COUGHLAN GIVES FACTS ON MONTGOMERY COUNTY FINANCES, BONDS MUST BE REFUNDED

Address Before North Hills Civic Group Follows

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It was with much pleasure when I accepted your invitation to give a brief talk on "County Finances". It will make it more clear if I will review for you the past several years.

In the year 1934 the County enjoyed a 90c tax rate but if we look into how this tax rate was arrived at and how it paid the expenses of the County, we will see that it was not a true rate.

The 1934 Levy showed an item of $67,819.53 for bonds and interest net, not to be refunded or retired through state contributions. If we look into the requirements for the year we will see that $434,092.63 in interest was due and $186,500.00 in maturing bonds, making a total of $620,592.63. Of this amount $272,000.00 was refunded and $300,000.00 of certificates of indebtedness were sold to make up the difference caused by the insufficient levy.

During the year 1934 the school an item of $474,771.50.
budget was very materially reduced to

During the next year, 1935, due to the curtailment of the preceding year, it was necessary to levy $605,691.00, an increase of $159,000.00

The Levy for the operation of schools has increased from $178,000.00, in 1920, to $669,210.00 in the present year. This item does not take into consideration the new buildings, retirement of bonds and payment of interest due on same, and school construction.

I have always advocated adequate school facilities but it must also be borne in mind that we be willing to pay the bills.

In the present year there are $307,000.00 in bonds due, which will be refunded, and $583,441.39 in interest and certificates which will be paid.

During the next two years, that is, the period beginning July 1, '37 and ending June 30, '39, there will be $606,000.00 in bonds due which we are asking the Legislature, the authority to refund. Also during the next two years there is $897,220.28 in interest and $199,605.00 in maturing certificates and interest which will be paid. We feel that these bonds should be refunded, until such time when we are able to have a general reassessment which I feel, after consulting an authority on the subject, will add $20,000,000 to the base and by this addition with the same tax rate we will be able to retire bonds.

I would like to talk briefly on our Police Department in order that the much discussed increase in pay and increase in personnel might be made more clear to you.

The cost of law enforcement officers is $108,850.00 as compared with $149,300.00 in Baltimore County and $41,960.00 in Prince Georges. The present force numbers thirty-one men. There have been some suggestions that the personnel be materially increased. The cost is approximately 10c of the tax rate. Any substantial increase in the department will be reflected in the tax rate. In the present levy, approximately 40c is required for interest payment, 70c for schools, 10c for police and 9c for public welfare. You will see that $1.29 of the $1.50 tax rate is levied and used for these four purposes.

In passing, I would like to touch briefly on the Road Set-up in the County. Due to existing legislation all roads, both arterial and lateral, are maintained by the State Roads Commission, out of the gasoline tax paid by the motorists. The 5c tax on a gallon of gasoline is used for the following purposes:

1c for the Federal Government.
2c for the arterial highways.
½c for grade crossing elimination.
And 1½c for the maintenance of lateral roads.

At the present time our lateral road account is in the "red" $192,000.00, even after a greatly curtailed road program for the past two years. During the past three years the State Roads Commission expended the following sums in Montgomery County:

October 1, 1933 to September 30, 1934—$560,333.48. This amount included $176,196.50, given the County for Debt Retirement, and $194,493.38 for new construction, and $189,643.40 for maintenance.

From October 1, 1934, to September 30, 1935—$71,169.33.

During the year just ended, October 1, 1935 to September 30, 1936, there was $40,240.82.

It has often been said that new building will take care of increased cost of government but this is not true, as can be seen by the figures I am about to give you:

In 1900 we had a $12,000,000 base and an 88c tax rate.

In 1920 we had a $33,000,000 base with a $1.10 tax rate.

In 1930—an $80,000,000 base with of $1.50 raised an additional $75,000. a base of $94,000,000 with a $1.50 rate. Last year over $5,000,000 was added to the base due to new construction. This additional base at the present rate of $1.50 raised an addition $75,000. However, this additional income was offset by the increase in the school budget.

