

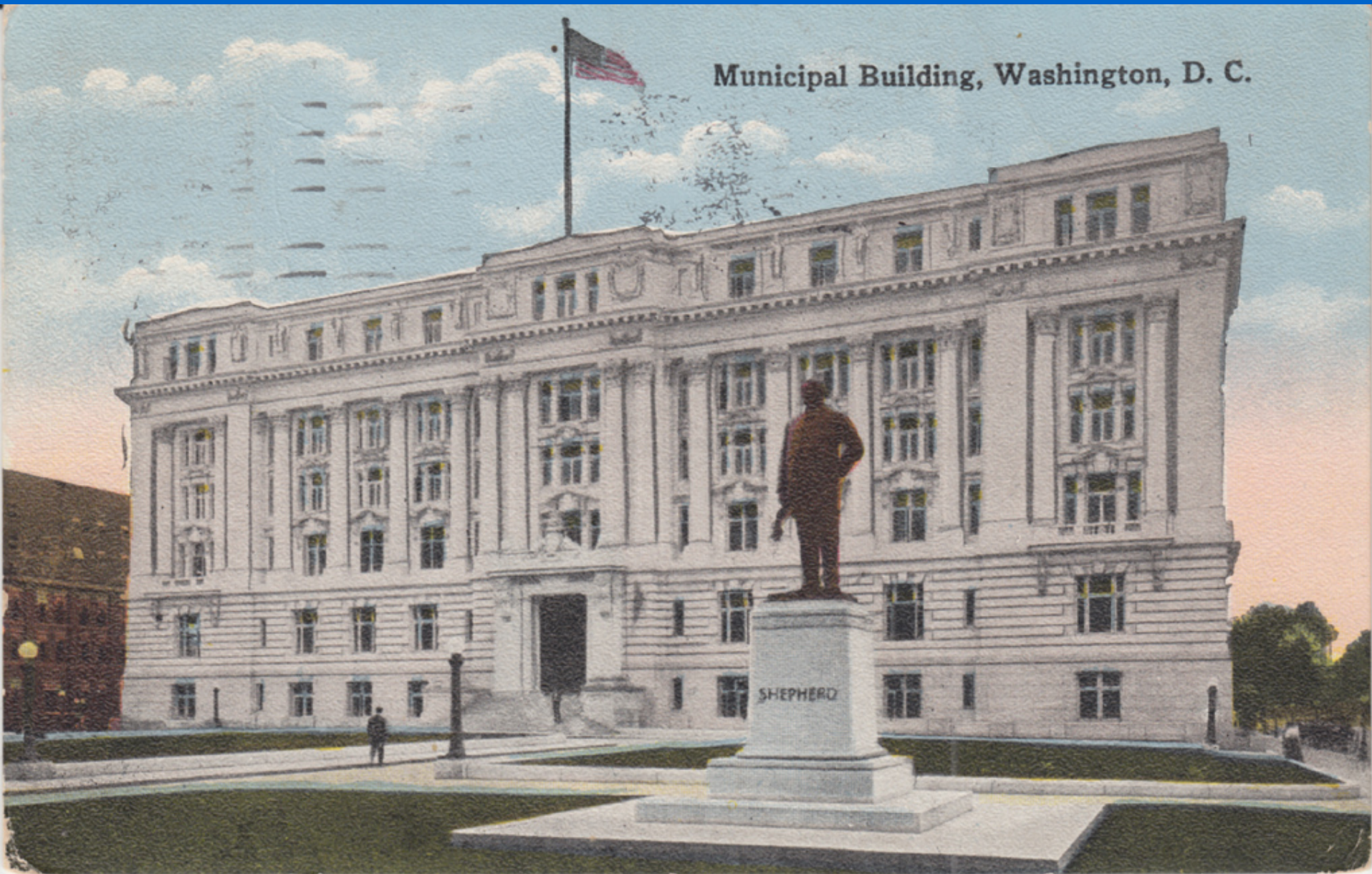
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

RCR ASSOCIATES, LLC

MARCH 15, 2013

WASHINGTON IN 1913



Municipal Building, Washington, D. C.

The District Building was completed in 1908.

The Municipal Building, Washington, D. C., located at 14th and Pennsylvania Avenues, is the home of the District of Columbia Government. It is a beautiful white marble structure, 243 feet x 196 feet and cost, exclusive of site, nearly \$2,000,000. The District of Columbia is under the executive control of three Commissioners, two Civilians and one Army Engineer, who are appointed by the President. Congress makes its laws and pays half of the Municipal expense as an offset against non-assessment for taxes of United States property. Besides the office of the District Commissioners, the Police, Fire and Health Depts. are also located in the Municipal Building. A statue of Alexander P. Shepherd, the last Governor of the District of Columbia, by U. S. J. Dunbar, is erected in front of it.



Post Card



ADDRESS

Mrs John Greger
4560 Baker Street

I arrived here
safely.
your
B.

Pub. by W. B.

~~_____ \$2,000,000. The Dis-~~
trict of Columbia is under the executive
control of three Commissioners, two Civilians
and one Army Engineer, who are appointed
by the President. Congress makes its laws
and pays half of the Municipal expense as
an offset against non-assessment for taxes of
United States property. Besides the office of
the District Commissioners, the Police, Fire
and Health Depts. are also located in the
Municipal Building. ~~_____ of Alexander~~



Library of Congress

Young messenger on 13th Street, behind the District Building.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Streetlight in 1300 block of G Street, NW, looking east.



Pepco Archives

A Pepco employee changes a streetlight near the Capitol.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Calvert Street Bridge, looking east.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

A gas light at 19th and H streets, NW.



015676 WASHINGTON FROM THE MONUMENT.

Library of Congress

View along Virginia Avenue toward the West Station Gas Plant.



Georgetown Waterfront.
Neg. no. 25463.

Library of Congress

Georgetown waterfront.



15th and G streets, NW.

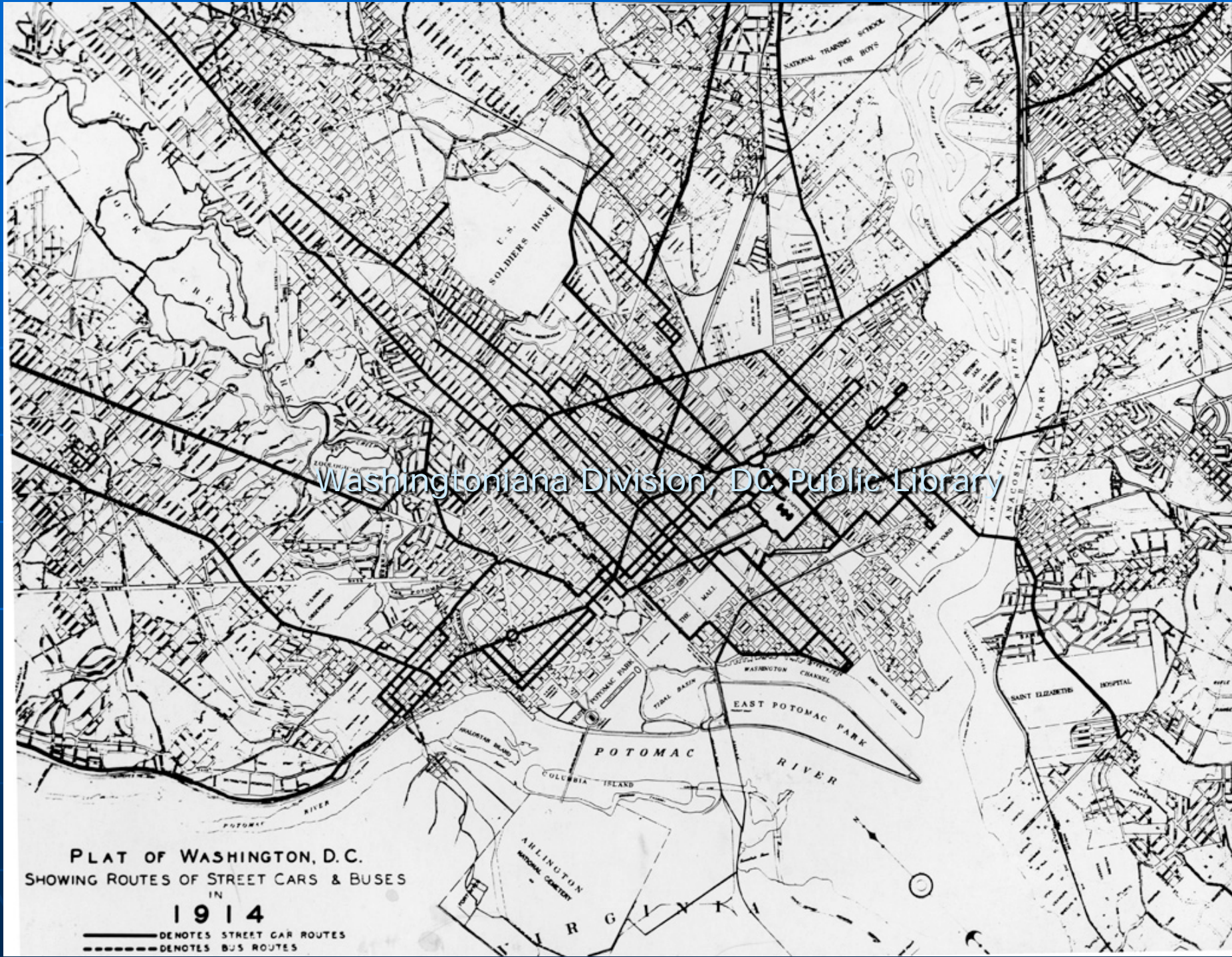
Library of Congress

Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

PLAT OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
SHOWING ROUTES OF STREET CARS & BUSES
IN

1914

— DENOTES STREET CAR ROUTES
- - - DENOTES BUS ROUTES





Library of Congress

Woman's suffrage demonstration on Pennsylvania Avenue, March 3, 1913.



