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## HALT CALLED ON 'RUSH ACT' OF CORONER

City Hospital Orders Wait of 48 Hours Before Embalming.

AGREEMENT UNDER FIRE

Undertakers Assail Pact Made With Association by Vehling.

Hurried embalming by the Askin College of Embalming, whose activities have the support of Coroner Fred W. Vehling, now under criminal indictment, were blocked today by Dr. Charles W. Myers, superintendent of city hospital.

Myers issued an order which prevents embalming of bodies of unidentified persons until forty-eight hours have elapsed after receipt of the bodies at the institution. This will apply in all cases, except where relatives of deceased persons give permission for performance of the embalming.

Members of the city health board are supporting Myers in his stand against the hurried embalming.

Sets 48-hour Limit

"At a recent meeting of the health board it was decided that no embalming of bodies is to be done on these premises within forty-eight hours from the time the body is placed in the morgue, except with knowledge and consent of the nearest relative," Myers' order reads.

"It therefore, is requested that all concerned will govern themselves accordingly, and that no unidentified bodies will be embalmed at this institution until a period of forty-eight hours has elapsed."

In the meantime, insistent members of the Indiana Funeral Directors' Association are preparing to battle the "agreement" of the association with Vehling and C. G. Askin, head of the Askin College of Embalming, which permits the rush embalming.

Many undertakers said they signed an "agreement" as members of the association when it was submitted to them individually by Bert S. Gadd, president, but the charge sections relating to hurried embalming were added later.

Time Held Too Short

The "agreement" over which contention flared in the association's ranks provided immediate embalming of bodies of persons found dead. Where persons died or were killed in the presence of witnesses, the "agreement" provided that the bodies should be embalmed before the funeral was performed.

City officials held in the case of unidentified persons, newspapers would not have opportunity to broadcast information which might lead to identification of victims.

"I plan to seek co-operation of newspapers in publishing descriptions of the persons who die in this institution," Dr. Myers said today.

"Death strikes under peculiar circumstances and many times there are no way of identification. Relatives should have opportunity to learn of the death through the papers or other channels."

Halts Old Practice

Under the two-hour rule, it was pointed out, with knowledge of death, relatives might not have opportunity to decide on an undertaker and make other plans before embalming took place.

Myers' order also will halt the provision of the "agreement" that students of the embalming school or any one else will proceed with the operation if city hospital records do not state relatives have selected an undertaker.

The agreement was signed shortly before Vehling was indicted, and later charged in an affidavit with soliciting a bribe in a gas death case.

Vehling's trial tentatively has been set for Jan. 23.

DRY ACT IS RENOUNCED

By United Press

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 19.—Republicans and Democrats in the New Jersey state assembly joined forces to pass a dry repeal bill, 42 to 15, in a strategic move on the eve of Governor A. Harry Moore's inauguration.

The house, Democratic for the first time in seventeen years, called from committee Monday night the Republican measure repealing the Hobart law, the state's prohibition act on the statute books since 1922.

The minority party was surprised, but wet Republicans voted for the measure, with only the fifteen staunch dries opposing it.

'Poor Little Rich' Back at School

By United Press

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—The poor little rich children of wealthy Chicago, Chicago suburb, have come to the end of their forced vacation from school. Idle since the Christmas holidays, they will return to classes Thursday. Sale of tax warrants provided funds sufficient to run schools until March.

Well, at Any Rate, She's a Marine Still



Ethel Butler Wehle  
It was a romance of the marine corps that culminated in the engagement of Ethel Peters Butler, daughter of Major-General Smedley D. Butler, retired, to Lieutenant John Wehle. They met at Quantico, Va. (left) marine post, formerly commanded by General Butler.

## SIX KILLED IN BLAST

Entombed Miners Found Dead by Rescuers.

By United Press

PARROTT, Va., Jan. 19.—Bodies of six men, killed in an explosion deep in the Pulaski anthracite mine, were recovered early today by a rescue squad which had battled for hours against debris and gases to reach their entombed comrades.

The dead:  
Frank Seffered, Dewey Seffered, Harvey Seffered, none of them brothers, Ernest Shead and Foster and Artie Boyd, brothers. The positions of their bodies indicated all had died instantly.

The remaining fourteen men of the late shift managed to reach the surface safely, though several were so dazed and stupefied by the mad rush over the debris and through the deadly gases in the shaft that they stumbled and fell as they reached the outside.

URGES LAW TO FORCE FULL UTILITY REPORTS

Texas Senator Predicts Congress Will Enact Remedial Measure.

By Scripps-Honored Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Legislation directing publication, under federal supervision, of details concerning assets, liabilities, expenditures and earnings of interstate public utility holding corporations will be enacted by congress following a study being made by the house interstate commerce committee, Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas, chairman, predicted today.

Such a law, Professor William Z. Ripley, Harvard economist, told the senate committee investigating the banking situation, is more necessary than the regulation of utility rates.

The most glaring need for intelligent, adequate and comparable publicity exists for utilities corporations," Ripley said.

MINERS ARE TAKEN FOR RIDE, LASHED

Pair Missing Since Friday Claim Harlan County "Law" Beat Them.

By United Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 19.—Joe Weber, Pittsburgh, an organizer for the National Miners Union, bared his back today and exhibited two foot-long welts, that he said were administered "by the Harlan county law," early last Saturday, at Lynch, Ky.

Weber with Bill Duncan, member of the N. M. U. at Pineville, Ky., had been missing since Friday night. They told of alleged death threats on a wild automobile ride through two states.

