



[Van F. White Papers.](#)

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

THE USE OF ELECTRICITY CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN MINNESOTA BRUSH - GENERATING ELECTRICITY WITH WATER POWER - MINNEAPOLIS GAS LIGHT COMPANY - WHICH HAD A FRANCHISE TO PROVIDE GAS LIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, AND THE CITY COUNCIL - WHERE ALDERMEN WERE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS, AND THE RESIDENTS WERE FEARFUL OF ELECTRICITY

IN 1881, MINNESOTA BRUSH TRIED TO SECURE AN ORDINANCE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO INSTALL POLES AND WIRES ON THE STREETS OF MINNEAPOLIS. THIS WAS VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED BY MINNEAPOLIS GAS LIGHT CO.

THIS ORDINANCE PASSED THE CITY COUNCIL BUT WAS VETOED BY THE MAYOR (MAYOR RAND), WHO WAS ALSO PRESIDENT OF MINNEAPOLIS GAS LIGHT CO. (MAYOR RAND DECIDED NOT TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION). THIS ORDINANCE WAS PASSED BY BOTH THE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR ALBERT AMES ON MAY 10, 1882.

IN 1884, THE CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED A COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE IF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS SHOULD ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH MINNESOTA BRUSH TO FURNISH STREET LIGHTING. THE COMMITTEE AGREED BUT STATED THAT MINNEAPOLIS GAS LIGHT CO. WAS TO BE PROTECTED FROM AS MUCH LOSS AS POSSIBLE.

IN 1887, MINNESOTA BRUSH SECURED A 5-YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS FOR STREET LIGHTING AND HAD BEGUN TO SUPPLY ELECTRIC LIGHTING TO A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF HOUSES, BUILDINGS, FACTORIES, AND HOTELS.

IN ESSENCE, ST. ANTHONY FALLS -- WITH ITS WATER POWER AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO-ELECTRICITY -- BUILT THE CITY AMIDST GREAT CONTROVERSY.

AFTER MANY, MANY CALLS FROM CONSTITUENTS AND FRIENDS, AND THE STRONG INSISTENCE FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND THE MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL LABOR UNION, I HAVE DECIDED TO SEEK REELECTION FOR A THIRD TERM.

RHETORIC DOES NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS: HARD WORK DOES, *AS MY RECORD SHOWS.*

I AM THE BEST REPRESENTATIVE THE WARD HAS HAD IN MANY YEARS, AND I WILL NOT APOLOGIZE FOR ANY VOTE THAT I HAVE MADE, AS THEY WERE ALL DONE IN GOOD FAITH. I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF SELF-APPOINTED LEADERS. THIS IS TRUE, BECAUSE I CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE CONTROLLED BY ANY PERSON OR PERSONS. I SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE IDEAS OF PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS AND RESIDENTS, BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS, WILL BECOME A REALITY. I REALIZE ALL THESE GROUPS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE NEEDED JOBS, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR WARD AND CITY. NO GROUP CAN DO IT ALONE ANY LONGER. *TD* IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A STRONG CITY COUNCIL WHO CAN ACT IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHERS, TO PROVIDE THIS PARTNERSHIP. I INTEND TO BE AN ACTIVE PART OF THAT EFFORT.

To the Editor

My integrity is very important to me that is why I felt the need to explain my vote regarding additional funding for the Bosclair Project.

Let me explain:

The availability of the Housing Revenue Bonds is through the project being "grandfathered" by the Mortgage Subsidy Bond Tax Act of 1980. Because work had started prior to April 1980, Housing Revenue Bonds can be issued for the project, but only for that project. Therefore, if the \$58,000,000 Housing Revenue Bonds are not utilized for the East Bank Riverfront Project they can not be used anywhere else in the City.

Initially, I voted against the sale of the bonds for this project - however knowing that there was not enough votes to stop the project - I decided the best plan of action would be to get the best possible options for the community.

I stated on the Council floor my reasons for casting my vote. They were meaningful and affirmative action goals such as 10% skilled labor, 10% unskilled labor, 6.9% Women, 10% Women/Minority Business Enterprise set aside which amounts to approximately \$6 million dollars which will provide job opportunities for folks in the community to provide them with not only food & clothing but housing for themselves & their families.

Secondly,

Also the City had already entered into a contract with the developer - and it would cost more to abandon the project than to grant the additional funding. The \$14,000,000 of Tax Increment Bonds the City has already sold for the project was to ensure that the project would be constructed & if the project cannot utilize the Tax Increment Bonds it would probably not be constructed and then the Bonds very likely will have to be paid for by levying property taxes.

The bottom line is a negative vote would be a vote against the goals I had reached and would not have denied the additional funding.

