

St. Luke's Hospital Seeking Inclusion In Fall Bond Issue

Toledo Medical College Too Distant,
Board Says; Skeldon Doubts Legality

7/22/65 - Blake
St. Luke's Hospital directors yesterday repeated their desire to have the hospital's \$3.5 million building program included in the \$18 million hospital bond issue, scheduled for voter action next November.

St. Luke's was included originally in the Hospital Planning Association proposal, but two weeks ago the St. Luke's proposal was combined with the \$7.5 million Toledo State College of Medicine complex by the planning group, which reduced its requests for funds for the private hospitals from \$14 million to \$10.5 million.

Ned Skeldon, president of the board of county commis-

sioners, told the St. Luke's board yesterday that he would wait until the last minute before voting to put the hospital bond issue on the ballot ahead of the Aug. 5 deadline.

Legality Questioned

However, Mr. Skeldon questioned the legality of changing the \$18 million total, as approved July 12 by the Lucas County Hospital Commission in its resolution asking the commissioners to put the bond issue on the Nov. 2 ballot.

"We will wait until the last minute, but the rest is up to the Hospital Planning Association," Mr. Skeldon said. "Even if it is disposed to include St. Luke's, the question remains whether this is legal."

Franklin L. Schroeder, president of the St. Luke's board, said:

"St. Luke's definitely wants in the bond-issue program, if it is at all possible. It will be 8 or 10 years before the medical school complex is a reality. The need for more hospital beds is now. St. Luke's has spent \$100,000 for architects and planning. We have the site already paid for, and we could have the first completed facility in the entire hospital program.

Needed For Treatment

"The medical school hospital is necessary, but there also is the need for hospitals where doctors can go to treat their patients."

Mr. Schroeder also said that the proposed new 200-bed St. Luke's would represent only a 76-bed increase over the present total.

He cited this in reply to statements at the July 12 hospital commission meeting that, since both the training hospital and St. Luke's would be in South Toledo, the added beds might not be necessary.