VOTE FOR CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

On Election Day, the citizenry of Cleveland Heights will get a second look at a proposal to increase the City "income" tax to 1 1/2%. CNI formally endorses this proposal and urges you to vote "YES" on Issue 20.

The endorsement was not easy to make. Nobody likes to pay taxes. But CNI has concluded that the cost of a "no" vote is unacceptable. If the tax fails, Cleveland Heights will not get back 15 policemen, 13 fire fighters, or 30 school crossing guards. Recent cuts in recreation programs will not be restored. Moreover, valuable city employees will be lured to other cities paying higher salaries. And another $50-100,000 will have to be slashed from the budget.

If these statements sound designed to scare you, so be it. The truth about the City's present financial position certainly scares us. Under state law, a city cannot budget a deficit. When there isn't enough money, there must be cuts.

Please vote "YES" on Issue 20 on Election Day. - Alan Rapoport

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THE NEXT MEETING OF COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1976 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY ON LANCASTRIE ROAD, ACROSS FROM MUSICIANS' TOWERS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DROP IN.

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CNI Meeting Agenda:

1) Minutes of the October 11, 1976 Meeting
2) Financial Report
3) Reports: School-Related Items
   Merchants' Activities
   General Election Results
   Newsletter
   City Council
4) Old Business:
   Proposed Fondue Restaurant
   CNI Stationary Purchase
5) New Business:
   Taylor Neighbors Conference
   Planning and Development in Coventry
6) Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Society

YYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY

WANTED: Live-in custodian for 11 suite apartment building near Overlook and Kenilworth Roads; unfurnished 4 room apartment with appliances and garage for $115/month plus electricity and heat; couple or bachelor will do; prefer someone with knowledge of plumbing and electrical work. Contact Mrs. Rubin at 442-7814.

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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Well, it's general election time again. This happens occasionally, and many people figure it is something to be endured and survived. No doubt there is some basis for this sentiment. If the omnipresence of odious signs doesn't get to you, and the super-saturation of political advertisements in all the media doesn't, that hand-shaking, back-slapping candidate with all the Answers to all our Problems probably will. Elections do have an unnerving tendency to try our patience, don't they?

Elections are confusing, frustrating, and maddening. They breed cynicism, despair, and a lot of newspaper copy. But they are essential to a free society. The former sentiments were reflected in the humorous statement of a famous pundit who once wrote that he never votes for politicians "'cause it only encourages 'em." But the latter conclusion is preserved in the stern warning to King George III in our Declaration of Independence that governments are instituted among men to secure rights, and that they derive their just powers "from the consent of the governed." That consent is expressed in the form of election results.

Those of you who don't vote are voting. You are "voting" to accept whatever decisions the rest of the electorate make. Those of you who do vote, but are in the minority with respect to an issue can at least say you took a position. (Remember the bumper stickers that read "Don't Blame Me--I Voted for McGovern").

Nobody has to vote. Nobody has to vote in each race or for each issue. Personally, I avoid voting for either candidate when I know neither; mostly because I resent elected officials who get where they are only because the "idiot vote" went to the person with the most familiar sounding name. But I do vote in every election. And I get great satisfaction out of doing so, since my grandparents weren't even allowed to vote where they came from.

I would like to make some final, personal observations on how I hope all of you will vote on Election Day. You should vote intelligently. (Newspapers and libraries have plenty of information in them. You might try the publications of the League of Women Voters--they are non-partisan and excellent.) Please vote your convictions. (Everyone cannot agree on everything--voting to be on the winning side defeats the purpose of voting.) Vote for good reasons. (It is ridiculous to vote "yes" or "no" without questioning what change is sought and what will happen if there is no change.)

Finally, I would ask you to consider voting for the sheer hell of it. Voting is a fundamental right, a good habit, very moral, and not fattening.

-Publius

Day Care Referral

The Heights Community Congress has initiated a Home Day Care Referral Service for Cleveland Heights residents. The service hopes to bring together those who provide day care in their homes and those who need such a service.

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Two Coventry residents are directing the Service and would be happy to hear from CNI readers who either do day care in their homes or are in need of a good day care home for their children.

They are Ginny Stieger at 321-3585 and Ruth Smith at 371-8107. They are particularly interested in hearing from folks who would be willing to care for children at lunch time and after school.

NEW OFFICERS

At the October 11, 1976 meeting of Coventry Neighbors, Inc., the following new officers were elected:

Alan Rapoport, President
Bruce Millinger, Vice-President
Judith Ayers, Secretary
Karen Lind, Treasurer
Al Lustig, Trustee-at-Large
David Surwasser, Trustee-at-Large

A special note of thanks and appreciation is extended to Karen Lind, our outgoing President, and to Janet St. Clair and Lillian Greenberg, each of whom has served CNI and the Coventry community well during the past year.

ISSUES 4, 5, 6 and 7........

There are four issues on the November ballot that are important to all of us. They are vigorously opposed by the utility companies, which have amassed a million dollar war chest to influence voters against these measures. On the ballot, these measures are labelled as Issues 4, 5, 6 and 7. We are all being exposed to excessive publicity designed to confuse rather than enlighten us. We need the truth about these amendments to the Ohio Constitution.

Issue 4, if approved by the voters, will save money for residential consumers of gas and electricity by making sure we pay only our fair share. Spokesmen for utilities, which oppose all four amendments, have nevertheless conceded that a large majority of Ohio residents will benefit through a restructuring of rates as proposed in this legislation.

Issue 5 will establish a non-profit organization to represent residential users in rate hearings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the General Assembly, city councils, and courts. We ratepayers will at last have effective troops to battle escalating costs of gas, electricity, and telephone service. And it will be done without creating another layer of government and without levying more taxes on us.

Issue 6 will place with the Ohio General Assembly responsibility for approving future nuclear power plants after hearings to determine in each case their safety and the soundness of the investment—a billion dollars for each of ten such plants planned for Ohio, a $10 billion program that eventually will be borne by ratepayers.

continued next page
Issue 7 will facilitate the democratic process of citizen initiative and government accountability by simplifying the process by which issues can be put on the ballot.

I urge you to inform yourselves about these issues. A campaign organization—"Vote YES for Lower Utilities"—has been formed to promote their passage. Call the Cleveland office at 231-6245 for any information you may want.

- Hooker Glendinning

...Editor's Note: I feel constrained to add that CII has not formally taken a position on Issues 4, 5, 6 or 7. It does endorse Hooker's statement that our readers should inform themselves about these very important issues. The "Vote NO" people can be reached by calling the Illuminating Company at 623-1350.

As usual, there are two sides to the story. CII urges you to consider both sides—and to vote.

OUT OF THE CLOSET SALE

On Saturday, November 6th, from noon to 6:00 p.m., goods will be displayed for sale at the Unitarian Society, 2728 Lancashire Road. Items will include antiques, china, glass, jewelry, household goods, furniture, and collectables.

Everyone is invited. Proceeds will benefit Dignity, a group of Catholic gay men and women.

COVENTRY VILLAGE NEWS
A Publication of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. and the Heights Community Congress.

Executive Editor: Alan Rapoport  Contributing Editors: Karen Lind
                   David Burwasser

All opinions contained in the Coventry Village News are solely those of the author unless otherwise specified. Official pronouncements of Coventry Neighbors, Inc. will be specifically noted. Articles for publication, letters to the editor, and comments would be most welcome and should be sent to the editor, c/o Apartment 301, 2753 Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR ANNUAL DUES, PLEASE SEND THEM IN TO
KAREN LIND, TREASURER, COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC., 2577 WAGENER ROAD,
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44106.