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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 81, Folder 11, Davis, Sammy Jr. [National Liver Institute],  
1989-1990.

SAMMY DAVIS, JR. NATIONAL LIVER INSTITUTE

May 15, 1990

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Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
45 East 89th Street  
Apt 18F  
New York, New York 10128

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Would you do me the great favor and honor of consenting to my recommending you for membership on the Board of Trustees for the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute.

Though we have yet to meet, we have talked about things which touch us deeply. This would mean so much, both by your presence and counsel but also to affirm the University of our mission.

Please say yes.

I am also reaching out to the Most Reverend Eugene A. Marion, S.S.J. Archbishop of Atlanta to consider joining us. It is my hope and vision that we will in practice and program reflect an ecumenical vision of humanitarian work.

Attached please find a copy of an article about the Sister Thea Bowman, Black Catholic Educational Foundation, quoting Archbishop Marino.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

*Ronald W. Brown/pm*

Ronald W. Brown  
Executive Vice President for Administration

RWB:pm

Attachment

cc: Archbishop Eugene Marino

# WASH STATE SUBS IN HIGHER EDUCATION™

NOVEMBER 23, 1989 VOL. 6, NO. 18

\$ 2.50

## Budget Cuts Could Hurt Education Programs

by Charles Dervarics

WASHINGTON, DC—President George Bush is pressing Congress to make deeper cuts in federal spending for fiscal 1990, a plan that could slash about \$1 billion from student financial aid and other secondary and postsecondary education programs.

Earlier this month Bush shelved his plan to reduce capital gains taxes—at least for this year—but asked Congress instead to cut an extra \$14 billion in spending through its year-end deficit reduction, or reconciliation, bill. If Congress fails to make the reductions, Bush has said he will let automatic, short-term cuts under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget law remain in effect for the entire year.

The cuts, if they become permanent, could chop about \$250 million from the Pell Grant program alone, leaving about one million students ineligible for the program for the fiscal year that runs until next September.

"The stakes are extremely high," said Susan Frost, executive director of the Com-

mittee on Education Funding, a coalition of about 100 education groups.

Gramm-Rudman cuts that began in mid-October already have led to increased fees on student loans, she said, "but those effects are minor compared to what will happen if the cuts are permanent."

Other education programs, such as aid to historically Black colleges and universities and TRIO, also would be hit by the year-long budget cuts. Most domestic programs would be cut about 5.3 percent under Gramm-Rudman, which could translate into cuts of \$5 million for HBCUs and \$9 million for Howard Uni-

versity.

"I take the president's statement seriously and I think Congress should as well," said Michelle Stent, vice president of government affairs for the United Negro College Fund. If automatic, government-wide cuts last through the entire year, "it's going to be a mess," she said.

See Budget Cuts, pg. 11, col. 1

I take the president's statement seriously and I think Congress should as well.

—Michelle Stent

## Debate Over Curriculum Expansion Continues

by Eileen M. O'Brien

WASHINGTON, DC—Educators met here recently for a conference on curricula turmoil in higher education, with most conferees agreeing that colleges need to return to core curricula focused on "the Great Books."

The conference was sponsored by the Madison Center, a conservative research and education policy center founded by former Education Secretary William Bennett and *The Closing of the American Mind* author Allan Bloom. The meeting, attended by almost 200 college educators, was a "response to the academy's current trivialization of liberal education and the continuing attacks on the canons of traditional collegiate instruction," according to the Center's president, Dr. John Agresto.

"A core curriculum can strengthen the common life of an institution," said Dr. Thomas J. Slakey, dean and tutor of St. John's College (MD). "Students who have read the same books have something to talk about."

Slakey said the curriculum at St. John's centers on Greek philosophy and writing such as Homer and Plato and many other authors and works considered "Classics" or the "Great Books." "It's not so much that a doctrine from those great writers needs to be

See Curriculum, pg. 26, col. 1

## Catholic Educational Foundation To Raise \$150 Million for Black Youth

Sister Thea Bowman Honored

by Joan Morgan

The Most Rev. Eugene A. Marino, S.S.J., archbishop of Atlanta and the highest ranking Black Catholic clergyman in the country called the recent launching of the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation the "turning point for Black Catholics in the United States."

