

Board Urges New Municipal Building and New Hunter College for The Bronx

At a well-attended Special Meeting of The Bronx Board of Trade, at which there were also present representatives of numerous other Bronx civic organizations, and which was held at the Board of Trade Rooms, 137th Street and Third Avenue, on Wednesday, February 16th, resolutions were unanimously adopted urging the Legislature and the City Administration to provide for a new Municipal Building in The Bronx, and also urging the City Administration to assign to the Trustees of Hunter College part of the unassigned area on the Jerome Park Reservoir tract, as a site for the proposed new Hunter College buildings.

President John M. Haffen presided at the meeting, and, in order that there might be orderliness to the proceedings, he announced that the matter of the proposed new Bronx Municipal Building would be taken up first, and disposed of, following which the meeting would consider the proposition of bringing the new Hunter College buildings to The Bronx.

The Chair then recognized Mr. Raymond L. Korndorfer, who presented a resolution reciting the fact that there had been introduced in the New York State Legislature, by Hon. Henry G. Schackno, State Senator representing the 21st Senatorial District, in The Bronx, a Bill known as Senate Int. 372, the purpose of which is to amend the Greater New York Charter by authorizing the City of New York to arrange for the sale of corporate stock or serial bonds to the extent of \$6,000,000 for the purpose of erecting a new Municipal Building in the Borough of The Bronx.

The resolution further recited the fact that the various City and Borough and County offices in The Bronx are at widely diverse locations, and that it would be in the public interest to erect a new Municipal Building in The Bronx, of sufficient size to house appropriately the various branches of the City, Borough and County Governments.

The resolution concluded with an urgent appeal to the Legislature, the Mayor and the Governor to approve the Schackno Bill, and thus make it possible for the City of New York to provide for the construction of a new Municipal Building in The Bronx.

State Senator Henry G. Schackno, who had come down from Albany especially for the purpose of talking on his Bill, was the first speaker.

Senator Schackno opened by referring to how he had introduced a similar Bill in 1926, only to have it passed by the Legislature and vetoed by the Mayor.

He called present conditions unfair, not only to Bronx citizens, but also to citizens from elsewhere who have official business with the various branches of the City, Borough and County Governments in The Bronx, on account of the widely-scattered locations of their offices, and also referred to the fact that the location of these offices in non-fireproof buildings is a menace to the public records in charge of the various officials.

He also cited the fact that the other Boroughs have "Civic Centres", while The Bronx has none, and urged that all persons interested in the welfare of

their Borough be on hand at a hearing before the Senate Committee on Cities on Tuesday, March 1st, to urge a favorable report on the Bill. He said he would try to have the Assembly Committee sit jointly, if possible.

The Senator was assured that not only would The Bronx Board of Trade be well represented at the hearing on his Bill, but also that everything possible would be done to obtain approval of it by the Legislature, the Governor, the Mayor, and the Board of Estimate.

State Senator Benjamin Antin followed Senator Schackno, and joined with him in condemning present conditions and urging the need for concerted civic action in behalf of the Bill. He stated it was not only a matter of pride, but also pure business economy, to provide this much-needed new Municipal Building for The Bronx.

Executive Secretary Charles E. Reid read a letter from Aldermanic President Joseph V. McKee, stating that the City is ready to act promptly should the legislation be passed at Albany, as the Board of Estimate, in Committee of the Whole, had authorized an appropriation of \$60,000 to prepare preliminary plans for a new Municipal Building (Borough Hall) in The Bronx.

Others who spoke in behalf of a new Municipal Building, and who pledged the support of the respective organizations which they represented were Messrs. Max Just, Taxpayers' Alliance of The Bronx; Moe P. Stein, President, Fordham Merchants' Association; Henry M. Schiffer, President, Bronx County Civil Service Employees' Association; Dr. Edward C. Podvin, Bronx County Medical Society; Edwin I. Alexander, representing President C. Adelbert Becker, of the Non-Partisan Business Men's Association; Walter H. Steen, Hunt's Point Business Men's Association; David H. Sarfaty, President, Bronxwood Park Association; and John A. Steinmetz, Real Estate Board of The Bronx.

The resolution introduced by Mr. Korndorfer, when put to a vote, following the discussions by the above mentioned, was unanimously adopted.

NEW HUNTER COLLEGE BUILDINGS

Rev. Daniel C. Cunnion, Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, was next recognized by President Haffen.

Following a short introductory talk, in which he recited the fact that well-known Manhattan College, Fordham University, New York University, and other centres of learning are located in The Bronx, he said it pleased him to introduce a resolution urging the City Administration to provide for the location of the proposed new buildings of Hunter College of the City of New York in The Bronx.

Father Cunnion's resolution cited the fact that the Board of Trustees of Hunter College had requested the New York City Administration, through the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Sinking Fund Commission, to assign to it part of the unassigned area on the Jerome Park Reservoir Tract, in The Bronx, as a site for the proposed new buildings of the College.

