

EFFECTIVE CITIZEN CO-OPERATION

WHAT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS SHOULD
BE EACH BODY'S BUSINESS

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Why does it take so much talk

**to get the city's business done
or to keep it from being done?**

*Is it the fault of the aldermen
or the fault of the system?*

If the fault of aldermen, who put them
there or allowed them to be put there?

If the fault of the system, who is respon-
sible for the system?

**If Toronto's citizens say
so, any system can be
changed and almost any
alderman converted or
left at home.**

*Are not these some of
the causes ?*

1. Too many city legislators. When a man is a member of a deliberative body of 25 men, the tendency is to make him feel like a member of Parliament, in duty bound to deliver an address, not merely to make a speech, much less just to say what he thinks. When Council is small enough to sit with their (its) legs under the same table, the natural instinct is to talk it over like a board of directors. The closer men are together, the less they incline to belligerent or fruitless talk or action.
2. The ward system. Is not the tendency of this system to make an alderman a more zealous and jealous servant of his ward than of his city? Does not this lead to a great lengthening of discussions which might in some cases never occur at all?
3. No clear line of distinction between what is legislation, general administration or decision of policies, and departmental administration, so that Council—which should legislate and decide on general policies—may have its time consumed by discussions of matters properly belonging to departmental administration.

If these are some of the causes of

Government by Palaver

would it be worth while to consider
the advisability of taking the
following steps ?

1. Cutting down the membership of Council to seven, nine or eleven.
2. Abolition of the ward system or so modifying it as to give members elected-at-large the majority.
3. The establishment of an administrative board made up of the heads of city departments, meeting weekly or bi-weekly, with the Mayor as Chairman, the City Clerk being Secretary. In the absence of provincial legislation, this informal committee could only meet for purposes of discussion, inter-departmental co-operation and the formulation of policies to be referred to the Board of Control and City Council. The minutes of the meetings of the Administrative Board should be published with the minutes of the Council and Board of Control.

*Such an organization would be
an effective first step in*

City planning,

City budget making,

**Uniform city reporting
and accounting,**

Central purchasing,

**Effective inter-depart-
mental co-operation,**

and would greatly strengthen
the movement for centering
executive responsibility in
executive specialists, under
the general direction of the
legislative body elected by
the people to conserve their
interests.