

Discuss Revision of State Gross Income, Motor Taxes; Highway Zoning Bill Waited

Democrat Senators Study Proposal for Flat \$1 Auto Tag Fee.

(Continued from Page One)

was Rep. Reuben A. Anderson (D. Brazil) who now is in Methodist Hospital suffering from pneumonia.

The bill passed by a vote of 41 to 4 and sent to the House the bill to provide for a central counting bureau for the counting of votes in primary elections in counties containing cities of the first and second class.

Those who voted against the measure were Senators Walter R. Beardsley (R. Elkhart), Thurman A. Biddinger (R. Marion), Von A. Eichhorn (D. Uniondale) and Ben Herr (R. Lebanon). The central counting bill was introduced by Senator Jacob Weiss (D. Indianapolis).

Other Senate bills introduced today would:

- Place justices of the peace in fifth class cities on a salary similar to municipal court judges in larger cities.
- Set penalties for failure of trustee to comply with a law regarding purchase and maintenance of burial grounds.
- Require use of a trap which either takes alive and unhurt, or kills at once, in the trapping of fur-bearing animals.
- Require county highway superintendent, if not also county surveyor, to provide a \$5000 bond.
- Makes contractor liable for compensation to workers of a subcontractor to whom he has let contract unless contractor require subcontractor to file a certificate with the Industrial Board.
- Require that there be a juvenile court chief probation officer, an adult probation officer, and one assistant probation officer for every 50,000 population in counties. The bill fixes the salaries of these court officers.

Follows Earlier Move

The Standard Time bill, introduced by Senator Walter Arnold (D. South Bend) came on the heels of the defeat yesterday of a Democratic measure to give Indianapolis the right to choose Daylight Saving Time.

It was charged on the floor of the Senate yesterday that a 1929 act, prohibiting Indianapolis from establishing Daylight Time discriminates against the capital city.

Several other cities in the state now have Daylight Time. Senator Arnold was one of those Senators who charged the discrimination.

The State Planning Board measure to provide for zoning of areas adjacent to State highways and to provide building set back lines was introduced by Reps. Glenn R. Sienker (R. Monticello), Edward H. Stein (D. Bloomfield), and others, and was referred to the Roads Committee.

The measure is designed to protect property values in rural areas and would limit outdoor advertising except in commercial or industrial zones. Regulations established by the State board would be similar to those adopted by city zoning authorities.

Under provisions of the bill to require licensing of coin or token vending machines other than cash registers and coin telephones, the enforcement would be in the hands of a commissioner to be appointed by the Governor. The commissioner would be an employee of the State Treasury Department and subject to investigation by the State Tax Board.

The commissioner would keep records containing descriptions of the devices to be licensed and the names and addresses of owners, possessors or lessees of these machines. No machine could be legally used until it contained a seal issued by the commissioner.

Sets Up License Fees

License fees provided would be \$3 annually for one cent machines, \$6 for machines operated by coins or tokens greater than one cent and less than five cents, \$12 for five and 10-cent machines and a sliding scale for machines requiring more than 10 cents.

Of the revenue received from licensing of the machines, 95 per cent would be paid into a State textbook fund for the purpose of purchasing free books for school children. Expenses of administration would be paid by five per cent of the collection.

This measure was introduced by Rep. Ralph E. Hunter (R. Elizabethtown) who declared it contained "adequate safeguards against

the legalization of gambling slot machines." It was referred to the House Criminal Codes Committee.

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Concerns Flood Control

Authorize the State Conservation Department to investigate and measure water resources of the State. The bill said this information is desirable in the prosecution of work in flood prevention and control, the reduction of stream pollution, the storage of water for power, the development of hydro-electric power plants.

Require interurban and streetcar motormen to secure public passenger chauffeur's license from the State Auto License Department.

Provide for the right of jury trial in claim cases against receivers or receiverships.

Establish a nonprofit hospital service plan to be regulated by the State Insurance Commission after being incorporated by Secretary of State. This measure, which deals with a group health plan, establishes rules for the conduct of hospitals but makes no limitation as to what people could be members of co-operative associations sponsoring this plan.

Provide that liquor retailers may deduct from their gross income in figuring their gross income tax the amount of license fees paid the State.

Change the expiration date for hunting and fishing licenses from Dec. 31 to Jan. 31.

