

Transcript: recording of cornerstone laying ceremony from the Public Safety Building Time Capsule, November 30 1965

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[Time Min:Sec] 00:05

Mayor Stephen Juba: Will the Aldermen please step forward, up here, please?

[Time Min:Sec] 00:15

Mayor Stephen Juba: Well, ladies and gentlemen this is indeed an historical moment, as far as the City of Winnipeg is concerned. They can all appreciate that the completion of this building will finalize the centralization program, as far as our administration is concerned. What we have here, in this complex, previously represents nine buildings that housed the City administration. I think that we can look forward to greater efficiency in the operation. And consequently the outcome would be a savings to the tax payers. Now without further ado, I'm going to call on the Chief Constable to say a few words and then I'll call on the Fire Chief and the Signals because this building houses these three particular departments. Chief Constable, Mr. Blow.

[Time Min:Sec] 01:08

Chief Constable George Blow: Your Worship, members of City Council, friends gathered. It will be a great deal for us, of the Police Department, when we move into this new building. Just a very few years ago, there were three buildings belonging to the City that were totally inadequate. The City Hall, and that is now been replaced; Number One Fire Hall, and I had the pleasure of being there at the opening of their new Fire Hall, the other day; and now the Public Safety Building which will house the Police Department, the administration of the Fire Department and our City Signals. We hope, as his Worship expressed, that with the advent of this state, of this building being opened that it will improve the efficiency of our Department, I'm sure it will. We look forward to it with a great deal of anticipation. Thank you.

[Time Min:Sec] 02:10

Mayor Stephen Juba: Thank you Chief Constable. Now I'd like to call on Chief Leckie of the Fire Department, please? I might point out that just last weekend I was visiting Toronto and I went to the new City Hall. It is very interesting to note that they do house most of the, the offices there are utilized by the metropolitan corporation. We sincerely hope, that in due course, in time, that the metropolitan corporation will be housed in this particular complex. Because we do have provisions here for an addition to the administration building, which will be used as a park for the time being. So, I hope, due course in time, we'll have central government or at least the metropolitan corporation will be housed in this particular complex. Chief Leckie, please.

[Time Min:Sec] 03:00

Chief Cecil Leckie: Mr. Mayor, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen. This is indeed a pleasure, for me too, to be here to the opening, for the cornerstone main of this new administration building for the Police, Fire and Signals. We just opened our new Number One, as Chief Blow said just a few minutes ago, just the other day. This was a real step forward in the City as one of the most modern and up to date fire halls in this country. And this building from the looks of the outside, I haven't been in yet. But from the looks of the outside and the plans that have been prepared for it and our accommodation in here, it looks as though we are going to be very comfortable, and least we hope so. Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor.

[Time Min:Sec] 03:42

Mayor Stephen Juba: Thank you Chief Leckie. I'd like to call on Mr. Jack Clarke, the City Signals Engineer.

[Time Min:Sec] 03:52

City Signals Engineer Jack Clarke: Your Worship, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to join with Chief Blow and Chief Leckie in expressing my gratitude for the fact that we are playing a part in this building. Communication wise, I think that it's fair to say that we have left no stone unturned, thanks to City Council having put up the necessary funds. But I think, from the standpoint of Communications, we'll have something here that will be second to none. This includes 999, of course, and the Police and the Fire rated communications. With that sir, thank you very much.

[Time Min:Sec] 04:30

Mayor Stephen Juba: Thank you Mr. Clarke. And I just, I'd like to point out, that procedure will be followed - I'll call on the various Aldermen that are present and I might possibly, also convey to you the regrets that some of the other Aldermen were in a position to be here this afternoon. We will call on the various Aldermen to read their contents that they will place in the casket, which will be sealed behind the cornerstone. But first I'd like to call on the Acting Mayor, Aldermen Edith Tennant, who will read to you a brief historical background of the Public Safety Building.

[Time Min:Sec] 05:08

Alderman Edith Tennant: Mr. Mayor, gentlemen. This building is a record to house the facilities of the Police Department, the Fire Department executives, training and fire prevention divisions, the Signals Department and the Magistrate's Court with these adjunct divisions. Four Magistrates Courts are being provided, a jail is included which will house female prisoners on the third floor and male prisoners on the fourth floor. The Building is six stories plus basement of concrete frame structure with tyndall-faced precast concrete cladding on the exterior. The floor construction is of tin pan type concrete joists and contains approximately 126,000 square feet of space. Included in the building is a central fire dispatch office and equipment, the 999 emergency phone center and the operation dispatch console. An emergency generator in the basement of the parkade would supply power in the event of power failure. Adjacent and under the parking building is housed the patrol car parking and repair facilities and the Signals Department radio repair facilities. The architects for the building are Libling, Michener and Associates represented here today by Mr. Gerald Libling. The contractors are Peter Leitch Construction Company Limited represented today by Mr. Cecil Rilkoff. Mr. W. D. Hurst, City Engineer, is coordinator of Civic Center. The architectural contract for the work was initiated in June 1960 and the general contract was awarded January 1965. The general contract for the building is to the sum of \$3,494,182, added to which is the finishing of the basement of the parking structure at \$253,240, to a total of \$3,747,422. The building is being constructed under the Federal Provincial Municipal Works Incentive Program with the assistance of the Winter Works Program. The completion of the building is anticipated to be March 30th, 1966. The adjacent structure is a four level, split level, parking structure designed by Green, Blankstein, Russell and Associates and being constructed simultaneously with the Public Safety Building by Peter Leitch Construction at a cost of \$1,106,486. The basement of this building is interconnected to the Public Safety Building as a part of the function of the Public Safety Building.

[Time Min:Sec] 07:47

Mayor Stephen Juba: Thank you Alderman Tennant. Now I'd like to call on Alderman Leonard Claydon.

