
[Speeches 1947](#)[Speeches](#)

1947

Mayoral Acceptance Speech

Louis-Philippe Gagné

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/fac-lpg-speeches-1947>

Recommended Citation

Louis-Philippe Gagné Papers, Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Speeches at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Speeches 1947 by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.

A NEW CITY GOVERNMENT IS BORN TODAY.

I WISH AT THIS TIME TO THANK THE CITIZENS OF LEWISTON FOR THE
CONFIDENCE THEY HAVE REPOSED IN ME.

I PRAY GOD TO GIVE ME THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION TO FACE THE
OBLIGATIONS THAT ACCOMPANY THE HONOR OF BEING MAYOR.

IN TAKING OFFICE I HAVE INHERITED A LOAD OF ADDITIONAL AND UNAVOIDABLE
EXPENSES.

^{These}
~~THEY~~ INCLUDE AT LEAST \$90,000 IN SALARY INCREASES NOT INCLUDED IN
LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BUT VOTED LAST YEAR.

THAT MONEY MUST BE PAID.

NO MATTER WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE THIS YEAR HE WOULD
HAVE HAD TO FACE THE SAME SITUATION.

MOREOVER, THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR CITY TO EXPAND AND GIVE TO OUR
CITIZENS THE SERVICES THEY SO BADLY NEED AND DEMAND.

SHOULD WE BE CONTENT WITH PAYING WAGES WITHOUT GIVING THE TAXPAYERS
THE NEEDED STREET AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS?

SHOULD LEWISTON REMAIN AT A STANDSTILL WITHOUT SHOWING SOME TENDENCY
OF PROGRESS ?

SHOULD WE DENY TO THE TAXPAYERS THE BETTERMENTS THEY ARE ENTITLED TO ?

I BELIEVE IN GIVING THE CITIZENS THEIR MONEY'S WORTH IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS
AND SERVICES.

THE ONE WHO PAYS TAXES SHOULD GET SOMETHING IN RETURN.

FOR THAT REASON I PROPOSE TO APPOINT A SPECIAL PLANNING BOARD TO PREPARE AND ORGANIZE A FIVE OR TEN YEAR PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE PROJECTS, SUCH AS I ADVOCATED BEFORE THE LAST ELECTION.

MUCH MORE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THIS LONG RANGE PROGRAM AND THE TAXPAYERS WOULD NOT HAVE TO FOOT THE ENTIRE EXPENSE ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

THAT SAME PLANNING BOARD WILL ALSO BE REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT TO BRING NEW INDUSTRIES TO THIS CITY.

THIS IS A MUST.

LEWISTON NEEDS A VARIETY OF SUCH INDUSTRIES AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN OTHER CENTERS CAN BE DONE HERE AS WELL.

OUR CITY NEEDS NEW PLAYGROUNDS. YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS DESERVE ATTENTION AND SHOULD RECEIVE IT.

GROWN*UPS ALSO SHOULD HAVE THEIR RECREATION CENTER AND AT THIS MOMENT MAY I SAY THAT IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT LEWISTON HAS DONE NOTHING AS YET FOR ITS WAR DEAD OR ITS VETERANS IN THE WAY OF ERECTING A WAR MEMORIAL.

I STILL HOPE THAT SOME DAY, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OUR CITY WILL DEDICATE AN ICE ARENA TO THE BOYS ~~AND GIRLS~~ WHO WERE ON THE FIRING LINE WHILE WE WERE AT HOME, READING OF THEIR DEEDS IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

MANY OF THOSE WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO OUR CITY WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. I PROPOSE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE VARIOUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS SO THAT ALL ^{those who} ~~THAT~~ RETURN WILL BE HONORED BY OUR CITY.

THIS CITY GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE MANY PROBLEMS TO SOLVE.

IT SHOULD DO SO HAVING IN MIND THE CITIZEN'S INTEREST, WHATEVER THE PROBLEMS MAY BE.

I INVITE ALL CITIZENS TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND THEIR CITY COUNCIL.

THIS GOVERNMENT IS YOUR GOVERNMENT.

WHETHER ELECTED OR APPOINTED, OFFICE HOLDERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THEY OWE A DUTY AND ARE THE SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE.

THE CITY'S MONEY IS THE PUBLIC'S MONEY AND IT SHOULD BE SPENT WISELY AND NOT WASTED.

I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE VARIOUS COMMISSIONS, THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL BE SOUND AND EFFICIENT.

I PLEDGE MY COOPERATION TO ALL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND OFFICE HOLDERS. IN RETURN, I HOPE THAT I MAY RECEIVE THEIRS.