

City Manager Delivers Budget Message

Salem's proposed budget was outlined by City Manager Kent Mathewson before 150 persons at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Marion Hotel Monday. The full text of the talk, which was distributed to the audience in booklet form, was as follows:

An old quotation says: "Where there is no vision the people perish." The life expectancy of a child born today in Salem is twice as long as a child born in many parts of the world. The picture of our new health administration building with a modern hospital in the background is a symbol of this situation. Yet there is much room for improvement.

1. Dental Health. The teeth of Salem's children are twice as bad as the national average. Here the average boy or girl has 10.7 teeth decayed, filled or missing as against 3.6 nationally. Only half of our children in this community have had correction. Our citizens have conscientiously studied and debated this problem—yet no solution has been found. To the average mother who knows that dental bills are one of her biggest items of household expense—there will be no satisfaction until the proper answer is forthcoming.

Sewage Problem

2. Sanitation. In the medieval cities of Europe raw sewage was dumped in open ditches and seeped in the streets. That same condition exists today in the city of Salem, and in more than 100 isolated instances. We are dumping thousands of gallons of raw sewage daily during several months of each year in an open ditch that flows through the heart of our city. We need but take a Sunday afternoon drive to see sewage seeping from faulty septic tanks flowing down our streets while children hop and skip to keep their feet dry. Front or back yards are quagmires in half a hundred locations in the city. Public sewers must be brought to all sections of the city.

3. Mental health. Over one half of the 713 persons from Marion County admitted to the Oregon State (Mental) Hospital last year were from Salem—yet we have less than half of the population. Lane county to our south had 30 per cent less admissions and Multnomah to the north 50 per cent less. Perhaps a high admission rate is not all bad because part of this is voluntary. But it demands full attention to the need for a sound state of community mental hygiene, the absence of which reflects itself in juvenile delinquency, divorce courts, jails, school costs, and unemployment, as well as in admissions to the mental hospital. Our health department can aid materially in correcting this problem at the source so that it will not progress to the mental hospital.

Chronic Ailments

4. Preventable deaths. Deaths from chronic illnesses such as cancer and heart disease can be considerably reduced in Salem. Persons also die or are crippled each year needlessly from communicable diseases such as polio and diphtheria. Periodic heart and cancer examinations in industry or groups, increased immunizations for polio and diphtheria and widespread health education is the answer.

5. Mosquito control. Though less dangerous, mosquito control in Salem is far from being unimportant, and accordingly additional spraying equipment is provided for in the budget. That malaria is endemic here, that mosquitoes cause encephalitis, that sleep and emotional stress makes this a community health problem to be attacked with vigor.

Services rendered solely within the city to city citizens (exclusive of the school program) by the Marion County Health Department will cost \$75,000 next year. \$28,000 or 48 per cent of this amount will be paid by the county from taxes collected within the city. \$21,000 or 43 per cent of the cost will come from this Salem budget with the remaining 10 per cent derived from state and federal sources. It is well that the health program is carried on by the county because germs move freely in either direction past city limits. Whether the percentage of cost borne directly by the city is too little or too great—it seems apparent that the total amount of money available is insufficient to do the job of saving lives and health that could be performed.

Added Sewers

Funds have been included in this budget to bring trunk sewers to serve the Park Avenue area between Market and Center Streets and the newly annexed adjacent properties, thereby making it possible for all land to be served by sanitary sewers within that east side area. This budget further provides for replacing the Cross Street sewer line from 10th Street to the east end of Oxford Street which will materially reduce the amount of raw sewage that now flows into Shelton Ditch during certain times of the year. This will put us in a position to complete the job as soon as additional funds are available.

There will be other sections of the city that cannot be reached next year that are distressingly in need of sewer service. The reason for this becomes apparent when we see that next year's sewer revenue is calculated to be \$317,000 which is \$22,000 less than the \$339,000 projected sewer expenditures. Even though part of this expenditure is for capital outlay it is questioned whether the sewer utility should be subsidized from property taxes as we are now doing. The mayor and council are urged to consider whether sewer con-

struction should be speeded and fully paid for from sewer revenue by issuing sewer revenue bonds or increasing sewer service charges to fully meet operating and construction costs.

