

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH, A.D. 1940, 9:00 A. M.

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PRESENT: Honorable Maury Maverick, Mayor, presiding, and Commissioners Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

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Mayor Maverick made the following statement, which he ordered recorded in the Minutes of the City Commission:

Gentlemen of the Commission, what I say involves civil government and I very seldom worry about personal slander against me. However, I announced the other day that I would take whatever measures were necessary to stop such practices against me or anybody else.

While I was a member of Congress they brought a lady down here who said that Mrs. Roosevelt and myself were Communists. It was a filthy lie then, and is NOW. The Red scare was gotten up before and during the Congressional campaign which election was also stolen from me. During the Mayor's campaign the same group, among whom are certain local politicians, disreputable businessmen and common crooks, brought in a so-called evangelist who vaguely denounced "Communism" for the purpose of creating hysteria against me.

I now find they got their hooks out for me again. The same crowd have framed a reservation of the Auditorium for the Jehovah's Witnesses on July 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28th, without my knowledge. A democratic primary in which they thought that I was going to run for Congress - I understand that you have until the 15th of this month for filing, - is on July 27th. It is the same stunt they pulled on me in mayoral election.

So I have a statement to read and I want the press to honor me by accepting copies.

I will now read it.

I have just discovered that in the routine course of business the manager of our city auditorium has, upon referral of the local Chamber of Commerce, made reservation of the Auditorium to the Jehovah's Witnesses. In view of the dreadful emergency of this country, the reservation is indefinitely postponed.

The Supreme Court has just ruled that school bodies may require the salute of the flag, and that neither civil nor religious liberty can exist without the recognition of civil power. In view of the physical refusal of this salute, and their physical refusal to recognize any civil authority or government, the contemplated meeting is in the nature of an illegal one.

I have attempted to serve democracy and preserve freedom of speech, press, religion, at all costs, including my own personal safety. I do not regret this, because democracy is our form of government.

But we have seen democracy crushed under the heel of the Nazis by Nazism taking advantage of democracy. So went Czecho-Slovakia, so have gone many other nations.

It is freely admitted by Jehovah's Witnesses that they deny authority of any government, including that of the United States, the country

in which they reside. They deny authority of the Supreme Court which has ruled failure to salute the flag illegal; they deny the authority of Congress, the Executive Power. They deny the authority of the City of San Antonio from whom they wish to rent a hall. They claim to owe allegiance only to God, by denying all other authority.

Society cannot exist without authority. The United States of America cannot so exist. In our hour of grave peril, even though offenders may be considered mere members of eccentric religious cults, such cults cannot be permitted to deny authority upon the false refuge of God.

I have always believed that any man can say anything without previous censorship, being responsible for his acts. However, the incitement to riot, or overt act, are both illegal. Admittedly such a meeting by its own acts, is incitement to flout civil authority, and thereby force and violence against the government. The physical defiance of the flag, even though passive, may be in its nature, and by the reasoning of the Supreme Court, an overt act.

We note deep convulsion and change in this world. It is a world to break men's hearts, mine as well as your's.

The members of Jehovah's Witnesses are not themselves a direct Fifth Column of machine gunners and parachute troops; but by defiance of civil authority and by creating discord and disunion, they may pave the way. They are at least the dupes of discord, disturbing unity when unity is the crying need of the hour.

No doubt hundreds of the members of this organization are misled. But they are too well organized and too well financed from the top not to be given attention. This is no time for people to sit on the edge of the Bill of Rights and, through technicalities, tear the heart out of this Bill of Rights.

Personally, I am frank to say that I am neither neutral nor impartial in the present crisis. We are not in a state of war, but we are in a grave emergency, and the Communazis are the instruments of destruction in this world. A Nazi or Communist meeting, especially if to approve the destruction of world civilization, or to endanger America, would be unthinkable. As one who loves civil liberties, I must not and cannot allow our liberties to be destroyed as in other democracies.

