

ILLINOIS IN GRIP OF GANG RULE, SENATE IS TOLD

Racketeers Virtually Running State, Wickersham Prober Says.

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Names, figures and cases to support the belief of high officials here that local government has broken down completely in some centers were made public today when the Wickersham commission sent to the senate reports of its investigations of crime, bootlegging and racketeering in Chicago, the happy hunting ground of the gangster.

Downstate Illinois cities also were revealed as in the clutches of similar conditions.

This report, prepared by Guy L. Nichols, treasury department investigator, stated breakdown of the law has permitted bootlegging and racketeering of unbelievable proportions, with profits reaching into millions, all carried on under protection of officers of the law.

Deportation Is Suggested

The report described the "Unione Siciliana" as "a menace" whose officials are linked with liquor and other rackets.

The federal government was urged in the report to "concentrate on activities of heads of this society throughout the United States and keep them under surveillance." Deportation was suggested.

The report described conditions found several months ago in Rockford thus: "It is said at least two bootleggers carry deputy sheriff's stars. Larger bootleggers frequently are ushered into the sheriff's private office and apparently receive a good deal of attention."

High federal officials are known to be concerned over conditions. President Hoover himself several months ago called upon state and local authorities to deal with what he termed this "hideous gangster and corrupt control of some local governments."

Chicago Aspect Menacing

The Wickersham investigator's report described graft, bootlegging and racketeering in Chicago as menacing.

"The city has not been able to cope with the above mentioned menaces and they now are larger, if truth were known, than the city itself, apparently having increased steadily since enactment of the prohibition law," the report continued.

Concerning downstate centers investigated some months ago, Nichols reported:

East St. Louis—"Almost any number of gambling joints running. Prostitution prevalent with much open solicitation. No open saloons but much bootlegging."

Springfield—"Mayor makes little effort to enforce the prohibition law." State's attorney "ax in prosecution of liquor cases."

Bend One of Worst

Peoria—"Has the old saloon-day type of mayor, and he still has the liquor element around him."

Bend, Macoupin County—"One of worst spots in Illinois. State's attorney totally inefficient and sheriff even worse. City officials also inefficient."

Bloomington—"Police very inactive. Quincy—"Police very inactive. State's attorney lax in liquor enforcement."

Joliet—"City administration weak, state's attorney lax. Need of local co-operation in New

Prosecutor Will Permit Griffith Attack Suit



Mrs. Fern Strill being questioned about her suit by Blayne Matthews, chief deputy district attorney at Los Angeles.

By United Press

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warrant a criminal prosecution at this time" had been uncovered.

Earl W. Taylor, paroled convict, who was quoted as saying that he would see that Mrs. Strill pressed her charges against Griffith to the limit, was arrested on suspicion of parole violation after his liberation by

Martinsville Tuesday.

Taylor was held for several days after it was said he tried to sell "the little girl's story" to newspapers.

Police today sought two men who took Jack Cafuros, R. R. 4, Box 457, cook at the Claypool, for a ride and robbed him of \$40 near Martinsville Tuesday.

Walking up as Cafuros got in his car at South and Meridian streets, the bandits told Cafuros his wife was ill and said they would go home with him. Entering the car, they drew guns and forced him to drive south, getting out of the car after robbing him.

Four men today were held on vagrancy charges after one of the men was thrown from a coupe as police pursued them early today.

Others Are Held

Patrolmen Timothy O'Neill and George Johnson, hearing a man shouting as a coupe passed them at Illinois and Ohio streets, jumped in a taxi and pursued. As they neared the car, Joseph Tucker, 22, Louisville, fell to the street and a revolver was tossed from the car. Tucker, with a long gash on his head, was sent to city hospital.

Others held were Victor Wray, 21, of 1826 West Vermont street; John Dafford, 23, of 3554 West Michigan street, and George Williams, 30, of 239 North Illinois street.

Carl Crausore, delivery messenger for a Hook drug store at Forty-second street and College avenue, was robbed of about \$40 late Tuesday night by two men who called him to the 4600 block on Gulford avenue with a fake order.

Aaron Frazier, 21, Negro, 320 West Eleventh street, today was held as the fifth suspect in the \$300 robbery Feb. 22 of Mr. and Mrs. John Caswell, 3125 Central avenue, owners of a bathing beauties on film fame to bathe as the crew.

Madison County Sued

By Times Special

MT. VERNON, Ind., March 4.—Mt. Vernon authorities today were seeking a hit-and-run driver who Tuesday night drove his truck into George Haas, 75, former city councilman and Conrad Maier. Haas died two hours later in an Evansville hospital of a skull fracture. Maier's injuries are not serious. The two men were crossing a street in the residential district when run down.

Sheep first were introduced in America at Jamestown in 1609.

Truck Kills Aged Man

By United Press

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Speaker of the House Walter Myers accepted the resolution with the amendment that "Admiral" Smith obtain Mack Jenkins' bathing beauties of film fame to bathe as the crew.

All-Comedy Stage Show

CHARLES FARRELL IN "BODY AND SOUL"

ELLISSA LANDI

Flaming new screen and a daring—vibrant love drama

TONIGHT—SEE Eddie Sothern—Dobie Stevens
Eugene Niven
COUVERT CHARGE
Wed., 50c; Fri., 75c; Sat., \$1
Broadcast Over WFBM

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