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Letter from Herington to Mayor and Council

G. B. Herington

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Recommended Citation

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PORTLAND CHAPTER



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MULTNOMAH HOTEL LOBBY
PHONE ATWATER 7883

PORTLAND, ORE.,

July 3, 1930

To the Honorable Mayor
and Council of Portland,
City Hall,
Portland, Oregon.

Gentlemen:

We have watched with interest the slow and painful progress toward a new market layout on the waterfront.

As we understand this present plan ample provision is made for an esplanade, room is provided for future trackage if it be later needed, and for the widening of Front Street. An exchange of land fully equal in value is provided for and no valid objection can be competently founded from the standpoint of these now well recognized fundamentals of planning for the future.

Next we have a group of people willing to spend their own money on a big public improvement and an essential necessity for a public convenience, properly safe guarded as to any possible monopolistic tendencies as a public market project for all comers. They are asking for a chance to spend their own money in our own city and are not asking any concession not fully compensated for.

We have a situation of aggravated unemployment, one demanding active and actual support of any worthy and constructive enterprise and one which when started may be depended on to further stimulate general local confidence in building.

It seems to us the city, the body politic and the people who make it up as a whole have everything to gain and nothing to lose from this operation. We understand it will be a modern, sanitary and commodious structure, designed in harmony with other improvements which are devoutly to be desired on the water front.

One important gain is the removal of the present congestion around the outgrown quarters of the present market, resulting from a natural growth in business and an outgrowth of facilities planned long ago before any of us knew what was before us, an impedance in natural growth of realty values and orderly progress of the central municipal district of the west side. Provision as made for parking in the new project will remove a present constant source of congestion and inconvenience. There is of course a price

of progress, the outworn and outgrown facilities must give way to modern needs or we go backward.

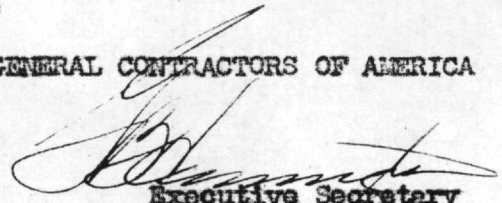
Certainly we believe the Council has a definite duty to proceed and in every way encourage an immediate execution of this project. We repeat that there is now a deadened building condition, a weighty unemployment status, there are several projects of note about to break through the fog of doubt and go forward and each will build confidence and encourage others. If every improvement be impeded and slowed down in starting by the filibustering tactics of the reactionaries and the unprogressive element so much in evidence on all such matters of late, we will have one hard winter of bread lines and militant, discontent, but if we go forward courageously as a city on its way we will lead out to new prosperity and the proud finger of progress may well be pointed toward us and toward a courageous council.

We have a chance right now to move off on several projects of large buildings which if encouraged may well give us the record of the first city on the coast, yea of the country, to have recovered our balance and we may thus move off toward our goal, but we must be above little things and get on in wide vision and constructive, courageous action of a positive forward stepping nature. We are on a turning point- people want to invest in building- many eyes are on you- people want to be proud of you.

Yours truly,

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

By


Executive Secretary
PORTLAND CHAPTER

GBH/K

