

JOHN GRAYSON FOR MAYOR

Mayoral Candidate John Grayson said today he would seek to cut the city's payroll immediately by 10 percent if he is elected.

Pointing out that the city's annual payroll has risen \$7,000,000 since Mayor Bill Biare took office four years ago, Grayson added

that he would attempt to trim the payroll another five percent within a year.

"Such a staggering increase could perhaps be justified," the 48-year-old director of Associated Pathology Laboratories said, "if there were a corresponding increase in the amount and quality of services provided by the city. Quite frankly, an awful lot of people feel the city's services have deteriorated, not improved."

Grayson said his proposed payroll slash is consistent with the public's passage of Proposition #6. "The people have made it abundantly clear that they want the cost of government trimmed," he said. "We have to start somewhere and that is as good a place as any."

Mayor Briare would like people to believe that he is a fiscal conservative," Grayson said, "but the facts don't support his self-image." Grayson reminded voters that back in 1976 Briare said he would like to see a law passed by the Nevada Legislature requiring municipal employees be given an automatic cost-of-living raise each year.

However, Don Brown, president of the Las Vegas City Employees Association said at the time it would be "financially irresponsible to have the state mandate automatic raises if there wasn't the condition that the entity be able to afford it."

Grayson said the Mayor should have held the line instead of incurring additional expenses, including the hiring of more than 500

more employees during his administration, bringing the total number of city employees to 1,500, with a proposed payroll of \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 1979/80.

The City's official estimated population in 1975 was 149,750. Today's population estimate, according to City Hall is 161,021, showing an increase of only 11,271 persons or 8 percent.

"It is inconceivable how the major can justify hiring 500 more employees to handle any additional work load created by these 11,271 new arrivals."

The average cost of each City Hall employee is \$18,666 a year.

"There are thousands of hard-pressed taxpayers in Las Vegas who's love earn that much," he said.

"Instead of maintaining what has been fed to the public as 'bare bones budgets,' Grayson said, "City Hall has become a proliferation of unneeded public jobs. Knowing how politicians and governments operate, it is fair to assume that there is a great deal of wasted effort."

The Mayor has hired a new city employee for every 22 persons who've moved to the City of Las Vegas since 1975.

Grayson contended that his 10 percent cutback would force empire-building super-department heads to re-evaluate their personnel, eliminating the poorest performers.

His later five percent cutback could then be accomplished through closer job performance evaluations, attrition and retirements.

Grayson said his

payroll cuts could save the city an estimated \$3,000,000 a year. "That's a lot of money," he said, "and maybe it will ward off those requests by the big spenders for more tax revenues."

He admitted his plan would not make him popular down at City Hall. "But we have to make hard decisions that are sometimes unpopular if we are to solve the very serious problems our community faces," he said. "For example, we have an immense traffic snarl and perhaps the money saved through payroll cutbacks could be utilized to get traffic moving quickly and smoothly again."

HOUSE NIXES PLO TWICE

WASH. (WNS) -- The House of Representatives took two steps against the Palestine Liberation Organization April 24, one barring any member of the PLO from entering the country and the other reducing the U.S. contribution to the United Nations by the cost of the U.S. share of two PLO propaganda units.

Both steps were amendments to the bill authorizing money for the State Department which was approved by the House and sent to the Senate for action. No debate was held on the amendment by Rep. Lester Wolff (D. NY) to cut the U.S. contribution to the cost

of the UN Special Unit on Palestinian Rights and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People which is estimated total \$150,000. Wolff stressed he would not advocate cutting funds for a UN program just because he disagreed with it, but having such a group "which regularly takes credit for terrorist violence against civilians represented in a body whose aim is the peaceful solution of conflicts in outrageous."

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