Religious liberty should be strained to its uttermost, because if one is denied freedom for even what appears to be great extremes, it may lead to other extremes against other religions. But though organized religion by precept may follow God, its secular organization is composed of men, and men must recognize civil authority, whatever their religious belief.

And since I believe religion should be given uttermost liberty, any meeting of any religion in a private church will be protected. But meetings even though called religious, and which physically deny the authority of the government, are not proper now.

To the people of San Antonio I suggest restraint. I will instruct the police that if phonographs are played too loud, or if

persons are approached against their will, that the offenders will be jailed. But in the present state of mind, with riots all over Texas, to start a fight will only result in what may be grave and widespread disorder. Our police are well disciplined, and courteous. Leave it to the police - they can handle the situation firmly, without brutality.

To Jehovah's Witnesses I suggest emulation of the humble spirit of the Son of God. It was Jesus who said that one should render to God what is his, and to the government what is its power. Try to be reasonable; and also be sensible enough to realize the present situation.

Because of my love of civil liberties I have been grossly imposed upon, framed, and lied about: to the Sixth Column slanderers and framers on one hand; and the American German Bund, Fifth Columnist, Communists, Facists, Trojan horses, Nazis, or people just misled, on the other hand, I want them all to know that San Antonio is not going to be a Mecca for any of them because of my love for civil liberties.

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Mayor Maverick nominated H. L. Dillashaw for the position of City Clerk, which nomination was adopted by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

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Commissioner Davis introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1444

*MR-184* AN ORDINANCE (1959)

APPROPRIATING \$7,500.00 OUT OF THE BACK TAX GENERAL FUND & 1938 GENERAL FUND AND TRANSFERRING SAME TO THE 1939 GENERAL FUND.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$7,500.00, be and the same is hereby appropriated and transferred to the 1939 General Fund chargeable to the following funds:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Back Tax General Fund | \$3,500.00        |
| 1938 General Fund     | 4,000.00          |
|                       | <u>\$7,500.00</u> |

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick,  
Mayor.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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Commissioner Hein introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1445

*MR-185* AN ORDINANCE (1960)

APPROPRIATING \$218.03 OUT OF THE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #15 FUND, FOR PAYROLL.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$218.03, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the Improvement District #15 Fund, for payroll for the period ending May 31, 1940, for account of:

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| River Beautification Project | \$218.03 |
|------------------------------|----------|

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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Mayor Maverick introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1446                      MR-186      AN ORDINANCE (1961)

APPROPRIATING \$125.00 OUT OF THE 1939 GENERAL FUND, DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN GENERAL, FOR PAYROLLS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$125.00, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the 1939 General Fund, Department of Public Affairs in General, for payrolls for the period ending May 31, 1940, for the following accounts:

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Stenographic Bureau | \$ 28.50        |
| Personnel Dept.     | 50.00           |
| Villita Project     | 46.50           |
|                     | <u>\$125.00</u> |

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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Commissioner Steffler introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1447                      MR-187      AN ORDINANCE (1962)

APPROPRIATING \$179.07 OUT OF THE 1939 GENERAL FUND TO PAY JAMES H. TIPS  
FOR THE CHANNELIZATION OF ROMANA PLAZA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$179.07, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the 1939 General Fund, Street Maintenance Department to pay James H. Tips for labor and material used in connection with channelization of traffic lanes on Romana Plaza, in accordance with bid dated March 16, 1940, as per approved estimate on file in the City Auditor's Office.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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Commissioner Lipscomb introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1448                      MR-188      AN ORDINANCE (1963)

APPROPRIATING \$202.00 OUT OF THE 1939 GENERAL FUND, DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE & FIRE, FOR PAYROLLS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$202.00, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the 1939 General Fund, Department of Fire & Police, for payrolls for the period ending May 31, 1940, for the following accounts:

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Police              | \$192.00        |
| Civil Service Board | 10.00           |
|                     | <u>\$202.00</u> |