Speaks for Fishermen

Change the name of Long Pond in Gibson County to White Lake. This measure was introduced by Rep. Winfield K. Denton (R. Evansville), who said this body of water actually was too big to be called a pond. He thought the word lake would have more effect with fishermen.

Provide that either a life or a death sentence can be given in cases involving murder in the commission of a robbery. At present the law provides a mandatory death sentence.

Provide that at least 50 per cent of the money distributed out of State motor vehicle and gasoline tax fund collections to cities and towns shall be used for actual street construction work. Preference would be given to streets connecting with State highways. Salaries of employees used in planning or making this construction could not be paid out of this 50 per cent.

Enable any local governmental unit to secure liability and property

damage insurance on motor vehicles it owns. The bill would include school busses in its provisions.

Barbers Disagree

Differences of opinion developed among barbers who testified before the House State Medicine and Public Health Committee yesterday on the bill to extend the powers of the State Barber Board.

Introduced by Rep. Paul S. Brady (R. Muncie), the measure would give the State Board jurisdiction in trade disputes and the power to approve minimum price and closing hour agreements. These agreements could be made by 70 per cent of the barbers in any judicial circuit.

Representatives of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union and some nonunion barbers spoke in favor of the bill which was attacked as "dictatorial and impractical" by other nonunion barbers.

A question was raised by a beautician representative as to whether they were included under provisions of the measure. Pointing out that a State Beauticians Board already had been established to regulate health conditions in that industry, the beauty operators said they wanted the bill amended to specifically exclude them from its provisions.

"I live 70 miles from here, and I can't always be running to Indianapolis to see what rules would be put into effect under this bill," James Boardman, North Vernon, said. "The purpose of this bill is to force all the barbers into a labor organization. That has been proved by the effect of past legislation affecting barbers."

Declaring that there probably weren't 25 barbers in Indianapolis that made \$25 a week, Adolph Fritz, State Federation of Labor executive secretary, said:

"Challenge . . ."

"We have 100,000 members in our organization representing various trades and crafts. They believe this is a fair and just bill. I challenge the statement made by other witnesses here that the State Barber Board is using its power to force men into the barbers' union. If that is true, it certainly should be investigated."

The House County and Township Business Committee recommended for passage today House bills which would:

- Extend for two years the deadline for replacing township school busses. Under the present law they would be replaced Sept. 1, 1940.
- Permit county commissioners to establish and control hospitals in conjunction with county infirmaries. An amendment added limited this to counties of between 13,650 and 14,000 persons. This would effect only Lagrange County.
- Change the date for advertising bids for school bus drivers to on or before the first Tuesday in May and awarding contracts to the first Tuesday in June. These new dates were added as amendments to the proposed bill by the Committee.
- Amend the poor relief act to require residence in state three years and township one year to be eligible, except in cases of abandoned wife when township requirement shall be six months.

O. K'd by Committee

House bills which would permit Federal savings and loan associations to issue shares to minors and which would permit executors, administrators and other fiduciaries to invest without limitation in bonds of Federal loan banks and corporations received the House Building and Loan Committee's approval.

The House Natural Resources Committee recommended for passage a House bill allowing the State to acquire land outside incorporated cities and towns for conservation purposes. The State could acquire this land whenever a State lien for delinquent taxes exists if it was not redeemed within two years.

Parent Textbook Representation Urged



The Senate Textbook Investigating Committee today studied a proposal of Lieut. Gov. Henry F. Schricker (left) that a layman representing parents be put on the committee adopting schoolbooks. Mr. Schricker testified yesterday before the Committee.

WANTS LAYMAN ON BOOK BOARD

Schricker Makes Appeal to Investigating Committee.

The Senate Textbook Investigating Committee studied today a proposal by Lieut. Gov. Henry F. Schricker that parents, "the ones who foot the bills," be given a voice in the adoption of school textbooks.

Mr. Schricker testified for two hours yesterday as the second witness called by the committee. Earlier, in approving creation of the committee, he described the present system as a "racket."

At yesterday's hearing he suggested that the committee in recommending changes in the present system provide some way in which a layman could be represented on the group adopting the books or the committee recommending their adoption.

"Approached" Only Once

Lieut. Governor Schricker told the Committee:

1. He had been "approached" only once by a representative of a textbook publishing company.

2. The single adoption system had caused "book bootlegging" in many places. (Single adoption, the method now used in Indiana, provides for state-wide use of the same textbook for each subject.)

