

# MESSAGE DESIGNED TO CURE MISTAKES

Goodrich, in Address to Legislature, Asks O. K. Be Given His Program.

Mapping out a comprehensive program designed to correct the numerous mistakes of his administration, Gov. James P. Goodrich read his message at a joint meeting of the two houses of the Indiana legislature this afternoon.

The governor simply listed the bills he hopes to have enacted into laws and very briefly explained the necessity for each.

The program is exactly as has been previously outlined by the governor, with the exception of requesting legislation to return legal authorities the power to make tax levies and to issue bonds.

Such action on the part of the assembly would remove most of the opposition to the tax law.

The governor outlined fifteen measures, the bills for which are already written and ready for introduction.

He expressed the hope that the assembly will adjourn at the earliest possible date.

## GOVERNOR'S MEASURES COVER WIDE BREADTH

The principal measures suggested by the chief executive are corrections of the tax law, emergency appropriations for state institutions, corrections of the county unit road law, appointment for a commission on a war memorial, the abolishment of the employment commission, provisions for women voters, and provisions for the operation of a coal mine for the state.

Following is the full text of Gov. Goodrich's message to the legislature:

You have been called together in extraordinary session at the request of consideration of certain matters of public interest that could not, without serious injury to the state, be postponed until the next regular meeting of the general assembly.

The last regular session of the general assembly convened shortly after the close of the world war. It was the general opinion of the members of the general assembly, an opinion held throughout the country, that the close of the war would bring about serious unemployment, rapidly falling prices and a decreased cost in the conduct of the war. It was also the general opinion that the time of transition was not necessary for me to state that at that time I did not share the view held by the general assembly, as I had expressed the opinion with considerable confidence in November that instead of a lack of employment there would be a serious labor shortage and that prices would go up instead of down. Such has been the result. Prices have risen, and the cost of living, especially the cost of living, with the result that the correctional, educational and charitable institutions of the state will not be able to meet the financial requirements of the emergency appropriations to meet the deficit that now faces them.

Since Jan. 1, 1917, the price of necessities has increased 141 per cent. The price of coal, which is the largest single item used by the institutions, has increased more than 300 per cent, yet the general assembly did not increase the state institutions for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, and including the appropriation to be made by the general assembly for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, the year will show an increase of 38 per cent over the cost of maintenance of the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1916. This is only one of the many instances of the most rigid economy consistent with the proper care of the state's unfortunates.

## GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS CERTAIN MEASURES

I recommend to the general assembly the following measures:

Emergency appropriations to be made to the various state institutions according to the recommendations of the commission to enable them to complete the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

## WOULD ABOLISH EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

When the present employment bureau was created, special emphasis was laid upon the fact that it was necessary to have a separate bureau for the purpose of finding employment for soldiers and those who had been disabled by the termination of the war.

The employment commission is unanimously of the opinion that the commission should be abolished and I fully

recommend that a law be enacted raising the rate of interest on all public securities to 6 per cent.

## THE HOUSE TACKLES STATE TAX LAW

The tax law passed by the general assembly has proven to be a vast improvement over the preceding law. The task of administering the law at the regular quarterly meetings of the re-assessment of real estate was appalling.

Mistakes in the administration of the law, of course, were inevitable.

The principle of the law is good and only such changes should be made from time to time as experience suggests to be necessary. Under the prior law, there were certain legislative corrections on the tax rates, but the corrections were knowledge as to the extent of the duplicate. It was impossible to fix such limitation in the new law, in view of the fact that the control over the tax board was given to the state.

In the change from the old to the new law this power threw upon the tax board the enormous burden of examining into every tax law and every bond issue authorized in the state.

The tax board has since made a rule which in effect means that it will only examine the bills introduced in the tax rate section of the law.

This has greatly simplified the enforcement of the law.

I suggest that the following changes may be made in the tax law at this special session, leaving to the next general assembly the making of such other amendments as the operation of the law may require, but necessary for the further strengthening of the law.

1. That the control over tax levies and bond issues be restored to the local tax board and bond issuing authorities subject to appeal as may be necessary to protect the interest of the taxpayer.

2. That the section of the law exempting public securities be amended so as to make it clear that the state still retains its right to taxes upon the real estate of the state.

3. That the section of the law exempting real estate from the lien of taxes be amended so as to make it clear that the state still retains its right to taxes upon the real estate of the state.

4. That the section of the law which authorizes the state to tax personal property be amended so as to apply only to such property as is assessed by the tax board.

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