

# DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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# Indiana's Department Heads Warned By Angry Handley To Quit Scrap

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Governor Handley lost his temper today and angrily warned several department heads to cease their bickering.

Handley, obviously upset by a heated exchange between Atty. Gen. Edwin K. Steers and state highway commissioner Charles Dawson, jumped to his feet as Steers and Dawson argued over right of way buying.

"The Bureau of Roads came down here to settle the problem, not to hear us argue among ourselves," Handley shouted, striking the desk with his fist. "I don't want to hear any more outbursts."

Handley called Steers and the three highway commissioners to his office to discuss problems brought out at Thursday's public hearing by the Indiana Highway Study Committee.

Also present were C.W. Phillips, chief of the right of way division of the Federal Bureau of Roads, highway department minor officials, and several deputies attorney general who are Steers' assistants.

Minutes after the meeting began in Handley's Statehouse office, Steers accused Dawson and highway commissioners H.E. Bodine and John Peters of failing to heed his advice.

"In case after case, you have completely ignored our advice," Steers said to Dawson. "You know it was yourself brought on that fiasco along Keystone Ave. (in Indianapolis)."

It was at this point that Handley interrupted.

Steers cited one instance where Bodine asked him to take a case to court when it could have been negotiated for "\$3,000 or \$4,000."

"It finally cost us \$8,000 or \$9,000," Steers said.

Steers said his office was swamped with right of way condemnation cases that had to be tried in court because the highway department did not make any attempt to negotiate with landowners.

"Court costs for each case average about \$2,500," Steers said. "It costs the state \$500 just to file a court action."

Steers later accused Dawson of "deliberately trying to embarrass my office."

The highway commissioners told Handley their hands are tied. They said the state would have to pay any difference between the

amount set by an appraiser and a negotiated sale if the difference could not be justified to the Bureau of Roads.

Handley said one of the main reasons for the high cost of right of way is that "people think that because the state is buying the land they can gouge us."

"People give themselves the business," Handley said.

At the Thursday meeting, Phillips indicated the soaring cost of right of way could be held down if there were closer cooperation between the highway department and Steers' office.

Phillips said the job of handling right of way cases would be easier if the commissioners placed more faith in Steers' recommendations on the legal variables in each case.

Steers represents the highway department in an official capacity when a land condemnation suit is taken to court.

Phillips, who flew here from Washington with a bureau attorney, said cases should be kept out of court whenever possible because juries are in the habit of giving land owners far more than the appraised value of their property.

Steers, who claims present state policy on land buying has proved more costly than during the administration of former Gov. George N. Craig, accused the highway department of "preventing the sanctity" of state appraiser's valuation of right of way property. He said the department did it by refusing to approve compromise settlements that would have been less costly than court grants.

Steers told committee chairman Sen. Charles Maddox (R-Ottawan), a former highway commissioner, that his deputies could save the state thousands of dollars if the present commissioners would approve his compromise recommendations.

He said more than nine million dollars has been tied up in the past two years in condemnation suits and said that interest on that amount totaled \$570,000 a year.

The Oregon State Board of Health said an outbreak of flu there was heading rapidly toward epidemic proportions and the Asian virus was blamed for high school absenteeism in Chicago.

The Weather Bureau said the Midland rains would move into the East today and stretch from northern Florida to Virginia by nightfall. More light snow was predicted for the Great Lakes and the Northeast and over the Montana and Wyoming mountains. Rain was expected to continue along the West Coast from San Francisco northward.

INDIANA WEATHER

Cloudy and a little colder tonight with some drizzle or snow flurries southeast this evening. Saturday cloudy with no important temperature changes. Low tonight in the 20s. High Saturday 36 to 40 north, 40 to 45 south. Sunset today 6:01 p.m. e.d.t. Sunrise Saturday 7:55 a.m. c.d.t.

Outlook for Sunday: Partly cloudy and a little warmer. Low Saturday night 25 to 35. Highs Sunday in the 40s.

## Snow, Fog And Rain Blanket Eastern U.S.

United Press International

A blanket of snow, rain and fog covered the eastern half of the nation today, turning Iowa roads to ice and reducing Florida highway visibility to zero.

A broad band of snow and rain stretched from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast while freezing rain and snow plagued New England.

Survivors of a blizzard reported that roads in eastern Iowa were snow-packed and hazardous.

A half inch rain fell in Louisiana thunderstorms. Rain and snow mixed to produce mid-winter slush through Missouri and Illinois.

Florida fog and smoke from a series of brush fires combined into a dense smog which forced state police to close sections of U.S. 92 and Florida 542 Thursday.

Police said the smog was so thick drivers could not see the front of their cars.

Intrepid burglars in Indianaapolis used the fog as a shield Thursday when they backed their truck up to the door of a service station and stole \$950 worth of new tires and batteries.

Los Angeles health authorities reported their city's deadly flu and pneumonia epidemic has taken 127 lives so far.

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## Mrs. Rose Johnson Dies At Fort Wayne

Mrs. Rose Johnson, 83, died Thursday at her home, 515 High street, Fort Wayne. She had been in failing health for two years and seriously ill for two weeks.

Mrs. Johnson was a lifelong resident of Fort Wayne.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Oswald of Fort Wayne;

two sons, Richard H. Johnson of Poe, and Harry R. Johnson of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Mrs. Mary E. Schieferstein and Mrs. Bertha Chalmers, both of Fort Wayne; one brother, Carl DeLong of Decatur; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the C. M.

Sloan & Sons funeral home in Fort Wayne. Dr. William J. Ratz officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn memorial park.

## United With Parents After Sixteen Years

CHICAGO (UPI) — Two young Lithuanians tumbled into bed early today, exhausted but thrilled by their joyous reunion with the parents they hadn't seen for 16 years.

Tomas Leonas, 18, and his sister

Regina, 20, stepped off an airliner Thursday into their new homeland and the arms of their sobbing parents, Paulus and Elena Leonas.

"There has not been such a day since the world was created," their father shouted happily. "This is a joy I cannot describe in words. Our hearts cannot hold the joy of this moment."

Regina, a tall, pretty blonde, wept in her mother's arms while Tomas, blond and wearing a new double-breasted overcoat, grinned and said in Lithuanian, "I am very happy and I feel fine."

The Leonases were forced to leave their children behind when they fled Lithuania in 1944 as the Russian army marched in.

For 15 years they fought a futile battle for their children's freedom until last summer, when they buttonholed tourists in the Rotary Club. Prior to the presentation of the gavel, Auer viewed briefly last year's activities of the Chamber of Commerce, giving special credit to the board of directors, the retail division, and the research done on the development of community industries. Included in the group of promising new industries in Decatur were the Duo Marine Company, the Stonite Corp., and the building constructed by Decatur Industries. The guest speaker was introduced by Harry Brown, sales manager of the Gilpin Ornamental Iron Co.

Master of ceremonies, Tom H.

Allwein, introduced Noah Steury,

representing the Lions Club, and H. P. Schmitt, Jr., president of the

Rotary Club. Prior to the presentation of the gavel, Auer viewed briefly last year's activities of the Chamber of Commerce, giving special credit to the board of directors, the retail division, and the research done on the development of community industries. Included in the group of promising new industries in Decatur were the Duo Marine Company, the Stonite Corp., and the building constructed by Decatur Industries. The guest speaker was introduced by Harry Brown, sales manager of the Gilpin Ornamental Iron Co.

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