3. A book rental plan should be recommended.

4. That multiple adoption system to give teachers more "latitude" in choice of books, should be established. (Multiple adoption is a method whereby four or five books for the same subject are given the State's approval. Schools then select from these the one book they wish to use.)

5. A separate textbook adopting board composed of college presidents and a parent should be provided.

6. There should be more "deliberation" in the adopting of books.

7. That free textbooks for children "may be the next step."

8. There was "too much power" in the hand of the Governor in appointing the Board of Education.

"I Meant Single Adoption . . ."

Mr. Schricker explained his statement that the school book situation was a "racket" by declaring:

"I meant the single adoption system which gives a book publisher a five-year monopoly on the school book chosen and which provides that the Board of Education choose the books for the educators who should have more to say."

He explained that the single

adoption method is provided by law.

He answered a question of Senator Thurman A. Biddinger (R. Marion) that "there should be more deliberation in the adopting of textbooks."

Senator Biddinger also asked: "Do you think that there is too much power in the hands of the Governor through the selecting of the Board of Education?"

"In my opinion yes," Mr. Schricker replied.

"It is dangerous as a matter of policy to center too much appointive power in the hands of one man. Appointees always look to that man for guidance, it is well known."

"However I don't think that it has entered into the school textbook adopting. Governor Townsend has never spoken to me about the textbooks. I agree that it could be possible that undue influence on appointive members could be a factor here and in other divisions of government."

Mr. Schricker denied any knowledge of an allegation by Senator Biddinger that a son of one of the board members was employed at a large printing company which has handled printing for adopted textbooks.

Senator Biddinger asked: "Don't you think that at the time of the last adoptions that a fall state of emergency existed in Indiana. I am told that one out of every four persons was on relief."

"I think you are right, Senator. That is one thing that worried me at the time," Mr. Schricker replied.

He declared "there was more consideration by the Board for the quality of the books than in desire to distribute the books around to all publishers in the adopting of textbooks."

He declared that he "doubted"

RETAILERS ASK FOR 'JUSTICE' IN TAX RATE CUT

Democrat Leaders Focus on Proposed Revision, See Townsend.

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time the Gross Income Tax Law was passed, estimated that it would produce approximately \$12,000,000 a year under average business conditions. Actual experience shows that in the calendar year of 1937 the collections were \$22,958,638.12. During three quarters of that year a \$3000 exemption was given to each retailer.

"A segregation of the amounts collected from the different classes of gross income taxpayers was made only for the last three quarters of 1937, but based upon the collections for those last three quarters and making an estimated compensation of \$750,000 for the retail exemption for the last three quarters, retailing would have produced in 1937 at a 1 per cent tax rate and a \$1000 exemption, the sum of \$9,750,000.

Discusses 1937 Figures

"In the light of the above figures as revealed by the Gross Income Tax Division's records, retailers urge a reduction in the rate to one-half of 1 per cent, and a restoration of the \$1000 exemption to all retailers. On that basis the retailers' impost of the tax would have produced in the calendar year of 1937 approximately \$4,875,000, but since the State did receive approximately \$9,750,000 this proposed revision of the tax impost against retailers and the reduction of the exemption would result in a net loss of approximately \$4,875,000.

"But, on the basis of 1937 figures,

that the present method under the law of selecting textbooks "is the best way."

He declared in reply to another question that "I have only been approached once since I have been elected by a representative of any book company who wished to 'make my future brighter' if I would 'go along with him' in helping to adopt a certain book."

Favors Rental System

Mr. Schricker told the committee that it "could do an outstanding public service by recommending the rental system for furnishing schoolbooks."

He declared it would save the parents considerable money. He pointed out that some of the larger cities in the State now use the rental system. State law provides that the rental of any book shall not exceed for one year 25 per cent of the retail price.

He declared that in this way the parents would save and the school authorities who would operate the plan could establish a replacement fund every five years for the books.

"Tremendous trouble has resulted from the single adoption system," Mr. Schricker said. "It makes it difficult with changing standards in education, trends, ideas and schools."

He declared he does not "think Indiana is quite ready for free textbooks," but said "with the State helping so many schools and children now, it might seem that free textbooks would be the next step."

He charged that the Indiana single adoption system also had resulted in bootlegging books in some places. "The teachers, not satisfied with the book selected, will shelve it and use other books not approved by the Board."

the tax would still have produced, if the proposed one-half per cent rate had been applied against retailers, approximately \$19,000,000 or \$4,000,000 more than it was originally contemplated that the law would produce at its maximum.

