

COUNTY AFFAIRS

No Town Hall

The past year has been a hard one for grim & grizzled old Franklin Felix Nicola, who two decades ago startled Pittsburgh with his brilliant development of Schenley Farms as a residential sector, his genius in helping organize the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in selling it the ground for its clubhouse.

Few months ago realtor Nicola was convicted on charges of Federal income tax evasion (which conviction he has appealed). Friday of last week his hopes that the county would be forced to pay him the helpful sum of \$1,100,000 for the Oakland town hall site he "sold" to the former board of commissioners were well-nigh blasted. State Supreme Court denied a petition to reverse the decision of Common Pleas Court, which refused the Schenley Land Company a mandamus forcing the county to go through with its contract to purchase the town hall acreage bounded by Fifth Avenue, Ruskin Avenue, Bigelow Boulevard and Tennyson Avenue.

Victorious again, Chairman of Commissioners Charles C. McGovern could well afford to sit back & wait for realtor Nicola to make his next move. From the first, when he was a one-man minority on the board, Chairman McGovern opposed erection of a town hall, few months ago declared town hall would not be built no matter what the courts might decide. Pleased too were Schenley district residents who were horrified at the very thought of a town hall with its usual crowd of heelers & hangers-on being plumped down near their well-kept homes.

His opening gambits having won nothing, brought him dismal failure, only move left for realtor Nicola is one of despe-

ration: a suit in Common Pleas Court, demanding payment of the purchase price. Before it sues, Nicola would have to claim with County Controller Robert G. Woodside, submit hearings, which would investigate for any fraud in the Nicola-county agreement. (a preliminary formality.) With clean bill of health from the Controller, realtor Nicola could

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