

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

"TO PROMOTE THE MOVEMENT TOWARD EFFICIENT CITIZENSHIP"

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OPEN LETTER

Managing Director and Secretary:
HORACE L. BRITAIN

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TORONTO 2

September 6th, 1934.

To His Worship Mayor W. J. Stewart
and Members of the Board of Control,

Gentlemen:

We note in the press that the merging of related civic departments is again being discussed, and we wish again to place on the record our conviction that well considered amalgamations are in the public interest.

The Bureau has no information as to the desire of any department heads to retire, but the Bureau is convinced that if and when there are retirements - and it is always a matter of regret when faithful public servants find it necessary to relinquish their work - full advantage should be taken of the opportunity to reorganize thoroughly at a time when it can be done with least disturbance of personnel and vested interests.

Street Cleaning, Garbage Collection and Waste Disposal are closely allied to Engineering and belong naturally in the Department of Works. Should not the opportunity be seized at the time of the retirement of the Commissioner, when that occurs, to incorporate the Street Cleaning Department with the Works Department as an important section? The possibility of closer co-ordination of operations and more effective use of personnel and, therefore of more and better service at less cost, is obvious.

In the same way many of the functions of the Property Department are closely allied to those of the Department of Buildings. The two departments might well be operated as one. This would be a step in advance.

It has been said that, when retirements occur, the "berths" should go to deputies. The Bureau has always supported the principle of promotion in a sound organization, but that the existing organization is the best possible should not be taken for granted. The first concern in every reorganization should be the possibility of improving service and reducing costs to the citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

T. G. Rogers
President

Horace L. Britain

Managing Director