

SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO WAGE STRONG FIGHT FOR BUILDINGS

Effort of Fourteen Citizens to Block Needed Improvement
Denounced by Leaders of Parent-Teacher
and Civic Clubs.

School children of Indianapolis will not suffer for lack of proper school buildings through the interference of fourteen persons if civic organizations, clubs and Parent-Teacher organizations of the city can prevent it.

Aroused by the last minute protest of the fourteen against the proposed bond issue of \$1,650,000 for new buildings and additions at eight schools, civic clubs announced their intention today of carrying the battle to the State board of tax commissioners in a determined effort to get the long-delayed school building program under way.

The clubs pointed out that for more than two years no permanent school building construction has been started in Indianapolis and that all attempts of the school board to inaugurate a building program have been defeated by the same old tactics, remonstrances to the tax board and refusal of that body to approve bond issues. Meantime the housing situation in the schools is growing worse at an alarming rate, it is said. The school population of the city is increasing at the rate of almost 1,500 students a year, and there are no new buildings to care for them.

Using Poor Equipment

Blocked in their efforts to erect new buildings the school board has been forced to use old tumble-down shacks, portables and other structures for school purposes. Almost 5,000 pupils are housed in buildings of this character at present, and the number will increase steadily and rapidly unless permanent buildings are erected.

According to R. O. Johnson, business director of the board, ninety-three portable and temporary buildings, three of which are in use, and three floors of school building and ten basement rooms are now in use. Ten more portables have been ordered and will be placed in commission this fall. This will make a total of 120 rooms, averaging forty pupils to the room. In use in addition to the regular school building rooms, Johnson said.

Remonstrators Given Chance

Members of organizations interested in getting the children of Indianapolis out of portables, temporary shacks and makeshift rooms in basements, declared that the action of the fourteen in holding off their remonstrance until the very last minute allowed by law was proof that the remonstrance was intended to hold up the building program as long as possible or to defeat it.

The school board, they said, had acted in the utmost fairness. In an effort to avoid friction and settle all disputed matters in advance, the board sent invitations to all organizations interested in the school building program and taxation problems and to the general public to come before the board and talk things over. Dates were set for hearings on the eight buildings under consideration. Not one of the fourteen remonstrators, it was pointed out by advocates of decent buildings for school children, appeared before the board on those dates. They waited until the final hour allowed by law and then filed their remonstrance.

Tax Board Powerful

Under the law the tax board, composed of three members, only one of whom is a resident of Indianapolis, will have the final say as to whether Indianapolis is to have more school buildings or is to muddle through with a constantly increasing number of portables and other makeshifts. Members of the school board were frankly disappointed at the remonstrance. They had hoped that the building program could be inaugurated immediately.

"Not only are these eight buildings delayed by this action," Adolph Emhardt, chairman of the committee on buildings and grounds, said, "but the entire future program of the board. With these buildings out of the way, we intended to turn our attention to other grade schools and to the high school situation. A new Shortridge at Pennsylvania and Thirty-Fourth Sts., a high school for the west side and a high school for colored pupils were to be taken up next. Now they must wait because a few persons in the Baldwin block have the legal privilege of blocking the plans by an appeal to a State board."

Mother Voices Protest

"It just looks as if a few persons who have few children can prevent erection of badly needed buildings," Mrs. Edward Springer, 3245 Broad, president of the Parent-Teacher Association of School No. 76, said. "We have found that those who oppose school construction either have no children of school age or send their children to private schools. Our situation is very bad. Two portables are in use and many of our children must go to other schools at a great distance from home. We had hoped to have this condition rectified by a new building."

"This remonstrance is a badly mistaken move," Mrs. William Headrick, 415 E. Fifty-Third St., president of the Parent-Teacher Association of School No. 70, said. "I just wonder if the remonstrators have no children or if they live in districts that do not need additional schools. At our school we have a portable and use rooms at the Norwood Christian and Meridian Heights Presbyterian Churches."

"Need Buildings Greatly"

"It seems strange to me that these fourteen waited so long before protesting," Mrs. T. C. Kelley, 23 Milroy Ave., president of Parent-Teacher Association of School No. 45, said. "The board held public meetings and invited any one to come in and object to anything they did not like. That was months ago. No objection was made then. Why did they wait so long? Three cottages are in use at our school and we need a new building greatly."

New buildings held up by the remonstrance were planned for the following schools:

No. 23, Missouri and Thirteenth Sts.; No. 30, Elder Ave. and W. Washington St.; No. 38, Winter and Blvd. Aves.; No. 62, Wallace and E. Tenth Sts.; No. 67, 3615 W. Walnut St.; No. 70, Central Ave. and Forty-Sixth St.; No. 75, Fourteenth and Rochester Sts.; No. 76, College Ave. and Thirteenth Sts.

