

Self-government, as we are supposed to have it in the United States, is the most difficult type to make work ever devised by man; but it offers more of freedom, security and happiness than any other. Therefore, if you want it, you'll have to make it work better.

74TH YEAR—NO. 9

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

### Comedy in City Hall

Frank Rising, one of Birmingham's recently elected commissioners, is bringing what may be termed as epigrammatic-serious-facetious phrases into commission discussions each Monday night at the city hall.

Last week Frank described four southwest city streets as "Last Chance", "Chuckhole Road", "Brokers' Spring Drive" and "Washboard Lane". No doubt the other commissioners are getting a chuckle from such witticisms—for heavens know, otherwise the discussion of governmental problems may be very dull and uninteresting.

(Who knows, if Mr. Rising develops his spoken art further, and it becomes contagious, but what some TV outlet may be tempted to place our city commission meetings on television?)

### Good Luck, Howard

After 22 years as manager of our local Birmingham theater, Howard C. Holsh is leaving for something akin to retirement. During his long career he has brought the theater through a major and a minor depression, has survived his managers and has on behalf of deserving community projects. Perhaps his "liking for life" has given him special place in the hearts of this old town, for he was never too busy to do something for them.

Well, Howard, accept Birmingham's best wishes for happiness in your new life from "real" to "real" living... and may your days be filled with double features!

### Is Marshall Confused?

Poor old Gen. George C. Marshall, a great soldier, a distinguished statesman, a Chief of Staff in World War II, then allowed himself to be lured into the U. S. diplomatic service... an atmosphere and area of politics and politics and politics... to his nature and training. Thus does Marshall dull the brightness of his eyes.

If only he had the courage to speak out his real head and head to the men sleep. Comfortable beds are provided in the second floor quarters, connected to the lower floor and the fire trucks by the well-known brass pole.

### Presidential Responsibility

So far as I know, the only President of the United States who could be said to have led his country through one war and enter another one to Harry S. Truman.

While it is true that he had nothing to do with starting World War II, he certainly had plenty to do with getting into the Korean mess... and, alas! he knows little, if nothing, about how to get us out of it.

(To be sure, he was an election in 1948 but that was only because he was in the line of succession, he knows little about running the business of government... and, alas! he knows little, if nothing, about how to get us out of it.)

### Sen. Moody Follies Pattern

In a recent issue of this newspaper I commented upon the appointment of a high school and Moody to the U. S. Senate, and suggested that in his new political life he would have to compromise his conscience and side-step certain questions and issues—all because, as a politician seeking reelection, he would be concerned with the practical business of getting votes.

On his first television program of "See The Press", Senator Moody did, in part, exactly what I pointed out.

Pinned down to specific barbed questions by a quartet of his former journalistic colleagues, Senator Moody followed the normal political pattern of evasion, equivocation, and a leavening of double-talk.

### HE KNEW that a lot of Michigan voters were watching and listening to him, and that many Republicans from other states. He knew that everything he said would be reported and would be a boomerang—if his opposition sought to fashion such weapons from some of his remarks.

In general, though, he did a fairly good job. Actually, did you observe that he isn't at all bad looking via television? It will be interesting to watch and listen to him when he campaigns here next year.

### Thieves Enjoy Snack And Ransack House

Hungry thieves-Saturday night helped themselves to a high lunch and \$60 from a Santa Claus lunch at the home of Sheldon Shier, 1365 Davis. Family members were undisturbed after passing through a sun porch window.

Police also reported the theft of a coat containing \$50 from a woman at 218 South Woodward. A small amount of money in the cash register was not taken.



THE LIFE OF A FIREMAN is not all one of hoses and ladders. The equipment must be kept ready to roll in a matter of seconds after an alarm is received. Here, Birmingham firemen George Wallace and Dick Nunneley make a regulation inspection of one of the truck motors. This, and a multitude of other tasks, occupy the men's time fully between alarms.



FIREMEN WORK a 24-hour shift and must have sleeping quarters. Paul Nielsen makes a bed while Howard Footé does a policing job on the floor of the big, airy dormitory where the men sleep. Comfortable beds are provided in the second floor quarters, connected to the lower floor and the fire trucks by the well-known brass pole.



Sen. Moody Follies Pattern. In a recent issue of this newspaper I commented upon the appointment of a high school and Moody to the U. S. Senate, and suggested that in his new political life he would have to compromise his conscience and side-step certain questions and issues—all because, as a politician seeking reelection, he would be concerned with the practical business of getting votes.

## Elliott Kinney Resigns from Plan Commission

Elliott S. Kinney resigned Monday from the city plan commission, to which he was appointed three years ago when it was revamped and a new planning ordinance approved. Kinney said wishes of his company directors and real estate business associates, plus immediate personal business interests, were behind his decision.

"Since the work of the plan commission has become so highly controversial of late and has taken on political aspects, my position as a realtor has become untenable and costly," he declared in a letter to Mayor Chad Ritchie and the city commission.

"As an individual with a desire to see a good job well done and in addition, to make a real contribution by my sincere reluctance to withdraw at this time," he said.

HE ACCEPTED his original appointment, he said, "believing that my experience as a realtor would be of value to the newly created... commission."

