

Controversial Maple Ave. Parking Ban is Revived

A controversial plan to speed up Maple Avenue traffic by eliminating parking on the north side of the street during the afternoon "rush hour" between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. has been revived by the Central Business District Committee (CBDCC).

The group at first decided that it would recommend the plan to the city commission but later changed its mind and said it would hold off any recommendation until more members of the committee could have a chance to make their views known, Chairman Wilber H. Mason said.

Two other recommendations to the city commission were approved at the July 6 meeting, however. They were that the "joes" caused by off-street parking be eliminated where Willets and Oakland and where Brown and Forest intersect Woodward.

CITY COMMISSIONER William H. Burgum said he was "sorry to see" the proposal for removal of parking on Maple retracted so swiftly. He pointed out that five or six years ago the plan board had recommended the very same thing. "We thought it was a good idea five years ago . . . new studies have been made . . . there is much more (alternative) parking area now . . . We want to study it," Mason answered, "but it won't be dropped."

B'ham Construction Rate Falling Below '59 in First Half

Forty-two building permits for construction valued at \$288,130 were issued by the city during the month of June, Building Inspector Andrew P. Butt announced today. This compares to \$349,000 worth of construction recorded during June, 1959, a decrease of \$72,470.

During the first six months of 1960, 185 permits were issued for \$1,287,298 worth of construction, a drop of \$177,391 from the same period last year.

OF THE 1960 TOTAL construction value, \$842,393 was for new buildings and \$444,905 was for alterations to existing buildings. Butt reported 22 new structures began last month, 17 alterations, two wrecking jobs and one foundation and footings installation.

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Political Power Of Youth Cited

The significance of the part young people can play in government and democracy was pointed up in a letter from the Hangnam Y-Men's Club of Korea received the other day by local YMCA program secretary Conrad Ekkena.

"Students of many lands and times played significant roles in political changes, but Korea is perhaps the only country where high school children sparked a revolution," the letter said.

Citing a number of incidents in Korean history where youth of that country led the way in fighting to throw off oppression up to the toppling of the Syngman Rhee government by a student revolt, the letter declared that "No politician in the foreseeable future would dare to rig elections against the fury of the people or wobble to surpass Rhee as a political juggernaut."

"IT SEEMS SAFE to predict," the letter continued, "that modern democracy based upon free elections, civil rights and representative government is well on the way to take root in Korea . . . and the price paid was the youthful blood of college and high school students."

This letter is of particular interest, Ekkena said, "in that it gives concreteness to a common cliché often spoken before graduating high school seniors: 'In your hands is the future of the American home, the nation and the world.'"

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Wider E. Maple Brings Protests From Residents

A small delegation of E. Maple residents this week protested Birmingham's tentative plans to add a fourth lane to Maple between Adams and Elon.

Spokesman Louis R. Turf, 1567 E. Maple, asked why the city was considering widening the street. He claimed it would depreciate the street's residential value.

City Manager L. R. Gare, who this week has an appointment to talk with the county road engineer about the widening, explained to Turf that other residential sections of Maple have been widened to four lanes without harm.

He cited Maple from Southfield west to Cranbrook road.

GARE SAID Oakland county, Troy and Birmingham are considering the Maple widening east to Coolidge, and of Coolidge between 15 and 14 Mile roads.

"Of course, there are only discussions at this point, and certainly could not become an actuality this year," Gare told the Maple group.

When widened—mostly on the south side, according to preliminary ideas—all the Maple curbs would be repaired or replaced, Gare said. The street now is 36 feet wide.

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