

STATEMENT FOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 23, 1978

SUBJECT: South Middlesex News article dated October 17, 1978 entitled "Group support growing for more selectmen"

It is very apparent to this Board that the South Middlesex News article dated October 17, 1978 entitled "Group support growing for more selectmen" contains comments, supposedly made at the Committee on Town Administration meeting held on Monday, October 16, 1978, which were irresponsible. In my personal conversation with members of the Committee on Town Administration and in my questioning them on the same at their public meeting held on Tuesday, October 17, they denied that certain statements attributed to them were made as printed, specifically Selectmen's politicking on committee appointments, lack of action on construction of the joint Wayland-Sudbury sewerage treatment plant, and mismanagement on a Raytheon site plan. Likewise, from my personal conversation with representatives of the South Middlesex News I have learned that they stand on their statements and said statements have been verified in the notes of the reporter covering the meeting. Therefore, it is obvious that certain members of the Committee on Town Administration and the local press should resolve the validity and the origin of the above referenced statements.

Let it be said loud and clear that this Board of Selectmen does not intend to take the brunt of public statements by certain officials of the Town which are meaningless and have no validity. If there is a problem on any issue this Board will stand accountable. But there is no problem. Let us now review the facts.

On appointments by the Board of Selectmen - In the past seven years appointments by the Board of Selectmen, with limited exceptions in two or three cases, have been made on the recommendation of the Chairman of the existing boards or commissions, from the Talent Search Committee listing, or by joint election sessions. Review of the records in the Board of Selectmen's Office will verify this.

Raytheon Site Plan for expansion of an existing building and a parking lot - The Board of Selectmen held a preliminary meeting with representatives of Raytheon Company to discuss the proposed addition on January 9, 1978 at the request of Raytheon. Official review of the site plan by the Board of Selectmen took place on February 21, 1978 and approval of the same on February 27, 1978. The Executive Secretary met with Raytheon representatives to discuss the Raytheon site plan six months prior to its submission on two separate occasions. In addition, the Selectmen's Office organized, at Raytheon's request, a joint meeting with Town staff - Health Director, Building Inspector, Town Engineer, Town Counsel - and Raytheon's architects and engineers prior to the official presentation of the site plan. After approval of the site plan, Town Counsel's Office and the Executive Secretary worked closely with Raytheon on numerous occasions to implement the site plan. If anything the Board of Selectmen expedited approval of the Raytheon site plan and Raytheon praised the Board of Selectmen publicly for doing so on January 9, February 21 and February 27, 1978. If any delay resulted in implementing the Raytheon site plan it was an internal delay at Raytheon dealing with the submission of engineering data and plans by their architects to the Board of Health relative to an expanded septic system.

Wayland-Sudbury septic sludge disposal facility - On this issue the Board of Selectmen have continuously prodded the Operational Review Committee to get on with

the construction of the facility. Past Boards of Selectmen have expended countless hours bringing this facility to fruition, but since Town Meeting approval have only acted as a catalyst to expedite action by the Operational Review Committee. The delay in the construction of the joint Wayland-Sudbury facility is due in the most part to design standard changes required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. This delay will undoubtedly result in the Town's receiving approximately \$850,000 in federal funding for the ultimate construction.

These are the facts. There are, of course, more details and information that we could present and will make available to anyone interested at the Office of the Board of Selectmen or through a simple call to the Selectmen's Office.