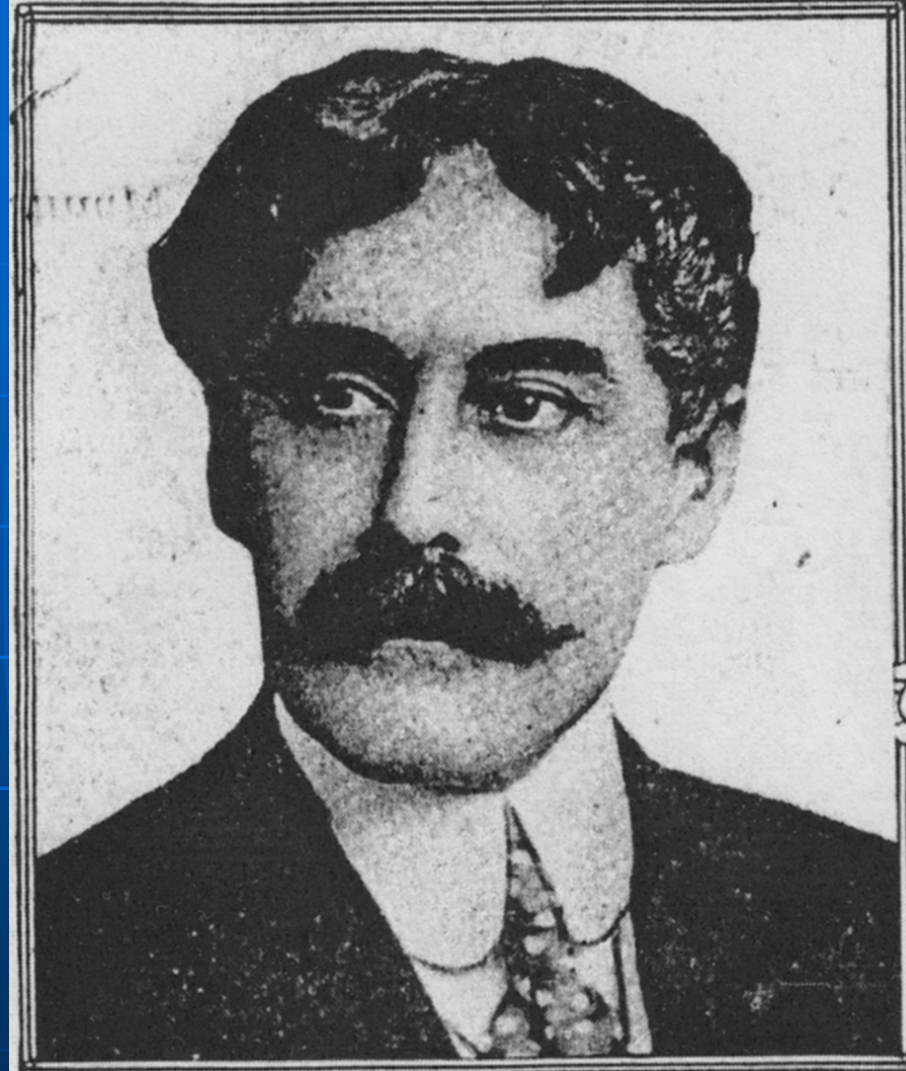
President Wilson's inaugural parade, March 4, 1913.

CREATION OF THE COMMISSION



Library of Congress

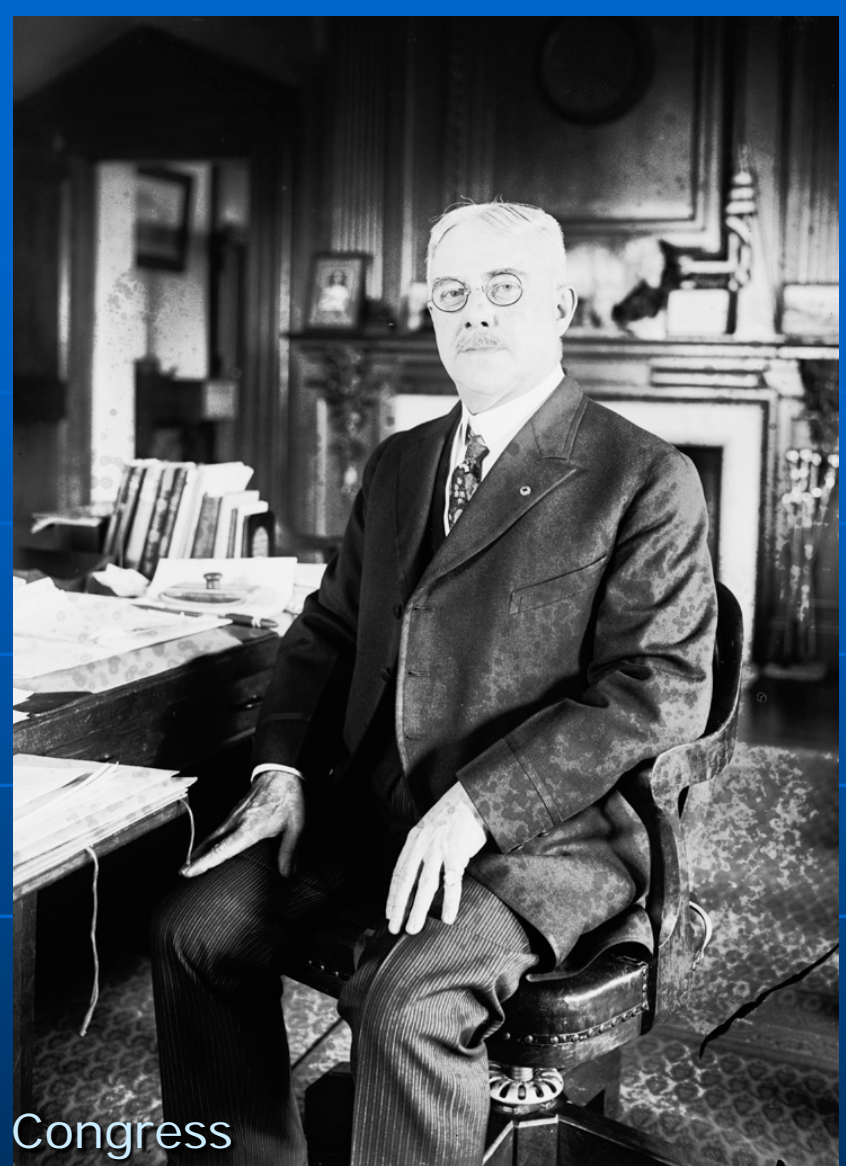
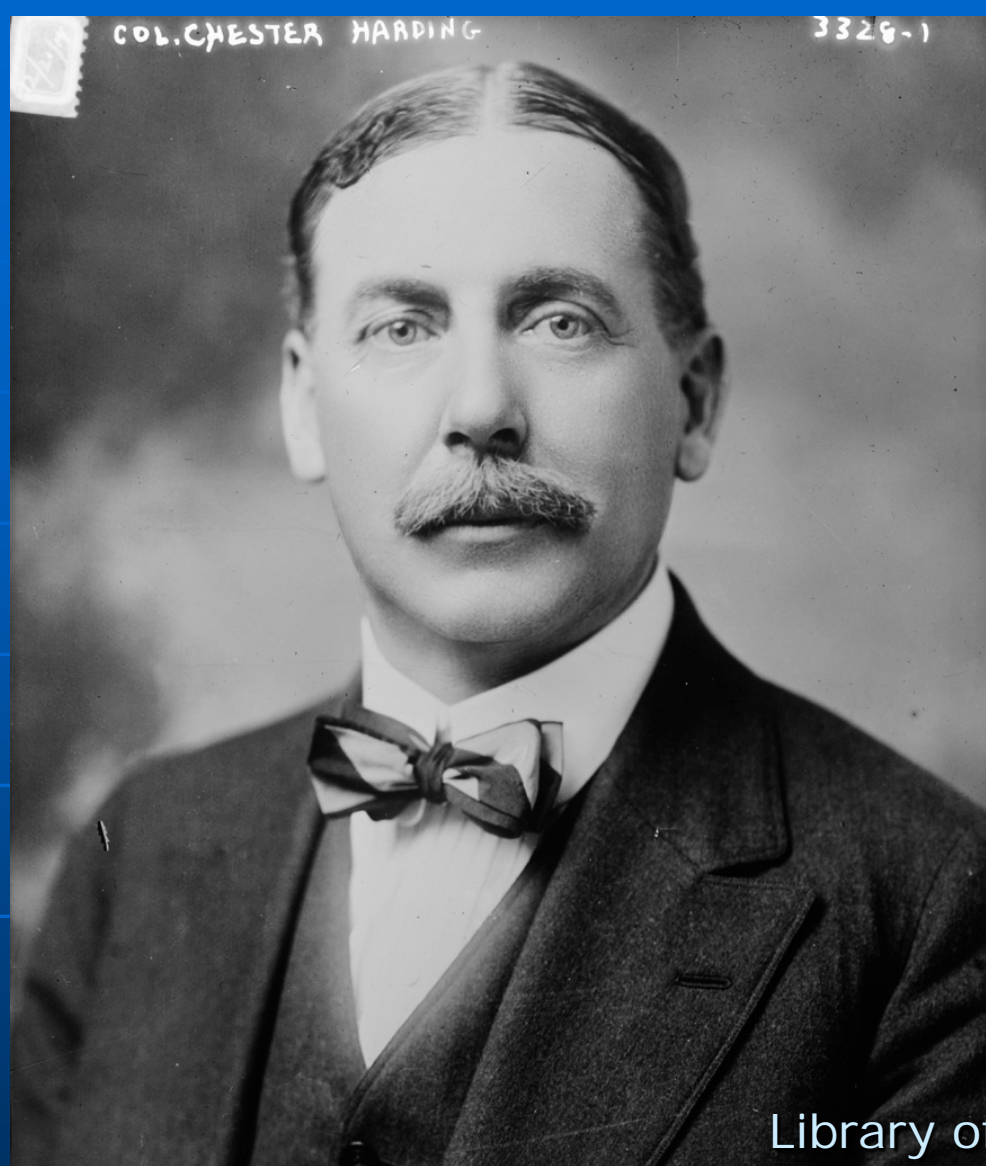
President Taft signs legislation creating the Commission March 4, 1913.



