

## JIM WATSON IS 'NEUTRAL' IN GOVERNOR FIGHT--AND INTENDS TO STAY 'NEUTRAL'

All Eight Candidates Are Friends of His and He Won't Enter Battle, Sentera Declares.

WHAT? GET OFF THE FENCE? NO!

Can't Afford to Stir Up Hornet's Nest, He Says; Denies He's Opposed to Thurman.

BY WALTER STONE  
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, June 4.—Senator James E. Watson broke his silence on the Republican gubernatorial nomination free-for-all in Indiana today to declare himself a "genuine neutral."

The "Kingfish" of Hoosier Republicanism, in an interview here, said that he wanted the rank and file of his party in the state to know "what the leaders already know"—that he "neither is helping nor hindering any candidate" who aspires to be the Republican nominee for Governor.

Asked by his interviewer that the "hands off" policy he has manifested is being construed in Indiana as meaning that he is opposed secretly to the candidacy of his life-long friend, M. Bert Thurman, Watson said:

"That interpretation is incorrect. My silence does not mean that I am opposed to Thurman. Nor does the statement I now am making mean that I am for Thurman. I am neither for nor against any candidate."

Served Watson for Years

For a decade Thurman was Watson's personal representative in Indiana, and for many years he served as Watson's appellee, as Republican national committeeman for the state.

The senior Indiana senator would not elaborate further on the anti-Thurman rumor.

Anticipating that the Republican state convention in Indianapolis next week will renominate him for the senatorship by acclamation, Watson has taken the position that he "can not afford" to become involved in factional strife.

"Whoever gets the nomination, he said, "will be my running mate. I understand there are something like eight Republican candidates for Governor. If I were to suggest the word that I wanted any one of them nominated, the other seven and all their friends would be on my neck. I can't afford to stir up

Dodges the Fray

"More than that, I don't want to butt into the fight. All these candidates are friends of mine. They have fought with me through thick and thin. They're all Watson Republicans."

"Have you been asked to make a gesture of friendliness toward any of the candidates?" Watson was asked.

"Yes, I have been asked to help another darned one of them," he replied. "Friends of all of them have been to see me and have called me over long-distance. But I haven't budged off the fence."

"The idea that I want to sit up here at the end o' a telephone line, like a commanding general, and direct the troops in Indiana is all wet. I have more than I can do right here in the senate."

"Is there any possible contingency?" the senator was asked. "What might cause you to change your mind and attend the convention?"

"None that I can now think of," he said.

Poses as Indignant

"Can't you see I'm buried in work here?" he roared, with a great show of indignation, which quickly melted into a chuckle, as he added:

"Of course if my own nomination were in doubt, I might play hooky a day or two. And if I were out there on the ground, I might take a hand in nominating a Governor."

"I went to my first convention in '84, and have been to every one since. I presided over seven. But this is one I'm going to miss. If I should leave here on my next, come back the next, be in Indiana only one day, do nothing while there except stand in a hotel lobby and shake hands, then no matter who would be nominated Governor the wise boys would say: 'Jim Watson handpicked him.'

"Not me for a mess like that. I'll stay here, and when the delegates get through fighting I'll cheer the winner."

INDIANA ATTORNEY DEAD

Charles B. Judah Had Practiced in Vincennes 35 Years.

By United Press  
VINCENNES, Ind., June 3.—Illness of more than two years resulted Thursday in the death of Charles B. Judah, veteran Vincennes attorney. He was a member of the oldest law firm in this city, and had practiced here for thirty-five years.

The widow and three children, Charles Jr., Las Vegas, N. M.; Mrs. George Bayard, Chicago, and Reynolds Judah, Chicago.

Rare Diet

By United Press  
CHICAGO, June 4.—Among the ranks of prominent Republicans, it must be assumed, are the nation's most determined penguins egg eaters.

Penguin eggs are hatched in the vicinity of Capetown, South Africa.

They are exported principally to London where epicures consider them a prized delicacy. Never have they been shipped to America.

But a day or so before the opening of the Republican national convention, Ernest Byfield, local hotel owner, announced, the first shipment ever sent to the United States will arrive in Chicago.

Tasting somewhat like plover's eggs, the penguin rarities will be served up to Republican gourmets at \$1 a portion.

N. Y. DYERS NAME CZAR

Ousted Sheriff to War on Rackets; Gets \$50,000 a Year.

By United Press  
NEW YORK, June 4.—Thomas M. Farley, ousted sheriff of New York county, has been named czar to stamp out racketeering in the cleaning and dyeing industry here at a yearly salary of \$50,000.

A warning came from retailers that if they are assessed to help pay the czar's salary they will be forced to raise the price for cleaning garments.

## RUSSIAN TRAIN SMOOTHEST IN WORLD

Czar Ordered Railroad Built in Straight Line, Without Curve

This is the fourth of a series of articles by Alice Hughes on what she found in Russia after a year's absence.

BY ALICE HUGHES  
Times Staff Writer

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I TAKE the smoothest train ride of my life on the Red Arrow, which goes from Moscow to Leningrad over night.

But while the train rolls evenly and while a samovar bubbles cheerfully between cars for the tea-thirsty, I soon find cause for discomfiture.

Four of us, all strangers, with me the only woman, are ticketed in one compartment. The two benches are converted into double-decked berths. They are not curtailed.

I can change to sleeping garments under covers or remain dressed. I remain dressed.

There is no jolting or swerving of the train to break my slumbers and I awake refreshed.

"This is the best train ride you ever had, nicht wahr?" the porter who pours my tea asks in German.

"Jawohl," I answer, "but how do you know?"

"Ach, Fraulein, don't you know the history of this train? One of the former czars of Russia, who was more than a little crazy, commanded his engineers to build a railroad from Moscow to Petrograd—now Leningrad.

"And how do you wish this railroad built?" the engineers asked the czar.

"Like this"—and the czar drew a straight line on the map from Moscow to Leningrad. You know, Fraulein, a czar had to be obeyed then. So the engineers, at great expense and trouble, built the road we have just ridden over, without a single turn or bend."

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