

With the influx of many thousands of new people and with money plentiful in the hands of many people who have been through the lean years of depression, Portland naturally must face additional crime and vice problems. Those in quest of an easy living are bound to flock to boom places.

A determined effort has been made and will continue to be made in the suppression of crime, prostitution and gambling. No thinking person could or would assert that these things do not exist. The most we can say is that our law enforcement agencies are making every effort to curb them to the fullest extent.

A concerted drive has been made against prostitution in cooperation with the Army, Navy and the Federal Government. All known houses have been purged and the inmates driven out. It can be definitely asserted that there are no houses of prostitution operating in Portland at this time and there will be none. Commercialized prostitution has been subjected to relentless attack. A total of 150 leaders of this vice, commonly known as pimps, have been arrested and prosecuted and others are being arrested under state laws as fast as they are found. From the commanding officers of neighboring troop cantonments we have the assurance that they are well pleased with the local effort and feel that Portland is freer from the sources of infection than any other city on the Pacific Coast. Also, from the Federal Security Agency headquarters for the coast, I have strong and unqualified letters of commendation on the local effort.

The matter of gambling is being given the attention of the police constantly. Cappers have been driven from the streets. Gambling places have been harrassed and raided relentlessly and, while no one would be foolish enough to say there is no gambling in Portland, I think we can say it is not flaunted openly and is not rampant and is being curbed to a far greater extent than ever before in Portland's history.

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Generally speaking, Portland has a big job in taking in some 100,000 new people and making them a part of our community. They are coming from all walks of life and all shades of society. With them they bring additional traffic problems, additional transportation problems and a tremendous housing problem. I feel that our people should cooperate in making them welcome and in making real Portlanders of them.

Earl Riley

M A Y O R

7-13-42

By Mayor Earl Riley

Absorbing into Portland's normal population of 300,000 an additional 100,000 within a period of one year is a problem this city now faces very positively and definitely. The Government has assigned to the Portland area the job of building one third of the entire output of ships of the United States. To do the job will require at the maximum 120,000 to 150,000 men. To obtain this number of men means a population increase of no less than 100,000 within the year that this gigantic program must be completely under way.

The transition involves many problems. Many of the normal ways of life in Portland will go by the boards. We will be faced with congestion, increased demands on our public services such as fire, police and utilities; increased crime problems and extreme problems of housing, heating, transportation, traffic and recreation. The utmost of cooperation on the part of the public will be required to enable Portland to fulfill its wartime assignment.

The housing problem is upon us now. Within this period of 12 months we must provide 60,000 new units of housing. Fifty-five hundred of these units are under construction now. We are struggling to unravel the intricacies of priorities so that an uninterrupted flow of materials may enable the completion of these additional thousands of units within a year. Increase in housing must move hand in hand with the increase in population.

The speed with which this housing problem must be met leaves no time for construction of facilities such as sewers, water mains, light lines, gas mains, streets and sidewalks. Also, materials required for these are more urgently needed for tanks, planes, guns and ships. Therefore, we are asked to locate the greater part of the new housing on property, owned by the City and leased to the Federal Government for the duration only, ~~on property~~ where these services are already available. Such houses will be temporary and will be removed after the war. In this building program, gigantic as it is, we naturally must have the cooperation and not the opposition of adjacent property owners. Our prime purpose is to do our war time task and at the same stroke preserve and protect existing property values to the greatest possible extent. By having definite

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Federal commitments for removal of the temporary houses immediately after the war, established property interests are being protected far more certainly than they would be should the houses be built on property purchased by the government.

With the building of this housing and the occupancy of the units by defense workers comes numerous additional problems. Workers must be transported. This already has placed a severe strain on our transportation system which is handicapped by inability to acquire needed additional equipment. This problem will increase. The new population must be fed and clothed and must join in our usual recreations. This spells congestion in all such places. Our police service and our fire protection will have vast new problems. There will be additional strains on our normal sources of supply of fuel. We may face serious hardships in this connection even though everything humanly possible has been done to augment these supplies.

In all, no period in history has been fraught with more prospective difficulties. But I know the public is going to cooperate and every difficulty is going to be ironed out and we are going to complete our part of the war effort in a way that will be a credit to the City and the nation.

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