

LINDSAY SURVEYS CITY FROM COPTER

Views Problems in Company With Two Architects

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

Representative John V. Lindsay, Republican-Liberal designee for Mayor, took a helicopter tour of the city's physical problems yesterday afternoon for a wide-ranging overview of what's wrong with New York.

His guides for the hour-and-a-half excursion were two architects, Philip Johnson and Robert L. Zion. The survey, the first step toward the formulation of a Lindsay campaign platform of urban design, covered the five boroughs, two islands and almost every trouble spot in the city's geography.

Problems viewed and discussed were urban housing, open land, waterfront design, transportation facilities, against a backdrop of slums, decay and unplanned development.

"I'm very depressed at what we saw, but excited by the potential," Mr. Lindsay said.

"I was pleased by Mr. Lindsay's excitement," Mr. Zion, a landscape architect and park planner, reported.

'A Very Sad Trip'

"The only green we saw in Brooklyn was for the dead—in the cemeteries," said Mr. Johnson, who is best known for his work in the more fashionable parts of New York, such as the State Theatre at Lincoln Center and the most recent addition to the Museum of Modern Art. "It was a very sad trip."

The tour began with a waterfront inspection. "It's so far gone that there's hope to start all over again," said Mr. Lindsay. "It's in a dead state of corruption."

The flight proceeded over the route of the Lower Manhattan Expressway, which he opposes. "If it can't be stopped legally, change the law," he said.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard was examined next for its redevelopment potential after its closing, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant section for its lack of parks and open space. The sight of the Prospect Expressway, an elevated highway, "made it imperative to re-examine expressways and what they do to cities," Mr. Lindsay said.

"Expressways ruin everyone's life along the way and destroy historic sites," Mr. Johnson amplified.

Governors Island, the candidate and his advisers said, should become public park when the Army vacates it. Hydrofoils were suggested as water transportation.

"Staten Island is being devoured by the land grabbers," Mr. Lindsay observed pessimistically.

Other Points on Tour

The flight continued to other controversial spots—Coney Island, Breezy Point and the World's Fair. The group noted that unless public transportation was planned for Breezy Point, almost all of the area would be taken up in parking lots.

They were particularly critical of the post-fair plans for Flushing Meadow Park.

"A hand-me-down, 'Scotch-tape job,' said Mr. Lindsay. "This is not a master plan for a growing community like Queens."

"It is a 50-year-old plan that didn't work then, with some odd structures left standing around," added Mr. Johnson. "It's not architecture, it's not city planning, it's not park planning, and it's not progress."

The trip continued to the Long Island Expressway, to Welfare Island, into East Harlem and up to the Bronx, to the site of Co-op City, which will be New York's largest housing development, then back over the Harlem River and Morningside Heights to the starting point, the West Side helicopter terminal at 30th Street.

"My enthusiasm for the city's potential far outstrips my depression over smog, decay, absence of greenery and missed opportunities," a wind-blown Mr. Lindsay summed up.

"There is great hope for New York. But it will require bold action, sweeping vision and daring plans. This is the day for long-range planning and the use of experts. And you've got to be tough about it. Our city management has been 'un-modern' for too long."

Mr. Lindsay later attended a block party in Benjamin Gladstone Square, a triangular park area in the Southeast Bronx, where he addressed a crowd of about 800, most of them youngsters.

Admiration for Mayor

Meanwhile, the Liberal party made it clear that it still admired Mayor Wagner even though it will be allied with the Republicans in the forthcoming mayoralty campaign.

The occasion was the swearing-in by the Mayor at City Hall of Amos Basel, New York County chairman of the Liberal party, as a \$25,000-a-year judge of the Criminal Court.

When Dr. Timothy J. Costello, state chairman of the Liberal party and candidate for President of the City Council on Mr. Lindsay's ticket, was hailed by the Mayor to speak, he said:

"Each of us has known Mayor Wagner as a great person and

a great Mayor." The remark was greeted with applause.

City Council President Paul R. Screvane, one of the four Democratic candidates for the mayoral nomination, was at City Hall part of the day attending to city business and later conferred with campaign aides on organizational problems.

Controller Abraham D. Beame worked on a speech he is to deliver today. Representative William F. Ryan made a speech to a group of postal workers on legislation he is sponsoring to raise their pay and discussed with aides possible candidates on his ticket for City Council President and Controller.

Councilman Paul O'Dwyer, the fourth aspirant, spent much of the day preparing petitions his workers will circulate. He, like the others, needs the signatures of 5,000 enrolled Democrats to get on the primary ballot.