Sincerely,

Van F. White
Alderman, 5th Ward

BUDGET CUTS

BUDGET CUTS HAVE AFFECTED:

1. CITY GOVERNMENT - PENDING LAY-OFFS, CUT IN CITY SERVICES.
2. SOCIAL PROGRAMS - I.E., HANDICAPPED, SENIORS' SERVICE (SHUTTLE BUS), HEALTH CARE.
3. EDUCATION - MARSHALL-U MAY CLOSE.
4. MTC - REDUCING ROUTES, ESPECIALLY ON WEEKENDS.
5. PARKS - PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR SOME PARK SERVICES, I.E., CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING.
6. DAY-CARE PROGRAMS - FEES INCREASED - SOME PROGRAMS MAY CLOSE.

THE MASSIVE CUTS WE ARE FACED WITH WILL AFFECT EVERYTHING ONE CAN THINK OF.

IT IS IMPERATIVE NOW THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN CONTRIBUTING MONEY TO, IN AS MANY AREAS AS POSSIBLE.

STATEMENT OF ALDERMAN VAN WHITE

I am informed that statements from Ron Pesis about me were introduced into evidence at the Zollie Green trial in Federal Court on Wednesday, March 9.

These statements are untrue and were corrected by further questions from the government attorneys in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the government attorney asked Mr. Pesis if he had ever directly asked me for any favors regarding his license. Mr. Pesis answered "no". Mr. Pesis then said he sent Russ Krueger, Hennepin County Investigator, to see me about the sale of Mr. Pesis' bar.

Russ Krueger took the stand after Ron Pesis. Russ Krueger testified that he asked me if the Pesis license could be transferred without payment of existing back taxes, which is required by law. Krueger stated that in response to his question, I said that I would oppose transfer without payment of back taxes, since that was the legal requirement.

It is unclear to me why certain news media did not report the testimony given in court on Wednesday afternoon. Russ Krueger stated that I did not agree to his request to waive back taxes for Mr. Pesis. This should have been reported by the news media in order to present an accurate account of the day's testimony. Instead, the Wednesday morning statement made by Mr. Pesis in 1981 was presented to the public without reference to the afternoon testimony of Russ Krueger, or the Ron Pesis testimony that he never contacted me directly for any favors.

Without a doubt, I did not agree to recommend waiver of payment of the back taxes, or otherwise agree to improperly assist Mr. Pesis. This is clear from the Court records, which are available to the public.

The statements in Court are consistent with my strict attitude regarding

liquor licenses, namely, compliance with the law.

To set the record straight, I barely know Ron Pesis. I have never done him any favors, nor would I treat him differently from any other person in my ward. The statements attributed to me through third parties as testified to in Court, Wednesday morning, are untrue and incredible. I want to emphasize that I have not engaged in any improper conduct, and any statements to the contrary by Ron Pesis, a convicted criminal, are untrue.

From my point of view, Ron Pesis was deliberately attempting to paint me in a bad light because I refused his request to waive back taxes.

I have spoken with Russ Krueger, and he will testify that I said nothing improper.

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Optimist International

Promise Yourself

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind,
- To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them,
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have not time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Say, I Love You

- Some say "I love you" and don't mean it.
- Some say it and hold no feeling for it.
- So when I say "I love you", it doesn't mean I know you'll never go,
- It simply means I wish you didn't have to.

Anonymous.

FOOTPRINTS

ONE NIGHT A MAN HAD A DREAM. HE DREAMED HE WAS WALKING ALONG THE BEACH WITH THE LORD. ACROSS THE SKY FLASHED SCENES FROM HIS LIFE. FOR EACH SCENE, HE NOTICED TWO SETS OF FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND; ONE BELONGING TO HIM AND THE OTHER TO THE LORD.

WHEN THE LAST SCENE OF HIS LIFE FLASHED BEFORE HIM, HE LOOKED BACK AT THE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND. HE NOTICED THAT MANY TIMES ALONG THE PATH OF HIS LIFE THERE WAS ONLY ONE SET OF FOOTPRINTS. HE ALSO NOTICED THAT IT HAPPENED AT THE VERY LOWEST AND SADDEST TIMES IN HIS LIFE.

THIS REALLY BOTHERED HIM AND HE QUESTIONED THE LORD ABOUT IT. "LORD, YOU SAID THAT ONCE I DECIDED TO FOLLOW YOU, YOU'D WALK WITH ME ALL THE WAY. BUT I HAVE NOTICED THAT DURING THE MOST TROUBLESOME TIMES IN MY LIFE, THERE IS ONLY ONE SET OF FOOTPRINTS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WHEN I NEEDED YOU MOST YOU WOULD LEAVE ME."

THE LORD REPLIED, "MY PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS CHILD. I LOVE YOU AND I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU. DURING YOUR TIMES OF TRIAL AND SUFFERING, WHEN YOU SEE ONLY ONE SET OF FOOTPRINTS, IT WAS THEN THAT I CARRIED YOU."

