

Full Leased Wire Service of  
the United Press Association**LAW MAKERS  
WILL PROVIDE  
EXCITING DAYS**Legislature to Open Next  
Week May Be Most Stirring in Twenty Years.**MANY ISSUES INVOLVED**Tax Reduction, Age Pension  
and Reapportionment  
Important Matters.

BY BEN STERN

What many persons so facetiously refer to as "the biennial Indiana calamity" is due for a recurrence beginning Thursday when 100 state representatives and fifty state senators assemble here for sixty-one days.

Inasmuch as there is no way of forestalling the convening of a general assembly, the people of Indiana will cover in their homes, close their ears against the howling of embryo statesmen and pray for the best.

There can be little doubt that the session will prove more exciting than any in two decades.

The menu served up for legislative action will cover a wide field and includes reducing the tax burden upon real property, an old age pension bill, reapportionment, sales, tobacco and malt taxes, doubling the automobile tax, reorganization of political parties and repeal of the direct primary for all offices, a state-wide referendum on prohibition, repeal of the Wright bone dry law, free school text books, and a proposal for a state-owned cement plant.

**Several Probes Likely**

Investigations are expected to be made of alleged extravagance and mismanagement of the state highway commission, gasoline tax frauds, operation of the fire marshal's office. A probe of the conservation department may also be asked by Representative H. H. Evans of New-castle.

That the highway department is experiencing close scrutiny is seen in the action of its heads in sending to all members of the assembly.

Evidence that Governor Harry G. Leslie foresees much trouble in the offing is indicated in his attempt to win the support of the G. O. P. state organization from which he has been estranged for some time.

Leslie this week appointed John Kidd of Brazil as insurance commissioner to succeed Clarence Wysong, who has been under fire for some time. Kidd is the father of Linda Kidd, fifth district chairman, and is reported to have had the support of the state committee.

**Ignored Former Aid**

But in appointing the Brazil man the Governor further widened the breach which has existed between him and Bert Fuller, his manager in the 1928 campaign, who was an aspirant for the post.

As a prelude to all this excitement comes the caucuses of both parties Wednesday night when friends of Representative Walter Myers will attempt to obtain his election as speaker of the House in the face of opposition from supporters of Earl Crawford, Milton; Delph McKesson, Plymouth; Fabius Gwin, Shoals; David Byers, Vincennes, and William McClain of Evansville.

If credence can be given to the claims of the Myers men, he is already elected.

Despite the widespread belief that Crawford has the support of the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation, it was authoritatively stated today by farm leaders that the federation is taking no hand in the speakership fight. It is recalled that Crawford joined John J. Brown of Monon and others in organizing a grain co-operative in competition with that of the federation.

Opponents of Myers are expected to get behind either one of their number or possibly George L. Saunders of Bluffton, veteran legislator and publisher, who was minority leader in 1927-1929.

The Republican twenty-five representatives indicate they will nominate James M. Knapp of Hagerstown, 1929 Speaker, as their leader. No opposition is expected.

**Fight for Senate Gavel**

The Republican senators, however, will be embroiled in a bitter fight for president pro tem. But fifteen votes are necessary to obtain the election and it is believed that the veteran Senator James J. Neild of Whiting, three times president and several times a formidable contender, has a lead.

Neild's wet stand may injure him unless the action of Senator John J. Niblack, Indianapolis, in urging for a prohibition referendum, is indicative of the trend of thought among senators. In that event the Lake county man is expected to win.

Opposing him are French Clements of Evansville, who is no cub, and I. Floyd Garrett of Battle Ground, who has been working for the post for some time.

Senators Chester A. Perkins of South Bend, and Walter S. Chambers, Democrats, are candidates for senate minority leaders. Perkins is known to be a wet and Chambers has long been in the dry column.

Incidentally Perkins has just announced a reapportionment plan providing for eleven congressional districts with Marion county in a district composed also of Hancock, Hamilton and Madison counties with a population of 539,997. This district would elect two representatives. Such a plan is a radical innovation and may get lost in the scramble.

Senator Joe Rand Beckett's proposed bill for making precinct committee men the all-powerful unit in the party and for the abolition of the direct primary for all officials is not meeting with much favor.

Party leaders have for a long time felt that the committee men are too powerful as it is and are reluctant to leave all nominating power in their hands.

**SHE PAYS TO PLAY  
\$200 Weekly Cost of Screen Job**

June MacCloy

**SET RITES FOR  
DR. J. J. FICKE****Hiccoughs Are Fatal to City Physician.**

Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 9 for Dr. John J. Ficke, 876 West Drive, Woodruff Place, who died Thursday at St. Vincent's hospital. Death was due to hiccoughs.

He was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1901, coming to Indianapolis about ten years ago, and was a graduate of Indiana university school of medicine.

Dr. Ficke was a member of the Marion county sanitary board and for several years had been attending physician for drivers at Indianapolis Motor Speedway races. He was a member of Nu Sigma Nu, medical fraternity and of the Indianapolis Medical society.