"It was this a proper civic obligation in which I could assist in making a real contribution for the benefit of the future of our city community."

## Charles Shain Dead After Long Illness

### Last Rites Today For One of City's Pioneer Businessmen

Charles J. Shain, 68, prominent Birmingham businessman and civic leader, died early Tuesday morning in St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac.

Mr. Shain suffered a severe heart attack in June, 1949, and after then has been hospitalized several times.

The body will at the Bell funeral home until Thursday (today) when it will be taken to St. James church where the Rev. Harold Towne will officiate at 2 o'clock services. Burial will be made in Roseland Park cemetery.

Mr. Shain was born at the Kudge farm on Quanton road on July 3, 1882, son of the late James and Fannie Pardee Shain.

He received his education in the local schools and while still at attending high school began his business career as a clerk in a drug store in Pontiac.

After receiving his degree as a registered pharmacist at Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, he became associated with a drug store in Pontiac. He returned to Birmingham in 1906 to manage the Whitehead store. He later rented the store and after a year, bought the business.

MR. SHAIN at once set about making his store an integral part of the community. It was back in the days when the corner drug store was almost a second city hall and, as Mr. Shain put it, "Was composed of crotons, crackers and cheese, with enough drug store business thrown in to give it the right atmosphere."

He became noted for the extra services which his store would perform for anyone in town, many of which were far beyond those of any ordinary store.

The store was the place to leave if you were in a hurry. (See SHAIN, Page 2)

# Record City Budget of \$3,349,744 Possible

## Tax Rate Drops To \$19.50 Per \$1,000 Valuation

In a three-minute public hearing before a handful of citizens who voiced no objections or suggestions, Birmingham's seven city commissioners Monday evening passed a record \$973,349.74 budget for the 1951-52 fiscal year.

It will require a tax rate of \$19.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, a drop of \$2.20 from last year's rate. General tax levy will produce \$692,314.74, with the remaining \$281,035 to come from estimated miscellaneous revenues (sales tax, gas and weight tax, permits, fines, etc.).

The approved budget is \$135,216 more than required last year. City Manager Donald C. Egbert said the expanded budget and tax rate decrease was possible because of the huge amount of new 1950 buildings which were picked up on the 1951 tax assessment roll, plus some additional increases in anticipated miscellaneous revenues.

COMMISSIONERS will obtain \$82,316.55 more next year from general tax levy than in the previous year, and they estimate miscellaneous revenues will produce \$45,795 more than in 1950-51.

Egbert's tentative budget, released in February, forecast a 1951-52 city expenditure of \$916,432.31, with a \$670,000 general tax levy and \$246,770 in miscellaneous revenues, producing a total of \$916,770.

During the following three months, city commissioners, in several executive sessions, raised Egbert's total expenditure estimates by \$7,247.43. This was accomplished by getting \$2,314.74 more from the tax levy and boosting other revenues \$31,265 higher than Egbert had originally figured.

PRINCIPAL ITEM in lowering the tax rate 2/10th of a mill was the assessed valuation of \$35,503,320, or \$4,809,300 more than the previous year's valuation.

The new budget reflects considerable increases for all departments. However, the greatest share of these increases are for salary and wage increases to city employees.

As explained by Egbert, other considerations accounted for the previous year's increase. Fewer elections in 1951-52 will mean less money for the city.

Engineering department gets \$4,560 more for preliminary survey work on future city projects.

THE POLICE department will hire an additional patrolman, bringing total strength to 25 per cent above the 1949-50 level.

About 50 new street lights are contemplated. Additional tree trimming was provided for.

An administrative assistant will be hired June 1 to assist Egbert. Both building and liability insurance were increased to carry a more adequate coverage program now being discussed by the city commission.

City's share of special assessment districts was cut from \$100,000 this year to \$60,000 next year. Egbert said the city plans to hold down construction of special assessment projects in order to obtain time to complete plans for other needed work.

THE CITY recreation board was granted an additional \$1,300 to bring its city-financed budget up to \$8,160.

The city's capital improvement fund was paid \$15,000 to a total of \$75,000.

The contingent fund was set at \$22,200.50, or \$18,400 more than last year.

The city plan commission was set at \$10,000 from last year's \$9,000 appropriation. The plan commission had asked for \$7,500.

City administrators set aside \$6,000 for city defense set aside \$6,000. A total of \$40,000 in street repair is planned for 1951-52, which is \$26,000 more than appropriated this year.

The amount of money to be allocated to sidewalk repair is planned at \$2,500. Only \$2,500 was allocated to this work for the current year.

