

# Pure Water Pledged City By Samuel at Inaugural

Mayor Promises to End River Pollution by Improving Sewage Disposal; Will Name Commission to Study Upland Sources; 1000 Attend Ceremony

By THOMAS P. O'NEILL  
To the tune of "Hall, Hall, the Gang's All Here," trailing off somewhat unhappily into "All We Do Is Sign the Payroll," Bernard Samuel yesterday stepped into office as Mayor of Philadelphia.

## Pledges Pure Water Program

As he dropped his title of Acting Mayor, Samuel immediately pledged a "pure water program." Without reservation, he committed himself, his administration, City Council and the new City Planning Commission to: 1. Purification of the city's present source of drinking water—the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers—by the elimination of pollution through completion of sewage disposal facilities and extension of the sewerage disposal system. 2. Consideration of the feasibility of tapping upland sources for the long term, with the question to be studied by a commission to be appointed by the Mayor and report to include the basis of a plan for financing the project.

## Was Promising Before

In making water the principal topic of his inaugural address heard by a rainy day crowd of about 1000 in the Academy of

Read editorial, "The New Mayor Faces a Great Opportunity."

MUSIC, Samuel set no precedent, but rather repeated the promises of a long line of predecessors. Yet he pledged to appoint a commission to look into upland sources of supply, which no one represented a concession.

## Defended Present System

In the campaign that preceded his decisive victory at the November 2 election, the Mayor repeatedly and emphatically defended the present water system—the traditional target of the Democrats.

While Samuel made it clear that the closing up of the Delaware and Schuylkill is to be first step of his plan, he left no doubt that he was willing to yield to public opinion if it insists on something better than "chlorine

## Cocktails of River Water

"Because of the apparent desire on the part of our citizens for a new water supply and the controversies that have been going on for years over this question," he said, "I will appoint a commission to make a complete and thorough survey of sites and communications."

## Past Reports Available

After pointing out that many reports of past surveys will be available to his commission, the Mayor continued:

"The people of Philadelphia have a right, if they desire, to receive a supply of water drawn from upland sources rather than from the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, regardless of whether or not those streams are made free of pollution. If an upland source is secured, it may be that our city would continue to hold the ability of our water."

more adequate transportation must be provided for the great northeastern section, particularly between Oxford Circle and Pennsylvania City," he said. "There is a great area awaits development and will provide housing facilities for many thousands of families, and substantially increase the tax revenue of the city."

## Refers to Bullitt

The first political touch—exclusive of the band's pardonable "Hall, Hall, the Gang's All Here" serenade—was given to the inaugural by Lieutenant Governor John C. Bell, Jr., who represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Obviously referring to William C. Bullitt, Democratic candidate for Mayor, the Lieutenant Governor said:

# City Warned of Shortage in Water

\$250,000 Asked  
To Clean Basin

Warning that a Philadelphia faces a water famine this summer unless the sedimentation basin at the Torresdale pumping station is cleaned, Director of Public Works John E. Neeson yesterday urged members of City Council's Finance Committee to make an immediate appropriation of at least \$250,000 to do the work. The basin, which has not been cleaned in 30 years, is so clogged, declared Neeson, that the pumping capacity of the station has been reduced to 60 to 70 percent.

## WAR PLANTS AFFECTED

Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, told the committee that further curtailment of the water supply would seriously affect war plants in the highly industrialized area served by the station. It has a daily capacity of 240,000,000 gallons and serves the section along the Delaware River, as well as Fox Chase and Somerton.

Chief McLaughlin explained that the situation was further complicated by the fact that the Torresdale filter beds at the pumping station and approved a recommendation by George D. Mansfield, chief of the water works, that a convict labor be used to do the work. He said at least 70 workers would be needed and only 30 regular employees were available at present.

Director Neeson said he had announced his proposal and revealed that plans were being prepared to employ 40 inmates from Philadelphia County Prison on the filter beds.

## NO IDLE FUNDS AVAILABLE

L. Wallace Egan, chairman of the committee, explained that while the city has the funds for the basin cleaning job it might be possible to obtain the money through department transfers. Counselor Clarence K. Crossan and Mansfield, however, proposed that an emergency loan be floated.

Council, at its weekly session, approved the Mayor's appointment of Dr. John L. Haney, former president of Central High School, to the board of trustees of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the reappointment of Joseph Carson, president of the National Park Company, to leave the city employ to enter war industry. The city used convict labor at the Torresdale pumping station to safeguard the water supply during the recent strike of municipal employees.

On Neeson's recommendation the committee approved transfer of an unused \$100,000 WPA appropriation to a special fund to be used for a survey of leakage in city water main.

# Pledged City by Samuel at Inaugural



Bernard Samuel is shown taking the oath of office as Mayor of Philadelphia from President Judge Raymond MacNeille yesterday at inaugural ceremonies at the Academy of Music.

