four of them water treatment plants that use chlorine, ammonia or ozone.

In recent years, New Jersey has adopted several policies to improve safety and security at plants. They include a requirement that industries evaluate whether they could use safer alternative technologies or chemicals.

The DEP, however, does not require plants to adopt the safer technologies or chemicals. The

report released Tuesday presses the DEP to make it a requirement.

"We don't necessarily agree that's the best approach," said Paul Baldauf, DEP assistant director for radiation protection and release prevention.

"There might be multiple options for a site, so you need some discretion. Our approach allows flexibility to find the best choice for the site and the community."

The most potentially hazardous site in the state remains Kuehne Chemical in South Kearny, which handles chlorine and bleach.

The company's risk assessment estimates that a chlorine release from the facility could affect up to 12 million people in a 14-mile radius around the plant — an area that includes Manhattan, Brooklyn and the North Jersey counties of Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex and Union.

A toxic release at Kuehne would likely affect far fewer than 12 million people, since prevailing winds would direct the release into what experts call a "keyhole" area about a quarter of the full radius around the site.

FACILITIES POSING A RISK IN CASE OF ACCIDENT

North Jersey facilities that use dangerous chemicals and could pose a health risk if there is a catastrophic event.

Totowa: Passaic Valley Water Commission treatment plant

Hazardous substance: Ozone
Danger zone: 1.1 miles
Population in danger zone: 10,000

Wanaque: North Jersey Water Supply Commission

Hazardous substance: Chlorine
Danger zone: 1.3 miles
Population in danger zone: 6,000

Haworth: Water treatment plant

Hazardous substance: Ammo-

nia
Danger zone: 0.6 miles
Population in danger zone: 3,760

West Milford: Pequannock Water Treatment Plant

Hazardous substance: Chlorine
Danger zone: 1.3 miles
Population in danger zone: 1,100

Moonachie: Crest Foam Industries Incorporated

Hazardous substance: Toluene diisocyanate
Danger zone: 0.1 miles
Population in danger zone: 84

Source: New Jersey Work Environment Council's analysis of state and federal Risk Management Plans

Kuehne management has sought \$50 million in public funds to purchase equipment to manufacture chlorine on-site. That would eliminate the need for railcar delivery of chlorine and reduce the risk of a toxic release.

In 2007, more than 1.5 billion pounds of hazardous substances

were imported to or manufactured in New Jersey, the report says.

New Jersey, the most densely populated state, has one of the highest ratios of toxic facilities per square mile in the nation, according to the report.

— Staff Writer Scott Fallon contributed to this article.

TRANSPORTATION

Revised toll plan scales back proposed hikes

Includes discounts, cuts expenses

By KAREN ROUSE
Staff Writer

The state transportation commissioner, citing the poor economy and concerns from citizens, on Tuesday sent Gov. Jon S. Corzine a revamped \$7 billion plan to increase tolls on the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway.

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority will present the plan to the public at 9 a.m. Friday at its headquarters in Woodbridge.

Commissioner Kris Kolluri said in a letter to Corzine that in addition to reducing the amount of his original toll increase proposal, he recommends offering new discounts to motorists and reducing the operating budget — a move Corzine demanded.

Corzine has the power to veto the proposal.

Under the revised proposal, a turnpike driver that currently pays \$1.20 in tolls, would see a 50-cent increase this year to \$1.70. In 2012, that driver would see another increase of 90 cents, for a total of \$2.60.

The average trucker, meanwhile, would see a \$2.05 increase this year on the turnpike, and another \$3.75 increase in 2012, according to the plan released Tuesday.

On the parkway, drivers who now pay 35 cents would see a 15-cent increase to 50 cents this year, and an additional 25-cent increase in 2012. Truckers, who are limited on the parkway, would see increases on that highway of 60 cents this year and 95 cents in 2012 if the authority adopts the plan.

The authority's earlier plan called for increases in 2009, 2012, 2018 and 2023.

Included in the proposal are new discounts for senior citizens and drivers who use fuel-efficient vehicles. The discounts would be offered during off-peak hours to ease congestion, Kolluri said in the letter.

The authority last month introduced a nearly \$11 billion spending plan that included money to widen the turnpike and parkway, repair bridges and roads and make improvements to drainage, median barriers and other infrastructure.

It also included \$1.25 billion to fund a mass transit tunnel linking North Jersey to New York, a project that remains in the new proposal. Many citizens and state officials have complained about the tunnel project, saying that New Jersey shouldn't fund a tunnel to New York. Others have questioned the legality of using toll dollars for that project.

Kolluri said the Authority has the legal power to do so.

After three public hearings on the first plan, Corzine, who has the power to veto the hikes, told Kolluri to scale it back, and to look for areas to trim its operating budget. The authority has a \$481 million operating budget for 2008.