"I see great hope not only for Black Catholics but for the entire church as we integrate the contributions of all our people into the life of the church," he said. The foundation will begin a \$150 million fund drive to provide college scholarships for needy Black youth.

In October, a celebratory Mass at St. Michael's College in Burlington, VT officially launched the foundation. Five bishops participated from cities involved with starting the project. They will serve on the foundation's 33-

See Catholic, pg. 18, col. 2



PHOTO BY GERALD A. POTTEBAUM

Sister Thea Bowman

# I N D E X



Archbishop Eugene A. Marino

*[This is a] turning point for Black Catholics in the United States.*

## Catholic, from pg. 1, col. 1

member board along with university presidents from the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, Xavier University, St. Michael's College, and Catholic University of America.

The foundation states a three-fold purpose: "To promote excellence in Catholic education, to provide support for Catholic schools and colleges which serve the Black community and to provide education opportunities within the Black community."

The idea for the foundation began in 1988 with Dr. Leonard Jennings, a Stowe, VT orthopedic surgeon, his wife Mary Lou Jennings and the Rev. Thomas F.X. Hoar, S.S.E., St. Michael's College director of campus ministry who has been active for many years in working to improve the education of Black and Catholic youth. Through a coalition with Jennings, Hoar met Sister Thea Bowman, who also is widely

recognized for her work with Black youth and for whom the foundation is named, and the idea of a national focus for their work was born. The Jennings provided the initial money to start the program.

Jennings and Hoar designed a plan for a national foundation and sought support and commitment from presidents of the major Catholic universities for the foundation. The foundation's plan also calls for support of

elementary and secondary schools as well as for scholarships. "Our idea was to promote excellence in education, and since many schools were having trouble keeping the doors open, that became a first priority," said Hoar. Currently funds will go to elementary and secondary schools in Detroit, Saginaw, MI, and ten schools in Jackson, MS. Also the foundation will support continuing education and minority cultural enrichment programs. Plans also are being developed to raise an endowment and offer scholarships annually.

Forty-six Black youths began their college educations this fall at Catholic colleges with the aid of foundation scholarships. The scholarship recipients were recruited largely from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Saginaw, Jackson, and other locations. Students do not have to be Catholic to receive the scholarships.

Sister Bowman said she is impressed with the talent of the young people selected thus far. "I feel deeply honored to have a foundation named for me which gives young people a real opportunity to develop their talents. I hope this foundation will be a way of instilling the value in young people of giving back to the community and to leave the world a better place," she said.

Bowman, a Black Catholic nun and a native of Canton, MS, has been described as a charismatic, inspirational leader who has worked tirelessly to teach children in poverty both in Mississippi and around the world. Her life has been the recent subject of a 60 Minutes TV spot, a soon to be released movie starring Whoopi Goldberg, with Harry Belafonte as producer, and a biography published by Harper and Row. ■

# SPECIAL REPORTS

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

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December 11, 1989

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### The National Science Foundation and Two-Year Colleges

January 22, 1990

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January 9, 1990

### Expansion and Maintenance of Campus Facilities

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February 6, 1990

### Two-Year College Athletics

March 19, 1990

Advertising deadline:  
March 6, 1990

### Science/Technology and Two-Year Colleges

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SAMMY DAVIS, JR. NATIONAL LIVER INSTITUTE

May 15, 1990

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Stephen S. Weinstein, Esq.  
Hon. Coleman Young

The Most Reverend Eugene A. Marino, S.S.J.  
Archbishop of Atlanta  
Archbishop's Office  
680 West Peach Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Archbishop Marino:

I am writing to ask if: (1) you would do me the great honor of permitting me to recommend you for membership on the Board of Trustees of The Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute; (2) we could explore having the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation recommend students for brief intern research fellowships at The National Liver Institute. Enclosed please find information about the Institute and a article quoting you.

