

City Ordinance Stops Building

The Las Vegas city electrical ordinance, passed in 1930, and the plumbing ordinance as well, foster monopolies and have permitted the increase of building costs in this city to the point where the building business is practically at a standstill, was the charge made before the city commissioners at the meeting of the board Thursday evening.

Architect A. L. Worswick led in the charges and was ably seconded by Roscoe Hampton, building contractor, and M. M. Tapscott, dealer in electrical appliances.

Mr. Worswick, in the course of his discussion, said among other things: "The particular reason why building in Las Vegas has practically stopped is that prices have gotten beyond control of everybody in town.

"No one particular item can be blamed, but we have reached a point where building costs are from 25 to 50 per cent higher in Las Vegas than anywhere else on the Pacific coast. And when prices get so high they are stifling building we can do only one thing—get together to bring them down."

Worswick then called attention to the \$255 master electrician license which he said had fostered a monopoly by the three firms which had "gotten in under the gun." He said that prices for electric wiring were the outstanding high item in building construction costs and should be the first item tackled in at-

tempting to bring these costs down.

"The effect of the ordinance has been to force us to deal with one of three firms for electric wiring," Worswick said. "I don't say there is a price agreement, but they have an association and their bids are usually about the same."

The architect also stated that there is an agreement in effect that none of the master electricians "will ever take their coats off."

"They have to make their living off the work of two or three electricians and that of itself forces prices up," he declared.

He said he had plans for five or six construction jobs during the last sixty days which had been dropped because of the high prices.

"When building costs get to the point where investors can't get a reasonable return then building stops, and that isn't good for anybody," Worswick said.

Roscoe Hampton, carpenter and builder, said:

"There is an agreement that the electricians' union won't furnish men to anyone who doesn't uphold the price—that they will work only for members of the association or those living up to the agreement and price scale."

"The cost of electrical work is one of the biggest items in increased building costs," and pointed out that since the ordinance was passed in 1930 there hasn't been a single electrical contractor pay the \$255 license fee required to open up a business here.

M. M. Tapscott, local distributor of the Frigidaire products, said:

"I have had 500 prospects for the purchases of ranges and have sold only three," he declared. "Of the

Know Your Lobster



Lorna and Julia, "Hour of Charm" musicians, learn the knack of cooking and cracking lobster from Billy, The Oysterman.

THERE'S a trick to selecting a good lobster and preparing it properly, according to Billy the Oysterman, at whose famous old New York eating place gourmets have been served superior lobster dishes for more than half a century

In selecting the lobster, he advises, be sure that it is heavy in proportion to its size and feels firm. There is a shallowness about the feel of a poor lobster because the flesh is too watery, and when cooked it will shrivel greatly.

As for cooking, boiling is the most popular method in the home.

Plunge the live lobster into a pot of boiling salted water and cook over a slow steady fire in a covered pot for 15 minutes.

Here Billy is explaining to two interested pupils, whose career is making music but whose hobby is making delectable dishes, how to cook lobster and how to crack the shell and remove the meat. The body shell, he tells them, should be slit down the middle with a sharp knife, and the claws cracked with a lobster crack.

The girls are Lorna and Julia, flute players on Phil Spitalny's "Hour of Charm", heard Monday nights in a coast to coast broadcast.

Mama, Use a Ladder



number who didn't buy, at least half were influenced against purchasing his equipment by the cost of installation.

"I am a newcomer and don't know whose fault this is, but it's certainly up to someone to investigate and find out," he said.

Worswick suggested suspension of the \$225 license fee for an indefinite period as a means of relieving the situation.

"This will enable contractors to come in from the outside and bid on work here and then we'll see what happens," he said. "Certainly something ought to be done to break up the combine."

Mayor Arnett assured the speakers that the board would conduct a thorough investigation and take action if it seems advisable.

The question of the plumbing ordinance which requires a \$200 license fee was also brought up, and the mayor said the investigation could be extended to include that also.

Discuss Union Pacific Depot

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to the new depot to provide a handsome dining room if the Chamber of Commerce so recommends.

In view of the fact that the service clubs for the most part have been unable to find suitable accom-

modations for their luncheon meetings elsewhere than in the present U. P. dining room, it is thought by many that the company should be induced, if possible, to include a handsome new dining room in its new building.

The company, it is explained by officials, has no particular need for a dining room for their passengers, especially since the new Challenger train plan of dining service has been adopted.

Dr. W. R. Smith, at Tuesday's meeting of the Chamber, gave an interesting discussion of the agricultural possibilities of Las Vegas valley, especially in the matter of poultry raising and dairy products. He called attention to the splendid 75-acre stand of barbed wheat and five acres of oats on the Lorenzi ranch in the western outskirts of the city. Samples from these fields are on display at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Bob Ritter announced the showing of the Boulder Dam model.

Dr. Henry Granat, who is located at the Wollman Hotel, was elected to membership following the favorable report of the committee. The application of D. G. Lorenzi was received and referred to the committee.

As has been his custom for the last 20 years, George Maurer of Dale, N. Y., stood on his head on his recent 82nd birthday. Mrs. Maurer refused to witness the headstand, saying her husband was too old a man.