

Legislature to Get Townsend Budget Message Next Week; Expects Warning on Spending

Only Six Laws Enacted In Three Weeks as 687 Bills Roll in.

The Indiana Legislature, recessed for the week-end, today awaited Governor Townsend's special budget message early next week in which he is expected to warn against "raiding the treasury" to provide further distributions of State funds to local units.

With only three weeks of the session remaining, a total of 687 bills have been introduced with only six having been enacted.

The principal bills enacted appropriate \$75,000 to the State Health Board for the purchase of serums for needy families and provide for free medical and surgical care at Long and Coleman Hospitals for indigents over 16 years old.

Questions of State finance have produced a sharp division of opinion between Republican and Democratic leaders which is expected to reach a climax when legislative consideration is given to the \$84,801,416 biennial appropriations bill.

Plans for the personal message to the legislators were announced shortly after the State Budget Committee presented the Governor with an official budget report.

Makes Suggestions

The Committee suggested as means to balanced finances:

- Increased taxes on liquor if prudent;
- Tax on tobacco to equal levies by surrounding states;
- Strengthening of the gross income tax to obtain revenue from producers of natural resources;
- Transfer of revenue from the state colleges' two-cent building fund levy to the general fund;
- Reduction of the allowance to the State Teachers' Retirement Fund by 1 1/2 cents.

The report set out that the State treasury balance was adversely affected by the changes of policy made by the 1937 session and by the spending of the 1938 session of the Legislature.

It was also pointed out in the Committee report that the increase in allotment for teachers' salaries from \$500 to \$700 a year caused a biennial drain of \$4,000,000; dropping the age requirement for old-age assistance from 70 to 65 years cost an added \$2,000,000; refunds on nonresidence inheritance taxes, \$701,000; paying half of the county welfare boards' administrative expense, \$1,000,000; new building operations approved by the special session, \$5,329,750, and added allowance to the county welfare boards, \$2,000,000.

Democrats to Resist

While Democratic leaders were preparing to resist any attempt to increase the distribution of State funds to local governmental units, Republicans introduced a series of bills designed to decentralize State government.

Although Democratic leaders were unable to hold their forces in line in the House when that chamber passed a measure to increase the State's distribution of gasoline tax money to local governmental units and to reduce the funds available to the State Highway Commission from \$18,000,000 to \$13,875,000, Administration Senators said the bill would be buried in Senate committee.

In his budget message to the legislators the Governor is expected to warn them that there can be no increase in distribution of State funds to pay local welfare, road building or educational burdens at this time if even a small balance is to be maintained in the general fund at the end of the next biennium on July 1, 1941.

Republican decentralization measures pending in House committees would abolish the State gross income tax and store licensing divisions, discontinue the topographical survey, abolish the State's automobile license branches, abolish the State Attendance Board and State Housing Board and transfer the duties of the State Welfare Department to the county commissioners. Sponsors of these bills claimed they would save the State approximately \$1,500,000 during the biennium.

Local Option Issue Remains

The question of local option was expected to further complicate the liquor revision issue during the coming week. Pending in the House Public Morals Committee is a bill to provide for county local option elections at two-year intervals and the committee has promised to take some action on this measure at its next meeting.

The House also has received a bill to re-enact the old Nicholson Law. This would return issuance of saloon licenses to county commissioners and would abolish the State Alcoholic Beverages Commission.

Because of the deadlock which may ensue between the House and Senate over the Republican and Democratic liquor revision bills, a new liquor measure has been introduced in the Senate which provides only for the abolition of the present law must be abolished if the state is to avoid a repetition of its "beer wars" with Michigan, proponents said. Both the Republican and Democratic liquor measures also contain this provision.

The Republican liquor bill has been pushed to third reading in

the House despite the opposition of the Democrats and is expected to be passed by that chamber and sent to the Senate next week.

Pending in House committee are drastic anti-gambling bills to prohibit such games as bingo and to levy a 50 per cent gross income tax on gambling winnings.

More Warm Debate Expected

Heated debate is expected to continue on two House bills involving lawyers, both of which now are on second reading in that chamber. One measure would allow the Supreme Court to admit all graduates of accredited law schools to the bar and the other would provide an "integrated bar."

Under the second measure all attorneys would have to belong to a state association which would in effect be a branch of the State Judicial Department.

