

ELECTION FRAUD PROBES DEPEND ON SPECIAL AID

Milligan Already Has Been Given Many Complaints; Juries Called.

By BRUCE CATTON
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—What happens to the Department of Justice's vote fraud investigation depends largely on the man running it—Maurice M. Milligan, on leave of absence as U. S. attorney for western Missouri and serving as special assistant to the attorney general.

Mr. Milligan is an able, high-minded prosecutor. There is general confidence here that when he goes into action he will call them as he sees them without regard for politics. A mass of material awaits his study.

Activities Widespread
The Senate campaign investigating committee is looking into the doings of the Kelly-Nash machine in Chicago and the ways of Boss Hague in Jersey City. It has ahead of it a further New Jersey survey which would hit G. O. P. machines outside the Hague area. Its investigators are at work in Philadelphia, inquiring into charges involving "floating" voters exchanged between that city and Wilmington as conditions warrant.

Federal Grand Juries will be convened at Philadelphia, Wilmington, Del., and Newark, N. J., to consider allegations of fraud. Mr. Milligan said yesterday he will confer this week with district attorneys from those districts on material to be presented. Investigators are also looking into complaints of various kinds of skulduggery in St. Louis, Kansas and Kentucky to see if there's material for a full-dress investigation.

Study G. O. P. Charges
In Washington, the committee is studying Republican charges that WPA payrolls are being padded and that the Agriculture Department's AAA is putting the heat on farmers to drum up votes for Roosevelt. It is also looking into charges that the assorted Willie clubs have got around the Hatch act's \$3,000,000 campaign fund limitation.

It is considered unlikely that Mr. Milligan's force can dig very far into this mass of material before election day. Nevertheless, the background of the whole affair has as definitely a political tinge as a county caucus in Indiana. The Department of Justice had plenty of investigators and prosecutors in all parts of the country. Appointing a special investigator struck a lot of Washington people as a dramatic gesture and they began to look for a reason.

Warning on Hatch Act
The first is the obvious fact that the Democratic ticket has been hit by constant Republican harping on the close tie-up between the New Deal and the more malodorous city machines. Putting a man of Mr. Milligan's character in charge of a nation-wide investigation, and opening offices in Chicago for a starting point, is looked on as a means of taking off some of this heat. Second reason is the White House's firm conviction that a Willie "blitzkrieg" was due to begin about 10 days before the election, without regard to Hatch act or other campaign fund limitations. Setting up of Mr. Milligan's force is looked on in some quarters as a quiet warning.

Check on Senators
Underlying reason for the performance may be that the administration has not been at all happy about the Senate's investigation. Under the Senate's resolution for an investigation Vice President John N. Garner was empowered to name the five-man committee. It became known he planned to appoint two Republicans and three anti-New Deal Democrats.

An under-cover fight developed, and in the end a compromise was arranged which put Senator Lester Hill of Alabama, a whole-hearted New Dealer, on the investigating committee.

P.-T. A. TO SEND 100 TO MUSIC MEETING

About 100 persons are expected at a Music Appreciation meeting for Parent-Teacher groups in Indianapolis at 1 p. m. tomorrow in the Claypool Hotel. Hostesses are Mrs. Frank Gregor, president of the Indiana Federation of Music Clubs, and Mrs. James H. Lowry, president of the Matinee Musicale.

Meanwhile the opera, "Tannhauser," by Richard Wagner, will be released for sale Saturday at the Indiana Music Appreciation Headquarters, 245 N. Pennsylvania St.

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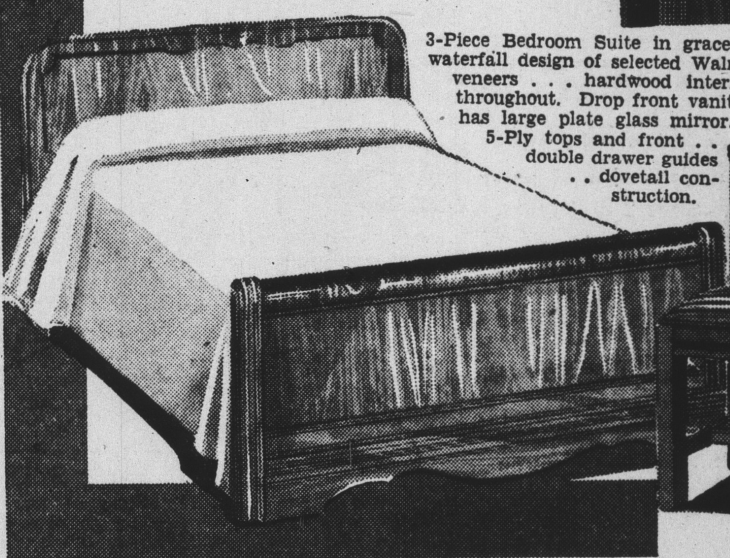
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