

# Lack Of Top Leadership, Spending Hit By Mayor

As he prepared to withdraw from the political scene—temporarily, he hopes—Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin today charged a lack of leadership in high office and blasted public spending. **Eve. Sun**

"There is no real leadership in high places" was the thesis of the Mayor's statement. "They yield to pressure groups and to hue and cry without considering the public's real needs, but only the people in high places are in a position to survey and determine what are the real needs, and what is the ability of the taxpayers to supply just these needs."

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Wants Vs. Needs

Of his secondary target—spending—the Mayor warned:

"They should know you can't put on the backs of the taxpayers the burden that has accumulated for 25 years.

"One of the main faults of those now in high office is the apparent inability to distinguish between wants and needs," the Mayor continued, warming to his theme.

"Most of the proposals put forward by pressure groups and special interests represent what they want rather than what the people need. Our wants are always greater than our needs."

He then discussed his definition of needs:

"I once lived in a six-room house. I wanted them to live in an eight-room house. When I got into the larger house I wanted a still larger one.

## 6 District Stadiums?

"They were wants, not needs. Take the matter of a new stadium. There are those who want a \$2,500,000 stadium. If only wants are to be considered, we would have to have six stadiums, one in each district."

The Mayor then returned to his charge of a lack of leadership in "high office":

"Those demands come from pressure groups and simply express

what they want, not what the city needs. Nobody in high office seems to have the courage to turn down these pressure groups and special interests.

## "A Constant Catering"

"There is a constant catering in high office to such interests and such groups. Promises are made although it is plain that they cannot be carried out."

Abandoning unidentified high offices, pressure groups and special interests, Mayor McKeldin turned his attention to candidates in the primary in which he chose to take no part:

"There are candidates in the primary who promised to repair all the streets. At the lowest estimate, it would cost \$120,000,000. And they promise other improvements, more recreation facilities, for instance.

## And Cut Taxes, Too

"And at the same time they say they are going to cut the tax rate. How are they going to do it?"

"It is assumed, apparently, that there is available an Aladdin's lamp which, when rubbed, will pour out the money needed.

"Or maybe the candidates think that a Moses will come to their aid to strike the rock and cause the water to gush forth."

Again in reference to Government leaders, the Mayor said:

"Those in high office appear to have lost all sense of duty, obligation and responsibility.

"Among the people there seems to be a lessening of civic conscience. It is a sad situation when even school teachers go on strike. They are the ones who should be setting an example of responsibility and sound citizenship."

## Civic Conscience Needed

An active civic conscience is needed, the Mayor declared, as well as a stronger sense of duty and responsibility on the part of those in office.

When conscience and responsibility are present in the people

and those in office, the people will have good government, he said. But, he warned:

"Before very long, with the tax burden becoming too much to bear, there will be a revolt on the part of the taxpayers, and then, maybe, those in high office will understand the necessity of a sense of responsibility, not toward pressure groups and special interests, but toward the taxpayers themselves.

"This is as true of the State as it is of the national Government."

### Concern For Democrats

The Republican Mayor expressed his concern over Democratic party leadership:

"We now see the spectacle of the Democratic party with ten candidates, seeking the nomination as mayor. What kind of leadership is that?"

Mayor McKelvin has announced his intention of standing "on the side-line" following his retirement from office in May.

He will remain "on the side-lines" for three years, or until 1950. During that time he will study municipal, state and national government, after which he proposes to make a bid for the United States Senate seat now held by Senator Millard E. Tydings.

It is understood that the mayor, from his place without the pale of political bickerings, contemplates the issuance of public statements from time to time, denouncing what appears to him to be wrong, on the basis of his "side-line" observations.