Safe Community

Salem is a safe and morally sound community. This is being achieved through the cooperative efforts of our churches; civic organizations; police, fire, first aid, civil defense and building inspection departments; the citizens advisory traffic council, our courts and the school safety and citizenship programs.

Our fire defenses are good and our ratings are high by national and regional standards. As our city grows older and larger we will have to continually increase our attention to inspection and prevention services. Our system of using our firefighters for inspection purposes has allowed us to operate with a minimum size prevention division. Even so, the two man prevention division is rapidly becoming inadequate. However, no additional funds have been provided next year. Also, it would be desirable to start a truck replacement reserve in the fire department but this seems fiscally impossible as the 6 per cent tax limitation is inadequate to meet even normal demands of the city brought about by growth and price increases. One of our trucks is now 26 years old and soon will have to be replaced through a special millage levy of \$30,000.

Training of Police

Increased emphasis is being placed on training in the police department. Our courts are dedicated to the needs of this community. Salem is not a city of crime and vice—in fact it is the opposite. We have, however, had an increase in petty larceny and robbery. Additional funds are provided in this budget for our detective division in order to better cope with this situation. Increased petty larceny goes hand in hand with juvenile delinquency. Correction here starts in the home. Parents should spend more time with their children and offer full assistance to school officials. Public behavior goes beyond the police department and courts. Salem has adequate church buildings. By a low church attendance record, by religious participation by the entire family means much to any community.

Funds have been included for a heating inspector in anticipation of city council enacting a heating code. This is an outgrowth of the mayor's citizens committee, who investigated last year's explosion that demolished a house and severely injured its occupants. The other phases of building inspection, including plumbing and wiring are presently covered by modern safety codes.

One of Salem's most serious safety hazards is our many railroad crossings. Major strides were made last year with the 12th Street improvement. Traffic accidents have been steadily declining in Salem over the past few years but we have a long way to go. We are the first city in the Northwest to adopt radar to assist in controlling speeds on our streets. The citizens advisory traffic council is meeting regularly and doing much to improve the day to day driving conditions in Salem. Their work is unappreciated but none the less effective. The time is rapidly approaching when Salem will have to employ a full time traffic engineer. It is regretted that funds could not be provided in this budget. It is hoped that our schools will soon be able to expand their driver education program and that parents will discourage the unusual practice here of children playing in the streets.

Our civil defense program is in capable hands and the more than three mercy calls a day made by the first aid crew are strong statements in Salem's safety program. The mayor and council are requested to give thought to a future public safety building to serve as a central headquarters for our police and fire departments and related services. Some day Salem will need a new City Hall. A decision should be made as to whether it will be built on the site of the present City Hall or at some other location. If it is to be at a different location it could be built in stages with the public safety building being the first unit or wing. The first step would be to acquire the site. The present police quarters are overcrowded and the patrol locker room and jail are inadequate. The space in the present City Hall made available by locating the police and fire headquarters in a new building, could be very effectively used to accommodate growth of remaining offices and to house some of the offices not now in the City Hall. This would result in savings in several ways.

Need Industries

New industry spells jobs and increased buying power. Exciting words—tempered by the realization that no community deserves new industry unless it gives equal attention to existing industry. To attract additional or retain existing industry and business we must have a progressive city reflected in the adequacy of its streets, water and sewer utilities, planning and zoning agency, schools, airport, internal management and its employees.

Our network of city streets are the arteries of commerce and represent one of our citizens' largest investments. The maintenance, cleaning, lighting and marking of the streets, bridges and drainage ways will cost \$365,000 next year. \$4,000 alone will be spent on resurfacing to protect our investment and keep them in good condition. New street and storm drain con-

struction of particular interest recommended for next year is State Street widening, 17th Street expansion and Washington School drainage. The sum of \$25,000 for our one-fourth share to widen State Street to four lanes from 12th Street eastward to the city limits has been included. The state and federal governments would contribute the other \$75,000. It is believed that the state and federal governments will require that parking be removed in order to provide four lanes from 17th Street to the city limits. If this is not deemed advisable and we choose to forego the \$75,000 state and federal grant, we could use our \$25,000 to widen the street to four lanes from 12th to 17th.

