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Candidates

(Continued from Page 1, Part 1) the lines of the procedure I outlined in the above question.

3. I am not in favor of the city going ahead with a systematic street improvement program. I don't think the city should tell people how to spend their money.

4. A water softening service would be a very fine civic improvement. However, I would like to know more about original costs and maintenance expense.

5. I believe the present system is very satisfactory and not expensive to the householders, considering the excellent service we are getting. I believe any municipality can contract work of this nature much cheaper than it can do it itself.

6. I would like to study this a little more before committing myself on any change in our present rubbish collection service. It appears very satisfactory, as far as I know.

7. No.

8. No.

9. I believe everybody should have a living wage, but the question needs more study before I can make a definite answer.

10. I favor city recreational programs, but I would have to study the present city recreational budget and for which activities it goes before making a decision as to whether that budget item should be increased.

I am also in favor of somebody doing something about the city's teacher housing problem. Whether it is the responsibility of the school board or the city, or both, I don't think anyone has considered. However, if the city can assist in this problem in any way

I think it is the commission's responsibility to do so.

S. JAMES DUNCAN, 638 WESTWOOD, stated:

1. I believe the City Planning Commission is purely an advisory body and the City Commission should consider the recommendations individually and not consider them as a whole.

2. There should be immediate consideration given to improving east-west travel routes. No project can be indefinitely "piggy-backed" during a period of expansion or growth.

3. Yes, there should be systematic planning of street improvements based on a system of assessments.

4. I believe a water softening system should be put in at once, with a unit at each well.

Like Lansing System

5. I favor a city garbage collection, preferably system similar to Lansing, where the city furnishes steam-cleaned cans on each day and garbage is ground and put through the sewage disposal plant at an approximate cost of 38 cents per ton.

6. No; this can be handled satisfactorily by private haulers.

7. No.

8. All will have to be expanded during the period of growth we are in.

9. Yes, to be accomplished on the basis of establishing a fair base salary from which increases are made in any classification, and automatic increases or decreases from that base depending on fluctuations in the cost-of-living index.

10. Yes, to the extent of firing paid supervision for recreational facilities. I would suggest increasing the recreation budget to \$15,000.

BRUCE R. DODDS, 384 PURITAN, answered:

Your letter of March 23 presents questions, all affecting the pocketbooks and the welfare of Birmingham residents in greater or lesser degree, and grants me five days in which to present my viewpoint on each of these questions, also asking that my reply be confined to five hundred words.

I note with interest that you consume two hundred and sixty-nine words to phrase your questions and one hundred eighteen words to present them, or a total of three hundred eighty-seven in which to just present your questions.

Obviously, trying to answer and discuss the questions within your limitations would place me more or less in the position of the accused when he was asked on the witness stand if he had stopped beating his wife and instructed to answer yes or no.

Show Lack of Respect

Without the opportunity to see and study all the evidence and research that has been made by the present and past city commissions on your ten projects, a yes or no answer on these questions would be evidence of a careless attitude and show lack of respect for the serious responsibility of the office for which I am a candidate. Birmingham is a good commu-

nity to live in, and enjoys reasonably good facilities for recreation and public service at moderate costs as compared to cities of the size and circumstances of Birmingham. Had our community been ill-governed to such a great extent that it was necessary to assume that on many of the questions you raise, positive action should be taken, I would not doubtless increase our taxes very materially. Lack of action on them might indicate they have been deferred or not asked because of cost or some other sound reason for they are not new questions.

Decide After Seeing Facts

Pressure groups and individuals clamor for many services, privileges and improvements, sometimes with incomplete information as to the effect on the whole community and sometimes without sufficient regard for the effect upon themselves.

It is my viewpoint that all questions of this nature must be decided by the city commission only after complete study, hearings and in the light of all the available facts.

In the Army and in business I have had the opportunity in exercising judgment in matters of this sort and it is that judgment that I offer to Birmingham in offering myself as a candidate for the office of city commissioner.

