

Full Leased Wire Service of  
the United Press AssociationLA FOLLETTE  
BRANDS U. S.  
CHIEFS WEAK

Administration Lacks 'Will or Courage,' Young Bob Tells Progressives.

## JOBLESS AID IS TALKED

Existing Order Challenged at Conference; Borah Striking Figure.

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, March 12.—Declaring the administration has lacked "either the will or the courage" to meet a crisis in which 25,000,000 people have suffered privation in the midst of plenty, Senator Robert M. La Follette (Rep., Wis.) called upon members of the progressive conference today to search for a remedial program which independents could support with their balance of power in the next congress.

"We do not expect to draw up such a program in two days' time," he said, "but we believe our government can be made to function in relieving the appalling suffering that exists, and in prevention of the recurrence of the disaster of widespread employment."

## Urge Jobless Insurance

La Follette led a round-table discussion on unemployment and industrial stabilization. Others participating included Leo Wolman, unemployment expert; Robert P. Scripps, president and editorial director of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, and George H. Soule of the labor bureau, New York, and associate editor of the New Republic.

Wolman is his speech advocated three major remedies for unemployment. They were:

1. A universal system of public employment agencies calculated to facilitate the bringing together of vacancies and unemployed workers.

2. Exercise of control over public construction, to enable expansion in times of need and contraction in times of prosperity.

3. Unemployment insurance, set up by the industries themselves.

Shape Important Issues  
Economists said Wolman are agreed "that these recurring periods of prosperity or depression inevitably will succeed themselves in the future as they have in the past as long as the present unregulated course of business continues."

Out of these discussions, especially that concerning utilities, one of the important issues in the next presidential campaign may take shape.

Senator William E. Borah (Rep., Idaho) has emerged in the conference as one of the striking figures in the progressive's new movement.

Borah, supported by emphatic applause, registered the general temper of the conference as one which seeks to better the condition of that 96 per cent of the population which was said to own only 20 per cent of the nation's wealth—and to lay firm hands on the other 4 per cent, not to deprive it of its wealth, but to hold it in check through equality before the law.

"Progressive opinion is against any blanket repeal of the eighteenth amendment which does not substitute a rational system of public control over the manufacture and sale of alcohol. Should the federal government take over the enforcement responsibility of the state? It should not.

"This question can be met only by a system of honest co-operation between state and local authorities."

## William Green Speaks

The question of Russian recognition was injected into the conference by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who announced that his organization is "uncompromisingly and irreconcilably opposed to the recognition of Soviet Russia."

The federation's position, Green said, is based upon a belief that application of Soviet principles would "destroy our organized labor movement."

Green demanded a five-day work week and a reduction in the hours of labor in proportion to the increase in the productivity of individual laborers.

Assails U. S. Policies

The attitude of the federal government toward the present unemployment situation was described by Mayor Frank Murphy of Detroit as "unfair and callous," amounting to a social retreat.

"In Detroit we held the situation to be legally a calamity and as a city we held our arms open while the federal government groused away the opportunity and was stone-cold and brutally callous," the youthful red-headed mayor said.

He described the machinery which has furnished 2,000,000 free meals and housed 12,000 homeless men every night in Detroit and appealed for federal unemployment insurance.

## REALTOR BLAMES BANKS

Losses on Real Estate Unnecessary, Board in Told.

"No bank which has made real estate loans on a scientific, intelligent and honest appraisal, which the bank itself should have made, should have lost any appreciable amount during the past depression," said Harry S. Kissell, Springfield, O., before the Indianapolis Real Estate Board today at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

Kissell, president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, spoke on "Real Estate Solidifying Itself as Safest Investment."

## Wealthy Husband Slain by Ex-Beauty Queen

Mrs. Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger  
Self-Defense Claimed by  
Former 'Miss St. Louis'  
After Tragedy.

## LEGISLATOR IS SHOT IN HOTEL

Gunplay Follows Drunken Row in Hostelry.

By United Press

NICE, France, March 12.—Mrs. Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger, 26, who, as Charlotte Nash, Miss St. Louis, won second honors in the 1923 international beauty pageant at Atlantic City, was held by police today on charges of killing her husband.

Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger told police she fired two shots at her husband in self-defense when he threatened her with physical harm.

Police said the shooting occurred when Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger was drinking a beer at a bar from McCapone's room, police said.

The couple had two young children who were asleep in the next room, but were not awakened by the shots.

## Met at Beauty Pageant

By United Press

PHILADELPHIA, March 12.—Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger was a member of a prominent theater family in the east. At one time he had various shows touring the country and was considered extremely wealthy.

Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger, the former Charlotte Nash, is the third wife of the theater owner. They were married in Hagerstown, Md., in February, 1924, divorced in Paris, and remarried in 1928. They have two children, one 3 years old and the other 18 months.

The amusement man and Miss Nash became acquainted during the Atlantic City beauty pageant of 1923, when she was Miss St. Louis and he was connected with the group sponsoring the pageant.

Nixon-Nirdlinger was one of the judges of the contest and when Miss Nash was awarded second place announced "she was the most beautiful girl in the world."

Shortly after the contest, the girl who was to become the third Mrs. Nixon-Nirdlinger was sent to a finishing school at Forest Glenn, Md., by a wealthy Philadelphia. A special governess was employed to instruct her in the fine points of social deportment.

