

Civic Center

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and attractive grouping of public buildings, to assure a complete site for both immediate and long-range development; to coordinate the current intergovernmental needs which create a long-range opportunity for a public development; to stimulate, simultaneously, parking alleviation, traffic alleviation, and park development; and to reconstruct the heart of Eugene as befits its strategic location on the main Pacific Coast highway and at the center of the Willamette Valley. . . .

FLXIBLE SCHEME

favoring the plan, the commission report explained that a flexible scheme for the city is as necessary in private business as in public. With the city committing itself to precise goals which cannot be foreseen in the indefinite future, the city should adopt a general scheme into which present and future needs can be harmoniously fitted.

The plan, according to the commission, "is not a blueprint for particular buildings but merely a guarantee there will be a place for them when needed."

The remainder of the report contained further explanations of advantages in traffic circulation through the area, its natural setting for full development and central location for the entire region.

TITLE DISCUSSION

There was little discussion of the plan after the report was read. A few changes were made in the wording, and several comments were made.

Chairman Hamlin, who is a member of the commission's public buildings committee, said he doesn't want the city council to "dump" its responsibility in their laps without planning for acquisition and land requirements.

Other members agreed that the report is just the approval of the overall plan, and one suggested that this is a chance to where the city council meets. If the council gives its approval, they agreed, then further specific study can be given. The report will go to the city council for consideration at its next meeting on Monday, Oct. 11.

PLANE FACTS

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—The U.S. Air Force's new swept-wing jet-bomber, the Republic Thunderbolt, uses 560 different metal forgings and castings. The smallest is about the size of a pin of needles, the largest is 10 feet long.

Boards Blame County

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and will not pay any taxes whatsoever.

"Since 1952, sixteen new subdivisions have been opened up, making a total of forty-six. The assessor's office reports that building permits show that, in the first seven months of this year, there were 156 new constructions. He estimates that that number will be doubled by the end of the year. Of these 312 new constructions, some will be for additions and improvements only. But a conservative estimate is that there will be at least 200 new houses. The actual value of these houses will average \$6,000; some less, some more. Property is presently assessed at one-fourth its true value; an average of \$2,000 for each house. Two hundred houses at \$2,000 gives an increase in valuation in this district, for the purpose of taxation, of \$400,000.

"We felt duty bound, as your directors, to do everything possible to get all this property on the tax roll, so that each owner would be taxed his fair share and no more. As long as some property pays no taxes at all, other property must pay more than its share to make up for it.

"Several conferences have been held with both the assessor's office and with the Board of County Commissioners.

"The 'Summary of Budget' issued by the Commissioners June 28, shows that the assessor's budget for 1954-55 was reduced \$17,240 from what it was in 1953-54. Following this, the number of appraisers working out of that office was reduced from ten to seven. The assessor says that the State Tax Commission recommended a minimum of 15 to keep the appraisal work on a current basis. He says further that, with only seven appraisers, it is impossible to get more than 50 per cent of new construction on the tax roll. In reply to a specific question, he said that all the property in this district could be put on the roll at a cost of \$750. (An extra appraiser for two months at \$325 a month, with \$100 for extra office help).

"In conferring with the commissioners, we urged that the sudden and unexpected growth in this area justifies the allotment of \$750 from the \$100,000 emergency fund, as a means of remedying the situation for the time being. Their decision was in the negative.

"Their reasons boil down to these: (1) The assessor now has a sufficient staff to put all, or nearly all, property on the tax roll, if businesslike and efficient methods were used. (2) If an allotment were made to get the

property of this area appraised, the same would have to be done for the whole county. (3) They hope to get the problem ironed out for the future through cooperation with the State Tax Commission.

"The assessor denies inefficiency, and cites examples to the contrary. He says that the State Tax Commission and the Legis-

Tax Battle

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"If we hired anyone, he would have to work for the whole county and not just in one locality. We can't favor any one area."

"When the budget committee made its decision, it was the understanding that the county is going into the reappraisal program and that emphasis this year should be placed just on picking up construction," Nielsen said.

The commissioner said that the \$400,000 estimate on the amount of property not on the water and fire districts' rolls is just a "shotgun guess and can't be substantiated."

"But assuming this figure is right," Nielsen declared, "if the assessor's office in the next few months even picks up one-half the amount, leaving \$200,000 off the rolls, the change in millage would be extremely small.

Nielsen said \$200,000 on a valuation of nearly \$4,000,000 would only reduce the millage from about 5.3 to 4.7 mills.

