

## 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 Severin hotel last night.

The measure is sponsored by the legislative welfare investigating commission headed by Rep. Earl Teckmeyer (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 would 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.

## Ike's New Aid



Lt. Gen. Ben Lear

## 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.

Lodgers 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."

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

FALLS IN ELEVATOR SHAFT  
Laurence E. Dutott, 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 possible broken hip.

## RAPS COUNSEL IN DUAL ROLE

Judge Blocks Prosecutor Appearing as Lawyer For Defendant.

Judge John L. Niblack wants Mayor Tyndal 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

## Accident's Mark Two-Alarm Fire

THERE WAS more 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 home of a neighbor.

And Mrs. Laura Graf, 2733 Napoleon st., who was passing the scene, tripped over a fire hose.

The warrant served, and inquired: "Does Mayor Tyndal permit his legal staff to prosecute and defend the same person at the same time?"

About an hour later Mr. Ingles was back in court with Mr. Zazas and the judge imposed the penalty.

## OPA WILL HEAR 15 CASES TODAY

10 Others Are Suspended On Price, Rationing Accusations.

Fifteen alleged violators of OPA regulations were to appear today before a hearing commissioner.

Three Indianapolis and seven state food and petroleum dealers who appeared yesterday drew penalties for rationing and price violations.

A 30-day suspension was given to the J. Russell Williams service for gasoline inventory shortage.

E. W. Burns, 1801 Hoyt ave., and Mrs. Georgia B. Hopkins, 1664 Columbia ave., grocery operators, each drew a 15-day suspension for failing to register as retailers.

Richard Williams, Anderson, a petroleum dealer, was suspended from dealing in gasoline and tires for the duration of the war. He was convicted of acquiring tires

## Mother of 8 Killed When Struck by Auto

MRS. EDITH MAE ODOM, 37, mother of eight, whose life history reads like the typical big city hard luck saga, was fatally injured at 4:45 this morning.

Struck by an automobile at Washington and Gray sts., she died while en route to city hospital in an ambulance.

THE ACCIDENT occurred as she, her husband, and a son, Frank, 16, were crossing the street on their way to Powell's restaurant.

without certificates and dealing in counterfeit stamps.

The Ross service station, Connersville; Charles E. Records, Bloomington; and Ray Chestnut, Washington, each was suspended 30 days for gasoline inventory shortages.

Others penalized were Charles R. Burnham, West Lafayette, suspended 30 days, the last 15 probationary; J. W. Jones, Washington, suspended six weeks, the last three probationary; the Martini Oil Co., Washington, suspended 15 days; and Otto Steele, Washington, suspended 30 days.

3106 E. Washington st., where she worked as a waitress. Her husband, Frank Odom Sr., is a dishwasher there.

Less than two months ago, their 3-month-old baby, Linda, succumbed to a pneumonia attack. The Odoms live at 711 N. Alabama st.

SIX OTHER children are in the Marion county guardian's home. Mr. Odom, a victim of chronic heart trouble, had been unable to provide for them. They are Rose, 15; Helen, 12; Homer, 10; Jesse, 8; Harry, 5; and Gloria Ann, 22 months.

Mrs. Odom had another son by a former husband. He is Pvt. Robert Karns, 20, with the army air forces in Italy.

UNABLE to perform heavy work, Frank Odom Sr., sobbing with grief, explained this morning that he and his wife had been striving to save enough money to regain custody of their children, now warders of the county.

Driver of the death car was Alexander L. Wiemer, 43, of 4224

E. Washington st. He was slated on a reckless driving charge.

A RESIDENT of Indianapolis for 21 years, Mrs. Odom was a native of Jamestown, Ky. The body was taken to the Lucas funeral home, 1634 W. Morris st.

## HUTSON DUE TO GET CONCILIATION POST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Thomas R. Hutson of Brazil, Indiana labor commissioner during the Townsend and Schriener administrations, may be sent back to Indiana as a federal labor conciliator, it was learned today.

Mr. Hutson started to work in the conciliation division of the U. S. department of labor the day after he left the state house in Indianapolis.

He has been assigned to a special case in Chicago and after that likely will be sent back to Indiana to conciliate labor disputes for the federal government, it was said.

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## 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. Longworth, 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, also to make rapid trips with small cargo and personnel.

The nose of the tanks has been cut away and plexiglas installed. Each tank now has two portholes, air vents and a set of headphones, enabling passengers to keep in constant touch with the pilot. Each tank can carry two passengers or cargo.

Besides providing a 225 M. P. H. cruising speed for more than seven hours, the lightning ambulance plane would be extremely useful in combat areas where larger planes could not land, it is pointed out by Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, commanding general of army air forces in the Pacific.

Sgt. Ragan, an airplane mechanic at Hickam field, Pearl Harbor, has been overseas three years. Before entering service he was graduated from Avon high school and worked for J. D. Adams Co. and the American Can Co.

son of Mrs. Mary Ragan, 1211 N. Tibbs 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 "barless" 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