

ORAL ARGUMENT TO BE MADE IN GAS LEASE SUIT

Baltzell to Hear Lawyers
Tomorrow in Case
Against City.

Oral arguments are to be heard by Federal Judge Baltzell tomorrow in the Chase National Bank's suit to attempt to make the City accept a 25-year-old lease of Indianapolis Gas Co. properties to the former Citizens Gas Co.

The suit, tried last March, contends that when the City, through its Citizens Gas & Coke Utility, took over the Citizens Gas Co. in 1913, it assumed the obligation to pay bondholders of the Indianapolis Gas Co. the nearly \$500,000 a year rental specified in the lease. The bank filed the suit on behalf of I. G. Co. bondholders, for whom it is trustee.

A similar suit, tried jointly with the Chase bank suit, was filed by the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. and two bondholders.

Collusion Charged

In briefs filed last week by defendants, collusion between the plaintiff bank and the defendant Indianapolis Gas Co. was charged.

The collusion charge was based on the employment by the Chase National Bank of the Cleveland law firm headed by the late Newton D. Baker. In the trial, it was testified that the I. G. Co. retained the firm to prepare an opinion of the validity of the lease. Later, it was charged, the firm asked to be released from employment by the I. G. Co., which granted this request.

The following day, the firm was retained by the Chase Bank to file the present suit in which the I. G. Co. is named defendant.

The collusion charge, also brought up at the trial, was part of a move to show that the I. G. Co. should be a plaintiff instead of a defendant. If it were realigned as a plaintiff, there would be no Federal Court jurisdiction and the suit would be dismissed because of both a plaintiff and a defendant residing in the same state.

Lease Made in 1913

The lease in question was executed in 1913 when the I. G. Co. ceased to operate in competition with the Citizens Gas Co.

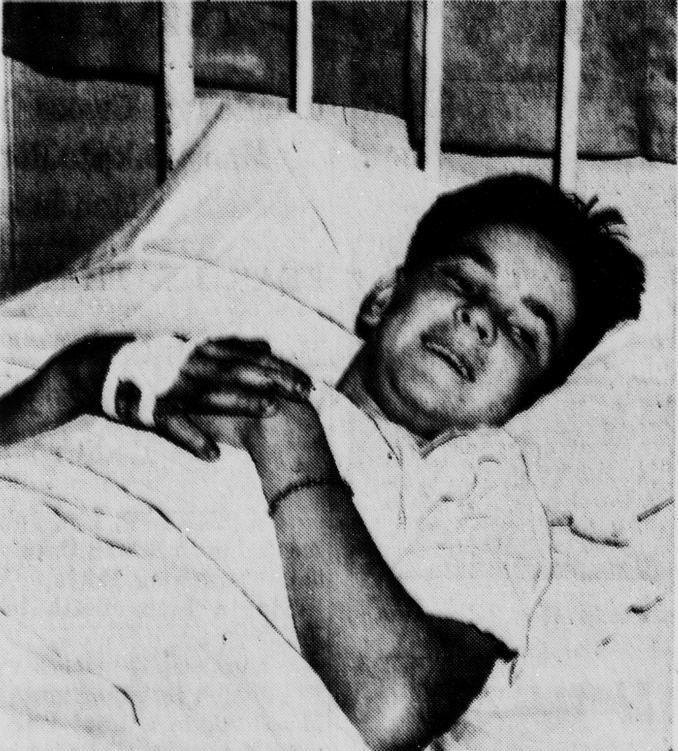
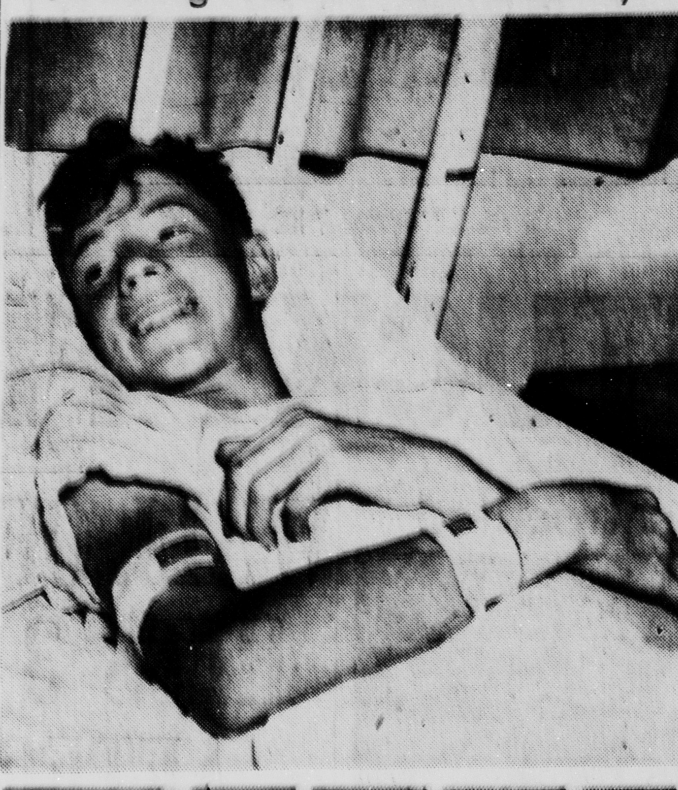
When the Citizens Gas Co. conveyed all its property to the City, Sept. 9, 1913, it also tendered to the City an assignment of the lease, which the City refused to accept, contending that the rental was excessive because a large part of the property no longer was used or useful.

