

Grady Sees 'A Good Start' On Filling His Pledges

By LOUIS R. RUKEYSER

Mayor Grady said today he thinks his Administration has made "a good start" toward filling his campaign pledges but that most of the action on his promises is yet to come.

He said much more can be expected in the way of municipal economy after the completion of a number of studies now under way.

"As of today, we've been in office less than five months," he noted, adding that most of the approximately 100 city agencies are under the direction of career employees protected by the merit system.

Pledge Vs. Performance

"I'm not suggesting that these people should be replaced," he said, "but it does mean that there are important departments where we have not been able to make any key appointments as yet."

The Mayor was read a series of his pre-election pledges, and asked in each case to comment on his Administration's performance to date:

Here is the dialogue:

PLEDGE—The Mayor's staff "can be cut almost in half without hurting its efficiency." Such economy "will actually increase the efficiency of the office."

PERFORMANCE—"The budget request for jobs in the Mayor's office has been reduced by 26 per cent for 1960. And the possibility exists that not all of the remaining jobs will be filled."

PLEDGE—The "three G's"—Mr. Grady and his successful running mates, Comptroller R. Walter Graham, Jr., and City Council President Philip H. Goodman—will "adopt a policy of pay-as-you-go to the maximum extent possible."

Capital-Budgeting Plan

PERFORMANCE—"On that subject, I would point to the favorable adoption by the Board of Estimates of Budget Director Charles L. Benton's capital-budgeting proposal. This plan contemplates putting part of the program on a pay-as-you-go basis.

"The details haven't been worked out, because we don't know yet where the money is coming from. Some cities take it from their annual surplus. One thing we know for sure is that we are not going to have any such surplus."

PLEDGE—The Grady Administration will adopt rules for city workers "defining the meaning of full-time employment" and avoiding "possible conflict-of-interest situations."

"Very Obvious" Acts

PERFORMANCE—"Two very

obvious things were done:

1. We refused to declare Friday, May 29, a holiday—which I think the State did.

2. Throughout the summer the practice had been that when the temperature reached a certain magic number by a certain hour, the employees would be dismissed early. That practice has been discontinued.

"In another area, the city solicitor promulgated a rule that no member of his staff could be a member of the State Legislature."

PLEDGE—The Administration will be "a businesslike Administration which will cut the fat from the budget and give taxpayers full worth for their dollar."

Paring 1960 Budget

PERFORMANCE—"That is being done at the present time. With reference to paring the 1960 budget, I can say emphatically that that attitude will be more and more in evidence."

PLEDGE—If elected, the "three G's" "will call on the city's leading industries, businesses and financial institutions to lend us outstanding experts—engineers, accountants, administrators and other specialists—for an intensive study of means to modernize and economize in the operation of the city's business." The Administration will also ask for the help of experts from colleges, universities and private foundations.

PERFORMANCE—"That idea has not in any sense been discarded. It just was not practical to get such a survey made during the summer of 1959 to help in the preparation of the 1960 budget. We still have definite ideas to use this technique, and conferences with some industrial leaders have been held on this subject."

Job Freeze Still On

PLEDGE—The experience of the job freeze "revealed that there is quite a bit of suet to be boiled out of certain city departments."

PERFORMANCE—"The job freeze is still in effect. As of the end of August—the latest figures available—there were in excess of 420 positions, with a total salary appropriation of over \$1,000,000, which could have been filled and had not been filled.

"I do not mean that some of these vacancies had not existed before. But the money was in the budget, and if we had wanted to follow a spoils system, we could have filled these jobs."

PLEDGE—The Grady Administration will end the city's "outrageously slipshod (personnel) record-keeping."

No New Record System Yet

PERFORMANCE—"While we have taken corrective steps in

specific instances, I cannot say that we have instituted any new type of business records. That would certainly be one of the things that we would hope the industrial task force previously mentioned would recommend.

"Also, we are having a study made with reference to the cost of work done by city laborers against the cost of comparable work done by private contractors."

PLEDGE—Taxpayers could save up to \$1,300,000 a year if the city got more leeway in investing pension funds.

PERFORMANCE—"This recommendation was made to the Pension Board during the last Administration. It's a matter that is under continuing study.

"I might note that the first change in the personnel of the Pension Board is now possible because of the very recent death of Mr. (Stanley B.) Trott."

Political Truck Rentals

PLEDGE—The city's annual truck rentals have been made on a political basis. They represent "one of many areas where we can save taxpayers' money."

PERFORMANCE—"We have eliminated all but one or two of these trucks. By acting on this matter in the first few weeks of our Administration, we have already saved \$50,000 over the balance of this year alone.

"The 1959 budget allotted \$80,000 for truck rentals for highways and \$5,000 for seasonal collection of ashes. The latter \$5,000 probably can't be saved. But next year we can save \$80,000 of this \$85,000."

PLEDGE—"The 'three G's' will work as a team—full time—to see that city programs are not going beyond their original purposes or exceeding spending levels originally contemplated." The Mayor "must meet regularly with department heads and, above all, he must stay on the job himself."

Less Vacation This Year

PERFORMANCE—"I can say this—we have consistently met with department heads. I have attended meetings where all the department heads of the Department of Public Works were assembled.

"I have had far less vacation this year than I have had in past years, and I have been working considerably longer hours. The only time since my inauguration that I was out of the State was to attend a conference of mayors in Los Angeles. That was the only time I missed a meeting of the Board of Estimates.

"I think I can say substantially the same thing about the other two G's."

PLEDGE—The city should establish a new municipal agency

to be known as the Bureau of Medical Services.

PERFORMANCE—"That project is under consideration at the present time by a committee looking toward the establishment of such a bureau, with the elimination of overlapping of several bureaus.

Committee Members

"This committee is composed of Comptroller Graham, City Solicitor (Harrison) Winter and Mr. (Thomas) Murphy, secretary of the City Service Commission."

PLEDGE — Political leader James H. (Jack) Pollack, whose forces include six members of the City Council, will get "nothing" in the way of political jobs from the Grady Administration.

PERFORMANCE—"That pledge has been absolutely and unequivocally kept."