

# Racetrack Zoning Repeal Sought

By DAN BENNETT  
A spirited neighborhood group organized its efforts Wednesday night for a repeal of zoning that would permit the Fair Grounds to erect stables next to homes.

Members of the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association and other civic groups met in the E. D. White School cafeteria to get phone callers, sign makers and drivers for a big turnout planned at next Monday's Board of Zoning Adjustments meeting.

The board is scheduled to hear testimony and make a decision whether to revoke a permit issued to the Fair Grounds to build a barn on Belfort Street. Although a city ordinance requires the barns to be 100 feet from

any residence, the group maintains that the safety and permits department has issued a permit for a barn 30 feet from a bar which has a second-floor apartment and within 100 feet of approximately four houses.

Association vice-president Cullen Landry made an emotional speech appealing for "human dignity" in a neighborhood he said swelters in the summer along with the smell of horse manure, buzzing flies and nesting rats. Children are threatened with disease, he said, "from the nuisance of flies breeding in horse urine and manure," and with rats migrating from the barns to the houses.

He said the racetrack is attempting to have the 100-foot property line buffer amended to three feet. A dramatic

presentation using a piece of picket fence, a tape measure and man clad in horse costume displayed for the audience the difference between three feet and 100 feet.

On June 22 the city council will hold a public hearing to determine the request for a 3-foot separation along with other further expansion of the racetrack into the Faubourg St. John neighborhood.

In subsequent negotiations, the planning commission has compiled a recommendation that stables be 20 feet from property lines; that parking lot set-backs be reduced from 50 to 10 feet; and that certain expansions be allowed without a public hearing.

The neighborhood organization's compiled recommendations include:

- Firm boundaries to be established in the zoning ordinance preventing racetrack expansion.
- A 100 foot setback for barns and a 50 foot setback for parking.
- The Fair Grounds build wood or masonry fences as opposed to chain-link.
- That chainwall be planted in the ground to prevent the barns from draining onto adjoining property.
- And that a public hearing be conditional before any barns are built closer to the residences.



GEN. BERNARD W. ROGERS

## Gen. Rogers Will Speak

Gen. Bernard W. Rogers, Army chief of staff, will be the featured military speaker at the 60th annual National Convention of The American Legion Aug. 18-24 at the Rivergate. He is scheduled to speak at 9:45 a.m. Aug. 24.

Rogers, a 1943 West Point graduate, spent much of his early military service with the 70th Infantry Division, on the staff and faculty of the U.S. Military Academy and on the staff of the High Commission to Austria.

He accepted a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University following World War II and in the Korean War participated in two combat campaigns as the commander of an infantry battalion in the 2nd Infantry Division.

Rogers was the Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Commanding General of the 5th Infantry Division during the Vietnam War.

The 1978 convention is expecting more than 25,000 American Legionnaires and their families. Presiding over this year's convention will be Commander Robert Charles Smith of Springhill, La.

The American Legion has chosen the Crescent City for its National Convention two previous times in 1968 and 1972. Convention headquarters will be in the Hyatt Regency Hotel where most committee and commission meetings will be conducted and the convention's distinguished guests will be housed.

The convention will also honor the Dolese Co. of Oklahoma City and the Blackmon Oil Co. of Columbus, Ga., for their records of employment of veterans.

# • Sewer Fees

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needs of the parish and provide for the fairest sharing of costs among residences, businesses and industry.

Smolken said, for example, that fees for both single-family residences and commercial structures will average 1.2 percent of their construction costs.

Council Chairman James Donelon said the schedule was the "best that human beings could put together." Gerald Strugg, president of the New Orleans Homebuilders Association, and Don White, president of the Apartment Association of New Orleans, said their organizations supported the charges as being fair and equitable.

A different connection fee schedule was approved by the council in early May but was reconsidered the following week so that more consideration could be given the matter.

The original schedule would have charged \$380 for all single-family residences plus \$50 for each additional plumbing fixture in excess of eight. Apartments, hotels and motels would have been charged \$380 plus an additional \$50 for each fixture.

Donelon said that if the service charge and connection fees had not been enacted by the council, the EPA could have stopped the parish from issuing new building permits, could have sued the parish or taken criminal action against parish officials.

D&S Director Russo said each of the parish's sewer plants is operating under a separate permit from the EPA and that each plant is handling an excess amount of wastes allowed by those permits.

Russo added that the EPA has already issued an administrative order for the situation to be corrected and its next step would be to go to the U.S. Justice Department.

On another matter, the council, upon a resolution by Lloyd Giardina, voted to provide funds for the hiring of a consultant to conduct a master plan of the drainage needs of the West Bank area west of the Harvey Canal.

The firm of URS-Forrest and Cotton Inc. will conduct the study, which is expected to cost about \$500,000 and will provide a master plan to determine the needs of all future drainage needs in Drainage Districts One and Seven.

Giardina said the money could be borrowed from funds raised by the passage of a bond issue a couple of years ago for the relocation of the Ames pumping station. The councilman said the pumping station cannot be relocated until the master plan is completed anyway and that the bond money could be repaid through federal Revenue Sharing funds, unallocated sales taxes or through another bond issue.