Since the City took over the gas utility, the lease had been placed in escrow, pending legal settlement of the dispute. The sum in escrow now is considerably more than a million dollars.

If the court should hold the lease invalid, the City then would seek to negotiate a new lease at a much lower rental, the saving possibly being reflected in reduced gas rates.

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Shooting Victims 'Satisfactory'



Clarence Gibson, 14 (top), and Fred Ockerhausen (bottom) were reported today in "satisfactory condition" at Riley Hospital. They were shot at Lawrence, Ind., Monday night by W. E. Debolt, restaurant owner, who said he merely wanted to frighten them into not throwing firecrackers in front of his cafe.

5 Men, 1 Girl Set Out on Trip Over Top of World

SEATTLE, July 5 (U. P.).—Five men and a girl boarded the cruiser Pandora today for a 24,000-mile trip through the Arctic and a try at being the first persons to negotiate the Northwest Passage from west to east.

The only one of the six ever at sea before was the Rev. Flint Kelms, 45, leader of the expedition. The others were drawn into the adventure in the hope of making a historic journey as the Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen, did when he sailed the passage from east to west. Amundsen spent three years, from 1903 to 1906, in making the only successful trip over the top of the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Members of the Rev. Mr. Kelms' crew were his daughter, Vivienne, a student at the University of Oklahoma; the Rev. Cecil I. Brooks, Oklahoma City; Leo Clark, Bartlesville, Okla., radio operator; Ira Jones, engineer, and A. Y. Owen, photographer, both of Oklahoma City.

NLRB TO GET RULING IN CHAMBERS CASE

Federal Judge Robert C. Baltzell was to rule late today on a petition of the National Labor Relations Board to order the Chambers Corp., a Shelbyville concern manufacturing stoves and ranges, to produce complete payroll and production records.

The petition was filed when the company allegedly refused to submit complete records at a hearing in Shelbyville in January. The hearing was on complaint of several employees that they had been discharged because of union activities.

Attorneys for the Chambers Corp. asserted they had turned over all records pertinent to the case, and that they should not be compelled to produce the records of all employees, which they said number 200.

PETER ARNO DIVORCED
LITCHFIELD, Conn., July 5 (U. P.).—Mrs. Mary Lansing Arno, Salisbury, was granted an uncontested divorce from Peter Arno, New York artist, in Superior Court here two weeks ago it was learned today from court records.

WPA WAGE RATE RULING SEEN AS AID TO CRAFTS

Longer Hours Provided for
Skilled Workers on
U. S. Jobs.

Abolition of the prevailing wage rate for skilled labor on WPA projects under the new relief program may work to the advantage of the building trades crafts, it was indicated today.

In the past, plumbers, bricklayers and the other skilled craftsmen were paid the prevailing union scale of wages, the number of hours they worked being reduced to limit their pay to a maximum of \$85 a month. Under the new relief law, signed by President Roosevelt last week, the prevailing wage rate provision is abolished and skilled workers must labor longer hours.

Kern Views New Setup

Charles W. Kern, Indiana Building Trades County president, said he had not seen a copy of the law yet, but believes the union crafts probably would benefit because the new rule would keep WPA's skilled craftsmen busy more of the time and give them less opportunity to compete with nonrelief skilled labor on private construction in their spare time.

Meanwhile, Indiana's WPA workers went back to work today after an enforced four-day vacation. The vacation was ordered to give administrative officials time to reorganize their departments under the new law, and in arranging to top off 3000 from the present 76,000 payroll in the state by July 10.

Mr. Kern said the new relief law also will aid the building trades crafts through a provision limiting WPA funds to only non-Federal building project to \$52,000.

Limits Building Cost

This will make it impossible for WPA to construct any buildings with a total cost above \$75,000 or, at the most, \$100,000, according to S. C. Bryan, WPA deputy state administrator.

"This means," Mr. Kern said, "that more buildings will have to be constructed on a private basis or at least with PWA funds. Under PWA, the work is done by private contract, giving jobs to non-relief skilled workers."

He predicted that lengthening the hours that the skilled craftsmen must work on WPA jobs also would have a tendency to induce sponsors to swing from WPA to PWA or private contracts.

"In the past, very few union building trades workers have been on WPA," he said. "On several occasions I have complained that WPA has been running a building trades school, training unskilled men to become half-baked mechanics."

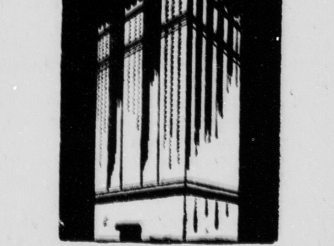
"The new rules probably will make the WPA jobs a lot less attractive to the skilled workers. A lot of them who have been on WPA since its start, and on FERA before that, probably will get out and look for private jobs."

"This will mean that, with a shortage of available skilled labor, WPA building jobs will drag out even longer than they have in the past, and sponsors will prefer to seek PWA aid on their buildings because of its greater speed and better workmanship."

Mr. Bryan agreed that the longer hours for WPA skilled workers probably will mean more jobs for craftsmen in private industry.

"The skilled workers on WPA will have jobs to go out and get in private industry in their spare time, because they will have less spare time," he said.

Mr. Bryan said he was uncertain whether it would be necessary to reduce the administrative force here under a new regulation limiting administrative costs to approximately 3.4 per cent of the total spent.



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