

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 1948

Indiana Politics

State GOP Picture Clearing Up; Jenner Apparently Will Run

Creighton Almost Sure Bet to Enter Race; Gates May Be Grooming Own Candidate

By ROBERT BLOOM

Developments of the past week have brought the Republican gubernatorial picture into a little clearer focus.

As a result of these developments, interested GOP leaders who are trying to decide which way to jump have concluded:

ONE: That U. S. Sen. William E. Jenner is no longer a "question mark." He's in the race and formal announcement of that fact, still lacking, is only a minor detail.

TWO: That House Speaker Howard Creighton of Warsaw will make his formal announcement within a few days. He was formally informed by county chairman of the second district last night.

THREE: That it won't make a bit of difference in the picture whether or not State Auditor A. V. Burch decides to enter the gubernatorial race. His present activities are going to give party factionalists plenty of trouble in the state convention anyhow—about as much with Mr. Burch out of the race as if he were in it.

FOUR: That Governor Gates will continue to withhold his "blessing" from all candidates for the top spot on the GOP ticket but that he will continue to oppose Sen. Jenner even if he is forced to warm up a dark horse to do the job at the last minute.

Has Pat Answers

Mounting belief that Sen. Jenner is in the race with both feet was strengthened by reports from observers in Washington that he has carefully prepared a full set of pat answers to every reason which might be raised against his abandoming the Senate to "come home."

Many persons, including a number of news men, who have talked to Mr. Jenner in recent weeks said he definitely wants to come back. His followers here in Indiana are working hard or harder on the assumption that he will enter the race as those of other candidates who actually are in or will be soon.

Two days ago a Jenner-for-Governor Club was organized in Wells County with the blessing of Wells County Republican chairman Sheriff Edward Graden. Mr. Jenner's own county, Lawrence, endorsed him last week for the gubernatorial nomination.

Mr. Creighton, who has been hovering on the verge of entering the race formally for several weeks, is expected to move quickly now that he has the endorsement of his home district.

James Already In

He probably will become the second candidate to enter officially if Gov. Richard T. James jumped in two weeks ago.

Mr. Creighton's move, when it comes, also is expected to bring out at least one candidate for minor office.

Treasurer of State Frank T. Mills is scheduled to receive the ninth district endorsement for lieutenant governor at a meeting in Austin tonight but is expected to wait for at least one more candidate to get into the Governor race before he takes the plunge himself.

Although Mr. Burch is believed to be wavering on entering the governorship race himself, he is busily engaged in hammering into all potential state convention delegates their "new freedom" under the 1947 convention law. Recently he sent out a letter to more than 2000 persons who were delegates to the 1946 convention, urging them to be independent in their selection of candidates by taking full advantage of the secret ballot system which will be used for the first time this year.

The more such delegates he convinces, party observers agree, it might be that he intends to have Mr. Brown "warmed up" for the emergency.

Army Declines to Try 'Shanghaied' Scotsman

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (UPI)—

Alastair Nicholson, 23-year-old Scottish sailor who claims he was shanghaied into the U. S. Army in Europe, then discharged here with \$2500 GI benefits, sought his freedom from Ellis Island today, after Army authorities admitted that at least part of his story was true.

Army authorities in Washington announced yesterday that it was up to civilian authorities to prosecute Nicholson for fraud if they wanted to, but that the Army planned no military action. The Army said it could neither prove nor disprove the Scotsman's story that he was shanghaied into service after V-E Day by a suspicious American officer who thought he was a deserter chairman to control their delegations.

Gov. Gates gave no sign of his attitude when he got together with the Hoosier congressional delegation early this week in Washington. But observers who were straining for a sign as to what he was thinking thought they might be seeing one in the presence of William Brown of Bloomington.

Mr. Brown, Bloomington car dealer and former state commander of the American Legion, came on the Washington junket as a "friend of the Governor." However, Mr. Brown has been mentioned as a Governor possibility in the past and is known to have a substantial number of friends who feel he should make a stab at it.

If the Governor should conclude that the only way to "stop Jenner" is with a candidate of his own, these observers felt, it might be that he intends to have Mr. Brown "warmed up" for the emergency.

THE WEATHER FOTOCAST via ACME TELEPHOTO

PREVIEW OF U.S. WEATHER BUREAU, DEPT. OF COMMERCE FORECAST — PERIOD ENDING 7:30 A.M. EST. 1-24-48

SEATTLE PORTLAND GREAT FALLS DULUTH BOSTON NEW YORK PHILADELPHIA WASHINGTON

HIGH MILD COLD SNOW

LOS ANGELES PHOENIX TULSA NEW ORLEANS MIAMI

FAIRLY CLOUDY AND Cloudy Areas

FAIRLY CLOUDY AND Cloudy Areas