

OLD GOP CLIQUE RUNS WATER DEPT.

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FOUR HORSEMAN CREATE UNREST IN WATER DEPT.

The old GOP clique, known as "the four horsemen," which ran the Water Bureau in the last Republican regime, is still running the new Water Department set-up in the Democratic Administration.

And employes claim that the clique is responsible for the unrest and dissension which have created a major labor-relations headache for Mayor Joseph S. Clark, Jr. and his cabinet.

The departmental employes identify "the four horsemen" as: Elbert J. Taylor, former Chief of the Water Bureau, now Chief of Operations.

Charles Vickerman, former Assistant Chief of the Bureau, now assistant chief of operations and the man in charge of personnel.

William E. Webster, former auditor in charge of Water Bureau payrolls, who now holds a similar job.

Frank Gallagher, former chief clerk of the Water Bureau, who now holds the same title in the new department.

These four men rule the roost on the 8th floor of City Hall Annex, while Water Commissioner Samuel Baxter, who is in command of the department since the 11th floor and, it was thought, knows nothing of what is going on except what these

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four men tell him.

Last week, it became known around City Hall and the Annex, however, that Baxter has not been fooled even though he above "the four horsemen."

It was said that the Commissioner was "fully aware" of the conditions which had been brought to his attention and that he was busy making a private investigation.

Baxter even was quoted as

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saying that he was "sick and tired" of giving orders and not having them carried out and that he was "getting to the bottom of the whole mess."

Among the "conditions" which the department employes say are responsible for the unrest and dissension, are threats to elderly per diem clerical workers of assignment to pick and shovel work; favoritism to other employes through civil service classifications while jobholders who took examinations successfully are by-passed.

Overtime payments to favored employes and "beating the brass" out of others not favored by the clique also are charged by the employes.

The employes charge that Republican ward leaders still are able to get favors done in the Water Department through their connections with "the four horsemen," some of them having been GOP wheelers for years.

The employes say that only a major shakeup in the department will set things right and restore efficiency and the are looking with great anticipation for the results of Commissioner Baxter's investigation.

Escobedo hires Chicago firm at 50g to 'assist'

By HERBERT D. REIS
(DAILY NEWS Staff Member)

Following the hiring of nine out-of-town consultants to aid in creating a new Civil Service setup, several of them at \$1000 per month, Frank J. Escobedo, personnel director, has signed an additional \$50,000 contract with a Chicago firm, to "assist" his department.

Details of the new arrangement were disclosed today with discovery of an agreement with Public Administration Service, an Illinois corporation, which will be paid as much as \$80 per day for the service of some of its staff members, although the entire price is described in the contract as existing "not for pecuniary profit."

HIGH SALARIES

Some of the other experts which the city will retain will be paid from \$40 to \$60 per day; another group will be compensated at rates ranging from \$50 to \$60. The \$80 per day is higher than the daily compensation of Mayor Clark, \$25,000 of Mayor's annual salary is \$25,000.

While the arrangement bearing the signature of Escobedo as well as that of H. F. Pope, executive director of Public Administration Service, stipulates that this organization shall be paid more than \$50,000 for a job survey and a job classification and other work it was explained the plan may cost the city twice that sum. That is because this group is to "assist" in the work, while the municipality must supply most of the personnel, and an estimated additional \$50,000 may be involved in the under-taking.

Considerable confusion was created when the first copy of the contract was made public. Under the law, all contracts are subject to public scrutiny. This agreement did not bear the signature of Lennox L. Moak, finance director, although under the new City Charter he must approve all such undertakings. One Chicago employe of the corporation was already at work on the job survey and job classification, despite the fact that City Controller Stephen E. McLoughlin, Jr., had not yet seen the agreement. Under the Charter likewise the City Controller must

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Chicago firm hired at 50g by Escobedo

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certify on the contract that the necessary funds are available.

LEGAL FORM APPROVAL

The contract had been approved only as to "legal form" as required by law, by City Solicitor Abraham L. Freedman and one of his assistants, Joseph Gaffney, Jr.

Already, Public Administration Service is receiving a separate \$50,000 for assisting Moak to reorganize the municipal finance system. A staff of Chicagoans is likewise at work in the Finance Department.

Unlike other experts previously retained by the Personnel Office, the new group is not to have food and lodging at the expense of the city. The \$50,000 contract stipulates that the rates of pay fixed are parity in "lien of subsistence." This was interpreted as meaning that because of the high pay allotted, there was to be no additional compensation for hotel bills and meals.

There are 17 paragraphs vaguely outlining what Public Administration Service is to do. The following are samples:

"Development and/or review of project materials and arrangements for which the Service shares responsibility and intermittent short term participations in Philadelphia."

The project as tentatively defined subject to such improvement as may be necessary and

practical to provide preliminary information for the budgetary process attending the calendar and fiscal year 1953."

"Assist generally in the integration of the new plans and procedures with existing systems and records."

It is understood the \$50,000 limit does not include telephone service. That would be an additional cost to the city. Office space must likewise be provided by the municipality. Cost of travel in and around the city by the Chicago experts must be borne by the taxpayers.

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