

NORMANDIE MAY BE  
U. S. PLANE CARRIER

NEW YORK, Oct. 23 (U. P.)—U. S. Navy experts on a recent survey of the 83,423-ton French liner Normandie made the discovery that the great ship had been constructed so that it could be converted in two months into an airplane carrier. It was learned today.

Since the Coast Guard took the 665,000-ton ship into protective custody May 15, the Navy has had experts on board several times, and maritime circles believed the ship will be seized and converted to an aircraft carrier if the United States enters the war.

## 'Quitting Public Life Forever,' Says Adams, of Resignation From Highway Post

By EARL RICHERT

Last week when James D. Adams announced he was resigning as State Highway Commission chairman because of press of personal business, State House politicians immediately began searching for an ulterior motive.

They couldn't imagine anyone giving up a public office, especially such a top-flight one as the Highway Commission chairmanship, except for some deep political reason.

Was he, they wondered, quitting the Schriener administration to get

set to make a race for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1944? (He has been mentioned repeatedly as a Democratic gubernatorial possibility for the past six years.)

Today, Mr. Adams casually cleared up the whole matter by stating that he was out of public life forever.

He wouldn't, he said, accept appointment to any public office whatsoever in the future.

And he wouldn't, he said, take the Democratic gubernatorial nomi-

nation if it should be handed to him.

"I have seen too much of the terrific strain on public officials," he said. "Today's easy means of transportation and communication have brought the public onto its officials like an avalanche."

He said that he had found it impossible as Highway Commission chairman to find time even on Sundays to look after his own personal business and that he had found it necessary to choose between his public life and his pri-

ate business.

He owns a bank and newspaper at Columbia City and has other business interests in Northern Indiana.

"I feel that our country is drifting nearer and nearer to war. For that reason I feel that it is imperative to get closer to my own business rather than to wait until conditions become more critical," he explained.

And, adding to the strain of the job, are scores of letters from irate citizens blaming the Commission

members for automobile accidents, sucker of a taxpayer."

Here is one which Mr. Adams received following a truck-automobile accident in which two men were burned to death in the wreckage:

"Well, here you are again . . .

What have you done about these

treacherous narrow roads—nothing.

Maybe some day you will burn like

these men here for your carelessness in not doing your duty. Enough

taxes are paid to widen this road,

but you delay year after year. At

least it seems like you could drive

over it some day. I am a poor

member of the public."

And here is another letter in a like vein:

"Once again you are charged with murder—this time four—and what do you do about this dangerous narrow roads—nothing.

Some day there is going to be an

ACCOUNTING. If you didn't have

and continue to take us taxpayers

money it would be different. Wake

up, you thugs and murderers, before it is too late!"

Letters like these, Mr. Adams said, make one sad.

LANDS ON MATTRESS  
AFTER 40-FOOT FALL

NEW WATERFORD, U. S. (U. P.)—Alex Poirier went for a ride on his bicycle and ended up by riding over a 40-foot embankment. Below there was nothing but a rocky shore and an old mattress. Spectators who saw Mr. Poirier disappear over the cliff rushed to the shore to pick up the body, but to their amazement, they found he had fallen on the abandoned mattress. Besides being stunned by his fall, physicians said the lad suffered only a fractured wrist.

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