

## FIRST WITNESS IS ON STAND IN 'TORCH' TRIAL

Schroeder Jury Selected  
After Long Battle;  
Evidence Starts.

(Continued from Page One)

days before the crime, "on a business trip to Chicago and Detroit." "We will show that he was on a business trip, and that he communicated with relatives while he was gone," Holmes said.

Holmes also charged that prosecutors will not produce insurance papers said by authorities to have been found at the side of the blazing sedan.

**Witnesses Are Excluded**  
When presentation of evidence began, Baker swore twenty-five state's witnesses, and at Holmes' request, excluded witnesses from the courtroom. Schroeder's father, Ernest Schroeder, Clarion, Ia., was permitted to remain at his son's side. Mrs. Leah Schroeder, the defendant's wife, his two sons, his mother and other relatives also were excluded.

Over the week-end, the alleged slayer will undergo an examination for sanity at the psychopathic ward at city hospital. Baker Wednesday appointed two alienists, on petition of Wilson and Floyd Mattheis, chief deputy. The trial will reopen Monday morning.

Schroeder, in a special plea, claims insanity at the time of the alleged crime. The plea does not constitute an admission to the deed, Ira M. Holmes, his attorney declared.

The Alabamian contends that his unknown passenger died when his neck was broken in an accident twenty-five miles west of Terre Haute, and that he (Schroeder) returned to Indianapolis in a panic and set his auto and its cargo afire.

Nearly three weeks later, Schroeder was captured in a weed patch near his Mobile home, the quarry of a nation-wide hunt.

**Women Wage Battle**  
An excitable crowd of women, awaiting admittance to the courtroom Thursday afternoon, staged a fight for standing room near the entrance.

Screams of two women echoed through the courthouse as purses were resorted to by the participants as cudgels. Police were summoned, but before their arrival the crowd was calmed. Names of participants were not learned.

After adjournment Thursday Schroeder spent almost an hour in the courtroom talking with relatives. They are his wife; two sons, Harold Herbert, Jr., 11, and Ernest, 9; his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schroeder of Clarion, Ia.; four sister and a brother.

Jurors in the case are: Albert Shaw, Pike township, farmer; Floyd Graham, 2842 North Illinois street, contractor; A. H. Skinner, 910 East Thirty-eighth street, manufacturer; Morris E. George, 631 North La Salle, bank clerk; William H. Joyce, 1420 Woodlawn avenue, real estate dealer; Edward W. Pierson, Pike township, farmer; Omer Ford, 1287 Hiatt street, carpenter; Harry Ayers, Mars Hill, mechanic; Earl Dillinger, 1060 Winter avenue, grocer; Charles W. Reed, New Augusta, farmer; William I. Campbell, 324 West Maple road, manufacturer, and Virgil McClain, 906 North Graham avenue, steamfitter.

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—Photo by National Studio.

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The Konjola Man is at the Hook Dependable Drug Store, Illinois and Washington streets, Indianapolis, where he is meeting the public daily.

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## DENIAL OF WLBC REQUEST IS ADVISED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Denial of the application of station WLBC, Muncie, Ind., for permission to operate on the 1420 kilocycle wave length, with 100 watts power at night and 125 during the day was recommended today by Radio Examiner Elmer W. Pratt.

He reported to the radio commission that operations of the station on the desired frequency with the increased power would seriously interfere with other stations.

## ROWBOTTOM IS BEFORE COURT

Congressman Pleads Not  
Guilty to Bribery

Representative Harry E. Rowbottom, Republican, Evansville, first Indiana district congressman, pleaded not guilty to accepting \$1,750 bribes in return for recommending postal appointments in federal court today.

His trial was set for April 14 at Evansville by Federal Judge Robert C. Baltzell. Rowbottom was among nearly 200 persons arraigned today. Maximum sentence on each of the nine counts in the indictment against Rowbottom is two years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine. Representing the congressman today were Phil C. Gould, Evansville attorney, and Raymond S. Springer of Connersville, former judge. Liquor violations comprise charges against most of the others arraigned. More than half were from

Indianapolis and the remainder from the Terre Haute, Evansville and New Albany divisions. Baltzell started immediately sentencing persons who pleaded guilty to charges. Majority of Indianapolis defendants will be tried, starting March 11. Among the first Indianapolis persons sentenced was Douglas Hall, 425 Madison avenue. He was sentenced to eighteen months in Leavenworth penitentiary on an indictment returned in May, 1927, in connection with the Pope liquor conspiracy case. Hall, who appeared on crutches in the courtroom, was shot several

months ago by hijackers, it was alleged. Thomas Utterback, 3911 East Eleventh street, charged with liquor law violation, was sentenced to a year and a day in the federal reformatory at Chillicothe, O. Not guilty pleas were entered by eight defendants in the Earl J. Allen liquor conspiracy case, resulting from a raid by special dry agents on a garage at 723 North Illinois street last fall. Defendants in the case are Allen, Leon C. Brooks, Clarence Criswell, Claude Gallagher, Andrew C. Johnson, John C. Martindale, Sterling Stringer and Glenn R. Walsh.

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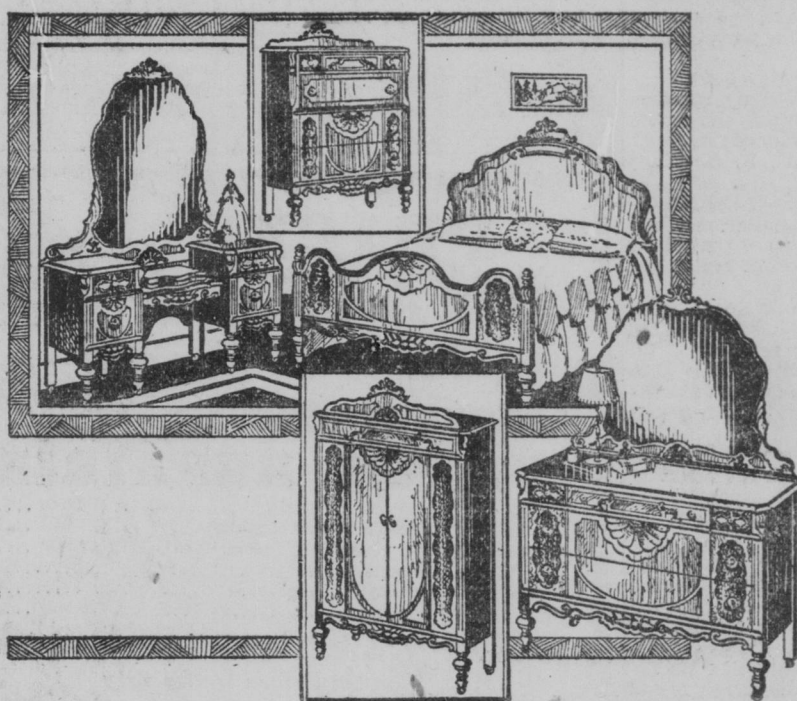
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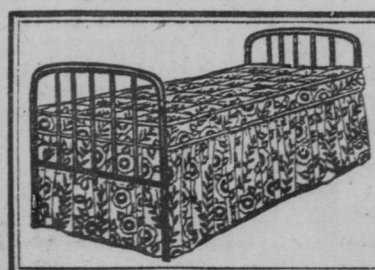
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