The Vinyl Institute

A Division of The Society of The Plastics Industry, Inc.

May 18, 1990

TO: Vinyl Institute Pipe Resource Organization

RE: Good News From Chicago!!

As the enclosed article notes, the Chicago City Council approved May 16 a change to the city's building code that will allow for the use of PVC pipe in drain, waste and vent (DWV) applications in residential construction three stories or less. The proposal, which was approved 29-12, had been approved by the Council's Building Committee earlier this month.

Meredith

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Assistant Director

cc: R.T. Gottesman

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their 117-99 playoff victory Sec 4, pg 1.

White Sox 4, Orioles 2

Braves 4, Cubs 0

Inside

Family leave bill OKd

The Illinois Senate OKs a family leave bill that would require companies to allow workers 8 weeks of unpaid leave for child birth or family illness. Sec. 2, pg. 1.

First Chicago debit card

First Chicago offers a combination debit and automatic teller card tied to its customers' checking accounts. In Business.

Unlikely combos

Beyond nouvelle cuisine—that's where our most adventurous chefs are headed when mixing unique tastes. In Food Guide.



Manic for morels

Poor crop of morels didn't dampen spirits of these intrepid hunters. In Food Guide.

Attacking the asteroids

An asteroid heads for Earth. Nations team up against it. The planet is saved. No, not a movie plot—an idea for a plan. Page 5.

$70 billion for E. Germany

Leaders of West German states approve a $70 billion investment in East Germany as a prelude to unification. Page 13.

Shawnee's tangled woods

Environmentalists are pitted against the government over timber cutting in the Shawnee National Forest. In Tempo.

Overnight

Picture-perfect dinner

A Monet-like dinner serves as a fundraiser for the Art Institute's junior museum, and local singer Denise Tomasello shows she's a cabaret old hand. Page 26.

Weather

CHICAGO AND VICINITY: Thursday: Partly cloudy, chance for afternoon showers; high near 66 degrees. Thursday night: Clearing; low near 43. Friday: Partly cloudy, mild; high near 65. The national weather report is on Sec. 2, pg. 7.

Senate OKs ne

City bends on use of plastic pipe

By Robert Davis and John Kass

The modified use of plastic plumbing pipe in residential housing of three stories or less was approved Wednesday by the Chicago City Council after a more than decade-long fight by union officials and labor-friendly aldermen, who claimed the material is dangerous and substandard.

Chicago was the last major U.S. city to prohibit plastic pipe.

Ald. Thomas Cullerton (38th), who has been the most vocal opponent of plastic pipe in home construction since it was proposed by former Mayor Jane Byrne, continued his fight to the end, describing the less-expensive plastic pipe as "garbage," capable of giving off toxic fumes in a fire.

But allies of Mayor Richard Daley and some normally hostile minority aldermen who believe the use of plastic would reduce home costs in their housing-short wards joined forces for a 29-12 vote to change the city's building code.

The end of the long battle included some compromise with the unions, who had a close political relationship with Daley's father, Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Under the ordinance, which opponents say will cost plumbers jobs and money, plastic pipe would be allowed in non-commercial housing of three floors or less for waste and drain water, but not incoming water pipes.

In addition, Daley forces dropped a companion plan to allow the use of less-costly, Romex-coated electrical conduit instead of metal-covered wiring. Romex is a plasticlike product that has been opposed by unions

See Pipe, pg. 22



Baker in Moscow for arms talk

U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III (left) and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard

Madigan out to

Speaker seeks to keep accou

By Thomas Hardy
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) has enlisted the aid of the Illinois Bar Association as part of a move to orchestrate a court challenge aimed at keeping the so-called Tax Accountability Amendment off the November ballot.

Opponents of the politically sensitive referendum measure, which if passed by voters would require a three-fifths majority vote by the General Assembly to raise taxes, are e suit sometime thi lenging the const the proposed ame state constitution.

Although that volves only state t was set Wedn showdown in the local property tax

The Senate, in tory for Republica al candidate Jim E ted his proposal increases in prop at 5 percent or th tion, whichever is

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Bush pushes Nicaragua, Panam

in a Marietta motel since its two-

eight-month U.S. tour.

