

(TRIBUNE Staff Photos By William Yates)

Spectators crowd into county budget hearing as commissioners [foreground] listen to testimony.

Asks Board to Cut 306 County Jobs

BY GEORGE BLISS AND PHILIP CAPUTO

A package of amendments calling for the immediate abolition of 306 jobs from the proposed 1972 Cook County budget at a saving of \$3,417,316 was introduced yesterday at the public budget hearings of the County Board's Finance Committee.

The reform measures were proposed by Floyd T. Fulle, a board commissioner, before a standing-room-only audience which, veteran observers said, was the largest crowd to have ever attended the annual hearings.

More than 100 people jammed the small 'observers' section, and the committee was addressed by 10 of the 18 citizens and citizens' groups, who had registered to speak.

Action Is Postponed

Action on the amendments was postponed until Thursday at the request of George W. Dunne, County Board president, who asked for extra time to study the proposals. Fulle, a Republican, said his amendments have the support of the board's five minority commissioners.

The six budget-slashing amendments incorporated part of the findings of a three-month investigation by THE TRIBUNE Task Force and Better Government Association which documented how the county government squanders \$14.2 million a year thru fiscal mismanagement, padded payrolls, and inflated salaries.

Could Save Millions

The conclusions of a long-suppressed management study were also included in Fulle's proposal. He said that he will demand that the study be furnished to the commissioners at Thursday's hearing.

The study, known as the Whiston Report, showed how county government could save almost \$1 million a year by

cutting the operating and maintenance staffs of the City Hall-County Building.

"What really amazed me was the Whiston Report," Fulle told THE TRIBUNE. "That report has been kept under lock and key at the Public Building Commission since 1966."

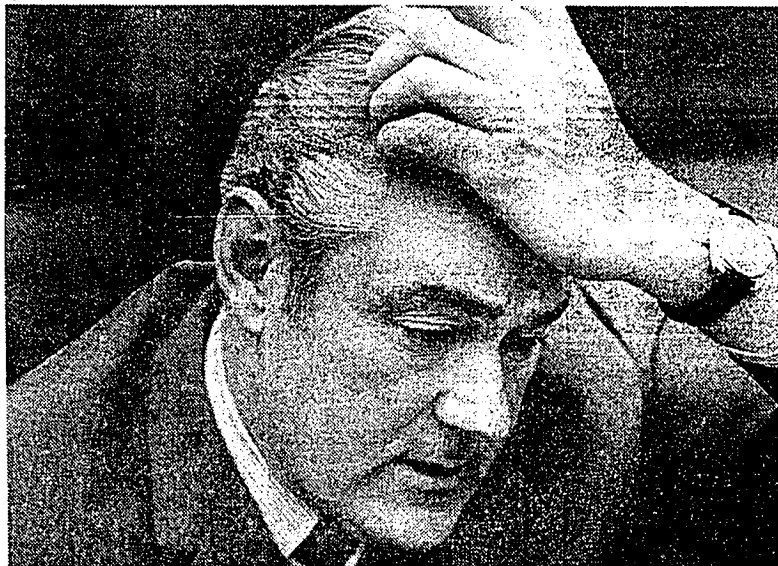
Details of the report were first disclosed in the Task Force series.

Abolish 88 Jobs

By immediately implementing findings of the report, Fulle said, 88 jobs could be abolished from the heating, maintenance, and operations staff of the County Building, at a saving of \$984,447.

In another amendment, Fulle called for the removal of 25 jobs from the Rabies Control Department, which currently has a budgeted staff of 27 and appropriations of \$351,000. This measure also recommends that the remaining two positions be incorporated into the Public Health Department, which would then perform the function of distributing vaccination tags and assume the rabies control function for the county.

This proposal would save



George Dunne, county board president, during budget hearing.

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Abolish 306 Jobs from 1972 Budget, County Board Urged

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\$286,214, according to Fulle. The Task Force-B. G. A. investigation disclosed moonlighting by three department employes, including the department head, Dr. Robert P. Litt.

Cut Highway Jobs

A third Fulle proposal urges a reduction in the County Highway maintenance budget of \$1,905,677 by removing 165 jobs from the department's staff. This follows the findings of the Task Force investigation, which determined that the county is spending \$6,000 a mile too much to maintain its 580 miles of road.

Reporters and investigators found flagrant loafing by highway maintenance workers.

Fulle also called for a reduction of 23 full-time employes from the voting machine

maintenance section of the County Clerk's Election Division, and the removal of five positions from the 7-man Civil Defense Commission.

Cuts in the Election Division would save the taxpayers \$174,728 a year, and an additional \$66,250 would be trimmed from the budget with cutbacks in the Civil Defense Commission, Fulle said.

In other developments at yesterday's hearing, the Civic Federation criticized the County Board for inefficient budgeting practices. The federation said this will result in a 10.6 per cent increase in the 1972 property tax rate.

Poor Fiscal Procedures

According to D. Daniel Baldino, director of public affairs for the taxpayers' watchdog agency, the county govern-

ment's poor fiscal procedures have resulted in an excessive budget surplus for the last five years, resulting in a property tax rate increase of 6.4 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The federation further urged the county to use home rule powers to establish a County Government Study Commission, which would include a permanent subcommittee charged with reviewing the county's management operations. The commission would be aimed at reforming the fiscal, management, and organizational structures of county government, Baldino said.

Ray Kaeplinger, executive director of the Northwest Citizens for Action, demanded that the 1972 budget be rejected and called for a "thoro probe, with citizens groups involved, of all county departments."