

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN Tuesday, April 6, 1976 9

Planners See Problems With Expected City Growth

By Andrew Tevlogian

Oklahoma City now expects a population growth of about 150,000 by the year 2000, but with that growth could come some of the many problems plaguing older cities on the nation's East and West coasts.

Planning consultants David Crane and Marshall Kaplan presented expected problems and findings from demographic studies Monday night to the steering committee for Oklahoma City's comprehensive plan.

"Oklahoma City wants to avoid the problems the country's older cities now face, it will have to seek better cooperation among city, county, state and federal governments," the consultants said.

City officials also will have to make better use of vacant land now surrounded by development and find more efficient methods of financing city government, the consultants said.

Oklahoma City now is faced with severe fiscal constraints that will greatly limit any programs to improve the quality of life or avert problems experienced by the country's

elder cities, the consultants said.

The major fiscal problems facing the city are:

- State laws that restrict how cities may operate and the ability of municipalities to go into debt. This restriction has led to the creation of public trusts to circumvent the law. These trusts lead to a great number of uncoordinated activities, in terms of good government, are "abominable," Kaplan said the steering committee.
- A small percentage of the property tax collected by the county going to the city.
- The majority of the property tax goes to schools while almost all of the remainder is placed in county accounts. While Oklahoma City is one of the few cities in Oklahoma receiving any ad valorem tax, the amount is small compared to other cities of similar size in the country.

—"Overriding concerns of federal monies such as the general revenue sharing program. There is little cooperation between local and federal government, causing many problems in this area, the consultants said.

The lack of coordination also is found in relationships among the city, county and state governments, the consultants said.

The severe fiscal constraints brought about by the lack of cooperation has resulted in city services being offered to different parts of the city at different levels.

Among the services with problems, the consultants said:

- Streets which when grouped into an overall transportation facility offer poor traffic design especially when trying to be built to serve all of Oklahoma City plus all of the growth expected by the year 2000.
- Mass transit which will not be able to keep development Oklahoma City has expected.
- Water and sewer in fringe areas. For the consultants posed not enough water and sewer facilities now exist or are about to be built to serve all of Oklahoma City plus all of the growth expected by the year 2000.
- The problems with water and sewer services in that vast areas within the developed

areas have been jumped across. That leaves large areas with no development but through which these utilities pass in order to get to existing developments, the consultants said.

Oklahoma City has "a good housing stock," Crane said, but most of the housing stock is older housing built in the moderately preceding World War II.

The consultants said that with better use at about the same time, causing a major problem for the city's older stock which is slowly to make sure the older neighborhood.

Substandard housing has been a major problem in major urban areas on both coasts, the consultants said.

And in those urban areas, problems have presented themselves through the type of population that migrates to the inner cities, the consultants said.

The same type of population can be expected in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area unless steps are taken soon.

The city can expect a large portion of the new 150,000 immigrants to be poorer and in

smaller households than the population at large. The migration will include more female-headed households also, the consultants said.

One of the things that can be done to improve the quality of the population remains high and thus that the housing stays above standard is to improve the image of the center city and of the Oklahoma City school district, the consultants said.

The center city suffers from a bad crime image, the consultants said, but crime in the core of the city is not that much worse than other parts of the city when the relationship between the criminals and the victims is considered, Kaplan said.

Most of the crimes are committed by one group against members of the same group, he said. The chances of being a victim of crime in the inner city are not substantial, Kaplan said.

The school district is also unfairly accused of being substandard, Kaplan said. The truth is that the district rates as good or better than neighboring districts, he said.

NAACP Not Riled By School Closings

By Larry Hamilton

The school construction program approved by the Oklahoma City Board of Education Monday night apparently will not rile the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, school board attorney Harry Johnson said Monday.

Johnson said both he and U.S. District Judge Luther L. Lewis Jr. are relieved by the NAACP attorney John W. Walker who said the group has "no particular objection to the specific school closings proposed by the school board."

Johnson explained the association's agreement to make Johnson's approval of the closings.

Walker pointed out in his letter to the NAACP that the school board has the right to "close up to the court that the school board is not bound by the NAACP's criteria for the selection of sites for school closings."

He said the decision of whether to add another building will be made by his superiors as the highway department, appropriate criteria for the school board to consider.

The school board also had not developed appropriate guidelines for the selection of sites for school closings.

Johnson said the NAACP's approval of the school closings is a relief to the school board.

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TALLYING VOTES showing Republican presidential preferences in Nancy Appas. Story on Page 1.

Lincoln Plan Map Delay Lashed

By Bruce Brydon

State highway officials were taken to task Monday night when they were unable to answer questions about what land will be taken under current plans to extend Lincoln Blvd.

Lack of a map accurately showing right-of-way would become the main issue at a public hearing on the project and its environmental impact.

At one point, conflict over the exact location of the extension will take between NE 4 and Myers Ave. south of 14th and a Lincoln "turnover" resident, Doris Gunn, is said.

"You have told us these plans will be changed. We don't know what the plans are, how will we know when they are changed?"

After highway officials identified their no up-to-date map re-creating right-of-way needs, speakers began asking how extensive were the changes that had been made, especially since last Tuesday.

Brydon asked that a full environmental impact statement be prepared for the project.

Hearing officer Albert Dillis said preparation of a statement would require 10 to 24 months.

It was the Mrs. Gunn's question that drew the attention of the project, who first criticized the department's inability to answer residents' questions.