Pipe

Continued from page 1

on safety and quality grounds.

The council action put in place the third part of a Daley package to revamp the building code. The creation of a building code enforcement bureau and another measure requiring that landlords of buildings with four units or less register with the city were passed last month.

In the long-running pipe controversy, Byrne's attempt to relax the city code failed after plumbing and electrical-contractors union officials launched a publicity campaign condemning the use of plastic, even though most other major cities and Chicago suburbs had allowed it for years.

Another attempt to relax the building code came under the Harold Washington administration and, at one point, was approved by the council's Buildings Committee.

However, when the measure reached the full council, it was sent back to committee by some of Washington's allies and remained dormant until Daley took office.

Although Daley and others contend the use of plastic will encourage low-cost housing construction, Cullerton remained unconvinced.

"This is another effort by the petroleum industry to break the building code in Chicago," he said Wednesday.

Cullerton claimed the substitution of plastic pipe for cast iron or copper would only save about $600 in a $60,000 home.

Other aldermen, however, cheered the vote.

"I'm not for catering to the unions. The unions be damned," said Ald. Anna Langford (16th), who declared the need for low-cost housing development in her South Side ward was more important than the demands of unions.

In an attempt to mock those who said plastic piping is unsafe, Ald. Ed Smith (28th) brought in a cardboard box of plastic objects, including condiment bottles, toothpaste tubes and syrup and orange juice containers, that he said were household fixtures that are not subject to safety bans.

Cullerton countered that Smith's display was "garbage" and that plastic plumbing pipe falls into the same category.

The council also approved an agreement under which the historic Harris and Selwyn Theaters in the North Loop would be turned over to the Goodman Theatre in an effort to revitalize the downtown entertainment district.

The two theaters, which were renamed the Michael Todd and the Cinestage in the late 1950s, showed movies until they were closed in the 1980s.

In announcing the agreement with the theater property owners, Ald. Edward Burke (14th) noted that actress Elizabeth Taylor, owner of the site, has retained the air rights over the property and could conceivably construct a high-rise over the theaters.

In other council action:

● Daley introduced an ordinance that would set aside at least 2 percent of the street parking spaces in the downtown area for disabled motorists as part of a plan to increase access for the disabled.

The council also passed a resolution urging the Chicago Board of Education to guarantee that all public school facilities be made more accessible to persons with handicaps.

● The mayor introduced an ordinance that would set up a special staging area on Waveland Avenue near Wrigley Field to allow buses to load and unload directly at the ballpark. There would a $40 fee to use the area, Daley said.

Buses not needing direct access to the ballpark would be allowed to load and unload without a special fee at a more distant site on Irving Park Road.

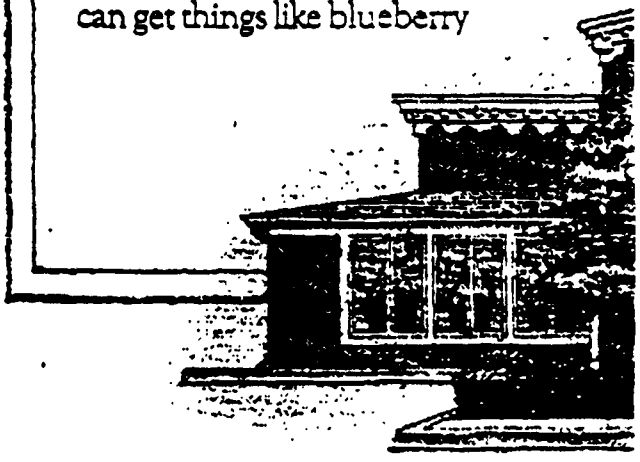
The proposal is another move to placate residents of the Wrigleyville neighborhood, who have repeatedly complained about traffic congestion in their community during Cubs games.

● Daley introduced his first seven selections for the new Board of Education. The mayor has promised to name the remaining eight nominees later this year. They all must be approved by the council before they can replace the interim board.

● Daley used his appointment power to fill a vacancy on the board of the Chicago Community Trust, naming his brother William to the charitable foundation.



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