Pending on second reading in the House is the Administration's measure to require blood tests for marriage license applicants. Some opposition has developed to this bill, and to other attempts to increase the State's regulation of health problems.

A measure has been introduced in the House to make it unlawful for health or school authorities to prohibit a child from attending school for failure to have a vaccination.

The Republican attack on the "Two Per Cent" Club, Democratic campaign fund collection agency, bogged down this week when Democrats charged that the bill to place the "Two Per Cent" Club under the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Act actually would repeal the teeth from that statute.

Republicans were successful in withdrawing this bill from third reading and referring it back to Judiciary "A" Committee for corrections. A second bill, said not to contain this defect, also was introduced in the House.

Attacks Reorganization Act

Meanwhile, the G. O. P. attack on the 1933 Reorganization Act continued. Pending third reading in the House is the House bill to permit the Secretary of State to name the State Securities Commission, which now is appointed by the Governor under terms of the Reorganization Act. Other Republican House bills to nullify the Reorganization Act also have advanced in the House.

No action was taken on the Senate election bills during the week-end. One bill, providing for a central ballot counting system for primary elections, has been passed and is being studied by a House committee.

The other Senate bills which would provide for a Statewide recount and extend the primary to include the offices of United States Senator and Governor remained unacted upon in the Senate committee.

Senator Jacob Weiss (D, Indianapolis), author of the recount bill, said he would demand his bill be reported out, if committee members did not take action of their own accord.

A House election measure which would give college students the right to vote by absentee ballot is up for third reading in the House.

Argue Labor Legislation

Labor legislation has progressed in the Senate more rapidly than in the House. Labor's keystone bill, the wage and hour measure, is still in the House Labor Committee. One public hearing has been held on it thus far.

Two labor bills are up for third reading in the Senate. They are the minimum wage bill and the proposed amendment to the Workman's Compensation Act.

The wage bill would set an hourly wage of 25 cents for workers excluding domestic, farm and governmental employees.

The Compensation bill would increase the benefits to workers under the act. Senator Charles H. Bedford (D, Sullivan), author of the compensation measure, said he is waiting for receipt of statistics from Washington before calling down the bill for final action in the Senate.

Thirty-four new bills were dropped into the House hopper and 13 new ones were introduced into the Senate shortly before both chambers adjourned for the week-end yesterday afternoon.

Included among the House measures was one to provide a new income tax on profits obtained through "unusual favors or special privileges" extended them in connection with enforcement or operation of any laws.

Designed to raise revenue for school purposes by imposing a tax upon "unjust enrichment," the bill was introduced by Rep. Charles H. Leavelle (D, Winchester).

Proponents of the measure declare it is designed to uncover and tax the incomes of persons who are paid to influence officials in the conduct of governmental business.

Ask More Modern Safety Code

Among bills introduced into House and Senate were four drafted by the Indiana Safety Council designed to modernize Indiana's traffic safety.

Another Senate bill would set up a State Textbook Adoption Commission. The bill introduced by Senator Guy D. Dill (R, Pierceton) would take the adoption of text-

books out of the hands of the State Education Board.

The Senate Textbook Investigating Committee which has just completed a probe into textbook adoption practices, heard Governor Townsend suggest a similar plan several days ago.

The traffic bills, if passed, would: Provide a speed limit for all buses of 50 miles an hour; limit trucks of more than 5000 pounds to 45 miles an hour; fix speed limits to be established by the State Highway Commission where and when a survey shows that they are needed with a State-wide regulation that no person should drive faster than is deemed reasonable and prudent.

Supply a supplementary measure to the Manslaughter Act to be known as the Reckless Homicide Act which would provide for penalties less severe than the other act which carries a one-to-10-year sentence. Four penalties are proposed, either one-to-five-year imprisonment or a fine of \$100 to \$1000 or 60 days to six months on the State Farm or both.

Define charges of "under the influence of liquor" as more than .05 per cent of alcohol by weight in the blood and providing a fine of not more than \$100 and imprisonment on State Farm of not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$500 and imprisonment on the State Farm of not more than three years.

Enable counties to set up a magistrate court for traffic cases upon the petitioning of the Circuit Court judge who would appoint the new judge.

