

# MAYOR REJECTS U.S. PLEA FOR PUMPS

400,000-Gal. Machines Needed for System here, he says

Mayor Samuel today refused a request of U. S. War Utilities of the Office of War Utilities at Washington, that this city permit the transfer to Detroit of 400,000-gallon pumps needed in Philadelphia's war rehabilitation program.

The telegram to Krug was sent by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, who said that the Mayor and City Solicitor Robert M. Green.

"I am advised that I have no legal authority to dispose of city property purchased with money specially appropriated by the people of Philadelphia for their public property," Neeson wrote to Krug.

Being more critical "The condition of our water system is becoming more critical daily due to greater demand by war industries, increased population and other features. It is therefore highly necessary that our application for needed priorities to complete the Lardner Point project in Philadelphia be granted. Otherwise, there is imminent danger that the war production of the Navy Yard, Arsenal and other war plants may be endangered by a failure of water supply service in this area."

In his letter to the city administration, Krug pointed out that the Federal families' needs are adequate to meet estimated maximum daily demands, but that transmission facilities will not be adequate to maintain the necessary minimum pressures throughout the city on peak days of summer.

"Since the new facilities will be in place by the end of the year,"

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water of Lardner's Point on the Delaware River will be catastrophic. We aren't facing a theoretical situation, which is true in Detroit. It is a real, critical problem.

"The Mayor's attitude of patriotism of aiding the Detroit war effort, Philadelphia is the center of the nation's war production area with the Navy Yard, arsenal, Quartermaster Depot, industries like Bushong and hundreds of smaller plants engaged in war work. We have to protect these industries and our own people."

He explained that in addition to the 400,000-gallon pumps, a delivery of which was expected by July 15, the city already has ordered four 10,000-gallon pumps and two of 25,000-gallon capacity each. Some of the latter two types already have been received.

**MOTORS ALSO SOUGHT**  
The Government's request to transfer the pumps Detroit also included four 2000 H. P. motors and motor-generator sets, which have been stored and are being maintained in a temporary building at the Lardner's Point station.

"We agree to give up the pumps," said Neeson. "I will postpone for more than a year the replacement of the same pumps and motor-generators sets. Even if the WPB issued immediate priorities for this new equipment it would take 10 months to manufacture and assemble it."

The Government's request to transfer the pumps to Detroit was based on the assumption that the Michigan city would need an additional 400,000-gallon of water daily if a drought or a long, hot summer. The four pumps, it was pointed out, would make up the deficiency.

Neeson explained that Lardner's Point was chosen as the first step in the city's water improvement program because of the critical condition of the plant equipment. He said city engineers had been repairing the pumps, with whatever material they could obtain, but that it was problematic how long they would last.

make a real contribution toward the effective prosecution of the war if it were to transfer its operations with the Federal Works Administration to the end that the four 40,000-gallon pumps and two being produced for the city of Philadelphia by De LaVal Steam Turbine Co. together with the four 2,000-horsepower Westinghouse motors and motor-generator sets now in Philadelphia and being repaired above pumps, be made available for use in meeting the emergency in the Detroit area this coming summer."

Krug proposed that arrangements be made through Regional War Director John Gallagher in New York City.

# CITY WATER PUMPS WILL GO TO DETROIT

**Inquirer** Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, May 20.—Four 400,000-gallon water pumps, available by the City of Philadelphia, will be delivered to Detroit, it was learned today.

A spokesman for the Office of War Utilities of the War Production Administration said there was no doubt that Philadelphia would receive the equipment, but said that other measures would be taken to assure Philadelphia's water supply.

**PHILA. OPPOSES MOVE**  
WPB insisted that "there would not be much difficulty in working out an arrangement with Philadelphia."

# They Can't Give Up These Pumps

The only possible answer to the long request for transfer to Detroit of machinery of equipment being built for the Philadelphia water plant was that given to the Office of War Utilities by Mayor Samuel: a quick and forthright "No!"

Detroit may need new pumps to assure its water system efficient pressure during extra-hot weather, but whatever its need in water equipment it can not expect to come anywhere near this city's plight. We can sympathize with Detroit, but in all justice we should not be asked to give up the pumps which we need for so long and which we fought such an uphill battle at Washington to obtain.

Unless the run-down machinery at Lardner's Point is replaced a whole range of the city's embracing important war industries, will be threatened with a drought at any time. As a matter of fact, the equipment which Detroit seeks is only a small part of that which we require to safeguard our water plants against a serious breakdown.

Surrender of the pumps at this juncture would be a crippling blow to our water supply. It is unthinkable.

