

Allendale Mayor Approves Police Set-up in Address Before Chamber

Pressure is often brought upon the authorities to bear down on traffic violators, but the clamoring citizens themselves would be highly indignant if they were apprehended for traffic violations, Allendale Mayor F. J. Burnett told the Allendale Chamber of Commerce in a descriptive talk on municipal government operations, obligations and functions, Tuesday night.

Last year, the Mayor said, Allendale had tightened up to such an extent that the town was getting the reputation of being a "speed trap". The situation has been considerably relieved, "yet we must not lose sight of the need for reasonable enforcement to protect our children especially."

Allendale's police marshal system is set up in the budget at \$3,300, representing 2.7 per cent of the borough's total expenditure, "not an unusual expenditure," but some feel we should spend more, others think we should spend less or, in fact "nothing at all" said the Mayor.

It is the Mayor's opinion that the present marshal system provides adequate police protection economically, but, if as has been proposed, a paid full time marshal is appointed, Allendale "might just as well employ a man qualified to be a full fledged policeman," one who has been professionally trained, who is young but not youthful, and capable of training others. "At the moment" he concluded, "I am not convinced that we need either a full-time policeman or marshal in this borough."

After commending the Chamber of Commerce on its aims and objectives, the main points developed by Mayor Burnett follow:

"Local government is in reality a business. It is made up of stockholders, who are more or less active and who can and do select the directors and the executive head of the enterprise. The corporation, in turn, selects its own employes to cope with the various and sundry operations of the corporate business.

"Each year some of the directors of your local government are replac-

ed by new men and each second year the mayor is removed or reinstated. Thus, your board of directors is constantly fluctuating. Ordinarily the retirement of experienced men and their replacement by new, unexperienced men takes place at sufficiently slow enough pace to prevent the deterioration of the management. In an ordinary business this turn-over would be considered entirely out of order, yet in the borough's businesses it is probably a good thing, even though efficiency is lost to some extent.

Work of Committees

"In the last hours of 1946 the borough's present board of directors met together with the mayor to organize for the operation of the business for the year 1947. It was in that closed meeting of your Council that the functioning committees were set up. Each committee has a chairman together with a co-chairman. The rest of the council constitutes the balance of the committee in each case.

"The Mayor is the ranking member of every committee when present.

"The committee chairmen together with the co-chairmen, as you can appreciate, are responsible for the operation of their department or function as the case may be. As in any normal business operation the financial situation is perhaps the most important continuing problem. It therefore follows that this finance committee is our most important committee.

Outlines Finances

"By law we must set up our budget and pass it on first reading within the first six weeks of the new year. In that time we must have a pretty good idea of what is to be done during the entire year for which money is required. Our budget is printed after passing first reading for all interested parties to see and in the meantime a certified copy is sent off to the Commissioner of Local Government in Trenton for his study, criticism and of course ultimate approval. If our job is done correctly we get his approval and then the budget is read a second time at the budget hearing and it is usually passed after some discus-