

# G. O. P. IMPATIENT AS SESSION OPENS

Anxious to Start Flow of Reorganization Bills; Unity Achieved.

(Continued from Page One)

Swan, Fowler, principal secretary; Sam Lesh, Indianapolis, assistant secretary; Perry Johnson, Atlanta, principal doorkeeper, and Mrs. Bertha Lundberg, Muncie, postmaster.

## Factional Split Ends

Factional differences were eliminated, at least temporarily, as the G. O. P. caucus unanimously approved nine major party bills yesterday.

Heading the program will be the "decentralization bill," reorganizing the State Government to give the four elected Republican officials control over most of the Government.

The bill, details of which were withheld temporarily, is reported to give Lieutenant Governor-elect Dawson more patronage and executive powers than any other State official, including Mr. Schricker.

## 36 Democrats on Guard

The measure is reported to place under Mr. Dawson's division the Highway Department, Conservation Department and the Public Service Commission, biggest patronage prizes of the government.

In addition, other bills propose giving Mr. Dawson equal powers with Mr. Schricker in the appointment of more than a score of bipartisan boards.

Meanwhile, the 36 Democrats of the House minority said after a caucus that they would "fight any G. O. P. legislation" that would "kick boy out of the Governor." They said they would not oppose any legislation to give elected officials the appointing power over the departments in their own department.

The full G. O. P. Assembly membership, after three hours of discussion, also approved two bills to amend the Gross Income Tax Law.

One proposes an exemption of \$20,000 annually for all retail establishments. The exemption for retailers, under the present law, is only \$3000. Under the bill, retailers whose gross receipts were less than \$20,000 would not pay any tax.

The other bill proposed would reduce from 1 per cent to one-half of 1 per cent the tax paid by retailers, leaving the exemption at \$3000.

Arch N. Bobbitt, Republican State Chairman, said party leaders agreed to present both bills and permit the committees in the House to decide which measure to report out to the floor.

## Other Bills Approved

Democratic minority members of the House, after a caucus, said they would sponsor a proposal to raise retail excise taxes from \$10,000, leaving the rate at 1 per cent.

Other bills approved by the Republican caucus would provide for:

1. Appointment of bi-partisan boards for each state institution and placing the employees under the merit system.

2. Making the Attorney General's office elective instead of appointive and providing for appointment of an Attorney General by a Republican controlled committee to serve until the 1942 election.

3. Extension of the auto license plates deadline from Jan. 1 to March 1.

4. Appointment of a bi-partisan State Welfare Board of four members instead of the present five-member board. Two of the board members would be appointed by Mr. Dawson and the other two by Mr. Schricker.

## Police Board Favored

5. Appointment of a bi-partisan board to run the State Police Department under the same procedure as the Welfare Board.

6. Repeal of the 1933 Reorganization Act which centralized most of the executive powers in the Governor's office.

The reorganization measure, which, if passed, would become effective on May 1, would set up four major executive divisions, each composed of two Republican officials and Mr. Schricker.

They would be the Industry and

Commerce Department, headed by Mr. Dawson; the State Department, headed by Secretary of State James M. Tucker; the Audit and Control Department, headed by State Auditor Richard T. James, and the Treasury Department, headed by State Treasurer James Givens, all Republicans.

Mr. Tucker's department would control the Motor License Bureau and 20 other units. Mr. James' division would have the Board of Accounts, Gross Income Tax, Division of Internal Revenue, and the Treasury Department, headed by State Treasurer James Givens, all Republicans.

Mr. Givens' department would control the State Tax Board and the Department of Financial Institutions.

This division of departmental allocations was reported to be tentative and subject to change before the bill is introduced within the next few days.

## Committee Shifted

Disagreements flared over some of the provisions at the party caucus last night but G. O. P. leaders said the differences "were minor ones" and that changes probably will be made in the bill by amendments as it goes through the committees.

Evidence of a major move on the part of majority leaders to quell intra-party strife was seen in a reported last-minute shift in the House committee assignments.

Rep. H. Evans of New Castle reported earlier as leader of the opposition to the organization's "decentralization" bill, was reported given ranking membership on the Judiciary "A" committee, which will handle the bill after it is introduced.

He also was given another important committee assignment, it was reported, and assigned several important bills to introduce.

