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The Landmarks of Federal Hill: The Pushcart Struggle 1930-1942 (Part IV)

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The Pushcart Struggle
1930-1942

PART IV

During the writing of these articles, in some instances, the names of some of the persons involved have not been used so as to protect the identity of the families, who, in some instances, still survive them; however, this series is a result of material that has been researched in the newspaper articles which appeared in the Providence Journal, the Providence Evening Bulletin, and the Star Tribune, from 1938 to 1941.

With the vagueness of Mayor Daume's remarks that "he would take the vendors' plight under advisement," and offering no concrete plan or solution to their immediate problem of the possibility of losing their only livelihood, the vendors, pending hearings before the Police and Fire Bureau, took on their immediate problem of money for the vendors received a remittance January 26th. An even greater significance, and preparations for this hearing were immediately started.

An impassioned plea for the vendors was given. Domenic Mauriello, principal Italian speaker at the protest rally held in Federal Hill, was shown shouting, "Before election the Alderman was friend, now he seeks to ruin your business." Other speakers followed and they gave the Alderman "the works."

Fifteen hundred peddlers and their sympathizers gathered the night before the hearing and all but decried the Alderman for his attempt to move the vendors from Balbo Avenue. Albert A. Sororio, counsel for the vendors, is shown shouting, "Before election the Alderman was friend, now he seeks to ruin your business." Other speakers followed and they gave the Alderman "the works."