

# The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Cloudy with little colder today, occasional light snows tonight, low 12 to 16; steady light snow Friday, high 25 to 30.

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FINAL  
HOME

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## It's a Tough Job Handling 22,000 Pounds in Blizzard



**PERILOUS NIGHT**—Edwin Titzer, Indiana's top trucker, shovels cinders under the wheels of a stalled tractor-trailer which blocked his passage near Terre Haute during the state's worst snowstorm yesterday morning. The other driver hung on Clinton hill when he couldn't get traction on the glazed highway.

### Democrats Patch Up Party Rifts

**Compromise Before  
Spring Primary Test**

By NOBLE REED  
The wide-open factional break in the Democratic Party that boiled to white heat two months ago is being patched up in an unprecedented harmony maneuver, it was learned today.

The regular Democratic organization leadership working in alignment with County Chairman Walter Boettcher, Henry Gott and David M. Lewis clashed in an open break with the administration of Mayor Al Feeney over the latter's City Hall appointments.

Battle lines were drawn in a showdown for party control in the coming primary contests for prosecutor and sheriff.

But in the last two weeks, some new strategy was injected into party maneuvers and the feud is leveling off toward a compromise on candidates.

Give City Hall O. K.  
The talk now is that the City Hall boys will be given a "green light" for the sheriff nomination and the old regulars may come out of the compromise with a free hand in selection of a nominee for prosecutor.

The agreement may center on Louis (Cap) Johnson, the new City Hall traffic engineer, as the shoo-in in the race for sheriff.

The regular organization may bring out William E. Stecker, attorney and member of the State Election Board, or Arthur J. Sullivan, the 1946 prosecutor nominee.

However, Mr. Sullivan has not indicated again and may withdraw his name from the race.

Erbecker Most Active  
Most active among all potential prosecutor candidates is William C. Erbecker, newly appointed City prosecutor, who already has organized a group of war veterans behind his candidacy along with a preliminary deluge of campaign publicity.

Others known to be interested in running for the Democratic prosecutor nomination include Andrew Jacobs, attorney who has been rough on the gamblers with law suits to recover dice game losses and John McNeilis, former Municipal Court 4 judge and a Criminal Court nominee in 1942.

Mr. Jacobs would not be involved in any Democratic factional fight. If he becomes a candidate he would campaign on a gambling "clean up" platform, directing his barrage at Republican Prosecutor Judson L. Stark.

Another potential candidate who might get into the Democratic prosecutor race is Judge Emmett McManamon of the Speedway City Magistrate Court. He is close to the Mayor Feeney administration.

**Against Outlawing Reds**  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (UP)—Attorney General Tom Clark today opposed congressional proposals to outlaw the Communist Party, saying it would only make "martyrs" out of Reds and turn them into a harder-to-reach underground.

**Times Index**  
Amusements 24 Movies 24  
Eddie Ash 26 F. C. Griffith 21  
Marj, Childs 18 Patterns 22  
Classified 28-30 Radio 31  
Comics 31 R. C. Ruark 17  
Crossword 23 Side Glances 18  
Editorials 18 Sports 26-27  
Forum 21 Stranahan 26  
Meta. Given 21 Teen Topics 26  
In Indpls. 3 Washington 18  
Inside Indpls. 17 Weather Map 4  
Mrs. Manners 2 Women's News 26

### Reporter Travels From Evansville to Chicago With Edwin Titzer, State's Safest Truck Driver

By VICTOR PETERSON

RODE 303 miles from Evansville to Chicago during the worst snowstorm of the year with Indiana's safest truck driver.

It wasn't part of a plan to ride out the season's most bitter storm with Edwin Titzer, Evansville driver for Hancock Truck Lines.

The junket merely was to see how it felt to ride from Evansville to Chicago with one of the safest drivers.

Last June the state affiliate of the American Trucking Association, which Titzer named him the Indiana "Driver of the Month," thus qualifying him for national recognition.

EDDIE HAS lots of reasons to be careful. When he pulls out of a terminal he is entrusted with \$10,000 in tractor-trailer equipment besides freight which many times is valued at \$30,000.

His hands control a monster whose total weight, when loaded, often reaches 48,000 pounds.

This is the 46-year-old trucker who looked at me as I climbed into his cab at the Hancock terminal in Evansville at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday.

"All set?" he asked. "Looks like we might be in for a little rough weather."

