

# Indianapolis Slum Clearance Program Nears Showdown

## Expect Ruling Tomorrow on Blighted Area

60 Residents Oppose Commission's Plan

Indianapolis' program for slum clearance reaches a showdown tomorrow between the redevelopment commission and 60 residents of the first "blighted area" marked for clearance.

This is a 178-acre tract of land bounded by W. 10th, W. 16th, North West and Milburn st. and Stadium dr. The commission's long range plan is to buy up the tract, or acquire it by condemnation if necessary, raise existing structures there and redevelop it into a modern community.

Opposed to the plan are most of the residents in the area, according to Jack R. Kammin, attorney, who represents about 60 of them.

### Filed Remonstrance

This group has filed a remonstrance against the commission's plan with the commission. The remonstrance asserts that the plan will make homeless the families now housed in the area.

After two hearings Jan. 3 and 17, the commission will decide on the remonstrance at a meeting at 10 a. m. tomorrow at city hall.

Mr. Kammin said that if the commission decides to go ahead with its development plan for the area, residents will file suit to prevent it in superior court.

### Land Grab Scheme

In a formal memorandum to the commission, Mr. Kammin charged in effect that the Indianapolis Redevelopment plan was a land grab scheme by which independent, small property holders would be dispossessed and their land turned over to corporate interests.

"No consideration whatever is given to any plan to secure and guarantee the betterment and improvement of the homes of these residents after the land has been redeveloped and the parcels are ready to be sold," he said.

"Section 18 of the (redevelopment) act . . . does not restrict the bidders to the present residents, but . . . will actually have the effect of ruling out the present residents because of the very harsh and discriminating qualifications."

### Authorized to Sell Land

Mr. Kammin asserted that the commission is authorized to sell land in the area at cut rates to any individual or organization which buys a parcel of 10 or more lots. This feature precludes the possibility that individuals can purchase in the area, and open the door for realty corporations to move in and seize the tract, he said.

"These provisions are inequitable and discriminatory," he charged. "Instead of ownership of the property being vested in individuals, as at present, the act will produce a situation where the ownership of the land will be in few hands."

"This is not free enterprise by any fair definition of the phrase."

### Cites Housing Shortage

In addition, the attorney charged, residents of the area will be displaced from homes in the midst of a critical housing shortage. The redevelopment act, he asserted, "totally ignores" the welfare of the persons who live in blighted areas.

In reply to Mr. Kammin's assertions, Otto K. Jensen, executive secretary of the commission, said the commission had no intention of displacing any resident of the area until new dwellings could be provided.

He said the commission planned to utilize vacant building sites in the area, create new homes first before tearing down the old.

### 83 Lots in Tract

One tract alone, he said, contained 93 building lots. There are numerous other tracts.

The commission secretary, however, confirmed Mr. Kammin's charge that cut rates would be given persons or corporations able to purchase 10 or more lots and improve them immediately.

"Anyones can bid on these," he said, "but the final award is up to the commission. Land need not necessarily be sold to highest bidder. It may be sold to the bidder who can do the best job in the commission's judgement."

### No Construction Standards

At present, Mr. Jensen said, the commission has adopted no standards of construction.

"They will have a standard in a way," Mr. Jensen said. "We're interested in seeing that no new blighting occurs in an area that we've redeveloped."

Mr. Jensen added that when homes have to be razed, displaced persons could be housed in Lockfield Gardens. He said at least 50 residents of Lockfield, a government slum clearance apartment project, were interested in buying homes in the proposed redevelopment.

## Auto in Accident Following Another

An automobile driven by Marlin G. Reid, 18, of 4828 E. 21st st., was following another car driven by John E. Foster, 16, of 4938 E. 21st st., when both were involved in a three-car accident yesterday at Olney st. and Brookside parkway, South dr.

It had been reported that the Foster automobile was being driven behind the Reid car and overturned when young Foster attempted to avoid collision with the second car.

In attempting to avoid striking the Foster car, young Reid drove his automobile into the path of a car operated by Edward M. Dobkins, 27, of 1216 Newman st., police reports show.

## This Curious World



By Ferguson

## Niblack Assails Politics in Court

### Judge Flays Ostrom For Interference

(Continued From Page One)

pie the first month I was on the bench. Of 37 of these cases, 23 were found guilty and I assessed jail sentences in all of them. Twelve of these appealed their cases to Criminal court and the jail sentences were suspended.