William McK. Clayton, founding president
of the Federation of Citizens Associations.

The 1913 law required DC public utility companies to:

- Furnish reasonably safe and adequate service and facilities;
- Establish charges that are reasonable, just, and nondiscriminatory; and
- Obey the lawful orders of the Public Utilities Commission.



Library of Congress

First two commissioners:
Col. Chester Harding (chairman); and Cuno Rudolph.



Library of Congress

The District Building, the Commission's first home.

REGULATED UTILITIES



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Electric corporations: Potomac Electric Power Co.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Gas corporations: Washington Gas Light Co.



Library of Congress

Telephone and telegraph corporations: Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co.



Library of Congress

Pipelines: Washington Market and Cold Storage Co.



Library of Congress

Pipelines: Washington Market and Cold Storage Co.



Library of Congress

Street railway companies: Washington Railway and Electric Co.



Library of Congress

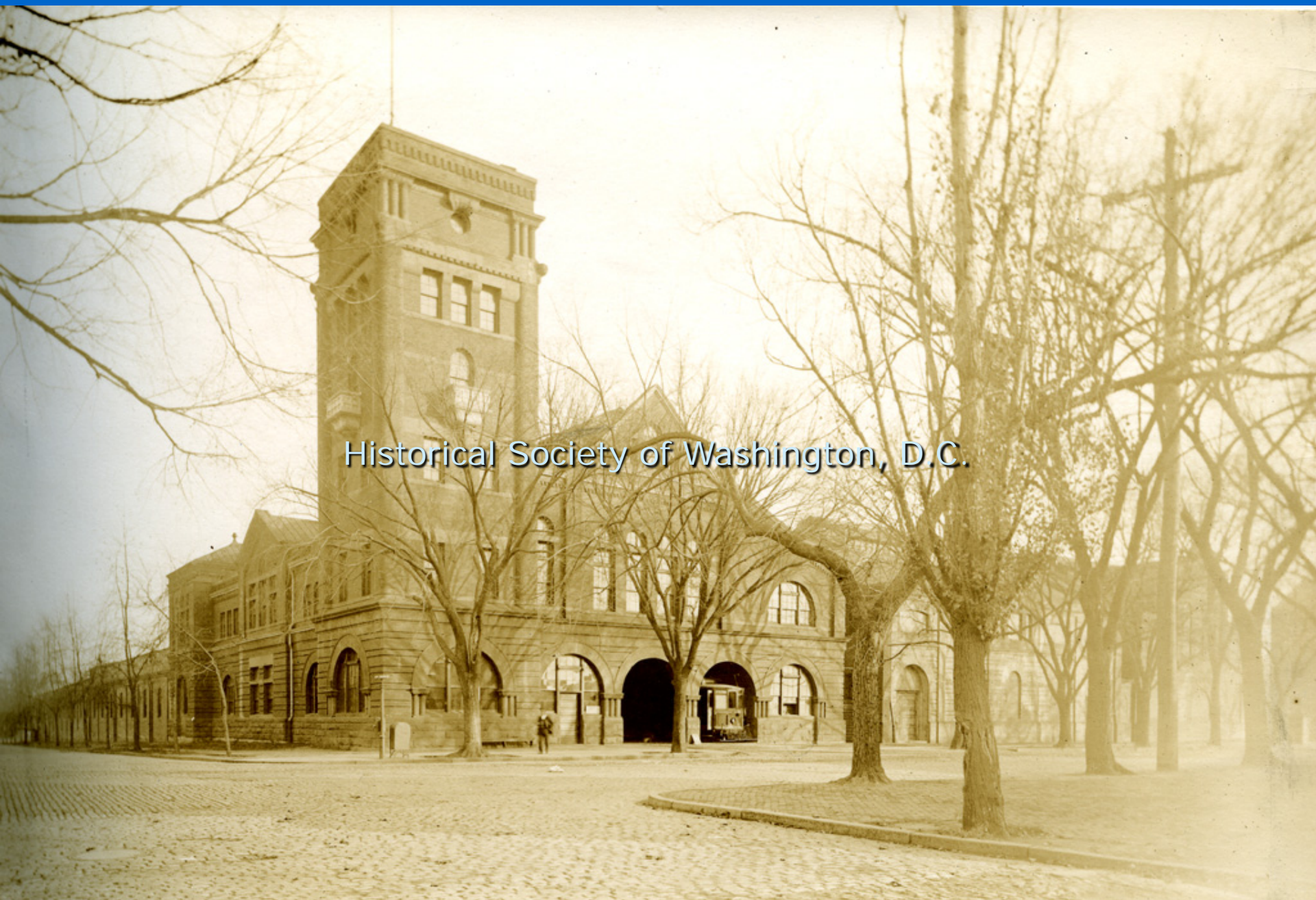
Taxicab companies: Federal Taxicab Co.



Library of Congress

Express companies: Adams Express Co.

THE COMMISSION'S EARLY YEARS



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Image from PUC's 1914 WR&E valuation report: 4-1/2 Street, SW, car barn.

A historical black and white photograph of a large industrial facility, likely a power plant. The image shows a long, high-ceilinged hall with brick walls and a series of large, arched windows at the far end. In the foreground and middle ground, several large, cylindrical turbo-generators are visible, each with various pipes, valves, and mechanical components. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights from the windows and deep shadows within the machinery and hall. The overall atmosphere is one of industrial scale and historical significance.

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Image from PUC's 1914 Capital Traction valuation report:
turbo-generators at Georgetown Power Plant



Pepco Archives

The PUC attempts to separate Potomac Electric Power Co. and WR&E.



C&P transports "telephone girls" to work during 1916 streetcar strike.



COURTESY OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Registration at Park View School, 1917.



Courtesy, Verizon Pioneers

Some of the New York and Philadelphia operators who responded to Washington SOS when old man Mars boosted toll and local traffic to such an extent that outside aid became imperative. Sept. 1917

C&P brings in extra telephone operators, 1917.



Library of Congress

15th and F streets, NW - World War I era.



Library of Congress

Near G Street, NW, World War I era.



Library of Congress

Red Cross canteen at Union Station during World War I.



War worker housing near Union Station, World War I era.



Library of Congress

Red Cross emergency ambulance station drill during 1918 influenza pandemic.



Walter Reed Hospital flu ward during 1918 pandemic.

Library of Congress



President Wilson (seen with his wife Edith) appoints the first female commissioner, Mabel Boardman, in September 1920.



Library of Congress

Red Cross Secretary Mabel Boardman is sworn in, Sept. 25, 1920.

The Evening Star.

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

Member of
The Associated
Presses
the use for republic
credited to it or
paper and also to
All rights
disputations

Yesterday's

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1920—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

VOTE "X" PROBLEM EXING REPUBLICANS

*Live-Wire Politicians Are
Workers to Cast Their Ballots
nocratic Party Candidates.*

DANGER.
ber 11.—How
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deliver to the
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sts the demo-
worries the re-
there is much
amps and it is
an perplexing
roman vote.
epublican man-
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at seventy-five
are in the em-
otions travelling
advising the
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vote for them.

hat the labor vote
900 men, and that
0,000 women, mem-
those males are en-
uka, will vote this
are mainly congest-
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at number of them
may be classed as
ection—Ohio, Indi-
ecticut, New York

Control Many.
nent in republican
as, reached after
d much discussion,
leaders who, have
he solid labor vote
able to turn over
of the vote. They
rking men are tak-

tack upon Gov. Cox's labor record in
Congress and the digging up of some
statements derogatory to him made at
the time by labor officials.

