

Hoosiers in Washington

# TOWNSEND BUSY IN ARMS PLANT POST

Every Train and Plane Brings Delegation  
Seeking Factories; Terre Haute, Elwood  
Seek Share in National Prosperity.

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY  
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Former Governor M. Clifford Townsend has been put to work in a big way by being named to the Plant Site Committee in the Office of Production Management.

Every train, plane and bus entering Washington from the North, South, East and West carries at least one delegation determined to get a defense industry for the old home town.

Armed with brief cases filled with data, they descend on OPM, accompanied by their Congressmen and some times their Senator. It was this sort of lobbying which brought the OPM statement this week that from now on, new defense industries would be located in the West and South. These sections long have felt slighted.

Donald M. Nelson, OMP Director of Purchases is Chairman of the Plant Site Committee. Other members, in addition to Mr. Townsend, are Eli Oliver, special assistant on labor relations; E. F. Johnson, chief of aircraft, ordnance and tools branch of the Production Division, and S. R. Fuller, Chairman of the Production Planning Board.

Governor Townsend originally was appointed as special adviser on agricultural and labor matters and still holds that title.

## Terre Haute Seeks Plant

Fifteen Hoosiers from Terre Haute called on him this week and urged that a plant be located there soon to save the city's labor from migration. They reported that about 24 families a month are leaving there now for areas where defense projects are under way.

They were accompanied by their Congressman, Rep. Noble J. Johnson (D. Ind.).

Governor Townsend told them that he was perfectly familiar with the situation and pointed out that the Terre Haute area, including Sullivan, Greene, Clay, Vermillion and Vigo Counties long have constituted Indiana's gravest employment problem.

## Aid Sought for Elwood

Another area deserving serious consideration for defense industry is Bloomington and Bedford where the stone quarries have left an unemployed labor pool and unused factory buildings. Mr. Townsend said.

Representative William H. Larabee (D. Ind.) put in a plea for Elwood, which had an unemployment problem since the tin-plate mills moved away. In a letter to the Site Committee, he said:

"It is my desire at this time to call your attention the availability of an excellent plant site in my district at Elwood, Ind., which might be referred to as one of the 'ghost towns' created by the removal of former factories which had operated in that locality prior to the Hoover panic."

## Put Townsend on Spot

"Elwood is favored by nearly every facility that could be desired, I sincerely believe, and the officials and civic organizations of the city have been making every effort with in their power to interest private manufacturers in locating production units either in one of the empty buildings now available there or in constructing a new, modern plant on one of the very desirable sites now available in that community. Misfortune, however, has thus far followed each of these efforts, and also my own personal efforts to aid workers people to bring a new industry to the community."

Since Indiana already has had a considerable share in new plant sites, these pleas put Governor Townsend on the spot.

## McNutt in Oklahoma

Another former Hoosier who is busy with national defense is Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt. He is handling the highly complex welfare problems which come from cantonments and shifting populations.

Tonight he will be back in politics, however, as the Jackson Day Dinner speaker at Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Democrats will gather from throughout the State, for Governor McNutt is one of their favorite people. In fact, he had to take personal charge of the Chicago convention revolt to keep the Oklahoma delegation from drafting him for Vice President.

Following some cantonment inspections, Mr. McNutt will join Mrs. McNutt for a Florida vacation at the palatial home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Davis at Palm Beach. During the Easter vacation they will be joined by their daughter, Louise, who is a co-ed at George Washington University here.

## Outdealing the New Deal

In a plea for the Townsend Plan put into the Congressional Record this week, Rep. Gerald W. Landis (R. Ind.) made a statement of post-war objectives to rival the New Deal. He said:

"If America is to survive and prosper, it will be necessary to decentralize industry and bring the factory to the farm, place a legal floor under domestic farm prices, build a four-lane highway system, plan a housing program, perfect a better youth program of education and establish the right kind of a social-security program for our elders, disabled and dependents."

The National Youth Administration reported this week that 1362 Negro youths now are employed on the NYA out-of-school work program in Indiana.

## U. S. TO HAVE 80,000 IN ARMORED FORCE

WASHINGTON, March 29 (U. P.)—The Army's rapidly expanding armored forces, similar to the German Panzer divisions, will reach a strength of more than 80,000 men by next January, War Department officials said today.

