

Nursing Home 'Horror' Charges Termed Fiction

By DONALD C. HANSEN
State House Reporter

A spokesman for the Maine Nursing Home Association Friday termed "fiction" charges of brutality and deaths leveled against three Maine nursing homes by a Portland legislative member.

Ralph G. Parris Jr., told a special Senate subcommittee holding a hearing in Portland City Hall that what State Rep. Catherine H. Carswell told you is mostly fiction. It's not representative of fact."

Mrs. Carswell's claims against three Maine nursing homes were backed up by Attorney General Richard J. Dubord, but he

noted that investigations failed to produce sufficient evidence to prosecute.

Parris, counsel for the Maine Nursing Home Association, said he was "disturbed at the public image that is being portrayed" of the state's more than 100 nursing homes.

Dr. James H. Beeber, Portland, who headed a special study of nursing homes last year said he personally visited 56 nursing homes and 238 patients during the study and found all the patients happy and satisfied with facilities.

Mrs. Carswell, House chair-

man of the committee on health and institutional services, told of one nursing home patient being smothered with a pillow because she was taking too long to die" and that another patient died after a wet wash cloth was shoved into her mouth to keep her from screaming.

Mrs. Carswell's testimony was based on investigations into three nursing homes made by the State Police, a county sheriff's department and by the attorney general's office.

Dubord said all three homes are still licensed by the state and doing business.

Mrs. Carswell and Dubord

both said that while some nursing homes are badly operated others are run well.

Dubord said his investigation was so limited in scope that he was unable to "draw any widespread conclusions" about the overall quality of nursing homes.

"The investigation reports, including one which Dubord said involved a nursing home in which there had been six deaths of a "questionable" nature over a two or three year period, were turned over without being made public to the Senate special subcommittee studying nursing

Mrs. Carswell, who had asked that the committee hold a Maine hearing, asked for an upgrading of licensing standards and for better enforcement of practices in nursing homes.

Mrs. Carswell appeared with another witness, Mrs. Genevieve Gardner, Portland, a practical nurse who said that she had witnessed what she called "atrocities" in three of the six nursing homes in which she worked in the past three years.

Farris, however, produced an opinion from the state hearing examiner who hears cases involving license viola-

tions, stating that Mrs. Gardner was unreliable as a witness.

Although Dubord said that there wasn't enough evidence in the three cases to sustain a criminal action he added that "frankly I can't see how some of these homes continue to be licensed."

Licensing falls under the jurisdiction of the Health and Welfare Department with revocation cases determined by the state hearing examiner.

Dr. Dean H. Plater, Health and Welfare commissioner, said that "if the evidence won't support a criminal charge it is

sometimes very difficult to take the same evidence and have the license revoked under the administrative hearing process."

Dr. Plater said that while inspectors of nursing homes help, the future may lie in self-police practices.

William Carney, director of the Health and Welfare Department's division of hospital licensing, said that one of the cases involved a Greater Portland nursing home and that patient abuses were believed to be continuing. He indicated that evidence was still being gathered.

Carney told subcommittee members on Page 11; 4th Col.

Portland's Property Tax Rate Is Placed At \$36

By WILLIAM H. WILLIAMSON
City Hall Reporter

Portland's 1965 property tax rate has been set at \$36—80 cents more than last year, and 19 cents less than anticipated this year.

A tax levy order, including the 1965 rate, is on the agenda of Monday night's City Council meeting. Councilors are expected to approve it in short order.

The key in holding this year's rate lower than expected is a \$4 million growth in valuation, \$2.5 million higher than the city thought it would be.

When preparing his budget, City Manager Graham W. Watt estimated the 1965 valuation would reach \$309 million—a moderate growth over 1964's \$307.8 million.

Instead, the 1965 valuation turned out to be \$311.5 million.

something called the city's "collection experience." This simply means that the city, or any city for that matter, never collects all the taxes it has levied.

In Portland's case, when the books were closed last year, it appeared that 96.3 per cent of all taxes had been collected.

This was a poor collection rate for the city, where collection has often reached 98 per cent. It was largely due to the Portland Gas Light Co.'s failure to pay its 1964 taxes.