Republicans Expect Reaction

The republicans also expect to
reaction in their favor from the very
fact that organized labor has under-
taken to defeat the republican ticket.
It is calculated that when full realiza-
tion comes of that propaganda, indepen-
dent votes will be drawn to the republi-
can ticket, men who resent organized
labor's political activity in the black-
listing of a whole party Democratic
managers, while appreciative of kind
words from any source, are not unwill-
ing of this phase and realize that it
may not rebound entirely to their ad-
vantage, especially if toward the end
of the campaign the labor politicians
should become aggressive.

Aggressiveness, however, is just
what the democratic managers desire
to avoid, and the labor political work-
ers are being admonished to keep
their activities under cover as much
as possible, so as to avoid stirring up
a reaction. Indeed, this seems to be
the program which is being followed
and it is what worries the republicans.

Most of Work Secret.

The most of the work is being, it
is said, in the secrecy of the union
meetings, and in passing the word
quietly from man to man. The only
way the republicans can combat this
is by the distribution of literature
and the efforts of the campaign talk-
ers wherever laboring men can be
addressed in crowds.

The republicans have a highly com-
petent organization of foreign-lan-
guage voters and are making appeals

LEAGUE OF VOTERS STILL IN CONTROL OF NORTH DAKOTA

*State Paradox of Politics, as
Conservatives Unite for*

Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

Between now and election Mr. Law-
rence will visit every northern state, mak-
ing enquiries and reporting what he sees
and hears. Just before election he will
make a final summary, forecasting how
the doubtful states will vote.

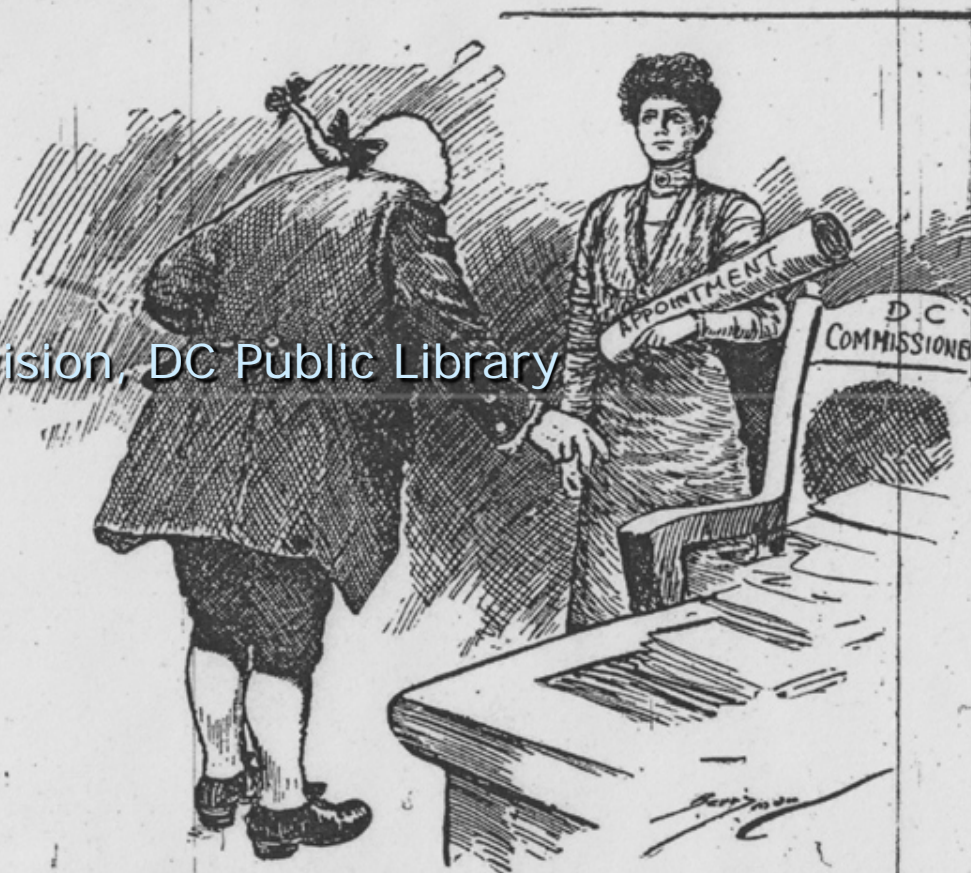
This is the second of a series of dis-
patches analyzing political sentiment in
western states visited by Gov. Cox.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

FARGO, N. D., September 11.—Po-
litically speaking, North Dakota is a
paradox. Nothing like it will be found
anywhere else in the Union. Here old-
line democrats and old-line republic-
ans, conservatives all, have formed
a combination known as the Inde-
pendent Voters' Association, the sole
object of which is to break the Non-
Partisan League's hold on North Da-
kota.

The fight over state offices is bit-
ter. Neither side cares a whole lot
about Harding or Cox. National polit-
ics is talked about only as it relates
to the use of funds to boost state
officers, and therein lies the chance
for blundering.

The Non-Partisan League doesn't
have as many state offices as it used
to have, and the Independent Voters'
Association is this time determined
to wrest control from the Non-Partisan
League, even if it means electing a
democrat—J. F. T. O'Connor—governor
to succeed Gov. Frazier, the Non-Parti-



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—"WELCOME, MISS COMMISSIONER!"

Mabel Boardman on the front page, Sept. 11, 1920.



Library of Congress

President Calvin Coolidge signs the bill restructuring the PUC, 1926.

Calendar No. 1041

69TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ No. 1024

REORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COM- MISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

—
JUNE 9, 1926.—Ordered to be printed
—

Mr. CAPPER, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, sub-
mitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 11119]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was re-
ferred the bill (H. R. 11119) to alter the personnel of the Public
Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, and for other
purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with
the recommendation that the bill do pass with the following amend-
ments:

Page 1, line 3, strike out the words "the first paragraph of."

Strike out lines 9 to 12, both inclusive, on page 1, and lines 1 to 16,
both inclusive, page 2, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

PAR. 97. (a) The Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia
shall be composed of three commissioners, as follows: (1) The engineer com-
missioner of the District of Columbia, and (2) two persons appointed by the
President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each of the ap-

1926 legislation gives the PUC two dedicated, full-time commissioners.



Library of Congress

The People's Counsel helps everyone during the Depression.


COMPANIES REGULATED BY THE COMMISSION

PEPCO



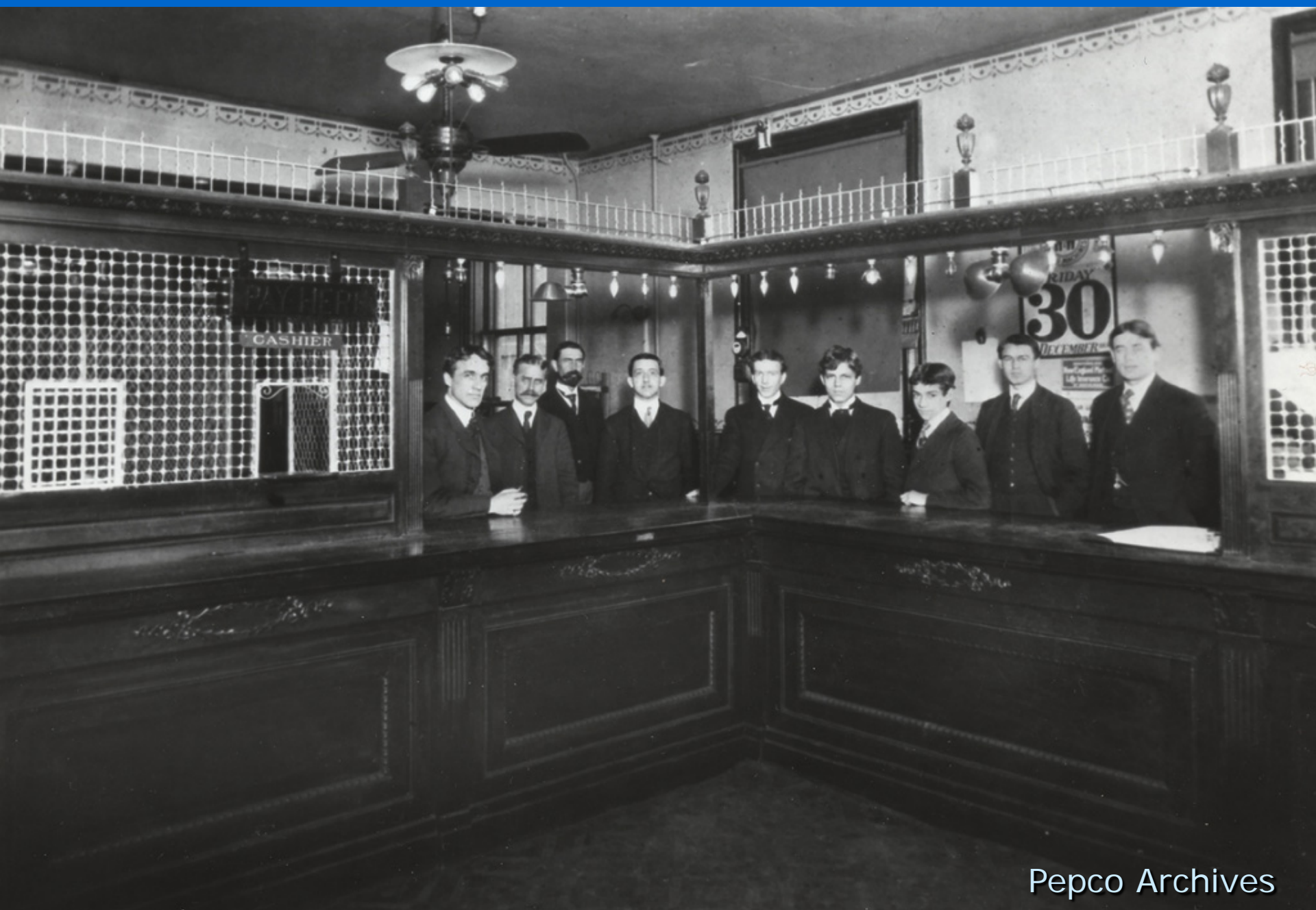
Pepco Archives

US Lighting Co. plant at 14th & B, NW – later merged with Pepco.

