

8/25/75

It has come to our attention that many concerned citizens in the Town are seeking direction from the Board of Selectmen relative to a clarification of our position concerning the attempts being made by a certain small segment of the community to initiate the recall process. It has further come to our attention that many citizens are concerned with our lack of comment and rebuttal to certain statements which the members of the SCRAM committee organization alleged to be the issues formulating the basis for a recall election. We have taken the position of non-comment upon the specific advice of Counsel because the alleged issues as framed by the SCRAM Committee members to date have been nothing more than rumors and innuendos directed towards the moral character, honesty, integrity, and professional competence of the Town Manager. We will not dignify these tactics and vicious personal attacks by publicly responding to the same. We further state that until such time that the accusations directed towards the Town Manager are voiced in an open manner we will consider them nothing more than the irresponsible acts and statements of individuals who lack the courage to publicly voice their opinions. We further state that until such time that the public accusations involving the Town Manager have been brought to our attention, we ardently support him in his professional capacity and the competence and quality that he brings to the position. We would like to point out to the citizens that when those people seeking to recall the Board of Selectmen chose to publicly voice their position on an issue, for example, the present state of the Board of Fire Engineers, we have responded with documented evidence refuting the allegations as was most recently done at a work session at which we considered a statement of conditions and report on the department made by our present chief and Board of Engineers.

We again, re-emphasize our position that if these individuals seeking to remove this Board from office will comply with the Town Charter and specify the grounds and charges for which we are to be recalled, then we will at that time institute the recall procedure and campaign on the issues as specified.

TO THE CITIZENS OF PROVINCETOWN: 8/26/75

S.C.R.A.M. poses a serious threat to the Town of Provincetown. It has introduced the dirty politics of Joseph McCarthy and Richard Nixon into a town that has always deplored such tactics. S.C.R.A.M.'s leaders are exploiting the present situation for their own economic and political advantage, and it is time that people are made aware of it. Certain of the leaders are seeking--through a campaign of rumor, innuendo, hearsay and lies--to gain the political power that they could not win on the issues in an honest election last Spring. Others are seeking a return to the days when a telephone call to Town Hall resulted in a variance granted, an easement released, or a tax abatement issued. It seems that these individuals want the Board of Selectmen to cave in whenever they want a favor.

Let's look at some of these "Serious Citizens":

MARION TAVES: Ex-chairman of the Selectmen, who quit without notice, leaving behind him a mountain of unfinished and neglected business for which he was responsible, as chairman. It was Rosky Taves who impounded the letters which appeared in the S.C.R.A.M. ad in last week's ADVOCATE, under the false and malicious headline, "LETTERS TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN MANAGER SUPPRESSED BY THE PROVINCETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN."

RICHARD HENRIQUE: He couldn't make it on his own as a candidate for Selectman in the last election, and is trying again on the coattails of those who would destroy our Town. As a member of the Finance Committee, he displayed such a lack of understanding of the budgetary process at the Spring Town Meeting, that he should blush when criticizing other town officials.

NICHOLAS WELLS: A local land developer, who has complained loudly and often because the Town has not immediately acceded to his demand for compensation for what he claims to be encroachment by the Town on property he claims to own.

ROBERT MARTIN: He is upset that the Selectmen refused to become involved in a property dispute he is having with his in-laws.

RUSSELL PERRY: Former fire chief and engineer. He was ~~not~~ not reappointed because, among other reasons, he complained constantly that the Chief's job interfered with his business and private life. However, the main reason for not reappointing this man was his method of operating the Fire Department.

JOSEPH ANDREWS, JOHN ALEXANDER AND JAMES F. MEADS: These are the former engineers who refused reappointment because the sanctity of their "private club" (into which the Board of Engineers had degenerated) had been disturbed.

JOHN BELL: A former selectman, who sought re-election and was defeated. His tenure as temporary Town Manager several years ago illustrated, in our opinion, the true meaning of mismanagement.

JOHN SNOW: S.C.R.A.M.'s spokesman. His judgment in matters of management led him to accept the local chairmanship of "Democrats for Nixon" in the last Presidential election. And there ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> now serious questions as to whether he is violating the conduct of public employees conflict of interest statute and abusing his position as Town Moderator, by acting as attorney against the Town Government.

These are our accusers. Examine their accusations.

We are politicians because we were elected through the political process. We are not ashamed to call ourselves

politicians. It is our opinion that S.C.R.A.M.'s lies and dirty tactics have besmirched Provincetown's proud democratic tradition. We feel obliged to respond frankly and define the real political issues as we see them.

We have the assurance of our able Town Counsel that the Courts will help clarify the situation. But, as persons who hold Provincetown's highest political offices, we must be honest; we must consider the political situation facing us. Some 700 voters signed a petition seeking our recall. If and when an election is called, whether it results from this petition or from a subsequent petition, we will fight our opponents on the merits of the charges. We stand by our decisions. They have been made in the best interests of the citizens of the Town. We are confident the voters will recognize the real issues, see the falsity of the accusations, and not be "Snowed" under by S.C.R.A.M.

Provincetown Board of Selectmen

# Court refers SCRAM suit

*Advocate 2/5/76*

Judge Francis Quirico of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled yesterday the SCRAM case for a recall election against four Provincetown selectmen belongs in Barnstable Superior Court.

SCRAM, an organization formed this summer to oust the selectmen, has been stymied by legal efforts to prevent a recall election.

The organization, following the town charter, drew a petition signed by more than 700 voters, directing the selectmen to call the election.

SCRAM wants to remove Mrs. Bernese Shears, Warren Alexander, Bill White and Charlie Mayo. The fifth selectman is Dickie Henrique, a SCRAM organizer, elected last year to fill a vacancy left by Rocky Taves, also a SCRAM organizer.

Attorneys for the selectmen contend that the reasons given in the petition for the

recall election are not sufficiently specific. Through postponements and other delays, they have so far prevented the case from being heard.

Elmer Johnson, representing SCRAM, argued yesterday that the selectmen need no more time for fact-finding to prepare their case. The petition is proper, he said, and there is no question of the authenticity of the signatures on the petition.

Harvey Rowe, representing the selectmen, told the judge he needs more time to continue taking depositions from each of the 26 founders of SCRAM. So far the selectmen's lawyers have taken such statements from only 11 of them.

Rowe said he wanted the judge to order a stay of the proceedings, pending an appeal of a successful SCRAM move that got the case to the supreme court.

Town Counsel Edward Veara said the judge "did us one better."