

Drips Won't Save the Drops

DON'T BE A DRIP!



BE PATRIOTIC
STOP LEAKS
SAVE WATER

PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

The city is distributing 45,000 of these and similar posters urging citizens to conserve water.

City Must Fight to Get Water

Philadelphia and the adjacent counties constitute the most important water production centre in the United States, with contracts of close to \$2,000,000,000.

It stands to reason that a water shortage in this area might have disastrous consequences in showing up essential production in war plants and shipyards.

Yet for some utterly unexplained reason, Government agencies at Washington are obstructing the only sure method of averting such a shortage—the rehabilitation of Philadelphia's broken down distribution system.

We have the money for the improvement project. But we haven't got the necessary materials, and Washington thus far has refused a sufficiently high priority rating to release the materials.

Meanwhile the water situation in the five-county area has become so critical that the Defense Councils have appealed for public conservation of water so that the capacity output of the pumping plants can meet the demands put upon them.

Consumption is already beginning to tax that capacity and with the peak load still weeks away, in mid-summer, a serious shortage is threatened.

If Philadelphia could proceed with its rehabilitation program, replacing and restoring filtration beds, pumps, boilers, piping and other facilities, it could take care of its own requirements, and even, in an emergency, help supply consumers in nearby counties.

But it can't go ahead with the worthless A4 rating that the WPB has granted it. It must have at least an A1E priority to secure release of the needed materials, and it should get it.

For weary weeks now, city officials have camped on the doorsteps of the various alphabetical agencies concerned, have poured incessantly into bureaucratic ears their appeals for an adequate priority.

All they have been able to obtain for their pains is the admission that Philadelphia's needs are great and the granting of an A4 rating, which might as well be XYZ for all the good it will do in adding one drop of water to our depleted supply.

Today, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson and the Congressmen representing the Philadelphia districts are going to try again. They will confer in Washington with Maury Maverick, chief of the Bureau of Governmental Requirements of the War Production Board, which has charge of materials sought by political subdivisions.

Mr. Neeson, who has become a veteran pleader on behalf of this city, will undoubtedly state our case in clear, factual language. If Mr. Maverick wants war production in this area to be unimpeded by a material famine, he will clear through whatever red-tape may be strewn around his office and see that Philadelphia gets the materials it requires.

If he persists in giving us the run-around, there is only one thing to be done. No more beseeching for what is our due, the turn in hand, before bureaucratic desks, but a straight-line plea to the President.

Mr. Roosevelt would surely recognize the imperative necessity of an adequate water supply in the all-important Philadelphia area. If the facts in the case were presented to him by the Mayor of Philadelphia, backed by his engineers, by the five-county Defense Councils and by the heads of affected war industries, there can be little doubt that he would take such action as the situation calls for.

We don't want materials that are needed by the Army, the Navy or other military forces. But the key war industry centre in the Nation is entitled to priority on water equipment ahead of other localities.

A water shortage here means production slow-down. It might become a matter of "No water—no

production" if we all the water we need if we can get priority rating on materials.

Parley Delayed On Water Priority

Inquires Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, May 27.—Philadelphia officials came to Washington today to seek higher material priorities for the city's \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program, only to learn that the Federal officials they expected to confer with had been called out of town.

The Philadelphia, Secretary of Public Works John H. Neeson and George W. Elliott, Director of the Chamber of Commerce and field director of the Philadelphia Defense Council, announced they would seek another appointment early next week.

Philadelphia now has an overall priority of A-4 on its water program. It wants the raised to A-1E or better because, under the present priority, if it cannot obtain the badly needed new pumps for the Torresdale, Queen Lane and Lardner's Point plants, the city's water situation has "been threatened to become critical by

buildings. Such a situation was revealed by surveys made in the years 1928-1931. Thousands of toilets and faucets were found which were wasting millions of gallons into the sewers; and yard hydrants, service pipes, and miscellaneous plumbing fixtures were leaking added greatly to the waste of water.

Use Water Wisely. Water is also wasted when it is used carelessly or lavishly. For example, street bathing in water from fire hydrants, which has been prevalent in past years on hot summer days, wastes a lot of water. There are, also, ways in which householders do not use water wisely. Lawn sprinklers are left on for hours, sometimes all night, and take much water needlessly. Another example of waste is the use of a full can from a faucet for washing or for some other purpose, when a basin of water or a light flow would do the job. Water is let run to waste in order to secure cooler water, although it would be more economical to cool water in the refrigerator or with ice. Just plain carelessness in not turning off the water, or in not turning it off completely, is the cause of much waste.

Will History Repeat Itself? Reporting for 1918, the Chief of the Bureau of Water was able to say that, despite the heavy demands upon the waterworks, almost normal pressures had been maintained throughout the city. He gave much of the credit to a reduction in waste which resulted from increased metering of consumers' services. A larger proportion of the services is metered now than in 1918, but more than half of them still are without meters.

