NORTH EXPLAINS BIG BUDGET CUT

Member of County Excise Board Refutes Charge of Petty Politics.

JUSTIFIES REDUCTIONS

Says City Wanted Increase of $13,722.79 to Keep Up New Offices.

W. I. North, a member of the county excise board and one of the men against whom the charge of "partisan politics" has been made, submits to The World the following letter, in which he states his and the county excise board's premises upon the action taken in regard to the city budget for 1920-1921:

"An Open Letter to the Tax Payers of Tulsa:

"In as much as the city administration has found it necessary publically to criticise the Tulsa county excise board for its action on the city's budget, I consider that the tax-payers of the city have a right to know the facts upon which the board based its action in decreasing the appropriations and in refusing to allow the application for an increase of $13,722.79.

"Judging from the "squak" of the members of the city administration, I know full well that the facts will never emanate from them, but on the contrary the true facts will be concealed by the cry of "partisan politics", the usual cheap style of demigogs who seek to divert the public eye from their short-comings. I am, therefore, submitting to the public the real facts in th econtroversy, if controversy exists.

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"The city's budget was presented to the excise board and appropriations totaling $733,635.02 requested, an increase of $71,440 over the previous year. This amount would necessitate a tax levy of approximately 26 mills. Under the law, a city of the first class, or one operating under a charter, can be allowed for general fund, 4 mills for current expenses, two mills for library purposes and one-half mill for a cemetery perpetual care fund. Unless the charter authorizes a levy up to the constitutional maximum of 10 mills.

"The city commissioners were requested to appear before the board and show by what authority the board could order a tax levy greater than eight and one-half mills, as authorized by the statutes. At a meeting of the board following this request, it was agreed that, in virtue of a charter provision, the city could ask for a levy of 10 mills, and, by virtue of the same provision and following a decision of the supreme court of the state, the excise board had no power or authority to revise or correct, by increasing or decreasing, the appropriations as requested.

"Acting upon this constructing of the law and charter provision, the board concluded to return the budget without action, as it was apparently without power to act in any manner on any subject arising out of the city's appropriation or rate of levy. However, upon a further examination of the city's charter, it was found that an amendment thereto had been adopted, and that the amendment specifically provided that the levying of advalorem tax for the city of Tulsa should be done by the same authority as the constitution and laws of the state fixed for cities of the first class. The board directed the attention of the city's legal deparment to this amendment, and he commissioners and the city attorney appeared before the board for the purpose of determining and agreeing upon just what were the powers and legal duties of the board over the city's budget.

"The amendment to the charter, as found in Article Six, page 41, compiled ordinances for the year 1917, provides: 'The assessment of property, for the purposes of levying thereon an advalorem tax, shall be made by such officers and in all respects in the same manner as is provided in the constitution and laws of the stat eof Oklahoma, or may hereafter be provided by the constitution and laws of said state for the assessment of property in cities of the first class for advalorem purposes.'

"Section two provides: 'The advalorem taxes for the city of Tulsa shall hereafter be levied in the same manner and by the same persons or officers as is provided by the constitution or laws of the state, or may hereafter be provided by the laws of the state applicable to cities of the first class.'

"After careful consideration of the above amendment to the city's charter, it will be seen that the original power under the charter of levying the advalorem tax was taken from the city authorities and specifically placed in the hands of the excise board. In other words, the excise has the same power and duties to perform in approving appropriations and fixing levies for the city of Tulsa that it is specifically charged with for cities, towns and other municipalities withi the county by the laws of 1917, cvhapter 226, page 410.

"Under the law it is the duty of the board to determine tht amount of appropriations necessary, and the rate for each municipaliay and to approve the same. This law further provides: 'The said board shall have the power and authority to revise and correct any estimate certified to them, by either striking items therefrom, increasing or decreasing items thertof, or adding items thereto, when in its opinion the needs of the municipality shall require.'

"It is plain that, under the laws of this state and the amendment to the city's chafter, the taxes board has a legal duty to perform in connection with the city's appropriation and rate of levy, and that from the performance of this duty, as duly sworn officials, they could not shirk. Hence, the board voted to examine into the items of appropriations requested by the city administration, and after an examination, it was found that the increase over the prior year was absorbed practically in salaries, and that a very small amount was asked for permanent improvement.