TURKEY SHOOT AT ROCKVILLE

The Rockville Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is sponsoring a free-for-all turkey shoot to be held the afternoon of December 19, at the Rockville Fair Grounds. The contest is for the benefit of the chapter's wild-life conservation fund. In charge of arrangement is a committee consisting of Charles E. West, chairman; Robert A. Hughes, John Clagett, Owen Knight, Slack Nicholson and George H. Darby.

KENSINGTON

Mrs. Morgan of Michigan is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Robert Buzzard.

Mr. Richard Burbank is in Fargo, N. D., on government business and will be absent some months.

Miss Elizabeth Imirie is spending the winter in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Kensington Chapter No. 39, O. E. S. at its regular meeting, Monday night elected the following officers: Worthy Matron, Mrs. Pauline Van Fossen; Worthy Patron, Mr. John J. Price; Associate Matron, Mrs. Theodora Kingston; Associate Patron, Mr. Robert Buzzard; Conductress, Mrs. Eulalie McEachern; Associate Conductress, Mrs. Pearl Dierdorf; Treasurer, Mrs. Howard Bean; Secretary, Mrs. Pearl Saunders. This chapter is planning a New Year's dance in the Town Hall.

The Woman's Club of Kensington met with Mrs. Wm. H. Ronsaville Friday, December 11. A Christmas Pageant, "Women of the Bible" was given with Mrs. Henry M. Wilburn as director and Carols were sung by the club.

The Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies of the Methodist Church met Wednesday, December 9, with Mrs. Edgar Moore. Luncheon was served and the missionary program was under the direction of Mrs. Frank Chapman, who reviewed "Congo Crosses."

The Woman's Community Club will meet Monday, December 14.

Miss Frederica Fletcher, daughter of Mrs. Dora Fletcher, of Kensington, and Coy Guthury Randolph, also of Kensington, were married this week by Rev. U. S. A. Heavener of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Kensington.

Mrs. Mary Constant has closed her home here and gone to California to spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hughes entertained at a bridge party lately for Mr. and Mrs. William Matthews of Cleveland, Ohio, who have been visiting Mr. Matthews parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Matthews.

The Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church entertained at their annual birthday tea on December 1st. Mrs. Harry Armstrong, the president, presided and Miss Gertrude Lyons, who has recently returned from a world tour, talked on "India, a country of contrasts".

The musical program consisted of songs by Mrs. Leo T. Tooley, accompanied by Mrs. Thomas Tremearne, and Mrs. Fred A. Kullmar gave two readings, accompanied by Mrs. Robert Cogswell at the piano.

The annual oyster supper of the Methodist Church was held in the church December 3rd.

The members of the Sewing Club of the Church of the Holy Redeemer held a benefit bridge party in the church hall December 4th.

Friends and neighbors of Mrs. David Bisset celebrated her birthday recently by a surprise party at her home in Garret Park.

The Christ Church Guild held a benefit bridge Thursday, December 3, and the school children of the Park gave a Christmas play.

OBSERVES 70TH BIRTHDAY

Maj. and Mrs. Jesse I. Miller will be at home tomorrow evening from 8:30 to 11 o'clock, at 14 Oxford Street, Chevy Chase, Md., in honor of Mrs. Miller's mother, Mrs. Henrietta Glaser, who is celebrating her seventieth birthday anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Glaser will assist in receiving.

LAYTONSVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blunt, of Woodburne Farm near Goshen, with their daughter, Miss Jane Blunt, are spending several weeks in Port Huron, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stewart, Miss Mary Ryon and Mr. David Warthen are on a trip to the South.

Mrs. Samuel Riggs, her son, Samuel Riggs, and grandson, Gordon Keys, spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Cantonsville with Mr. and Mrs. Laurie H. Riggs.

Among the post nuptial entertainments given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Howard, whose marriage took place this month was a shower given on Saturday by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Howard, Mrs. Cora Howard, Mrs. Ralph Howard and Mrs. Luther Howard.

Mr. Clyde Harvey, of Luthersville, Md., is the guest of his brother, Mr. C. Willard Harvey, of Brookeville.