Please contact me at you earliest convenience. My office number is (201)456-7291. My home number is (201)746-1730.

I have enclosed a Ceremony of Lights which I hope will be of interest. I have also enclosed a copy of a prayer written by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum last October. I am asking Rabbi Tanenbaum if he would also do me the honor of allowing me to recommend him to become a member of our Board. A copy of Rabbi Tanenbaum's bio sheet is attached.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Brown  
Executive Vice President for Administration

RWB:pm

Attachment

cc: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

## Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

OCTOBER 16, 1989

INVOCATION BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS CONSULTATIONS, ADDRESSED TO DINNER HONORING SAMMY DAVIS, JR., OCTOBER 20, 1989

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ADONAI HAOLOM, MASTER AND CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE,

WE, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ONE HUMAN FAMILY, STAND TOGETHER ACKNOWLEDGING THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE CREATED IN YOUR SACRED IMAGE.

Jews and Christians, Blacks and Whites, we are inextricably linked by the oppressions of the past, and bound together by the promise and hope of a humane life where the sanctity of every human being, of all life, will be inviolate and revered.

MAY THIS HISTORIC EVENING IN WHICH ALL OF US HONOR THE UNIQUE GENIUS OF SAMMY DAVIS, JR., A MAN OF GREAT MORAL COURAGE AND COMPASSION, WHOSE GIFTS OF TALENT ARE THE OUTWARD IMAGE OF HIS INNER INTEGRITY, BE A TIME FOR ALL OF US TO REACH OUT TO ONE ANOTHER IN RENEWED FAITH AND TRUST FOR THE SHAPING OF A MORE HUMANE, CARING, AND JUST WORLD. IN THE WORDS OF RABBI NAHMAN OF BRAZLAV, THE 18th CENTURY HASIDIC MASTER, WE PRAY:

"MAY THE WILL COME FROM THEE TO ANNUL WARS AND THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD FROM THE UNIVERSE, AND TO EXTEND A PEACE, GREAT AND WONDROUS IN THE UNIVERSE. LET ALL RESIDENTS OF THE EARTH RECOGNIZE AND KNOW THE INNERMOST TRUTH, THAT WE ARE NOT COME INTO THIS WORLD FOR QUARREL AND DIVISION, NOR FOR HATE, GREED AND JEALOUSY, CONTRARINESS AND BLOODSHED, BUT WE ARE COME INTO THIS WORLD TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE AND FREEDOM WITH ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD NEIGHBORS IN MUTUAL RESPECT UNDER THY GUIDING PROVIDENCE."

ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION, DEDICATED TO ELIMINATING THE SCOURGES OF ILLNESS AND DISEASE FROM HUMAN BEINGS, WE PRAY THAT THE LORD, ADONAI, WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE OUR HONORED GUEST, SAMMY DAVIS, JR. WITH CONTINUED MORAL VISION AND STRENGTH, AND ABOVE ALL, GOOD HEALTH, AND GIVE HIS BLESSINGS OF FULFILLMENT TO ALL WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THIS NOBLE PILGRIMAGE OF SAVING LIVES AND UPLIFTING SPIRITS. MAY THE LORD GIVE STRENGTH TO HIS PEOPLE, MAY HE BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH SHALOM, EVERLASTING PEACE.

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL  
FOR  
SAMMY DAVIS, JR.

ZU100474307

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DRAFT

Sammy Davis, Jr. is best known as "Mr. Entertainment" as a result of his remarkable career which has spanned sixty one years. This singer, writer, actor, producer and dancer is however best known to his UMDNJ family as "Mr. Humanitarian."

Born in New York City he became an entertainer at the age of three as part of the Will Mastin Trio. Throughout the years his accomplishments and successes in the entertainment world have been legend.

Sammy Davis Jr. however has also long been visible in the Civil rights front and has actively worked to fight drug abuse, AIDS, apartheid and human rights abuses around the globe. His work in the civil rights movement earned him praise for his "unselfish physical and financial contributions to the cause of Justice."

