

City Told to Convert Coal Heating Units

A directive to the city to convert fuel oil heating units to coal in municipally owned buildings or face the prospect of heatless days next winter was given yesterday by Lawrence R. Snyder, regional engineer for the Petroleum Administration for War.

Addressing a meeting of the City Council committee on finance, Snyder said the order applies to all cities along the eastern seaboard and that armed forces will have oil even if there is none for home consumption.

At the same time, John H. Neeson, director of Public Works, said the city was willing to convert wherever possible, but that work should be started until the critical material needed for conversion "is on the ground."

"We are not going to tear down our heating plants," declared Neeson, "and then find that some vital materials, such as coal, cannot be obtained."

One Holiday for I. C. C.

WASHINGTON, May 23 (U. P.)—The Interstate Commerce Commission today announced that the only holiday it would observe for the duration would be Christmas Day.

Save their Ignoring for the Germans.

We Almost Had Some New Pumps

There is no particular reason to grieve with loud cheers the plan to lease four water pumps, now being completed for this city's use, to Detroit for the balance of the summer.

Perhaps the arrangement represents the best that could be gotten out of a bad deal, but that will be scant comfort if the antique pumps that we had hoped to replace break down in the middle of a hot spell.

The Government agency concerned has insisted that Detroit needs the equipment more than we do, so, for the last analysis, there is nothing much we can do about it.

Philadelphia's plight is worse than ours and Detroit deserves sincere sympathy. We are sure nice new pumps will help them out, even if it is only a little, but the pumps we don't go to press before Labor Day.

COUNCIL IS TOLD OF GIVEN PUMP SHIFT

U. S. to Pay City Bonus and Priorities are Promised

The four 40,000-gallon pumps which were to have been installed at the Lardner's Point Pumping Station in Philadelphia by Detroit under a modification of a "lend-lease" Freddie D. Garman president of City Council announced today.

He explained that Council tomorrow will authorize Director John H. Neeson of Public Works to consummate the transaction with the Federal Government, which pledges to pay this city \$8,000 in the form of a bonus.

The pumps are to be turned over to Philadelphia by Detroit after October 31, it was explained, and the Government guarantees necessary repairs to complete the installation of at least two will be forthcoming.

The proposal was informally ratified by councilmen at a meeting with Mayor Samuel and Director Neeson.

The Federal Government will pay the cost of transporting the pumps to Detroit where they are badly needed. The pumps are being made by the Delaval Corp. of Trenton, under bill sub-contract with the Dravo Corp. Four motor generating sets will be shipped from Philadelphia.

MAXEY SAYS SUIT WON'T SOLVE CITY WATER PROBLEMS

Recommends Only Way Out, He Says of Plea to Ban Silt Dumping

By THOMAS P. ONEIL

Chief Justice George W. Maxey, of the State Supreme Court, yesterday predicted Philadelphia will never solve its water problem until it utilizes streams in the Pocono Mountains as its source of drinking water.

Purification of the silt-dropped Schuylkill, Maxey added, is not a matter for litigation but for co-operation by the city, the Commonwealth and the coal companies.

Chief Justice Maxey's opinion was voiced informally as the city moved to have the high court revive a 46-year-old decree restraining coal companies from dumping silt into the river.

City Solicitor Robert McCay Green sought to file an amended bill of complaint to make 22 international companies defendants in the old action.

Thomas C. Egan, representing two recently formed coal companies that were listed among the new defendants, objected.

The court therefore suggested that the orthodox procedure would be for the City Solicitor to file a petition for a writ against those companies to show cause why the proposed amended bill should not be filed.

That means a formal argument will be possible until the fall session in September.

Asks About Rootleggers

When the City Solicitor inquired of the court of the city's desire to name new defendants, Chief Justice Maxey asked whether any coal bootleggers were among them. Green replied in the negative, that there was some doubt if some of the rootleggers that the city "is looking into" the question preparatory to acting against them.

Maxey declared he had been advised that some of the 24 rootleg mines were dumping silt on the Schuylkill.

Justice Drew Displaced

Justice James B. Drew seemed disturbed with the form of the city's procedure.

"I don't see how you can add new defendants to this old action," he said.

Green insisted that the city was prepared to present evidence to show that the 22 additional defendants were contributing to the nuisance the court had ordered abated.

Problem for Statesmen

Maxey observed that the "problem in his opinion was one of a 'restraint' rather than lawyers."

He inquired what the city was going to do about communities that dump sewage into the river.

Green said that the city was going to get after them once \$50,000,000 is appropriated.

Advises New Supply

It was at this point that Maxey suggested that it would be advisable in the long run for the city to get its drinking water from the Poconos. He said he had been advised the cost would be about \$30,000,000.

The Chief Justice asked how much it would cost to clean up the Schuylkill.

Green replied that U. S. Army engineers estimated that it would require from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 to clean the Schuylkill of old silt and an additional \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 to prevent new silt from dumping.

Coal Firm Accuses City

A formal answer to the suit filed by Robert W. White, president of the Lardner Coal and Navigation Company, accused the city of itself of responsibility for pollution of the rivers.

For many years, the answer said, the city "discharged into the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers enormous quantities of raw and untreated sewage, then acting the figure of community leaders in the neighborhood."

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DECIDE ON LEASE TO FWA OF \$6000 RENTAL.

By EDWARD STONEY
The city decided yesterday to embark on its first "lend-lease" venture.

At an informal meeting of City Council with Acting Mayor Samuel in the Mayor's City Hall reception room, it was agreed to lease Detroit—- for three and four months—the four water pumps sought by the War Production Board for that city.

The agreement, suggested by WFB, is scheduled to be confirmed formally by a resolution of Council at its regular meeting today and by the Acting Mayor's signature afterward. That action will wind up the recent tug-of-war between WFB and the city.

Leased Until Oct. 31.
According to the resolution, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson will be authorized to lease to the Federal Works Agency for \$6000 the four pumps and four accompanying motor generator sets to run them. The lease will continue until October 31, to cover Detroit's summer needs.

After that the equipment will be returned to the city. In consideration of this, the WFB will assure the city of the needed priorities for critical material necessary to install two of the pumps and motor sets at Lardner's Point pumping station.

Question of Needs.
The WFB also will reopen the question of the city's water system needs, and on the basis of this summer's experience will consider the granting of priorities for transmission facilities, switch gear and transformers to install the remaining two pumps and motor equipment in time for next summer's requirements.

Detroit is to return the leased equipment in good condition, and the FWA is to pay all expenses of transportation, repairs and reconditioning. The city, therefore, not only will be saved out of the deal, but will be given all expense in connection with it.

Trip to Detroit.
Yesterday's decision followed a trip by Director Neeson to Detroit two weeks ago to ascertain the situation there at first hand. Earlier, Neeson and the Acting Mayor refused to turn over the pumps on the ground Philadelphia needed them more than Detroit.

After his trip, however, Neeson is said to have been convinced that Detroit's needs during the summer would be critical, and he and the Acting Mayor are understood to have reversed their stand.

The pumps now are being manufactured for the city, and are expected to be completed by July 15. The motor sets already are ordered, and are in storage here.

Others participating in the conference were Orrville H. Bullitt, regional director of WFB; City Solicitor Robert McCay Green; Chief of Van Loan, who is in charge of the water improvement program; and Nathan L. Jacobs, a consulting engineer.

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