

FARM COUNCIL ORGANIZED BY LIBERTY LEAGUE URGED LINK TO STATE G.O.P., PROBE TOLD

Proposed Agriculture Plank Written for Republicans, Committee Learns.

BY DANIEL M. KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Activities of the Indiana chapter of the Farmers Independence Council included writing a farm plank to be put into the Indiana Republican platform, the Black lobby investigating committee had been told today.

Stanley F. Morse, organizer of the council and agricultural consultant for the American Liberty League, testified to this before the committee yesterday.

Under cross-examination, with Senator Sherman Minton taking a leading part, Morse disclosed correspondence showing efforts made to have the council co-operate with William M. Swain, head of the Republican Victory League of Indiana.

Swain's headquarters was given as Indianapolis. Morse met him there and discussed the formation of the Indiana chapter.

Morse testified that an Indiana chapter meeting was held at Indianapolis Feb. 26, with 35 or 40 present. He said the crowd was small, because the farmers were snowbound.

Quotes Taylor Letter

Senator Minton inserted into the record a letter from Lewis Taylor, head of the Indiana Farm Bureau, saying that outside of a few Farm Bureau members at the meeting to find out what the council was about, the others present were Republican farmer politicians.

It was after this meeting that the proposed G. O. P. plank was sent to Swain by Morse. Morse also testified that he talked with the man who would write the national Republican farm plank.

This "farmer" turned out to be Nicholas Roosevelt, New York Herald-Tribune editorial writer, it was testified.

Taylor Recalls Meeting

Lewis Taylor, Indiana Farm Bureau president, said today that he had written a letter to Senator Sherman Minton telling of the "farm meeting" sponsored by the Farmers Independence Council and the "slimness" of the crowd present. He said, "Several farm bureau members attended the meeting. I think one of them counted about 25 persons present. They went there to find out what the meeting was about."

Mr. Taylor said he was not sure that he knew William M. Swain, head of the Republican Victory League of Indiana, which is purported to have been interested in the writing of a farm plank into the Indiana G. O. P. platform.

"We will have a farm plank which we will propose for inclusion in the platforms of both parties in Indiana," he said.

Swain Not at Offices

Mr. Swain, Victory League head, with offices at 726 Peoples Bank Building, was reported by office attaches as "out of the city" and could not be reached for a statement regarding the purported farm plank.

Don Irwin, G. O. P. state chairman, and Harry Fenton, secretary of the Republican state committee, also were out of the city.

George A. Ball, Muncie manufacturer, could not be reached for a statement.

STEEL EXPERT TO TALK

Research Director to Speak at Metal Society Meeting.

Dr. Marcus A. Grossmann, Illinois Steel Co. research director and authority on carbon and alloy steels, is to speak at a meeting of the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Society for Metals in the Washington Monday.

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- **BECAUSE**
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ROOSEVELT MILITANTLY OPENS CAMPAIGN



Du Ponts and George Ball Are on List of Contributors to Organization.

BY RUTH FINNEY
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, April 15.—With John Henry Kirby of Texas scheduled to testify today, the Senate Lobby Committee continued its exploration of the extent to which anti-New Deal organizations are financed by American Liberty League members.

Kirby is head of the Southern Committee to uphold the Constitution, which has helped Gov. Eugene Talmadge in his campaign against the Roosevelt Administration.

The Crusaders were the first organization shown by the lobby committee to be backed by Liberty League members and other big business men. The second was the Farmers Independence Council.

Stanley F. Morse, organizer and executive vice president of the Farmers Council, told the committee yesterday that it was hard work getting support from farmers because most of them were pledged to the AAA, so he turned for money "to those who had it."

He collected \$25,000 in all, from packers, bankers, utility men, Du Ponts and officials of their companies. Lamont Du Pont gave \$5000; Alfred P. Sloan Jr. of General Motors, \$1000; G. E. Baldwin of Libby, McNeil & Libby, \$1500.

G. A. Ball on List

G. A. Ball, Indiana banker and Republican committeeman, \$500; Odgen L. Mills, \$100; H. S. Schutt, Wilmington, president of the Indianapolis Water Co., \$100; G. E. Roberts, economist for the National City Bank, \$100.

Winthrop W. Aldrich, head of the Chase National Bank, \$500; G. E. Crane, A. B. Echols, J. T. Brown, and C. H. Haskell of Du Pont companies, \$250; J. N. Pew Jr. of Sun Oil Co., \$2000; E. W. Freeman, treasurer of the Penn-Ohio Edison Co., \$100; Silas H. Strawn, \$100; R. E. Fisher of the Pacific Gas & Electric Co., \$1000, and S. M. Swenson & Sons, \$1000.

