

CITY JOBS PAYLESS FOR 4-DAY PERIOD

McCain Writes of Period for Which No Salaries Are Provided

NEW COUNCIL DISCUSSED

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN. It is startling, but true, that for a period within the next three months Philadelphia will be a city without a salaried government.

It might be more proper to say that its officials and employees generally will be serving without pay. That is, unless some arrangements can be made in the meantime to be perfected.

It is a curious fact that came to light in a talk I had today with Joseph P. Gaffney, chairman of Councils' finance committee. To relieve suspense I may say that the period referred to is just four days.

The condition is best described by Mr. Gaffney: "There is a curious complication confronting us in this overturning of our present system of city government which I do not think has been considered by any one. It occurred to me in connection with my duties as chairman of the finance committee.

"Our present municipal government ceases operation on December 31. The new order of things does not go into effect until the first Monday in January. There is an interim therefore of four days in which the city is operating without steering gear, as one might say. Three days in which there is no provision for the payment of salaries or the general conduct of affairs.

To Provide for Bridging Gap. Of course, business will go on as usual and there will be no actual suspension of municipal functions. Just the same there must be some provision for bridging this gap, and up to the present time I have not settled in my own mind just how we are going to do it."

No matter who may win or lose in the official vote count, or at the November election, a revolution in Philadelphia's government is due to begin on the first Monday in January next.

Plans, rather indefinite to be sure, are already mapped out that will have to do with the workings of the new Council of twenty-one and the various changes that will occur with the assumption of its duties. Next to the Mayor himself these twenty-one men will be the most important figures in the municipal government.

As salaried officials elected for four years, and presumably devoting their entire time to the interests of the city, matters of their incoming and outgoing, clerical help, revision of rules and similar problems are of immediate public interest.

Reorganization of Councils. It is impossible in the nature of things to postpone until the 1st of January certain details connected with Councils' reorganization. These considerations are, of course, but tentative.

and must be approved after the November election decides the personnel of the body.

Charles B. Hall, chief clerk of Select Council, and Mr. Gaffney are two men, who, by virtue of their present positions, will be expected to arrange the preliminaries—Mr. Hall, because he is the chief executive officer of the smaller branch of the present bicameral body, and Mr. Gaffney, whose committee will conclude the financial arrangements prior to the organization.

I have talked with both gentlemen. Both expressly stated that whatever views they entertained concerning arrangements for the new Council were purely personal, and were not to be considered either as dictating or suggesting any particular mode of procedure.

"Personally, I am of the opinion," said Mr. Hall, "that the new Council should retain the use of the fourth floor of City Hall, with the various rooms and offices which are now given over to Councils. All of these rooms have been arranged and fitted up for the use of councilmanic bodies, and they can be rearranged, I think, in a manner that will answer every purpose and to the satisfaction of the members of the incoming administration.

Select Chamber for Assembly Room. "Select Council chamber should be the assembly room of the Council of twenty-one. Common Council chamber should be utilized for general office purposes, where members could have their individual desks for the transaction of business and for meeting their constituents and citizens generally. There should be doorkeepers, messengers and two or three stenographers whose business would be to attend to the correspondence of the members.

"The room now occupied by the public committee could be a public meeting place—a sort of forum where citizens and delegations can gather to discuss affairs with Council's committees as occasion arises. There are three large rooms in the fifth floor of City Hall, 509-52-54, that would serve as committee rooms, for it will be necessary to provide offices for the principal one. Committees being smaller under the new system will not require as much space as at present."

"There has been a suggestion that each councilman have an office in his district, something after the manner of a legislator's office where he could be found every day by persons desiring to consult him on city affairs?" I ventured.

District Officers "Unnecessary." "I think it is unnecessary," was the reply. "Besides, the new charter makes no provision for any such expense. I do not think that members of Council, even though they are in receipt of a salary of \$5000, will care to maintain such an office at their own expense. City Hall, where all municipal interests are centered, is the logical place for a councilman to have his office. He is then in touch with every department with which he is likely to have any business."

