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## "Mayor Labels Lack of Funds No. 1 Problem"

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Appeal, Memphis, Thursday, August 5, 1976

# Mayor Labels Lack Of Funds No. 1 Problem

Mayor Wyeth Chandler said yesterday the city's foremost problem is getting enough money to provide necessary services.

Chandler was the speaker at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club at the Ramada Inn-Downtown.

During a question-and-answer session, the mayor said Memphians might have approved a quarter-cent increase in the city's sales tax in a referendum last year if they had known the alternative.

"If they had faced a choice of having a quarter-cent tax on everything they bought or having their property tax go up 41 cents, they might have voted differently," he said.

The mayor also said more litigation should be expected on the Overton Park expressway. No matter what plan is approved by U.S. Transportation Secretary William Coleman, he said, opponents of the expressway will fight it in court.

"I just hope my grandchildren will be able to ride on it."

Before his appearance, the Kiwanis Club adopted a resolution favoring the building of the expressway through the park. Only one member of the club objected to the resolution, voting against it with a loud "no."

Chandler also said the city is making progress in collecting unpaid traffic tickets and has applied for a grant to study the feasibility of banning automobiles downtown.

"We're not going to do anything that would hurt business. We're just going to see if we can do anything better than we're doing it now. It's a mess."