

SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 1946

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

# Council Opens Promised Investigation Of Local Utilities

## Alleged Valuation Write-Up By Light Firm, Disposition Of Gas Revenue 1st Targets

By RICHARD LEWIS

City council's promised utilities investigation was under way today with a probe of the Citizens Gas & Coke utility and Indianapolis Power & Light Co. first on the agenda.

Meeting in special session last night, the council adopted a preliminary report which set the compass for the entire investigation. This will cover all Indianapolis utilities, but the first targets are the gas and light utilities.

The council decided to make a formal inquiry into the disposition of revenues of the municipally-owned gas company and to find out what it is doing to get natural gas.

Councilmen then adopted the report's recommendation to query the light company in order to examine closely an alleged 125 per cent write-up of the utility's valuation.

Written by Bowers

The council's preliminary report, a seven-page mimeographed document, was written by Herman E. Bowers, finance committee chairman. It set forth the policy to be followed in the investigation:

"We recognize that public utility rate making must balance the interest of investors and consumers. This principle is clearly set forth by the United States Supreme Court.

"As elected officials of the City of Indianapolis, we also recognize that:

"Utilities should pay their share of the cost of corporate facilities used by them.

"Utility rates charged all customers should be based on the actual cost of the service and include a recognized fair profit.

"Utilities must provide modern equipment to insure the best and most economical service.

"Utility rates should permit fair salary and wage payments to utility employees.

"Monopolistic privileges and mass production facilities of public utilities permit low unit costs of service. Utility rates must recognize and permit full and economical use of facilities based on such low unit and incremental costs. Waste must be discouraged."

Queries Tax Payments

In the case of Citizens Gas, the report found evidence that the utility has obligated itself to pay to the city an annual sum equal to the amount of taxes which its predecessor company paid under private ownership.

It also found a newspaper report dated May 3, 1935, in which the directors were quoted as saying that it was their purpose to negotiate immediately for natural gas.

The report recommended that the council find out why these two alleged statements of policy have never been carried out by the utility.

It also recommended that the council probe directly into the comparative costs of natural gas and of synthetic gas as produced by the utility and determine how much of net operating revenue is

### Resumption Is Expected After First of Year.

By WILLIAM F. McMENAMIN  
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—It's unlikely that the army will extend its draft holiday beyond Jan. 1, war department sources said today.

The army cancelled all inductions yesterday for the remainder of the year, effective Oct. 15. Calls for 20,000 men in the last half of October and 15,000 men in November had been scheduled.

The suspension was ordered because enlistments—spurred by the army's huge recruitment drive—have been greater than expected, and probably will pass the 1,000,000 mark early next week. The army reserved the right, however, to re-issue the draft if enlistments do not maintain its strength.

Local boards were instructed not to call men for induction or for pre-induction physical examination after Oct. 15. Men called to report on Oct. 15 must do so.

### Resumption Expected

The army said it would require 40,000 men a month to maintain its strength at 1,070,000. It had 55,100 volunteers and 25,000 inductees during September.

War department sources said the army probably would resume draft calls after Jan. 1 and continue them until the selective service act expires March 31, 1947. They gave these reasons:

ONE: The draft increased the incentive to enlist and with no draft the voluntary enlistments are expected to fall off sharply.

TWO: About 49 per cent or 48,000 of the 99,648 volunteers are in for short-term enlistments. Of these 27,000 will be discharged by June 30, 1947.

THREE: Voluntary enlistments always slow down around the Christmas holidays because men like to be with their families.

FOUR: Economic uncertainty and food shortages on the domestic front that have encouraged enlistments may improve before Jan. 1.

FIVE: Enlistments were large in September because it was the end of the summer holiday, but they are expected to drop off in November and December.

### NARCOTICS STOLEN

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Oct. 12 (UPI)—Police sought today a burglar who stole narcotics in a burglary of the Gillis drug store and broke into another pharmacy in an unsuccessful attempt to steal drugs.

Billie Davenport

Billie Davenport is a Times Salesman who lives at 231 North Arsenal. Billie is getting a basic training in business that he could not get in any other kind of work. He is learning by actual experience (the lasting way to learn) about SERV-ICE, SALES, COLLECTIONS, and ACCOUNTING—four important elements of any business he may later choose as a life work.

Billie has a pleasing personality and has made an outstanding record as a SALESMAN. The ability to SELL which he is developing now may prove to be the deciding factor in his business life.

### BOYS!

Why not talk over with your parents the idea of becoming a Times Carrier Salesman? Then call Mr. Ballere, City Circulation Manager of the Times, at 3551, for route openings in your neighborhood. Boys outside of Marion county contact The Times Dealer in your town. If you have no Times Dealer, write Mr. Herb Smith, Country Circulation Manager of The Times. Times are being started in new towns every week.

