

FUND COERCION STATUTE CITED

Pressure Upon Employees Illegal, Council Says in GOP Inquiry.

(Continued from Page One) Resolution adopted unanimously by the council yesterday following disclosure that nine county highway department employees walked off their jobs recently after refusing to donate part of their wages to a highway department fund for the Republican county committee.

Council Calls Employees The ex-county employees have been asked to appear before the county council tomorrow morning to give details why they quit, especially regarding indirect pressure. If any, used on them to make donations to the G. O. P. fund. The council's resolution stated that reports and rumors have been circulated that county employees have been notified to donate part of their pay to one political group or another. "Any such contribution made under duress directly or indirectly is of deep concern to the taxpayers," the resolution stated. It demanded that a sweeping investigation be made of all requests for contributions from county employees.

'We'll Use All Laws' Addison J. Parry, council president, said councilmen were not going to stand for any tactics that would divert the taxpayers' money into political channels. "If any public officials are using the power of their offices to build up political funds from workers' pay checks, we will use all the laws on the books to see that they are prosecuted," Mr. Parry said. Henry E. Ostrom, county Republican committee chairman, said he will welcome any investigation into any illegal activities in connection with collection of campaign funds. Ostrom Cites Instructions "I have instructed all party workers that collection of campaign funds must be on a strictly voluntary basis, and that no government employee has to give a dime if he doesn't want to," he said. "If any Republican appointee is coerced into donating part of his wages to campaign funds with threats that he will lose his job, I wish he would see me and I will see that it is stopped." Mr. Ostrom said he will attend the council meeting tomorrow when former county highway department workers are expected to testify.

Palermo 1st City in Sicily, 6th in Empire

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ferile plain filled with orange and lemon groves. ORIGINALLY settled by the Phoenicians, the city is rich in historical background as the seat of the kings of Sicily when the island was independent and the scene of many shifts involving changes of power in southern Europe. In the center of the old city are buildings dating back to the Norman kings who had palaces on the island and the major church, first built nearly 800 years ago, was once a Saracen mosque. Near Palermo were waged some of the fiercest battles of the first Punic war when Hamilcar tried vainly to conquer the Romans. Later it was colonized by Latins. When the Roman Empire broke up, it was conquered successively by the vandals and the Saracens, being returned to Christian rule by the Normans.

FROM THE 11th century until 1860, when Garibaldi made it part of the newly-united Italy, Palermo was the focal point of numerous changes in government, at times becoming the capital of independent Sicily when Bourbon kings won and lost in Europe. Many of the buildings used by the civil government in Palermo date back to 12th century. The Palazzo chiaramonte, begun in 1307, has been used in recent years as the chief court building. The harbor is northeast of the city, toward Monte Pellegrino, largest of the mountains in the semi-circle about Palermo.

GROGER AT CORYDON GETS STIFF PENALTY

The most severe penalty yet handed down by Indiana's OPA law enforcement officials was imposed on a Corydon grocer today. Clyde J. Treece, proprietor of Treece's market at Corydon, received a 60-day suspension for failure to register with his local war price and rationing board, posting incorrect point values and selling goods in excess of ceiling prices. The OPA said Mr. Treece had not registered with his ration board so far. The first 30 days of the penalty becomes effective Aug. 1, and the second 30 days is a probationary period.

F.D.R. WORKS ON NEW PRICE PLAN

Developed for Submission To Congress; Labor Demands Rollback.

(Continued from Page One) that if any bright person could tell the administration how this law could be carried out the administrators would be very grateful. The president said labor is in a predicament like everybody else. Everybody is feeling the squeeze except some who have gotten salary raises, he said.

Claim Some Prices Level He declared the prices of the main essential articles of food had been kept fairly level. Then he disclosed that new plans were being developed. Asked for a general description of the new plans, Mr. Roosevelt declined except to say that he would like a new term instead of the much used "rollback."

Labor's new attack on the administration's anti-inflation program came a month after Mr. Roosevelt had successfully defended food price angles of the program against congressional attempts to ban rollback subsidies. But now he is threatened with higher wage demands by labor unless more prices are actually rolled back—and soon. President Roosevelt's tilt with congress was at the other end of the price-wage tug-of-war. Congress had attached a rider to a commodity credit corporation bill prohibiting the use of subsidies to roll back the retail prices of food. The chief executive vetoed the bill and congress sustained it, but only after he had called it "an inflation bill," a high cost of living bill, a food shortage bill.