Weber and Duncan were found here today in a small hotel. They said they drove from Appalachia, Va., where they had spent two days in bed recovering from their wounds.

Rugs, Wearing Apparel Stolen

Theft of rugs, valued at \$100, and wearing apparel from the basement of an apartment at 3726 North Meridian street, was reported to police today by Charles H. Hard, Apartment 32.

## UNIONS STAND PAT ON WAGE CUT DEMANDS

'Restore Jobless and We'll Take Slash,' Rail Heads Are Told.

CONFERENCE TO GO ON

Labor Leaders Insist Old Workers Be Given Back Jobs.

By John B. Miller  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—If railroads will guarantee their 1,900,000 union employees as much work as they had in 1930, the workers will agree to a 10 per cent wage cut to revive the impoverished industry.

That appeared today to be the status of the negotiations of the conference of nine railroad presidents and twenty-one union executives over the plight of the railroad business.

The question put to the rail executives by David B. Robertson, chairman of the union executive committee, was:

"Would the railroads agree to guarantee, during the period for which they have proposed a pay roll deduction (one year) to maintain as a minimum amount of work not less than the total man hours worked by each class of employees in 1930?"

Agreement Required

"The distribution of this work would be made by mutual agreement between the representatives of the employees affected and the management of each railroad, contemplating full observance of existing schedule rules unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the existing agreement."

As to the Pullman company this suggestion contemplates restoration to service of conductors in service as of Jan. 1, 1930, so far as the lines remain in operation.

Labor leaders intimated that acceptance of this plan covering the principal demand for stabilized employment would be followed by agreement to the wage slash.

Robertson pointed out there were considerably fewer rail employees in 1930 than in 1929 and about 10 per cent more than in 1931. It was believed the proposal had been so worded to allow adoption, in part, at least, of the union suggestion of a six-hour working day if this plan is found to be feasible.

Cold to Shorter Hours

Thus far the rail executives have opposed even appointment of a committee to study reduced working hours, sought by labor to spread employment among the 500,000 idle union members.

Robertson explained the phrase concerning the Pullman company, meant the unions did not wish porters to do the work of conductors along with their own as in some instances at present.

The question of regional placement bureau appeared settled, except for minor details with the suggestion by the railroads that bureau be set up under E. J. McClellan at New York, N. W. Higgins at Chicago and C. P. Neill at Washington. The unions regarded this suggestion as satisfactory.

Undertaking of the probable length of the negotiations was given when the ballroom in which the meetings are held was reserved until Jan. 27 for deliberations.

## ORGANIZATIONS JOIN IN LABOR CAMPAIGN

Legion Back of Drive for 1,000,000 Jobs for Unemployed.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—A new national organization to get jobs for 1,000,000 unemployed persons was at work actively today.

The American Federation of Labor, the American Federation of National Advertisers, the organization already going out to restore public confidence and effect a resumption of normal buying. A regular war-time organization is being created.

The plan is this: The American Legion is organizing six regional committees. Through the forty-eight state commanders, 10,800 local committees are being organized in every city and town of any size in the United States.

These local committees are inviting to membership leading bankers, newspaper publishers and editors, manufacturers and retailers, representatives of labor, civic and religious leaders.

The committees will canvass industry and homes to obtain an increase in employment. They will urge the use of the best features of the Rochester plan, the Buffalo plan and the Muncie plan, all based on the idea of an immediate expenditure requiring the employment of labor.

Large corporations will be asked to increase their personnel by 10 per cent. A number already have indicated they will.

At the helm of the national organization is Carl Byoir, publisher of the Havana Post, and war-time associate chairman of the committee on public information.

Working with him are Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor; Lee H. Bristol, president of the Association of National Advertisers, and National Commander Henry L. Stevens of the American Legion.

Frederick Murphy, publisher of the Minneapolis Tribune, is chairman of the division of news.

An Editorial

## Slash Those Rates! Not Tomorrow, But Today!

Four members of the public service commission have ordered a 20 per cent reduction of electric rates in the city of Marion.

One of the members who voted for this reduction has charge of the petition of the city of Indianapolis and the south side civic clubs for a reduction of rates in this city.

If the argument of depression and excessive cost was valid in Marion, it is twice as valid in this city.

A comparison of rates charged in the two cities shows that the people of this city pay much more than the people of Marion paid under the old rates which were ordered reduced.

To be exact, were the rates of Indianapolis reduced by the same percentage as that ordered for Marion, the rates then would be approximately the old rates in Marion which are declared 20 per cent excessive.

The rate schedules are somewhat different in basis, but the average rates in Marion are about 4½ mills per kilowatt hour lower than those charged in this city.

The rates in this city should be lower, not higher, than in the smaller cities of the state. The volume of business

transacted makes for lower cost of production and distribution. Electricity is manufactured under the same laws and rules of economics as control costs in the manufacture of any other article. The greater production reduces the unit cost, whether it be in automobiles, clothing or kilowatt hours of electricity.

What excuse can any of these four commissioners give for delay in following the precedent they have fixed for the city of Marion?

The same depression which the commission noted in Marion, the same reduction in prices of materials and labor necessary to reproduce the plants, the same economic trends which were the basis of this order are present in this city.

The people of this city are entitled to relief. The city has given other reasons for relief in the methods used by the local company in the purchase of coal and the payment of tribute of various kinds to the holding company.

The city has called attention to the enormous dividends paid on the common stock of the company.

The rates should be cut—not tomorrow or next week or a year hence, but today.

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