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

Commissioner Hein introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1449                      *MR-189*                      AN ORDINANCE (1964)

APPROPRIATING \$15,981.55 OUT OF THE 1939 GENERAL FUND, DEPARTMENT  
OF PARKS, SANITATION AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, FOR PAYROLLS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$15,981.55, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the 1939 General Fund, Department of Parks, Sanitation and Public Property, for payrolls for the period ending May 31, 1940, for the following accounts:

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Parks & Plazas        | \$ 2,422.48        |
| Street Cleaning       | 8,980.01           |
| River & Ditches       | 411.00             |
| San Jose Burial Park  | 295.00             |
| Old City Cemeteries   | 122.50             |
| Golf Courses          | 537.00             |
| Recreation            | 2,375.54           |
| Olmos Basin & Dam     | 117.25             |
| Witte Museum          | 474.52             |
| Sewage Disposal Plant | 246.25             |
|                       | <u>\$15,981.55</u> |

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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Commissioner Steffler introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1450                      *MR-190*                      AN ORDINANCE (1965)

APPROPRIATING \$15.00 OUT OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO EXCAVATION  
TRUST ACCOUNT FOR REFUND.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Commissioners of the City of San Antonio, that, the sum of \$15.00, be and the same is hereby appropriated out of Street Excavation Trust Account for Refund, as per City Engineer's letter of May 29, 1940, as follows:

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Paul Ragsdale | \$15.00 |
|---------------|---------|

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 4th day of June 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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Commissioner Hein introduced the following ordinance, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

No. 1451                      *MR-191*                      AN ORDINANCE (1966)

APPROPRIATING \$300.00 TO PAY R.H.H. HUGMAN IN FULL AND COMPLETE  
SATISFACTION OF ANY AND ALL CLAIMS FOR SERVICES RENDERED.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

1. That \$300.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated out of Improvement District No. 15 Fund, to pay R.H.H. Hugman, in full and complete satisfaction of any and all claims for services rendered under the contract between the City of San Antonio and the undersigned, dated the 15th day of December, A.D. 1938, covering architectural services in river work for Improvement District No. 15 and also in full and complete settlement of any and all claims of any kind or character whatsoever for any services rendered by the undersigned to the date hereof.

2. PASSED AND APPROVED this 4th day of June, A.D. 1940.

ATTEST: H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

Commissioner Lipscomb introduced the following Resolution, which was read, passed and approved by the following vote on roll call, to-wit: Ayes, Maverick, Davis, Hein, Lipscomb and Steffler.

A RESOLUTION (1967)

AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

1. That the City Clerk of the City of San Antonio is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for bids and proposal on the following:

For the erection and construction of a building together with the furnishing, installing and placing of all equipment for a motor vehicle inspection station, to be located on City property in the old Rock Quarry in the Northern part of the City of San Antonio, said bids and proposal will be received until 10:00 A. M., June 13, 1940. Plans and specifications of said inspection station are on file with Thomas Coghill, City Engineer of the City of San Antonio.

2. The City of San Antonio will consider proposals to erect, construct and equip said above mentioned inspection station complete, and ready for operation, in accordance with said plans and specifications and said bids and proposal must include a proposed finance plan, wherein the contractor is paid from a revenue derived from operation of said inspection station.

3. The award of this contract will be influenced by the time element, plan of financing proposed from ability of the contractor prosecuting the work.

4. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

5. PASSED AND APPROVED this 4th day of June, A.D. 1940.

Maury Maverick  
Mayor.

ATTEST H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.

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A petition signed by residents in the vicinity of Hoefgen, Florida, Peach and Delaware Streets protesting a wood yard located on Lot 7, Block 662 was read and referred to the City Health Department.

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A petition of the I & G N Railroad Company for permit to install gasoline storage tanks at the Commerce Street Roundhouse was read and referred to Commissioner Lipscomb.

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On motion duly seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Maury Maverick  
MAYOR.

ATTEST:

H. L. Dillashaw  
City Clerk.