Issues Are Clouded The issues of food price controversy are clouded by the claims and counter-claims of various pressure groups. But, sketched out, they are: Farmers, business and industry—the handlers of food and other basic commodities—all want higher prices. They claim that their costs have not been stabilized. Labor wants higher wages, claiming that the cost of living has not been stabilized. But labor says that it will settle for a roll-back of excessive prices. Caught in the middle are consumers who, ironically, are members of both sides. Trying to referee are the war agencies—OPA, WPA, OES, and OWM—which are charged with preventing inflation.

Palermo Captured as Allies Chase Axis Fleeing to Coast

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forces in western Sicily had withdrawn to new positions "after bitter fighting" with powerful enemy armored forces. American armored units entered Palermo, the sixth largest city in the Italian empire, Wednesday and occupation was completed at 10 a. m. yesterday—only 13 days after allied forces first swarmed ashore on the southern beaches of the island.

LONDON, July 23 (U. P.).—New large-scale allied operations against western Europe that might make the current Russo-German fighting look like a local action can be expected, the axis-controlled Vichy radio said today.

The fully-equipped Italian garrison offered virtually no resistance, even though the axis had built some of Sicily's best defenses around Palermo in the belief that it would be the first objective of any invasion army.

This lack of resistance indicated that Palermo's port installations, like those in other harbors captured by the allies along the southern and eastern shores, may have been taken intact. If so, the allies can quickly convert the port into a major naval base for operations in the Tyrrhenian sea and possibly against the Italian mainland.

German Desperate The desperate German stand just south of Catania obviously was designed to cover the retreat of other forces on the island in the northeastern corner for a final delaying stand and perhaps an attack.

Duce Reported Thin Man Now

LONDON, July 23 (U. P.).—A Daily Herald Cairo dispatch said today that an "unquestionable source" reported Benito Mussolini had changed remarkably in appearance recently and had lost so much weight that he now was a thin man compared to his proportions a year ago. The old swashbuckling Il Duce with the famous jutting jaw has changed into an elderly, mild-mannered Italian, this report said. He was said to have lost all his remaining hair.

LEGISLATURE'S ACTS NEAR PROMULGATION

The acts of the 1943 legislature will be received from the printers about Sept. 1 and should be promulgated before Sept. 15, Secretary of State Rue J. Alexander said today.

Except for those laws carrying emergency clauses, the new laws do not go into effect until they are promulgated by proclamation of the governor. "Manpower shortages in the printing firms doing the work and slow delivery of paper from the supply houses have caused the unprecedented delay in getting the acts promulgated," Mr. Alexander said.

As far as it is known, this will be the latest date in the state's history for promulgation of laws passed by the previous general assembly. Most important of the laws, the effectiveness of which is being held up by the delay in promulgation, is the financial responsibility law which requires every automobile owner to buy liability insurance. The 1943 acts will make the fourth largest book on record. It will total 1184 pages, 75 pages more than the '41 acts.

SHANNON RITES SET GREENSBURG, July 23 (U. P.).—Funeral services will be held tomorrow for John S. Shannon, 77, Alexandria's first mayor and secretary-treasurer of the Decatur county farm bureau for the last 20 years. Mr. Shannon, a retired attorney, died in Indianapolis yesterday.

LODGE TO MEET Olive Branch Rebekah lodge, 10, will meet at 8 p. m. tomorrow in Castle hall. The degree staff will practice.

BROOKS POWERS FLED JAP TRAP

Battled for 31 Days Behind Enemy Lines Before Reaching Safety.

(Continued from Page One) uses the element of surprise and the method of infiltration to blast the Japs out of their installations, has now received three blanket presidential citations for its achievements.

Led by Lt. Col. Carlson It is led by Lt. Col. Evans Fordyce Carlson, a marine military observer with the Chinese rout army before Pearl Harbor, and has had Lt. Col. James Roosevelt, son of the president, as its executive officer.

After the declaration of war the marine corps gave Col. Carlson permission to pattern a battalion after the Chinese army, and enlisted the help of Col. Roosevelt. It was merely an experiment then, but its success has paved the way for the formation of other marine raider groups.

Cpl. Powers was 19 and a student at Franklin college when he enlisted in the marines in November of 1941. He was selected for Carlson's squad while training at San Diego and sent to Hawaii for the final hardening process.

First Test Came The first test for the experimental suicide battalion came during the battle of Midway. The way was hard with only canned pineapple and crackers to eat during the Jap bombings.

