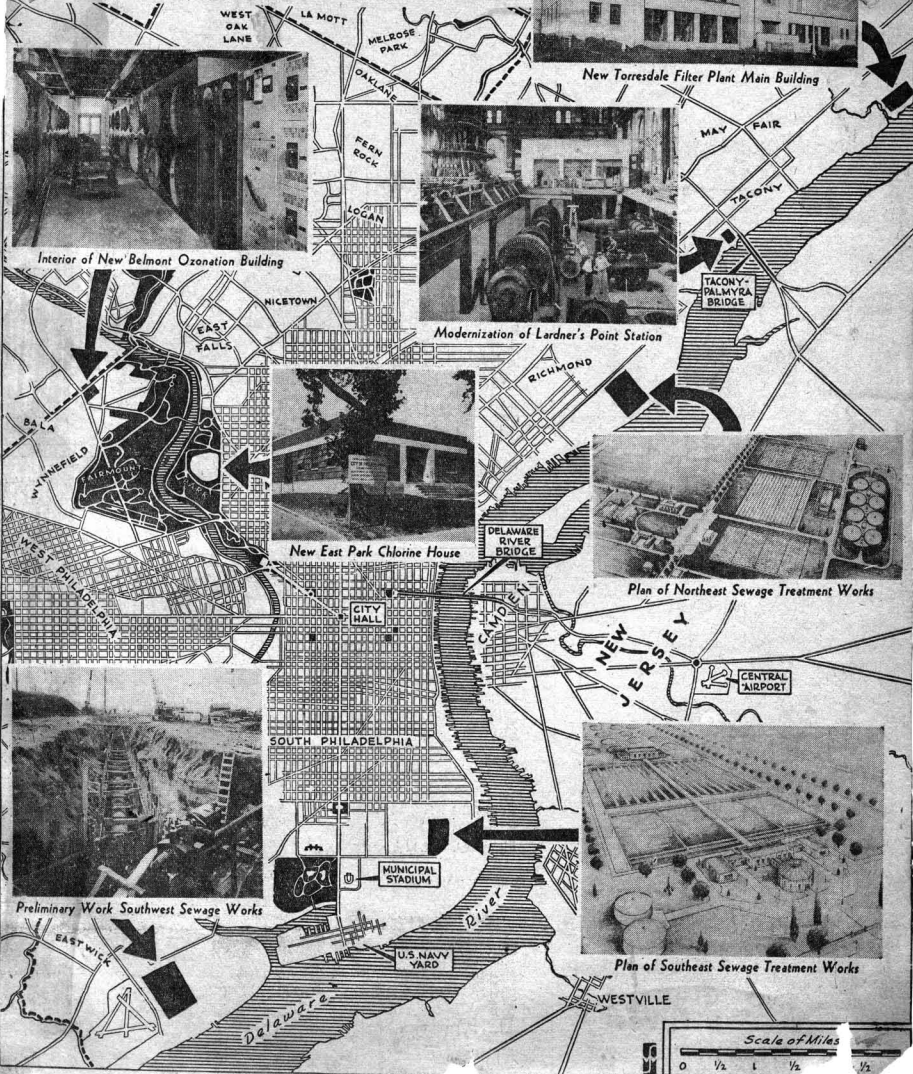


# Highlights of city's Water And Sewage Programs



## Private Control of Water Is Urged in Report to '15

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 \$10,000,000 in new revenues, he added.

"Granting continued good times would mean a likely boost in the return from the city wage tax, Drake suggested the assessment committee emphasized that the current trend was keeping pace with inflation.

Applying the suggested 20 percent rate to assessments would provide additional income of \$7,000,000 annually, he said. This would mean a boost of 14 percent in the tax yield from real estate and a 6 percent rise in overall city revenue.

Even if the suggestion was carried out, according to Drake, real estate would still contribute considerably less than half of the city's income.

The plan would improve the city's borrowing capacity and also aid the school district.

### COUNCIL GETS REPORTS

Copies of the report were sent to the Board of Revision of Taxes and to City Council.

Two reports were submitted by the Bureau of Municipal Research. They called for a general reorganization of the Fire, Marshall's office and for reworking the existing zoning law and changes in the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

One report recommended enactment of a fire prevention code, an ordinance transferring the inspection of fire-rated domestic gas burners to the Bureau of Building Inspection and Licensing of installers of such burners to the Division of Housing and Sanitation.

### PRIVATE CITIZENS URGED

The zoning laws and maps should be revised by a five-man board, the second report suggested. Such action would correct what the report called "widespread deficiencies."

The Zoning Board of Adjustment, the report urged, should consist principally of private citizens. Four of the five present members are city officials.

Laurence Costello, Director of City Transit, also supported the committee. He disputed previous recommendations that his department be merged with the Department of Public Works and pointed out that his unit is in the midst of a \$30,000,000 program entirely "foreign" to any other department.

## Neglect Caused Poor Water, WFIL Forum Speakers Say

Philadelphia is now "reaping the reward of 20 or 30 years of neglect" of its water supply plant with water of bad taste and odor, city experts declared yesterday.

The question "What Progress Are We Making Toward Improving Philadelphia's Water Supply?" was discussed yesterday on the Public Hearing Program over station WFIL.

Speakers included Robert K. Sawyer, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research; Charles Haydock, consulting engineer and author of a report on the water supply for the Committee of 15; and Elbert Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water of the Department of Public Works.

All agreed that the solution was not an upland source but improvement of the present plant here. They also agreed that the principal problem was the matter of taste and odor and corrosion, or "red water." They suggested a separate water department to prevent further "draining off" of water revenue for other city expenditures.

Sawyer reported that purity and reliability of supply were no longer serious problems. However, he and Taylor disagreed on the amount of progress made on taste and odor control.

"When the present program" was launched in 1946," Sawyer said, "it didn't cover taste and odor control and it is not sufficiently cared for now. We should have adequate equipment to care for the occasional 'dumplings' in the river such as we had last winter. This problem must be solved here as we can focus attention on modernizing our plant."

## Mayor Urges Independent Water Board

Would Have It Manage And Develop City's \$100,000,000 System

Mayor Samuel proposed yesterday that the City solve its water problems by turning the water system over to an independent body of experts.

He will recommend to the state Legislature, he said, the establishment of a Philadelphia Water Authority which would assume full responsibility for the management, control and development of the City's \$100,000,000 water works.

The City, the mayor's announcement indicated, would not permanently transfer to the new authority the ownership of the system, but only the headaches that go with it. The authority, under the Samuel plan, would run the water works, correct all existing evils, develop new sources of supply as needed and pay the City an annual rental to protect its investment in the existing plant.

"Supplying water to the 500,000 homes of the people of Philadelphia and to our many manufacturing, industrial and mercantile establishments," Samuel said, "is a tremendous undertaking requiring the application of modern business practices."