# Water Conservation Vital Need

Serious shortage of water in the Philadelphia area was prevented last summer by wholehearted response to the city's water conservation campaign.

This year the necessity for conservation is even greater, and it is to be hoped that the people's response to Mayor Samuel's save-water appeal will be an even larger scale. It is no lack of water that is Philadelphia's problem—we have plenty in the two rivers at our doors. The strain is in our facilities to make the raw water drinkable and convey it to consumers. Our inadequate and in some instances old and worn-out water plant has only a certain capacity beyond which it cannot go. If demands exceed the capacity—well, they can't be met, that is all.

To make both ends meet, everyone must conserve water. That means the observance of two principal rules: Repair all leaks and other defects in pipes and avoid wasting a drop of water.

# Let Them See for Themselves

Agreement by the Government officials concerned to inspect the water plants here before ordering transfer to Detroit for Philadelphia is at least something gained for our side.

It is this city's contention that the pumps are so badly needed to insure sufficient water supply to a highly industrial area that Detroit's claim to priority cannot possibly be considered. Once the officials take a look at our plants, they may accept our view and permit us to keep the pumps.

We hope the visitors are not spared any of the particulars of our ancient and deteriorating system. They may wonder, before they are finished, that we are able to get any water at all from our spigots.

# INQUIRER ASKS ORDER OFFER FOR PUMPS

**Inquirer** Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, May 20.—Archie E. Gorman, director of the War Production Board, agreed today to confer with Philadelphia city officials before formally ordering the four 400,000-gallon water pumps ordered by Philadelphia delivered to Detroit.

The conference, which probably will be held in Philadelphia on Wednesday or Thursday, was announced by Gorman at the request of Philadelphia's representatives, James Gallagher, Sr. and Hugh Scott, Jr., all of Philadelphia.

The War Production Board, a group of publicans, called on Gorman's visit today to protest WPB's tentative plan to transfer the pumps being built for Philadelphia to Detroit "without making a proper survey of the critical situation in Philadelphia."

**SERIOUS SITUATION**  
The water situation in Detroit is critical and depends on what the weather is hot and dry," Scott said later. "Philadelphia faces a serious situation if the city is asked to surrender the pumps. It is a serious situation in Philadelphia."

Mr. Gorman contended that the situation in Detroit warranted prior consideration by WPB, Scott said. He pointed out to him that if these pumps are transferred without being replaced by new ones available in Philadelphia, it is a serious situation in Philadelphia.

Scott said that, while a patenting process has been given for Congress, it is not clear if the Liberty Bell, these priorities would be without value unless a way is found to make possible the purchase of 1.6 tons of steel and a hydraulic lift.

# Water, Warning to City

It is now trying to contact the contractor in the country.

"The situation facing us now and during the next 90 days is very serious," said Neeson at a rapid rate, "but we are doing a year ago."

**Conference on Crisis.**  
The Mayor's statement following the conference arranged by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, attended by Director John H. Neeson, Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Philadelphia Water Bureau; Robert E. Elwood, Coatesville City engineer; and James H. Turner, chairman, and James H. Turner, engineer of the Interstate Commission.

# SAVE WATER! CARNELI OF SHORTAGE

Supply Inadequate, With or Without New Pumps.

Philadelphia must start saving water right now or face a serious shortage within 90 days, Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel said yesterday.

**Warning Issued.**  
Samuel issued his warning before he knew—officially, at least—that the four 400,000-gallon pumps which the city had been counting on to replace worn equipment and which were to have been delivered here within a month, had been commandeered by the War Production Board and assigned to Detroit to meet a water crisis there.

Informed of the WPB order, Samuel said he would have no comment until he received official notification. But with the new pumps or without them, he said, Philadelphia must hoard its water this summer.

# Rain No Help.

The impending shortage has nothing to do with the amount of rainfall. The skies could pour a constant deluge from now on and it would make no difference.

"The need is for 'manufactured' water, filtered and chemically treated, and there just isn't enough of that to go round."

"A four-point program that will provide enough water for essential household and industrial use was laid down by the Mayor:

1. Repair leaky plumbing fixtures promptly. A faucet can waste as much as 400 gallons a day.
2. Use water "sensibly" for lawn and garden sprinkling, and for the most part, leave the job to nature.
3. Limit household consumption for bathing, cooking and shaving to a minimum. Do not let the water run to cool it for drinking purposes because that wastes water.
4. Do everything else that will conserve the supply.

A similar program among several other cities was announced by Samuel, and it is hoped the memory of that campaign is still fresh enough in the public mind to make its continuance this year, when the need is even greater, a matter of course.