Prohibit the solicitation of rides while standing on the pavement or roadway; charges term of beginning license to conditional license; fine of \$1 up for not dimming bright lights and other minor corrections in the present statutes.

The new Administration liquor bill which calls for a government unit interest of the importer system was also introduced into the Senate yesterday.

The bill was drafted by Democratic Senate leaders to break a deadlock over the liquor reform bills now pending in the House and Senate.

The collection of the liquor tax is transferred under provisions of the bill from the importer to the wholesaler.

HISTORY LECTURES DUE AT STATEHOUSE

State history and government is to be explained at 11:30 a. m. daily during the remainder of the legislative session to visiting Indiana school children, Floyd I. McMurray, State superintendent of public instruction, announced today.

The lectures, in the Supreme Court room, will be given by Pass F. Lockridge, of the Indiana University Foundation.

SENATE TO GET 'FREE SPEECH' BILL MONDAY

Weiss Measure Provides Right of Public Meeting And Picketing.

A Civil Liberties bill, designed to strengthen the State Bill of Rights in regard to free speech and assembly, is to be introduced into the Senate Monday by Senator Jacob Weiss (D, Indianapolis).

Senator Weiss also is to introduce a companion measure requiring all organizations that are not a party to a labor strike, but who engage in practices "adverse and conflicting with" the interest of persons participating in a strike, to file list of names of membership with the clerk of Circuit Court.

The Civil Liberties Bill would prohibit city officials from abridging the right to:

1. Pass out printed or written matter.
2. Picket or patrol any public street.
3. Carry on oral communication on public streets.
4. Hold or conduct public meetings.
5. Hold parades where grounds are "substantial."

Asks Parade Ban Be Explained

The bill would provide that if a governmental unit refused a permit to any person, firm or corporation, to hold a parade a written statement setting out reasons must accompany the refusal.

The bill also provides that city officials must cease to enforce any existing laws that prohibit the free exercise of the five practices.

The other measure provides that the committee or organization or group which is working against the interest of a strike when they are not a party to one, are held individually and collectively responsible for any damage with which they might be charged.

THREE FALLS CAUSE THREE FRACTURES

WINAMAC, Feb. 11.—Jerry Lee Keeler, 3, has concluded that the safest place to sit for a young man ship is the floor. He sustained a fractured right shoulder for a third time in a fall from a chair.

The youngster has broken the same shoulder in the same manner three times during his three years.

SEIZE 13 SLOT MACHINES

VALPARAISO, Feb. 11 (U. P.).—City police confiscated 13 slot machines yesterday in a raid on The Barn near here. They also took a large number of repair parts.

VINCENNES CONCERN GETS NLRB WARNING

The National Labor Relations Board has ordered the Vincennes Steel Corp., Vincennes, to "cease and desist" from alleged unfair labor practices. Robert H. Cowdrell, regional director announced today. The Board specifically ordered the company to cease its alleged interference with and discouragement of membership in the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, Local 585, A. F. of L.

NEW GROSS TAX BILL DEMANDED

Hendricks County Retailers Sign Petitions for 1/4 of 1 Per Cent Rate.

DANVILLE, Ind., Feb. 11.—Three hundred Hendricks County retail merchants are to present petitions to the Legislature demanding that their gross income tax rate be reduced from 1 per cent to 1/4 of 1 per cent, retaining their present \$800 exemption, it was announced today.

A bill is pending in the Legislature to reduce the retailers' rate to 1/4 of 1 per cent and to reduce the exemption to \$1000.

C. R. Baker, chairman of the Danville Better Business Bureau, said officials of his organization would confer with Hendricks County legislative representatives Monday afternoon and request introduction of a new measure to meet the merchants' demands. He said every retailer in the County had signed the petitions.

"The bill now in the Legislature does not give us the relief we need," Mr. Baker said. "All we are asking is that we be placed on a par with other types of business in regard to this tax."

DEPAUW ON GUARD AGAINST SMALLPOX

GREENCASTLE, Feb. 11.—An epidemic of sore arms invaded the DePauw University campus today as students and faculty members complied with a compulsory small-pox vaccination order.

Dr. C. B. O'Brien, University physician, explained that the order, with a Monday deadline was "merely precautionary." Only one case of smallpox has been reported in Putnam County, he said, but the University desires to guard against an epidemic.

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