

Likewise, under the "City and County" plan, the Mayor has a veto. During my first administration I ran the city on a tax rate of ONE DOLLAR, and ended the year with a surplus in the treasury. A year ago the Oakland city tax rate, not the huge additional county rate, was only \$1.94—reduced by me from the \$2.50 of three years ago—and Oakland's population has grown to 400,000. This year the city rate is \$2.11, raised to that amount by the three Commissioners who have recently resigned. If the Mayor had the veto, as he would under "City and County" government, the taxes could have been lower still, and the administration efficiently run.

Consolidation of City Tax Functions with County Proves Economy

For two years now the county has assessed and collected City of Oakland taxes through a consolidation plan I advocated and put through. Two hundred thousand dollars has been saved the taxpayers by this one consolidation alone.

When Oakland maintained an Assessor and Tax Collector's office the cost was approximately \$110,000 per year—today the county does the same work for \$10,000, saving the taxpayers four cents annually on the city tax levy. At the same time a great convenience was effected. Formerly Oakland citizens received two tax bills, one from the county, one from the city. They had to go to two different offices to pay these bills. There was continual conflict when taxpayers found their property assessed differently by two different assessors. Today taxpayers have one assessed valuation on their property, receive one bill, pay this bill at one office—as well as saving on the whole \$100,000 per year.

Now, if one consolidation can effect such a saving and such convenience, why not, through forming "City and County" government, consolidate all offices? Why must we throw away \$4,000,000 annually in supporting the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the County Clerk and his huge staff, the County Auditor and his large staff, the County Treasurer, the County Law Enforcement Department, the County Board of Education and School System, the County Engineer, the County Jail, the County Purchasing Agent and staff, the County Health Officer with huge departments and hospitals, the County Library System, the County Civil Service Department, and so on. Oakland already has these required departments and officials.

Forming the "City and County of Oakland," then, would save us four million on one hand, and give us a million (gas tax) on the other. The total of five millions amounts approximately to \$2 on the tax rate. The total tax rate now, including both the city and county tax rates, is \$5.96. Reduce this by \$2, and the *beginning* total tax rate for the "City and County of Oakland" is only \$3.96. With internal economies and adjustments, made after the plan is in effect, I am convinced that the "City and County of Oakland" could operate, and efficiently, on a total tax rate approximately ONE-HALF of the present total rate.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS

Conventions

Over eight million dollars were brought into Oakland during the year through conventions held in our city, according to the Chamber of Commerce estimates. This huge sum, spread among Oakland's hotels, restaurants, theatres and general merchandising concerns, gives clear proof of the high value that conventions mean to our city. But this money spent is not the only asset of convention sessions here. It is of direct benefit, of course, but indirectly there is the complementary benefit of the advertising Oakland receives, not only through newspaper publicity, but by virtue of the delegates from all parts of the country having direct contact with our growing city.