



# The Indianapolis Times

Fair tonight and Tuesday; no decided change in temperature, lowest tonight about 28.

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INDIANAPOLIS, MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1932

Entered as Second-Class Matter  
at Postoffice, Indianapolis, Ind.TWO CENTS Outside Marion  
County 3 Cents

## WITT COUNSEL FIGHT READING OF CONFESSION

Admission of Guilt Made  
Under Third Degree,  
Attorneys Say.

### HEARING IS DELAYED

Ira Holmes Grills Sleuths,  
Fails to Substantiate  
Brutality Charge.

*By Times Special*  
LEBANON, Ind., Jan. 18.—Charges that Charles Vernon Witt, on trial for the murder of L. A. Jackson, Indianapolis chain store owner, was subjected to police brutality and finally signed a purported confession to "save" himself from further mistreatment, halted the ex-convict's trial here today.

Ira M. Holmes, defense attorney, hurled the allegations in circuit court, when the state attempted to introduce the alleged statement during testimony of Detective John Marron.

When Marron prepared to identify the purported statement, Holmes protested, telling the court the defendant not only was mistreated, but forced to undergo rigors of many hours of questioning.

Judge John W. Hornaday excused the jury, the state halted presentation of evidence and Holmes was called upon to prove the charges.

#### Questioned on Brutality

At the close of the morning session, Holmes had questioned Marron and Detective George Mueller, but had not supported his claims of brutality. Holmes and Elza O. Rogers, of the defense, were to call numerous other officers and newspaper men late today, in an effort to support the allegations.

Holmes failed to bring out through Marron's testimony that the alleged confession was not voluntary.

However, from Mueller, it was revealed that Witt, throughout the questioning, told the detective, "George, if I say anything, I'll spill it to you."

Mueller said he obtained cigarettes for the defendant and, as did Marron, denied he had struck or abused Witt during the quizzing.

#### Denies He Is Witt

Both detectives related Witt refused to admit his identity for some time, insisting his name was Irwin. The officers said he continued his denials in the face of photos of himself and fingerprints.

Shortly after the defendant is said to have admitted his identity, Witt is alleged to have given Mueller the statement clearing himself of the fatal shot, and naming Louis E. Hamilton, who will be tried later, as the "trigger man."

Witt was arrested June 25, 1931, and police issued his alleged statement June 27. The murder was committed in Jackson's central Standard Grocery Company store, May 27, 1931.

Witt's alleged admission of his part in the crime stated that he met Hamilton shortly before the robbery attempt and that Hamilton had given him the sawed-off shotgun he is said to have carried when he entered the store. He is said to have admitted firing one charge.

#### Defendant to Testify

Action of Holmes is expected to result in Witt taking the stand in his own defense, in an attempt to clinch the charge that he was "forced" to sign a statement.

Several police officers from Indianapolis and Chief Mike Morrissey were spectators in the jammed courtroom today.

Questioning of police and newspaper men may delay resumption of the trial before the jury until Tuesday, it was believed. Judge John W. Hornaday will rule on admission of the alleged confessions by the state after Holmes' efforts to prove his charges.

Chester Jackson, son of the slain grocery chief, will be the state's final witness. He stood beside his father when the bandits shot the dead grocer as he resisted their robbery attempts.

The report was presented to Criminal Judge Charles S. Bell by a defense attorney, Arthur C. Fricke.

Judge Bell has named three other aliens to examine the man. They probably will report Thursday. If Bischoff is adjudged mad, he will be committed to the Lima state hospital for the criminal insane.

### SEEKS FIVE BILLIONS

Father Cox' 'Jobless Party' Would Spend Sum on Relief.

*By United Press*  
PITTSBURGH, Jan. 18.—A \$5,000,000,000 program of public improvements to provide employment for the country's jobless will be one of the chief planks in the platform of the proposed "jobless party," Father James R. Cox revealed today.

Father Cox reiterated his willingness to be a candidate for the presidency.

#### Dog Recovered

That's what this little Lost and Found ad below has to say about the fact that Miss Marie Loyd, 530 W. New York street, dog that was lost and was returned to her. Liable to happen to any one . . . If it happens to you . . . the surest and quickest way to locate the party who has found it is through The Times Lost and Found columns. To place an ad just phone Riley 5551. Special rates.

*BOSTON BULL*—Mother of 2, owner, \$5 reward. Fainter call L 1146.

## Reduce Water and Light Rates Today, Not Tomorrow

An Editorial

Today, and not tomorrow, the public service commission should reduce the rates on electricity and water for the city of Indianapolis.

The commission voted 4 to 1 to cut the rates for the city of Marion under the emergency clause.