Donelon said he feared borrowing the

bond money would jeopardize the passage of a future drainage bond issue because of voter reaction.

But Giardina said, "My constituents want and demand adequate drainage, and I don't know how I can tell them I can give it to them without this master plan. . . . If we present them with a good plan they won't turn down a new bond issue."

Donelon maintained that the use of Community Development Agency funds would be a better method to pay for the study and asked for one week's time to investigate whether CDA funds are available.

Giardina agreed after Donelon said he would vote for the resolution Wednesday if Giardina consented to his waiting a week to enact the matter so the availability of CDA funds could be checked.

In other action before the council:

- Russo agreed to check drainage problems in the 500 block of Lauricella after Dewey Marlow, 567 Lauricella, told the councilmen that raw sewage came out of the catch basins in his block after rainfalls. Marlow said even after last weekend's "normal heavy rain," he had three inches of water in his garage and that the problem had become a "serious health problem."

- A resolution by B.H. Miller was approved to instruct Barnard & Thomas engineers to prepare plans and specifications for the shoring up and reinforcing of the Hero Pumping Station, a job estimated to cost \$400,000.

- A Giardina resolution was approved instructing the Safety Department to not issue any building permits to the Continental Grain Elevator for new construction until all proper safety requirements are met by the plant.

- A 60-day moratorium on new alcoholic beverage permits for bars and lounges in Terrytown was imposed.

- Resolutions by Donelon to ban the use of profanity at council meetings and prohibiting the consumption of food and alcoholic beverages in the council chamber during meetings was deferred one week upon Donelon's request.

## Pools Open to Public Beginning Saturday

All New Orleans Recreation Department pools will be open Tuesday through Saturday beginning this Saturday. NORD Director Andrew Brown announced.

The public will be admitted to all pools free with the exception of the Whitney Young Memorial Pool in Audubon Park which has a \$1 fee.

## Arab Oil Company, CORE Join in Finance Project

NEW YORK (AP) — An Arab oil company has joined with the Congress of Racial Equality in an effort to recruit thousands of workers for the Middle East from Harlem and the South Bronx and to invest millions of dollars in new businesses in the two neighborhoods.

Sheik Hamzi Bedria, who heads Prudential International Commodities, Inc., based in Beirut, announced the program at a joint news conference with CORE in Harlem Wednesday.

He said the program — salaries and investment — would total up to \$40 million over an undetermined amount of time.

Roy Innis, national director of CORE, said Prudential's venture was sought and welcomed by the black community, and the capital would be put to work quickly. He said black communities in the city had sought foreign investment "after years of frustration with our own (U.S.) private and governmental institutions."

"Petro-dollars, free of the hesitation and strings of American private capital and the red tape of public funds, will be a stimulus to Harlem development and the effects will be felt throughout the black economy," said Innis.

Prudential will contract with CORE and Dennison Management, a community-based development and public relations organization, to operate the Harlem and South Bronx projects.

Sheik Bedria, Prudential board chairman and chief executive officer, said his company wanted to hire immediately 10,000 to 12,000 skilled and semiskilled laborers, such as carpenters and other construction workers. They would be hired on a contract

basis to work in the Mideast where the manpower does not exist, he said.

He said Prudential also was looking into the possibility of operating food-canning businesses in New York City and establishing "profit-making" housing in the city's poor areas.

## Minority Businessmen Get Tips on Organization

By THERESE L. MITCHELL

Approximately 50 small minority business people got some pointers Wednesday on how to keep their business operations organized.

"A small businessman has so many problems running his business he often doesn't have the time to organize it," Dr. Edward A. Mernin, co-founder of Achievement Potential Unlimited, said during a seminar at Mason's Hall of Fame Lounge on South Claiborne Ave.

Mernin, a chiropractor and successful businessman, said he hoped the presentation would get those in attendance to think of all the aspects of business — "the broad area of things that must be done to make an operation successful."

"After all, success is the bottom line in business."

Some of the basic elements Mernin pointed out as the necessary means of achieving success included setting goals, making plans, managing time, writing down ideas and following up on them.

The seminar, which was co-sponsored by the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, was a "motivational tool" for minority business people. James W. Lee Jr., vice-president of

the ICBO said.

He said one of the major problems of the minority business person is that "not enough of them realize the significance of self-motivation. Self-motivators are always successful."

Achievement Potential Unlimited, which is located at 1502 N. Causeway Blvd., in Metairie, is an organization that conducts self-improvement interaction seminars throughout the New Orleans area.

Lee said he felt Wednesday's presentation would be a good starting point for bringing the general motivational skills to minority business people.

ICBO is an organization which helps minorities to obtain financial assistance to start, expand and buy new businesses. It also functions as a source of information about particular businesses.

Along with pointing out the basics of business success, the seminar also dealt with the importance of keeping good business records and offered some tips on management.

Lee said the ICBO will continue with seminars holding seminars of both a general nature and to offer the minority business man help in solving particular problems.

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