

## FUND COERCION STATUTE CITED

Pressure Upon Employees  
Illegal, Council Says in  
GOP Inquiry.

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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 are 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.

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ALLWITE**  
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## Palermo 1st City in Sicily, 6th in Empire

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fertile 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.

### GROCER 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.

Glyde J. Treese, proprietor of Treese'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. Treese 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.

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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-mentioned "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 rollbacks.

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 controversies are clouded by the claims and counter-claims of various pressure groups. But skeletonized, 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, WLB, 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 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.

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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.

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 contain 1184 pages, 75 pages more than the '41 acts.

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 venerated all over the world, but used for military purposes.

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## BROOKS POWERS FLED JAP TRAP

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Battled for 31 Days Behind  
Enemy Lines Before  
Reaching Safety.

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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 10th army before Pearl Harbor, and has had Lt. Col. John Roosevelt, son of the president, as its executive officer.

Russell's dispatch from the Catania front said that a small 8th army formation which had driven across the plain to an area just below the foothills three and a half miles southwest of Catania had been pulled back to a position protecting the westernmost British bridgehead across the Simeto river.

Canadians Advance

Further west, Russell said, Canadian troops advanced under a scorching sun, though their drive was hampered by German demolitions of strategic bridges and roads and by the generally rugged terrain.

Eisenhower's communiqué said the Canadians were making "steady progress against fierce resistance."

Meantime, bombers of the north-west African air forces concentrated their bombardments on railroad targets on the Italian mainland. Heavy bombers, presumably Flying Fortresses, raided railroad communications at Foggia in eastern Italy and medium bombers attacked similar targets at Salerno, south of Naples, and Battipaglia.

"Many bombs fell on the railroad tracks and on adjacent industrial buildings," the communiqué said.

Light bombers also attacked Capo Dei Greci and the airfield at Capo Dei Greci.

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.

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, papaya (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 mosquitos," he said. "You get one and another jumps on you."