

## HIGHWAY BOARD SCRAMBLED BY REDISTRICTING

Wedeking Reappointment Is Slated as Leslie Debates New Law.

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY

Indiana's new reapportionment law has scrambled the congressional districts so that it leaves the status of members of the state highway commission in the shape of an omelet.

Just what has happened is being decided at the statehouse now in the hope of finding a way for Governor Harry G. Leslie to reappoint Albert J. Wedeking (Rep., Dale), to the state highway commission.

Wedeking has represented the first highway district, under the law creating the commission. He is commission chairman and his term expires April 17.

Under the highway law the first highway district is to be composed of the first, second and third congressional districts. The old congressional reapportionment placed these three districts in southern Indiana, but under the new law the first district is in Lake county and the second and third districts are composed of the counties surrounding Lake in the northern part of the state.

Ogden Studies Law

Backers of Wedeking point out that the appointment can be made before the 1931 laws are proclaimed in effect by the Governor. But the term is for four years and status of such an appointment might be questioned, it is asserted by those who have raised the question of legality.

The district setup of the highway law can only be changed by an act of the legislature, it is pointed out.

Attorney-General James M. Ogden is giving the matter some study, it was learned. He has pointed out that, in his opinion, the old districts will hold their status until after the 1932 congressional elections, which will be based on the new districting.

To back up this viewpoint, Ogden cites a hypothetical case growing out of possible death of one of the present Indiana congressmen. He should be succeeded under the old district plan, or some new district would have two or three congressmen and leave whole counties unrepresented, the attorney-general declares.

**Subcommission Status in Doubt**

Status of all members of the highway commission will be in doubt when the new reappointment goes into effect.

Commissioner Jess Murden (Rep., Peru), so-called commission "boss," now represents the third highway district because he lives in the Eleventh congressional district. The third highway district is comprised of Eighth, Ninth and Eleventh congressional districts. Under the new law Murden will be in the Fifth congressional district.

Commissioner Arthur P. Melton (Dem., Gary) now represents the fourth highway district, because he lives in the Tenth congressional district. But under the new law he will remain in the First congressional district. Fourth highway district is composed, by law, of the Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth congressional districts.

**Wedeking Appointment on Time**

Commissioner Robert B. Boren (Dem., Fountain Valley), has been his second highway district representative on the commission, living in the Sixth congressional district. The Second highway district is composed of the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh congressional districts. Now, when the new law is effective, Boren will be a resident of the Tenth congressional district.

In the past it has been a policy of the Governor to let appointments ride, sometimes for as much as two years, without making any decision. This would permit him to avoid any legal complications, it is pointed out. But Wedeking's appointment may be made on time, particularly if Murden so desires, it is said.

**OIL PACT ADVANCED BY WESTERN STATES**

"Crude" Price Output Would Be Regulated Under Proposal.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance WASHINGTON, April 7.—Ten states, producing 90 per cent or more of the country's total annual output of petroleum, will exercise absolute control over the production and price of crude oil throughout the United States, under their plan to submit to the federal oil conservation board here Thursday.

Cicero Murray, cousin of Governor "Alfalfa" Bill Murray of Oklahoma, and chairman of the oil states advisory committee, has opened headquarters in this city, and committee will hold conferences there preceding the meeting Thursday with Secretary of Interior Wilbur and the board.

Murray is backed by the legislative endorsements of the ten states and may be one of the most powerful figures in American industry under the new plan to regulate the production, distribution and price of petroleum.

**NEGRO WOMAN IS DEAD**

Miss Alice Kelley, Social Worker, to Be Buried in Louisville.

Miss Alice P. Kelley, 60, Negro, 715 North West street, state president of the Sisters of Charity, a religious social organization, died at her home Monday night.

For twenty-one years she was a forewoman at the C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company, and aided in building of the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A. home. A sister survives her, in Louisville, where she will be buried.

**WEBSTER ASKS DELAY**

Publisher Wants Time in Blackmail Conviction Appeal.

Irving Webster, Indianapolis publisher convicted of blackmail, appeared personally at the statehouse today to file a petition for further extension of time to file briefs for his appeal with the supreme court.

One extension was granted in December until Feb. 16, but this is Webster's first move since December to continue his appeal.

## Train for Annual Butler Follies

Spring fever has little chance to flourish at Butler university, where students are "in training" for the "Fairview Follies," to be presented Friday and Saturday nights, April 10 and 11, in Caleb Mills hall, Shortridge high school. In the left photo, Miss Irene Spurgeon, 1062 West Thirty-first street, is attacking the gym's supply of dumb-bells and Indian clubs to get in form for the uni-



## 'LIMPING' AUTOS CALLED MENACE

### Spring Brings Out Weird Cars, Says Club Head.

Spring has other hazards besides black eyes from dubbed golf balls, balls landing on the breakfast table, chigger bites and White river "suck holes."

For the motorist who rides the highways and the pedestrian who walks them must guard against the automotive Smithsonian institute exhibits that "chug" on the pavements.

Todd Stoops, secretary-manager of the Hoosier Motor Club, today warned citizens against the monstrosity of 1930 that called itself an automobile and attempts to roll along like any streamline model.

"Many of these decrepit cars, of every make and model, will put in their appearance as spring weather comes. They have been stored away for the winter, but in the warmer months become a menace on the road," he said.

He urged owners of antiquated autos to see that their brakes are in good condition.

## OGDEN FIGHTS MOVE BY STEVE

### Promises Counter-Attack on Error Writ Petition.

Promise of a counter-attack by Attorney-General James M. Ogden against petition of D. C. Stephenson for a writ of error coram nobis in Hamilton circuit court was seen today when Ogden asked a special appearance to file pleadings.

He phoned Emmett Furtig, Hamilton county prosecutor, to file the special appearance.

Six years after Stephenson began his life term for the murder of Madge Oberholtzer he is charging that the jury which convicted him was "influenced."

Judge Fred E. Hines had set today as the return date on Stephenson's petition.

### MEDICAL SOCIETY TO HEAR NOTED DOCTORS

T. B. Specialists Will Speak at Session, April 14.

Two men, nationally known for their endeavors in the battle against tuberculosis, will speak in the Lincoln, April 14, under auspices of the Indiana Tuberculosis Association, Marion County Tuberculosis Association and the Indianapolis Medical Society.

They are Dr. Kendall Emerson of Worcester, Mass., managing director of the national association, who will speak on "Economic Stress and Tuberculosis," and Dr. William Charles White, formerly of Indianapolis, now with the United States Public Health Service in Washington, D. C., and chairman of the committee on medical research of the national association, whose subject will be "Latest Developments in Tuberculosis Research."

Contractor Dies

By United Press

INDIANAPOLIS, April 7.—A crisis reached in affairs of Howard University, oldest school.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—A crisis in the affairs of Howard University, the country's foremost school of higher education for Negro students, may lead to the removal of Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president, by the board of trustees at a meeting here April 12.

The past year has been marked by a series of differences between Dr. Johnson and members of the faculty and board of trustees.

Specific complaints against Dr. Johnson include changing of the operating plan of the university; interfering with the faculty; stripping deans of the various schools of their authority; interference with the operation of the law and medical schools, and creation of what are described as "intolerable conditions."

Age Limit: Boys who are 14 years and under, and who will not be 15 until July 1, 1931.

I was born ..... (month) ..... (day) ..... (year)

Playground Near My Home.

Name .....

Address .....

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