CLERGYMEN EXTOLL CHRISTIAN VIRTUES OF DEAD PRESIDENT

Pastors of Various Faiths at Monument Place and in Church
Services Dwell Upon Qualities Which Made Late Chief Beloved.

Beautiful tributes to the memory of Warren G. Harding whose body found its final resting place at his old home, Marion, Ohio, today were paid this afternoon by speakers at various memorial exercises in Indianapolis.

The Rev. O. W. Fifer, pastor of the Central Ave. M. E. Church, and the Rev. F. A. Hayward, head of the Federated Baptist Association, were the principal speakers at services at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

"Six times this nation has been brought to the house of mourning by the death of a President in office," the Rev. Fifer said.

Each Has Its Meaning

"Each occasion has had its peculiar meaning and its particular phase of sorrow. President Harding died in prime of age in the very hour when it was thought he would have gained the victory over disease. While his devoted wife was reading by his side in happy hope a weakened brain cell gave way and the hard-working President who had sought rest on sea, river and by mountains, found it in the sweet fields of Eden, where the trees of life everlasting are blooming."

Harding "Just Folks"

"In himself rather than in platform or policy he represented the spirit of the people after the World War closed. They wished the war drums to be silent. They hoped to gather again in stores, on front porches and in conventions or societies, shaking hands without suspicion or enmity. Good will is the essence of a people's government. Perhaps Roosevelt was too strenuous. Taft too easy and good humored. Wilson too austere. Harding was 'just folks' to the multitudes. He was so much like them."

MRS. BELLE BALDWIN WOOD, 4310 N. Pennsylvania St.—We do not have confidence in the school board. I do not think they have merited our confidence in the past two years. I think the contracts should be let first and then seek the bond issue. That is the more business-like way to do it. I do not have any one in school now, but I am in favor of the proposed improvement.

GAYLORD A. WOOD, 4310 N. Pennsylvania St.—It seems ridiculous to give out money in a lump sum. There have been no bids or contracts given out. There is nothing better for the city than improvements and I am in favor of them.

FRANK L. THOMAS, 202 Berkeley Rd.—These bonds were to have been sold only on architect's estimates. There have been similar proceedings in the past which have saved taxpayers money. The idea of the remonstrance as I see it was not to stop improvements, but to give the board of tax commissioners a chance to review the issue.

JOSEPH A. CARR, 5702 E. Michigan St.—The school board proposes to give contracts without competitive bids. I think the plans for improvements should be submitted to two or three contractors and I am in favor of the proposed improvements, but I think it should be done in a more economical and business-like way.

The following names appear on the remonstrance which do not appear in the city directories and for whom no telephones are listed:

L. M. Reed, 311 N. Audubon Rd.; Joseph J. Mount, 1901 E. Forty-Fourth St.; Lewis A. McCammon, 5702 E. Michigan St.

These remonstrators were not reached:

Bert Bacon, 22 N. De Quincy St., associated with Edson T. Wood, real estate, at 48 N. Delaware; Willis P. Maine, 1437 N. Pennsylvania St., in real estate business at 46 N. Delaware St.

ORIGINAL OF RILEY POEM SUCGUMBS

By Times Special

GREENSBURG, Ind., Aug. 10.—"Old Aunt Mary," of whom James Whitcomb Riley sang, has passed to her reward.

Mrs. Mary Tarkington Alexander, 89, widow of Dr. John H. Alexander, an aunt of Booth Tarkington, and the original of Riley's poem, "Out to Old Aunt Mary's," was buried here Wednesday.

She was born in Greensburg in 1834, the daughter of the Rev. Joseph Tarkington, pioneer Indiana Methodist preacher. She lived in Greensburg her entire life and was greatly respected by all who knew her. For many years her home here has been the center of old-fashioned Hoosier hospitality.

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of himself the President was and it may truthfully be said that he was the victim of his high ideal of the responsibility of his great office. One of the lessons we should learn from his untimely death is that we have made the burden of the presidential office almost too great for human shoulders.

Personal Charm Recalled

"President Harding possessed personal qualities which gave him a charm of character owned by few of his predecessors. Though elevated to the great dignity of President of the United States and leader of the Nation, he recognized his own limitations with true humility of spirit. Though called to rule he considered himself but the servant of the American people. He gave to them the best of his capabilities. He was one of the plain people of the country."

"While our Nation mourns today the loss of its President we stand not alone—the world looks on with sympathy, for the President of this great republic is a figure toward which the eyes of the nations of the earth now turn. Our citizens have lost not alone a President, but a friend, for with those qualities of sincerity, amiability and simplicity Warren G. Harding was one of the best beloved Presidents this country ever possessed. Peace to his ashes!"

