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## GORDON DEATH FOURTH MAJOR GOTHAM CRIME

Rosenthal, Rothstein and King Murders Offer Striking Parallel.

### KILLED TO SEAL LIPS

Five Went to Chair After Informer Was Slain to Halt 'Squawking.'

BY SIDNEY B. WHIPPLE  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
NEW YORK, March 10.—Wages of Broadway sin have increased amazingly since the days of 1912 when Police Lieutenant Charles Becker ordered the assassination of Herman Rosenthal because he threatened to squeal about Becker's \$50,000-a-year graft in the Tenderloin.

Nineteen years—bringing up to 1931, when Vivian Gordon was strangled as she was about to disclose her part in the \$20,000,000 annual crime business of New York's night club belt—have seen the mushrooming of prohibition evasion, of bootlegging, narcotic peddling, gambling and racketeering. But, though the price may be higher, the methods, varied by gun or rope, remain the same.

New York has seen three previous major crimes that have rocked police departments, shaken administrations, and brought "reform waves" surging through municipal politics, in the past twenty years.

#### Rosenthal Slain in 1912

Details of these criminal political events have a parallel. In the parallel, amateur detectives profess to find clews to the murderers of Vivian Gordon, night life racketeer, extortioner, protege of an organized vice ring, whose body was found, nearly two weeks ago, in a lonely spot in the Bronx, strangled.

Herman Rosenthal was shot to death outside the Metropole on July 16, 1912. He had gone about town threatening to expose the graft attached to Lieutenant Becker's administration of the Tenderloin, and the lieutenant's partnership with gamblers, bawdy housekeepers and purveyors of illicit entertainment.

It was shown that he had been "put on the spot" on the orders of Becker, and that Gyp the Blood, Little Louie, Dago Frank, and Whitey Lewis were the gunmen.

#### Five Go to Chair

The public reviled in the morbid disclosures of the tieup between vice and police. Becker and the four gunmen went to the chair at Sing Sing and District Attorney Charles S. Whitman went to the Governor's chair at Albany. But not before "Big Jack" Zelig, a witness in the prosecution, had been found dead of a bullet, one morning before the trial.

The "reform wave" swept John Purroy Mitchel, fusionist into city hall. On Nov. 4, 1928, Arnold Rothstein, once king, gambler, receiver of stolen bond; fence, crook and millionaire, was shot in the vicinity—or within—the Park Central hotel.

Joah Banton was the district attorney. Federal officials, peering at Rothstein's papers, uncovered a narcotics ring that reached from coast to coast. Mr. Banton—and for this he was criticised severely—failed to find any clews in the Rothstein papers, and gave them back to attorneys.

#### Whalen Removed

Mayor Walker removed Police Commissioner Joseph Warren and appointed the dapper Grover A. Whalen in his place. Whalen discharged the head of the detective bureau and the chief of the homicide squad, George McManus, a gambler, was tried for the murder, and acquitted.

District Attorney Banton went out, and District Attorney Thomas C. T. Crain went in, promising to clear up the Rothstein murder in two weeks. The murder remains on the books today, unsolved.

The Dot King murder, in 1923, provided a setting similar to that of Vivian Gordon. Dot King, a Broadway butterfly, was under the power of a number of sinister characters, who tried to use her as a means of blackmailing a wealthy admirer—later identified as a Princeton man, son-in-law of Edward T. Stotesbury, who was a partner of J. P. Morgan.

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Police investigations came to nothing—sue to expose another relationship between the girl and the late Draper M. Davis, son of the famous Harding cabinet officer.

Finally, there is Vivian Gordon. On a Friday she went before the Seabury crime investigation commission, to testify to a "frameup." On the following Thursday morning her body was found, a clothesline knotted around her neck.

Today the "reform wave" once more sweeps New York, and it is District Attorney Crain who is under fire. His office now is subject to an official investigation, ordered by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt.