GARDENING: Spade Work Now Means Nice Spring Yard

## Caladiums Brighten Greenery

By MARGUERITE SMITH

DON'T PUT your hoe and trowel away just yet. "There's a lot to be done in the garden in the fall," said Mrs. James R. Thompson, 1133 W. 32d st., last week as we walked around her attractive yard. Her long experience ("I've gardened for 75 years—ever since I could walk!" she said) has taught her that "if you want a nice yard next spring you've got to get it ready now. I've been digging in the dirt all week."

One of her fall garden chores—she will shortly "get out the grave-

"That's the bunch of sticks I keep to mark my perennials," she explained. "My husband used to laugh at them sticking up all over the yard in winter. But it all got started when I found I was buying new perennials every spring and the next year they were nowhere to be found. Then I discovered he had been cleaning them up every fall right along with the dead zinnias! So now I mark them before winter kills the tops."

MUCH OF the attractive quality of her flower filled yard is due to the neat edging plants that set off the borders. One in particular caught my eye. It's low growing, frosty, almost white foliage "stays that way all season," Mrs. Thompson explained, identifying it as veronica incana candida. It bears small spikes of porcelain blue flowers during the summer.

After the seed stalks are trimmed off it requires no more attention. It is worth getting acquainted with veronicas in general as excellent subjects for poor soil though they appreciate extra plant food.

Mrs. Thompson's soil is so rich her parsley plants resemble young trees. She keeps it that way by composting all grass clippings and leaves but adds no dead plant trimmings. These, she thinks, are too likely to carry disease whether composted or allowed to stand in the yard all winter.

HER COMPOST arrangement is one that could be copied for the smallest of yards. An open slatted box built to fit a narrow space be-

tween garage and alley has the center with bright red and white.

CULTURE indoors or out is much the same. Mrs. Off potted the roots in rich wood's dirt and later sprinkled dry cow manure over the top of the pots, which she used in her porch boxes. Before cold weather she will take them indoors, gradually dry them off, shake the dirt off the roots.

Their two requirements are shade and plenty of moisture, says Mrs. George F. Off, 5816 Carrollton ave. Their four kinds range from the white on green pattern of candidum through combinations of red and green to one in which the predominant green is touched in

### HOOSIER POLITICS—

## Gates Prepares for Harder Going During Next 2 Years

By ROBERT BLOEM

Election day, Nov. 5, observers believe, will mark the end of the "green years" for Indiana's No. 1 Republican, Governor Gates.

The two years which follow, they feel, will be a constant test of the governor's ability to stay on top, a test which will end only when he has tipped his hand on his plans for 1948. It is generally believed the governor took cognizance of this prospect when he accepted the position of national committeeman, a

be the legislature which opens in January. The governor hasn't indicated what he plans to do to demonstrate his control of the legislature, but immediately after election, his strategy is expected to come into the open.

### Burch Sees Leader Of State GOP Ticket

Republican party leaders, particularly candidates, are beginning to come around to the belief that A. V. Burch, state auditor, and the man who "crossed" the organization over the direct primary, will lead the Republican state ticket next month.

Most governors would bear out that by the time the last two years roll around, certain of their supporters begin jockeying for advantage in the race to succeed him. Patronage jobs are pretty well shaken down. Those who didn't get one know after two years they're not going to get one and there's no longer any point to being "one of the boys."

Taking No Chances

The feeling, generally, however, is that Governor Gates is not taking any chances on his last two years. As national committeeman he can know the national picture and hold attention on a national as well as on a state plane.

Both his friends and his political enemies look for him to blossom forth with some first-rate publicity ideas after the election, plans that will make good reading in the newspapers. The party, coksure as it is of victory Nov. 5, is working at the election as though it weren't sure of a vote—the governor and his state chairman, Clark Springer, haven't overlooked the prestige of an overwhelming vote margin.

LIGHTING ENGINEER TO TALK

James C. Weeks, Westinghouse lighting engineer, will address a dinner-meeting of the Indiana chapter of the Illuminating Engineering society at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Hotel Warren.

### WORKERS SET VOTE

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 12 (UPI)—Workers at the La Crosse, Wis., and La Porte, Ind., plants of Allis-Chalmers Co., vote today and tomorrow on agreements designed to end their long-standing strikes against the farm equipment firm.

### Organizations

NORTH PARK chapter 404, O. E. S. will have its stated meeting and observe Fruit for the Home meeting at North Park temple, 1245 p.m. on Tuesday. Mrs. Lillian Hewes is worthy matron and John Steinel, worthy patron.

MEMBERS OF KOREAN TEMPLE, Daughters of the Nile, will sew all day Saturday, Oct. 13, at the temple, 1245 p.m. Mrs. Mae Ruth Ludwig, Mrs. Martha Jane Phillips, Mrs. Thelma Basting and Mrs. Phillips.

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