

County Faces Heating Problem In Buildings

Commissioners Must Find Means of Caring for Three Structures

One of the problems facing the Hampden County commissioners in the near future will be that of the heating of the present two county buildings and the third future county building which is soon to be vacated by the Springfield Institution for Savings. The commission has a tentative contract with the banking institution for its purchase when vacated.

In the immediate future, the Springfield Gas Light Co. will discontinue live steam, which has been furnished to many buildings along lower State St.

35 Buildings

Reconstruction of Rte. 91 in the section of the gas plant has brought about this change which terminates live steam service for approximately 35 large structures. Actually, the live steam service of the company dates back 100 years, allowing for a brief discontinuance and later a renewal in the early '20s.

At present, Chairman William F. Stapleton said today, the commission is awaiting a report from the Daniel T. McCarthy Associates, heating specialists, which may help to solidify their plans for the heating problem before the actual need for separate heating units arrives.

During the periods when the live steam service of the gas company was suspended, the county employed firemen and heated the Courthouse and Hall of Records from an underground coal boiler between the two buildings. This chamber is still in existence and if and when a decision is made regarding the type of heat generation is made, it is certain that the steam heating unit will be in the same boiler room.

May Absorb Cost

When the SIS structure is taken over by the county, predicted in a matter of months, the heating of that structure will be a separate installation, the chairman said. The cost of this installation may be absorbed in the legislative authorization obtained several years ago for a loan to purchase a third county building, which is soon to be activated.

However, the costs of a new heating unit for the two older county structures is yet to be determined. It may be necessary for legislative authorization for this cost which had not been foreseen when the county budget was prepared.