

# GRAFT, PLAYING POLITICS, ABUSE OF POWER CHARGES HURLED BY CWA WORKERS

Employment of Single Men Instead of Family Heads, Many Other Allegations Made in Letters to The Times.

Charges of graft, playing politics, abuse of power, employment of single men instead of men with families, and a variety of other allegations are hurled in hundreds of letters received by The Indianapolis Times for its "Message Center" in complaints against CWA work throughout the city, county and state.

Recently Congressman William H. Larrabee urged that army officers be placed in charge of Indiana civil works.

Hourly, The Times receives letters, many of which have been printed in full or part in the "Message Center," alleging the congressman's charges of "political favoritism in the employment of CWA," are true. The letters run the gamut of political affiliations.

Names of "street bosses" on CWA jobs and incidents are cited in efforts to bear out the charges made in the missives to The Times.

## Charges Termed "Ridiculous"

Congressman Larrabee demanded specifically the discharge of Delmar Dizenberger, CWA certifying officer for Marion county, and his assistant, E. B. Palfrey. William H. Book, state administrator of CWA, has termed the charges "ridiculous."

Names, addresses, location of projects are deleted by The Times in giving these excerpts from letters received for the "Message Center."

Special privileges in selling lunches on one CWA project is charged by one worker in a letter to the "Message Center" of The Times.

He says: "Since this project started, widows, some with children, and men still unemployed have been selling pies and sandwiches. These people were making a few nickels to keep the wolf from the door. They were told they could not sell without a license, and then other men and women were allowed to come on the grounds and sell. Why should two or three peddlers be allowed all the profit?"

## Race Discrimination Claimed

Discrimination between races is charged in another letter that says: "My brother is employed on CWA. A 'big shot' is assistant foreman. Twenty-one white men and one Negro were let off and were told the force was topheavy. The only ones left on the job were Negroes."

Charges that men without dependents were permitted to work while those with families were laid off is contained in other letters to The Times.

One missive charges, "Foreman angered . . . got order to lay off men . . . he laid off whole force from foreman down regardless of what his orders may have been. Throwing out forty families who were depending on those jobs for a living."

"One man with two or more trucks on job . . . father and two sons on job with two daughters employed . . . men on jobs who also have other jobs . . . men from out of city on city jobs," is alleged in another missive from a CWA worker.

## Says Wealthy Man Hired

From a distant county comes the charge that a man worth \$40,000 is employed on CWA work.

The letter to The Times says: "The men having charge are mis-carrying their authority. They run the poll books in selecting hungry families. It is hard to convince them that a Republican is as hard up as a Democrat. They put a fellow to work who is worth twenty to forty thousand dollars. Yes, he's a Democrat. It took some hard kicking to dislodge this man."

Continuing, the letter charges that the sister of a foreman serves as "water boy" on the project, but that an actual worker on the project does the work and is "taxied" around by a CWA truck.

It further alleges the pseudo "water boy" runs a lunchroom for the CWA workers at a profit. The workers, the letter declares, must "divvy up 15 cents weekly" for getting the water carried to them while on the job.

## Claims Political Graft

Charging that only "deserving Democrats" are being worked, another CWA employee writes, "At they have put—employees on the pay roll, giving them \$1.20 an hour as foremen. One foreman owns several pieces of property and has several thousand dollars in the bank. Some of the 'deserving' are

hired at the \$120 rate and are working among the undeserving doing the same work."

"I am one of the unemployed in this town. I have tried to find work without success. It seems the only ones that get work on CWA are the ones with income. For instance," says another writer to The Times "there is a (professional man) that owns a farm and lives on it and another that has a filling station and they work on the project. Don't you think these fellows have a good enough income that they don't need this work?"

Allegations that a 60-year-old man who owns property has a CWA job and giving the man's name, are contained in another note to the "Message Center."

## Says Man Holds Two Jobs

The letter says: "I know a man, 60, who owns property and has a son in business and never was on a basket. Now show me anything fair in this. They investigate plenty to give you a basket, so why not investigate the men who are working?"

A case in which a CWA worker holds another job is set out in charges made in another missive which says:

"A man named — works on CWA and also works at —. At — he makes a good living. Many days instead of working on CWA job he is allowed to work on — and the foreman, marks him in on CWA. Trustee's investigator, —, knows these facts."

Payment of workers under aliases is charged in another letter which avers, "I know of men that are not married who got their trucks on after I—a married man—had put my application in. One of these men gets his check under another man's name."

## Writes Worker Has Maid

Employment of one man who can afford to have a maid is alleged in another letter to the Message Center.

— turned in card for employment and was no time getting work. Two or three are employed in his family. This family is so prosperous that they can afford a Negro maid," his letter says.

Long waits to get pay in frosty weather with charges that foremen were "brutal" in their treatment of workers is contained in one letter to The Times.

"On Jan. — the men had to stand out in the cold and snow and wait for two hours before they could get their pay. They have to take out their wheelbarrows and shovels and take them between one-half and three-quarters of a mile through mud on their own time and they also take them back on their own time," the letter charges.