An item of \$22,500 has been provided to purchase right-of-way and grade and rock the extension of 17th Street through the Fairgrounds to Silverton Road. The curbing and paving of the street could be budgeted the following year so that the street would be

luxury for our capital city. A control tower and an addition to the administration and a passenger building seem essential. The public has declined to vote bonds for this purpose and yet there seems to be no other means of financing them. The most pressing of the many improvement needs at the airport is the completion of the north taxiway. Its present condition is dangerous and is daily becoming worse. An estimated \$804 has been included in the budget in the hope that the federal government will furnish an additional \$11,196 in order that this work can be done this summer.

The proposed airport expenditure is \$23,000 which is \$2,000 less than normal anticipated airport revenue. It is difficult to make the airport self supporting but projected revenues have been increased by \$2,000 beyond normal expectations. This envisions a 10 per cent increase in rents and charges. It is recommended that the citizens advisory airport com-

mission be requested to study the proposal. The business concerns at the airport should go as far as possible in its support.

Overhaul of Budget

The budget document before you represents a complete overhaul of our budget system incorporating the most modern thinking in budgetary control. In the past year the city organization has been reviewed to eliminate unnecessary functions, clarify organizational lines, improve cooperation, invest temporarily idle funds and reduce borrowing. The good response has resulted in a tightening up of the organization all the way down the line. The job is not complete.

If one need were listed above all others in developing a progressive community it would be to strengthen the city's personnel program. Most business men have long ago learned that cheap help is the most expensive, that trained and satisfied employees are our best asset and that high turnover is very costly. Public employment is no different.

An eight point personnel plan is urgently recommended:

1. Complete no later than this July 1st the adjustment of department head salaries that was completed a year ago.
2. Draw a workable classification and step increase wage plan for all employees to be completed and take effect not later than February 1st.
3. Provide a city expense hospitalization and doctors insurance for all employees with twelve months continuous service to take effect this July 1st.

Accrue Sick Leave

4. Formulate our sick and vacation leave policy to allow permanent employees to accrue sick leave at the rate of one day per month cumulative to ninety days and vacation leave at the rate of one day per month cumulative to eighteen days.

5. Study the costs and feasibility of developing a retirement plan for all permanent employees.

6. Increase our entrance employment standards and improve our recruitment methods.

7. Publish an employee handbook.

8. Provide greater training opportunities for our employees.

The state government is granting stable salary increases for its employees and the county is considering raises for theirs. We are in competition with both public and private employers. It is essential that we provide reasonable personnel standards for city employees. The sum of \$12,500 has been included in this budget for hospital and doctors insurance. \$20,000 has been tentatively earmarked to finance department head and employee salary adjustments expected to result from the installation of the classification and step wage plan.

ment—the others are for the necessities of urban living that of course must come first.

More for Parks

The recommended Park Department budget has been increased by \$6,500 while the Recreation budget remains virtually the same. Proposed improvements of interest are: (a) the furnishing of facilities at the new north end playground on River Road, (b) providing tennis courts at the south end Fairmount play area, (c) construction of a playfield on the east side of Walker and 25th and (d) making further improvements on the west side at Joseph H. Albert-Paul B. Wallace Willamette Memorial Park. This budget assigns street tree maintenance as well as park tree maintenance to the park department. Every effort should be made to safeguard Salem's trees.

The citizens' park advisory board believes that our park acquisition and improvement needs are greater than can possibly be met from normal budget appropriations. Accordingly they have recommended that a special bond election be called at an early date in the amount of \$475,000. A special joint City-School swimming pool committee is considering recommending that a special election be held as soon as possible to raise \$180,000. They tentatively propose a dual one mill two-year serial levy in order that our two outdoor swimming pools (Olinger and Leslie) may be reconstructed so that they will not have to be closed. Should the election pass, one mill would be added to Salem city taxes and one mill to School District 24 CJ taxes for a two year period. It seems essential that the pools be kept open and therefore it is recommended that the mayor and council join in calling such an election as soon as the necessary legal steps be taken.

