

HOUSE IS GIVEN CITY HALL BILL

Measure Makes Political Activity on Job Violation Of State Law.

By SHERLEY UHL

City hall's sweeping personnel reorganization bill which would make political activity on the job a violation of state law was passed today by the legislature's house.

The measure creates a permanent city personnel director whose administration of a so-called "seniority" employment plan would greatly curtail the traditional spoils system. It was to be introduced by Neil E. Downey and Earl Teckemeyer, Indianapolis Republicans.

A surprise feature of the legislation would abolish the present office of personnel director, now held by Larry Parsons, and require the mayor to make another appointment "subject to approval by the city council."

Parsons Named by Mayor

Mr. Parsons was named to the newly-created personnel directorship by Mayor Tyndall six months ago over city council's protest. The personnel post will not be legally established by state law until passage of the present bill.

Provisions of the bill submitted today make it doubtful whether Mr. Parsons could qualify for reappointment to his job.

The measure contains a five-year consecutive residence qualification. Mr. Parsons lived in Camby. It also specifies that the director shall have had "at least two years' experience in administering personnel transactions in organizations with at least 100 positions and employees."

At the same time, the bill would cancel the bulk of the mayor's patronage power. Appointment of all rank-and-file employees would hereafter be handled "directly by the department heads, subject to the final approval of the personnel director."

Limits Mayor's Patronage

The mayor would be empowered to name, without qualification, only his own office staff, his department heads and his board members. Numerically speaking, these appointments comprise only a minor fraction of city hall's total personnel.

In appointing their staffs, department heads would make their choices from a list of candidates certified by the personnel director. No city employee could be removed "without a statement in writing setting forth the specific act or acts constituting inefficiency, misconduct, or other cause for removal."

The personnel director himself could be dismissed only after a public hearing.

A unique clause in the legislation, if enacted, would practically wreck city hall's faction-ridden political machine. The clause is:

Bans Political Activity

"No city employee, while on duty, shall engage in any form of political activity or use his official position or authority in such a manner as to enhance or detract from the power of any political party or faction."

"When off duty any city employee may engage in any form of political activity that does not bring the city as an employer into disrepute. . . . No person shall require directly or indirectly that any city employee shall as a condition of continued or future employment by the city, make any contribution of money or service to any political party, faction or candidate."

Employees running for political office would be given a 30-day leave of absence for campaigning purposes.

The only penalty provided for violation of this clause, however, would be dismissal of the offender. Previous plans to include criminal penalties were considered too risky.

Maximum salary of the personnel director is set at \$6500 a year. Mr. Parsons receives \$6000.

Calls for Pay Rates

The bill compels the personnel director to establish rates of pay, job standards and attendance regulations. All of these would be subject to approval by city council.

In drawing up certified applicant lists, the personnel chief supposedly would take into consideration such things as experience and qualifications.

Sponsors of the legislation say it will in no way affect operation of the present police and fire merit systems. They assert it applies to civilian workers in the police and fire departments only.

Most of the bill's provisions follow recommendations made by former Job Surveyor Fred Telford of Washington. The measure has the support of city council, the regular Marion county G. O. P. organization, the mayor's advisory committee on personnel and numerous civic organizations.

In effect it would give city council considerably more control over municipal personnel than it now enjoys.

PURPLE HEART CLUB SWEEP BY FLAMES

A two-alarm fire swept through a three-story building at 46 N. Pennsylvania st. last night, causing several hundred dollars damage.

The flames were believed to have started in the kitchen of the Purple Heart ex-servicemen's club, rooms 302 and 318. Loss to club property was estimated at \$400 by Herman Higgs, manager.

All rooms in the building were damaged except those occupied by the Indianapolis Rubber Stamp Co. and the Nicholas Haine Sign Co. Douglas Pierce owns the building.

Approximately \$800 damage was caused by a fire in the home of Leonard Goodman, 2803 N. Butler ave. this morning. Flames started by an overheated stove, swept through three rooms of the five-room house.

Local Graduate On Mayo Staff

DR. WILLIAM O. STARKS, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Starks, 6838 College ave., will begin work tomorrow at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minn., where he was awarded a fellowship in orthopedic surgery.



Dr. Starks attended Shortridge high school, Butler and Indiana universities and received his degree of doctor of medicine from the Indiana university school of medicine last April.

A first lieutenant in the army medical corps reserve, he is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, honor medical fraternity, and Sigma Nu fraternity.

WALLACE HOPE FOR POST DIMS

Barkley Leaves Sick Bed In 11th-Hour 'Salvage' Attempt.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (U. P.).—Senate Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley left his sick bed today for an 11th-hour attempt to salvage for Henry A. Wallace at least a diluted version of the secretaryship of commerce.

Administration forces conceded a defeat in the fight to give Wallace the posts with full control over government lending agencies. They rested their final hopes on some compromise that may lead the opposition to abandon plans to repudiate Wallace under any circumstances.

Barkley arranged to meet with Chairman Josiah W. Bailey (D. N. C.) of the senate commerce committee on a procedural question that may decide Wallace's fate. The issue is whether the senate should act first tomorrow on the George bill to divorce lending agencies from the department, or on the Wallace nomination itself.

George Bill Is Issue

Wallace's supporters admitted that he faced almost certain defeat unless the senate first took up the George bill. This measure was aimed frankly at keeping lending powers out of the ex-vice president's hands.

But Bailey—whose committee approved the George bill and disapproved the nomination—indicated that he would first call up the nomination regardless of his meeting with Barkley.

Senator Kenneth McKellar (D. Tenn.), a leader in the anti-Wallace camp, also favored prior action on the nomination and said he expected Bailey to follow that course.