"The engineering department asked for an increase over the prior year of $5,387 in salaries, and no public work going on. The board reduced this increase $10,000, leaving a net increase over the prior year of $5,387.

"The auditing department asked for an increase over the prior year of $2,840. This increase was for salaries. The board reduced this $1,200, leaving a net increase over last year of $1,600.

"The police department asked for the following appropriations: salaries $131,000; other purposes $21,360; total $152,460. The total appropriations for this department for the prior year were $100,514. Thus the increase asked was $51,946. The board reduced this $5,000, leaving $46,946 net increase over the prior year.

"The only reduction made in the appropriation asked for by Mr. Steiner, commissioner of streets and public property, was in his official traveling expenses, which were reduced from $200 to $50. The board considered this sufficient for junketing purposes. Besides the travel allowance, an appropriation of $100 for contingent expense was approved.

"No reductions were made in Commissionerse Younkman's or Newblock's departments, nor were any reductions made in appropriations for permanent improvement.

"The reasons that prompted the board to make the reductions were increased salaries and increased clerical help in several of the departments. The auditing department asked an increase of three clerks or twice the force used in performing the same work in the prior year, and with increased salaries.

"The county pays first deputies $200 per month and the city pays first deputies $250 for similar work.

"In my judgement the excise board did not decrease the appropriations enough in the accounts in which the increases were requested over the prior year. The board dealt with the city just as it did with the county. The various county departments requested appropriations totaling $618,689.75 and the excise board reduced the same $99,405.20.

"Everything would have been all right with the city administration had the board signed on the dotted line as they expected, but the fact that the board saw fit to perform its duty under the law is where the shoe pinches.

"It is high time for the tax payers of this city to inquire into what returns they are obtaining for the expenditures of the present administration. A detailed audit and examination of the city's expenditures would probably bring about more than mere charter reforms.

"As the budget now stands it will cost the city $717,935 to operate this fiscal year for current expenses and of this amount $584,312.43 will be paid by the tax payers, and the balance will be obtained from miscellaneous sources. This does not include the amount necessary to be raised by taxation for accruals and interest on judgments and bonded debt.

W. L. NORTH."

LOWDEN ATTACKS WILSON'S LEAGUE

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he promises much. Harding's speech is simple, modest, reverent, the composition of a statesman and not of a politician.

"I like Senator Harding's speech because it makes no claims to the possession of any formula by which mankind may be made happy universally. I like its self restraint, it does not glorify the speaker himself. In every line is a recurrence to the fundamental principles of our government. He doesn't believe he alone can guide the destinies of the world. I like Harding because a deep reverence breathes in all his utterances. Parties alone cannot save civilization and our land. We have got to keep teachers from leaving the schools and preachers from leaving the churches. History shows that when nations fall, it is because there has been a loosening of its religious ties. I like Harding's reverent dependence upon Almighty God."

Governor Lowden reviewed political history of the last eight years. He declared President Wilson was elected in 1912 on a promise to reduce the high cost of living and in 1916 on the claim that he would insure continued peace, and that both promises had been broken.

"Does anyone wonder that Governor Cox is seeking to blind the eyes of the American people with impossible appeals when the method has been the only one used successfully by his party in the present generation?" queried Governor Lowden. Governor Cox is raising moot issues, when the real issue of this campaign is the league of nations, and we submit it joyfully to the American people."

Governor Lowden declared that "the gloomiest moments I have spent, surpassing in darkness even the days in the spring of 1918 when it seemed that the Germans would push back the British line into the channel and the French into the sea, were when I read the draft of the league of nations as brought to our shores by Woodrow Wilson.

"If the German offensive had been successful, there would have been still a chance for us to fight the enemy, but if the league of nations had been adopted, as it seemed to me, America would have lost for all time her independence, her liberty and her sovereignty.

"No one would suppose that in the light of recent events, I can feel especially grateful to the United States senate," continued the governor, and the audience applauded and laughed, "but I want to say that if the senate in all its history had never done anything worthy of praise but to defeat the original league of nations, it has justified its existence.

"They say that Harding is too much influenced by the senators. But, how infinitely better for our country it would have been if Woodrow Wilson had been more influenced by the senators when he went abroad. We would have been saved all this confusion. Some of our democratic frineds are finding comfort in it, that Elihu Root, one of the greatest American statesmen, is now in Europe working upon some sort of a court to adjust international disputes. There is some sense in that."