"The Gross Income Tax Law is reputed to have been designed for the purpose of equalizing the tax load but in its operation it develops that, while it has lightened the load of certain groups of property taxpayers by approximately 30 per cent, it has increased the load on retailers more than 200 per cent and in many cities the property tax rate is higher than ever. The retailers, considering all taxes, are therefore paying more than three times as much taxes now as in 1932."

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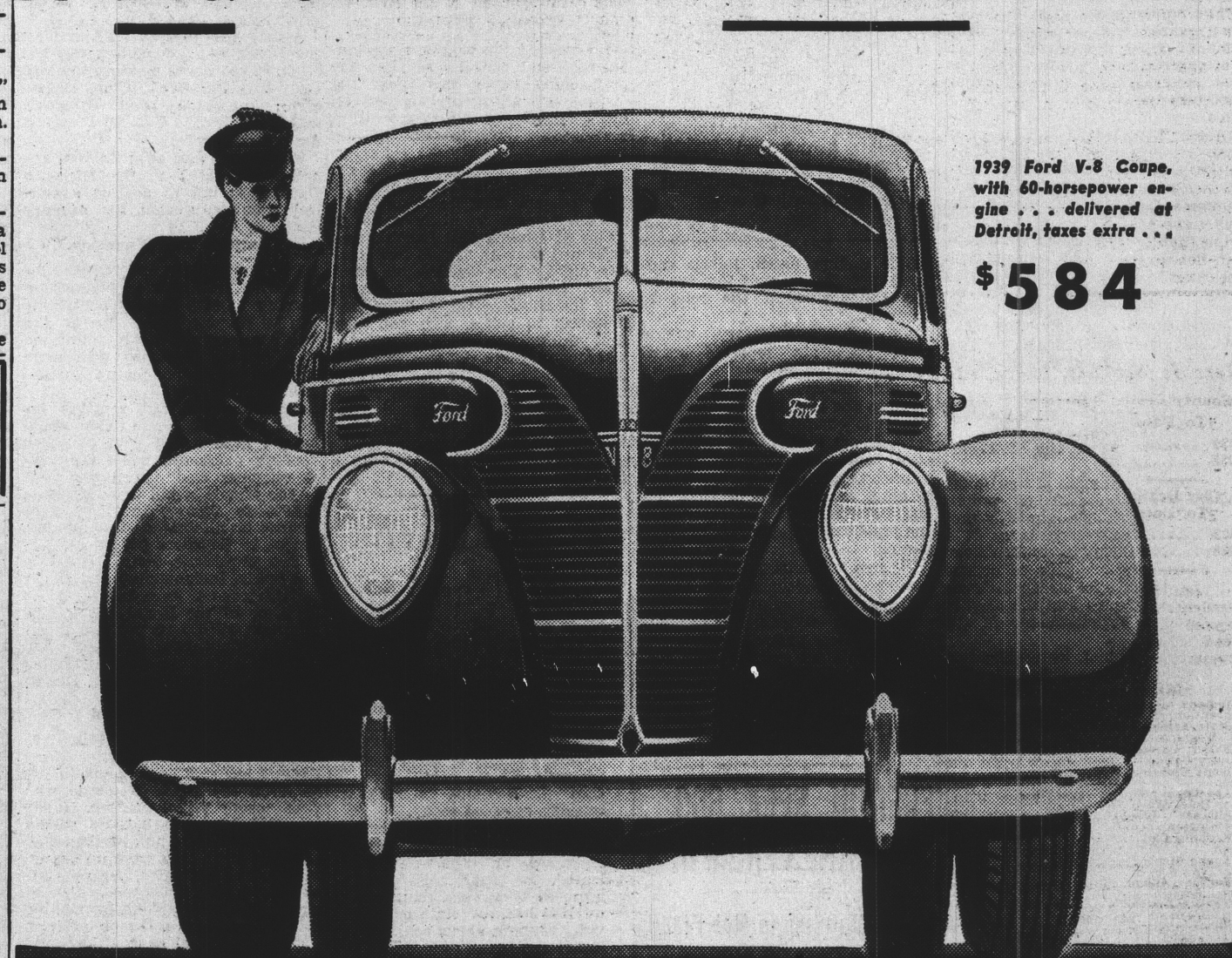
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