"We should have had a visual showing of the design. Otherwise, I am quite unimpressed to answer questions about what land will be taken," Mrs. Gunn said.

Dillis said plans have been made of a necessary impact statement, a shorter version of the environmental impact statement, to reduce the project and its environmental impact.

The number of families to be relocated under the proposal has been reduced from 37 to about 30, and the number of businesses to be relocated is also being reduced.

Dillis said the route has been changed to the east where there are fewer churches that would have been razed under earlier plans.

Under persistent questioning from citizens at the hearing, highway department officials were unable to explain that the work was being done to answer residents' questions.

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Judge's Ex-Wife Killed

The former wife of Oklahoma County Sheriff Judge Harold C. Thies was killed Saturday night in a one-car pile-up accident, Nichols Hills police said Monday.

Police said Mrs. Son C. Thies, 37, of 3037 A. S. Court, was seen at an arrival at Baptist Medical Center following the 7:30 p.m. accident.

A passenger in the car driven by Mrs. Thies, Raymond E. Cooper, 47, was admitted to Baptist Medical Center with a broken jaw and several cuts.

Police said Mrs. Thies died at 10:30 p.m.

Tulsa Mayor Voting Today

TULSA (AP) — Bill term after three as city street commissioner. He is opposed by Democrat Betty Hawkins, unsuccessful candidate for mayor in 1972 and finance commissioner in 1974.

Other races and candidates:

Water commissioner: John P. Thomas Jr., Republican incumbent; and Glen M. Smith, Democrat.

Street commissioner: Edward E. Baker, Republican; and Robert A. Franklin, Democrat.

Police and fire commissioners: James P. Burton and James J. Lancaster are battling for the Ward 4 job in the Village.

Finance commissioner: Charles J. Freeman, currently a state representative, Republican; and Mrs. John McHugh, Democrat.

Four Suburbs Holding Council Elections Today

Ballot elections for mayor of Moore and city council seat in Broken Arrow, Tulsa, the Village, Moore and West Tulsa are set for Tuesday.

In Moore, Howard Wynn and S.L. Patterson Jr. are opponents in the mayor election and C. Blake Virgin and James D. Jackson are seeking the Ward 1 council seat.

Tulsa, Wife Held Union Jobs While on Barber Board, Testimony Shows

By Mike Bannister

While serving on the state Board of Barber Examiners, a Tulsa barber and his wife also served on the board of directors of the Tulsa barbers' credit union and were paid employees of the Tulsa barbers' local union, testimony before a special House committee Monday showed.

In addition, E.D. Byrum, who served as barber hall treasurer until March 1974, created a duplex he owned to the credit union and used as a office space.

Also, Byrum's wife received a \$100 loan from the credit union which she served on the board of directors.

The testimony came from five officials of the credit union and the local 826 of the Bar-

bers, Boucicaults and Allied Trades Union, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, who were called to testify before the select House committee investigating the state barber board.

One section of the state's banking law says loans to a director, credit committee member or supervisory committee member is not prohibited as long as the loan terms are not more favorable than loans to other members and does not exceed 20 per cent of the unimpaired capital and surplus of the credit union.

However, committee members said privately they wanted to research further all the state and federal laws regarding credit unions.

Meanwhile, a Tulsa barber union Tulsa

whose shop window was smashed in the early morning hours of March 23 approved before the committee and denied the fact any information regarding alleged wrongdoing by barber board members or credit union labor union officials.

Rep. Bob Davis, Oklahoma's conservative chairman, told House's financial committee that he had sought information from the Tulsa barber union, but the union would not provide any of the labor board members, kept at least one barber from the 826 of the credit union, he said.

She said Byrum came to her shop on March 23 to pick up her equipment.

4 FACE ROBBERY COUNT

Theft Ends Talk

A 67-year-old northwest Oklahoma City woman who had begun a conversation about the preparation of a will for her husband, Mrs. Mayfield, who the other party had for some time had the billfold, police were told.

Four apprehensions were arrested one hour later after officers tracked a number of an unidentifiable woman allegedly.

Dressed as suspicion of several robbery victims, Mrs. Mayfield, 42, of 11 N.E. 11, and Terrence Wiley, 27, 20 N.E. 11, Mrs. Mayfield, 56, 200 S. 1st, and officer Larry Anderson who was in the produce division of the Humphrey Dumpty.

Firm Seeks Four Hotels

HOUSTON (AP) — The federal government is seeking four hotels, all of which are currently under way for the purchase of four hotels that are part of the Astrodome complex.

J. W. Loveland, president of Service Inc. of Memphis, gave an price estimate but industry sources indicated that his transaction would approximate \$18 million.

The four hotels, Astrodome, Holiday Inn, Howard Johnson, and Avalon — Motel Inn, have a total of 292 rooms.

Medicine Service Shows Increase

WASHINGTON — The federal government has reported an increase in medicine services in 1975 over 1974.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service reported 20,000 cases, 18 per cent more than in 1974.

FINGERPRINTS LIFTED

Clues to Identity Sought

Fingerprint were lifted Monday from the hand of an unidentified woman whose body was found last week.

Several copies of the fingerprint were taken from an abandoned car in the area of the body, including the hand, which was found in an "unusually correct position," investigators said.

The body has been identified to be that of a white woman, about 5 feet 4 inches tall and 35 years old.

The project is not outstanding for identification, see other page.

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