

Plants Cautioned On Drivers' Law

Bath Won't Delegate Licensing Powers

Secretary of State Thomas E. Bath put his foot down today on plans by a number of industrial plants and business establishments to handle drivers' license applications for their employees.

At the same time, he went into a huddle with H. Dale Brown, director of the bureau of motor vehicles, and the two came up with a plan to prevent unnecessary loss of working time for wage earners or loss of manpower to industry.

The new drivers' license law requires each motorist to apply in person during his birth month for a new driver's license.

Complaints Received

Mr. Bath estimated that he and Mr. Brown had received nearly 50 complaints that this meant many employees working six days would have to take time off to make application and would lose wages as a result. The plant spokesman also argued that any loss of production, however slight, was serious in these times when all production is at a premium.

Many such plants have offered to provide facilities for employees to make application. Several have pointed out that their plants are better equipped to weed out unfit drivers than the state itself.

Mr. Bath pointed out that the bureau has spent more than two months training specialized help to administer the new license law. He said persons employed by private industry would have to undergo at least a similar training period to do the job properly.

Complicates Task

He also said that permitting plants and businesses to help administer the law would greatly complicate the state's problem because each plant would be placed under bond and charged out with numbered applications just as is done with regular license branches.

"It would have the effect of creating possibly hundreds of small branches all over the state," he said.

The policy of the bureau now will be that any plant which finds the license problem interfering with its production or causing substantial loss of wages to its employees may ask license branches to provide a regular state employee who would come to the plant for a certain period each month to issue licenses.

\$5000 Bond Fixed In Hog Theft Case

Times State Service
SHELBYVILLE, Jan. 8 — Mrs. Margaret Chandler, 43, alias LaVonn McFerris, of Fairland R. R. 1, was held here today under \$5000 bond. She is charged with grand larceny and conspiracy in the theft of 10 hogs from the Frank Linville farm in Moral Township on Dec. 23.

When arrested on Dec. 24, Mrs. Chandler gave her name as Margaret Chambers. Arrested with her was Ben Sandley, 28, also of near Fairland. However, he was released after investigation proved he had no connection with the case.

Gates Picks Seven For Fuel Board

Group to Aid Groves In Advisory Capacity

Gov. Gates today appointed seven oil men to act as an advisory committee for A. W. Groves, state fuel co-ordinator.

The committee was named from a list of oil executives submitted by representatives of the oil industry who conferred with the Governor and Mr. Groves on the shortage of heating oils Jan. 5. The Governor said district and county advisory committees may be named later if the situation remains serious.

J. G. Sinclair, manager of the Indianapolis division of Shell Oil Co., will head the new committee.

Others on Committee

Other members named were Russell Williams, president of Gaseteria, Inc.; C. H. (Red) Matson, district manager of Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.; J. E. Pehsenfeld, president of the Crystal-Flash Petroleum Corp.; F. L. Cochran, manager of the Indianapolis division of Standard Oil Co.; E. E. Kincaid, vice president of Rock Island Refining Co., and F. H. Durham of Kokomo, vice president and manager of Shell American Petroleum Co.

In addition, the announcement said, two other oil officials have pledged full assistance to the committee and to the co-ordinator. They were George Hofmayer, secretary of the Indiana Independent Petroleum Association, and Sam Hurd, secretary of the Individually Branded Petroleum Association of America.

FUR DEAL—Here's a sample of how business is done each Saturday morning on the Spencer courthouse square, where Indiana's largest fur market operates. Trapper Don Kedenbarger (center) of Brazil waits while Arie Phares (right), Palestine fur buyer, inspects a pelt and prepares to write his bid. Mr. Phares' son, Robert, who assists his father on buying trips, loads already purchased furs into a sack.

3 Gross Income Tax Rates Apply to Farm Operations

Computation of gross income tax owed the State of Indiana is a simple matter when compared to the struggle with Uncle Sam's form 1040—but the Hoosier blank at times calls for arithmetical gymnastics.

For instance, hundreds of Indiana farmers may find it necessary to pay the state levy on their 1947 receipts at three different rates.

"There has been no change in the state law," Walter L. Sturdevant, chief deputy of the tax division, explains, "it just happens that many farmers actually are wholesalers, retailers and wage earners."

Retail Rate Lower
Farmers who have no income other than that from the sale of their crops to grain elevators, produce and livestock dealers and others who buy for resale will qualify for the one-fourth of one per cent rate on all receipts exceeding the \$1000 exemption allowed by law.

However, Mr. Sturdevant pointed out, the current regulations provide that "the farmer who sells any farm products to a consumer shall be deemed to have receipts from retail sales taxable at one per cent unless the farmer qualifies as a retail merchant, in which event the sales are taxable at one-half of one per cent."

Deadline Is Jan. 31

If livestock is sold for either dairy or breeding purposes, the transaction then is considered as a sale of capital assets and is taxable at one per cent along with all sums realized from the sale of implements, equipment and household goods offered at either a public or private sale.

The farmer who has received money from the rental of the sale of land, rental of equipment, or prizes or premiums, or payment for personal services is obligated to report such receipts and to pay tax on such income at the one per cent rate. Midnight, Jan. 31, is the deadline for payment of the state gross income levy.

Protests Unlock Cell for Woman In Dog Shooting

EAU CLAIRE, Wis., Jan. 8 (UP)—Sheriff Lloyd Thompson said today he had received so many telephone calls protesting a five-day jail sentence imposed on a 74-year-old woman that he released her from jail.

County Judge Merrill R. Farr, who imposed the sentence on Mrs. Ella Thayer after she admitted shooting a neighbor's dog, said Sheriff Thompson's action was "highly improper," but that he would not order Mrs. Thayer back to jail.

Judge Farr pronounced the sentence "regretfully" after Mrs. Thayer said she would "do it again" if the dog, owned by Lester Steen, continued to chase her "valuable" cats.

Sheriff Thompson said he released Mrs. Thayer after 75 or 80 persons called to protest the sentence.

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