After the battle for Makin Island, the raiders moved on to Guadalcanal. As a part of the initial landing forces, they sneaked through the Jap lines and were trapped there for 31 days of their two-month stay on the island.

Cpl. Powers said 200 natives guided them along the native trails of the Guadalcanal jungles, carrying their ammunition, food and supplies.

When the battalion's food ran out, the men ate green bananas, coconuts, taro root, papia (tree melons) and green pineapples. For drinking water, they had the river.

Sent Overseas Last February, Cpl. Powers was sent to an overseas hospital where he contracted malaria nine times and lost 58 pounds. He reached San Diego hospital the last of May, and arrived home on July 1 for a 30-day rest.

Cpl. Powers knows the Japs well. He thinks they've been overrated as fighters but not in their cruelty. He claims that their main advantage is their numbers.

"They're like a bunch of mosquitoes," he said. "You get one and another jumps on you." A graduate of Tech, where he played varsity football, Cpl. Powers worked at Eli Lilly & Co. before he entered Franklin college. He was taking a medical course when he left school as the first Franklin college student to enter service.

PROMOTE SCOUTS TO CAMPER RANK

Twenty-five Boy Scouts at Camp Chank-tun-ung received the rank of camper yesterday and five the rank of woodmen during the third camping period.

Campers are R. Kazez, Tommy Scheets, Larry Poe, Billy Miller, Tom Walker, Charles Schmalz, Billy Clemons, J. Hickey, Phil Cougill, Douglas Howard, Richard Dreier, William Bakes, Raymond Rathz, Lyle York, Donald VanTyle, John Bob Poutty, William Miller, Norman Gaunelsen, Leo Terry, Phil Boyd, Robert Amos, Robert Gatto, Wilbur Owen, Forest Cullings and Richard Davis.

Woodsmen are Charles Willoughby, Fred Franklin, Robert Gatto, Joe Hickey and Joe Moran.

COUNCIL TO ENTERTAIN

Gold Mound council 445, Degree of Fochontas, will entertain the Marion County association Monday evening in Red Men's hall, 137 W. North st.

Yanks Travel 2400 Miles To Hit Japs

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anti-aircraft batteries put up an intense barrage, but it dwindled as the raid progressed.

Direct hits were scored with 500-pound bombs on an old refinery and five large fires sprang up. Docks, warehouses and railway targets also were hit heavily with explosives and fire bombs. All planes returned safely.

The round-trip flight of 2400 miles exceeded by some 200 miles the previous record Southwest Pacific flight to Macassar and compared favorably with long-distance raids by American South-Pacific planes on Wake Island and British planes on Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Concentrate on Munda Soerabaja has been converted by the Japanese into their main supply and reinforcement base for the area northwest of Australia and Java is the most important industrial island in the East Indies.

In the central Solomons, Dauntless and Avenger bombers and Wildcat fighters flew 250 sorties in a shuttle bombing of New Georgia, concentrating the main weight of their 135 tons of explosives on enemy defenses in the Munda area.

The aerial assault was in direct support of American ground forces virtually surrounding both New Georgia bases. A spokesman at South Pacific headquarters of Adm. William F. Halsey Jr. reported that soldiers and marines were battling in the jungle only a few thousand yards from the Munda air field.

Ground fighting also flared on the jungle approaches to Salamaua, big Japanese base in New Guinea, as enemy troops were repulsed with heavy casualties in a series of sharp clashes near Komiatum, Namling and Tambu bay.

EVANSVILLE FLIER IS KILLED IN CRASH

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Ludlow, Mass., were killed yesterday when their plane crashed near the field. The crash of his plane near Lane, S. C. Wednesday, resulted in the death of Cadet James H. Hornback, Springfield, Ill.

Missing INDIANA MEN listed as missing today are: T. Sgt. Jack Davidson, South Bend, in the European area, and S. Sgt. Barry G. Smith, Sullivan, in the Middle Eastern area.

Honored THE DISTINGUISHED flying cross for "extraordinary achievement" while participating in 37 operational flights in the Solomon Islands has been awarded to Lt. Richard E. Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Scott, 3415 Broadway.

The lieutenant, who had previously received the air medal and oakleaf cluster, had a total of 208 hours in the air during the flights. He arrived at Hickam field, Hawaii, his former station, five weeks before the Jap attack at Pearl harbor and has just completed a period of service at Tucson, Ariz., as a navigation officer training new bomber groups.

Lt. and Mrs. Scott are now at the army air corps technical school, Boca Raton, Fla., where he is also an instructor.

