

GOP SPLITS ON WELFARE BILL

Some Legislators Pledge Votes Against It After Caucus.

Opposition has developed among Republican majority legislators against the G. O. P. leadership's measure to reorganize the state welfare department, it was learned today.

The bill, approved several weeks ago by the G. O. P. policy committee, struck a snag at the caucus of Republican legislators with the party leadership at the Sevier hotel last night.

The measure is sponsored by the legislative welfare investigating commission headed by Rep. Earl Teckemeyer (R. Indianapolis), who introduced it two weeks ago.

Bitterly Opposed

The reorganization plan has been opposed bitterly by half a dozen civic groups, social workers' organizations and labor leaders as "unsound" legislation.

The bill will abolish the present five-member policy-making state welfare board and replace it with a three-member, full-time administrative board. Civic groups contend this would result in "divided authority" and would weaken the administration.

The first opposition from Republican legislators themselves cropped up today when it was learned that several of them said they would vote against it.

Passage of the bill had been scheduled by the G. O. P. leadership for today in the house but the opposition resulted in postponing action until tomorrow.

Caucus Is Called

Meanwhile the house leadership was forced to call a special caucus meeting of G. O. P. house members this afternoon in an attempt to iron out differences.

Republican caucus leaders also failed to get unanimous support for the party's proposals to revamp the state's liquor laws to dislodge Democrats from the beer business and open the trade for some Republicans.

They had to call another special caucus of G. O. P. legislators for next Tuesday night to settle the liquor issue, the hottest so far in the legislature.

SPEED RECRUITING FOR ARMY NURSES

Applications for the army nurse corps from now on will be processed in Indianapolis but applications for the navy nurse corps will be sent on to Washington, D. C., as formerly.

The announcement of this change in handling army nurse applications was announced by W. I. Longsworth, chairman of the Indianapolis chapter of Red Cross, in the following statement:

"The nurse recruitment committee of the Indianapolis chapter (Red Cross) has been authorized to completely process all applications for the army nurse corps. This includes the authorization of physical examination.

Recruiting Speeded

"Formerly, all the applications were sent to national headquarters in Washington, D. C., which sometimes caused weeks of delay before a nurse knew whether she would be accepted for a commission. Now, the applicant will know within a day or two whether she is accepted or not. With the great need for nurses in the army, the decentralization will greatly expedite nurse recruitment."

The recruitment office is at 220 Chamber of Commerce building and the telephone is LI-1441.

"There is no change in the process for the navy nurse corps. Applications will be sent to Washington as before."

STATE MAKES MOVE TO GET U. S. TAXES

Gov. Gates' administration took its first step today to collect from the federal government approximately \$5,000,000 annually in property taxes on war plant property operated by the U. S. in Indiana.

A bill was introduced in the house by Rep. George Henley (R. Bloomington) and Albert Thompson (D. North Vernon) to place on the property tax duplicates all federally owned property in the state.

Sponsors of the bill, including the G. O. P. policy committee, reported that federal officials already had indicated that the government would not oppose taxing of its war plant property.

Local Mechanic Makes Trip In Fastest Air Ambulance

S. Sgt. William Harvey Ragan, son of Mrs. Mary Ragan, 1211 N. Tibb's ave., was one of the first men to fly in "the fastest ambulance in the world."

The ambulance was introduced officially as a result of a bit of Yankee ingenuity on a "beerless" island in the Marshalls.

A year ago some fighter pilots on the island began flying in bottles of the liquid in converted gas tanks of their fighter planes. When army experts got wind of the idea, they produced two P-38 Lightning fighter planes with their auxiliary wing gas tanks converted into compact passenger carrying compartments.

The planes have been undergoing intense experimental flights at a Hawaiian air base. As soon as they are approved officially, others will be constructed and sent into the Pacific for fast mercy flights and

Ike's New Aid



Lt. Gen. Ben Lear

RAPS COUNSEL IN DUAL ROLE

Judge Blocks Prosecutor Appear as Lawyer For Defendant.

