



The Indianapolis Times

Cloudy tonight and tomorrow; probably light snow flurries; warmer tonight with lowest temperature about 25; colder tomorrow.

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CITIES JOIN IN MIDWEST WAR ON GAS RATES

Mayors of 11 Municipalities
Meet in Columbus for
Showdown.

SENATE PROBE FAVERED

Texas Speaker to Tell of
‘Waste’ to Keep Price
Jacked Up.

BY TIPTON BLISH
Times Staff Writer

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 28.—Representatives of 11 major cities in seven Middle-Western states joined forces here this afternoon to battle against existing natural gas rates in the region and against what they believe is a grasping monopoly.

They considered asking the United States Senate to go thoroughly into the reasons for the current rates; they considered asking the United States Department of Justice to prosecute criminally officials of gas corporations under the anti-trust laws; and they also considered forming a co-operative league for the mutual settlement of their individual gas problems.

A principal complaint is that millions of cubic feet of gas are released into the air in the Texas Panhandle oil fields so that the supply in the Middle Western region will be strictly under thumb of the gas companies and the rates static.

In this connection the meeting was to be addressed by Charles Kefler, Amarillo, Tex., a representative of Texas Pan-Handle property owners, who said he would describe to them the “inexcusable wastefulness of operators there.”

Another complaint is that a monopoly exists and that large utilities have bought up previously independently owned pipe lines reaching the region, so that the output can be restricted.

And for this information the meeting will have the testimony of Frank Parrish, president of the Missouri-Kansas Pipeline Co., now in receivership, which Mr. Parrish says, also is fighting the same enemies against whom the cities are arraying themselves.

Senate Quiz Likely

If the group finds that these complaints appear to have any basis in fact, the cities will form an alliance and ask the United States Senate to investigate a group of major utility companies operating in the field.

Among these are the Columbia Gas and Electric Corp., North American Co., Cities Service Co. and the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, the principal operators of western pipelines.

Today’s parley was called by Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, Milwaukee, United States Conference of Mayors president, at the insistence of the City of Detroit, whose officials claim to have evidence of illegal operations of powerful financial and utility interests in fixing gas prices through a monopoly.

City Situation Probed

Second to none in importance, Detroit officials claim, is the current gas situation in Indianapolis which the state Legislature has viewed with sufficient alarm to move to set up within itself an investigating body with the power of subpoena.

In 1921 the Citizens surrendered its franchise with the city and was granted by the Indiana Public Service Commission an indeterminate permit to operate in the city.

In 1929 the city served notice on the gas company that it intended to exercise the option to buy, which was a feature of the franchise, but which was not included in the permit.

Stockholders of the company brought suit to quiet the title of the company’s property and Federal Judge Robert C. Baitzell held that the option of the franchise actually held over in the permit on the terms that were stated in the franchise. The franchise stated the option expired July 1, 1930.

The Federal Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago held with Judge Baitzell and the United States Supreme Court refused a petition to review the case.

Minor Litigation Continues

Despite this minor litigation continued into 1932. The matter of when the option expired in fact, in view of the litigation, has not been settled in court nor has it been established that the option has expired.

In a court of equity, the city probably would claim that litigation ran into depression years when there was no market for securities it would have to sell to take over the property.

The property would cost \$6,000,000, plus delinquent preferred stock dividends of approximately \$500,000 more.

Moreover, the City of Indianapolis has listened so far with deaf ears to the proposal of the Users Gas Co., whose backers have not been publicly identified, that the city borrows from its funds to buy the Citizens’ Gas Co. plant, and to distribute gas bought from the Users to customers both in the city and Marion County.

Legislature Starts Action

The Legislature entered the controversy when it passed a law designed to make it more difficult for the Users to obtain a franchise to operate in Marion County.

Then, as a charge of an attempted \$100,000 bribe was hurled during a floor debate on the law, adminis-

\$1,000,000 to Be Spent by FERA in Wiping Out Indianapolis Flood Peril



Arches Under White River Bridges to Be Cleared by 2000 Men.

Opening of a bottle neck in White River to prevent recurrence of the disastrous 1913 flood, will be started Wednesday with the Marion County FERA staff prepared to spend between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000 to remove the earth lumps beneath the arches of the Kentucky-av and Oliver-av bridges.

Two thousand work-relief men will be employed on the project before it is completed, according to J. H. Crawley, works director.

The first crew of men, approximately 500 in number, will be shifted Wednesday from the levee project between Michigan and Tenth-sts to begin uncorking the river bed’s last flood maker at the Kentucky-av bridge.