If every consumer of water, whether the service is metered or not, will stop leaks on his premises as soon as they occur, will take water only for essential uses, and will use it sparingly and with care, he will be rendering a real service. Many millions of gallons of otherwise wasted water will thus be made available for war industry, for increasing the fighting population, and for protection in emergencies.

WATER RATIONING THREATENED HERE

Public Faces Legal Curbs If Voluntary Saving Pleas Fail

Philadelphia was called on by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson yesterday to save nearly 40,000,000 gallons of water a day for war industries by abandoning wasteful and non-essential uses.

Among these he listed excessive use of garden sprinklers and hoses to wash automobiles and sidewalks. If the people do not voluntarily limit their consumption this way, he said, the city may be forced to seek legislation forbidding use of water for non-essential purposes.

SUPPLY SHORT NEEDED
The top capacity of the city's filtration plants is 400,000,000 gallons of water a day, Neeson said. By July and August the peak of the seasonal demand will increase the consumption to 440,000,000 gallons.

Only the elimination of the wasteful practices now indulged in will bring the consumption figure into balance with the total output, he said.

WASTE ON LAWNS ASSAILED

"I see many lawn sprinklers left to run all night long," he said. "That is sheer waste. Lawns usually need no more than 10 to 15 minutes of sprinkling a day at this season of the year, when the grass is just taking hold, once a day is too much sprinkling."

"Similarly, water for hosing sidewalks and automobiles is certainly a non-essential use. We are not asking people to give up water for a shower purpose. That is not necessary. It is possible, however, to take a shower with the water running for three minutes. Why let it run for 15 minutes?"

CITY GETS GO-MAHEAD ON WATER PROGRAM

The city yesterday received the go-ahead signal to initiate its \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program as a higher priority rating permitting speedy purchase of needed equipment was given by the War Production Board.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson announced the Army and Navy Munitions Board of the WPB had given preliminary approval to a change in the city's priority status from A-4 to A-1-J and that a final clearance would come through in four or five days.

DELAYED 5 MONTHS

As a result of the former priority rating, the city's plan to get the water rehabilitation program under way was held up for approximately eight months.

The first move to rehabilitate the antiquated water system, Neeson said, would be to use the equipment at the Lardner's Point and Torresdale stations.

NEW PUMPING STATION

This will be followed by the installation of preliminary mechanical filters at the Queen Lane station, construction of a new Torresdale pumping station and replacement of distribution lines.

Neeson said he also hopes to receive a higher priority rating to purchase 25,000 parts necessary to repair leaking fire hydrants.

L. S. Speeds Pumps for City Water

Priorities Aid Assured for Phila. Program

The city's water rehabilitation program bogged down for many months by priorities on materials, will receive special attention, Maury Maverick, chief of the Government requirements unit of the War Production Board, promised yesterday.

Following a conference at Washington with John H. Neeson, director of public works, and Martin J. Jacobs, consulting engineer on the city's \$18,000,000 water program, Maverick asserted that the Government would give the water works would be given a status akin to "an allocation."

PROGRESS REPORTED

Neeson, who has been in the capital several times before to get clearance on the badly needed pumps, said that "more progress was made now than at any other time."

One thing was emphasized by both Neeson and Maverick, however. Under the best conditions, delivery of the pumps will probably be a matter of six months or more. Thus, Philadelphia will not have the new equipment in time for the record-breaking peak loads of water which it must deliver this summer to its civilian population and to hundreds of plants.

BREAKDOWNS FEARED

The city has feared a breakdown in some of its aged pumps and has set aside more than \$50,000 for emergency repairs.

"The pumps," said Neeson, "are needed for the plants at Lardner's Point, Torresdale and Queen Lane. Such pumps are huge, tailor-made jobs. Even in normal peace times, it takes as much as a year for the construction and installation of the largest ones."

HAS HIGH HOPES

"We made definite progress and I am very hopeful for the future on the water program, although our conference may mean a revamping of our entire project. Our rating is definitely to be improved and we feel that we are going to get the water rehabilitation program for more than two hours with Leonard M. Comer, one of Maverick's top engineers."

Meanwhile, Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the War Production Board's city conservation program was saving 3,000,000 gallons of water daily.

DAILY AVERAGE DROPS

The average daily water usage for April 18 was 370,000,000 gallons, whereas for the first day of this month only 311,900,000 gallons were reported.

McLaughlin pointed out that no forecast could be made which would show the city's 1942 would reach the 395,000,000 gallon high in 1941. The daily average for 1941 was 327,000,000 gallons.

McLaughlin said that the conservation program has been "a real eye opener" in response to consumers in terms of letters at city phone co-operation.