

MCKELDIN SWORN IN, CALLS FOR CREATION OF MUNICIPAL CENTER

New Mayor Proposes Present City Hall Be Torn Down

By CHARLES V. FLOWERS

Theodore R. McKeldin took the oath of office as Mayor of Baltimore at noon yesterday for the second time and immediately proposed the creation of a new municipal center around the War Memorial Plaza.

He said later that he meant the City Hall should be torn down and new buildings constructed.

About 1,500 persons attended the ceremony, which had been planned for outside on the plaza, but was moved into the War Memorial because of morning showers.

Wears Same Attire

Twenty years ago Mr. McKeldin was inaugurated for the first time. He wore the same Homburg, and the same formal morning attire yesterday that he wore on the first occasion.

Philip H. Goodman, the defeated Mayor, and Mr. McKeldin, walked across the plaza from City Hall to the War Memorial followed by their wives, top city officials, Federal judges, judges of the Supreme Bench, State officials and city councilmen.

Thus "official party" which also included Hyman A. Pressman, the new comptroller, and Thomas D'Alessandro 3d, president of the City Council, sat on the rostrum behind the new Mayor.

Speaks For 10 Minutes

After James F. Carney, clerk of the Superior Court, administered the oath of office, Mayor McKeldin spoke for about ten minutes.

There is a vitality in the citizens of Baltimore, he said, which has just begun to show itself.

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McKeldin Shifts Views On Desk

Mayor McKeldin won't be bringing his old desk back to the City Hall after all.

Several weeks ago Dr. R. Walter Graham, Jr., who was then comptroller, suggested that Mr. McKeldin should bring back the desk that he had used while in the Mayor's office from 1943 to 1947. At the completion of his term, the Board of Estimates voted to give the desk to him as a memento.

Mr. McKeldin said that he would gladly bring the desk back if elected, and repeated after his election the same intention.

An aide said yesterday, though, that the old desk would remain in Mayor McKeldin's law office. "It's really too small," the aide said. **Bigger** problems demand bigger desks.



NEW, YET OLD—Mayor Goodman escorts Memorial for McKeldin's 2d inauguration. Mayor-elect McKeldin from City Hall to War First was in 1943. Mrs. McKeldin follows.

MCKELDIN GIVEN OATH AS MAYOR

Proposes New Municipal Center Be Built

By CHARLES V. FLOWERS
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This quality needs to be directed toward a renaissance of the city.

"There was a time, we know, when the fire-ravished Baltimore of 1904 faced a decision somewhat comparable to the one confronting us today — that is, whether to make the supreme effort required to achieve the type of prize reserved solely for the bold, the valiant, the imaginative, and the dedicated," he stated.

Mayor McKeldin continued: "The decision of 1904 was clear and positive. The result of that decision was a new Baltimore. Now, in this year of 1963, we find that a Baltimore recently reduced in spirit, to ashes by the smoldering fire of neglect, is once again rising in renewal pride and splendor."

See Proof In Mortar, Steel

He designated the Charles Center, the State Office buildings and the high, new apartment houses as "proof in mortar and steel that men of foresight and determination are translating the Baltimore spirit of old into a vibrant new hope for tomorrow."

The new Mayor said there needs to be still another focal point — "a new Municipal Center, with city accommodations worthy of this great metropolis."

"In fact, the very demands of practicality cry out for new arrangements to replace the antiquated, inefficient, expensive hodge-podge of municipal offices which now sprawl so awkwardly throughout our downtown area," he said.

Suggests It Is Dangerous

"The City Hall, for instance," he continued, "is in a condition not merely deplorable, but actually dangerous. We must do something about it very soon; and I hope that when we act, we shall not make a patch-work job."

He explained yesterday afternoon that he believed refurbishing the building, which was completed in 1875, would be too expensive and still would not provide adequate office space.

"I implied that it should be torn down," he said. The costs of thoroughly renovating the City Hall have been estimated from \$1,500,000 to about \$4,000,000.

Should Not Lag, He Says

During his speech he pointed out that while he was Governor he took the lead in starting the three-building complex of State office buildings here. "We spent a lot of money there, but the rise in property values in the adjacent area has already returned much of it and is steadily returning more."

The city should not lag behind the State and the business groups

that built Charles Center, he said, but should have its own, modern center.

Mayor McKeldin also proposed the development of the inner harbor.

"Envision with me, too, the new inner harbor area, where the imagination of man can take advantage of a rare gift of nature to produce an enthralling panorama of office buildings, parks, high-rise apartments and marinas. In this we have a very special opportunity, for few other cities in the world have been blessed, as has ours, with such a potentially beautiful harbor area within the very heart of downtown."

His unique cadences and his rolling r's bounced around the huge marble hall, causing parts of his speech to be hard to understand.

Some Needs Listed

Mayor McKeldin quickly listed the needs for better mass transportation, teachers with special skills and dedication who are properly paid, better-paid policemen, an end to vacillation in urban renewal and planning, and greater efficiency in Government.

"But when we have done so, we will merely have provided belated remedies for ills which seem almost ancient. We will merely have brought ourselves up to date," he said.

He mentioned that Baltimoreans seem to have lost pride in many of the most important monuments of the past. For instance, he said, the city-owned Charles Carroll mansion at Lombard street and the Fallsway is falling into ruin. Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, died in that house, which he had built for his daughter, the Mayor pointed out.

After his speech, Mayor Mc-

Keldin administered the oath of comptroller to Mr. Pressman, a Democrat, who nevertheless ran and won on the McKeldin Republican ticket.

Following the ceremony, the Mayor, Mr. Pressman and Mr. D'Alesandro and their wives held an open house in City Hall. Mr. D'Alesandro will take the oath of office with councilmen at 2 P.M. tomorrow in the Council chamber.

The receiving line stood on the big, newly cleaned Oriental rug, under newly washed crystal chandeliers in the Mayor's office. Hundreds of persons filed through to shake hands with Baltimore's top elected officials.