If an emergency exists in Marion, it exists in this city and probably in most other cities of the state which have asked in vain for relief.

If the city of Marion is entitled to immediate relief, this city should receive something more than an invitation to plead with Clarence Geist and Harley Clarke to give it a bone of concession.

The basis on which the rates for electricity in Marion were reduced immediately was that the owners are receiving

a profit of 13 per cent a year. Last year Clarence Geist took 25 per cent on his common stock, his sole investment in Indianapolis, as dividends.

Last year Harley Clarke took for his holding company huge returns on the presumed investment in common stock fixed by the commission at the time of the famous merger of the two former competitors in electricity.

Last year he took much more for his holding company through purchase of coal and fees for engineering, finance, and management.

The commission established a precedent that either must be followed in all utilities or repudiated. If the people of Marion are entitled to relief, the people of all other cities must have the same protection.

The people of this city should march upon the statehouse today and demand action. The cut should come today, not tomorrow or next week or next month.

Four of the five members of the commission went on record as declaring that electric rates in Marion constitute an emergency and gave immediate relief.

What do those four members say concerning the dividend of \$1,250,000 last year on the five millions of common stock in the water company owned by Clarence Geist, for which he paid but four millions?

If the Marion situation is an emergency, the situation in Indianapolis on water rates is a catastrophe, demanding even more drastic action.

Will the commission cut those water rates today? If not, why not?

## HOOVER CREDIT BILL CAUGHT IN CONGRESS JAM

Senate and House Disagree  
on Important Points  
in Measure.

### DEMOCRATS IN SPLIT

Republicans Are Annoyed  
by Differing Views  
of Rivals.

LYLE C. WILSON

United Press Staff Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—President Hoover's \$2,000,000,000 emergency credit project is in a legislative jam from which it is the task of senate leaders to extricate it today.

Both houses have passed the measure, the keystone of Mr. Hoover's domestic relief program. But the two houses did not pass identical bills. They differ materially in two economic features and in one important political matter.

The Republican senate passed the bill first and sent it to the Democratic house bearing the name of one of Mr. Hoover's closest friends, Senator Walcott (Rep., Conn.), as sponsor. The Democratic house chucked the senate bill into the discard by referring it to a committee and proceeded to pass its own bill, bearing the label of R. I. Steagall (Ala.) a Democratic stalwart.

#### Concurrence Is Requested

Now the house bill has been sent to the senate with a curt request for concurrence. The bill over which the senate labored so mightily languishes in a house committee, and senate Republicans are annoyed.

So far as the senate is concerned, the bill has reverted to the legislative position it occupied the day the banking and currency committee reported it favorably.

Republican leaders expect today to obtain a favorable vote for a suspension of the rules to enable immediate consideration of the credit program.

Republican annoyance is increased by the fact that the most important difference between the house and senate bills represents a difference of opinion between Democrats themselves.

Senators Glass (Dem., Va.) and Senator Bulkeley (Dem., O.) led the senate fight to keep the emergency credit scheme entirely separate from operations of the federal reserve system. House Democrats have enacted a bill which gives the proposed reconstruction finance corporation the privilege of discounting its paper with the reserve banks.

#### Fears for Bank

Glass contends this discount privilege would overwhelm the reserve banks and seriously impair that primary source of commercial credit.

Senators are determined at the outset of the forthcoming conference between representatives of the two houses to stand fast for their version of the credit scheme. Republican leaders hope conferences may begin today.

The house appropriations committee today set congress an example of concrete economy by reporting favorably on an agriculture department annual appropriation bill \$60,000,000 under funds allowed for the present fiscal year, and \$10,799,591 less than President Hoover's budget estimates.

The bill, which will receive immediate consideration, appropriates \$175,449,814 for activities of the department, including federal aid highways.

#### Agree to Cut Expenses

This drastic economy action by the committee follows closely upon agreement of house Democratic and Republican leaders to cut expenses as far as possible without injuring governmental efficiency.

The committee named to confer with the speaker is composed of Senator Joe Rand Beckett, Indianapolis; Frank Southworth, Plymouth, and C. Oliver Holmes, Gary, Republicans, and Walter S. Chambers, Newcastle; J. Francis Lochard, Milan, and Jesse Ballard, Marian, Democrats.

The senators hope that committees from both houses will be able to present some sort of a relief program to Governor Harry G. Leslie with the request that he issue a call for a special session.

High point of the discussion Saturday was the almost universal demand for retrenchment through the slashing of governmental expenditures and salaries and wages. Several suggested that the salaries of public school teachers be reduced.

Practically all bureaus and activities of the department felt the economy ax.