Even with the higher valuation

this year, and counting in the \$53,000 the city later received from the gas firm, this year's tax rate would have had to be \$36.19 to raise the necessary \$10.8 million. If last year's collection percentage held true for 1965.

BUT THE ACTUAL payment of the firm's taxes would reduce the collection percentage to about 97.1. Applying that percentage to the new valuation, the \$36 rate was possible.

The collection experience is

the big unknown in municipal financing. If, for example, less than 97.1 per cent of all taxes are actually paid, the city will find itself in the red at the end of the year.

On the other hand, if taxpayers pay their taxes more conscientiously than they did last year, and the collection experience turns out to be higher than 97.1 per cent, the city will find itself with a comfortable surplus to credit to next year's budget.

Of the \$36, 1965 rate, \$19.54 (Continued on Page 11; 7th Col.)

Bus Firm's Plan To Run To Cost Cities \$156,000

The Portland Coach Co. proposed solution to the present local bus crisis would cost the city of Portland more than \$100,000 next year.

And South Portland, the city of Portland's neighbor, would have to pay an extra \$56,000.

The bus company has proposed that the cities using its buses to transport school children pay not only double the amount they already pay, but pick up the tab for school bus

users who now pay half-fare out of their own pockets.

Jacob I. Goodstein, general counsel for the company, told the Press Herald Friday the firm now gets about \$100,000 a year in school bus revenue. He proposes that the figure be doubled, to meet rising bus expenses.

Portland and South Portland combined now pay about \$28,000 to the bus firm for school transportation. Portland's 1965 budget is \$24,000 while South Portland's is about \$14,000.

In addition, however, the bus firm is getting about \$67,000 from school bus riders who aren't subsidized by the city. This sum comes from high school students who ride for half fare, but pay their own way, and elementary school children who ride the buses even though they live less than a mile and one-half from their school.

In the latter case, the fare is also halved, but the parents pick up the tab. Although some children use the buses in Westbrook and Cape Elizabeth, that refuse to use the company isn't significant.

The bus company's proposal in effect, is that Portland and South Portland pick up the tab for all school bus riders in the two cities, and that they pay the full 20-cent fare for each ride.

Thus, instead of its present \$24,000 payment, Portland would end up paying about \$128,000. It would not only pay \$48,000 to continue its present service, but would pick up another \$80,000 in full fares for other school bus riders in the city.

In South Portland, where the city pays \$14,000 and other school bus riders cough up another \$21,000, it would cost the city a total of \$79,000 to double its payments and pick up all the cost. Thus the \$56,000 increase.

Since all of the bus company's fares, including school riders' rates, are governed by the Public Utilities Commission, the PUC would have to arrange before the half fare arrangement could be discarded.

BUT GOODSTEIN said the company is hopeful the PUC would agree to the rate change (Continued on Page 11; 8th Col.)

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Six Persons Killed In Highway Crashes

Six persons were killed Friday in three separate accidents on Maine highways.

Four members of a Canadian family lost their lives in a Caribou crash, a standstill man died in an early morning mishap at Limerick and a Pennsylvania man was killed at Greenbush in Penobscot County.

The six deaths boosted the state's highway fatality toll to 119, one more than on the same date last year.

The Caribou crash on U.S. Route 1, four members of a Kingston, Ont., family were killed. Police identified them

as Jack A. Martin, 32; his wife Norma E., 21, and their two sons.

Walter McAfee, 34, of Pennsylvania, died in a two-car collision on Route 2 in Greenbush, 15 miles northeast of Bangor. McAfee's wife and two daughters were injured in the crash.

James B. Stigman, 28, of Standish, was killed in an early morning trailer truck crash at Limerick on Route 11. A passenger was injured.

Friday's toll was the worst on Maine roads since six were killed in two separate accidents last Aug. 11.

CARIBOU (AP) — A tractor truck and a car collided north of here Friday, killing four members of a family from Kingston, Ont. (Continued on Page 11; 3rd Col.)

