



BULLETIN - 4/5/46
HORSHAM TO FIGHT RESERVOIR PLAN
 Residents Raise \$7,500 Fund; Cite Loss of Tax, Colonial Landmarks

A \$7,500 fund for a legal battle against the construction of a reservoir as part of the Wallpack Bend project to provide pure water for Philadelphia was raised last night at a meeting of 300 residents of Horsham Township, Montgomery County.

The residents, who met in the Prospectville school, set up a committee headed by Fred Fowles, president of the township school board, to get the fight under way.

Under the project, water from the upper Delaware River would be brought by pipeline to a reservoir in Warrington Township, Bucks County, adjoining Horsham.

The reservoir project would inundate about a third of Horsham Township and a five-mile square area in Bucks County.

From the reservoir the water would be piped to Philadelphia. Those attending last night's meeting were told that construction of the reservoir would require the razing of 1,000 farms and homes in Warrington, Horsham and Lower Merion townships, and the destruction of many colonial structures, including the home of Sir William Keith, first Governor of Pennsylvania.

Fowles estimated that Horsham Township would lose about \$15,000 a year in taxes.

The committee formed at the meeting probably will first contact the State Water Resources Board, which has the right to condemn property needed for the city water supply.

WATER BUREAU GETS NEW CHIEF
 Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin (left), former Water Bureau head, is shown in his City Hall Annex office, outlining the duties of chief of the Water Bureau to his successor, Albert J. Taylor, whose appointment to the post was announced yesterday.

Engineer Appointed Water Bureau Chief

Albert J. Taylor, 46, a consulting engineer was appointed yesterday to fill a six-month vacancy as \$800-a-year chief of the Water Bureau. Mr. Taylor, whose firm has been retained by the city for several years for consultation on water problems, took over a post that was vacated last September when former Chief Martin J. McLaughlin succeeded the late John H. Neeson as Director of Public Works.

TEST MAY BE WAIVED
 Under Civil Service procedure his appointment was provisional. Public hearings will be held to determine whether the job shall be exempted from a competitive examination. The appointee may take such an examination if he wishes.

Mr. McLaughlin predicted that Mr. Taylor would prove "a very good chief."

"He is thoroughly familiar with the \$18,000,000 improvement program," he said. "He not only knows the city's water system problems, but knows the personnel of the bureau and is in a position to do a great job."

Mr. Taylor, who is married and has a year-old daughter, resides in an apartment house at Chest and Duval sts.

Ex-udge Kenworthy akes Stump For Utility Firm Seeking Unconscionable Profit

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. stands to make a profit of some \$12,000,000 if Pococoo water project down the throats of Philadelphia taxpayers.

That sum would be realized by that firm for a few hundred acres of almost worthless mountain land on which it would be necessary to construct reservoirs and other facilities to carry the water to market in this city.

Several weeks ago The Dispatch disclosed that as high-powered lobby was at work in Philadelphia, containing officials in an effort to "sell" them the Lehigh Company's ideas on what is good for the local citizenry.

But now the utility firm's list for that \$12,000,000 slice of gravy is out in the open.

Not less than a former Superior Court Judge has taken the stump in favor of the Lehigh-Pococoo water project.

Charles E. Kenworthy, a member of the law firm of Schnader, Kenworthy, Segal & Lewis, told an Optimist Club luncheon that the Lehigh-Pococoo water was the only solution of Philadelphia's water problem. He also condemned the Wallpack-Yardley project which would draw water from the upper sources of the Delaware River.

Kenworthy declared the latter proposition involved too many legal obstacles.

Said Mr. Kenworthy: "An interstate compact would have to be negotiated among Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, and this would have to be approved by Congress."

He also brought the Army into the picture with the statement that "Army engineers have supervision over certain of the Delaware watersheds."

There are a few details, however, which Mr. Kenworthy took no pains to impress upon his listeners.

He failed to state that his law firm serves as counsel for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company and that a juicy fee no doubt is in prospect if the Philadelphia taxpayers are successful.

Another detail glossed over by the ex-jurist was that there is no fence that any difficulty would be experienced if Philadelphia sought to share in the waters of the upper Delaware. New Jersey and New York tap that source. Why not a municipality in Pennsylvania?

There would be no trouble whatsoever involved in negotiating an interstate compact with New Jersey and New York, and in so doing has started a program to free all toll bridges.

Kenworthy, in a dutiful parrot-like fashion, echoed the cry of the Lehigh Company's own engineers that the Lehigh-Pococoo project would cost only \$12,000,000, with an additional expenditure of \$20,000,000 if a larger supply was desirable.

Industrial engineers of the City Water Commission, however, put the cost of that project at between \$300,000,000 and \$500,000,000.

Speakers to civic and business organizations are also being dispatched by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company in its frenzied effort to wrap up its proposed \$12,000,000 grab.

One such speaker appeared at a meeting of the United Businessmen's Association last week and was met with a barrage of questions of which he could satisfactorily answer.

But \$12,000,000 is a lot of money and the Lehigh Company will leave no stone unturned to pocket that unconscionable profit it seeks to make on the deal.