[Time Min:Sec] 07:59

Alderman Leonard Claydon: Mr. Mayor, it's with great pleasure that I place in this box a historical resumé of the Signals Department and a list of personnel. And I've also recorded on the envelope that it's approximately 15 degrees above.

[Time Min:Sec] 08:17

Mayor Stephen Juba: And now I'll call on Alderman Cropo

[Time Min:Sec] 08:23

Alderman J. Cropo: Mr. Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to put in the contents from the Fire Department. The contents of this envelope are: number one, the photographs of the Chief of the Department and the Senior Officers, two is a list of members of the Department, copy of rules and regulations, Battalion Chief's cap badges, firemen's cap badges, officers' uniform buttons, and firemen's uniform buttons. Thank you.

[Time Min:Sec] 08:54

Mayor Stephen Juba: Now I'd like to call on Alderman Joseph Zuken

[Time Min:Sec] 08:59

Alderman Joseph Zuken: Mr. Mayor and ladies and gentlemen. Included in the box will be the contents of this envelope, consisting of the photographs of court personnel and names, the list of former Magistrates, Crown Attorneys and Clerks of Court, and court statistics for the year 1964.

[Time Min:Sec] 09:23

Mayor Stephen Juba: Thank you Alderman Zuken. I'd like to call on Alderman Rebchuk.

[Time Min:Sec] 09:30

Alderman Slaw Rebchuk: Mr. Mayor, this envelope contains photos of the Chief Constables C.H. Newton, George Smith, Charles McIvor, Robert T. Taft, George Blow; photos of the Rupert Avenue Police Station; and the list of all members of the Police Department of the year 1965.

[Time Min:Sec] 10:01

Mayor Stephen Juba: We also have present here, this afternoon, Alderman David Mulligan - will you please be recognized? - and Alderman Mark Danzker. And now without further ado I would like to call on the workmen to seal this casket so we can place behind the cornerstone.

[Time Min:Sec] 10:27

City Signals Engineer Jack Clark[?]: Mr. Mayor, I'd like to be here when you open up that casket.

[Time Min:Sec] 10:31 to 11:02

[muffled conversations as casket is being soldered]

[Time Min:Sec] 11:04

Mayor Stephen Juba: While they're soldering this casket I'd like to call on Mr. Cecil Rilkoff, the contractor for this project. I understand he has a presentation to make. Mr. Rilkoff.

[Time Min:Sec] 11:20

Cecil Rilkoff: Mr. Mayor, members of Winnipeg City Council, ladies and gentlemen. Today it is my proud duty, on behalf of Peter Leitch Construction and myself, to express our deep appreciation to all those who have contributed to this achievement. To the members of City Council, who have expressed their faith in us by awarding us the contract. To the architects, the engineers and their supervisors with whom we have worked and are working with during this construction. And last but not least, to all the workmen who are working at their respective trades with care and diligence. We have found the spirit of cooperation inspiring. As I present to you, Mr. Mayor, this trowel, my thoughts can be best expressed in the words of John Ruskin who wrote: "When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it be such work that our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched it, and that men will say, when they look upon the wrought substance of them, 'See! This our fathers did for us'". Thank you.

[Time Min:Sec] 13:13

Mayor Stephen Juba: Thank you Mr. Rilkoff. I think there is a lot of truth in what he said about building forever. This is quite characteristic of public buildings. It seems that once you put one up they serve for an awful long time. You all know that they tried to build a new City Hall. In fact it had an architectural competition way back in 1914. So buildings are put up by government to last a long time. Well, I accept this trowel on behalf of my colleagues at City Hall and the citizens of Winnipeg. And I understand that it will be suitably engraved, later on, and it could eventually end up in a museum of the new City Hall. Now I'd like to call upon Alderman Hallonquist, who just arrived here, and ask Alderman Hallonquist if she would now place the casket into the wall.

[Time Min:Sec] 14:02 to 14:19

[muffled conversation as casket is being placed behind cornerstone]

[Time Min:Sec] 14:20

Mayor Stephen Juba: Now if the Contractor would step forward and just tell me how I'm supposed to lay this mortar on this stone, I'd be very happy to take some instructions from him.

Cecil Rilkoff[?]: They're supposed to help you to push it back, that's all.

Mayor Stephen Juba: I just push it back?

Cecil Rilkoff[?]: Yeah, he'll[?] help you. He'll[?] help you just to push it back.

Mayor Stephen Juba: Just to push it back?

[Time Min:Sec] 14:40 to 15:16

[muffled conversation as cornerstone is put in place]

[Time Min:Sec] 15:17

[Unknown]: Have a look on the other side of the mirror.

[Time Min:Sec] 15:30

[Unknown]: Hit it again.

[Time Min:Sec] 15:30 to 16:33

[muffled conversation]

[Time Min:Sec] 16:34

Mayor Stephen Juba: Well, we can all go home. I wonder if I could get the aldermen here together so we could take a picture. Would you take a picture of all the aldermen? All the aldermen, please? Dewey[?], can you take one of all the aldermen?

Dewey[?]: Yeah.

[Time Min:Sec] 16:54

Mayor Stephen Juba: The aldermen, get in here, come on.

[Time Min:Sec] 16:56 to 17:27

[muffled conversation]

[Time Min:Sec] 17:27

Alderman Slaw Rebchuk: You want to take a picture - Hey, that Beatles Club! That Beatles.

[Time Min:Sec] 17:31

Mayor Stephen Juba[?]: That's colour[?], I'll give you one of them.

[Time Min:Sec] 17:41

[Unknown]: Push it down. Turn it sideways! Turn it sideways. That's it. That's all, it's all automatic.

[Time Min:Sec] 18:00 to 18:22

[muffled conversation]