Judge John L. Niblack wants Mayor Tyndall to explain how the city's legal staff can both prosecute and defend the same case simultaneously.

He raised the question yesterday in Municipal court, room 4, as he fined John Zazas, 4356 N. Meridian st., \$30 and costs for having ignored 15 parking tickets.

Mr. Zazas had failed to appear in court yesterday when his case came up even though he had set the date himself. Judge Niblack issued a bench warrant.

Later, however, James W. Ingles, a city attorney, appeared and asked that the bench warrant be recalled, explaining that he had filed a petition for a jury trial and that his client was out of town.

Refusing, Judge Niblack ordered

LEAR ASSIGNED TO HIGHER POST

General of Yoo-Hoo Incident Given Deputy Command in Europe Area.

PARIS, Jan. 24 (U. P.) — Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, commander of all U. S. army ground forces, has been appointed deputy commander of American forces in the European theater, it was announced today.

Lear was named commander of army ground forces last summer.

He succeeded Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, who was killed while witnessing the aerial bombardment preceding the American breakthrough at St. Lo in Normandy.

Washington sources have been speculating that Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, former American commander in China, Burma and India, would be given the ground forces command.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme allied commander and concurrently American commander in the European theater, already has delegated Lear to direct the conservation and utilization of manpower, including moral and welfare aspects.

Some of the divisions fighting on the Western front received their initial maneuver experience under Lear's 2d army command in the United States in 1940-41.

Gen. Lear attracted attention during early American mobilization for punishment of soldiers who "yoo-hooed" at girls on a golf course where he was playing.

He climbed to the top without benefit of a West Point career.

After the Spanish-American war, he was commissioned a second lieutenant with the 15th cavalry.

Commanded Cavalry

Graduating from the army war college in 1926, Lear commanded the 14th cavalry at Ft. Sheridan, where he remained until 1927.

In 1938 he assumed command of the Canal Zone.

He was placed in command of the 2d army in 1940 and promoted to lieutenant general.

A congressional investigation was threatened in the yoo-hoo incident, but it never materialized.

Lear was playing golf in civilian clothes at a Memphis course when truckloads of soldiers of the 35th division rolled past the links on their way to Ft. Robinson, Ark.

Supposedly, the soldiers, weary after maneuvers in Tennessee, whistled and "yoo-hooed" at girls who were playing the course in shorts.

Lear ordered the entire group of soldiers—150 men—to March 15 miles as a penance.

FRIENDS JOIN HUNT FOR STOLEN WATCH

Friends of Mrs. Clyda Moore, 622 N. Alabama st., have come to her aid in her fight against the superstition that her son missing in action will not return unless a stolen watch is recovered.

Roomers in her home and neighbors have posted a \$35 reward for return of the watch stolen the day her son, Pvt. Thurman S. Moore, was reported missing by the war department.

The watch was purchased for him on a request in his last letter home. He wrote, "I would like to have a watch. Sometimes our lives depend on one."

For years, Mrs. Moore was sent to bed by her doctor from the shock.

FALLS IN ELEVATOR SHAFT

Laurence E. Dutton, 50, of 1251 Sheffield ave., is in critical condition at City hospital from injuries received when he fell two floors in the elevator shaft at the Lorraine hotel yesterday. He has a broken wrist and possibly broken hip.

Accidents Mark

Two-Alarm Fire

THERE WAS intense excitement last night at the \$1000 fire at 921 Greer st., than often comes with a two-alarm.

In order:

—En route to the fire, pumper 3, stationed at 1134 Prospect st., collided with an automobile at Shelby and Prospect sts. Firemen were delayed slightly.

On arrival, Frank Eller, 78-year-old resident of the first-floor apartment was found overcome with smoke. He was sent to the Methodist hospital.

Patrick Farrell, occupant of the upstairs apartment, suffered a heart attack. He was treated by a physician and taken to the Methodist hospital.

A 30-day suspension was given to Richard Williams, Anderson, a

Richard Williams, Anderson, a</p