Swenson, who owns a large cattle ranch in Texas, and whose father's sulphur company has offices in Wall Street, introduced him to a good many of the large contributors.

Morse testified, and solicited some of them himself. In Chicago he said, he appealed to Ralph M. Shaw, Illinois head of the Liberty League, for help in making contacts.

Fails to Produce Receipts

Morse was on the Liberty League pay roll in Washington while he was organizing the Farmers' Independence Council. He said he did not tell Jettou Shouse, head of the League, his plans until they were well under way.

Morse told the committee he used his office at Liberty League headquarters to start the Farmers' Council, dictated his letters to a Liberty League stenographer, and had telegrams charged on Liberty League accounts.

He said he repaid the League in cash for this latter item, but when the committee asked for a receipt he did not produce one.

BUTLER U. MAN CHOSEN

Richard Fogarty Named President of Lambda Chi Alumni.

By United Press

KOKOMO, Ind., April 15.—Bishop Edgar Blake, Detroit, Mich., and Dr. A. H. Backus, state director of religious education, were among church dignitaries attending the ninety-third annual session of the Northern Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church here.

Delegates were to be selected for the annual state dinner-dance on Monday, April 27, a dinner is to be held by the association at the Butler chapter house.

INDIANA METHODISTS GATHER AT KOKOMO

Bishop Blake, A. H. Backus Among Those Attending Session.

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GIVES TRAFFIC TALK

F. A. Doeber begins series of Club Transportation Discussions.

F. A. Doeber, traffic manager of the Citizens Gas and Coke Utility, gave the first in a series of discussions on transportation problems before the Indianapolis Traffic Club in the Liner Inn last night. He discussed shipping by rail, truck, water and airplane.

ELISTS IN NAVY

Eliza Ellsworth Montgomery, son of Mrs. Julie Montgomery, 1322 S. Kappes-st., has enlisted in the Navy, the Indianapolis recruiting station announced today. He is to be stationed temporarily at the training station at Great Lakes, Ill.

Block's

FLAYS UTILITIES FOR HIGH RATES IN RURAL AREAS

Gray Declares Excessive Costs Keep Hoosiers Groping in Dark.

Times Special

WASHINGTON, April 15.—High rates of private power companies have kept the farmers of Indiana "groping in the mud and darkness," Rep. Finly H. Gray charged in a speech in the House.

He sought to make provision for county district organizations to supply public power as part of the Rural Electrification bill. The measure providing \$410,000,000 to be made available to private companies and co-operatives for rural electric lines, is now in committee, having passed both houses with amendments.

Mr. Gray contended that making the lines available will not solve the problem unless cheaper power rates ensue.

TAVA rates applied to present electric consumption in Indiana would affect a saving to the rate-payers of \$19,184,000 a year, he said.

Lower Rates Essential

"Without low and reasonable charges for service, any program to bring electricity to farmers will prove a vain and fruitless gesture, a humiliation, disappointment and failure," Mr. Gray declared.

"It has been high and excessive charges which have denied electricity to the farmers."

"That is the reason why of the 200,833 farms in Indiana, only 23,476 enjoy the use of electricity and why 177,359 farmers in Indiana are still groping in the mud and darkness without electricity for light, heat or power."

Rep. Gray cited instances of public ownership in Indiana which he said show the way to lower rates.

Cites Comparative Costs

"The lower rates under public or co-operative ownership is shown and illustrated in Indiana by the different rates or charges between Washington's municipally owned plant and the privately owned plant at Madison.

"In Washington the charge for 25 kilowatt-hours is \$5.50, while at Madison it is \$10.25 for the same 25 kilowatt-hours, or 83 per cent higher from the privately owned plant."

"The Frankfort municipally owned plant sells 25 kilowatt-hours for \$1.25 while the Lakeport privately owned plant sells the same amount for \$2.12, or 69 per cent higher than the municipally owned plant."

"The Crawfordsville municipally owned plant sells 25 kilowatt-hours for \$5.10, while the private plant at Huntington sells it for \$10.60, or 77 per cent higher than the public plant."

Blames High Executive Salaries

Commenting on the overcharge for present consumption in Indiana, as compared with TVA rates, the Hoosier Congressman continued:

"This \$19,000,000 is being collected from the people of the state of Indiana to pay high salaries of presidents and other head officials of the private electrical companies doing business in the state and for dividends to stockholders of many private electric holding companies for one and the same service rendered the people."

"The local and operating companies furnishing or providing the people with electricity are being compelled by the foreign, overhead companies to collect this amount for salaries and dividends in the form of increased charges and are powerless to safeguard their consumers against the high and extortionate charges resulting."

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