## Charges Bosses "Cruel"

"Also, continues the missive," one of the bosses stands over them and makes them fill their wheelbarrows full as they possibly can, and they have them push up a steep hill. The bosses drive their men like you would a horse. We want to do right but we want to be treated the same way."

Declaration that he was told to "see your Democratic committee-man" in order to get CWA work is contained in another attack that concludes with, "Two men are working on — from a farm of one hundred acres. And they say there is no politics mixed up in it."

"Republicans have complete charge of CWA here," says another missive to the Message Center, "The Republicans starving is not so. Those not employed by CWA are cared for by the trustee. If you think Republicans are hungry, look about before you speak."

The letter was in reply to another printed in the "Message Center."

## Rings Valued at \$325 Stolen

Three rings valued at \$325 were stolen from the home of Mrs. Elvora Crouch, 3949 English avenue, yesterday, she told police. They had been placed in a cabinet while she was washing.

## TWO POEMS ACCEPTED



Two poems of Lionel Wiggam have been accepted by Harper's Monthly, the first of which appears in the February issue. Mr. Wiggam is the recipient of the Charles Granger Blendon lyric prize, sponsored by Stepladder, a national poetry magazine. Mr. Wiggam is an Arsenal Technical high school graduate and is prominent in local literary circles.

## BACK BILL FOR LARGEST NAVY

Necessary to World Peace, Sons of Revolution Board Says.

Urging that the United States have a navy second to none, as a means of enforcing world peace, members of the board of managers, Indiana society, Sons of the American Revolution, yesterday adopted a resolution indorsing the Vinson bill and its amendments.

The bill would provide for construction of necessary ships and armament to replace fighting ships and aircraft carriers that will become obsolete before expiration of the London naval treaty.

Amendments would provide for construction of 1,184 airplanes to equip fighting ships.

## Macy Content as Leader

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—W. Kingsland Macy, Republican state chairman, will not be a candidate for the governorship in the next election, but will seek to maintain his leadership of the state organization, he announced today.

## Brr...r!

Blizzard Sues Snow for Damages.

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 7.—"Blizzard vs. Snow" is the title of a law suit filed here. Mrs. Florence Blizzard seeks \$5,000 damages from Elmer Snow for injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

## BOETTCHER KIDNAPERS MAY PLEAD GUILTY

Violation of Lindbergh Law Can Be Admitted, Lawyer Says.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Feb. 7.—Verne Sankey and Gordon Alcorn, confessed kidnapers of Charles Boettcher II of Denver, may plead guilty to violation of the Lindbergh kidnaping law, Benjamin B. Laska, Denver, attorney for Mrs. Sankey, said today.

The so-called Lindbergh law provides for life imprisonment sentences. Federal agents also seek a conviction against Mrs. Sankey for an alleged part in the Boettcher kidnaping.

## HOLDS TEACHER MUST BE TRIED

Wilson Denies Report of Suspended Sentence Based on Plea.

Miss Cora Steele, Terre Haute high school principal charged with grand larceny in connection with the disappearance of state teachers' retirement fund bonds valued at \$25,000, will not be permitted to plead guilty to the charge and accept a suspended sentence, as was reported yesterday, Prosecutor Herbert E. Wilson announced.

Miss Steele is to face trial in criminal court Tuesday before Judge Frank P. Baker and a jury.

The hand, as referred to in measuring horses, is four inches.

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## RECEIVERSHIP IS ASKED

Brewing Company Near Insolvency, Stockholder Declares. Appointment of a receiver for the Richard Lieber Brewing Company, 1254 South West street, was asked Jan. 12, 1933.

yesterday in superior court by Hedi Walters, a stockholder, who charged that the company has made no progress toward brewing beer and is in imminent danger of insolvency. The company was formed Jan. 12, 1933.

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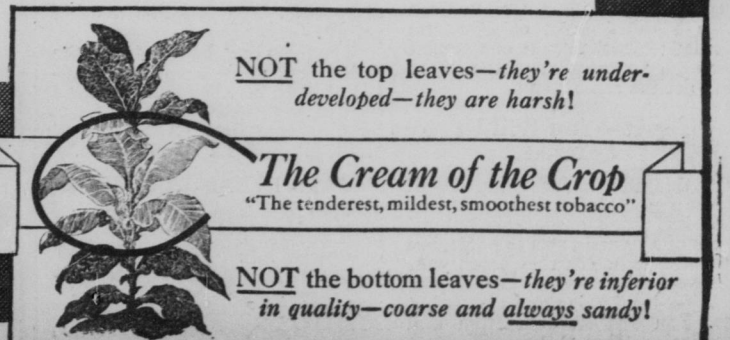
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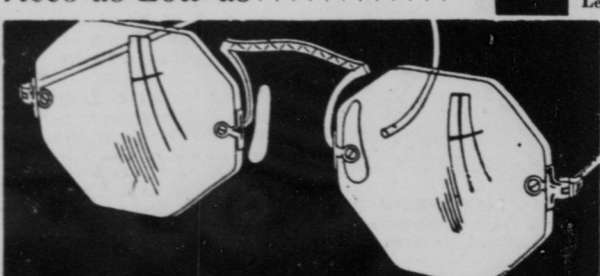


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