Surviving him are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Ficke of Chisholm, Minn.; the widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Burgess Ficke; a daughter, Mary Ann; three sisters, Mrs. E. W. Dobbs and Miss Catherine Ficke of International Falls, Minn., and four brothers, Steven, Andrew, William and Michael Ficke, all of Chisholm.

New Police Chief Chosen

GREENFIELD, Ind., Jan. 2.—M. E. Wiggins has been appointed by the city council as police chief, succeeding Jesse West.

**Starts New Year Right**

If there's a better way of "starting the new year right" than getting home from the hospital, Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan would like to hear about it. The picture was taken at St. Vincent's hospital Wednesday as the mayor ended ten weeks' treatment for injuries he received to his spine in an airplane accident at South Bend. Left to right are Dr.

**ALLEGED SLANDERER  
FACES \$20,000 SUIT****Muncie Woman Defendant  
in Case Filed by  
Girl.**

MUNCIE, Ind., Jan. 2.—Damages of \$20,000 on allegations of slander and libel are asked by Miss Mary Vining, 19, in a suit against Mrs. Edna Postel, widely known Muncie resident.

Mrs. Postel and her husband, among the most wealthy persons in the city, came into the limelight a few months ago when she filed suit for an accounting and a receiver for property of herself and husband. Shortly afterward Postel filed suit for divorce. The suits have been

merged and it is planned to try them in Delaware circuit court this month.

The wife blames Miss Vining in filing of the divorce suit. Miss Vining, in her case, alleges that Mrs. Postel circulated false reports concerning her and Postel. She was employed in the couple's home nine months during 1929.

Among the alleged false statements attributed to the wife is one that Postel was planning erection of a \$10,000 mansion in which he would outdo the bodies of himself and Miss Vining would fit. It is also alleged that after her discharge from the Postel home, Miss Vining was unable to obtain work elsewhere, charging Mrs. Postel conducted a campaign of slander by telephone.

INDIANAPOLIS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1931

**GRABILL WINS  
IN FIGHT FOR  
COUNTY POST**Coffin Slap Seen in Choice  
of Board Attorney by  
Commissioners.**ASSUMES DUTIES TODAY**Former Jailer Is Appointed  
Courthouse Custodian;  
Others Chosen.

Harvey A. Grabill, instructor at Benjamin Harrison law school and practicing attorney in the city more than fifteen years, today assumed his duties as Marion county attorney succeeding Clinton H. Givan.

Elected Thursday by county commissioners, Grabill will hold the most lucrative of about 100 appointments made by the board with Dow W. Vorhies seated as the new Democratic member. His salary is \$4,500 a year.

Grabill received the votes of George Snider and Vorhies, while John E. Shearer, Coffin member of the board went down in defeat in his fight for the reappointment of Givan.

**New Custodian Named**

Commissioner Snider at Thursday's session was elected president of the board.

Grabill's appointment is regarded as a decisive victory for the "new deal" county G. O. P. organization over the faction controlled by George V. Coffin.

After paltoing showed Grabill's election, Shearer refused to cast his vote for any of the other appointees made by the board.

Roland Snider, son of the commissioner and retiring jailor under the old G. O. P. order, was named courthouse custodian to succeed Albert J. Middleton, G. O. P. ward chairman.

**Carter Reappointed**

Institution heads renamed by the board are John Carter, poor farm superintendent; Benjamin Morgan, superintendent of the hospital for the insane; Mrs. Emma Duvalle, head of the colored orphans' home, and Mrs. Sara J. Pray, head of the juvenile detention home.

Other reappointments affirmed by the board include Leonard Koffel, garage superintendent; James McConnell, commissioner's court bailiff; Hans Clausen, county maintenance man; Dr. Fred Mayer, county health commissioner; Robert Hathaway, weights and measures inspector; Charles W. Mann, county highway superintendent, and J. E. Colwell, county yard foreman.

**Others Keep Posts**

Miscellaneous reappointments include that of Miss Bertha Bush, county health clerk; Miss Helen McDaniel, county dentist; Dr. Walter Steffler, health clinic physician; J. M. Crittenden, assistant courthouse custodian; Marion McQuay, matron, and Elmer E. Hartman, yard man.

The stage producer refused to release her from her contract with him, but stated that he would sell it for \$5,000. But when June offered to buy the contract, paying for it at the rate of \$200 weekly, the producer refused her offer, saying that he wanted spot cash. However, she literally forced him to accept her terms.

So, although she now is enjoying her work in pictures, she is paying \$200 a week for that privilege and will continue to do so for another two months.

**Bloomington Child Dies**By Times Special  
BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Jan. 2.—Funeral services were held today for Mary D. Magnusson, 9, a victim of a spine disease for a year. She leaves her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Magnusson, and a brother, Roy.

Appointments of district road superintendents under Mann will be made within the next few days.

**OHIO TAKES OFFICE  
IN MISSION SOCIETY****Cleveland Minister Succeeds the  
Rev. Stephen J. Corey.**

Duties as first vice-president of the United Christian Missionary Society were assumed today by the Rev. I. J. Cahill of Cleveland, O., who was elected at the convention in Washington in October to succeed the Rev. Stephen J. Corey, who was named president.

