

Methods of Checking Decentralization of District Suggested

Downtown businessmen today before their planners' appraisal of the threat to their economic future in decentralization of Washington, together with suggestions for arresting it.

At a Board of Trade forum yesterday in the Carlton Hotel, they heard a statement from Brig. Gen. Gordon R. Young, Engineer Commissioner, in which he declared large general salary increases for District employees would "wreck" the District's long-range capital improvements plan.

This, in turn, would promote "excessive" decentralization, Gen. Young contended.

He pointed out the Commissioners have asked Congress to approve a sales tax for the District, and he added large salary increases "might absorb the entire proceeds of a sales tax and leave us no money for making our city a better place."

Might Affect Realty Tax.
If extensive capital improvements were attempted despite raised salaries, real estate taxes would have to be increased, again encouraging decentralization, he said.

Gen. Young's statement, read in his absence by Lt. Col. Vernon A. Schurm, assistant Engineer Commissioner, also declared continuing withdrawals of real property from the tax lists because of use by the Federal Government promoted decentralization by increasing the tax burden of remaining taxable property.

He asked the businessmen's support for legislation to permit "a comprehensive review of public land holdings in the District, to see whether any may properly be converted to other and better uses."

Such a move would not assist in arresting decentralization, however, in the opinion of Max S. Wehrly of the Urban Land Institute.

Explains Factors.
In a paper distributed at the meeting because of Mr. Wehrly's illness, he commented:

"To suggest the reduction of the burden on property taxes can be obtained by increasing the amount of land to be taxed through the reduction of Federal land holdings is possibly to engage in a rat race. This assumes that other things remain equal, which they do not."

"As in other cities, the District exists by virtue of basic industry—in this case, the Federal Government. Cities which have felt de-

centralizing trends most severely have been those where the base industries have decentralized beyond the city boundaries. If Washington's basic industry is to be discouraged from expanding inside the District in favor of the outlying competing areas, then the stage has been set for progressive decentralization."

Mark Lansburgh, chairman of the District Redevelopment Land Agency, said the agency was "very dismayed" at House committee action which struck out all appropriations for the agency for the next fiscal year.

Agency Hopeful.
He said the agency is hopeful of having funds restored by the Senate to begin its program of reclaiming blighted areas of the Capital.

P. Y. K. Howat, chairman of the District Motor Vehicle Parking Agency, said he hopes businessmen will support the proposed private corporation to be organized under agency auspices to acquire and operate parking facilities.

Washington has experienced "less decentralization than most American cities," according to Harland Bartholomew, consultant to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The forum was arranged jointly by the Board of Trade City Planning Committee, headed by Fischer Black, and the Forum Committee, headed by Bernard J. Nees. Mr. Black presided.

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Capt. Milliken's Promotion Backed by Metropolis View

The Metropolis View Citizens' Association last night supported Capt. Rhoda Milliken in her pending promotion to the rank of police inspector.

"I don't see why women shouldn't be entitled to hold the same rank as men hold," said Mrs. Franklin G. Sartwell, president, who proposed the resolution.

Contributions of \$10 to the North Capitol Citizens' Association toward the defense of covenant cases recently argued before the Supreme Court; \$10 to the National Symphony, and \$5 to the District Tuberculosis Association were approved by the group.

The meeting was held in the Crosby Noyes School, Franklin and Tenth streets N.W.

Southern U. Alumni Plan Benefit Mardi Gras Ball

A benefit Mardi Gras ball will be given by the Washington chapter of Southern University Alumni in the Lincoln Colonnade at 10 p.m. tomorrow.

Proceeds will go toward setting up an S. U. scholarship fund for local high school students. This year's queen is Mrs. Catherine Hanks, Rex, King of the ball, will be James L. Watson.

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RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 14.—Sharp reductions in the load limits on Virginia highways will be posted within the next week, the State Highway Department announced.

Fearful of a major breakup in the State's road system due to a sud-

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