Also, that The Bronx Board of Trade for several years had been endeavoring to bring about the construction of the new Hunter College buildings in The Bronx, in the belief that the Borough of The Bronx offers the best possible location for them. Also the point was brought out in the resolution that the construction of the new Hunter College buildings would entail but a negligible appropriation on the part of the City, due to the amount to be realized from the sale of the present College buildings, about \$6,000,000, which is to be applied to the construction costs of the new building.

The resolution concluded with an urgent plea to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Sinking Fund Commission to approve the request of the Trustees of Hunter College for a site on the Jerome Park Reservoir tract for the proposed new buildings of Hunter College.

Mr. August F. Schwarzler proposed an amendment to this resolution, to the effect that the Board urge also that proper consideration be given to the request the Board of Transportation for a 20-acre site for a subway storage yard on the Reservoir tract, which amendment was adopted and made a part of the resolution.

President Haffen introduced as the first speaker in behalf of the resolution, Mrs. Marion R. Elliott, Chairman of the New Building Committee of the Trustees of Hunter College, and an Officer of the Alumnae Association.

Mrs. Elliott recited the history of Hunter College's desire to move to more spacious surroundings, and cited the fact that it is the largest free College for women in the country, with 10,000 now on register, and with many adults in the student body, constituting a great educational centre.

She stated that approximately 39 per cent of the students now on register at Hunter College come from The Bronx, and approximately 41 per cent from Manhattan, and largely from the Washington Heights section.

She stated that the Trustees of Hunter College have asked for enough property for the new buildings so as to permit of future growth, as they are planning their new buildings to meet the needs of the New York City of twenty-five years from now.

She also stated that the money derived from the sale of the old buildings will permit of the construction of a fine new plant, and that The Bronx would have the greatest free College plant in the world when the new College buildings are realities.

It was at the conclusion of Mrs. Elliott's talk that Mr. Schwarzler brought up his amendment, stating that the Board of Transportation has a request pending before the City Administration for twenty acres for a storage yard to serve the proposed Grand Concourse subway line, and pointing out that there is sufficient room on the Jerome Park Reservoir tract for Hunter College, and other educational institutions, without depriving the Board of Transportation of the area which it desires to have assigned to it.

Others who spoke in behalf of the Hunter College resolution included Mr. Alexander Bremer, Secretary of the Morris Heights Property Owners' Association, and State Senator Benjamin Antin.

Father Cunnion's resolution, as amended, was carried unanimously when put to a vote by President Haffen.

A large delegation of Bronx business men, representing The Bronx Board of Trade, the Non-Partisan Business Men's Association, and other Bronx civic and property-owners' associations, went to Albany on Wednesday, March 2nd, to urge approval by

the State Legislature of Senator Schackno's Bill, and was very much enthused by the reception which it received.

The indications are not only that the Legislature will pass the Bill, but also that the Mayor and Governor will give their approval to it, so that in the near future The Bronx will have a new Borough Hall, or Municipal Building, to replace the inadequate building now at Tremont and Third Avenues.

REAL ESTATE BOARD DINNER SPEAKERS FLAY CRIME

The membership of The Bronx Board of Trade was well represented in the large assemblage at the Third Annual Dinner of the Real Estate Board of The Bronx, held at the Concourse Plaza Hotel on Monday evening, February 21st. Hon. Cyrus C. Miller, former Borough President of The Bronx, was Toastmaster.

District Attorney John E. McGeehan; Supreme Court Justice Francis Martin; Rev. William J. Duane, S. J., President of Fordham University; and Hon. Albert Goldman, Commissioner of Plant and Structures, were the speakers. "Senator" Edward Ford provided the humorous talk of the evening.

Mr. McGeehan's address dealt principally with the methods used to curb salacious theatrical productions in The Bronx, which could be used in Manhattan with equally beneficial effects.

Justice Martin urged direct action to close all "dirty" and obscene plays in New York City, and also praised the effectiveness of the Baumes Law in discouraging criminal tendencies.

Father Duane took up the religious-educational aspect of crime and lawlessness. He urged strenuously a more expansive program of religious training in the schools as a factor for better citizenship.

Commissioner Goldman gave a very interesting outline of the activities of his Department of the City Government, especially those activities affecting The Bronx. Some of the matters he mentioned were the alterations to High Bridge; the 238th Street, and 174th Street, and Ludlow Avenue Bridges over the Bronx River; the new Westchester Avenue bridge over the same waterway; and the plans for installing traffic signal light systems on the more important Bronx thoroughfares not now so equipped.

EMPLOYEES HONOR MANAGER

A gold watch and chain were presented to W. J. MacDaniels, Manager and Treasurer of the Northern Union Gas Company, 310 East Kingsbridge Road, near Fordham Road, as a testimonial of their friendship, by employees at a dinner tendered him recently at the Concourse Plaza.

He was also presented with a beautiful pin seal book in which were inscribed the names of his friends who were present at the dinner. About 125 persons, many of them girls employed by the company, enjoyed the dinner and the dancing which followed.

COMMENDATION

The Bronx Board of Trade has received from the De Witt Clinton Alumni Association a letter of praise for the article on the new De Witt Clinton High School, which appeared in the January issue of BRONXBORO, and commendation for The Bronx Board of Trade for its activities in behalf of the new High School project.