

4-27-1956

# Proposed Special Rehabilitation Farm, Police Academy Levy (Portland Measure)

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

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**PORTLAND**  
*City Club*  
**BULLETIN**

Crystal Room

Benson Hotel

FRIDAY ... 12:10 P.M.

PORTLAND, OREGON — Vol. 36, No. 47 — APRIL 27, 1956

**The Speaker:**

## **Dr. Eddy Asirvatham**

Professor of Political Science, Nagpur University  
President, Political Science Association of India

**His Topic:**

# **IS INDIA TURNING COMMUNIST ?**

On August 22, 1952, Dr. Asirvatham, educator, world traveler, lecturer and writer, addressed the City Club on the topic "India's Assistance — Ideological or Technical?" He returns to the City Club platform this week to discuss a subject of headline interest world-wide.

Recent goodwill missions exchanged between political leaders of India and Russia have set news machines rattling forth reams of copy full of speculation about the significance of such *camaraderie*. The opinions of our speaker, one of India's leading political scientists, should provide many answers to as many questions on what the political future of one of the most important spots in the world today may be.

Dr. Asirvatham was educated in three countries. He holds his A.B. degree from the University of Madras, B.D. from Hartford Theological Seminary and Ph.D. from Edinburgh University. His graduate study in Social Ethics and Political Philosophy he obtained at Harvard University. He has held a professorship at Boston University as well as at Nagpur University. He has traveled and lectured widely throughout the West and the Orient and is currently in Portland under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee.

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### **ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP**

JACK E. DAY, Tektronix, Inc. Proposed by Joseph W. Griffith.

MONTE L. WOLF, Manager, Schnitzer & Wolf. Proposed by A. M. Jaroff.

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**Printed in this issue for discussion and action on May 4, 1956:**

**REPORT ON SPECIAL REHABILITATION FARM, POLICE ACADEMY LEVY**

**REPORT**  
on  
**PROPOSED SPECIAL REHABILITATION FARM,  
POLICE ACADEMY LEVY**

Act amending City Charter to levy for fiscal year 1956-57 special tax of one-half mill or \$300,000.00, whichever is lesser, outside constitutional or other limitation, and creating special fund, for farm or establishment for rehabilitating city prisoners and for police academy, and matters relating thereto.

TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS,  
THE CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND:

Your Committee was appointed to study and report upon the above city measure which has been proposed by the City Council and is to appear on the ballot at the election May 18, 1956.

The purpose and intent of this measure as set forth in the proposed charter amendment is as follows:

"The proceeds from such levy shall be placed in a special fund to be designated 'City of Portland Rehabilitation Farm or Establishment and Police Academy Fund.' The money in said fund shall be expended for the following purposes in such proportion and to such extent and for such of said purposes as the City Council may deem appropriate: a farm or establishment for the rehabilitation of persons found guilty of repeated violations of city ordinances, or other persons found guilty of violating a city ordinance, who, in the judgment of a judge of the Municipal Court, may be aided by assignment to such establishment in lieu of all or a portion of jail term, to avoid future violations; and for the additional purpose of a police academy for training in law enforcement work. In furtherance of such purposes or either thereof, the City may, as the Council finds suitable and appropriate, acquire the fee simple title to real property, or interests therein, whether in or outside the City of Portland, by gift, grant, purchase, condemnation or otherwise, for the site or sites thereof, and the Council may expend money from such fund for the construction, acquisition, moving, remodeling, and/or repair and maintenance or use of buildings, structures, additions, facilities and/or appurtenances thereto, and for equipment, furnishings and adaptation of the same for such purposes, and other improvement of property acquired therefor, and for such other related expenses which the Council may find necessary or appropriate."

### SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

Your Committee interviewed Fred L. Peterson, Mayor of the City of Portland; Captain Robert L. Steele, Director of the Police Academy; Robert C. Van Vactor, City Probation and Parole Officer; Terry D. Schrunck, Multnomah County Sheriff; Mason L. Bingham, Chairman, and Walter Smith, Executive Secretary, of the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission; and Mrs. Claire Argow, Executive Secretary of the Oregon Prison Association. In addition, your Committee has considered various reports of City Club committees relating to the city jail and other municipal matters, and your Committee has visited and inspected the facilities of the jail and police headquarters building.

### ARGUMENTS FOR THE ACT

1. Present jail facilities are overcrowded and inadequate. This was the conclusion of previous City Club committees.
2. The existing program for rehabilitation of prisoners detained for drunkenness and other law violations is grossly inadequate. Rehabilitation is nationally recognized as an obligation of society.
3. Present facilities for a Police Academy are inadequate. Suitable facilities for a Police Academy are essential for the proper training of trainees as well as those members of the Police Bureau already charged with maintaining law and order within the corporate limits of the City of Portland.

### ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ACT

1. The construction of the bill is in such form that the voting public is asked to vote \$300,000 without any specific knowledge as to the final disposition of the funds.
2. It is impossible to determine either from investigation or sound analysis of the proposal just what the voter would receive for the money if the measure were passed.
3. Combining the two facilities at a remote location could well result in inefficient operation since the two functions are not necessarily compatible. The Academy, with

the exception of an outdoor firing range, should be located within the Police Headquarters building, or in close proximity thereto; a rehabilitation farm should be in a rural area.

4. It is not known whether \$300,000 is adequate or inadequate to accomplish the purposes of the act. No plan has been submitted disclosing the approximate cost of a combined facility.