A black and white photograph of a large industrial power plant interior. The space is filled with rows of massive steam engines, each with large flywheels and complex piping. Several workers in period clothing are visible, standing near the machinery. The room has a high ceiling with a steel truss structure and large arched windows in the background. A wide, dark, curved metal structure, possibly a walkway or part of a machine, dominates the foreground. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, early 20th-century industrial facility.

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Pepco generation plant, ca. 1905.

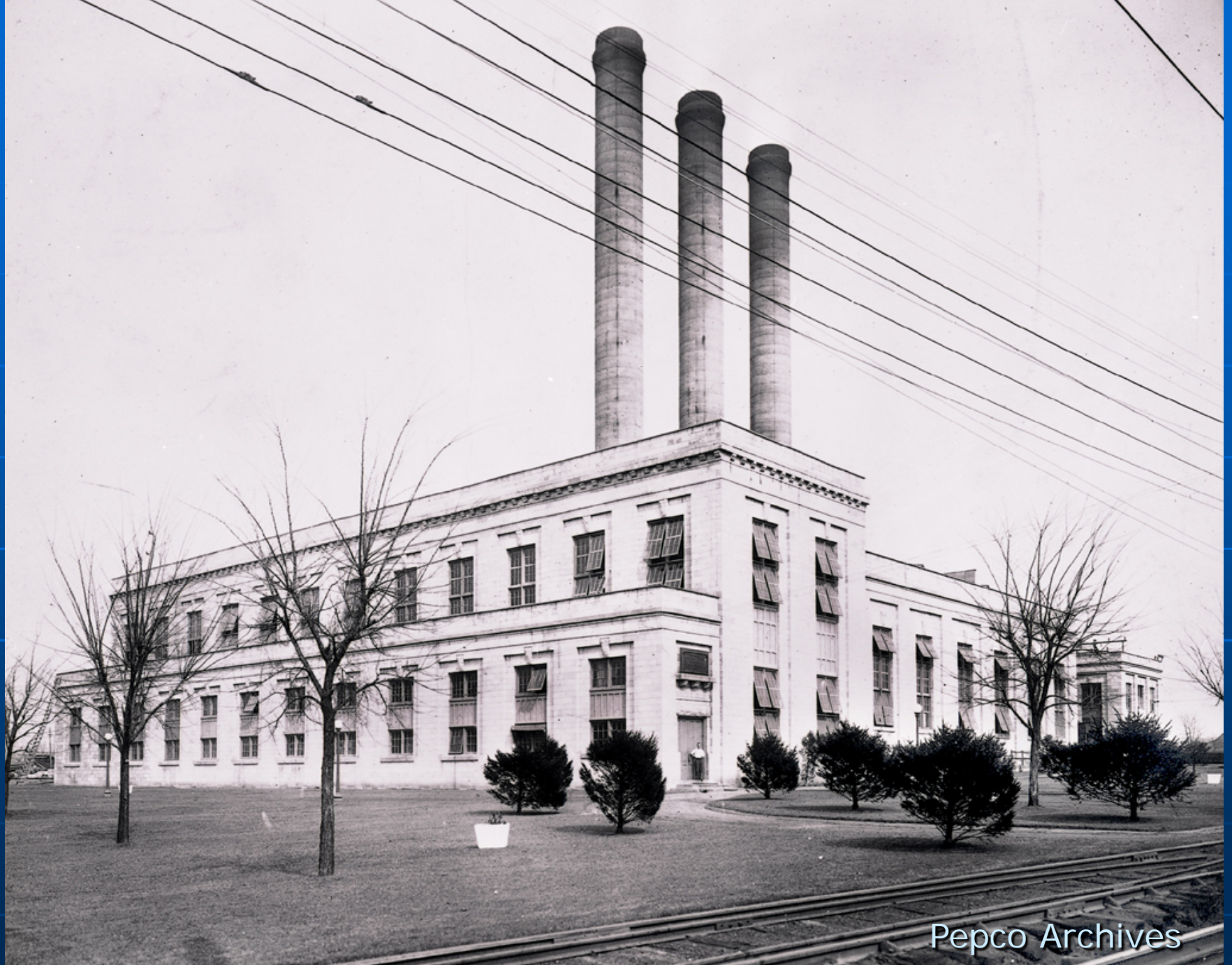


Pepco cashiers, 1909.



Pepco Archives

Changing a streetlight using a chain-driven truck.



Pepco Archives

Benning generation plant, opened 1908.



Pepco Archives

Unloading a direct current regulator into a substation ca. 1920.



Pepco Archives

Site of new Pepco headquarters.



Pepco Archives

Pepco's 10th and E headquarters, 1930s.

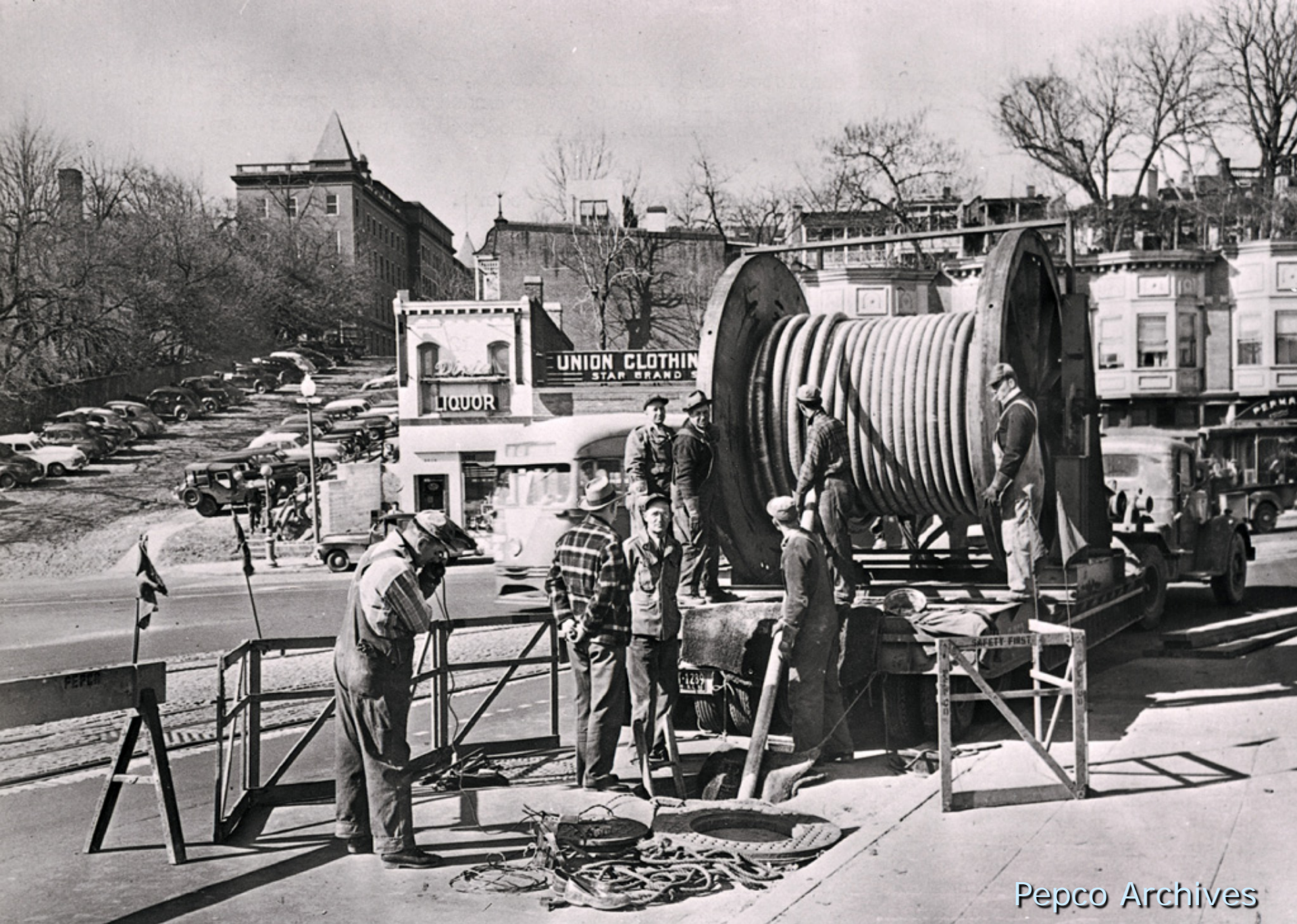
A TRULY MODERN KITCHEN IS

- THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED FOR CONVENIENCE
- ALL ELECTRIC FOR ECONOMY AND LABOR SAVING



Library of Congress

Pepco promotes the all-electric kitchen, 1937.



