

FOR MAPS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF POSTWAR AID

Says City Will Take All Federal Funds It Can Get

Mayor Samuel, now eager to accept all the Federal money Philadelphia can get, yesterday for their "hesitancy and delay" on postwar public works.

Says City Has Program
This city, he said, has plans for an "extensive" program of improvements. But much of the program depends upon "substantial" (Federal) financial aid for an early start.

"The policy of my administration," he declared, "has been and will be to recommend to Council the acceptance of Federal funds for public works and improvements in Philadelphia if there are no imposed requirements of conditions which are burdensome or prejudicial to the best interests of the city."

Letter to Congressmen
This statement—or re-statement—of the Mayor's position was set forth in an 11-page letter which he mailed to Sen. Francis J. Myers and the six Philadelphia Congressmen.

The letter did not indicate what "conditions or requirements" he might consider burdensome or prejudicial to the Mayor, however, it meant any condition which would take away the city's control over some municipal property, such as an airport, and place it under Federal control.

Insists He Means It
Nobody could recall any instance in which the Government had imposed such control. Sources close to the Mayor, however, insisted he was speaking in good faith and not merely trying to raise obstacles. "I mean it," he said repeatedly since he became Mayor, that he would take the Federal money that may be made available to Philadelphia.

"His reaffirmation of that policy served to launch him on his fifth year in the Mayor's office, the longest tenure of any incumbent since Rudolph Blankenburg in 1912."

In Answer to Query
The letter, however, was in reply to a query addressed to him by Myers and the Congressmen. It contained the information to guide them in voting on proposed Federal public works appropriations, they asked three questions:

"1. Will the city administration continue to refuse in the future, as it has in the past, to accept Federal funds for public works improvements for this city?"

"2. If public works projects have the city's stamp of approval against unemployment? How soon can they be placed in operation and how soon can they be authorized will they provide employment? How much will they cost?"

"3. What public works projects has the city planned which are financed out of city and State funds?"

Held Finance
They presumably had in mind the fact that Samuel was partly responsible for the city's rejection of Federal funds during the depression. He was Chairman of City Council's Finance Committee at the time, and one of the most influential men in Council.

But the Mayor's reply gave no hint of any one-time change of mind. Instead, he called for more and more Federal aid. The city, he said, will be in a position to borrow only about \$75,000 for public improvements, aside from those which are self-supporting. Highlights of his letter:

Public Works Program: He pointed out the City Planning Commission's preliminary program, recommending some \$25,000,000 worth of projects, including water works improvement, sewerage disposal, extension of the Market st. subway and removal of the Chinese Wall.

The commission's report, issued last fall, figured about \$35,000,000 worth of projects, including some 25,000,000 man-hours of work, could be started whenever money, materials and labor were available. A second report, bringing the data up to date, is in preparation.

Plans City Council Approval: About \$700,000 in the 1944 budget is appropriated for plans and specifications. Philadelphia expects to get \$200,000 from a bond issue.

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Mayor Samuel Hits U. S. Delay On Program for Public Works

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE)

\$1,000,000 fund of the State Postwar Planning Commission. It also will obtain an additional \$200,000 appropriation to the State Department of Health and the \$500,000 appropriation to the Department of Forests and Waters. (Some of the latter funds are available for actual construction as well as planning of sewerage disposal.)

By contrast, the Mayor complained that the city's share of Federal funds available for public works will be only \$200,000 to \$250,000 which, unlike the gifts from the State, will have to be repaid.

Sewage Disposal: Plans and specifications are completed for \$8,000,000 of work. An \$8,000,000 plan ordinance is pending in City Council to provide funds to start work as soon as permits are obtained or wartime restriction on materials are removed. An \$8,000,000 program can be financed "if necessary" by the new sewer rental tax applied by the Supreme Court as it has been by the Common Pleas Court.

Waterworks: The \$300,000 program authorized in 1939 for the care of the financing here, although increased costs in the program may require some additional money. The work has been largely halted during the war, but it must have just been signed for \$80,000 worth of pipe-line mains.

Another \$1,000,000 worth of work, principally for the reconstruction of the Lardner Park reservoir, which is supporting the proposal to create an historic national park in the vicinity of Independence Hall.

Cites Support of Park Plan
The Mayor also noted that Philadelphia is energetically supporting the proposal to create an historic national park in the vicinity of Independence Hall.

