

A Statement by Carbon P. Dubbs, Candidate for Village President on the Public Welfare Party Ticket

To the Citizens of Wilmette:

About six weeks ago, property owners on Sixth Street, Prairie Avenue, Maple Avenue, Michigan Avenue and other developed streets in Wilmette heard that those streets had been named as major streets and that the Plan Commission of Wilmette had recommended them for widening.

This recommendation had been adopted by the Village Board and had become an accomplished fact.

I attended a Public meeting at the Village Hall, called to protest against this ordinance, but as in all such meetings a property owner can only protest or suggest, but not decide the matter by a majority vote.

Alarmed at the prospect of their beautiful street being turned into an automobile highway the property owners on Michigan Avenue formed an Association to resist the widening of their street, and called it the Michigan Avenue Association. From this association the Public Welfare Party had its origin.

After the storm of protest which this street widening ordinance had aroused, we were hoping a candidate for Village President would be nominated who would protect the beauty of our Village streets, or at least attempt to settle such a vital question by an orderly vote.

We were both alarmed and amazed that the man nominated for Village President was a member of the Plan Commission which had recommended the widening of our residence streets.

We were convinced that in electing Mr. Newey, we would be endorsing the findings of the Plan Commission on street widening, and the Wilmette Civic Party did not nor does it now, agree to submit major questions which directly affect property values and property owners' rights, to a referendum.

After many meetings, and considerable discussions, I was persuaded to permit my name to be presented at a public caucus held in the Village Hall March 10. This caucus was advertised in the WILMETTE LIFE March 6th.

For the last thirty years, my work has been of an exceptionally trying nature. I have spent more time away from home than with my family. At last, my affairs being more or less settled, I have the leisure to enjoy my home and my home town.

It was only when I was honestly convinced that a prominent group of people here were planning to widen our residence streets, to harmonize them with the Plan of the Chicago Plan Commission, that I gladly gave up my plan of a year or so of rest without responsibilities, and stand ready to give to the Village of Wilmette all the time required for the consideration of her many problems, all the benefits of my years of training in many executive capacities and an unqualified promise to preserve the beauty and safety of her streets as long as that is the wish of the majority of her property holders.

A through traffic street is not desirable as a residence street, it cannot be used entirely for business and its only value will be that for apartments, which will surely come with widened, through streets. It is to protect this Village from the blight of the apartment building and automobile highways, that I am willing to assume the responsibility of the office of President of the Village of Wilmette.

For the first time since I came to Wilmette in 1915, I have now the time to take active part in the civic affairs of the Village.

At the Civic League meeting, March 27, in the Byron

Stolp School, where your candidates were invited to speak I was amazed to hear the sincerity of my intentions questioned. My intelligence also seemed to be in doubt. It seemed I did not know what my party stood for nor why it was organized. The Public Welfare candidates were openly accused of organizing a political party to rezone a specified section of Wilmette for apartments. I am convinced the man who so accused us, knew his accusation to be false, as did his supporters who had looked into the question with him. No opportunity for reply was given.

Following is published the address given by Mr. Newey after my talk at the Wilmette Civic League meeting. The remarks made by Mr. Newey and myself and printed herein were taken down in short hand by a court reporter. I direct your attention to the Public Welfare Party Platform, see page ahead, which was drafted by the candidates themselves and which is signed by them.

Carbon P. Dubbs

ADDRESS BY C. P. DUBBS BEFORE WILMETTE CIVIC LEAGUE, MARCH 27, 1931, AT THE BYRON STOLP SCHOOL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I just want to identify myself; I am the husband of Mrs. Dubbs.

It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to address you and to give a clear understanding of just where the difference is between the two parties. I want to get to that point as quick as I can.

I want you to understand in the first place that I think everybody in the village of Wilmette, myself included, has a profound respect for every candidate.

There is not much difference between these two platforms; they are identical in many respects. All favor economy, efficiency, fee office considerations, village manager, grade separation, water and trees, etc. I don't think there is any use spending any time on these matters. But we do differ about this plan commission and the methods of putting it through; there is a profound difference in that and that is what I want to emphasize.

The difference applies not only to the plan commission, but it applies to the method of affecting any major changes in the village.

There is a certain picture that I want to get before you, and that picture is this. The village of Wilmette is a corporation; you are a stockholder in this corporation and so am I; we are all interested in conducting the affairs of the village on business principles in a harmonious manner, and in being united in what we do.

Now, this village plan was enacted into a law over two years ago, January 15, 1929, but it was only recently that I heard of it, when the agitation over the street widening came up.

I assume that all you people have read this plan and you understand it pretty well. I am opposed to it. I came to Wilmette for a home; that is my sole interest here. I oppose widening streets unnecessarily; I recognize the necessity of providing for through traffic, but I don't see the necessity of establishing east and west through traffic lanes, the traffic routed around our village not through it.

I am personally interested in this plan controversy because Michigan Avenue and other built up streets are affected. You know there was a great deal of protest on this matter. I thought another procedure would surely be adopted. But when the Wilmette Civic Party came out with its candidates, they had as their standardbearer, Mr. Newey, an official of this plan commission. I take it that the procedure that was followed in adopting this plan commission was endorsed by him and will be pursued by him.

I think it is wrong, and I think it would lead us into serious problems. It is not going to promote the welfare of this village; it is not going to promote economy, and it is not going to promote good feeling.

Now, I want to illustrate to you what I mean by that. I am going to read this:

"An ordinance adopting and establishing a plan for a comprehensive system of streets, roads and highways looking to the present and future development of the Village of Wilmette, which plan has prepared and recommended to the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Wilmette by the Wilmette Plan Commission, a copy of which said plan is attached hereto, and made a part hereof, be and the same is hereby adopted and made the official Plan of Wilmette.

And it reads:

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