"It will be disposed of right away," he said. "I haven't the slightest idea that Wallace will be confirmed."

Suggests F. D. R. Order

Wallace's friends did not dispute McKellar's prediction in event the nomination is first called up.

Senator Allen J. Ellender (D. La.) said the only solution would be for the President to issue an executive order separating the Reconstruction Finance Corp. and other loan agencies from the department before the senate meets tomorrow.

"Only that way can we hope for Wallace's confirmation," he said.

Senator Claude Pepper (D. Fla.), another Wallace supporter, also hoped for presidential intervention, saying that Mr. Roosevelt's endorsement of the George bill would "expedite matters." But he added that he did not know whether the President "will take a hand in the matter."

Some senators speculated on the possibility that the White House might withdraw Wallace's nomination and resubmit it after the George bill is passed and signed into law. Senator George L. Radcliffe (D. Md.), who favors the Wallace nomination only if RFC is divorced from commerce, said such talk was "persistent."

DR. FURNESS FETED ON 71ST BIRTHDAY

Governor Gates, Mayor Tyndall and 350 guests last night paid tribute to Dr. Sumner A. Furness, Negro physician, at a dinner marking his 71st birthday and golden anniversary as a physician.

At the dinner in the Senate Avenue Y. M. C. A., Dr. Norman Jones also spoke. Governor Gates praised the "unselfish endeavor and faithful service" of Dr. Furness. Mayor Tyndall said:

"Dr. Furness has made a notable contribution to Indianapolis through his devoted public service, high respect and practice of medical ethics and furthering advancement of the colored people."

YOUTHS PLEAD GUILTY TO RANSACKING HOME

Five boys and a girl, ranging from 9 to 15 years old, were placed on probation today in juvenile court for breaking into and ransacking the home of Thomas Robertson, 4830 Amo st., two weeks ago.

The youths admitted their guilt and the five families involved agreed to pay \$100 each to recompense Mr. Robertson, who is a private first class in the army.

SUMATRA RAID REVEALED

A Japanese communique said today that Japanese planes had shot down 40 and heavily damaged 50 out of 130 carrier planes from a British task force which raided the Palembang area of Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies Monday.

State Highway Heads Quit As Senate Gets 'Control' Bill

All four members of the state highway commission handed their resignations to Governor Gates today upon request from the governor's office.

At the same time a Republican bill was introduced in the senate to reorganize the commission, giving the governor the right to remove members at will and raising their salaries to \$6000 annually.

Under present laws the highway commission appointed by ex-Governor Schriener, Democrat, is a four-member, bi-partisan board.

Changes Office Terms

The new bill would leave the commission still a four-member, bi-partisan body but would abolish the present staggered tenures in office, giving the governor more control of members.

Governor Gates said the resignation of the present members were requested "on the basis that the change in administration requires the establishment of present administration policies."

3 JAP GENERALS DIE

By UNITED PRESS

The Japanese Domei agency today reported the deaths of five more Japanese army generals, bringing to 28 the number who have died since May 23, 1944. The Domei dispatch was recorded by FCC monitors.

DEADLINE TONIGHT FOR MAILING TAXES

If your letter to the Indiana gross income tax division is postmarked by midnight tonight, you can ride through under the wire. Otherwise, you'll be delinquent.

Gilbert K. Hewitt, division director, said the main office at 141 S. Meridian st. will be open until 8 p. m. tonight to accept personal payments.

During the day, many neighborhood auto license branches will be available to collect the tax—some remaining open late tonight.

STATE FAIR BOARD SECRETARY NAMED

Orval Pratt, Rockville, director of the state livestock license division, also has been appointed secretary of the state fair board.

His appointment yesterday was at \$75 a month for part-time duties. Guy A. Canwell, Gosport, who was succeeded by Mr. Pratt, received \$350 a month for full-time duties.

Since there will be no complete fair, this was given as the reason for the smaller salary to the new appointee.

Bays Demands Showdown Over Ouster as Party Chief

The state Democratic committee was challenged today by Chairman Fred P. Bays to either fire him at once or stop talking about it.

Facing the toughest fight of his six-year chairmanship, Mr. Bays was to appear before the state committee at the Claypool hotel this afternoon to demand an immediate showdown on "my tenure in office."

"They have raised the issue and I will demand that it be settled," the chairman said.

Cite Need for Change

For several weeks some district chairmen and members of the Democratic Editorial association have been pressuring for Mr. Bays' ouster in favor of new leadership to reorganize the whole party structure and strategy.

The anti-Bays faction has contended that it is time to change leadership when a party loses an election "as badly as we were defeated last November."

The Bays foes are reported to have insisted that if they fail to muster a majority for the chair-

U. S. MARKS F.D.R.'S BIRTHDAY AT DANCES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (U. P.).—Thousands of Americans from coast to coast laid aside their wartime cares last night to dance for the President's birthday.

Parties and balls by the thousands were held throughout the nation to hail Mr. Roosevelt's 63d anniversary and to mark another milestone in the continuous campaign against infantile paralysis, dread foe of children.

And in the background could be heard the march of the dimes given by millions of Americans to back up Mr. Roosevelt's promise that disease at home would be fought as unrelentingly "as we fight our evil enemies abroad."

The President's message to the thousands of parties held in his honor was read over a nationwide network by Mrs. Roosevelt just before midnight.

He thanked "the many millions of Americans" who had contributed to the March of Dimes to fight infantile paralysis.

To keep you warm on cold, cold nights. . . .

Our famous-weave, all-wool blankets.

North Star's the wave of pure virgin wool for warmth without weight, real sleeping luxury.

Chatham's Woolwich for an all-wool blanket at a truly budget price.

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