Subsequently, Rep. Evans issued a statement in which he denied he ever was an "insurgent."

"I am a Republican and believe in the party's platform," he said. "I have preached for repeal of the 1933 Reorganization Act of Paul V. McNutt."

"I am not now in favor of setting up a law that will be just as bad. If the proposed bills are to decentralize government instead of centralize it, I will support them. When we all get together I am sure that the proper solution will be worked out. There has been too much stuff printed in the newspapers that had no foundation."

## Bobbit Asks Unity

Mr. Bobbit, in his message to the G. O. P. caucus, urged unity in carrying out the "mandate of the voters."

"That mandate to the Republican party was for a better form of government and to end one-man rule," he said.

"You must carry out the pledge that there will be no new taxes. Government costs must be reduced."

The Democratic minority House members also decided at last night's caucus that they would support:

1. Action to make illegal the Two Per Cent Club, Democratic campaign fund-raising organization which ceased operation two months ago at the request of Mr. Schricker.

2. A wage-hour law to supplement the Federal Statute.

3. A free text-book law.

4. Placing the Alcoholic Beverage Commission under a bi-partisan board.

5. Amendment of the State law to make the maximum benefit \$40 a month for pensioners to correspond with the Federal Security Act.

6. Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Law to liberalize the benefits.

7. Limit campaign expenditures to \$1000 by the State Central Committee and \$100 per 1000 population by the county committees.

8. Opposition to a sales tax.

## BULLET FOUND ON CAFE FLOOR STUDIED

A 32-caliber bullet, found on the floor at the Old Vienna Cafe, 111 E. Court St., was examined today in the police crime laboratory. It is believed to be the bullet that wounded John Bridges, 29, of 1235 N. Alabama St., late Monday night.

Mr. Bridges remained in a critical condition as police continued a search for the mysterious gunman who wounded him as he vaulted over the bar to stop what he thought was a fight in the cafe. Mr. Bridges is a bartender there.

The proposed pay cut would affect approximately 1800 workers who make \$3000 or more annually. Their

# Rest for Weary Feet



# RAF ATTACKS ENEMY BASES ON WIDE FRONT

## Crushing Blows Dealt in Libya; Naples and Nazi Cities Also Bombed.

(Continued from Page One)

industrial plant. London said the British raiders caused big fires and touched off heavy explosions.

## Five Die in Naples Raid

The Rome High Command admitted that five persons were killed and 30 wounded in the Naples' raids but reported little damage at Palermo. The Palermo raid appeared significant in view of repeated reports that German reinforcements sent to Italy were establishing themselves in Sicilian bases, preparation to attacking British sea power in the Mediterranean and aiding Italy in North Africa.

Other developments included:

In Albania, the Italian air force was reported more active but the Greeks continued to make small gains. Prisoners were taken in the Klisura area and small advances scored on the coast north of Chirnara. The Italians again attacked Salonic by air after a considerable respite.

## Rome Says British Sub Sunk

A Rome communiqué claimed an Italian gunboat rammed a British submarine and sank it in the Mediterranean and that a Fascist submarine sank a British auxiliary cruiser and a 3600-ton ship in the Atlantic.

Berlin charged that British representation in the United States had reached the proportions of an "army" which dwarfed any "Fifth Column" elements.

At Belfast the new northern Ireland Prime Minister, John Miller Andrews, strongly voiced northern Ireland's opposition to any proposal that would incorporate that territory with Eire.

The Eire Government yesterday issued an emergency decree, effective Feb. 1, banning signposts throughout Ireland in a move similar to the British precautions against invasion.

London's anti-aircraft guns opened fire tonight when the first night raiders since Sunday appeared over the metropolis.

## Battle of Tobruk

The R. A. F. claimed to have dealt crushing blows to Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's dwindling military power in Libya. It blasted four Italian airfields in western Libya and attacked ships in the harbor of Benghazi, Libyan capital, and desert convoys northwest of Girarabub, desert oasis southeast of Tobruk.

Reports reaching London said that a formidable force of British and Empire forces is being assembled on the Sudan and Kenya frontiers, north and south of Italian East Africa, preparatory to an offensive when the rainy season ends.

The R. A. F. reported that direct hits were scored on four or five ships in the harbor at Benghazi which lies 230 miles due west of Tobruk across the desolate Libyan Plateau.

