

\$18,534. These figures are lower than the salary levels of people with similar skills in other industries and professions, including many unskilled production workers.

While Rizzo is intent on being tight-fisted with the teachers, no one can really accuse Frank of being a penny-pincher. In the past month Rizzo asked for and got a 27% salary hike for the top officials in his administration. That's as much as a \$10,000 raise in some cases. Generous to himself as well as his close friends, Frank has never been known to deprive himself of things like imported Italian marble bathrooms, \$400 doorknobs, limousines and a palatial half-million dollar estate in Chestnut Hill. Rizzo complains about teachers getting an hour daily for preparation time and in the very next breath will brag about the \$45,000 yearly pension he will get when he retires. Is it the teachers who are greedy?

The problem is not the teachers' salaries, nor is it the amount of money the city spends on the schools. The city actually pays for less than half of the cost of the public school system and spends less on schools than seventeen other major cities.

The real problem is where the tax dollar comes from. Three-quarters of the city's revenues for the schools come from real estate taxes, a burden that is shouldered mainly by working-class homeowners.

Rizzo is unwilling to raise these taxes because he realizes that such an tax increase would be politically unpopular and would doom his third term ambitions.

The Rizzo-School Board solution is to cut the school system to ribbons; to rob it of the teachers, facilities, programs and textbooks it needs to educate our children.

This is no solution to the school problem. The school system needs more resources, not less. But the money which the schools need must come from a different source. It must come from the profits of the large monopoly corporations and banks like John Bunting's First Pennsylvania Bank.

At the beginning of his first term, Rizzo torpedoed the city's corporate profits tax. The corporate profits tax should be revived and other taxes on investment and commercial real estate should be established as the primary base of support for the schools.

There are only a few months before the teachers will be forced to strike and close the schools in September. It is now time for the teachers union, parents, and other progressive forces in the community to chose ranks to fight the teacher layoffs and school cut-backs together.

BUSINESS NOT BANKING ON FRANK

July 1978

by JOE LEWANDOWSKI

The stars will not be with Frank Rizzo on November 7 when Philadelphia voters will most likely decide upon a city charter change that would allow him to run for a third term. At least that is the opinion of the "Astro-Profile" recently published in the *Philadelphia Daily News*. Rizzo's astrological chart shows "limitations in the areas of finances and friends."

But you don't have to be an astrologer to see that the stars haven't been shining for Frank in the past few weeks. The stars we are talking about don't twinkle or form constellations of rams, bulls or scorpions. These stars are the bright lights of the Main Line and Chestnut Hill, the so-called "movers and shakers" of the business and banking establishment. Recent events have shown that they have decided it is time to "move and shake" Rizzo right out of City Hall.

BUSINESS OPPOSITION

In June, three prominent business-civic groupings announced their opposition to a change in the City Charter. It was not so surprising that the Committee of 70, a "good government watch-dog" group of businessmen and lawyers announced its opposition to the third-term amendment. The Committee has had run-ins with the Rizzo administration in the past over numerous instances of official corruption, patronage abuses and voting irregularities.

A little more surprising, and more revealing, is the opposition that the Charter change is facing from two other groupings of corporate heavyweights. One, the Greater Philadelphia Partnership, is the "activist" wing of the business establishment. It is often at the center of corporate plans for commercial development and it coordinates its planning with local and state governments.

Even more significant is the formation of an ad hoc umbrella organization called the "Charter Defense Committee" which pulls together the front line of Philadelphia's blue-blood leadership. Included in this committee is Thatcher Longstreth, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and the very influential Richard C. Bond, outgoing chairman of the John Wanamaker stores and a previous Rizzo supporter.

Also included on the fourteen member steering committee of this group is James F. Bodine, executive committee chairman

of the First Pennsylvania Corp.; and William S. Fishman, board chairman of ARA Services Inc. Fishman was a "substantial" contributor to Rizzo's 1971 campaign.

The Charter Defense Committee has promised to raise a quarter of a million dollars to finance an advertising campaign to defend the present two-term limit on the mayor's office.

This unusual display of ruling class unity in opposition to a third term for Rizzo will probably have little direct effect on how Philadelphia voters will cast their ballots in November. Pronouncements by the ruling elite of the Main Line usually don't hold much water in the wards of North Philadelphia, Kensington, South Philly and West Philly. Rizzo, of course, knows this and has said as much.

But Frank Rizzo can't be sleeping very well these nights. The Charter change issue has given the ruling circles an opportunity to make its break with Frank without openly opposing him. All of the groupings swear that they are not taking a stand for or against Rizzo, but merely taking a stand for "good government."

Nevertheless, the result for Rizzo will be less money, probably a lot less money for his campaign coffers. It could also mean that even if the charter change was approved, Philadelphia's ruling circles may decide to sabotage his candidacy before the 1979 election.

It's pretty clear that the ruling class is, at the present time anyhow, opposed to a third mayoral term in principle. They didn't learn that "principle" in a high school civics class, however. For them it is a practical matter. Philadelphia's City Charter gives the mayor's office a great deal of power, more than is accorded mayors in any other large city.

There is the real danger, from their point of view, that the mayor could establish a power base on his own through the patronage system, the manipulation of city contracts, the use of police power and through political popularity based on demagoguery. They see these developments in the Rizzo administration and they have decided that such developments threaten "enlightened" corporate control of city government and may have serious impact on their own business interests.

