

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Niagara News

We

, 5

Business & Finance, 13

Campaign '82, 7

Com

Lew-Port Board Puts Off Resolution on Repository

By JOANN SCELSA

LEWISTON — The Lewiston-Porter Board of Education Tuesday tabled a resolution opposing the creation of a nuclear waste repository in the area when two board members said they were not prepared to address the issue.

In a related development, the Lewiston-Porter United Teachers Representative Council earlier Tuesday passed a resolution "to go on record opposing the location of a permanent repository at the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works and urging the board to oppose" it, Robert Presutti, the United Teachers president, said.

Mr. Presutti said the reason for the resolution is concern about "the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff of Lew-Port."

Board Members Charlotte Hamilton and Franklyn Collins said they were not prepared to vote on the resolution proposed by board President Thomas Pryce. The resolution called the recommendation to create a repository by Bechtel National Inc. "improper and inconsistent with previous (Department of Energy) commitments to clean up the site."

THE RESOLUTION requests the Energy Department to "fulfill its commitment to clean up radioactive wastes at the Ordnance Works

site" and to "publicly renounce the possibility that the site become a repository for radioactive wastes from any other source."

"It's a little early" to pass a resolution, Mrs. Hamilton said. "I'm not ready to say the report is inconsistent. At this point I'm really not ready to take this issue on." She said she hadn't read the report yet.

Mr. Collins also said he was "not in favor of voting on something I haven't read yet." He further said he was not willing to "categorically deny anything" and said he could conceive of being in favor of the creation of a repository if conditions were right, such as the federal government's accompanying the creation of a repository with a large financial settlement for the community.

Mr. Collins said he was not aware that the federal government had ever made a long-term commitment to decommission the site, and any "long-range plan would cost lots and lots of money." He said that from what he had read of Bechtel's report "it seems to be a rational and logical discussion of the subject."

"I'M SURE it was rational and logical," Mr. Pryce said. "That's

not the point. At no time was the idea of a regional repository with wastes coming in from other sites ever discussed. I think we're being misled as to the scope of what the (Energy Department) is planning.

"I just felt it was timely when the rest of the community is voicing its concerns. As residents of the community and having the responsibility for this campus and the children of the community, I thought it was important we take a stand. I think it is a matter of legitimate concern to this board," he added.

The 191-acre Niagara Falls Storage Site, formerly part of the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works, recommended as a repository by Bechtel, lies about a mile from Lew-Port's Creek Road campus, which is attended by nearly 3,000 students.

The town and village of Lewiston boards and the Niagara Falls City Council have formally come out in opposition to the creation of a repository at the site.

Mr. Pryce said he will reintroduce the resolution next month with additional substantiation for the board.

In other business, the board:

✓ Set a long-range curriculum planning workshop for Nov. 2 and a budget workshop and public hearing for Dec. 7.

✓ Heard that the Nioga Library System is still considering leasing of the Primary School as one of "numerous options" for a permanent headquarters.