Taking Care of Old Pals

The Mayor, in his fading days at City Hall, finds it no longer necessary to wrap tinsel around the elaborate gifts for the faithful. When one of Mr. O'Dwyer's chauffeurs, James E. Furey, was elevated last month from first-grade detective ($5,150 a year) to Seventh Deputy Police Commissioner ($9,000 a year), the public was treated to a lot of guff that the new appointee would take charge of transportation prob-

N.Y. Times: 8/26/58
lems in the civilian defense organization. But the real purpose of the appointment was revealed quickly enough when Mr. Furey put in his application for pension, a neat $6,000 a year instead of the conventional $2,575 as detective's half-pay. And now, in quick order before the Mayor takes off for Mexico City, another chauffeur, Bernard Collins, is taking over as Seventh Deputy Police Commissioner. The special qualifications remain undisclosed, but Mr. Collins will nevertheless fall into an equally comfortable featherbed. The same story applies to the Mayor's bodyguard, Joseph Boyle, who is shoved in as Fourth Deputy Police Commissioner, where a previous occupant, Patrick J. Meehan, another long-time O'Dwyer intimate, is conveniently moving into the grassy pastures of retirement.

Presumably Mr. O'Dwyer feels that these didoes are the abdicating lord's perquisites, nothing more than a little sweetening for friendship's sake. Well, the taxpayer can only feel that the Mayor has grossly confused personal matters with the public interest. The more cynical politicians may be amused at the stunt of whirligig commissioners, but the great body of independent voters can reflect on the retaliatory opportunity against the Democratic party in the November election. Fortunately, with the Mayor's retirement scheduled for Sept. 1, there is only another week left to take care of old pals.