Oft honored Mr. Davis is particularly proud of the Springarn Medal of the NAACP, awarded in 1969 which noted his "highest and noblest achievements" as well as the Kennedy Center Honors received in 1987. He was also the first recipient of the American-Israeli Arts, Science and Humanitarian Award created to spotlight the 30th anniversary of Israel as well as the beginnings of peace between Egypt and Israel.

In 1984, Mr. Davis lent his support to create the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. His leadership and commitment have helped to establish the Institute as the nation's first national medical resource devoted solely to patient care, education and research for liver disorders.

In October of last year at the Fourth Annual Benefit of the Sammy Davis Jr. Liver Institute the unique genius of Sammy Davis, Jr. was noted. In a quote taken from the prayer of Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum Mr. Davis was called "A man of great moral courage and compassion, whose gifts of talent are the outward image of his inner integrity."

This year the University adds its voice to the chorus of those who song praises of this giant of a man. He has been an inspiration to so many as both a world class entertainer and a world class humanitarian. In recognition for his many achievements in support of education, medicine and humanitarian causes, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey is proud to award Mr. Sammy Davis, Jr. the UMDNJ Medal for Distinguished Humanitarian Leadership.

RONALD WELLINGTON BROWN  
180 UNION STREET  
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042  
(201) 746-1730

Dear Rabbi Tenenbaum:

Thank you again.

Enclosed please find the ceremony I described this morning, that I have created and which would require the consent and participation of many. If approved, I would see the ceremony re-enacted each year. (This is the ceremony of light against the dark invaders and for the principles Sammy fought for as a humanitarian)

Also enclosed is the draft award citation from the University. I did not see it until late Friday night. It has been sent to the printer by the University. I will have them correct just thing Monday the two typos I spotted. Please call me if there are any matters you see which are as glaring.

I will call you with further details on the Commencement exercises, confirming date, time, place and transportation arrangements.

Many thanks.

Ron Brown

SAMMY DAVIS, JR. NATIONAL LIVER INSTITUTE

To: Members of the Executive Committee

From: Ronald W. Brown  
Executive Vice President for Administration  
and Chief Operating Officer

Date: July 2, 1990

Subject: Nominees for the Institute's Executive  
Committee --Shirley Rhodes and George Rose;  
Nominee for Institute's Board and Executive  
Committee - Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

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=====

Mrs. Shirley Rhodes, a member of the Institute's board, Sammy's friend, manager, and President of Transamerican Entertainment Corporation has been nominated for the Institute's Executive Committee.

Mr. George Rose, a member of the Institute's Board, partner in the Wall Street firm of Lazard Freres with numerous contacts in the Wall Street financial community, has also been nominated for the Institute's Executive Committee.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum has been nominated for membership on the Board of Trustees of the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Insitute and for its Executive Committee. A copy of Rabbi Tannenbaum's biographical sketch is attached.

Attached please find resolutions for the above referenced actions. Please sign and return the resolutions in the envelope provided to Ronald W. Brown, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer, Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Insitute, Medical Science Building, I-506, Newark New Jersey 07103-2757.

Many Thanks.

RESOLUTION

The undersigned members of the Executive Committee of the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute, do hereby adopt the following resolution by consent:

RESOLVED, that Mrs. Shirley Rhodes, be and the same hereby is elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute effective as of the date first written below;

RESOLVED, that Mr. George Rose, be and the same hereby is elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute effective as of the date first written below;

RESOLVED, that Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, be and the same hereby is elected a member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Executive Committee of the the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute effective as of the date first written below.

Date: July 2, 1990

\_\_\_\_\_  
Willie L. Brown, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher J. Jackman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carroll M. Leevy

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Stanley S. Bergen

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Willie B. Brown

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Stephen S. Weinstein

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Brendan T. Byrne

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C. Louis Bassano

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Michael DePasquale

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maxine Turon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marvin Miller

## Dr. MARC H. TANENBAUM



Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director of International Relations of American Jewish Committee, has a long and distinguished career in international human rights, world refugee, world hunger, and foreign relations concerns.