The proposed \$475,000 park election is too broad to discuss here. However, general comments can be made with respect to its three major breakdowns. An estimated \$175,000 would be for improvements to present park areas. The improvements would be extensive and very worthwhile—of particular interest and value is the piping of Clarke Creek through Bush's Pasture. And \$225,000 is suggested for land acquisition for future parks. While study should be given to the areas proposed for acquisition, additional park land should be bought while it is available. The sum of \$75,000 would be to acquire land for a municipal golf course. It is pointed out that the farm income from this land could be set aside for the future construction of the course. While a municipal course is desirable, it seems that careful review should be given this item when money is so badly needed for our airport, schools, sewers or a police-fire headquarters site. In any event, it is recommended that some portion, if not all, of the proposed park bond issue be voted on at the same date of the swimming pool election.

Library Branch

The proposed budget includes \$6,450 to establish a branch library in West Salem. The library would be housed in the old West Salem city hall. The appropriation is sufficient to meet salary expenses and to refinish and provide furniture for the rooms. An additional \$4,000 will be needed for the purchase of new books. It is hoped that donations and the assistance of our civic clubs will meet this need.

An item of less than a thousand dollars has been included to assist the Salem Art Association in making repairs and improvements to the Bush House Museum. Their excellent management of this worthwhile city property is gratifying. Our assistance should be in keeping with the steadily increasing and diversified use of the house by the public.

With the city's growth and rising prices it is very difficult to operate within the statutory 11 per cent tax limitation. Regardless of how high our property valuations, population or prices may jump, our general fund property tax levy can be increased not more than six per cent of the previous year's levy. It is diverted from rapidly changing conditions—either up or down. This year's 6 per cent will yield an additional \$30,000. Due to predicted reduced valuations on downtown business property (real and personal) and utility property it is estimated that our millage may be up two mills next year.

Emergency Fund

If expenditure reductions can be made in this budget or if the State Legislature grants the cities an increased share of the liquor revenue, it is recommended that such money be placed in the general fund emergency account. This fund, which is entirely too little to meet the contingencies and unforeseen needs that will arise during the year.

It is suggested that the mayor and council appoint a committee of representative business men to review our business license tax structure. By correcting its inequities the yield could be increased several thousand dollars a year bringing us more nearly in line with other cities.

As reported elsewhere action is needed to make our airport and sewer utilities more nearly self supporting. These several things seem important so that we may continue to hold taxes down to the 6 per cent limitation and still meet the needs of a growing community. Next year's recommended budget represents careful thought. It is difficult to cover such a wide

field without placing too much emphasis in one place or too little in another. The budget committee, of course, is free to accept or reject the accompanying budget in part or in whole. Careful consideration of the budget by the committee and the public at large is urged in order that the final document may represent the best thinking of all. The manager is indebted to the personnel of each department for their cooperative assistance in the preparation of the budget and especially to Mr. Howard D. Brandvold, finance director, for his untiring efforts in this connection.

Our management team at City Hall in working to help build a healthy, safe, progressive and attractive community is grateful to the civic clubs and organizations and especially to our excellent Chamber of Commerce, private utilities and banks. The citizens of Salem by the part they play in 1957-58 will be meeting the challenge contained in the last sentence of the Athenian Oath reproduced on the cover. "We will transmit this city, not only not less, but greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

Demos, GOP Argue Hells Canyon Costs

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—Democrats and Republicans in the Senate Interior Committee disagreed today over whether a federal Hells Canyon Dam or three private power company dams would be the bigger burden on the taxpayers.

Majority and minority reports were released on legislation to authorize a federal project in the Hells Canyon stretch of the Snake River bordering Idaho and Oregon which would flood the sites of three dams to be built by the Idaho Power Co. under a Federal Power Commission license.