The school girl and the theater magnate slipped away to Hagerstown, Md., and were secretly married under assumed names, although he was still married to his second wife.

During the honeymoon, reports came to friends here that there had been a quarrel while crossing the ocean. Her mother, Mrs. J. B. Nash, came east and went to Paris with the couple, then returned to New York with her daughter.

Later the bathing beauty relented and returned to her husband in Paris. But they were divorced.

Clayton W. Schultz will be appointed to the Saran Shanck course. Selection of pro for the Douglass park Negro links will be made later.

Grand opening of the municipal courses probably will be held the latter part of April.

## GOLF COURSE JOBS WILL BE ASSIGNED

City Links to Open for Season Late Next Month.

Appointment of professional golfers at municipal links was to be made this afternoon by the park board.

Ralph Stonehouse, last year professional at Coffin course, will be assigned to Pleasant Run. Coffin course will be closed to the public. Her will succeed Herman Uebel, resigned.

Russell Stonehouse will be re-appointed to Riverside, and Harry Schoppe will be in charge of maintenance and golf duties at South Grove.

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INDIANAPOLIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1931

Entered as Second-Class Matter  
at Postoffice, Indianapolis'MYSTERY GIRL'  
IS BRANDED AS  
DRAVES KILLERKirkland Defense Charges  
Victim Was Struck Down  
by Jealous Rival.

## REVERSAL IS FORECAST

Barrett O'Hara Declares  
Gary Youth Will Be  
Set Free.

VALPARAISO, Ind., March 12.—Refreshed by a four-hour sleep and assistance of his attorney, the man who could obtain reversal of a life imprisonment sentence, Virgil Kirkland, 20, former Gary high school football player, appeared almost his old confident, smiling self again today.

A "mystery" woman witness, it was reported, will testify that a girl, jealous of Virgil, had struck Arlene Draves in the head with a milk bottle at a liquor party.

"I didn't do it," Kirkland said from his small cell, where he will remain until Monday when sentence formally will be passed and he will be taken to the state prison, "I'm innocent and this isn't fair."

## Youth Collapses in Cell

The jury's verdict that Kirkland had caused the death of Arlene Draves, his 18-year-old sweetheart, by beating her with his fists at the party in November, ended an eighteen-day trial. Virgil collapsed exhausted on his hard cot when he was taken to his cell and remained there fourteen hours.

Barratt O'Hara, defense attorney, appeared elated at the verdict, he declared he was satisfied.

"There is no question about a reversal in this," said O'Hara, "the state's case was built up chiefly on evidence that my client had assaulted Miss Draves and brought about her death that way."

## Reversal Is Forecast

"The jury decided that he did not assault her when it returned its verdict of guilty on the first count alone, which was 'beating.' There was no evidence to show that Virgil beat the girl to death with his fists. Even the jury said he did not beat her with anything else, when it passed on the second charge, which was 'murder' by bludgeoning."

"Since he was accused of every other charge than that of beating the girl to death, he can not be retried on those other counts."

"And, too," he added with a smile, "we have just found a new witness, a woman, who will give evidence of a nature that I am sure will startle the prosecution and free me."

## Society Is Blamed

"He wasn't the guilty one, remember. Society, with its prohibition which brought about such gin parties, is really responsible for that murder."

Leon Stark, one of four youths charged with responsibility for the girl's death with Kirkland, was brought to the jail here and will be tried as an accomplice. Three others, David Thompson, Henry Shirk and Paul Barton, are still at large.

Hotels officials said McCabe had been drinking and had created a disturbance. Lansdale, who occupied a room across a hall from McCabe, telephoned the hotel clerk that "if you don't stop that rumpus, I will," the clerk said.

McCabe was shot just below the heart and from a point in the hall outside his door, police said. A revolver of the caliber used in the shooting was found in Lansdale's room, police said.

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started their annual luncheon at 10 a. m. and will continue as far into the evening as necessary to give each member time to relate his share of the saga. Some of them wore Palm Beach suits to indicate their scorn for the mild winters of the present century.

Only the best of the stories concerning the great blizzard were selected for recounting.

Rivalry among the blizzard men as to who had the most harrowing experience during the three days always has assured several stories of rare quality, which even improve with age and repetition.

How workmen started digging away at a gigantic drift, only to find it was a horsecar, snowbound for more than two days, with all passengers safe inside.

How another crew tied an elevated train to the tracks to keep it from blowing away.

How the courts were closed and Wall Street deserted, men were marooned in their offices and in

straight rye whisky. The beasts danced over the snowdrifts like reindeer on the way out, Jackson said, but were bothered by hiccoughs on the way back.

Earmuffs sold by unscrupulous clothing scalpers brought \$5 a pair.

How persons marooned in

stalled elevated trains lowered pails on ropes, had them filled with hot toddy at the nearest bar and held a three-day repast until rescued.

How Theodorus Van Wyck, poet and retired attorney, got through to Mt. Vernon with the first news and went from house to house, like a slow motion Paul Revere, warning wives that their husbands would not return that night.

How all provisions in the city finally were exhausted except

saloons, and 300 persons, caught in Grand Central station, slept on the floor and played euchre.

How an old gentleman with a fine beard and bushy hair became entirely hidden under icicles while walking two blocks up Broadway and, when rescued from an eight-foot snowdrift by two policemen, was saved by drinking a quart of hot toddy through a funnel.

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