Your questions are well chosen; they show that you are familiar with the many questions before this community for decision. I assure you I do not want them settled on a snap judgment, nor do I want any commissioner committed in advance to viewpoints on these questions that study after election might show to be thereby placing him in an embarrassing position.

JULES DUBEAUBIEN, 895 HARMON, replied:

1. The operation of the City Planning Commission has been, in my estimation, suitable. The present method of handling such commission proposals should be continued.

2. No comment.

3. I am very much in favor of the city setting up a system of general street cleaning in the benefit of all residents. The attitude of many residents has been such as to desire street cleaning changes are in order, yet most of our residents expressed themselves as desiring street cleaning. Our streets have not kept abreast of our other civic improvements.

4. I favor a program that will bring soft water to all residents through a central plant. However, I am not in favor of a change in the location of the plant, as the costs in an undertaking of this kind, I would not say that I favor any program for such things as additional equipment, tennis courts, play fields and grounds, lighting for night use, and more use of Quorton Lake facilities for winter use. Plans should be made for paid supervision of these areas during their periods of use.

5. In my opinion, the salaries of city employees should be kept abreast of the costs of living, adjusted either up or down as conditions dictate.

6. Except for the question of the budget, this was answered in question eight. The recreation board received a budget of \$1500 for the past fiscal year, which could well be trebled without spending too much for the recreation facilities. That would amount to less than a dollar a person in the city, certainly not too much for a city like our own.

DONALD S. BELL, 219 ELM ST., answered:

1. To plan for the future growth and development of Birmingham is the function of the City Planning Commission. The City Commission should consider all proposals of the Plan Commission and determine the urgency and practicality of these proposals with an eye to the passage of legislation that will bring about the benefit to the city-at-large.

2. The June report of the Plan Commission has much merit and represents much thought and research. To reduce some of its projects to workable reality within the city's means is the task of the City Commission. All of the projects should be carefully studied and none indefinitely "piggy-backed." Some of the street improvement projects must await definite decisions by the State and our highway departments. Providing adequate parking facilities for the convenience of Birmingham shoppers seems to be the most urgent problem.

Merit to Street Program

3. The proposed change of the city charter to provide for a systematic city street improvement program as outlined by the present City Commission has much merit. The initiative for street development should come from the residents of the area. The overall growth of the city should be considered along with the individual interests of the property owners.

4. If the present survey being

conducted on our water supply results that we have an adequate source of water for the needs of the next 20 or 30 years, consideration should be given to municipal water softening facilities.

5. A more adequate system of garbage collection and disposal is a necessity. This demands immediate attention.

6. A better rubbish collection program is now being studied by the Commission. A more adequate disposal system must also be devised.

Must Be On "Inside"

7. There are certain city activities which appear from the outside, could be better regulated or coordinated. It seems foolhardy to criticize until one can observe the entire city operation, secure the necessary facts and be in a position to officially do something about it.

8. The expansion of all departments will become necessary with the growth of the city. As we improve more streets, develop our parks and recreational facilities, devise better means of garbage and rubbish disposal and generally expand, we acquire more things to maintain. The Department of Public Works, or maintenance department, will have to expand to care for these added facilities. And so, with all other departments. Expansion must be all city employees.

9. The job classification, salary and wage plan adopted by the city some years ago clearly defines the rate of pay for all employees. However, some "back-of-the-line" increases may be necessary to provide an adequate living wage for all city employees.

10. The farthestshaded on the part of both the School Board and the City Commission in securing land areas that will lend themselves to the development of parks and recreation facilities is most commendable. A closer cooperation between these two bodies should give us an adequate recreational program. Further contributions from service clubs and private individuals may be anticipated if a more definite program is established.

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City Commission Candidate

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Economy Mature Judgment Independence

Volunteering for World War II he saw service in every theatre. In 4 years of service he rose from the rank of Major, Ordnance, to Colonel. He retains his position in the Reserve Officer's Corps.

His basic soundness and progressive thinking will contribute much to the welfare of Birmingham and your tax dollars.

(He did not seek the office and is a candidate only because friends urged him. Because of his civic pride he has agreed to offer his time and talents to Birmingham's problems.)