Completion of the project, set for this fall, will end for all time, it is believed, the threat of flood from high waters to the business and industrial district as well as West Indianapolis.

Another complaint is that a monopoly exists and that large utilities have bought up previously independently owned pipe lines reaching the region, so that the output can be restricted.

And for this information the meeting will have the testimony of Frank Parrish, president of the Missouri-Kansas Pipeline Co., now in receivership, which Mr. Parrish says, also is fighting the same enemies against whom the cities are arraying themselves.

River to Be Given Bit

The same plan used in taming the rampart waters of the Mississippi River will be used in curbing White River floods in Marion County.

The river will be given the bit.

The Kentucky-av project will free the river channel from earth obstructions and bars and will enable the stream to have free rein when running its flood course.

“It used to be that levees were built higher and higher but flood control engineers now find it wise to let the water out as fast as possible and that’s what we’ll do on White River,” Mr. Crawley ex-

plained.

Four Arches to Be Cleared

This project is really part of the Michigan-Tenth-st levee job, known as No. 2 project, but it will consist of clearing the banks from the railroad bridge south of Kingan’s packing plant to the Morris-av bridge,” Mr. Crawley added, “and not of further construction.”

Four arches of the Kentucky-av bridge, jammed now to the bridge floor with earth and slag, will be cleared of their burdens and the river will be permitted to course through these arches instead of unsightly weeds growing high on hillocks beneath the arches.

One and possibly one-half of another arch beneath the Oliver-av bridge will be cleared by the pick and shovel method—and possibly with a steam shovel.

Mr. Crawley is attempting to hurry the job and at the same time reduce the cost by obtaining a steam shovel from the city to hew down the dirt hills beneath the arches of both bridges.

Would Lower Costs

He estimated that use of a steam shovel would keep labor costs near the \$1,000,000 figure for the project.

Indiana taxpayers will bear only 10 per cent of the project’s cost through local taxation as the city administration foots only that portion of the bill.

Manual labor alone, without aid of steam shovel, wheeled barrow after barrow of earth on the Michigan-Tenth-st levee and channel clearing, which extends up the bank of Fall Creek. The cost of the project, which is 85 per cent completed, is approximately \$1,300,000.

It will be finished in April and will protect West Indianapolis, Haughville and the Indiana University Hospital Center from flood waters for all time, it is believed.

May End Flood Fears

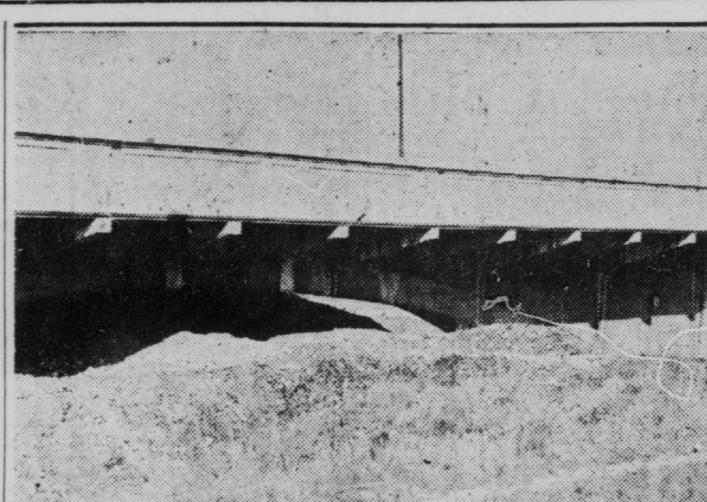
After removal of the 600,000 cubic yards of earth in channel-clearing, as well as planned bank rehabilitation to prevent erosion, on the Kentucky-av and Oliver-av bridge project, Mr. Crawley and other engineers believe that Indianapolis will never need to fear flood dangers within its city limits again.

The White River will have a wide water bed for flood crests from the point where it enters the city throughout its course across town almost to the county’s southern boundary.

Hooverville, the squatter village on the west bank of the White River near the Kingan railroad bridge spur, may not be forced to move, project engineers say.

Small shacks on the east bank of the White, below Hooverville, however, will be eradicated when the dirt begins to fly in the whittling away of a principal cause of the present flood menace—the Kentucky-av bridge bottle neck.

For Your Ignition and Carburetor—See Carburetor Sales, 214 E. Ohio—Adv.



Huge Building Program Is Suggested by Weiss Bill

Eminent Domain Measure to Be Introduced Today; U. S. Aid for Construction Is Anticipated.