	1950/51 Estimate	1950/51 Actual	1951/52 Budget	Approved 1951/52 Budget
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$838,139.19	1,133,770	\$915,432.31	\$973,349.74
Commission	2,000	2,000	2,060	2,060
Justice	2,970	3,095	3,220	3,430
Elections	2,440	3,209	1,240	1,525
Assessor	11,090	19,000	13,550	13,420
Treasurer	17,045	19,000	22,200	22,500
Engineer	17,800	19,430	21,140	25,800
Fire	6,111	11,520	8,470	8,310
Police	104,450	113,770	127,550	127,550
Parking Meters	4,850	4,850	6,550	5,100
Hydrant Rental	75,440	75,440	83,550	86,150
Library	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Building Insp.	18,790	19,370	16,760	18,010
Street Lighting	103,890	115,600	125,250	126,170
Health	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Health	13,000	13,410	14,100	15,310
Forestry & Parks	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
General Admin.	46,900	47,910	61,980	58,600
Printing	600	600	800	1,800
Liability Ins.	1,000	1,000	1,800	2,400
Emp. Protection	2,300	2,300	2,163	2,163
Group Ins.	1,800	1,800	2,200	2,200
Retirement	34,317	34,317	36,237	36,600
Spec. Assessments	100,000	100,000	50,000	50,000
Green-Duff Cemetery	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Equipment Fund	6,000	6,000	4,500	4,500
Recreation Board	8,580	8,580	8,580	8,100
Public Service	77,378	77,378	82,360	81,528
Cap. Improvements	60,000	60,000	60,000	75,000
Library	30,604	30,604	34,600	35,503
Contingent Fund	21,320	21,320	18,000	29,000
Paying agent fees.	150	150	150	150
Printing	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Civil Defense	1,000	1,000	7,900	6,000
Special Projects				
Sewerage	15,000	15,000	40,000	40,000
Sewer Regar.	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Mun. Bldg. Imp.	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000
So. Oak Hospital	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000
TOTAL REVENUES				
Tax Levy	\$62,899.19	\$676,000.00	\$692,314.74	\$692,314.74
Misc. Revenue	\$293,240.00	249,770.00	215,719.56	281,035.00
TOTAL	\$822,139.19	\$925,770.00	\$908,034.30	\$973,349.74
Valuation	\$30,604,020	\$30,604,020	\$34,500,000	\$35,503,320.00
Tax rate	19.50	19.70	19.50	19.50

## Early Reports Show Large Enrollment In All Schools

Early reports in the 1951-52 school census show marked increases among pre-school children and those enrolling in the lower grades.

Mrs. Irene Stevens, who is directing the census, said large enrollments are indicated for all elementary schools, especially in the new Torry area.

Enumerators Mrs. Stuart Cobb, Mrs. Mary Lewis Fletcher, Mrs. A. W. Grigg, Miss Pearl Hollister, Mrs. John Kelley, Mrs. Lloyd McElroy, Mrs. Gus Mitchell, Mrs. William Moore, Mrs. William Sloan, Mrs. Myrtle Taylor and Mrs. John Wilson began the 20-day job May 10.

MR. STEVENS said residents could help enumerators greatly by having the following information ready on the first call:

Full name and address of parent and country of birth; names and ages of each child in the family up to 20 years, along with physical defects, and name and type of school for each child already enrolled.

The census will continue throughout the month with an announcement of final figures to be made sometime after the middle of June.

## Garbage, Rubbish Authority Contract Approved by City

General form of contract as now drawn for the Southeastern Oakland County Garbage and Rubbish authority was approved by the city commission Monday evening, subject to the right to object to any section when the final draft is submitted.

Under the agreement, the city would enter into a contract with eight other cities in this area for a joint disposal of rubbish and garbage out of the city.

Cost of the project, according to estimates made in April, 1950, is being shared by the eight cities. The city would share of the cost would be about \$9,900 yearly, based on the increased population of 15,000.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert pointed out that most cities in this vicinity are now disposing of their garbage by feeding to hogs and this method is not satisfactory.

Plans for the authority were initiated about 18 months ago.

## Two Petitions Filed for School Board Election

Petitions have been filed for positions on the Birmingham board of education by Charles E. James, Jr., 1791 Stanley, and Frank Hardy, 661 Hazelwood. Election for the two school board posts will take place June 11.

In addition, petitions are being circulated for Roland W. Reese and incumbents Mrs. Lewis Sappington and Amos Gregory.

Deadline for filing of petitions is Tuesday, May 22. Registration for voting in now taking place and will continue until June 2.

The board of education will convene May 22 to certify non-naming petitions of candidates to be placed to the board and complete elections for the June 11 election.

## Second Hearing Date for Master Plan Not Set

No date has yet been set for the second master plan hearing, according to Mrs. Peter Loomis, chairman of the planning commission.

She stated that the commission is at a "point of indecision" as to when the hearing will take place. A public notice of at least two weeks is required before the hearing is held.



Why PRY?  
Just TRY an Eccentric Want Ad!  
Sell—Buy—Rent—Trade  
PHONE MI-4-1100  
Ask for the Want Ad desk

## Patrolman Resigns

Patrolman Lee R. White has resigned from his Birmingham police department to enter private business. His resignation becomes effective immediately, Chief Moxley said.

White has been a member of the force about six years and spent a year and a half in military service.

All makes of lower spring mattresses. PANY. PHONE ENTERTAIN 3212.

## City Veteran Groups Plan '51 Poppy Sale

"Wear a Poppy!" This familiar slogan will be heard here May 24-26 when the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars hold their annual poppy sales. Funds from these sales are used for the relief of disabled veterans and their families.