The committee, with a Democratic majority, has approved the bill. Senate debate is expected soon on the measure, which is similar to one that was defeated by a 10-vote margin in the Senate last year.

Majority Report

The majority report said the \$460,500,000 Hells Canyon project, along with related works, "will cost the taxpayers of the United States nothing" because the construction costs would be fully repaid by power sales.

The minority report—bearing the names of Sens. Watkins (R-Utah), Dvorshak (R-Idaho), Barrett (R-Wyo) and Goldwater (R-Ariz)—declared the legislation "would represent an unnecessary out-of-treasury expenditure or a struggle to reduce the budget so that inflation can be halted and debt and tax reductions granted."

The majority report, which was not signed, said it would be greatly in the interest of government economy "to authorize the federal dam because Idaho Power Co. is being 'subsidized' by the government. The minority denied the company is getting any 'subsidy.'"

Several Pages

The majority report devoted several pages to discussion of the recent granting by the Office of Defense Mobilization of accelerated tax amortization certificates to the Idaho Power Co. in connection with two of its dams.

The certificates will permit Idaho Power to write off in five years, as depreciation for income tax purposes, a portion of the cost of Oshaw and Brownlee dams, theoretically the higher-than-usual depreciation deduction in the five-year period will be offset by lower-than-usual deductions later in the lives of the projects, with the result that all taxes will be paid.

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Hollow Lock Hides Keys



D. A. Williams, Salem real estate appraiser, demonstrates the "portable vault" which he invented for safekeeping of keys to unoccupied houses for sale and other small valuables. The hollow padlock clamps to door handles or pipes.

A former Salem real estate dealer who didn't like to carry a pocketful of keys when he showed houses has invented a device for keeping the keys safe at the houses.

The inventor, D. A. Williams of 1055 Schurman Dr., says many other uses can be found for his "portable vault." He suggests that jewelry and currency be kept in it when sleeping in hotels. The device is simple. It is a hollow padlock. When the shackle is unlocked, the chamber inside the lock is also opened. The invention was announced Monday by J. T. Anderson, Salem coordinator of inventors.

Williams said his device differs from others in use to keep keys on vacant premises for the convenience of real estate salesmen in that it can be attached like a padlock to fences, faucets, door knobs or staples.

He said he has made about 1,000 of them with one part-time helper in the past eight months. Now with a patent he has ordered \$2,500 worth of dies and equipment and is planning to make 1,000 a month in a converted barn next door to his home.

Williams said he has invented several other things but this is the first one he has patented. The one he recalls with regret is the electric fence which he believes to have been the first. He said he built several of them in Nebraska but it was during the depression of the 1930s and he didn't have money enough to patent it or to continue production. By the time things picked up for him similar fences were on the market.

Police said he confessed to seizing the girl on her way to school, driving her to a secluded spot, and attempting to attack her sexually.

Police said he told this story and later re-nected the crime. She screamed and he choked her. She fainted, and a pathologist later said she may have died. Davies told police he next carried her into a wooded tract and stabbed her repeatedly with the screwdriver. There was no evidence she had been sexually attacked.

Davies was picked up in a check of known sex offenders.

Sex Offender Confesses to Slaying Girl

BRISTOL, Conn., May 20 (AP)—A good-looking, slightly-built sex offender confessed today to the week-old slaying of blonde third-grader Brenda Jane Doucette.

George J. Davies, 30, of nearby Thomaston, was unshaven and his striped shirt hung out of his baggy pants as he led police to a culvert where they found the girl's dinner pail, and another culvert where they found the screwdriver he said he used to stab her 22 times.

Davies, a father of three, was divorced by his wife in 1953, while he was serving a prison term for molesting two little girls. He lived with his parents, and police said he hadn't been employed for months. He was held on a corner's warrant.

Legislature Said Demo Fiasco

PORTLAND, May 20 (AP)—Republican Sen. Anthony Yturri of Multnomah County said in a speech read here today the 1957 legislative session was the "greatest Democratic fiasco ever presented in this state."

