

FILE NO. 131528

Mayor's Message

OF

To City Council at its organization
June 1, 1931, at 2 o'clock p.m.

FILED JUN 1 1931

BY
ADDRESS H. W. CARROLL
CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK
BY CHAS. H. DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED JUN 1 1931	TO COMMITTEE OF WHOLE
REFERRED	TO
REPORTED	REPORT ADOPTED
REPORTED	REPORT ADOPTED
REF. FOR ORD.	C. B. ORD.
MAY 24 1934	DISPOSITION ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your Committee

to which was referred the within.....

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that.....

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CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

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MAYOR'S OFFICE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

FRANK EDWARDS
MAYOR
FRED P. MATTHYS
SECRETARY

May
25th
1931

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE:

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter I submit herewith to your Honorable Body a statement of the condition and affairs of the City of Seattle:

In accordance with the provisions of the City Charter, the heads of the various departments have submitted their annual reports to the City Council and to the Mayor, and inasmuch as you have already been supplied with the same information that has been handed to me, I shall not take the time or space in this message to repeat any of said information, which you already have.

There exists in our City today a serious situation. Seattle has more unemployment than usual. In accordance with the census recently completed by the United States Government the unemployment in Seattle is about three times what it was a year previous. In addition to this situation, our citizens are burdened with a tax rate that I consider much too high.

Petty politics is not a satisfactory system for obtaining relief. Serious thought, good judgment and prompt action are required. This can be brought about through proper cooperation of the legislative and executive departments.

I assure you of my most hearty cooperation, and trust that the majority of your Honorable Body will sense their share of the responsibility of the situation I have just outlined.

Communists seek to embarrass and even destroy government and its institutions. If you are willing to work to the best interest of our citizens, whom we have the honor to represent, I recommend that the legislative and executive departments join hands in a most serious effort to provide decent and proper relief of the unemployed by push-

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ing forward such municipal work as will require the maximum of labor.

I recommend also, that the budget be most carefully scrutinized, and that any items not absolutely necessary be eliminated from our budget, particularly in such cases where employment of labor is not involved.

I have instructed the heads of the departments under my jurisdiction to use the utmost care in the preparation of their budgets, which will be submitted to you on July the 10th, keeping in mind the thoughts and suggestions that I have herein expressed.

I wish at this time to remind you of the great necessity of a united effort on the part of the members of the City Council in an attempt to refinance the Street Railway System. I secured a two-year moratorium in order that some plan might be found for the refinancing of the Railway System.

I wish at this time to acknowledge the splendid efforts of Mr. E. L. Blaine, City Councilman, in his efforts along this line. I feel that it was largely due to Mr. Blaine's efforts that a number of bond-houses became interested and finally submitted a tentative plan to the City of Seattle. In order that this plan or any other plan might be carried out, it seemed necessary to have an enabling act passed by the State Legislature.

It is indeed unfortunate that certain city officials insist upon placing their own personal political welfare ahead of the City's best interests, and, consequently, we are today in the same position that we were before I secured the two-year moratorium. Again I say I am most desirous of cooperating with your Honorable Body in the solving of this problem, but I warn you that it is useless to squabble or argue on any plan whatsoever unless there is some sincerity of purpose displayed by each and every public official concerned.

In the matter of City Light, I wish to point out that under the new management of this department, splendid progress is being made, and I feel confident that the saving in the cost of operating this department will be very great. The estimate of saving annually in this department approximates the sum of \$200,000.00. In the matter of revenues there has been a decided turn for the better in City Light business since Major Morse has taken over the affairs of the department. Business is increasing very satisfactorily, and with the new program which he is launching we expect soon to be able to give the Puget Sound Power & Light Company the keenest competition it has ever experienced.

Honorable City Council.

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In a short time I expect to see the City Light organization functioning in a normal manner. The influence of Communism in this department must be stamped out, and I take this opportunity to advise you that any City Light employe who does not work for the best interest of the City Light Department in particular and the interest of the City of Seattle at large, will be immediately dismissed. With an army of 1063 employes in the Lighting Department, the results are not all that could be desired. Major Morse is at the present time investigating this situation, and I can assure you that in a short while the expense of the department will decrease and the revenue of the department will increase, in spite of the fact that business conditions are below normal.

I wish to emphasize the following recommendations:

1. That the unemployment problem be given immediate and serious consideration. At budget making time I shall submit a plan for your approval.

At this particular time, I wish to publicly acknowledge my appreciation of the splendid cooperation of the City employes when they responded so liberally to my call last winter for funds to aid the Star Sunshine Club. If it were not for the fact that the City employes, in answer to my call, raised more than \$10,000 in cash, the Star Sunshine Club would have been only a dream.

In addition to this, the City employes contributed very generously to the Community Fund, besides carrying on many department activities for the relief of the needy.

2. A reduction in our city tax rate to the greatest possible extent. This will require most serious thought and consideration, and a complete elimination of politics from such consideration.

I am not unmindful of the fact that it will require a considerable sum of money to properly handle the unemployment situation. However, I am thoroughly convinced that with your sincere cooperation the unemployment problem can be handled in a most satisfactory manner, and at the same time the city tax rate can be reduced.

3. Fair and unbiased support of our city owned utilities; the elimination of politics from all discussion and plans relative to the financing and operation of our Water, Railway and Light Departments, to the end that we will be able to give to our citizens the best water in the land, refinance our Street Railway, and give the public bet-

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ter service and greater facilities in transportation; a more efficient and economical management of the Light Department; elimination of waste and extravagance in both the operating and construction divisions of that department, to the end that we may soon reduce our light and power rates.

Again assuring you of my sincerity and desire to cooperate with you in the best interest of our city, and trusting that I may be accorded the same from your Honorable Body, which has today reorganized for another year, for the purpose of helping to solve our many serious municipal problems.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank Edwards".

FRANK EDWARDS, Mayor.

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