"To summarize," the letter concluded, "Philadelphia was one of the first major cities to prepare plans for an extensive postwar public works program and has done so far advanced as possibly within the limits of technical personnel available outside of war agencies."

"Despite the hesitancy and delay to formulate programs and adopt policies at the national level, State and local governments in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania have proceeded to prepare for action that might be taken with or without Federal participation."

will appoint engineers to make expensive studies which will take months. Then the engineers will report back to the commission. It will be a report like all others: it will be expensive and nothing will be done. Mr. Mayor, you are capable of a better effort than this one. Go before this committee and tell them what you know about our water works. Get the information to hand and tell them to recommend to you and to Council that legal proceedings be taken immediately to bring good water to our people. Mr. Mayor, you are capable of doing this job. Go ahead and do it and you will receive the appreciation, the thanks and the gratitude of all the people of Philadelphia. You will be entitled to it, but you won't."

War Forced Construction Costs Above Original City Estimate

By LEEDS MOREBERRY

The \$18,000,000 loan voted six months ago has to be fixed up for the water works won't be enough to finish the job. You can blame the war. But for the war, the program would be just about completed by now. As it is, the work has advanced far enough that there is no longer any immediate danger of a major breakdown.

More Money Needed
But construction costs have risen so sharply in the months since it will be necessary either to cut corners on the remainder of the planned improvements or to go to the voters for more money.

So says Elbert J. Taylor, new chief of the Water Bureau. He ought to know if anybody does, for he probably has been closer to the problem than anyone else. Until two weeks ago he was resident engineer of Morris Knowles, Inc., Pittsburgh engineering firm which is serving as consultant on the waterworks rehabilitation. In that capacity he has been working with its program since its inception.

Not Telling How Much
At this point, however, not even Taylor can say how much more money will be required. In fact, he confessed yesterday in his first interview since assuming the new job, he can't even suggest how much of the original plans ought to be carried out.

"Construction costs have risen from 30 to 70 per cent since 1940," he said. "There are studies under way now to determine how much these increases will add to the cost of the work still remaining and how the available money can best be spread out."

But there is another important question involved, he pointed out. That is the question of what Philadelphia is going to do about its future water supply.

Source Says Change Plans
If we decide to tap a "pure" upland source, we will have no future need of the elaborate treatment equipment called for in the present program, which is based on continued use of the grossly polluted Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.

Mayor Samuel has promised a referendum on a new water supply for the city. The Mayor's Water Commission's engineers now are making detailed cost estimates on a proposal to intercept the Upper Delaware at Wallpack Bend, and also are preparing a report on what has been done with the present sources.

Taylor is 48 years old. He was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in civil engineering in 1923 and worked for The Penn State in Harrisburg, Pa., during two years on bridge construction. He made his connection with Morris Knowles, Inc., branched out into sanitary engineering soon afterward. He has been here since 1940.

\$18,000,000 FUND IS NOT ENOUGH TO FINISH WATERWORKS

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WATER IS THREAT, LANGBORD SAYS

Democratic Candidate for Coroner Warns of Disease

Dr. Joseph A. Langbord, Democratic candidate for Coroner, last night warned of the danger of drinking Philadelphia water.

"It is not only on the basis of taste, odor and appearance alone," he said in a radio address. "But the matter is far more serious than that. The latest medical researches support the suspicion that we doctors have held for years—that our city water may be actually dangerous. These researches indicate that our water, for all its dosage of chemicals, may be dangerous—that illness and death may be lurking in your glass."

"Raw Water Direct"
Dr. Langbord, director of the Deborah Tuberculosis Hospital, director of the Union Health Center and medical chief of Northern Liberties Hospital, charged that "raw, contaminated water is pumped direct from the rivers into our water supply."

"The United States Public Health Service made an inspection of the Philadelphia waterworks last spring. It can state on the best of authority that it is serving as consultant on the waterworks rehabilitation. In that capacity he has been working with its program since its inception."

Blames Republicans
"Must we wait for another disastrous epidemic of water-borne disease before there is any improvement? The answer frankly is yes—if the Republican organizations remain in power."

"But there is another way. The Democratic party is pledged to give you pure, healthful, really safe water. This is a basic phase of our three-year program. The time for action is at hand. We do not wait for new epidemics."

Water System of City Defended

Philadelphia's malodorous water can be made palatable and safe without changing the present source of supply, the Bureau of Municipal Research said yesterday.

"Business, the Bureau urged that the city compare the cost of removing and treating odors of the current source with the cost of developing new sources, before deciding to abandon the present system."