Under the earlier plan, the average driver on the turnpike would pay \$3 on that roadway in the year 2023, and 85 cents to travel the parkway.

Truckers, meanwhile, would pay roughly \$7.60 next year to use the turnpike, an increase from \$5.05 this year. In 2023, the toll for truck drivers would be \$12.55.

Kolluri said toll hikes are needed to pay for several safety-related projects with the state's transportation infrastructure, as well as meet the authority's debt service obligations.

In his letter to Corzine, Kolluri said the "proposal achieves your goal of meeting the authority's financial obligations and funding critical transportation needs, including the mass transit tunnel between New Jersey and New York."

The new plan also includes projects to widen the turnpike between exits 6 and 9 and the parkway between interchanges 63 and 80, and rehabilitate the Eastern Hackensack River Bridge.

Recycling

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"But we still need to take all of that stuff out of our waste stream," he said. "We need to be able to reuse it. That's the key."

"So our business plan is to help grow our recycling collection," Hoffman added. "In the long run, that will help reduce the cost of local government. We make it convenient by having trucks at the DPW gate where people can drop off recyclables easily."

Clifton's DuBois said the demand for recyclables needs to be built up locally and around the country. That would ensure that municipalities have markets nearby as well as abroad, especially if buyers seek different materials from what's now processed.

When it comes to recycling, which is required by state law, some municipalities contract with companies to collect and keep recyclables. Others, such as Clifton, Hawthorne and Wayne, contract with companies to collect recyclables but then market the cans and glasses on their own. That group usually negotiates a minimum, or "floor," price for the materials they sell to a processor.

Keith Durie, superintendent of public works in Hillsdale, said he may be contracting with a new recycling company that will pay \$28 a ton for commingled materials instead of \$15, and \$150 a ton for newspaper instead of \$115.

"We're doing very well," Durie said. "I'm anticipating that we will make over \$115,000 in 2008. We made \$100,000 in 2007. It's just the market now."

The new company also will help with an educational outreach program in the schools, with senior citizens and with the chamber of commerce to promote recycling.

That drive to keep the materials flowing also has been Westwood's goal, with some success.

"Our volume of recyclables has gone up per household all over town in recent months," said Hoffmann, borough administrator. "Our biggest supporters and allies

in recycling are the fourth- and fifth-grade students at Ketter Elementary School. There was nobody recycling in the schools last year. We went in and made a presentation, and last year's fourth-graders embraced it. They are going great guns with recycling; everything from paper to cardboard. They are wonderful. We bought them special cans, and we pick it up."

"It doesn't cover all of our costs for picking it up," he added, "but you need to encourage the young folks."

Of the group of communities that negotiate a "floor" price with processors, some — such as Hawthorne and Wayne — put revenues into a dedicated recycling fund used to pay for trucks and equipment for recycling purposes.

Other communities, including Pompton Lakes and Clifton, deposit recycling funds into the general budget.

"As the recycling income goes up, we're able to buy more stuff," MaryEllen Lyons, Hawthorne's recycling coordinator, said. The revenue, which Lyons said had at least doubled in the past four years, finances leaf collection and paid for two public-works trucks. Exact revenue figures were not available.

Lyons said that, at least in her borough, it was best to view any revenues less as profit than as helping provide services or equipment that wouldn't otherwise be available to residents.

That includes the dedicated recycling revenues to buy park benches made from recycled plastic and picnic tables that may not have fallen within a town's normal budget priorities, she said.

Either way, the result has been a net plus for communities required by law to pay for costly recycling programs.

"The fact that there is more income from the sale of recycling is relieving some of the budgetary pressure on local municipalities," Lyons said.

Charges: Some defend mom of seven

Continued from B1

The decision to downgrade the charges was made Tuesday in Pre-Indictment Court in Paterson, a unit of state Superior Court not presided over by a judge but where lawyers go over preliminary evidence in the case and prosecutors determine how it should proceed.

"We weigh all of the circumstances surrounding the case — the position of the vic-

tims, police reports," said Passaic County Prosecutor James Avigliano. "Based on all of this, lawyers in the PIC unit decide how justice will be best served. Here, taking everything into consideration — this woman has no prior record, not even traffic tickets — lawyers made the decision that the best way to handle it was to remand it to Municipal Court."

Attorney Debra Factor of Chatham, repre-

senting Lebovits, would only say: "The child's parents did not want to proceed with any kind of criminal process. That's basically it."

At the time of her arrest, many in Clifton and Passaic's close-knit Orthodox Jewish community defended Lebovits as an excellent mother who was close to the child's family, was loved by the community and went out of her way to help others.