

31/3/65
**St. Luke's Put
Back On Bond
Fund Project**

**All 9 Hospitals
Agree To Allocation
Cut If Necessary**

St. Luke's Hospital was placed back on the county hospital bond issue proposal last night under an agreement that all nine bond-issue participants take a proportionate reduction in their allocations if necessary.

Reinstatement of St. Luke's was approved by the Lucas County Hospital Commission after a move to withhold the \$18 million bond issue from the November ballot was defeated by a single vote.

The hospital commission's recommendation provides funds for St. Luke's, St. Vincent, St. Charles, Riverside, Parkview, Toledo, Mercy, and Flower Hospitals and the Toledo State College of Medicine's teaching hospital.

Sees More State Help

Requests by the participants total \$21.5 million, but Ned Skeldon, president of the board of county commissioners; said he is confident that the state will increase its allocation to the teaching hospital by at least \$3.5 million. This, he said, will make it possible to fit all the requests into the \$18 million.

Medical school trustees have requested \$7.5 million from the bond issue toward the construction costs of a 500-bed teaching hospital. This request is to be reduced by the amount of any state aid in addition to the \$7.5 million already allocated. If there is no additional state money for the medical school, all allocations will be reduced proportionately.

This proposal was unanimously approved by the hospital commission after an initial vote of 10 to 1, with Franklin Schroeder, St. Luke's board president, dissenting.

Later Changes Vote

Mr. Schroeder said St. Luke's cannot build a hospital if its request for \$3.5 million from the bond issue is reduced. He later changed his vote.

The decision to proceed with the bond issue followed nearly two hours of discussion on ways to provide St. Luke's with \$3.5 million and the teaching hospital with \$7.5 million.

Facing the hospital commission in its deliberations were:

► A decision by the county commissioners, all three of whom attended the meeting, to disapprove any allocations that did not provide for participation by St. Luke's.

► A letter from the Toledo State College of Medicine trustees saying that no additional state funds will be forthcoming and repeating their request for the \$7.5 million allocation.

In the face of this apparent deadlock an attempt was made to withdraw the \$18 million bond issue from the November ballot and submit one for \$21.5 million at a special election. This was defeated 6 to 5.

The \$18 million bond issue was originally set up because the county commissioners said this was the most that the county's bonding capacity would allow. Changes in state law have since boosted the country's bonding capacity but the deadline has passed for increasing the amount to be sought in November.