Mr. Jay C. Willcox, of Minneapolis, Minn., is the guest of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vestus Willcox, Edge Hill Farm, near Unity. On Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. John Larcombe, Mr. and Mrs. George Young, Mr. and Mrs. William Waters, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan White, Mrs. Eleanor Depuis, Mr. Van Clarke, Miss Mary Lee Cashell and Mr. Carroll Wylie were invited to a cocktail party in his honor.

Mrs. Allison Taylor was hostess at a bridge luncheon on Wednesday for 24 guests. Prizes were awarded Mrs. Elgee Riggs, Mrs. Henry Griffith, Mrs. Uriah Griffith anl Mrs. Thomas Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Thompson, of Goshen, have named their daughter, born on November 23, Beverly Anne.

The supper held in the hall at Etchison by the Ladies Aid Society of the Etchison M. E. Church, was largely attended and a financial success.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Griffith and son, Bobby, were recent visitors of Mrs. Verda Griffith.

Miss Maude Dorsey was hostess to a bridge luncheon at her home last week. Guests included Mrs. Vestus Willcox, Mrs. Jeoffrey Griffith, Mrs. Uriah Griffith, Mrs. Allison Taylor, Mrs. W. W. Griffith, Mrs. Greenberry G. Griffith, Mrs. Z. M. Waters, Mrs. Edward Blunt, Miss Carey Blunt, Mrs. William T. Warfield, Mrs. V. H. Dyson, Mrs. Elgee Riggs, Mrs Samuel Riggs, Mrs. Merhle Haines, of Laytonsville, Mrs. William B. Mobley and Miss Lula Bell, of Chevy Chase; Mrs. William Clerk and Miss Elsie England of Rockville, and Mrs. Henry Griffith of Gaithersburg.

Mrs. W. A. Ledford entertained at the Methodist parsonage Monday evening Mrs. Roy Barber, Mrs. Howatt Windham, Mrs. Calvin Mullinix, Mrs. Frank Dwyer and Mrs. Gover Armstrong.

GAITHERSBURG

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Anderson, and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Grayson Burnell, entertained on Thursday at dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Suthard, Misses Pauline and Margarete, Floyd, Jr., Jerry Lee and Irving Suthard and Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson.

Miss Hilda Hobbs and Mr. LeRoy Thompson were the guests Thursday of the latter's sister and husband in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lethbridge had as their guests Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Neale and sons, of Rockville; Mr. Mickle Bennedick, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lethbridge, and Mr. and Mrs. Louise Lethbridge.

Mrs. John Priest and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Behm had as their guests over the holidays, Mr. and Mrs. Ellick Priest and sister from West Virginia, and Miss Marie Suddith and sister, of Washington.

Mrs. Roland Ward entertained 50 guests at a shower at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Laura Walker, Thursday in honor of her sister, Miss Julia Johnson, who will soon be married to Mr. Douglas Jones, of Rockville.

Mrs. C. U. Landrum, of Detroit Lakes, Minn., the house guest of her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Crawford, was guest of honor at a luncheon given Thursday by Mrs. Crawford.

Mr. and Mrs. William Faber, who have been in Vermont, are the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Troxell.

Miss Estelle Mansfield entertained members of the Gaithersburg Alumni Association at her home on Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kinsley and Betty Lou Byrne are on a motor trip to Williamsburg, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Garey Bell, of Gaithersburg, accompanied by Miss Genevia Thomas and Mr. Frank Thomas, of Frederick, are spending three week in Miami, Fla.

Mrs. Charles Collins has gone to New York to spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs Richard McNulty.

AUTO TAX BILLS DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY FIRST

Auto tax bills for the year which began last July 1, will not go out until early February, according to County Treasurer J. Forrest Walker.

The 1936 special session of the General Assembly changed the beginning of the motor vehicle license tag year from January 1 to April 1 consequently 1936 tags will be good until April 1, 1937. Such tags are not obtainable from the State motor vehicle commissioner's office until application blanks sent out by that office are perforated to show that the taxes on the machines for which tags are desired are paid. Therefore, the tax bills and application blanks for tags will be placed in the mails early in February, so as to reach the motor vehicle owners about the same time, County Treasurer Walker explained.

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