Cahill held the position of secretary of the Ohio United Christian Missionary Society for twenty years prior to his election to the vice-presidency.

Arrangements are being made for a reception in his honor, with the Rev. H. B. Holloway, secretary of the society, in charge of the arrangements.

**DRAMA GROUP TO ELECT****Municipal League to Choose New  
Officers Tonight at Park.**

Officers of the Municipal Drama League will be elected tonight at a meeting at the Brookside Community house. Constitution and by-laws of the recently organized group will also be adopted.

**INCENDIARY FIRES  
CAUSE \$7,000 LOSS****Structures Burned on Two  
Pike County Farms  
on Holiday.**By Times Special  
PETERSBURG, Ind., Jan. 2.—Loss of \$7,000 was caused by incendiary fires on two Pike county farms

Thursday night.

**\$15,000 Loss at Atlanta**

ATLANTA, Ind., Jan. 2.—The most disastrous fire here in thirty-nine years caused a loss of \$15,000. Structures destroyed were the residence of Mrs. Ross Pheras, barber shop and lunch room of Garling McNew and the Church of the Nazarene. Origin of the fire, which started in the rear of the McNew place, has not been determined.

**Rushville Loss \$30,000**By Times Special  
RUSHVILLE, Ind., Jan. 2.—Loss of \$30,000 resulted when the Calagahan dry goods building burned Thursday.**Glenwood Store Burns**By Times Special  
GLENWOOD, Ind., Jan. 2.—The John Ritter general store was burned and fire damaged the residence of William Springer, causing a loss of \$17,000.**Remodeled Home Razed**By Times Special  
MARION, Ind., Jan. 2.—The recently remodeled home of Earl Koldyke, a milk dealer, was destroyed by fire with a loss of \$5,000.**Little Hoovers Romp at White House**

The holidays have been happy days for the three grandchildren of President and Mrs. Hoover. And here you see them in an unusually interesting portrait study—5-year-old Peggy Ann at the left, the rarely photographed baby Joan in the center and 3-year-old Herbert Hoover III. They are little guests of honor at the White House in Washington while their father, Herbert Hoover II, convalesces at Asheville, N. C., from a lung infection.

**SEEK JURY FOR  
BANDITRY TRIAL****Two Accused as Clinton  
Bank Robbers in Court.**By United Press  
NEWPORT, Ind., Jan. 2.—Questioning of a special venire of eighteen persons began in Vermillion circuit court today for the selection of a jury to hear the trial of James Clark and Walter Dietrich, two survivors of an alleged band of bank robbers which robbed the Citizens State bank of Clinton of nearly \$15,000 two weeks ago.

Lang and Dietrich were captured near Sidell, Ill., by a posse which had followed the bank bandits on a spectacular chase across western Indiana and eastern Illinois. Three other alleged members of the bank robbers' gang were killed in the fight with the posse in a cornfield near Sidell.

At six months' intervals, Benesches casts the weather with an onion, predicted today that 1931 will be an unusually wet year.

At six months' intervals, Benesches makes a weather forecast by examining the twelve layers of tissue in an onion.

Each layer represents one month and the condition of the tissue is Benesches' guide.

January, February and March will be colder than usual, the calendar said.

Heavy rainfalls will occur in April, May, September, October, November and December, he said. While June, July and August will be moderate.

For many years residents of Marshfield have accepted Benesches' forecasts with unwavering faith.

**GOVERNOR POSTPONES  
COURT APPOINTMENT****Wetter Will Remain on Bench Until Leslie Acts Next May.**

Governor Harry G. Leslie will adhere to his "indefinite postponement" policy in dealing with the Marion county municipal judgeship, it appeared today.

Term of Judge Paul C. Wetter expired Thursday, but the Governor does not intend to reappoint him or name a successor before next May, it was learned.

"Why throw away my club?" the Governor is reported to have told certain petitioners who want the matter dealt with now.

Leslie neither has appointed, nor dismissed the state purchasing agent, fire marshal and printing board secretary, all of whose terms have expired long ago. Wetter will remain on the bench until the Governor acts.

**GOVERNOR'S BODY ARRIVES**By United Press  
NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The body of Gerritt Dikemeyer, United States minister to the Netherlands, arrived on the liner Deutschland today.**STATE WOODLANDS  
IN BAD CONDITION****Lieber Urges Reforestation  
as One Solution to  
Economic Ills.**

Decrease in the number of county and township units, public acquisition of large forests and suitable highways to afford access to the tourist, sportsman and wood-working industry are contributions toward solution of Indiana economic problems offered today by Director Richard Lieber of the state conservation department.

Lieber incorporated his ideas in his annual report to the Governor and conservation commissioners.

It deals at length on the problems of reforestation.

"Today Indiana has 2,750,000 acres of wrecked woodlands," the Lieber report states. "The better species have disappeared and overmatured and defective weed trees occupy their places."

"Forest fires have damaged prom-

**1,000 WILL GO  
BACK TO WORK  
IN FOUR MINES**Pits in Sullivan Field Will  
Resume Operations at  
Early Date.