The \$150,000,000 appropriation for federal land banks probably will become a law this week. Vigorous opposition is developing to the proposal to extend federal aid to depositors in insolvent banks, but a hard fight should get that measure through.

A bill for creation of a system of home loan banks to thaw frozen mortgage assets is in the hands of a senate subcommittee.

COHASSETT, Mass., Jan. 18.—A single policeman exchanged shots with a gang of about fifteen rum runners on the beach here early today, drove them away, and seized some 300 cases of liquor, valued at \$24,000.

### Women! Bowl!

The Times free bowling classes for women will open Friday. Read details of your opportunity to learn this health-giving game on the woman's page, then prepare to enroll.

## RAGING FLOOD PERILS LIVES OF THOUSANDS

Many Rescued in Boats;  
Others Spend Night on  
Houseboats.

*By United Press*

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 18.—A further rise of flood waters in the Tippo basin added to the peril of more than 2,000 marooned on roofs, levee tops, and every available high spot as they awaited rescue today.

Hundreds of shivering and hungry families spent a night of horror clinging precariously to roofs or huddled together on high knolls as black waters slashed at their feet.

Rescue workers, halted by darkness, marshaled forces for new excursions into the basin.

Of the 5,000 or more persons marooned in the basin, approximately half had been taken out in boats, skiffs and makeshift rafts at dusk Sunday night. Insufficient boats handicapped rescuers, although 250 paddled skiffs and fifty motor boats were rushed to the area Sunday. Urgent appeals were made through the night for more boats.

A break in the Tallahatchie river levee ten miles south of Lambert, Miss., Sunday night spread flood waters fanlike over the southeastern section of Panola county. More than 15,000 acres of lowland face inundation.

Food supplies were inadequate in many refugee camps. This, coupled with exposure in makeshift shelters, cause imminent danger of disease. Additional Red Cross workers have been summoned, with local chapters taking charge in their areas.

RIVER RISE HALTS

Flood menace in Indianapolis and surrounding territory was lessened today, when height of White river was recorded as unchanged during the last twelve hours, despite heavy rains in several sections of the state Sunday.

Indianapolis Water Company officials said, although the river was high, it was "a long way from flood stage." Lowlands at Ravenswood were flooded, but residents said they believed the water rise was checked.

Farmers were heaviest hit, as water covered areas near Indianapolis.

State roads south of Indianapolis were flooded and several thoroughfares were closed, state highway commissioners reported.

State Road 67 was blocked from Spencer to Martinsville and was ordered to be closed.

Road 46 was closed, with a detour, between Bloomington and Spencer, and another section of the road from Bloomington to Nashville was expected to be closed tonight.

Road 31 near Seymour will be closed tonight, with traffic directed through North Vernon. Trucks were pulling traffic through sections of Road 3, near Vernon; Road 64, near Huntingburg, and Road 150, southwest of Shoals. The latter road was to be closed tonight.

Road 50, west of Medora, was closed and the detour was expected to be covered by water tonight, with traffic directed to Bedford via Salem and Road 60.

Judge Bell has named three other aliens to examine the man. They probably will report Thursday. If Bischoff is adjudged mad, he will be committed to the Lima state hospital for the criminal insane.

### BISCHOFF IS INSANE, ALIENIST DECLARES

Three Other Specialists Are  
Examining Slayer of Child.

*By United Press*

CINCINNATI, Jan. 18.—Charles Bischoff, 45, whitewasher, who confessed he drugged Marian McLean, 6, to his tenement house, where he was attacked and killed her, today was declared insane in the report by Dr. Ralph Read, alienist.

The report was presented to Criminal Judge Charles S. Bell by a defense attorney, Arthur C. Fricke.

Judge Bell has named three other aliens to examine the man. They probably will report Thursday. If Bischoff is adjudged mad, he will be committed to the Lima state hospital for the criminal insane.

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## INSANITY WILL BE TRIAL PLEA OF RUTH JUDD

Former Indiana Girl Will  
Face Court Tuesday on  
Murder Charge.

*By United Press*

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 18.—Mrs. Winnie Ruth Judd is expected to plead insanity as one of her defenses when she goes to trial Tuesday charged with the murder of her two women friends.

Herman Lewkowitz, Mrs. Judd's local counsel, admitted today that she probably will attempt to show insanity, "among other things." Under Arizona law, insanity may be pleaded as one of several defenses.

The 27-year-old woman charged with killing Miss Hedwig Samelson and Mrs. Agnes Lerol, and riding 500 miles with their dismembered bodies in her luggage, has been under observation of many psychiatrists and alienists, acting both for the