Representative J. W. Harreld, republican senatorial nominee, introduced Governor Lowden.

"I promise ou there is going to be a real campaign in Oklahoma this year," he said.

Mrs. Manley L. Fosseen of Minnesota, vice chairman of the speakers' bureau of the republican national committee, spoke briefly after Governor Lowden's speech. She declared that the republican party throughout its history had been an advocate of moral and humanitarian policies that were especially dear to women. James A. Harris, chairman of the party's state committee, presided at the convention. Representatives were present from all but six of the 77 counties in the state.

Governor Lowden left tonight for Illinois. Next Monday he is scheduled to speak at Mansfield, Ohio, in the Harding campaign.

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condemns "the bungling and unfair action of the democratic machine which prevents the republicans of the eighth district from voting at the November election for a faithful republican of their choice."

Action of the republicans in nomtinating Representative J. W. Harreld for the United States senate is endorsed and "all patriotic citizens who stand for clean politics and against machine methods in politics" are invited "to join us in promoting him to the more responsible position of United States senator, where men are needed who will not be rubber stamps, but who will stand four square for fair play."

The closing paragraph pledges senatorial and congressional candidates to stand "for American interests first, with due regard for the obligations of the world believing that the United States can best serve the peace and welfare of the world by preserving its own integrity, nationality and sovereignty."

Sixty of the 77 counties in the state were represented at the meeting of the state committee. This is the largest representation ever attendant at a meeting of the republican state committee, John D. Appleby, secretary, said.

The women's state committee spent the entire session in listening to reports of the representatives of various counties offered by Mrs. Otie A. Cureton of Muskogee, state chairman. The amalgamated republican clubs was adressed by Mrs. Fosseen of Minnesota, immediately after the adjournment of the women's committee. Charles R. Rogers of Tulsa and Mrs. M. D. Prentiss of Wynona also addressed the club representatives.

COX SPENDS DAY MAKING SPEECHES

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what he termed "a word to business men."

"Many," he said, "are helping to install an administration which intends to scrap the league of nations."

"If the league does not become a thing in fact," he continued, "and a vital organization in the affairs of the world, it is my judgment that not a sigle European nation will ever be able to pay its nitional debt, and if that is not paid, then what becomes of fiscal conditions over the world depends upon the adoption of the league of nations and yet thousands of the very men who above all others are interested in that are attempting to install an administration which intends to scrap the league. But it will not succeed."

Governor Cox also added that public confidence must be given to industrial readjustment and, he said, "millions of dollars are being contributed in order to guarantee an unfair adjustment."

"I know men, he asserted "that are making contributions for the purpose of using the bayonet to settle industrial difficulties. Nothing could be more dangerous than that. That is building a bolcheviki factory. Stop, look and listen, you business men."

Governor Cox said he proposed to use the "golden rule" in settling industrial disputes. He also promised to remove war taxes unjustified during times of peace.

In addition to his addresses the governor met hundreds of persons at several informal receptions. He marched several blocks at the head of a procession down Fifth avenue to the luncheon, waving to thousands along the line.

HARDING STRIKES AT LEAGUE PLANS

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nor furnish the troops and the United States had withdrawn from co-operation." That meant, in plain words, said the nominee, that the United States had not completed the obligation "to furnish the troops."

To support his assertion that this country could not have resisted a call for help in Poland under Article 10, Senator Harding quoted the statement of President Wilson that the moral obligation of the articles was stronger than any legal obligation. The nominee added that if the president really wanted to help protect Poland, he easily might call on congress to declare war.

"It is reasonably safe to assume, however," Senator Harding continued, "that the president will not pursue that course. Fortunately he is under no compelling moral obligation under the league to do so. His recent unhappy experience, moreover, in asking congress to send American boys to police Armenian would hardly encourage repetution.

Turning to his discussion of reconstruction measures, the nominee said he had "no expectation whatever," that negotiation of a separate treaty would be required to put the nation on a peace basis. Passage of a resolution declaring peace, he asserted, was all that was necessary to end the present "preposterous condition."

Giving in general terms his conception of what the new peace association should be, Senator Harding described it as "an international association for conference and a world court whose verdicts upon justiciable questions this country, in common with all the nations, would be both willing and able to uphold." This sort of organization, he said, was in broad contrast to the council of the Versailles league, whose whole authority would be founded on force.