BOY IS DROWNED BEDFORD, July 23 (U. P.).—Albert Bennett, 17, Heltonville, drowned in White river near Tunneton yesterday while on a fishing trip with several other youths. He was the son of Fred Bennett of Heltonville.

LAKE YIELDS ALL VICTIMS' BODIES

Last Taken From Water This Morning; Family Gets Cheery Postcard.

As the families today made funeral arrangements for the two Indianapolis young women who were drowned Wednesday in Lake Wawasee, state police this morning recovered the last of the bodies of the six victims of the tragedy.

The body of Miss Billie Binkley, 20, Goshen, was taken from the lake waters early this morning. After the other five were recovered Wednesday night and yesterday. The six lost their lives when a motor launch during a violent wind and rain storm. Eight others in the boat were rescued.

Victims Vacationing The two local victims, who had been vacationing at the lake, were Miss Dorothy E. Beckerich, 21-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Beckerich, 3319 College ave., and Miss Virginia Rush, 17, 4321 Park ave., and foster daughter of Mrs. Carl A. Rush, 1655 N. Temple ave.

Among the other victims was T. Sgt. Lloyd G. Burkholder, 26, Goshen, who was vacationing at the lake resort after being on active duty in North Africa. He had received the air medal and eight bronze oak leaf clusters for sustained combat flying with the army air force.

Others who lost their lives were Dean Yoder, 22, Elkhart, fiancé of Miss Binkley, and Lloyd Conklin, 22, Goshen.

Funeral services for Miss Beckerich will be conducted at the home at 8:30 a. m. tomorrow followed by requiem mass at 9 a. m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic church. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery at Troy ave. and Bluff rd.

The body of Miss Rush is being taken to the Hunt funeral home in Kirklint. Mrs. Rush left for Kirklint this morning where she will complete arrangements with her uncle, M. R. Hunt, funeral director. Burial will be here.

Family Gets Post Card The Beckerich family yesterday received a post card mailed by Miss Beckerich just a few hours before the tragedy. She had written: "Dear Mother, Daddy, Clem and Pat: It was in town so I thought I would drop you a line. Everything is fine. We went to the show last night. Saw the 'Immortal Sergeant.' It was very, very good. Keep everything going. Have a good time at the reunion. Love, Dot."

Clem and Pat are two sisters of Miss Beckerich, and the family was to attend a reunion Sunday honoring Miss Beckerich's grandmother, Mrs. Bridget McManamon of Indianapolis.

ITALY CALLS AIR RESERVE BY UNITED PRESS Gen. Rino Fougier, Italian air force chief of staff, has ordered total mobilization of all Italy's air reserves, including civilian pilots and old-type planes, the Swedish newspaper Eskilstuna-Kuriren, said in a dispatch reported today by the office of war information.

Advertisement OLD PAPER BAGS BLAST. AXIS MUNITION PLANT Your old paper bags, boxes, brown wrapping paper, newspapers, and magazines are being converted into airplane equipment, shell fuse parts and other war weapons, for blasts against the enemy. Don't destroy any waste paper—save it, and help destroy the Axis. Flatten out used containers, stack waste basket paper and loose paper into neat bundles. To sell your salvage, or give it to charitable or other organizations, telephone a collector at MA rket 3321.

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ROME WAS BOMBED TO SAVE LIVES--FDR

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aside pleas that it be made an open city. Within Rome, he said, there are munitions plants, airports and railroad facilities which carry guns, troops, and ammunition to southern Italy.

When the Sicilian campaign began, Mr. Roosevelt said, he had to think of American boys who were placed in greater danger by the influx of enemy power from the north and through Rome, the center of enemy supply.

The bombing of Rome, he said, was undertaken with the primary objective of saving American and British lives.

Destruction Necessary The president declared that, with the aid of the Italians, Germany had destroyed 4000 churches, hospitals and libraries in Great Britain. He said, however, that he did not believe in destruction for retaliation. But destruction for saving the lives of our men at war was an inevitable necessity.

Mr. Roosevelt was asked whether the bombings of Rome was the fulfillment of the warning he and Prime Minister Churchill made to the people of Italy to "surrender or die." He replied that the two things should not be confused, because one was the problem of an entire nation and the other the problem of a city devastated all over the world, but used for military purposes.

Observers recalled the flouting by axis powers of Mr. Roosevelt's efforts at the beginning of the war to obtain an agreement outlawing the bombing of civilians.

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