Pepco Archives

Laying cable in Georgetown, 1940s.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Coal yards at Pepco's Benning plant, 1946.



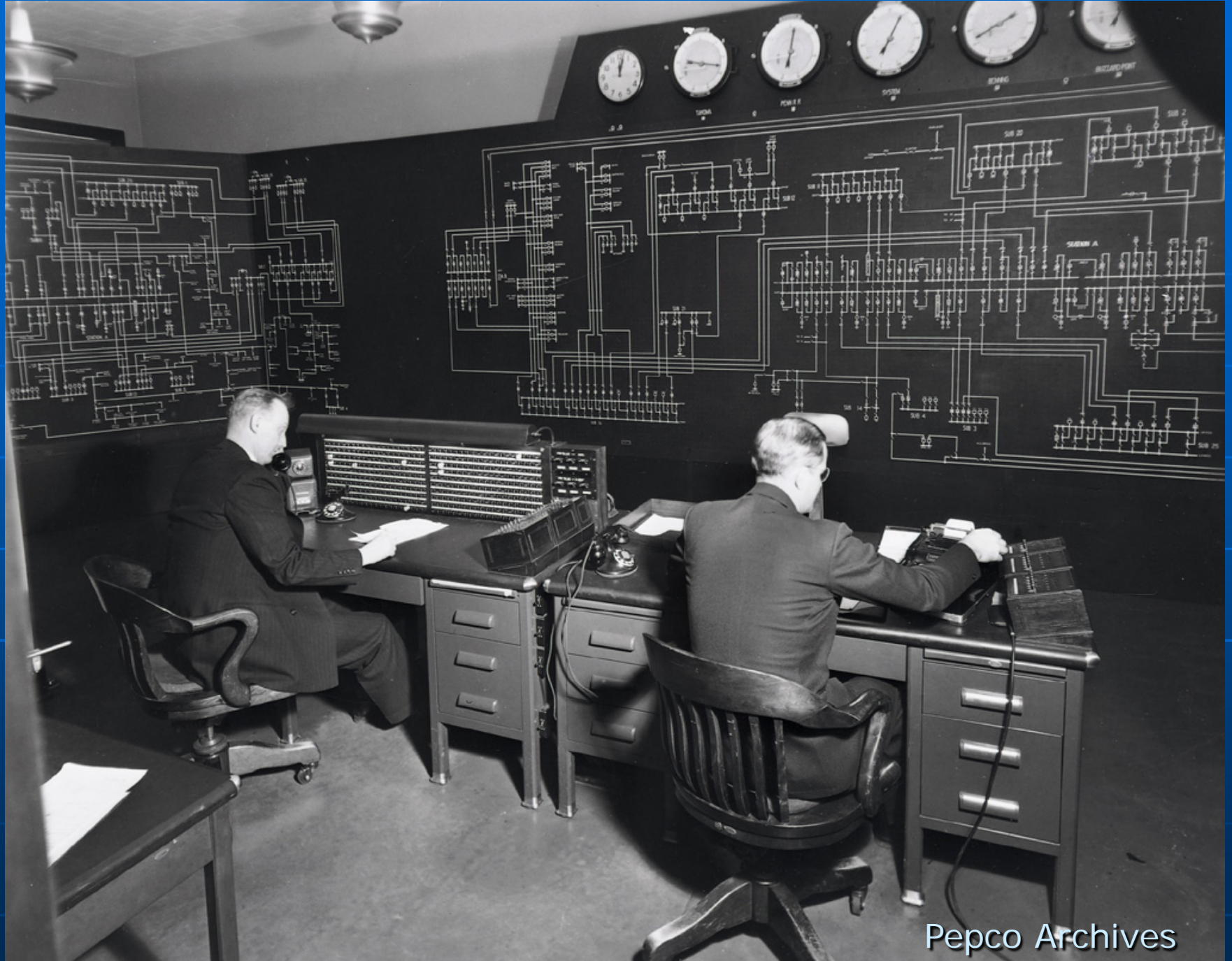
Library of Congress

Power transformers in Southeast DC.



Library of Congress

Pepco workers raising a pole.



Pepco Archives

Pepco control room, ca. 1950.



Pepco Archives

Installing new six-way conduit system, 1950s.

COMPANIES REGULATED
BY THE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON GAS CO.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

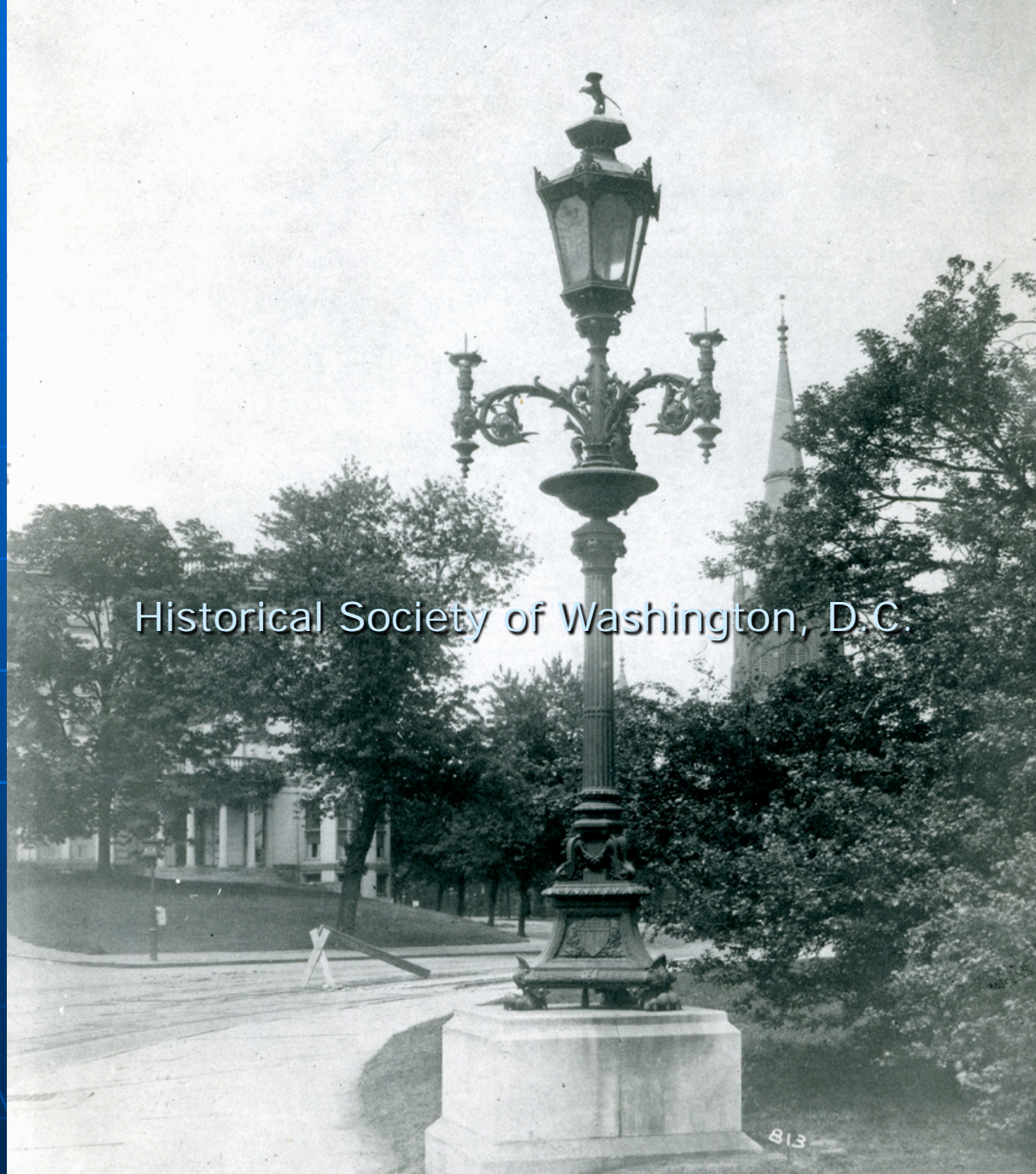
GAS WAS FIRST USED IN WASHINGTON IN THIS HOUSE, — 1766.

Crutchett house, North Capitol & C streets.



Library of Congress

Gasworks on the Mall, 1865.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Old gas fixture converted to electric fixture - Thomas Circle.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Washington Gas Light Co. employees, 1928.



Library of Congress
Washington Gas Light Co. plant in Northeast.



Library of Congress
Washington Gas headquarters at 413 10th Street (opened 1867).

Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post



New Washington Gas offices at 11th and H, NW, 1941.



Library of Congress

Movie star Ann Rutherford helps WGL promote gas appliances, 1940s.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

West Station gas plant, 1946.



