

## MAYOR HANDLEY DECLARES SERVICE TO PUBLIC MUST BE FIRST CONSIDERATION OF OFFICIALS

Following is the text of Mayor Handley's address to the city council: "In assuming control of the city government for the ensuing four years, it is well that we should consider some phases of the city's business that will confront us during that period. It is plain that the citizens of Richmond have given us a grave responsibility—one which we must assume and meet to the best of our ability. No man or set of men could hope to satisfy everyone and criticism is bound to come, but if every official and every department shall keep uppermost an honest desire to do only that which will be for the best interest of the city as a whole, mistakes and criticism will be reduced to a minimum."

"We must at all times particularly bear in mind that we are the servants of the city of Richmond, and every complaint and every inquiry should be met with courtesy and careful consideration. Service should be and must be the first consideration of every official and every department. Discourage personalities."

No more important branch of the city government exists than the city council. Your executive is personally acquainted with every member and has not the slightest doubt of a sincere desire on the part of every member of that body to do only those things that shall be of benefit to the city. It would be a great disappointment if any member of council should vote for any measure through friendship from a desire to embarrass the administration. Personally your executive has no idea that any member of council would allow himself to be swayed in the discharge of his duty by personalities. Council should be kept fully informed regarding all problems confronting the city and its advice and co-operation asked—not demanded.

"In the declaration presented to the people during the campaign your executive enumerated certain things in which he believed and among them you will find the following:

### To Fix Responsibility.

"He believes that the various boards and heads of departments should be chosen for their fitness, willingness to work, and ability, and should not then be interfered with by the mayor or be subservient to his personal preference in the makeup of the personnel of the employees. The results obtained in the various departments should be the first consideration and each board or head of department should be held responsible for the work performed."

"He still believes in that sentiment and expects to carry out that plan so far as it is possible to do so."

The operation of the municipal electric light and power plant should receive our best attention. Your executive is convinced that the superintendent of this plant should be a man educated and trained as an electrical expert or engineer if possible, and also with sufficient business experience to efficiently handle all phases of this most important utility. To obtain such a man we must be prepared to pay more salary than in the past. It is folly to expect to secure a well-qualified man unless we are able to meet the competition of private business concerns. It is not believed that the citizens would approve the selection of any man who is not competent to take charge of the plant and operate it efficiently without having to get his knowledge and training at the expense of the city.

### Points to Past.

"The experience through which we have just passed and the extraordinary expense caused by inefficiency or neglect should teach a lesson of the greatest value to the future management of the plant. The serious problem of selecting a competent superintendent is one your executive does not care to undertake alone and in addition to the board of public works he has called to his assistance a committee of five business men who are giving of their time and thought unselfishly to aid in solving this most important problem. In a short time the members of council will be called into this conference to approve or disapprove the work of that committee and to authorize the payment of such salary as may be necessary."

"If there is any one thing the people of this city have demanded more than another it is efficient work by the police department. The illegal sale of intoxicating liquor is prohibited by federal statute and yet the law has been defied and illicit stills are said to be numerous. The vile concoctions produced are a menace to health and even to life itself, and while your executive has the greatest sympathy for the poor individual who may

be possessed of an ungovernable appetite for intoxicants, yet there is no excuse for anyone who violates the law by selling it. Therefore, due warning is herewith given that any person found guilty in police court of manufacturing for sale or selling intoxicating liquor in violation of the law will receive as a penalty not only a fine but a jail sentence as well and there will be no suspension of the sentence or any part of it."

### Gambling Complaints

"Complaint has also been made that the gambling fraternity flourish in this city and that boys and young men are being led astray through these places. Houses of ill fame are also said to exist. The police department is expected to clean up both gambling places and these houses of questionable character. It is not expected to enforce the so-called 'blue laws' or attempt to make the city ridiculous by going to extremes but simply to make this city a most unhealthy place for criminals of all classes."

"A good board of police commissioners has been appointed and a superintendent who will fearlessly discharge his duty has been selected, and these officials will stand squarely behind the police in the discharge of duty. In addition this department is intending to take an advance step by having attached to it a police woman or police matron. This officer will deal with women and children, giving attention to public places of amusement, social service work, preventative work, advising with women and girls, and in fact being all that a policeman is to the community and yet going further. The expense for this officer will not add to the budget provided for the police department."

### No Sleeping Quarters

"The fire department of this city enjoys a reputation for efficiency and that standard must be maintained. Your executive recommends for this department such drilling and exercise as will keep the men in good physical condition and ready at all times for any emergency. Since the firemen work under the two platoon system, it is evidently not expected that the men on night duty shall have sleeping quarters provided any more than the day men. The two platoon system was evidently adopted as a means to greater efficiency and to insure greater vigilance at night when fires have a better chance to get a start. The work of the two platoons should be equally divided so that there will be no more reason for a fireman on duty to be found in bed when needed than for a policeman on duty to do the same thing."

"The law requires that the mayor shall hold cabinet meetings at least once a month at which time the heads of departments shall make report, and that these officials shall be enabled to consult on all matters relative to the welfare of the city by having this commission legally organized. The results obtained in the various departments should be the first consideration and each board or head of department should be held responsible for the work performed."

### He Still Believes.

"He still believes in that sentiment and expects to carry out that plan so far as it is possible to do so."

The operation of the municipal electric light and power plant should receive our best attention. Your executive is convinced that the superintendent of this plant should be a man educated and trained as an electrical expert or engineer if possible, and also with sufficient business experience to efficiently handle all phases of this most important utility. To obtain such a man we must be prepared to pay more salary than in the past. It is folly to expect to secure a well-qualified man unless we are able to meet the competition of private business concerns. It is not believed that the citizens would approve the selection of any man who is not competent to take charge of the plant and operate it efficiently without having to get his knowledge and training at the expense of the city.

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