"The budget committee made a decision last June and we aren't going to be pressurized now on the eve of election," Nielsen said. Maclay said that Stock's budget last year was \$139,000, but that this figure was divided into two parts — one for the regular appraisal program, the other for reappraisal.

"The assessor says his appraisers have been trimmed from 10 to 7, but last year some of them were supposed to be working on reappraisal. This year the whole staff can concentrate on the regular work."

Maclay asserted that the county has been short of funds this year in all departments. "Possibly, Stock's office has been shorted a little, but so has everyone else."

The commissioners stated that they expect new bills regarding assessment procedures to be introduced at the next session of the legislature. "It would be foolish," Nielsen said, "to dump a lot of money into the assessment program now when the legislature may come up with a new set of rules changing the entire taxation picture."

lative Interim Committee on Taxation have stated that his office has done the best job of any in the state. He asserts that lack of manpower to do the work is the reason property cannot be placed on the tax roll.

"Here is a head-on collision of apparently sincere and honest convictions. Both sides support their assertions with voluminous argument and citation of facts and figures, all of which are entirely irrelevant so far as our work is concerned. We are concerned solely with the fact that your millage tax levy cannot be lowered because of property that is not on the tax roll, but should be."

"We recognize that the job of the Board of Commissioners, as the governing body of Lane County, is a difficult job, because the members have no authority in forming the policies or prescribing the methods of various departments whose activities are vital to good government. Whenever they are convinced, rightly or wrongly, that a bad situation exists, the only way they can show their disapproval is to reduce the budget of the department involved. In this case, that makes the matter worse, and you, as taxpayers, are the ones who are hurt. Property goes untaxed to an extent many, many times the cost of putting it on the tax roll."

"We, as directors of these two districts, take the view that: granting that the County Board is handicapped by lack of authority over the Assessor's office, its duty is to remedy bad situations so far as it can legitimately do so with the means available. Hope for improved conditions in the future should not preclude relief in the meantime."

"It may be that neither side is at fault. In any case, the real blame lies with a condition that makes such a thing possible. The voters have a right to know what is going on. That is why we are making this report to you. It has been submitted to both the Assessor and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to make sure that it is fair and contains no misstatements of fact."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OAKWAY WATER DISTRICT

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Bridges Asks Return to Days Of Rattler Flag

MANCHESTER, N. H. (AP)—Sen. Bridges (R-NH) has called for a return to the days of the rattlesnake flag so the Communist will be "afraid to take any action which may possibly call for strong measures on our part."

The president pro tempore of the Senate told a civil defense session at St. Anselm College Tuesday night he is "tired of being afraid of the Russians" and "it is about time the Russians started to be afraid of us."

"I truly believe that the only hope of peace is for us to return to the principles which made this nation great; to cease appeasement; to cease compromise on fundamental principles," he said.

Bridges noted that the first flag of the republic was a coiled rattlesnake with a motto "Don't tread on Me" and said that "in my opinion, that is the attitude we better adopt in the world today."

The New Hampshire senior senator said his statement "is going to be misinterpreted by the phony intellectuals" but added he would not "completely subscribe to the retaliation theory."

"I have tried to find out why we are automatically supposed to allow our enemy to attack first," he declared. "This business of 'after you my dear Al-fonse,' if it is going to cost 20 million American lives, very frankly is distasteful to me."

Boilermaker Strike Averted on Coast

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A threatened strike of 6,000 AFL Boilermakers in seven Western states, Hawaii and Alaska has been averted by an agreement on a new union-contractors' contract, Federal Conciliators John Fenton and Bob McClelland announced Tuesday.

Terms were not disclosed pending ratification of the contract by union members and employers.

STAND-OUT

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP)—A 16-year-old boy driving a 12-year-old Ford outdistanced a 1953 Cadillac driven by Mrs. Arthur Blomquist. She chased him for 15 miles along a curving mountain road after he sideswiped her car.

Police, however, had no trouble picking up the young speedster. His auto was painted a distinctive pink and green.

Journalism Dean Gets AAW Award

Gordon A. Sabine, dean of the school of journalism in the University of Oregon, has been given a certificate of award from the Advertising Association of the West.

The award, given for Dean Sabine's work with AAW, was announced at the summer meeting of the association in Salt Lake City. The citation commends Dean Sabine, who "as our educator-director has greatly aided this Association by strengthening the foundation of its relationships with education and emphasizing the opportunities in the field of advertising instruction. He has raised our sights and added new prestige to advertising."

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LOST REGAINED

HUMBOLDT, Neb. (AP)—Ed Bauer, of Falls City got two big ones that earlier had got away while fishing at Humboldt lake near here. Bauer's line became entangled in another line that held two six-pound carp.

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