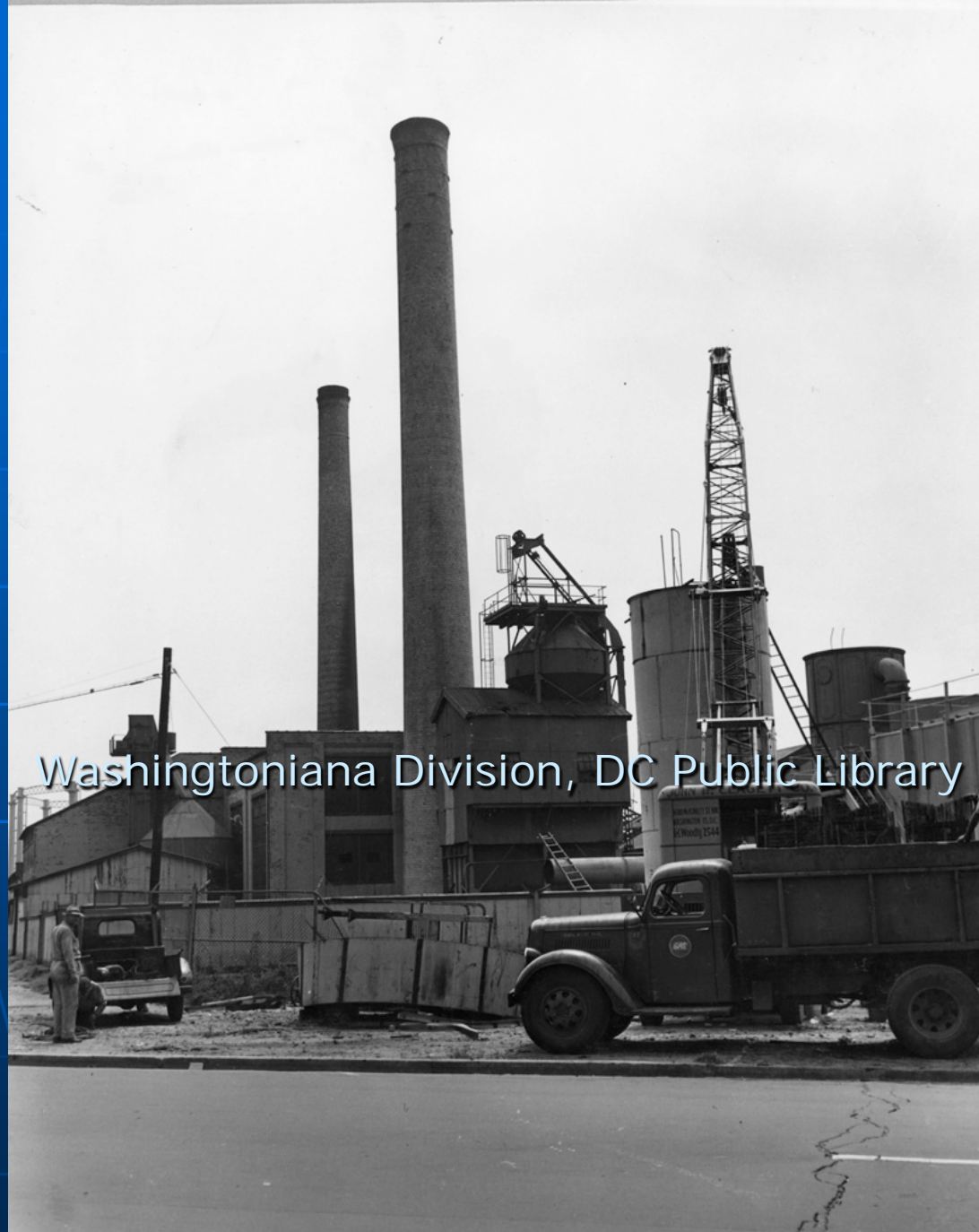
Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Demolition of West Station gas plant, 1947.




Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

Removing the old water set used in the manufacture of artificial gas, 1947.



Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

Dismantling the old West Station plant, 1947.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Washington Gas storage tanks at 11th and M, SE, 1950.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Remnants of the West Station plant, 1954.

COMPANIES REGULATED
BY THE COMMISSION

C&P TELEPHONE CO.



Courtesy, Verizon Pioneers

Washington Information, ca. 1910.



Library of Congress

Assembling telephones at C&P, 1925.



Plant Department

Courtesy, Verizon Pioneers

C&P Plant Department, 1920s.



Library of Congress

C&P employee working at files, 1920s.



Library of Congress

C&P Telephone switchboard, 1925.



Courtesy, Verizon Pioneers

William H. Mulligan is shown at a main distributing frame in Washington.

C&P main distribution system, ca. 1930.



Courtesy, Verizon Pioneers

Dr. Luther H. Reichelderfer, who dialed the first call in Washington May 3, 1930, and W.K. Greenleaf General Traffic Engineer, Washington 1930.

First dial telephone, 1930.



Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

C&P splicers, 1941



Courtesy, Verizon Pioneers

C&P operators, 1946.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Telephone booth in the 600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 1950s.

COMPANIES REGULATED
BY THE COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION



Pepco Archives

A horse-drawn streetcar.



Library of Congress

A 1919 streetcar accident. The PUC investigates utility company accidents.



Library of Congress
New bus service between Georgetown and Cherrydale (Arlington), about 1920.



Library of Congress
Streetcar tie-up in the snow, 1922. Companies must report delays to the PUC.



Library of Congress

Seventh and Pennsylvania 1930s.

Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post



PUC rerouting needs to be fine-tuned, 1936.



Library of Congress

Boy Scout sight-seeing trip, 1937.



Library of Congress

Greyhound Bus station during World War II.



Library of Congress

Chevy Chase Circle, 1942.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Clearing snow off the tracks, 1942.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Inspecting a new streetcar, 1945.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

A new D.C. Transit bus, 1956.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Celebrating D.C. Transit's new air-conditioned buses, 1958.

Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post



Proposed D.C. Transit bus shelter design, 1958.

WORLD WAR II ERA



Library of Congress

Civilian Defense Message Center, 1943.



Library of Congress

The boarding house telephone is always in use.



Library of Congress

The use of motor buses and taxis for sightseeing is banned.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Normal traffic on 14th Street, NW (south of Thomas Circle), 1942.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Taxi drivers strike over PUC restrictions, 1942.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Taxi strike, 1942.



Star Collection, DC Public Library: © Washington Post

Streetcar crowding during taxi strike.



Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., speaks at a citizens meeting to protest Capital Transit's refusal to hire African-American drivers, 1942.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

A demonstration heading downtown (seen at 11th and Vermont, NW)



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Capital Transit hires women operators in 1943.



Interjurisdictional issues arise over transportation to new Defense Dept. offices.

POST-WORLD WAR II ERA



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Trying to hail a cab during the streetcar strike, 1945.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Crowding into a cab during the 1945 streetcar strike.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

The PUC approves a new taxi association, 1946. Engineer Commissioner Gordon R. Young, center, inaugurates the fleet.

"... UPSET BY RADIO COMMERCIALS IN STREETCARS?
TRY DR. SCHMOODLE'S SOOTHING STOMACH SYRUP..."





Star Collection, DC Public Library: © Washington Post

PUC cab fare hearing, 1951.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Traffic during 1955 streetcar strike.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Traffic during 1955 streetcar strike.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

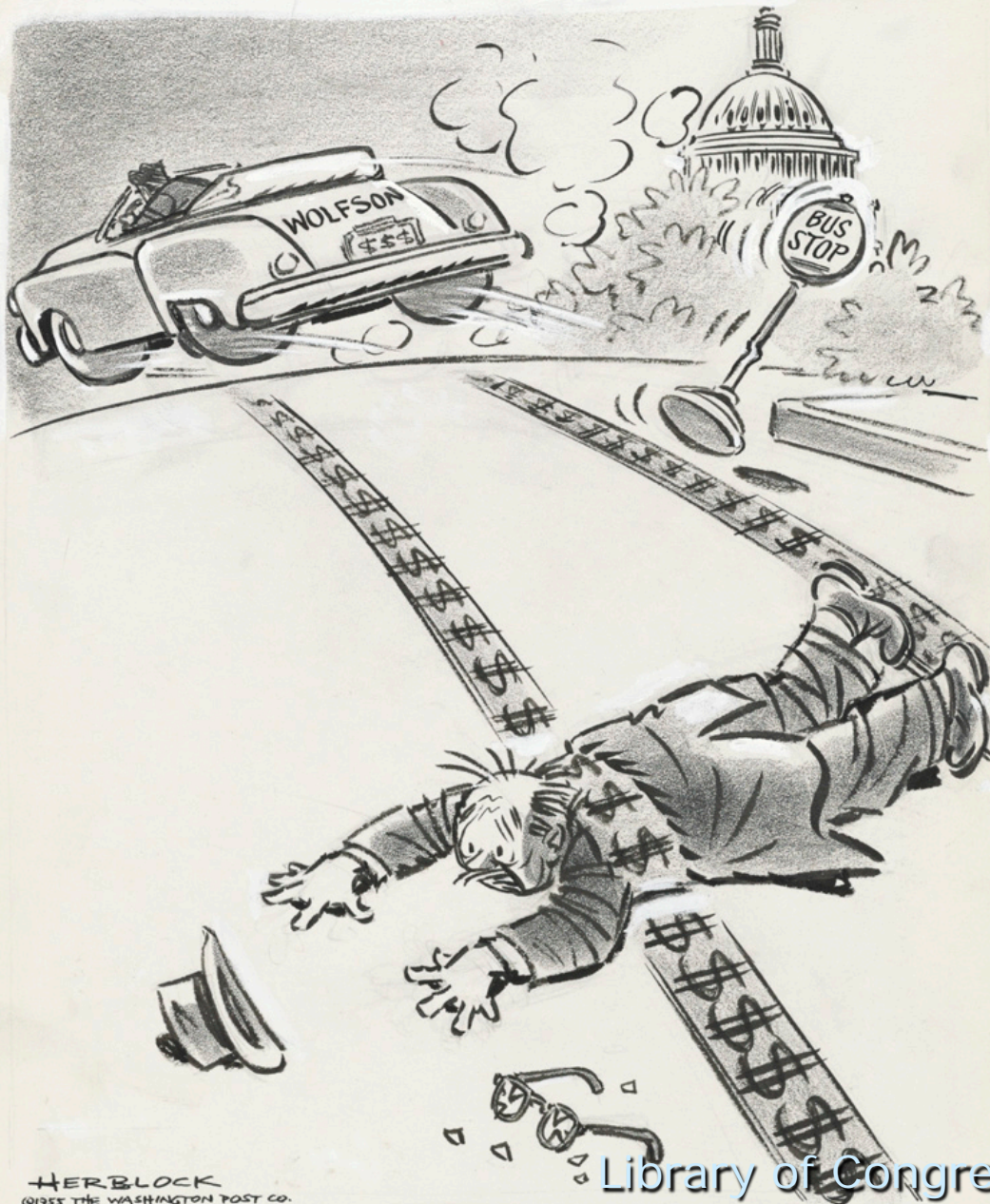
Leaving contact info on windshield in case strike ends and car must be moved.