In the course of his speech the senator also reiterated his belief that it was for American rights primarily and not to form a peace association that the nation went into the war. He quoted from his own speech closing senate debate on the war resolution, in which he said he wanted war "not for the allies of Europe, not precisely a war for civilization, but a war that speaks for the majesty of a people resolved to wage a conflict for the maintenance of their rights and the preservation of the covenant inherited from their father."

"It is for that same guaranty of nationality that I stand today" continued the nominee, "and shall continue to stand inflexibly so long as I shall be pergnitted to live. American boys are not born to be made the sacrifices of war except when it is clearly and unmistakably in defense of their country?"

The speech was delivered to a delegation of more than 300 members of the Harding club of Indianapolis and to a small group from Minnesota. Many times the nominee was interrupted by cheers as he answered directly the league arguments of Governor Cox, democratic nominee, and laid down the details of his own league policy.

The text of the speech follows, in part:

"Let us suppose the senate had ratified the peace treaty containing the league covenant as submitted to it by the president in July of last year. Before this day we would have been called upon to fulfill the obligations which we had assumed under Article 10 of the league covenant to preserve the territorial integrity of Poland as against external aggression.

"The council of the league of nations would have reasoned, and reasoned correctly, that the United States could furnish the munitions, and if necessary, the men to withstand the hordes advancing from Russia far more easily than could the exhausted nations of Europe. What would of necessity have to result? Nothing necessarily, we are glibly informed, since only the congress can declare war, and the congress might reject the appeal of the executive. But would the congress do that? Coul the congress do that without staining indelibly the honor of the nation?

"The people would never permit the repudiation of a debt of honor. No congress would ever dare make this nation appear as a welcher, as it would appear and would be in such an event before the eyes of the world.

"For myself, I yield to no man in willingness, aye, in eagerness to render the greatest congeivable assistance to the stricken peoples of Europe. I include all of them and speak with a genuinely sympathetic heart, whether it is to mention devastated France, or sorely tried Italy or nobly struggling Poland or distracted and misguided Russia, or gallant little Belgium or pitiably deceived Austria, or the ruthless invader, Germany, which came to the supreme tragedy through a leadership which brought disaster to her misguided people.

"It was with that feeling of sympathy and desire to serve, that most reluctantly and with grave misgivings, as I announced at the time, that I voted to accept the league covenant with reservations designed to preserve our essential liberty of action. The record is made and under the same conditions, confronted by the same alternative, I should vote now as I voted then.

"But the conditions have changed. Experience has brought enlightenment. We know now that the league constituted at Versailles is utterly impotent as a preventative of wars. It is so obviously impotent that it has not even been tried. It hasn't even survived a single test. The league, as mistakenly conceived, has had undoubtedly passed beyond the possibility of restoration.

"Now it may appear to you that I have been speaking chiefly in the negative. I make the admission. What is more, I might continue to do so almost indefinitely without disadvantage to our cause. So many things have been done by the present expiring administration that no power on earth could induce me to do, that I cannot even attempt to recount them. I may remark, casually, however, that if I should be, as I fully expect to be, elected president of this just and honorable republic, I will not empower an assistant secretary of the navy to draft a constitution for helpless neighbors in the West Indies and jam it down their throats at the points of bayonets, borne by the United States marines. Nor will I misuse the power of the executive to cover with a veil of secrecy repeated acts of unwarranted interference in domestic affairs of the little republics of the western hemisphere.

"On the other hand, I will not or shall not, as you prefer, submit to any wrong to any American citizen, with respect to either his life or property by any government. This statement is made in all solemnity, with enmity for none and friendship for all. If it particularly applies to Mexico, the application has been directed by the robbery and murder of hundreds of our own people in that unhappy country.

"This admonition is not directed exclusively toward our next door neighbor to whom we would gladly hold forth a helping hand. It is extended for a plain notice to every government on the face of the earth that the entire resources of this nation are pledged to maintain the sacredness of American lives and the just protection of American property.

"The line of demarcation between our attitude and that our political opponents is plain. The president has made his position clear by his acts no less than by his words. He still holds Article 10 to be the heart of the covenant. So does the democratic platform. So does the democratic nominee. To assume that the nominee would accept the reservations rejected by the president and denounced by the party platform is to immediately impugn his integrity.

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