He and two other GOP legislators, Sens. Phil Lowry of Jackson County and Warren Gill of Linn County, were scheduled to speak at a Multnomah County Republican Club meeting. But Gill notified the club that all three senators "did not dare leave for fear of some last-minute Democratic maneuver in the closing hours of the session."

Yturri's speech was read by Dwight L. Schwab, chapter president. He said: "The Democrats are endeavoring to swallow their feeling of frustration and helplessness by pointing to the session as a tremendous success. If the truth were known, I suspect that most of the Democrats in this state regard this session and the governor's leadership of it with shame and embarrassment."

Comments GOP

He commended Republican legislators saying: "I am prepared to declare categorically that had it not been for the Republican legislators that our state would have been one step closer to a form of government which we all despise. We have all witnessed during the past four months a concentrated Democratic drive for centralized power in Oregon."

Of Gov. Robert Holmes, he said: "I think he knew that his program, which was ridiculous at the inception, was destined to ignominious defeat. He had nothing to offer. He had no initiative. He had no originality, no resourcefulness. He had no decisive policies. He had no power of persuasion and above all he had no quality of leadership. He had only indecision, a sense of frustration and incompetency."

Children Sacrificed

The governor and the Democrats, he said, "sacrificed the children of our state and the local school districts because they were afraid their tax program might get off balance." And he said the governor's plan to abolish the state Board of Control was a "dream for concentration of power and paying off political debts."

Like Predicts Success for Red Cross

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—President Eisenhower told the American Red Cross today he believes it will weather the crisis of disaster-depleted finances and emerge even stronger.

He said he was sure the Red Cross—like the nation as a whole—can be confident of meeting any challenge with which it is faced. The President, in an extemporaneous speech at the opening of the Red Cross 32nd annual convention, said the expenditure of \$50 million dollars for disaster and Hungarian refugee relief in the past two years "passed a terrific problem" for the Red Cross.

But, he said it "can be surmounted. The American people will respond." If the story is carried to the people, he said "I believe that 50 million dollars will be restored rapidly."

"Both the nation and the Red Cross can look forward to the future with confident ability" that "we can measure up to the challenge the future poses," he said.

They have weathered many a crisis and have "emerged stronger" as a result, he added.

Noting that his longtime associate, Gen. Lucius Clay, has been selected to head the 1958 Red Cross fund-raising campaign, the President added: "I assure you that if there is 50 million dollars left in the country to find, he'll find it."

Clay, now board chairman of Continental Can Co., takes over the fund-raising post from H. M. Buras, president of Shell Oil Co.

Rebels Lose Teamster Tiff at Spokane

SPOKANE, Wash., May 20 (AP)—Rebel members of Teamsters 104 lost their court fight today to oust the regular officers and gain control of the union here.

Superior Judge Joseph Wicks held that the dissidents haven't exhausted all the remedies in the union's constitution to settle their differences with the incumbents.

He dissolved temporary orders won by the rebels earlier, restraining regular officers from managing union affairs and placing records of the local in custody of a bank.

The judge's decision also ended, temporarily at least, efforts of the dissident group, to gain recognition for their own slate of officers, elected after a stormy union meeting last month.

Rumblings Start

Rumblings within the Spokane local started after A. J. Ruhl, the veteran secretary-treasurer, instituted before the Senate committee on rockets in labor and industry that he loaned some \$20,000 of union money to gamblers and tavern owners.

Gordon Lake, an attorney hired by some 250 rebel members of the 3,000-member local, told the judge earlier that the "internal remedies" for solving the problem within the union were worthless.

He contended that regular officers accused of misconduct would be in the position of judging themselves.

Sam Bassett, an attorney for the regular officers, said there are definite procedures in the Teamsters' constitution to solve grievances. Until all these procedures have been exhausted, he said, the court had no authority under the law.

Not Contrary to Law

The judge, commenting on allegations that the union by-laws were "unreasonable," said they "may be" but that they contained nothing "contrary to the fundamental law of the land."

The dissidents won the temporary restraining orders from superior Judge Hugh Evans. Judge Wicks was called in to preside as a visiting judge from Okanogan County at the show cause hearing on whether the orders should be made permanent.

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