3 Electric Pumps Ordered by City

Another set of steam-driven pumps used in the Philadelphia water supply system was on its way out in favor of more efficient electric units, the city ordered yesterday when Mayor Bernard S. Stamp signed a contract for installation of three pumps at station on Wheatchest lane at the Delaware River.

The new pumps have a capacity of 105,000 gallons a day and will obtain excellent water of objectionable tastes and odors, as well as in the elimination of algae which makes water green.

COST IS DOUBTED
The Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers can continue to provide all the water the city requires, Citizens' Business said. The "shortage" of water shortage in the Schuylkill only in times of drought can be eliminated by drawing more water from the Delaware, or from the South Philadelphia, or from developments of 2 or 3 kilns and Tichenor watersheds, it added.

DIRECTOR DENIES WATER CHARGES

Says Langbord Assertion Filters are By-Passed is not True

Charges that "raw, contaminated water" is being pumped directly into the city's water system were made by Dr. Joseph Langbord, Democratic candidate for Coroner, in the opening days of the Democratic election campaign last night.

Dr. Langbord declared this disclosure was made by the U. S. Public Health Service during its investigation of the city's water system last spring. Filters and the Queen Lane pumping station were by-passed, Dr. Langbord said, because their beds are blocked with sludge and silt.

He added that city water, "is dosed with chlorine" and "isn't fit to drink under any consideration."

David W. Harris, chairman of the Republican City Committee, in a raising "who's your issue" saying that the candidates to be elected November 6—the Register of Wills, Coroner, City Treasurer and City Controller—have nothing to do with the solution of the water problem. He said the Republican administration is "bending every effort to speed to completion the new and modern water system which is being studied by the commission appointed by the Mayor."

Director Martin J. McLaughlin of the Department of Public Works, who is also acting chief of the Bureau of Water, said Dr. Langbord is "serving wrong" in his statements.

"No raw water is used in the Philadelphia system," McLaughlin declared. The filtered and chlorinated water from the Torresdale filter beds are constantly washed with

McLaughlin said that the Queen Lane station or other stations are "by-passed."

"Sunken" filters made last spring, were completely disapproved at that time," declared the Director, adding that the city operation is supervised by the State Department of Health and the U. S. Public Health Service.

James P. Clark, chairman of the Democratic City Committee, called on Harris to answer two questions which have troubled the applicants for Philadelphia citizens and (2) what improvements have been installed in return for taxes collected.

WATER BUREAU GETS NEW CHIEF

Elbert J. Taylor Appointed to Job Formerly Held by McLaughlin

Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin yesterday announced the appointment of Elbert J. Taylor, resident engineer of Morris Knowles, Inc., Pittsburgh engineering firm which is serving as consultant on the \$18,000,000 waterworks rehabilitation program.

McLaughlin Pleased
Despite McLaughlin's complaint to City Council last fall that the job's \$800,000 starting salary is not high enough to attract "competent" men, the choice finally was made from among 20 applicants.

McLaughlin had high praise for the man he got. He pointed out that Taylor's work on the waterworks program has been here since 1940, makes him "completely familiar with our water problem in all its details."

"I am confident he will make a good chief because of his background and his familiarity with the personnel of the Bureau," the Director added.

Vacant Since Sept. 6
The position has been vacant since September 6, when McLaughlin, who was chief up to that time, was promoted to assistant director of Public Works to succeed the late John H. Neeson, McLaughlin's predecessor in the post.

Starting salary at \$9000 in the city, Taylor is declaring other cities pay \$12,000 to \$15,000 and even \$25,000 for similar jobs."

Gets Yearly Increase
The resolution recently proposed by the Water Commission indicated that an upland water supply would cost \$255,000,000 plus \$85,000,000 for filtration and repairs or a total of \$340,000,000, Kidd said. "An agreement of fact, the city could have an adequate water supply for a total of only \$120,000,000."

"By adopting the Pococno Mountain proposal the city could have saved \$225,000,000 in the present revenue received by the city."

6 G THE EVENING BULLETIN, Philadelphia, Oct. 9, 1945



ELBERT J. TAYLOR He knows the problem...

WATER WORKS FIGURE CALLED TOO HIGH

Official Says Pococno Plan would Cost \$120,000,000

Estimates of the cost of an upland water supply have been placed far too high, said Glen O. Kidd, secretary of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., in a talk today before the Philadelphia Committee on Public Affairs at the Princeton Club.

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