

File No. 9986 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

both tracks are blocked. It is perfectly manifest that this condition cannot go on when the street is built up, and it does appear to me to be very important that these tracks be laid in the centre of the street, from the Calverton Road to the Western City Limits, before the street is graded and paved as proposed by the Annex Commission.

7625

In order to do this it will be necessary to introduce an ordinance authorizing the change. I am advised that the Annex Commission do not approve of the change.

7626

It appears to me that the change should be made now, to the west end of the bridge, for the reason that it must be made sooner or later, and that it will cost less to make it before the paving is laid than it will at some subsequent time. It would be a great hardship on the United Railways Company to require them at some future time to take up their tracks, put them in the centre of the street, and lay an improved pavement along the portion of the street from which they removed their tracks, and then lay an improved pavement on that portion of the street to which their tracks were transferred. If the street is improved they must lay a girder rail. All of this can be done before the street is paved quite economically. They can also handle the proposition on the bridge far more economically, and it appears to me to be of vital importance that this work be done at once.

7627

I would also call your attention to the fact that several rows of houses have been constructed on the south side of Edmondson avenue west of the new bridge. These people cannot get to their houses with teams, as the tracks are now constructed, and they will naturally come to us in a short time for relief.

7628

I conferred with Mr. Poe with respect to the question as to who would bear the expense of moving these tracks, and he was of the opinion that it was an expense that the United Railways Company would have to bear; the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore having reserved the right to regulate the use of the street in the public interests; and while it was to the interest of the public, when the tracks were laid, to have them laid on the south side of the street, it is now to the interest of the public to have them laid, as all other tracks are laid throughout the City, in the centre of the street, and that