

Special
Merrill's Cafe
November 18, 1965

This special meeting was held to discuss with the Port of Portland officials, their request for 12 acres of Fair Board property. All Fair Board members were present along with Manager, Ed Ball, Ass't Manager Leon Thomas, three people from the Port including Mr. Jake Frieberger, and George Baldwin, General Manager of the Port and their Comptroller.

Before the Port officials arrived, the board discussed this and Mr. Gardner told of his recent conversations with Mr. Frieberger which prompted this meeting. When the news release appeared in the Oregonian, this was the first the Port knew that the county did not purchase the property and that communications between the Port and the Fair Board had not been adequate to get a clear picture on both sides. The Board has felt re-locating Cornell road would not solve the traffic problem, but the Port told Mr. Gardner they had planned on a four lane highway.

Mr. Jossy felt the Board should leave the door open for negotiations and let the Port made the first offer.

Mr. Lindow felt the board could offer 6 acres to them for sale, leaving more area on the north end of the building for fair use.

Mr. Baldwin came in and ate lunch with the board and told of the Port's history and many of their present projects.

After lunch the other officials came. Mr. Baldwin thanked the board for getting together and meeting with them. He stated the Port had no intention of coming into the area and taking something for free to make money on, and that the 12 acres of the fairgrounds were not needed but very much desired for expansion by the airport operators.

Mr. Gardner suggested that the board buy the full 3 1/4 acres of Fair property but Mr. Baldwin said the Port is not in the real estate business.

Mr. Jossy asked about leasing the land to them. Mr. Baldwin stated this would not be satisfactory to lease from the Board and turn around and lease to another operator, and this would not work out with the road plans.

Mr. Gardner asked for suggestions from Mr. Baldwin on how to solve this problem and Mr. Baldwin had no answers. They could not buy the property since most of the money for this project is coming from the pockets of Multnomah county and felt the public opinion would be against buying from another public body. They plan to go ahead with plans without the 12 acres and hope that Cornell Road and expansion will work out. They have been ready to do and the money is budgeted for this year but the acquisition of the Fair property has held them up. All surrounding area needed for the clear zones have been optioned.

Mr. Jossy suggested the Board get an industrial development contractor to buy the total fair grounds and the board look for a new location.

Mr. Baldwin asked the board to discuss this further and talk to the County Commissioners and come to some agreement. The Port is most anxious to get this settled so that construction can start by spring. He said he would inform Mrs. Wilcox of this meeting so that the Commissioners can make arrangements to meet with the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Shearer, Sec.