1981

ONCE AGAIN I STAND BEFORE YOU, SEEKING YOUR ENDORSEMENT.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES AND THE WORST OF TIMES.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE AGE OF WISDOM AND THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE EPOCH OF BELIEF AND THE EPOCH OF INCREDULITY.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE SEASON OF LIGHT AND THE SEASON OF DARKNESS.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE SPRING OF HOPE AND THE WINTER OF DESPAIR.

I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CHARLES DICKENS' WORDS.

IN 1980, WITH THE '70'S BEHIND US, WE LOOKED TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE. BUT IN 1981, IT SEEMED TO BE THE WINTER OF DESPAIR. WE FOUND DISCRIMINATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE. WE FOUND ECONOMICS AND CRIME HOUSEHOLD WORDS SEEMINGLY OVERSHADOWING ALL ELSE. I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT PROBLEMS THAT BESET US ALL. NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST SEEK RESOLUTIONS TO OUR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. FIRST, WE MUST STRENGTHEN OURSELVES BY REJUVENATION. IT IS THE NUMBER ONE STEP. IF WE ARE TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW, IF RENEWAL IS TO COME, IT WILL EMERGE FROM SIMPLE BASIC EFFORTS. ALL DORMANT GROUPS MUST REBUILD NETWORKS OF SUPPORT AND IN THE PROCESS, MOTIVATE YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE INTO ACTION. FOR THE COMING YEARS DEMAND, ABOVE ALL, UNITED DIRECTION.

I WE MUST BEGIN THE PROCESS WITH NOT ONLY TALK, BUT WITH ACTION - ACTION IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS - OUR WORK PLACES, AND OUR CITY. ACTION IN ONE SEGMENT AND NOT THE OTHER IS PARABLE TO A CHAIN WITHOUT THE LINKS. FOR NOW IS THE TIME TO ENFORCE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, NO MATTER HOW CLICHE AND RESENTED THESE WORDS HAVE BECOME. AS WE MOVE AHEAD TOWARD 1982, WE CAN BEGIN TO RENEW OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE - PEOPLE. NOW IS THE TIME FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND CONFLICTING FORCES OR FACE THE WORST OF THE WORST OF TIMES. TO REMAIN INACTIVE IS TO SELF DESTRUCT.

OUR PRESENT LEVEL OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN ATTAINED AND MAINTAINED BY HARD WORK AND THE DEDICATION OF MANY. THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR SUCCESSFUL IMPENDING FUTURE HAS BEEN LAID BRICK BY BRICK - NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION, A UNIFIED AND SOLID STRUCTURE THAT WILL WITHSTAND THE COMING TIMES, NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE, BUT FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTER US, THUS MAKING IT THE BEST OF TIMES.

ONCE AGAIN I STAND BEFORE YOU, SEEKING YOUR ENDORSEMENT.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES AND THE WORST OF TIMES.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE AGE OF WISDOM AND THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE EPOCH OF BELIEF AND THE EPOCH OF INCREDULITY.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE SEASON OF LIGHT AND THE SEASON OF DARKNESS.
ONCE AGAIN IT IS THE SPRING OF HOPE AND THE WINTER OF DESPAIR.

I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CHARLES DICKENS' WORDS.

IN 1980, WITH THE '70'S BEHIND US, WE LOOKED TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE. BUT IN 1981, IT SEEMED TO BE THE WINTER OF DESPAIR. WE FOUND DISCRIMINATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE. WE FOUND ECONOMICS AND CRIME HOUSEHOLD WORDS SEEMINGLY OVERSHADOWING ALL ELSE. I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT PROBLEMS THAT BESET US ALL. NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST SEEK RESOLUTIONS TO OUR FUTURE. FIRST, WE MUST STRENGTHEN OURSELVES BY REJUVENATION. IT IS THE NUMBER ONE STEP IF WE ARE TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW. IF RENEWAL IS TO COME, IT WILL EMERGE FROM SIMPLE BASIC EFFORTS. ALL DORMANT GROUPS MUST REBUILD NETWORKS OF SUPPORT, AND IN THE PROCESS, MOTIVATE YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE INTO ACTION, FOR THE COMING YEARS DEMAND, ABOVE ALL, UNITED DIRECTION.

WE MUST BEGIN THE PROCESS WITH TALK - TALK ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, OUR WORK PLACES, OUR CITY, ETC. FOR NOW IS THE TIME TO ENFORCE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, NO MATTER HOW CLICHE AND RESENTED THESE WORDS HAVE BECOME. AS WE MOVE AHEAD TOWARD 1982, WE CAN BEGIN TO RENEW OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE - PEOPLE. NOW IS THE TIME FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND CONFLICTING FORCES, OR FACE THE WORST OF THE WORST OF TIMES. TO REMAIN INACTIVE IS TO SELF DESTRUCT. WE MUST BUILD OUR FUTURE BRICK BY BRICK, NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE, BUT FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTER US, THUS MAKING IT THE BEST OF TIMES.