

# HALL'S HAT IN RING FOR LEGAL POST

S. A. T. Times  
2-18-29

## Fight for Utility Rates Cut Pledged as He Enters City Attorney Race

Basing his appeal to the voters on the promise of a vigorous fight against exorbitant public utility rates, Peirson M.

Hall formally announced his candidacy for the office of City Attorney yesterday. He represents the Eleventh District in the City Council. He already has announced his intention to retire from the Council at the end of his present term.



PEIRSON  
M. HALL

In a statement concerning his candidacy, Councilman Hall asserts that one of the chief duties of the City Attorney is to defend the public against unjustified increases in public utility rates. He

not only pledges himself to fight against any further increase in these rates but indicates that he will make an effort to have the present rates lowered, arguing that they are exorbitant in view of the constantly decreasing costs of other commodities.

"Having been a member of the bar for more than twelve years and a member of the City Council for four years, I feel that I know the business of the city of Los Angeles, not only from a practical point of view but also from the viewpoint of an attorney," Hall says.

"In contrast to the low rates for electricity, the telephone monopoly, owned and controlled by outside financial interests, through shrewd manipulation has obtained excessive increases in rates. It is my opinion that, if the methods and manipulations of this monopoly are exposed and vigorously presented to the proper authorities, telephone users will be saved millions of dollars in rate reductions."

He condemned also gas and street railway rates.

# Councilman Hall Enters Race for City Attorney

L. A. F. & M.  
2-18-29

Councilman Pierson M. Hall yesterday formally announced his candidacy for the office of City Attorney at the primary election to be held May 7.

"Failure to obtain relief for the taxpayers from excessive telephone, gas and street car fares; the necessity for the important office of city attorney being in charge of one who is thoroughly familiar with the business of the city and who will aggressively conduct that business and



PIERSON M. HALL  
Enters Race

obtain results," says Hall, "are the principal factors which have induced me to become a candidate for city attorney in the coming election."

# HALL OUTLINES STAND ON CITY POWER ISSUE

LA. EX. 5-16 R 92  
Declares Support of Municipally Owned Utilities One of Vital Points in Race

Declaring that support and protection of Los Angeles' municipally owned water and power utilities is

one of the vital issues of the campaign for city attorney, Councilman Peirson M. Hall, one of the successful primary candidates, yesterday issued a statement outlining his position. The statement follows:

"I realize that I am fighting against a combination of powerful private interests which I have consistently opposed during the



Pierson M. Hall

past four years in the City Council. "The next city attorney will be responsible for the outcome of the pending suit against the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation to enjoin it from using thousands of miles of city streets without a franchise and without any payment therefor.

"He will be responsible for the outcome of the pending case against the street railway company in the Supreme Court of the United States.

"He will be responsible for the result of any action against the telephone company to bring its present excessive rates down to a fair and reasonable basis.

"The next city attorney will sustain a vital relation to the city's great water and power utilities. The man selected for that office should be one whose public record demonstrates that he will protect the city against the powerful interests which constantly are seeking to control, cripple or destroy these utilities.

"If selected, I shall stand as heretofore in my public work, firmly for the city and against all selfish and privilege-seeking interests."

# PEIRSON M. HALL

## CITY ATTORNEY

### BECAUSE:

1. He is a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court, the American Bar Association, the California State Bar, and the Los Angeles Bar Association. His four years of service in the City Council have given him a broad and intimate contact with all phases of City Government and has trained and equipped him so that he is the outstanding candidate for City Attorney.

2. Hall has acted while others are promising, in regard to special assessments, for he has already effected amendments of the state assessment laws for the benefit of the property owner, and to his perseverance is due the introduction of further amendments now pending that will practically outlaw over-lapping and confiscatory assessments.

3. He has shown his ability and his intention to develop—not destroy—the \$225,000,000 investment of the people in their municipally owned and operated Harbor, Water and Power properties.

4. As Chairman of the Water and Power Committee of the City Council, he was one of the leaders in the successful fight for Boulder Dam.

5. He is and has always been opposed to placing industries in residential areas.

6. He has launched a state-wide fight to secure reductions in the extortionate telephone rates now paid by Los Angeles, and has already received the support of many other California cities laboring under the same excessive telephone rates.

7. He has inaugurated the procedure for legal action against the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation and the Southern California Gas Co., to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars for the use of city streets for which he has shown that the

companies never had a city franchise and who do not now pay anything for the privilege. These streets have cost you millions to acquire and millions more to pave and repave after they are torn up.