The next month, I was allowed to try only five of 50 drunken driving cases because all the rest of them filed affidavits for change of judge.

This went on for sometime and I finally concluded that to save the county paying \$10 for a special judge in each case of drunken driving I would assess what the custom would tolerate . . . a fine and suspension of jail sentences except in cases of repeaters and those who almost killed some innocent party.

**Denounces Cutting Sentences**

"However, in these last cases many appeals were taken from jail sentences and in all fairness to the bar I must admit that criminal court knocked off the jail sentences 20 per cent of the appeals."

He denounced the lessening of sentences on appeals to higher courts.

"This practice encourages appeals and greatly increases the work of criminal court," he said.

"However, it is the custom to assign these appeals to special judges, generally some ward chairman of a political party who, of course, is powerless than to inflict much of a penalty when the defendant is represented by a fellow ward chairman or precinct committee man as attorney."

**Rape Half-Time System**

Judge Niblack denounced the half-time system used by the prosecutor's office in handling municipal court cases.

"This system is responsible, in a large measure, for the inefficiency of the police courts here," he said.

"They are using 1890 methods. The deputy prosecutors in police courts are on half-time basis, draw half-time salaries, do half-time work and get half-time results."

"They are enthusiastic and earnest young men but their hearts are in their private business. Under the present system affidavits are hastily and carelessly drawn. Often a deputy prosecutor is handed a bunch of cases to try five minutes later without hearing about any of them."

**Tried 60,000 Persons**

Judge Niblack recommended that the prosecutor's office be given more finances for full-time operation and methods brought up to date.

During his five years on the bench, Judge Niblack said an estimated 60,000 persons came before him.

"Of these," he said, "37 per cent were born in Dixie."

His report showed that during last year his court collected \$74,046 in fines and that the cafeteria traffic court dock took in another \$150,000.

He estimated that there are at least 10,000 ex-convicts who have served jail or prison sentences for serious offenses now living in Indianapolis.

The cold was scheduled to reach the Atlantic and gulf coasts by nightfall.

Temperatures of 18 below were registered at Minot, N. D., 14 below at Bemidji, Minn., 13 below at Bismarck, N. D., 15 below at Duluth, Minn., and 7 below at Milwaukee.

The temperatures were expected to fall still lower before moving upward tomorrow.

**Shipments Hampered**

At Juneau, Alaska, a preacher served notice that there would be no objection if women wore slacks to church.

The cold was scheduled to reach the Atlantic and gulf coasts by nightfall.

On the other side of the ledger Bozo is less reputable. He clews up discarded cigarette for chewing purposes after which he rolls around the living room rug in what might be called a "jag" if he weren't so dignified.

He also has a passion for peach peach—it produces the same results as tobacco, only more so.

Not only does he drink and chew. There are those that have watched him in one of his glaring, spitting moods who allele he also cusses—mentally.

Another of Bozo's favorite tricks is to lie in wait stretched out on newel posts on the second landing of the apartment house. When a newcomer, especially a utility man enters, he ambushes them with a "playful swack" with his long razor-sharp talons.

**Some Other Habits**

Too numerous to itemize are his habits of climbing under a prominent lamp and yawning when he wants company to go home; wading Miss Cathcart at 2 a. m. each day for a mated milk tablet; vacuuming a four-and-one-half foot half door up to keep him in, and growing like a dog at intruders.

So much is Bozo the central figure at the apartment building that some say suggests knocking the "h" out of "Cathcart apartments."

The rejoinder, apparently from one Bozo was "swacked playfully" from the newel post, was that they "knock the 'h' out of Bozo instead."

No, says Miss Cathcart, no one has ever called Bozo a "sweat" cat. But his vanity is soothed by admirers who say they've never seen him like him.

**Shantung Red Capital Reported Near Fall**

NANKING, Feb. 4 (U. P.)—Government sources said today the defense of Lin-yi, Communist capital of Shantung province, was "tottering." Fall of the city within the next five days was predicted.

It was reported that Communist Gen. Chen-yi moved his headquarters 50 miles north to Yishui as government troops penetrated to within 10 miles of the southern outskirts of Lin-yi.

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