

FORUM CHANGED AT KIRSHBAUM

Maurice Hindus, Recently
In Baltic Area, Is
Feb. 11 Speaker.

The Kirshbaum Center Open Forum Committee announced today that Pierre Van Paassen will be unable to speak here Feb. 11 as scheduled and that Maurice Hindus will substitute with an address on "Finland and the Unholy Alliance," immediately upon his return to this country.

Mr. Van Paassen canceled his engagement saying he was ill on his return from France as a result of his service as a war correspondent. Mrs. Jack Goodman, managing committee chairman, made the announcement.

Mr. Hindus left Poland the day before war broke out on the last scheduled train to Riga, capital of Latvia. He had broadcast the crisis for the Columbia Broadcasting System to America before that.

He was an eyewitness to Russia's action in establishing new naval bases in Estonia and Latvia and land fortifications in Lithuania. He also was present during the diplomatic tilt between Finland and Russia which preceded this war.

He was born in Russia and educated in America and has visited his native land a number of times since the Red revolution. He has traveled in Eastern Europe extensively and is the author of several books and many magazine contributions. He appeared March 29, 1931, before the Forum here.

They're Proud of State's Canning Record



Feb. 5-10 has been proclaimed as Indiana Canned Vegetable Week by Governor M. Clifford Townsend. Beaming on as the Governor attached his signature to the proclamation at the State House are (left to right) Paul Sturm, A. A. Irwin, Rodney Kountz, K. I. Fawcett, Robert E. Jackson, G. V. Wampler and E. R. Nelson.

The Indiana Canners' Association will meet at 1:30 p. m. tomorrow at the Claypool Hotel to elect representatives to a meeting in Pittsburgh Sunday when a National Tomato Canners Bureau will be formed.

Indiana representatives will

meet with representatives of other local canners' associations to discuss regulations and organization of the national association.

Noble Ritchey of Franklin, local association president, said the purpose of the national bureau will be to publicize the use of the

tomato and to disseminate information to producers about acreage and other grower problems.

Meanwhile Governor M. Clifford Townsend proclaimed next week as Indiana Canned Vegetable Week.

HIGH BUILDING COSTS TRACED

Vicious System of Dealers' Price-Fixing and Collusion With Labor Charged.

(Fourth of a Series)

By THOMAS L. STOKES
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—A familiar remark among home-builders is the sad reflection:

"It cost more than we thought."

There are many reasons.

But partly responsible is the toll exacted by a vicious system of which the builder is the unwitting victim. If the owner could get a glimpse beyond the house he would see manufacturers and dealers fixing prices, though their national and local associations; local dealers keeping out cheaper materials, often in collusion with labor leaders, often through building-code restrictions; contractors and subcontractors rigging bids, with unions frequently serving as the enforcing agents by withholding labor from low bidders; union business agents co-operating to protect local monopolies, by throwing restrictions about the employment of labor.

Indictments Open Eyes

The builder might then understand a few things.

But he could do little about it. Many within the system itself would like to do something about it—but they can't fight it alone. They must play the game or be frozen out of business. Some who have tried to go it alone have been punished for their effrontery.

Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, who is trying to break up the system by prosecuting under the anti-trust laws, has turned up through his investigators so many varieties of restrictions, with so many wrinkles, that it requires many closely typed pages to list them.

The public has had its eyes opened in indictments thus far in 10 cities—New Orleans, St. Louis, New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washington. A grand jury in Seattle has not yet reported.

Other Probes Sought

Mr. Arnold has had to turn down, for lack of funds, many requests for investigation in other cities. He is seeking \$2,208,900 for the next fiscal year, compared to \$1,309,000 this year. But the Budget Bureau has recommended only \$1,209,000.

Indictments thus far have covered all types of restrictions except local building codes, and it is learned that Mr. Arnold plans test cases soon in several cities where there are flagrant examples of discrimination through such codes. The action will be based on a contention that restraint of interstate commerce is involved.

In general, restraints practiced by building-material dealers take the form of attempts to monopolize all business, to keep out new products and products of outside distributors, and to maintain the prices of their own products. All sorts of methods are used, and all sorts of punishments have been employed to hold the monopoly.

Boycotts Charged

Local material dealers have in some instances banded together to keep outside producers—of lumber and cement in particular—from selling large consignments direct to big contractors. To enforce their arrangement, they have used boycotts of outside dealers, and agreements with unions not to supply labor.

An indictment in Cleveland charges intimidation and violence to keep factory-glazed equipment manufactured outside the state from coming into the Cleveland area. Three corporations and four union representatives were named in the indictment. Similar activities are disclosed in other indictments.

Price Fixing Is Claimed

Collusion in fixing prices has been disclosed, with various means of enforcement, including expulsion from the local association for refusal to abide by price agreements, pressure on manufacturers to refuse to sell to the recalcitrant dealer, and agreements with unions to withhold labor.

Contractors and subcontractors have devised practices to protect themselves, and these in many cases have been perverted. General contractors, after they receive bids from subcontractors, often seek to chisel down the bids in a system commonly known as "bid peddling." Subcontractors, to protect themselves, set up bid depositories where their bids are submitted for opening.

Bid depositories, in turn, have become agencies of collusion, and monopoly. Bids often are opened ahead of time, and readjustments made by the bidders among themselves. The most extreme monopolistic use of the bid depository is an agreement among the bidders whereby the low bidder and his price are agreed upon in advance. Contracts are then rotated.

NEXT: How labor unions operate in collusion with dealers and builders to keep up home-building costs.

BREAKS WINDOW, FLEES

A man who threw a brick through the plate glass door of the Em-Roe Sporting Goods Store, 207 W. Washington St., was frightened when two watchmen yelled at him, and ran without entering the store. The watchmen were Emery Merritt and Roy Merritt, both of Danville, Ind.

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