5. Joint use of County and City facilities should be fully investigated prior to the passage of this act.

6. The City Planning Commission staff has not been consulted regarding the facilities or the location thereof.

## DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

### REHABILITATION FARM

A City Club report in 1948 indicated that the City jail had long since been outgrown and additional facilities were urgently needed. This is still the case. Now, as then, there are many alcoholic prisoners and other prisoners who are classified as trustees requiring minimum security confinement. During the year 1955, 8,938 city arrests were made on charges involving drunkenness. Many of such arrests involve the same individuals since it is estimated that approximately 2,000 persons were involved.

The proponents of the measure assert that a farm where minimum security prisoners can be detained will alleviate the overcrowded jail condition and will afford an opportunity to attempt programs of rehabilitation through work and education. It is contemplated that it will be necessary to acquire 25 to 50 acres of tillable land located in an isolated area, probably outside of the city, where 150 such persons can be placed. It is asserted that only prisoners considered as "nuisance" or "non-vicious" law violators would be assigned to the farm and would be housed and cared for in government surplus quonset huts or city surplus housing units at nominal cost.

### POLICE ACADEMY

At present the only existing facilities owned by the city for police training are located in the Police Headquarters building at Second and Oak Streets. The facility consists largely of office space and a pistol range in the basement of the building. Municipal Court rooms, public schools or rooms in other municipal buildings are used for classes and meetings of the personnel of the Bureau of Police. The outdoor firing range of Multnomah County at Kelly Butte is used during the summer months for training purposes. A training course of 80 to 120 hours is carried on for police cadets but in-service training is limited to courses for special projects.

The proponents of the measure assert that the city should have under its control and ownership an outdoor range and drill grounds, together with a building containing meeting rooms, classrooms, an indoor firing range and a gymnasium in order to conduct an adequate cadet and in-service training program and physical fitness program. It is estimated that 10 acres of land would be necessary for such purposes.

### COMBINED FARM AND ACADEMY

The wording of the measure is such that the funds raised by the levy could be expended for either a farm or establishment of a Police Academy, or both. The proponents report that the intention is to combine the facilities for the reason that both require considerable land in an isolated area and the buildings and ground could be maintained by the prisoners. The Committee recognizes that a joint facility may be desirable for some purposes but is not convinced that these two are compatible. It is true that the location of an outdoor firing range and a minimum security detention unit should be located in an isolated area away from centers of population, but it is questionable whether an academy building should be located at some distance from Police Headquarters, and it is questionable whether a minimum security detention unit should be in close proximity to firearms and a firing range.

The Committee has found no evidence as to the manner or means by which the amount of the proposed levy was determined. It has been unable to determine what the costs of maintenance and operation would be. It is not aware of the existence of any estimated cost figures for the purchase of land or the acquisition of required facilities for the detention unit.

Although it is understood that studies are being made by the City, the present results of such studies were not available to the Committee. The City Planning Commission has not considered the matter, and it has not been requested to consider it.

Your Committee is of the opinion that there is a need for adequate and suitable facilities for the care and rehabilitation of alcoholic prisoners and other minimum security risk prisoners and it is of the opinion that adequate facilities for expanded training in law enforcement work are desirable. But it is felt that the need alone will

not justify passage of the measure unless there be supporting evidence to the effect that all alternative possibilities for accomplishing the purposes, including the possibility of joint city and county facilities, have been studied and explored in the light of long range planning and found to be unsound or impractical. The Committee is not aware of any such supporting evidence.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. The proposed levy is not based on a long range comprehensive plan for the orderly development of a growing city and metropolitan area.

2. A comprehensive study should be made as to proper location based on efficiency of operation and use in connection with other Police Bureau activities in order to determine whether a combining of facilities is sound.

3. A thorough study of possible use of county facilities, or a combined use of facilities by both city and county law enforcement bodies should be made to determine whether a joint use would prove to be a more economic application of public funds and thus provide a saving to the taxpayers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee recommends that the City Club go on record as opposing the measure.

Respectfully submitted,

NATHANIEL ISRAEL

THEODORE E. REICH

IRVING G. SMITH

STUART R. STIMMEL

BURDETTE W. ERICKSON, *Chairman*

Approved April 23, 1956 by the Research Board for transmittal to the Board of Governors.

Received by the Board of Governors April 23, 1956 and ordered printed and submitted to the membership for discussion and action.

### PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

If no objections are received by the Executive Secretary prior to May 11, 1956, the following applicants will be accepted for membership:

JOHN ALLEN, General Insurance Agent for Hampton Allen, Insurance, Proposed by Hampton Allen.

JOHN W. SMITH, Branch Manager, Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp. Proposed by J. J. Adams.

### CITY CLUB MEMBERS INVITED TO FORUM ON INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The Sixth Annual Forum on Intergroup Relations, sponsored by the Fair Employment Practices Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor, will be held on Saturday, May 5th at Portland State College. It will climax FEP Week April 30th to May 5th which emphasizes improvement of intergroup relations.

Members of the City Club are invited to attend the Forum to meet with responsible community leaders in a series of sessions beginning at 9:45 a.m. and continuing until 4:30 p.m. Norman O. Nilsen, Commissioner of Labor, will preside.

### PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

Published each Friday by the

### CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

ELLAMAE W. NAYLOR, *Executive Secretary*

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