Highway Fatalities

1965	1964
119	118

Churches & Pinnacles 7 Landers 4 Theaters 13
 Classified 19-19 Drabham 9 Town, City 8
 Comics 12 Green 12 Letters 8 News 8
 Deaths 14 Helios 14 Toyman 10
 Crossword 12 Horence 12 Sports 8, 10
 Dials 12 Horence 12 Sports 8, 10
 Editorials 8 Jumble 12 Television 4



All To Themselves
 Young fishermen like these may have the trout in Clark's Pond to themselves if state authorities favor a petition to limit fishing there to youngsters under 16. The South Port-



Looters Take Over California National Guard Called Up As Looting Negro Rioters Run Wild

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California's National Guard was ordered into the city's riot-torn south side Friday as thousands of Negroes ran wild, burning and looting over a 150-block area.

Lt. Gov. Glenn M. Anderson issued the order by telephone from Los Angeles Airport as he arrived from Sacramento to confer with city officials on ways to quell two days of violence in the city's "black ghetto."

Maj. Gen. Charles Or of the California National Guard said he expected he would be asked to supply 500 to 1,000 men to reinforce the 900 local officers who have been fighting rioters since Wednesday night.

The action came as a police spokesman said, "We simply do not have the men or equipment to control this situation. Rioters are entirely out of hand."

Fires blazed in more than half a dozen buildings on the south-east side, sending up columns of smoke visible over the entire Los Angeles basin.

Black-burning rioters turned back many fire-fighters units, but squads of police got some of them through to fight the spreading flames.

Anderson acted in the absence of Gov. Edmund G. Brown, who is in Greece on a vacation. Brown telephoned he will return to California "as soon as possible."

Mobilization of the guard was delayed, however, until Ander-

son actually signed an order at the state building.

Mayor Samuel K. York expressed concern at the delay and demanded to know why the order was not signed at the airport.

"I don't care about protocol," York said. "We want it signed and soon."

A short time later Anderson signed the order.

Gen. Or said the guard would be directed first to army stations and from there would move to areas chosen by city police.

Police, meantime, began signing forces on a school ground at 97th and Figueroa, just outside the riot zone.

Or said the first action by National Guardsmen would not come for several hours, but

troop commanders were already in the field "and they know what our plans are."

Police Chief William H. Parker said the rioting was spreading as night fell.

"There is no such thing as a riot zone anymore," he said.

The riot now is centered around Avalon Boulevard in the downtown center of Watts and is spreading. It is no longer merely a question of taking care of gangs. The whole area is out of police control. Our job is cut out for us."

Parker indicated he had expected some kind of trouble in Los Angeles when he told newsmen: "Several months ago" I arranged for the purchase of \$50,000 worth of crash helmets and I would not have asked for (Continued on Page 11; 1st Col.)

LBJ Seeks Funds To Fight Northeast Water Shortage

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
JOHNSON CITY, Tex. (AP) — President Johnson followed through Friday on aid for the parched Northeast with a bid to Congress for funds to bolster water supplies. The amount: \$1,311,000.

On a day on which Johnson had water on his mind first to last — an early dip in the pool at his ranch and his eating on Lave Lave — the President also waded into a pile of problems and paper work.

Among other things, he directed Secretary of State Dean Rusk to tell the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva that the United States reaffirms its intention to treat Vietnamese war prisoners humanely and expects "other parties to the conflict to do so."

The Texas White House said South Viet Nam sent similar word to the Red Cross on Thursday.

For planning and construction of water storage reservoirs, Johnson asked Congress for

\$125 million to speed up five water storage projects in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He also requested \$5,000 to launch a survey of water resources and problems in all the Northeast, from Virginia to Maine, with an eye to heading off a long drought crisis.

The requests carry out decisions announced at an emergency drought conference at the White House in Washington on Wednesday. Mayors of major cities and the governors of New

Continued on Page 11; 6th Col.

Prayer For Today

Our Father, as we witness the advance of summer and see Thy works in all of nature, we are reminded as Thy love care of us. We love the fields of grain, the trees budding with fruit, the acres giving us vegetables, the cattle grazing, the birds singing, and before it all we stand in amazement, realizing that it is our joy that we live in Thee. And because of Thy love for us our souls are moved to sing, "How great Thy love is in Jesus' name. Amen."

Rev. H. Steiler, Herricksburg, Pa., former publishing agent, Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Today's Chuckle

Square meals make round people.

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