A black and white photograph showing two men in the foreground. The man on the right is Louis Wolfson, wearing a dark suit and tie, looking towards the left. The man on the left is older, wearing a light-colored suit and tie, looking towards the right. In the background, a man in a police uniform stands next to a man in a dark suit who is holding a camera. The image is set against a blue background with a faint grid pattern.

Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Capital Transit owner Louis Wolfson, right, 1955.

CAPITAL TRANSIENT





Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Clearing the rail after 1955 streetcar strike - 16th & Columbia, NW.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Sweeping rails after 1955 streetcar strike - Tenleytown



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Happy commuters after 1955 streetcar strike.



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Judge Nathan Clayton swears in George E.C. Hayes, 1955.

A black and white photograph of a man, identified as Chairman Hayes, sitting at a table during a hearing. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned bow tie. He is holding a large, light-colored folder or book in his left hand and looking towards the right side of the frame. On the table in front of him are several stacks of papers and a glass of water. In the background, other people are visible, including a man with glasses and a woman, all appearing to be part of the committee or audience. The setting is a formal room with large windows and wood paneling.

Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Chairman Hayes testifies before House District Committee.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

PSC moves to the Cafritz Building, 1625 I Street, NW, 1963.

HOME RULE ERA



Star Collection, DC Public Library; © Washington Post

Mayor Walter E. Washington with President Lyndon B. Johnson.



Judge Theodore Newman swears in Elizabeth Patterson, 1977. Also pictured:
CM Hilda Mason, CM Jerry Moore, Mayor Walter Washington, Mr. Patterson,
and Commissioner Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt.

Users of Utilities In District Get A Bill of Rights

By Jack Eisen

Washington Post Staff Writer

A "consumer bill of rights" that tightens rules for disconnecting household utility services in the District of Columbia and sets up new machinery for refereeing customer complaints was adopted yesterday by the D.C. Public Service Commission.

The document outlaws the imposition of security deposits as a condition for getting telephone service, and puts a ceiling of \$100 on deposits that all utility firms can require from customers who consistently are late in paying their bills.

member PSC at which the 27-page document was read aloud, line by line. The unanimous approval followed four years of sporadic study, deliberations and hearings.

Only utility lawyers and reporters were in the audience when the final vote came.

No effective date was set for the new rules. PSC Chairman Elizabeth Hayes Patterson said it probably will be announced in a formal order to be issued later, probably Friday.

There was no detailed analysis available of how the new rules will specifically affect the three utility companies involved, the Potomac

The DC PSC adopts the country's first Consumer Bill of Rights, 1979.



Pepco Archives

Orientation for new Pepco customer service staff
on various types of metering equipment, 1980s.

Utility Regulators Feeling Heat Of Increased Public Scrutiny

By Elizabeth Tucker
Washington Post Staff Writer

The power and the politics have always been there, but for many years, the public officials who set utility rates in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia did so largely outside of the consciousness of the consumers who paid them.

Now, with higher rates and major shifts in the nature of the utility industry under deregulation, those same officials are encountering more pressure and publicity—and in some cases finding themselves in the middle of controversy as they sort out the increasingly

complicated issues resulting from deregulation.

"It's getting more difficult because the consumer has gotten accustomed to one set of rates and [to] stability, and the ratepayer is very confused about what he is entitled to," said Maryland Public Service Commissioner Claude M. Ligon, the newest addition to the Maryland body.

"Utilities are branching out into unregulated areas. . . . We all are being exposed to ways of doing things we haven't been accustomed to in the past," he said.

In addition to having a more complicated job, commissioners are subjected to greater

See PSC, page 34



PSC Chairman Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt, Commissioner Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor Marion Barry, Commissioner Wesley Long, 1980.

COMPETITION ARRIVES

THE BEST DEAL ON A PHONE IS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVINGROOM.

If you're a District of Columbia customer, doesn't it make sense to own the Bell phone you now lease? The one you're already happy with.

Now you can own it, instead of leasing it. Pay for it once or in easy monthly installments. So in the long run, you could save money.

This is a new choice for any Bell Standard, Princess[®], or Trimline[®] phone (Touch-Tone[®] or Rotary).

For an example of the prices, look at the picture below. You can continue leasing with maintenance included, if you choose. But if you want to own the phone in your home, just call 1 800 554-3400, or fill out the coupon and send it in now.



Princess (Touch-Tone)
Buy: \$39⁰⁰
1 yr. lease: \$46^{92*}

Standard (Rotary)
Buy: \$18²⁵
1 yr. lease: \$20^{94*}

Trimline
Touch-Tone
Buy: \$41⁵⁰
1 yr. lease: \$53^{94*}

Call toll-free

1 800 554-3400

MODEL

NO. OF SETS

COLOR

(CHECK ONE)

☐ Rotary Dial ☐ Touch-Tone

☐ Rotary Dial ☐ Touch-Tone

☐ Rotary Dial ☐ Touch-Tone

Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____

City _____ (where your phones are located)

State and local taxes apply to all purchases. Phone Number (_____) _____ area code

(CHECK ONE) ☐ Bill to my phone acc't as one payment.

☐ Bill to my phone acc't in 4 monthly installments (only available on purchase of \$25 or more)

MAIL TO: C&P TELEPHONE, P.O. BOX 49208, Atlanta, GA 30359.

*Subject to change.



C&P Telephone

Buy or lease, we give you a choice.

The AT&T Breakup: A World of Confusion

By Peter Behr
and Michael Isikoff
Washington Post Staff Writers

For most of this century, the telephone has been a simple necessity of American life, as much taken for granted as the kitchen faucet.

That relationship between Americans and their telephone is about to be turned inside out. On New Year's Day, American Telephone & Telegraph Co., the country's oldest and biggest monopoly, will be broken up into eight separate billion-dollar companies, accelerating a chain re-

pay much more than that, depending on where you live. It can be 100 percent or 200 percent."

In the District, the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Cos. have proposed to raise the flat monthly local telephone charge from \$8.83 to \$13.08 and the cost of a pay phone call from 15 cents to 25 cents. Larger rate requests are pending in suburban Maryland and Virginia. C&P President Thomas Gibbons predicts that local rates in the Washington metropolitan area will double in the next several years.

Nationally, the local Bell phone companies—about to be separated from AT&T—are seeking an unprecedented \$6.7 billion in higher rates and fees, at least in part to help cover the costs of divestiture. In addition, the Federal Communications

TURMOIL OVER TELEPHONES

PART 1



AT&T-Bell no longer owns all pay phones (1987 photo).



PSC authorizes Pepco to sell its generation plants, including Buzzard Pt., 1999.

THE COMMISSION'S HOMES



Library of Congress

Old City Hall – the Commission's home during most of the 1980s.



SEC Building, 450 Fifth Street, NW: the Commission's home 1987-1996.



Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

717 14th Street, NW: the Commission's home from 1996 to 2000.



1333 H Street, NW: the Commission's home since 2000.

ENTERING THE SECOND CENTURY



PSC inspection of manholes.



Pepco Archives

The PSC continues to examine the question of whether Pepco should underground cables in neighborhoods that are historically prone to outages caused by storms.



Courtesy, Louise Meyer

The PSC must help the District meet its goals for renewable energy.



Pepco Archives

Consumers may choose their electricity generator. The PSC licenses generators and regulates Pepco, the sole distributor.



PSC staff conduct a natural gas inspection.



A PSC employee inspects a smart meter.



A Verizon employee inspects a cable box in the copper (landline) system. The PSC is addressing issues related to the maintenance of the copper system.



A staff person explains PSC programs to help save energy and money.
In the era of competition, the PSC's role includes informing utility customers
of their rights and responsibilities.



A 2011 PSC hearing: Commissioner Rick Morgan,
Chairman Betty Ann Kane, Commissioner Lori Murphy Lee.



Commissioner Joanne Doddy Fort and Chair Betty Ann Kane
with PSC staff, early 2013.