Formerly the AJC's national interreligious affairs director, Rabbi Tanenbaum was designated in a recent national poll as "one of the ten most influential and respected religious leaders in America." A cover story in *New York* magazine described Dr. Tanenbaum as "the foremost Jewish ecumenical leader in the world today."

Dr. Tanenbaum has served as a member of the prestigious Human Rights Research Committee of the Foreign Policy Association's Study of Priorities for the 1980s. In recent years, he has testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee on "Moral Imperatives in the Formation of American Foreign Policy." He has also testified before Congressional committees on world refugee and world hunger problems, and played a key role in organizing White House conferences on Foreign Aid and Energy Conservation.

President Jimmy Carter invited Dr. Tanenbaum as the American Jewish leader among ten national religious and academic spokesmen to discuss "the State of the Nation" at Camp David summit meetings in 1979. He was also appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee of the President's Commission on the Holocaust.

At the invitation of the International Rescue Committee, he joined delegations of prominent American leaders to carry out three separate fact-finding investigations of the plight of the Vietnamese "boat people" and Cambodian refugees, which contributed to the saving of tens of thousands of lives of Indochinese refugees. He has organized many relief efforts for victims of war and conflict, including Lebanese, Nigerians, Ugandans, the Falashas of Ethiopia, Haitians, Afghans, Central Americans and Polish refugees. He is a founder and co-chairman of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, which aids oppressed Jews and Christians in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In March 1979, he was invited to consult with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and German parliamentary officials in Bonn on the abolition of the statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals.

Dr. Tanenbaum is a founder and leading member of the joint liaison committee of the Vatican Secretariat on Catholic-Jewish Relations and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), and of a similar body with the World Council of Churches. He was the only rabbi at Vatican Council II, and participated in the first official audience of World Jewish leaders with Pope John Paul II in Vatican City. He was also the first Jewish leader to address 4,000 delegates attending the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver in July 1983.

He served as consultant to the NBC-TV nine-hour special "Holocaust" and earlier was consultant to the special "Jesus of Nazareth."

He has lectured at major universities, seminaries, religious and educational bodies in the United States, Europe and Israel, and at numerous national and international conferences. Rabbi Tanenbaum is the author or editor of several published books and of numerous articles.

SAMMY DAVIS, JR. NATIONAL LIVER INSTITUTE

TO: Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Ronald W. Brown  
Executive Vice President for Administration  
and Chief Operating Officer

DATE: July 3, 1990

SUBJECT: Morton A. Siegler

=====

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Stephen S. Weinstein, Esq.  
Hon. Coleman Young

Morton A. Siegler was formerly Chairman of the New Jersey State Building Authority, and Director of building and construction. He was personally selected by Governor Kean to oversee the \$64 million State House renovation in Trenton. Mort was also a real estate consultant to N.J. Transit. We worked together negotiating the transaction under which Hartz Mountain Industries will build a new ten story headquarters building for N.J. Transit here in Newark.

I recently met with Mort, and discussed some of the activities that would have to be undertaken, when financing and other support will enable us to proceed toward realization of a permanent facility for the Institute. Enclosed please find Mort's letter to me, his resume, and some press clippings.

When we are able to proceed toward a permanent facility, there is no one better qualified, and with whom I would be more comfortable in a working consulting relationship than Morton A. Siegler. I recommend him without qualification for retention as a real estate consultant for our new facility.

RWB:pm

Enclosures

cc: Building Committee  
Finance Committee

# MORTON A. SIEGLER ASSOCIATES

REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS TO INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & THE LEGAL PROFESSION



Ronald Brown, Executive Director  
The Sammy Davis, Jr. National Liver Institute  
University Hospital  
185 South Orange Avenue  
Suite 245  
Newark, New Jersey 07103

Dear Ron:

I enclose a copy of my resume which you have requested.

Along with it, I have included copies of two Trenton Times editorials and a news article relating to my tenure as Chairman of the N.J. State Building Authority which I thought you would find of interest.

As I understand your present thinking, the consultant's role you have in mind, in many ways, is similar to that which I performed during the five year period of my service with state government.

