

RAISE IN PHONE RATE IS DENIED BY COMMISSION

Refusal to Accept Its Own Engineers' Appraisal Sets Precedent.

For the first time in the history of the public service commission an order has been issued refusing to accept utilities valuations of the commission's own engineers.

This point was developed in the final order, handed down Thursday, denying any rate increase to the Southern Indiana Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Written by Commissioner Calvin McIntosh, the order was signed by Chairman John W. McCordie and Commissioner Frank Singleton. It was a substitute order for the \$46,000 rate increase written by Commis-

'Old Man River' Great Purifier, Negroes Think

By United Press
NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 24.—Negro Baptists believe the chocolate-colored water of the Mississippi is a great purifier. Every year thousands of "sinners" are immersed in the river. Ferry passengers have frequent occasion to see an epochal event in Negro Baptist religious life—baptism in the Mississippi river.

It usually is on Sunday, on the west bank of the river, opposite New Orleans. Sympathetic in long, loose white robes and hoods the Negroes parade down the levee slopes and step into the murky river. There they stand waist deep until their turn comes to be baptized.

sloner Jere West which received only his own vote and that of Commissioner Howell Ellis.

Another wholly new point is the possibility that the attorney-general's office may refuse to defend the denial, which already is subject

The officiating clergy and deacons, clad in black and white robes, half-immersed, receive the candidates.

The "head man" takes hold of the candidate and, with a rolling bass, chants: "I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," and, seizing the initiate's nose, immerse him.

As the candidates parade up to be baptized, a group of Negroes on a pier sing "Hallelujah," and chant triumphant hymns in deep, rich voices.

The initiates, especially the women, as they are immersed, shriek for the salvation of their souls.

matter of a case brought by the company in federal court.

Roundly criticizing President L. C. Griffith for excessive personal salary and expenses, the denial order blames the poor financial condition of the company on such conduct.

NAVY TO TEST RADIO VALUE IN MOCK WAR RAID

Fliers, Warned by Air, to Battle Invaders in Ghost Ships.

By NEA Service
SAN DIEGO, Cal., Oct. 24.—Can radio help the frail horns of the air, with machine gun, bomb and torpedo, destroy invaders in heavily-armored battleships before they reach American shores?

That puzzling question, for years a mooted one among high naval authorities, may be decided if tentative plans under consideration by the navy materialize.

Two ghost ships to be chosen from among the scores of decommissioned destroyers here will stage a surprise "attack" under radio control on North Island, naval air base across the bay from San Diego. Control of the "attacking" vessels

will rest with a high naval official on shore or at sea.

With their squadrons of fighting and bombing planes, authorities of the air craft forces' battle fleet will attempt to repel the "attack" after speedy scouting planes have located and marked the destroyers' courses. Movements of the ghost enemy will be kept strictly confidential by the commanding officer.

The spectacular battle between the greyhounds of the sea and the eagles of the air probably will take place somewhere between San Diego and the Coronado island, sixteen miles southwest of here.

The maneuvers will offer a new type of war game.

It will be the first time the navy has used radio control of vessels in conditions approximating actual war combat.

It also will be the first test in which moving targets for navy bombers will be intelligently directed, officials point out.

City to Spend \$65,000
By Times Special
LOGANSPOUT, Ind., Oct. 24.—The works board will receive bids Nov. 12 on new equipment for the municipal light and power plant, at an estimated cost of \$65,000. A new boiler will replace two which have been in use thirty-two years.

G. O. P. LIKELY TO PASS BUCK TO DEMOCRATS

Bundle of Legislation, All Unsolved, Is Probable Congress Heritage.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance
WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—If after the November elections, the Republican party falls into the legislative lame duck class, it will not attempt to rush legislation through congress while it still retains control, but will turn over to Democratic leaders a great bundle of unsolved legislative problems, according to present indications.

Senator Simeon Fess, who is chairman of the Republican national committee, and also Republican whip in the senate, says no important business will be transacted at the coming short session of congress except possibly measures for relief of unemployment.

Fess' program would leave unfinished a large number of tasks with which the Republican organization has struggled for several years.

The matter of railroad consolidations is one of the most important of these.

There is pending, also, a proposal to make laws more liberal toward chain banks.

The senate has under consideration a plan to rewrite the entire body of law applying to radio regulation.

Another pending measure proposes complete revision of federal law applying to utility companies and wide extension of regulatory powers.

The question of placing citizens of North and South America on an immigration quota basis has been before congress for years and still is unsolved.

Labor still is urging a revision of injunction laws, in order to curb the existing power of federal judges.

The fate of Muscle Shoals still is to be decided. The Norris lame duck amendment still waits action in a house committee. Steps to place interstate bus lines under federal regulation are not yet finished.

improve before the end of 1931 that problem will demand attention even more urgently than it does at present.

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