"Do you think it probable that the city will permit each councilman to have a personal secretary or stenographer assigned to him?" "There have been indefinite rumors of such a thing."

"I do not believe it either possible or probable because it is unnecessary. Two or three stenographers will be sufficient, judging by my own experience, to handle all the correspondence and official business of the entire body. If there should be a rush at any time a few stenographers could be employed temporarily to help out."

Provide for Running Expenses. The present finance committee has already included in its budget an item of \$105,000 for the salaries of the new councilmen. The pay roll of strictly councilmanic employees under the present system exceeds \$45,000. This is for the services of twenty-nine employees, clerks, stenographers, messengers, etc. Under the new charter for the Mayor must prepare a city budget, and as it is impossible now to say just what other expenses will be incurred, \$52,850 has been inserted in a lump sum for running expense for the new Council.

"I have not given the subject of organization and its accompanying programs anything but the most casual thought," said Mr. Gaffney. "As to the meeting place for the new councilmanic body, I think Select Council chamber is admirably adapted for the purpose.

"There is great need for a public auditorium where meetings can be held for the public discussion of city business. Common Council chamber would be suitable for this, while the appropriations room could be released for the use of committees. The various offices to the west, and adjoining it, could be turned over to stenographers and clerks, who would be at the instant command of the members.

"I am opposed to any suggestion that members of Council have public offices in their districts. The people should come into the center of the city to meet their representatives at the one appointed place where municipal business is transacted, namely, City Hall.

Would Revise Rules. "Whatever thought I have given to the general subject of the new government system has been in connection with its operative functions. With a smaller councilmanic body there should be fewer committees. The work should be concentrated, because it is the history of all parliamentary and legislative bodies that the mass of the work finally settles upon the shoulders of a few men. At least that has been my experience.

"There should be a complete revision of the rules in the matter of committees. All deliberations should be in the open and important discussions carried on in the presence of the public. Star chamber sessions of any kind should be abolished.

"Among the necessary committees there should be one on finance, another on public safety, and others on public health and welfare. Railroads and trams would embrace both steam and trolley lines, subways and elevated. A very important committee would be one on bridges, wharves, docks and ferries. This would include in its considerations the new Delaware river bridge.

"Or course, you understand that these are merely general ideas that have flashed through my mind. They are not settled opinions," continued Mr. Gaffney. "Of one thing I am convinced; fewer committees tend to more efficient work."

Harvey Hale, Charles M. Wilkins, Otis Hunsicker, Arthur Stillwell, Harry P. Conner, William J. Bryan, Harry Bryan, G. C. Lengel, Austin H. Houck, William Townsend Wright, William H. Crawford and William T. Hunter.

REGRETS RESIGNATIONS

Dr. Garber Sorry Edmunds and Jenks Quit Board of Education

Superintendent of Schools Garber today expressed his regret at the resignation of Henry R. Edmunds and John Story Jenks from the Board of Education.

"I regret the going out of Mr. Jenks and Mr. Edmunds, who resigned from the Board of Education this week," he said. "The community owes a debt of gratitude to both for their faithful service. Service without pay, an honorary position such as theirs, sometimes does not receive the recognition it should. They gave their time and attention to the work. They were courteous gentlemen who always considered the best welfare of the schools."

Dr. Garber refused to make any statement concerning possible appointees for the Board of Education. It is presumed that four members of the board, whose terms expire next month, will be reappointed. They are: Dimmer Beeber, Joseph W. Catharine, Simon Gratz and Dr. Edward Martin.

Radnor Needs New Fire Engines. Wealthy Main Line residents are aiding the Radnor Fire Company campaign for a fund of \$15,000 for the purchase of two new fire engines. Among the canvassers are J. M. Gallagher, Frank Adelberger, George Siter, Charles E. Clark, Herman B. Lengel, James K. Dunne, Charles Young, George K. Lentz, Ralph Robson, Clarence Gilpin.

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