An attack of great severity was made on Benina, the airport for Benghazi, 12 miles east of the Libyan capital and probably the largest Fascist air base in North Africa.

## Find 100 Planes on Ground

There the R. A. F. found an estimated 100 Italian planes on the ground. In the heavy bombing several were destroyed and others badly damaged, a communiqué reported.

Other airdromes were attacked at El Gazala, 40 miles west of Tobruk, Martuba and Tmimi, all deep in Libya.

Heavy hits were reported on warehouses at Benghazi where large fires broke out.

Another R. A. F. attack was directed at Massawa in Italian East Africa. Massawa was bombed successively Monday and Tuesday nights with British airmen centering their attacks upon the power station and submarine base. Fires were claimed to have been started.

## Nazi Pressure on Vichy

The French press was backed up in its attack on Vichy by the important Berlin newspaper, the Boersen Zeitung, which charged that the Vichy regime "needs a new program" and "a government which possesses a firm political plan and acts according to it."

Dispatches from Vichy revealed that possibly the major cause of the Paris food shortage has been huge withdrawals of French food stocks by German authorities. It was explained that German Army quartermasters have been using a large part of the 400,000,000 franc daily occupation costs paid by Vichy to buy up French foodstuffs.

This food has been bought at the source from farmers and also in the wholesale and retail markets in Paris before the French have a chance to supply their own needs.

There appeared to be at least strong grounds for suspicion that the Germans were encouraging the Paris-Vichy controversy over food as a means of bringing fresh pressure on the Petain regime and to encourage the widening split between the occupied and unoccupied zones of France.

## STRIKE AT SHIP PLANT

MEDIA, Pa., Jan. 9 (U. P.)—More than 100 night shift workers at the Steel Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Chester, started today a strike against the company.

The unions involved were those of the electricians, the operating engineers, the elevator operators, street fitters, plumbers, janitors, street laborers, chauffeurs, bricklayers, painters, machinists, window washers and refuse collectors.

The proposed pay cut would affect approximately 1800 workers who make \$3000 or more annually. Their

## BRITISH JOBLESS FEWER

LONDON, Jan. 9 (U. P.)—Great Britain's total of registered unemployed has dropped to 705,279, the lowest figure since recording of 1,300,000 in 1921, as the result of the acceleration of war industry, the Labor Ministry announced today.

## MIDWEST

Indiana—Cloudy to fair and sometimes rainy tonight and tomorrow.

Illinoi—Generally fair tonight and tomorrow, except snow showers in northern portion.

Louisiana—Fair tonight and tomorrow, much colder tonight.

Michigan—Cloudy to partly cloudy, cold tonight and tomorrow.

Minnesota—Fair tonight and tomorrow.

Missouri—Fair tonight and tomorrow.

North Dakota—Fair tonight and tomorrow.

Ohio—Fair tonight and tomorrow.

Wisconsin—Fair tonight and tomorrow.

Wyoming—Fair tonight and tomorrow.

Weather in Other Cities

Atlanta, Ga. . . . . Clear

Baltimore, Md. . . . . Cloudy

Chicago . . . . . Cloudy

Cincinnati . . . . . Cloudy

Cleveland . . . . . Cloudy

Denver . . . . . Cloudy

Little Rock, Ark. . . . . Partly cloudy

Mobile, Ala. . . . . Partly cloudy

Montgomery, Ala. . . . . Partly cloudy

New York City, N. Y. . . . . Partly cloudy

Omaha, Neb. . . . . Partly cloudy

Portland, Ore. . . . . Partly cloudy

St. Louis . . . . . Partly cloudy

Seattle . . . . . Partly cloudy

St. Paul . . . . . Partly cloudy

Tampa, Fla. . . . . Partly cloudy

Toronto, Ont. . . . . Partly cloudy

Washington, D. C. . . . . Partly cloudy

Weather in Other Cities

Atlanta, Ga. . . . . Clear

Baltimore, Md. . . . . Partly cloudy

Chicago . . . . . Partly cloudy

Cincinnati . . . . . Partly cloudy

Cleveland . . . . . Partly cloudy

Denver . . . . . Partly cloudy

Little Rock, Ark. . . . . Partly cloudy

Mobile, Ala. . . . . Partly cloudy