You are familiar, of course, with my long involvement as real estate consultant to N.J. Transit and the manner in which I work and negotiate. Our association there was a most productive one and I look forward to the opportunity of again being at your side to assist in your effort to produce the "World Class" facility you envision to house the headquarters and operations of the Sammy Davis, Jr. National Liver Institute.

Sincerely,

  
Morton A. Siegler

MAS:lab

Enclosures

# MORTON A. SIEGLER ASSOCIATES



REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS TO INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & THE LEGAL PROFESSION

## RESUME - MORTON A. SIEGLER

**Education:** Lincoln High School, Jersey City, New Jersey, 1940  
Cornell Univ., School of Civil Engineering B.C.E., 1944

**Military:** U.S. Army Ordnance Dept.: entered service as Private, separated July 1946, 1st. Lieutenant

**Business + Professional Experience:**

1946-1947	Instructor, Civil Engineering, Cornell Univ.
1947-1974	Chairman, Siegler Construction Company General Building Contractors President, Mid Eastern Funding, Ltd. Real estate development firm
1974-1982	President, George Siegler Company Real estate investment company Principal, Morton A. Siegler Associates Real Estate, Construction Consultants
1982-1983	Director, Division of Building and Construction Dept. of Treasury, State of N.J.
Present	Principal, Morton A. Siegler Associates

**Additional Affiliations:**

Director,	Three D Departments (American Stock Exch.)
Director,	AmeriFederal Savings Bank, Member of Exec. Committee, Chairman of Loan Committee
Director,	Fenimore Funds (Drexel Burnham Equity and Fixed Income Mutual Funds)
Vice Chmn.,	Bd. Trustees, St. Barnabas Med. Ctr., N.J.
Member,	World Business Council
Member,	American Society of Real Estate Counselors
Member,	Metropolitan Presidents Organization
Member,	Nat'l Bd. of Governors - Amer. Jewish Comm.
Past Member,	Bd. of Directors, Member of Executive Comm. Restaurant Assoc. Inc. (Amer. Stock Exch.)
Past Member,	Bd. of Directors, Chairman of Audit Comm. Leisure Tech. Corp. (American Stock Exch.)
Past Member,	Bd. of Directors, Chmn. of Audit, Member of Fin. Comm. Ronson Corp. (N.Y. Stock Exch.)
Past Member,	Bd. of Dir's, Rob Roy Co. (Boys Shirt Mfrg)
Retired Member,	Young Presidents Organization and past chairman of New Jersey Chapter
Past Chairman,	N.J. State Building Authority
Past Chairman,	Board of Trustees, Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey

# editorial

## The Times

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### State House go-ahead

Gov. Kean and legislative leaders have reached what seems to be a sound agreement on the scope and management of the State House restoration project.

The project had originally focused on repairs to and historical restoration of the Assembly and Senate chambers at an estimated cost of \$30 million. But the price went up as additions were made to the plan — many of them justifiable, but some that were essentially frills — and eventually figures of more than \$100 million were being tossed around. In the end the governor demanded a \$60 million lid on State House spending, and now the Legislature has agreed to that.

According to the architect, the \$60 million will finance the work on the Assembly and Senate chambers which was the project's original *raison d'être*, some improvements to executive offices, an addition for the Legislature's partisan staff, and work on offices housing non-partisan staff in the State House Annex. In addition, the gold dome atop the State House and the building's leaky roof will be repaired.

Gov. Kean also demanded and got the authority to name his own overseer to make sure spending is kept in line with the plan. He picked the right person: Morton Siegler, chairman of the State Building Authority and former state director of building and construction. Mr. Siegler's own thorough knowledge of the building business and his insistence on staying on top of projects is one of the big reasons that Building Authority jobs avoid significant cost overruns. His involvement with the State House renovation greatly improves the outlook for keeping its costs under tight control as well.