8. In all important matters such as Increased Street Car fare, the Collins Case, the desecration of Hollywood Cemetery for shops—Police Brutality—Boulder Dam—Airports—the destruction of Westlake Park—Victory Park—all matters of intense public interest and of great moment—he has been found not just on the side of right—but out in the front fighting for the right, regardless of the popularity.

9. His advocacy of immediate financial assistance by the city for the flood sufferers of the St. Francis disaster has not only saved the city millions of dollars but has resulted in preserving and also spreading to the world that the city of Los Angeles values honor above all else.

10. He has demonstrated consistently and repeatedly by his record in the City Council that he owes but one allegiance—to the side of right—and that he cannot be cowed or dominated by the vested interests, special cliques, political bosses or machines.

11. California's greatest monument to civic enterprise, the Los Angeles City Hall, became a reality largely through his efforts in his capacity as Chairman of the special City Hall Committee of the Council.

12. When he was elected to the City Council four years ago, he was a successful practicing attorney, and after two years the people of his district expressed their approval of his services by re-electing him at the primaries, winning every precinct but three, against a field opposing him in combination with the same reactionary forces that are now seeking to prevent his election as City Attorney.

### BIOGRAPHY

PEIRSON M. HALL has lived in Los Angeles for the past 17 years and has registered and voted in Los Angeles at every election since he became of age. He attended the University of Southern California Law School, working his way through, and has been practicing law here for 12 years. Peirson M. Hall is a Mason and an Elk.

Peirson M. Hall's legal training has served him and the people well during his four years in the City Council. His record reveals he has been instrumental in saving the people hundreds of thousands of dollars. His aggressiveness and his ability has been proved time without number by the fact that he has often led the fight of a small minority struggling for ideals in government to victory—for the people.

“ASK THE MEN WHO KNOW HIM”

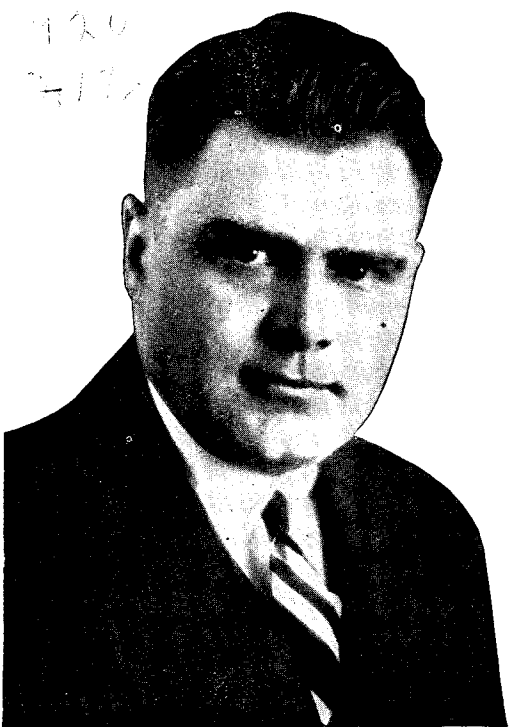
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 Young, Margaret

and thousands of other individuals and scores of organizations who know his legal ability.



*"Ask the Men Who Know Him"*

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**Eleventh District****Peirson M. Hall**

Member of City Council	July 1, 1925 - June 30, 1929
United States Attorney for Southern District of California	May 1, 1933 to September 1, 1937
Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court	December 1939 - 1940
Head, Selective Service System	1941
Judge, Federal District Court	February 18, 1942 - December 1979

Peirson Hall was born in Armour, South Dakota, July 31, 1894. He attended two years of high school in Tecumseh, Nebraska and lived in a Nebraska orphanage for a time before moving to Los Angeles in 1912 determined to become a lawyer. After a one-year course of study at Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles, he attended the University of Southern California Night Law School from 1912-1916. He was admitted to the California Bar and began his law practice in 1916.

During his two terms on the Council, he fought successfully for a comprehensive traffic and street plan for the city and authored legislation regulating flying over the city and providing for the licensing of pilots. He ran unsuccessfully for City Attorney in 1929.

He married Gertrude May Engel in 1930, and they had two children.

He served on the City Council of Los Angeles from 1925-1929, was secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee in 1932, and became U. S. District Attorney for the Southern District of California in 1933. He was in charge of draft registration in Los Angeles from 1941-42, and Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Federal bench on February 18, 1942. He continued to serve as a Federal judge until the late 1970's, and was considered the foremost authority on aviation law among the nation's 500 Federal judges.