## G. O. P. ANSWERS SCHRICKER SUIT

Courts Lack Jurisdiction, Party Says in Replies Filed Today.

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same remedies at law by which the same may be promptly determined."

6. The Lieutenant Governor is legally an administrative and executive officer, not just a legislative officer, as charged by the Democrats.

7. The State Board of Education created by an act of the Legislature is legal. Attorney General Bickel has ruled that the act is valid because it attempted to amend a 1913 act which had been repealed. Governor Schricker filed a suit asking declaratory judgment on the legality of the law and validity of the present State Board after May 1. The Republicans deny that the 1913 act was repealed and claim that the 1941 amendment providing for a new Board is legal.

In answer to the Democratic charges that "chaos and confusion" will result if the G. O. P. is not enjoined, the Republicans said: "This confusion would result, if at all, only from unwarranted conduct of the Attorney General and the Governor and their appointees in refusing to accord to the new statutes the legal presumption of validity to which they are entitled, and in being unwilling to have settled any justifiable controversies that might arise in proceedings in which courts would have jurisdiction."

Mr. Gilliom said the Republican State officials filed all four actions today in order to speed up the final decision.

## Cases All Prepared

"We are seeking no delays," he said. "Our cases are all prepared."

In answering the suit testing legality of the Attorney General Acts, the G. O. P. charged that no test of their validity is possible until a new State attorney is appointed on or after next Tuesday.

The new laws abolish the present office of Attorney General, appointed by the Governor, next Tuesday and provide for the appointment by a G. O. P.-controlled board of an interim State attorney to serve until a new Attorney General is elected in 1942.

After an appointment is made, Attorney General Beamer and the newly named attorney will be the rightful parties to the suit, the Republicans said.

The Republicans also denied that the Governor alone has the right to make appointments to State of fices, charging that the Legislature is empowered to provide for such appointments "not otherwise provided for in this Constitution."

## Democrats Call Laws Illegal

In their suits, the Democrats charged that the new laws are illegal because they give administrative powers to the Lieutenant Governor, who, they say, is merely a legislative officer under the Constitution.

Denying this, the Republicans said: "The Lieutenant Governor can be given executive and administrative duties by statute. The rights of the Lieutenant Governor to perform such duties has long been recognized and practiced in Indiana and such practice was engaged in by the plaintiff (Governor Schricker) in that he performed executive and administrative duties from 1937 to 1940 under statutes and proclamations of the Governor, receiving \$6000 a year for such services other than presiding over the Senate."

## Hearings Planned

Chairman Carl Vinson (D. Ga.), of the House Naval Affairs Committee, said he plans to hold hearings next week on his bill to prohibit the closed shop and set up a 30-day waiting period before a strike could be called.

Employees at the Bethlehem Steel Corp. shipyard at Hoboken, N. J., authorized the industrial union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America (C. I. O.) to call a strike if necessary, but workers at Bethlehem's Crane and Morse shipyards in the Brooklyn Borough were reported to have rebelled against strike proposals submitted by union officials.

The three yards are repairing and overhauling 32 American and British ships.

## Murray Answers Dies

C. I. O. President Philip Murray, a member of the Super-Mediation Board replied to charges by Rep. Martin Dies (D. Tex.) that Mr. Murray was unwilling or unable to expel alleged Communist Party members from C. I. O. leadership. Mr. Murray said 26 of the 27 men named by Mr. Dies as C. I. O. steel workers union officials were not members of the union, and that the 27th was not a Communist.

Three-man panels of the super-mediation board confer separately today with representatives of both sides in strikes at the Vanadium Corp. and the Condenser Corp., in an effort to find a basis for settlement.

Striking Vanadium employees announced they are ready to abide by the board's plea to abandon their seven weeks' strike. Union leaders said the workers are ready to return to work whenever the company opens the plant.

The board's first objective in all cases was to effect an immediate resumption of production.

This request was made in a strike at the Bridgeville, Pa., plant of the Universal Cyclops Steel Corp., and that 41-day dispute was settled yesterday afternoon, less than 24 hours after Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins turned it over to the board. The union votes today on whether to accept the settlement.

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