# editorial

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### A useful 'SOB'

One of the more successful components of state government is the New Jersey Building Authority. It was created to be merely a funding agency through which new state buildings could be constructed without the necessity of issuing general obligation bonds that would have to be approved at referendum. But in the last five years — while Trenton's three major new state buildings were being built and completed — the Building Authority has been much more than that.

Stretching the statute that created it, the agency has assumed the role of financial watchdog over the projects it has financed. It has kept a close eye on every phase of work, asserted the right to approve or reject cost-ballooning change orders, monitored such details as the furniture and the artwork for the buildings, and continually nagged and encouraged the Division of Building and Construction (DBC) to stay on top of its job. Meanwhile, through some deft refinancing moves, it has managed to make maximum use of its bonding power.

A principal reason for this excellent record has been the Authority's chairman, Morton A. Siegler. Mr. Siegler, of Hopatcong, was a successful builder and former director of DBC when Gov. Kean appointed him. He has been, in his own words, "the SOB who said no" to requests from fellow state officials and others that would have led to delays and cost overruns. His personal combination of pride, responsibility, technical knowledge and assertiveness — some critics would call it unreasonableness — has paid off in a big way for New Jersey in terms of square footage received per dollar spent.

Now Mr. Siegler has resigned the chairmanship and his *ad hoc* role, assigned by Gov. Kean, of overseer of the \$64 million State House renovation now well under way. Finishing the State House job will require a "level of involvement" he can no longer give it, Mr. Siegler said. We hope the governor can find another chairman of comparable quality for the Building Authority — and that the state will continue to use this agency with the proven record to fill its future needs for office space.

# Man who oversaw state building boom in city leaving post

By THOMAS MARTELLO  
Staff Writer

TRENTON — Morton A. Siegler, who presided over a state building boom that changed the skyline of Trenton during a five-year stint as chairman of the New Jersey Building Authority, announced his resignation yesterday.

"The time is right to step down," said Siegler, 65. "We have accomplished most of what we set out to do."

Siegler has chaired the authority through the construction of four major state office buildings and the initial phase of the planned \$64 million renovation of the State House.

The state Building Authority was formed seven years ago to make sure state buildings would not be hit with the kind of huge cost overruns that plagued construction of the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex.

WITH SIEGLER as chairman, the authority financed a host of state construction in Trenton and Ewing, acting as a watchdog to keep costs in line.

The construction included the \$19.9 million Department of Transportation Building in Ewing as well as three buildings in Trenton: the \$31 million Department of Environmental Protection Building on East State Street, the \$19.9 million Department of Community Affairs Building at Front and South Broad streets, and the \$28.8 million Mary Roebling B. Commerce Building at West State and North Warren streets.

Authority officials say these buildings were completed with \$20 million to spare. In addition, the authority was able to chip in expensive "extras," such as \$20 million in furniture and \$3.6 million in telecommunications equipment.

"What has been accomplished here, with the support of the state Treasurer, is something the Kean administration should be proud of," said Siegler.

DAVID BEALE, consultant to board, praised Siegler, saying: "Working with him is what I imagine it would be like to play basketball on the same team as Larry Bird. He makes everyone else look good, too."

Siegler's tenure on the board was



Morton A. Siegler  
... says time is right

not without confrontation.

Because he insisted that state agencies be prohibited from making any changes in building plans once they "signed off," some state officials resented the board.

Siegler admitted he wielded power over these agencies without being sure the board had such a legal mandate.

Siegler insisted that "being the SOB who said no to requests for changes" was necessary to keep building costs down.

Siegler also had to be the "SOB" in preparation for the renovation of the most political of buildings, the State House.

KEAN HAS insisted that the state spend no more than \$64 million on this project, and asked the Building Authority to be intricately involved in the project.

The State House renovation is expected to be completed by 1992.

Siegler said yesterday that he believes the State House job "has taken its form. I think it will be completed properly."

He said if he remained chairman, "the project would have required the level of involvement I can't give to it."

In his letter to Kean, Siegler said such an involvement in the unpaid position would harm his various business practices, most of which are related to the construction industry.

Siegler said his resignation is effective Friday. Officials said they did not know who Kean would appoint to replace him.