

HALL ANNEX PLAN OPPOSED BY MAYOR

Moore Says Spending of Millions Now Is Not Justified, but Wants Action

CONFERENCE HELD TODAY

Mayor Moore was in consultation today with City Hall officials concerning his project for a City Hall annex at Broad and Race streets.

The Mayor's suggestion, in the form of an ordinance, is now before Council, as is an ordinance backed by Councilman Charles B. Hall, to take over for the same purpose the plot of ground from Commerce to Filbert streets, and Thirtieth to Juniper. The assessment of the plot of ground backed by Mr. Hall is \$1,573,000, while that of the plot favored by the Mayor is something less than \$500,000.

Following the conference the Mayor said in regard to the Broad and Race streets plot: "This project is the most feasible at this time. We are in immediate need of relief from City Hall congestion. A \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000 project, involving the heavy condemnation of land would postpone a City Hall project for a long time; and a project along the Parkway, while desirable, if not almost prohibitive as to cost, would likewise tend to delay."

The Mayor's ordinance was taken up at a meeting of Council's committee on city property yesterday. At the suggestion of Mr. Hall action on the Mayor's ordinance was postponed.

Members of the committee asked for plans of both plots and complete information regarding assessed values. A letter from Miers Busch, chairman of the committee on municipal affairs of the Board of Trade, was read at the meeting. The letter, addressed to Mr. Hall, favored the more expensive project. He suggested that the city even enlarge upon this scheme and take over the whole plot from Filbert to Market street.

The ground from Juniper to Thirtieth, Thomas to Market, is assessed at \$4,645,000. Mayor Moore today called attention to the fact that Mr. Busch had been referred to at the meeting as approving the Hall project, and that on the strength of this letter Council desired the matter to go to a public hearing.

"If Mr. Busch had approved another project and a more costly one," said the Mayor, "he has also approved the project at Broad and Race streets. The Mayor exhibited a letter ad-

dressed to him by Mr. Busch under date of June 22, commending the Mayor's plan. "We believe the department will require all the space obtainable at that point and as the location is central and the city already owns a large proportion of the ground, we heartily endorse and hope the funds will be found to carry it out."

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