#### ARSON PLOT ALLEGED

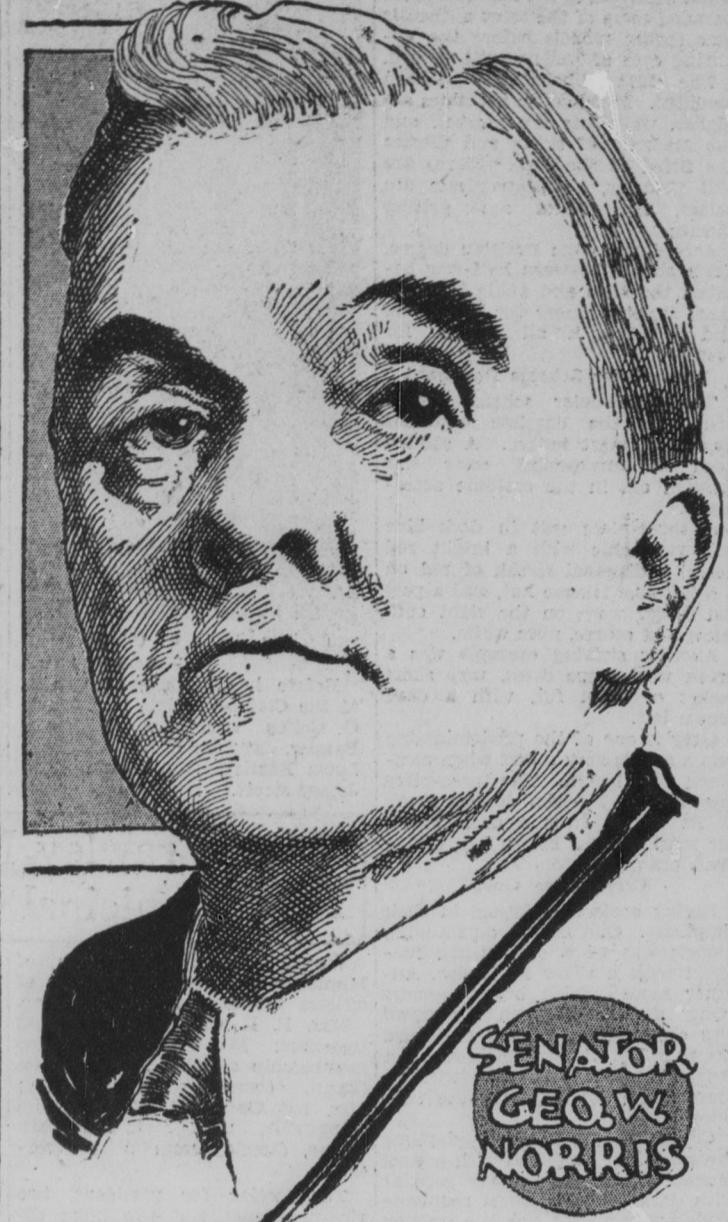
Four Washington Men Arrested After House Burns.

BY TIMES SPECIAL  
WASHINGTON, Ind., March 10.—William Beck, insurance agent and real estate dealer, is at liberty under \$2,500 bond pending trial in Daviess circuit court on the charge of conspiring to commit arson.

Henry Billings, Burley Ballard and Joe Grove are charged with being accomplices of Ewart.

Authorities charge that Beck employed Billings to set fire to a residence Beck owned, and that in turn Billings employed Ballard and Grove.

## CONTINUED BATTLE FOR RIGHT PLEDGED BY SENATOR NORRIS



## STATE BUDGET ADOPTED WITH SCANT CUTTING

Total of \$75,900,000 Only \$92,000 Below That Originally Set.

### BILL SERVES AS CLUB

House Forces Senate Action With Reapportionment in Background.

Used as a club by the Indiana house of representatives to compel action by the Republican senate on congressional reapportionment, the biennial appropriation bill finally was passed by both houses in the early hours today with the total governmental appropriations for the next two years fixed at \$75,938,832.97.

The appropriation bill in its present form represents a reduction of only \$92,000 agreed upon by the conference committee of both houses and makes the Governor's emergency contingency fund bear the brunt of what slashing was accomplished. The fund was fixed at \$125,000 a year for two years and represents a reduction of \$150,000 for the two years.

Another item in the bill to feel the paring knife was the deep waterways commission whose appropriation was reduced by the conference committee from \$12,000 a year to \$2,000.

Other decreases from figures reached by the senate included: Employment commission operating expense, \$18,000 to \$14,000 annually; board of chartered personal service, \$32,000 to \$30,000 annually; Spanish American veterans, \$1,500 to \$1,000 annually; publication of automobile lists, \$20,000 to \$15,000 annually.

Only increase was \$940 for the state appellate court.

It passed the house, the appropriation bill total was fixed at \$75,685,491, a reduction of \$421,739 from the budget committee's figures. The senate passed the bill at \$76,030,883.97.

### NANCY BOWEN, 'WITCH KILLER,' PLEADS GUILTY

Aged Seneca Indian Woman Faces Possible 20-Year Term.

By United Press

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 10.—Nancy Bowen, aged Seneca Indian woman, who admitted that she killed Mrs. Clothilde Marshall because she believed the white woman was a witch, pleaded guilty in Erie county court today to charge of the state appellate court.

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