If and when the people of Philadelphia decide by ballot to change the city water supply, this Lehigh outfit will bear watching. With tactics as ruthless and brazen as they have to date employed, anything might happen.

City Delays Referendum On New Water Supply

Philadelphia voters will not be asked to choose a new water supply for the city at the May 21 primary. City Council, in a two-hour caucus yesterday, decided to withdraw the water supply referendum from the primary ballot until full information on the various sources can be provided.

Council President Frederic D. Garman, who announced the decision, said that a substitute resolution would be introduced at today's Council session. Although he declined to comment, it was expected that the resolution would postpone the referendum to the general election in November.

Several groups, including the Philadelphia Committee on Public Affairs, had protested against submitting the referendum to the electorate at a primary.

Mr. Garman said members of Council felt it was inadvisable to submit the referendum at this time since the Board of Engineers of the City Water Commission had not yet completed its report on the cost of the Wallpack Bend project for developing new water sources.

NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS BACK CITY USE OF DELAWARE WATER

Blessing Expected to Remove Obstacles to Tapping Upper River

By EDWARD STONE

New Jersey officials gave their informal blessing yesterday to the city's tapping of the upper Delaware River for mountain water.

The blessing was extended at a meeting of the Philadelphia Water Commission in the Midway Club. It presumably will remove a major snag from the path of the plan.

The snag was the commission's fear that New Jersey might block diversion of Delaware River water and involve use. Possible need of North Jersey communities to tap the river considered an obstacle.

But representatives of the neighbor State assured the commission no such need is in sight. Their views do not bind the State itself, it was pointed out by Samuel H. Rosenberg, secretary to the commission and to Mayor Samuel.

As for the State of Pennsylvania, officials attending the meeting said no applications are pending from any communities outside of Philadelphia for use of the Delaware.

Project Is Favored
 The proposal under discussion was the 4 1/2 upack Bend project, known to be favored by the commission among several to bring water here from upstate sources.

The project would dam the upper Delaware at a sharp curve in its course known as Wallpack Bend, near Bushkill. Eighty miles of pressure tunnels would bring water here, with an intervening reservoir at Warrington in Bucks county.

To arrange for the project, an interstate commission was suggested by the meeting to be made up of representatives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The new commission would have the power of eminent domain to take any needed property in both States adjoining the Delaware.

By April 15 the Water Commission anticipates a report to be made up of representatives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

If approved by the commission, that or any substitute project will be submitted to Philadelphia voters at the May 21 primary.

N. J. to Let Phila. Tap Water Supply

Project to Cost City 270 Million

A city approval of Philadelphia use of the upper Delaware River Basin to obtain a clear water supply was given yesterday by representatives of the State of New Jersey at a meeting with Mayor Samuel's Water Commission.

During the course of the meeting, in the Midway Club, it was made plain, however, that the tacit approval does not bind New Jersey and is contingent on the future needs of New Jersey cities for a water supply.

RESERVOIR NEAR BUSHKILL
 Under the proposal being studied by the Mayor's Water Commission, headed by Herbert W. Goodell, Philadelphia would gain a supply of 500,000,000 gallons of mountain water daily under what has come to be known as the Wallpack Bend Project.

The project would create a reservoir near Bushkill, in the Poconos, from which the water would be piped to Philadelphia.

CITY TO VOTE ON PLAN
 During the discussion held yesterday it was suggested that a Joint New Jersey-Pennsylvania Commission be created by the Legislatures of the two States to operate the water source. The waters of the entire upper Delaware watershed are under the supervision of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, otherwise known as Incoed, in which Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware are represented.

The question of whether Philadelphia should go ahead with plans to obtain the upland water supply or concentrate on a plan for improving the local water supply will be submitted to the electorate in the May 21 primary election.

COST TO BE 270 MILLION
 If it is approved by the voters, and the project is carried out, Philadelphia will become the only immediate user of water from the upper Delaware Basin.

The plan calls for the expenditure of \$270,000,000 to construct a reservoir at Bushkill; to lay a submerged conduit from that place to Warrington, Bucks county; to construct a storage reservoir at that place, and to install subsequent pipe lines to this city.

ENGINEERS STUDY PLAN
 With its completion the city's supply of water would vastly increase, since at present Philadelphia uses only between 325,000,000 and 350,000,000 gallons daily.

The plan has been studied by engineers, and a report from it is expected by the Water Commission by April 15.

PRESENT AT MEETING
 Among the New Jersey representatives attending yesterday's meeting were State Treasurer Robert C. Hendrickson, Governor T. Paul, a member of Incoed, and B. M. Roper, Howard T. Criverton, and William R. Conrad, members of the New Jersey Water Policy Commission.

Also among those in attendance were Ellwood T. Tracy, chairman of Incoed, and J. A. Piskin, one of its members, both of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and four members of the Pennsylvania Water and Power Resources Board: F. K. Wiegman, W. E. Kirkpatrick, Albert F. Damon, Jr., and Gordon Mason.

LEHIGH COAL & NAVIGATION CO. WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
 IN \$12,000,000

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