Gentle and Sympathetic

"Our gentle and sympathetic President is dead," the Rev. J. Ambrose Dunkel, pastor of the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, said in his memorial sermon at the church.

"Today his body finds its resting place. Thousands will stand about that open tomb bowed with gloom as all that is mortal of Warren G. Harding is placed out of sight. 'And yet, after all, to die a Christian death should be the great purpose of every true man. Honors and riches and all else desired by mortal man shall pass away and be forgotten in the passing years. But the soul that has trusted and tried to emulate the lowly Christ, the world's greatest sacrificial servant, shall live forever."

"The memory and the influence of the noble, sweet life of Harding shall never pass from us. He came to his high office in a most trying time. Not only our Nation but the world was in turmoil. A sea of hate in awful storm has all but made shipwreck of the world's civilization."

Within the Nation itself there was economic and social antagonism. Groups of different tendencies were assayed against each other. Stout hearts were filled with dismay. A leader was needed; wise and gentle. And on the day of his inauguration he placed his hands on the words, 'What does God require of thee but to love mercy, seek justice and walk humbly with thy God,' and took his oath of office."

Gone to Torture Usefulness

"In the brief years of his office he went far to justify the confidence reposed in him by the people. And now he is dead and the Nation mourns. We sympathize with those he has left behind. He has gone yonder, we believe, to a future of added usefulness, where the power and strength he has laid down here will be taken up again under better conditions, to be used in greater fields of usefulness than is possible here."

"So, in the words of the poet: 'Thy day has come, not gone; 'Thy sun is risen, not set; 'Thy life is now beyond 'The reach of death or change, 'Not ended—but begun. 'O, noble soul! O, gentle heart! 'Hail and farewell!'"

BIDS OPENED FOR TEN STATE ROADS

The State highway commission practically completed preliminary work on the 1923 road building program today when bids were opened on approximately fifty-seven miles of paving and grading on ten roads. Contracts will be awarded within a few weeks.

The projects, low bidders and their bids, and comparison with the engineer's estimates follow:

Shoals West Baden Rd.: 6,951 miles of concrete. Scott Construction Company of Indianapolis, \$213,742.85. Estimate, \$285,015.22.

National Rd. West Terre Haute to Terre Haute: 1,245 miles of concrete. Fred Cunningham of Indianapolis, \$33,853.09. Estimate, \$33,518.05.

Scour-Leavenworth Rd.: 6,899 miles of grading. Ellis and Scammon of Rockport, \$63,689.05. Estimate, \$58,870.30.

St. Meinrad-Leavenworth Rd.: 7.5 miles of grading. Ellis and Scammon of Rockport, \$104,262.65. Estimate, \$97,617.45.

Tell City-English road, 5.048 miles of grading. Ellis and Scammon of Rockport, \$57,934.82. Estimate, \$50,517.28.

Tell City-English road, 6.551 miles of grading. Ellis and Scammon of Rockport, \$47,425.41. Estimate, \$50,000.28.

Tell City-Paul road, 8.811 miles of grading. S. M. Cunningham of English, \$68,608.16. Estimate, \$60,831.30.

Tell City-Paul road, 6.984 miles of grading. Deer and Bergen of Franklin, \$43,005.16. Estimate, \$47,501.51.

Tell City-Paul road, 5.743 miles of grading. B. C. Crump of Jasper, \$63,897.20. Estimate, \$73,749.82.

Brookville road, 5.884 miles of grading in Franklin County. Western Construction Company of Waldron, \$51,204.08.

SCHORTEMEIER AT PURDUE MEMORIAL FOR DEAD LEADER

Republican State Secretary
Declares Harding Basics
Not Reactionary.

By Times Special
LAFAYETTE, Ind., Aug. 10.—Fredrick E. Schortemeier, Indianapolis, secretary of the Republican State committee, was the principal speaker at Harding memorial services at Purdue University here today.

"Harding was basic, but he was not reactionary," he said. "His face was forward. He voted for child labor restrictions, for a minimum wage for the women and children in the District Columbia, for extra pay for overtime work of Federal employees. He voted for everything that might benefit the soldier or sailor who was incapacitated because of service for his country. He was distinctly a constructive statesman. Legislation which stood the test of experience, which was justified by an historical analysis and which was based upon common sense, always had his whole-hearted support."

Mail Clerk in Custody

George L. Braughton, railway mail clerk of La Grange, Ohio, was in jail today on charges of robbing the mails. He was held by Clyde R. Randle, United States commissioner, Thursday, under \$2,000 bond, which he was unable to give. It is understood he will be transferred to Cincinnati, Ohio.

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