

**Death of 'Polecat Editor' Closes Colorful Career**

**Charles L. Blanton Famous for Likes And Dislikes; Was Friend of Truman**

SIKESTON, Mo., Jan. 9 (UPI)—Charles B. Blanton, the "polecat editor" of the Sikeston Standard, died last night of a heart ailment at the age of 84.

He had been ill for several days.

Mr. Blanton's death closed one of the most colorful careers in the history of weekly newspaper journalism. He was famous as a man of violent likes and dislikes who expressed his opinions bluntly and plainly in his editorials without sparing the feelings of his friends or his foes.

He also was known for his sudden changes of opinion. Once he was awarded an honorary colonel's commission by Gov. Lloyd C. Stark in recognition of his political support he had given the governor in his paper.

Shortly afterwards the two had a falling out over patronage matters.

Ever afterwards the Standard carefully omitted the capital letters whenever it mentioned Gov. Stark's name.

"I ask no one to agree with me and don't care whether they do or not," Mr. Blanton said. He made that his motto and lived up to it.

The title of "polecat editor" was

conferred on him by a rival Sikeston editor, Clint H. Denman of the Herald, who was as strongly Republican as Mr. Blanton was Democratic.

Mr. Denman used the term in an editorial about Mr. Blanton. The next day Mr. Blanton's Standard carried a big cartoon showing what the polecat editor looked like. Mr. Blanton took the title as an honor and used it frequently to refer to himself in the Standard's columns.

He was a friend of President Truman whom he met through their political affiliations.

His editorials on subjects ranging

from church socials to international affairs frequently attracted nationwide interest.

Before entering the news field Mr. Blanton worked in Washington

**Tampering Charged in Train Wreck****Find Pin Holding Switch Lever Battered**

New York Central Railroad officials today said the wreck of a speeding, northbound passenger train at Jonesboro, Ind., last night was intentional.

State police and railroad detectives are investigating in hopes that cities might lead to a suspect who tampered with a switch.

T. W. English, superintendent

of the railroad, said the tampering obviously was the work of a person familiar with the mechanics of a switch.

The pin holding the switch lever

in place had been broken and the lock battered and twisted. Then the switch was thrown open," he said.

"Either a sledge hammer or a heavy bar must have been used, although no such instruments have been found in the vicinity," Mr. English said. "It would require either a grown boy or a man to do the job."

Three crewmen and one passenger received minor injuries in the derailment of the three-car train. The engine toppled on its side while the baggage, mail and passenger cars remained upright. Twenty passengers were on the coach.

Injured were C. R. Cornell, engineer, Wabash; Earl Whinery, fireman, Converse; J. H. West, express messenger, Indianapolis, and A. J. Humke, passenger, Anderson.

Mr. Burch said all of Indiana's General Assembly members—except

the five who hold other state posts—

would receive their regular, quarterly salary payment of \$300 on Jan. 15.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379; Rep. E. C. Weller (R. Dales), director of the PSC's motor vehicle department, \$4143; Rep. Beecher Conrad (R. Petersburg), State Board of Barber Examiners, \$2474; Rep. Charles T. Miser (R. Garrett), superintendent of maintenance, State Highway Commission, \$4784.

Mr. Burch has refused to pay, since last March, five legislators headed by State Rep. Glen R. Slenker (R. Monticello), who is also a Public Service Commission counselor. Mr. Burch said he was withholding some \$550 from Mr. Slenker.

The other legislators, the positions they hold, and the amounts which Mr. Burch said he had not paid them were: Sen. Clyde R. Black (R. Logansport), secretary of the Indiana Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, \$6379;