An eminent domain bill enabling the state to proceed with a comprehensive building program, partly financed with Federal funds, was scheduled to be introduced in the Indiana Senate this afternoon.

The proposed measure was expected to be introduced by Senator Jacob Weiss (D., Indianapolis) and hence would have Administration sanction, since Senator Weiss is the majority floor leader of the Upper House.

Although administration leaders, including Senator Weiss, were silent on intent of the bill, it was presented to have directed toward an extensive building program, for which it is hoped Federal funds may be obtained.

The Senate also was scheduled to receive a bill this afternoon providing for Indiana’s ratification of the Federal Child Labor Amendment. The Federal amendment, first sent to the states 10 years ago, is part of the national Administration program.

Opposed by Bar

It is opposed as “unconstitutional” by the American Bar Association, but has the wholehearted endorsement of more than two dozen national civic and economic groups.

By a straight party vote, the House today defeated a memorial to Congress advising against adherence to the World Court. The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Richard E. Smith (D., Portland) warned Congress against foreign entanglements.

Eight bills designed to speed criminal prosecutions also were offered in the House.

Right of eminent domain, condemnation of property authority, is inherent in the state, but must be delegated to some department of state by the General Assembly. The Weiss measure to be introduced today in the Senate may designate the Department of Public Works for exercise of the right of eminent domain or may place with the Governor the power to delegate the authority.

Statehouse Annex Hinted

Information from Washington reaching the state administration indicates that the Federal government may be willing to assume approximately 70 per cent of the cost of such a program by furnishing of the labor as a re-employment move and paying 50 per cent of the materials cost.

Thus, Indiana could put through an extensive building program at a relatively small cost. Such a building program is reported to embrace erection of a new statehouse building on the site of the present annex or adjoining it.

The state’s share of the building fund is being estimated by the state budget committee, which is preparing its report for submission to Gov. Paul V. McNutt early this week.

The Governor has said that he will not approve the bill until he learns more about the Indiana allotment of the four billions of dollars the Federal government is to distribute.

\$47,000,000 Budget Possible

The general fund in the budget is expected to be increased approximately \$2,000,000 for the biennium, because of the pressing necessity for capital outlay at the 21 state institutions supported by the general fund.

If this report of the increase is correct, the general fund will be approximately \$24,000,000 for the biennium, making the entire budget approximately \$47,000,000.

TODAY’S WEATHER

Hourly Temperatures

6 a. m. 14 10 a. m. 21
7 a. m. 13 11 a. m. 24
8 a. m. 14 12 (noon) 29
9 a. m. 18 1 p. m. 29
Tomorrow’s sunrise, 6:56 a. m.; sunset, 5 p. m.

LIED TO WIFE ON MONEY, BRUNO ADMITS ON STAND

HUEY FAILS TO CRUSH REVOLT; TIP FOILS RAID

Henchmen Double-Crossed
Long, Is Report; Martial
Law Continued.

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BATON ROUGE, La., Jan. 28.—

Senator Huey P. Long’s effort to stamp out his newest opposition with military force ended in signal failure because opposition leaders had been tipped off to his plan and had hidden all pertinent records of their Square Deal Association, the United Press was told today.

The “tip” came from a member of Huey’s closely organized and highly dominated political machine—a man “who would break with the Kingfish if he only dared,” the United Press was informed.

Membership rolls, showing the association’s extensive organization throughout Louisiana which Long was represented as being eager to obtain, were taken into Tangipahoa Parish, most violently anti-Long of the anti-Long Fourth Congressional District.

Had the rolls fallen into Long’s hands, many Square Dealers would have suffered political reprisals, the informant said, and Huey would have an inkling of hidden disloyalty within his own organization.

Records Are Missing

“Long is on the run,” a Square Dealer official said. “He’s desperate. We’ve got him scared. We’ll make him and Allen (Gov. O. K. Allen) and some of his other boys just ordinary citizens within a few months.”

Ernest L. Bourgeois, 29-year-old representative from Washington, today said, “We have before us one of the greatest tasks in years in rehabilitating the homeless. The property loss is appalling. Most of the refugees are homeless, and all apparently destitute.”

Unofficial estimates place the damage between \$5,000,000 and \$7,000,000. Thousands of head of cattle and poultry have been drowned or frozen to death.

As the water began to recede a scene of utter devastation was unfolded. Hundreds of small farm homes have been washed away, others damaged so badly they are useless.

George Myer, special Red Cross representative from Washington, today said, “We have before us one of the greatest tasks in years in rehabilitating the homeless. The property loss is appalling. Most of the refugees are homeless, and all apparently destitute.”

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