

October 29, 1959

VAN DINH THO.....

Report on Visit to  
City of Cleveland  
(Tuesday, September 29, 1959)

The City of Cleveland is one of the largest cities in the United States. Its area is 71.3 square miles and has a population of 914,808 (1950 census). It has 17 miles of shore on Cuyahoga River and 14 miles of shore line on Lake Erie. The date of incorporation is March 5, 1836. The city is divided into 33 wards.

The government of Cleveland is organized in three main branches -- executive, legislative and judicial.

The mayor leads the executive branch and operates through departments, boards and commissions.

City council, the legislative body, works through committees closely geared to the administrative departments.

Once approved by Council, the budget becomes the financial plan or yardstick as to amounts to be provided to operate a division of government. The city budget is arranged into more than 100 separate accounts and councilmen consider each one in turn. Representatives of the citizens league, the League of Women Voters and other civic groups sit around the table with the councilmen and participate in the discussions.

The general fund budget of housekeeping needs of 1959 is estimated to aggregate \$57,005,015 as compared with expenditures of \$49,277,189. This difference of \$1,727,825 is the net result of a general salary with wage increases granted to all employees effective January 16th.

To help the mayor to carry on his business, eleven council committees are designated. The meeting held in a 200 seat room opposite the council chambers and often drawing capacity or near capacity attendance is streamlined to give citizens of Cleveland the maximum opportunity to express their views on any governmental policy, appropriation or other matter up before the committee. Committee meetings are scheduled five days a week. Each councilman serves on an average of five committees.

Council's Committee on Legislation

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to county, state and federal laws concerning annexation, redistricting, charter amendments as well as initiative, referendum and recall petitions, courts, licenses, imposition of fines or penalties, forfeitures or imprisonment and printing and advertising.

Council's Committee on Real Property

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to the purchase, lease or sale of real property by or for the City of Cleveland.

Council's Committee on Traffic and Off-Street Parking

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to enforcement of the traffic code, the Cleveland Transit system, street railways, steam railroads, bus and taxicab operations and all public transportation.

Council's Committee on Urban Renewal and Housing

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to urban renewal and housing plans.

Council's Committee on City Planning

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to city planning, the city planning commission and zoning.

Council's Committee on Air and Water Pollution

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to air pollution control, lake and river pollution, smoke abatement and nuisances.

Council's Committee on Public Welfare

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to public health, charities, direct and work relief, city correctional and charitable institutions, all matters dealing with the Department of Public Health and Welfare, sanitation, unemployment, labor relations and social service.

Council's Committee on Public Utilities

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to the city's water supply, sewage disposal, the city's heating plant, municipal electric plant, the department of Public Utilities and all matters pertaining to existing or proposed franchises other than street railway, steam railroad, bus and taxicab operations.

Council's Committee on Public Development and Service

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to street and sewer improvements, switch back and pipe lines, elimination of grade crossings, street cleaning, waste collection and disposal, streets, taxes and assessments, pertaining to sidewalks and street improvements.

Council's Committee on Aviation-Airport Lake Front Development

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to the municipally owned airports and any and all matters concerning aviation; and all ordinances, resolutions and other matters pertaining to bridges, harbors, lakeports and river straightening.

Council's Committee on Finance

Acts on legislation and other matters pertaining to finances, indebtedness, appropriations, payment of moneys not provided for by previous legislation, taxation, all matters pertaining to the department of finance, standardization of salaries and wages, civil service, pensioning of employees and sale or purchase of real estate.