**Big Factor in Water Shortage.**  
A big factor in the water shortage is the Schuylkill silt accumulation, which the Legislature has refused to remedy and which the

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phia," though last Tuesday Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, Philadelphia, said that Samuel vigorously opposed transferring the new pumps to Detroit.

Neeson said that the cost of clean-up of the water system and a delay of nearly a year in Philadelphia's \$18,000,000 water improvement program made the city if it did not receive the pumps.

"A. Krug, director of the Office of War Utilities, had asked Philadelphia to relinquish its claim to the pumps, which are now being built, in order that they may be used to 'meet an emergency' in the Detroit area. Mayor Samuel promptly declined, explaining that he had no authority to dispose of city property purchased with funds earmarked for special purposes.

**DIFFERENCE OF OPINION**  
WPB's only interest in Philadelphia's water problems is to see to it that the city, for the duration of the emergency, is well supplied, using the smallest amount of new equipment, it was explained here.

The emergency in Detroit, described as "immediate," while that of Philadelphia "has not yet developed." The Mayor stressed that Detroit, it was said, has inadequate water for both war industries and private homes.

Neeson said, "I fully had a different understanding of the water situation in Detroit. Earlier, he described it as 'a theoretical situation' while Philadelphia has 'a real, critical problem.'"

**NO NOTIFICATION RECEIVED**  
Mayor Samuel has received no official notice of the reported idling of the water pumps to Detroit. "It is inconceivable to me," he said, "that the Government should take such action."

# FIGHTS REMOVAL OF WATER PUMPS

**City Reverses Protest to WPB Official; Decision Deferred.**

City officials renewed their fight yesterday against removal to Detroit of the four 400,000-gallon water pumps awarded here.

Their protests were voiced by Arthur E. Gorman, secretary of the water division of the War Production Board, at a conference in the office of Director of Public Works John H. Neeson.

**Defers Formal Order.**  
Gorman agreed last Monday to a conference before formally ordering the pumps diverted to Detroit. He will report to Washington the results of yesterday's discussion.

Neeson led the fight to retain the pumps, stressing that Philadelphia's water supply "is in a serious condition," and that "the city needs far more pumps more than Detroit, which only needs a few more."

# 4 POINTS OUTLINED FOR SILT FIGHT

**BULLETIN 5-23-43**  
Ladner Wants Martins to Make Deposits in River Unlawful

A four-point program for carrying on the fight against the dumping of silt into the Schuylkill River was outlined last night by Judge Grover C. Ladner, president of the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association.

In an address at the annual meeting of the association at 1615 Walnut St., he suggested that Governor Martin be urged "to do what the Legislature failed to do—make this coal silt dumping unlawful." This could be done, he asserted, through the Sanitary Water Board.

He said that he would be involved in the fight; that should proper owners should be supported in litigation in Federal courts to recover riparian rights infringed by silt deposits; and that all communities along the Schuylkill should be united in common effort for river purification.

# Action of WPB Criticized

"The War Production Board's order transferring to Detroit four 400,000-gallon pumps originally marked for Philadelphia, which is being used to rehabilitate its water system, was criticized at the meeting."

"This city has been sold down the river with a vengeance," declared Dr. William Moore. "They won't let us have pure water and now they are asking the pumps to be sent to Detroit. What water we have into the reservoirs."

A mass protest to be sent to the WPB was voted on by the audience. "Mass Walkout in Legislature."

State Representative Charles H. Brunner, of Montgomery County, sponsored a bill which would have made the dumping of silt into the river unlawful, denounced the legislators who refuse to act on the measure when it was brought up.

"I never saw such a mass walkout," he said. "They wouldn't even listen to the debate, they were so afraid of being caught in their seats when the time to vote came."

Brunner, R. A. Jacobson, secretary of the Reading Chamber of Commerce, and John Deek, Walter J. Neeson, Jr., and others, were promised to continue the fight against pollution.

**WPB and Neeson To Discuss Sewer**  
**Inquirer** Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, May 25.—War Production Board representatives in a conference at Philadelphia this week with Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, will attempt to iron out a tangle over priorities which has long delayed construction of the City of Run sewer system in Burholme.

Representative C. Frederick French, Jr., Pa., whose district includes Philadelphia, said in this announcement today and declared that "curtailment of the sanitary plan and sewer is definitely a health hazard."

# PRECEDENTS FOR ATTEMPT

Although the Mayor rejected the Government's plan, City Hall observers predicted that WPB, if not forced, would seize the equipment to transfer to Detroit. There is no doubt that a large number of trucks which were being held up by the city.

**CATASTROPHE FEARED**  
Frustrated by the prospect of losing the equipment, Neeson declared: "A breakdown of our present