# CITY IS FACING 'WATER CRISIS,' NEESON WARNS

He Reveals Plan to Clean  
Torresdale Filter Beds  
With Convict Labor

Philadelphia faces a possible "water crisis" this summer, Public Works Director John E. Neeson warned yesterday in announcing a plan to clean the Torresdale filter beds with convict labor at a cost of \$250,000, this summer. The operating costs of the new proposal for Philadelphia's future water source which he estimated would cost less than a third of the Wallpack Bend plant "favored by City Council." Mr. Pardoe outlined his proposal at the fourth in a series of meetings, and the first held at night, of the City Council's Public Works Committee. He asserted that his "Tenton-Warrington" plan would entail a capital cost of \$119,422,000, as compared to approximately \$347,000,000 for the Wallpack Bend plant. At that time, he said, the Delaware River water below the Trenton Falls, rather than above them. The operating costs of the plan, he added, would be \$4,455,000 a year, or \$330,000 less than Wallpack Bend, and an annual income of \$11,805,000 would be realized—an amount 61.5 percent less than the current income. "1000 DISPLACED PERSONS" Joseph Barnes, speaking for 100 Warrington township residents, protested against any water project which would make displaced persons of more than 1000 citizens of his community. Discussing the Wallpack Bend project, now favored by City Council, James H. Allen, executive secretary and chief engineer of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, said that the State of New Jersey was "ready and willing to share the cost and operating expenses of Wallpack" and that a Pennsylvania-New Jersey water contract "would be approved by both State legislatures at their next sessions."

## Mayor Samuel's Constructive Plan

When Bernard Samuel took the oath of office yesterday as Mayor of Philadelphia for a full term he accepted one of the heaviest responsibilities ever placed upon a new executive.

The job of Mayor the next four years will be no picnic. A period of wartime strain will be followed by that of post-war readjustment, with its employment problem for those returning from military service and those now engaged in war industry. Clamor for attention, too, will be multitudes of public improvements long needed by this city and long withheld.

It is good to know that Mayor Samuel is not only conscious of the magnitude of the job ahead but is prepared to attack it in a practical way. He has a blue-print for action already laid out. He presented it in his inaugural message and it shapes up as a sensible, constructive plan.

Two agencies will handle the details, the already-at-work City Planning Commission and a separate Commission soon to be appointed for the specific task of studying new water sources for Philadelphia.

Water supply, denominated by Mayor Samuel as the Number One Project, is to be brought at last out of the cedar-chest after years of procrastination. The incoming administration is going to work on it.

The sewage-disposal project is also to be whittled into final shape, ready for action the minute manpower and equipment are freed for the work.

These two improvements rightly top the list, but Mr. Samuel's schedule is not confined to them by any means. He looks ahead to a great system of highway betterments, to the completion and extension of high-speed transit lines, to the removal of the "Chinese Wall" and to the addition of new parks, playgrounds and institutional buildings.

It is noteworthy that all these projects were urged by Inquirer readers in the recent survey. That survey revealed the public's intense interest in needed improvements. Mr. Samuel's inaugural message shows the importance he places upon getting those improvements under way.

The Mayor is in an exceptionally fortunate position. He has his own wide experience in municipal matters to rely upon. He has the co-operation of a large Civicistic majority elected on the same ticket with him. He has the good-will of Philadelphia citizens, who kept him at the Mayor's desk by a large vote plurality and who wish him every success.

He told the people yesterday as he brought his address to a close, that he holds for "Government is a trust" that is a solid foundation for any public administration. Standing firmly on that, he can't go wrong.

## Break Stops Supply Of Water Down to 70

finally expanded into a striking stream which, city officials said, lifted curbsides four inches into the air.

Children had a picnic in the water and one reformed Negro boy, a stout 12-year-old, was seen to jump across the flooded sidewalk, charging "customers" three cents to cross the water.

"Many downtown restaurants feared they would have to close before the noon lunch hour because water pressure was 30 low. It was difficult to wash dishes and make coffee. Most of them, however, remained open, although in some cases patrons were served one glass of drinking water in their next session."

## Supply Is Diverted

What water there was in the Lawrenceville and Downtown districts was coming in principally through a main sewer about 18" in diameter and another under the Allegheny River at Twenty-seventh St. Water was diverted into these streets by the City after the break was spotted.

Also unaffected was the main over the Tenth St. Bridge which feeds water primarily to the city's Fifth Ave. area.

Water houses were forced to forego cooking. Hundreds of homes and business establishments were unable to use lavatory facilities, but the City Health Department said it did not fear "any health hazard would arise."

## Fire Engines Checked

Meanwhile, the Fire Department prepared for any possibility by checking booster tank trucks to be sure they were full of capacity.

Fire Chief William H. Davis explained that trucks with 100-gallon booster tanks and that, in event of fire, alarms will be sounded or additional trucks will be answering the initial call should be close to exhausting their supplies.

Chief Davis explained that a shuttle service of fire trucks could be instituted if necessary, whereby one group of trucks would fight the fire while another replenished its booster tanks by drawing water directly from the rivers.

## Break Not Found

The water main at 27th, about four feet underground but workers were having difficulty in finding exactly where the break had occurred. Pending this, the city refused to specify a possible cause for the break.

Managing Engineer J. H. Cannon of the Bureau of Water Aid said the water pressure at the city gauge at Thirtieth St. and 27th Ave. dropped from a normal 80 pounds to 30 pounds within an hour.