At the same time the corporate blue-blood's opposition to Rizzo is carefully qualified and conditional. Thatcher Longstreth and the Chamber of Commerce crowd have a genuine fondness for an administration that has cut taxes on big business and poured millions of the tax payers' dollars into downtown urban renewal and commercial development. If worse came to worse, they could certainly live with another Rizzo term.

With his now famous "white rights" speech in Whitman Park, Frank Rizzo embarked on a political course that diverges from the game plan of the city's corporate elite. Rizzo has cast his lot with the national right-wing revolt. Rizzo wants to become a national spokesman in the fight against busing, affirmative action, the death penalty, fair housing laws and a host of other issues. (Frank has a certain problem in championing the tax revolt, having raised local property taxes by 30% two years ago).

As the mayor of the nation's fourth largest city, Rizzo is in a much stronger position to promote his national ambitions than as a private citizen. Rizzo's new course means heightened racial polarization and jeopardizes the city's relations with the federal government. This is what makes the big boys in the corporate board rooms nervous. At this point in time they are not prepared to go the route of extreme reaction represented by Rizzo and the New Right.

As one business leader told the *Inquirer*, "There is a feeling out there that as long as the city keeps fighting knockdown, drag-out battles with the federal government, and as long as we keep hearing harsh rhetoric about ethnic wars, that it's not going to be possible to turn the economy of this city around."

THE BATTLE AHEAD

The ruling class opposition to the Charter change probably has come too late to have much impact on Rizzo's decision to publicly support such a change and thus announce his candidacy for a third term. Despite the fact that Rizzo has avoided a direct endorsement of the charter change effort, he has clearly committed all of his political resources to it. He has already made his move, and with an ego three times the size of the Tinicum Swamp, Rizzo won't back off now.

The real opposition to Frank Rizzo's ambitions, however, does not come from the corporate board rooms overlooking Center City. It comes from every neighborhood and community in the city. Next month we will take a look at this grass-roots opposition to Rizzo and we will also examine how a badly divided labor movement regards Rizzo's attempt at a third term.

THOUSANDS MARCH AGAINST RIZZO AND POLICE BRUTALITY

August-September 1978

by JIM GRIFFIN

They came from the north, the west and the south, their ranks swelled by shoppers and passersby. They chanted: "We're all fired up, ain't gonna take it no more" and "Four more years, hell no, Frank Rizzo got to go." By 12:30 somewhere between two and five thousand predominantly Black marchers had converged on City Hall. It was the most massive and militant demonstration locally in recent years, signalling the resurgence of the Black people's movement in the face of sharpening attacks by the Rizzo administration.

STOP RIZZO THE THEME

It was the police beating of an unarmed Delbert Africa following the MOVE shootout that ignited the long smoldering resentment of police abuse defended and encouraged by the Mayor. But the focus of the rally was not on MOVE. It was an across the board attack on Rizzo and his racist policies. Signs, slogans and speeches singled out Rizzo's "white rights" campaign and his bid for a third term via the charter change.

Both state representative Dave Richardson and community activist Milton Street, two of the march organizers, focused on the task of registering and getting out the No vote to defeat Rizzo's third term bid this November. This theme was echoed by countless other speakers. There was also a call to boycott the First Pennsylvania Bank and the Gallery. First Pennsylvania is headed up by John Bunting who is actively backing the charter change. The bank had redlined Black neighborhoods, invested in South Africa and has been instrumental in bleeding the city's school system. The Gallery, the ultra modern downtown shopping mall, symbolized the priorities of city planners who neglect the neighborhoods in favor of expensive center city projects.

Another theme of the rally was the need for Black unity to defeat Rizzo's attacks. This unity was reflected in the broad spectrum of political forces pres-

ent. There was also clearly some division in the attitude of the demonstrators toward MOVE. While all united in condemning the police beating of Delbert Africa, many booed when a MOVE representative began quoting the thoughts of John Africa. And while speakers refrained from directly criticizing MOVE, there was a clear intention to keep the focus on the broader questions. MOVE's muddled philosophy with its emphasis on the rejection of technology and an outlandish life style offers the masses of people, who are struggling to improve their living conditions, nothing. Furthermore, MOVE's all or nothing, no compromise stand in relation to the city is not "revolutionary" but in fact only plays into the hands of Rizzo. Black unity in the face of Rizzism is important, but it cannot and should not be a cover for refusing to criticize actions and trends which are harmful to the Black Liberation Movement.

THE TASKS AHEAD

Stopping Rizzo is a big task. The massive mobilization at City Hall and the call for voter registration are important ingredients of the recipe to beat Rizzo. It is also going to be important to build the broadest unity of all anti-Rizzo forces and to the degree possible, coordinate the campaign for a no-vote. Presently, the anti-Rizzo movement is fragmented into several groupings who could and should be working much more closely. Even more important, beating Rizzo is not simply a matter of organization. The political orientation of the movement will determine whether it can fully mobilize the potential anti-Rizzo vote while undercutting and neutralizing much of Rizzo's support.

This means the movement must expose what Rizzo stands for. We have to bring home to the masses that Rizzo is the enemy of all working people and the friend of the most reactionary sectors of big business. We have to do this on the basis of the issues that affect the lives of the masses of Philadelphians. These political tasks are part and parcel of both the work in the wards and the city-wide actions. If we do all these things Rizzo's political coffin will be sealed.