IT WAS a masterpiece of understatement. A light snow was falling as we jostled over Evansville streets. I personally felt the 16,000-pound load rocking along back of us in the trailer. We were to pick up another 6000 pounds in Vincennes.

I had visions of the roads getting worse, a skid and a 22,000-pound load jack-knifing around on the tractor.

Before reaching Sullivan, some 80 miles from Evansville, we

EXCEPT for a real emergency, Eddie didn't want to stop. Even with fares set up, visibility was poor, and a huge tractor-trailer only invites disaster if not completely off the road.

IT WAS. Even on some straight-away highways trucks clear each other by only eight inches when each is hugging the edge of the road.

I asked Eddie how close it was. "I don't know. I couldn't do any good watching him. All I could do was get as close to the bridge rail as possible and pray he held his line."

There were no dramatics. A COUPLE of coffee-stops later, and a total of 12 1/2 hours since leaving Evansville, we were bounding over Chicago streets.

Chicagoans were rushing to catch streetcars. Heads were bent down against the cold wind. The streets were like glass and Eddie crept along.

Even so, it takes skill to stop a tractor-trailer on a dime. Eddie had to.

NOT FIVE FEET in front of the left wheel a rush-hour worker slipped. Eddie already was braking. He seemed to anticipate what was happening.

The man had fallen on his back. Horror was written in his eyes as he looked directly at the cab. I stood up in the cab to see. The wheel stopped about a foot from the man.

Eddie didn't say anything as he drove on. Then he pulled into the terminal.

Another trip without "incident" was over.

"IT'S A good job," he said. "Always something new. Some people think it is glamorous and call us Gentlemen or Knights of the Road."

"Some call us Road Hogs."

### Reporter Travels From Evansville to Chicago With Edwin Titzer, State's Safest Truck Driver

By VICTOR PETERSON  
A half-mile farther Eddie suddenly began braking his load. A few hundred feet ahead another passenger car was careening crazily toward us out of control. Just in front of us it turned completely around twice and bounced into a ditch, barely missing a telephone pole.

We stopped. No one was hurt. Eddie couldn't find room to move his outfit into a position to pull the car from the ditch. He had a wrecker sent from Farmersburg.

EDDIE KEPT dropping speed until we inched along at 20 miles per hour. A wrecked load hurts the company. A dead driver is good to no one.

We stopped at the Kat-A-Korner in Sullivan to eat. Another trucker, Joseph Gilmore, running between Indianapolis and Evansville, pulled in.

"Hello, Joe. How's the road?" Eddie asked.

"Getting slicker all the time," Joe said.

Road conditions are a phobia with drivers. It is the first question asked. Conversations are filled with warnings of what to watch for along the highway.

HOUSE AFTER house was dark along the road.

We hit the height of the snowstorm around Terre Haute. Headlights barely cut through the swirl. The roar of the motor thumped in my ears.

Normally truckers are rather silent men. They get that way from habit for they ride alone. Eddie had more than his work cut out anyway. Mile after mile went by in silence.

Then it began to happen. About five miles south of Farmersburg two passenger cars were off the road. We slowed down to see if we could help, but help was on the way.

EXCEPT for a real emergency, Eddie didn't want to stop. Even with fares set up, visibility was poor, and a huge tractor-trailer only invites disaster if not completely off the road.

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### Gates Scores Blanket Denial Of Rent Hikes

**Says Federal Agency  
Ignoring Boards**

Gov. Gates today charged that the policy of the Federal Housing Agency of turning down recommendations for rent increases is making the job of rent advisory boards virtually "impossible."

There is a mounting feeling on the part of board members over the state, the Governor said, that it is useless for them to investigate rent situations in control areas because any recommended increase will be turned down anyway.

The Governor's criticism leveled mainly at National Housing Expeditor Tighe E. Woods, was spurred by the recent resignation of the entire advisory board of the Auburn rent area.

That board sent the Governor a copy of a letter in which all five members refused to serve further and submitted their resignation to Mr. Woods. In the letter, the board said:

**Reject Recommendation**  
"It was our understanding that recommendations we might make as a board would be approved and followed because our close contact and familiarity with the rent situation in our area. However, on Dec. 15 we unanimously adopted a resolution recommending that the landlords in DeKalb County who had received no previous increase in rent should be permitted a 15 per cent increase."

"This recommendation has been rejected by your department. Obviously upon the theory that your department is more competent to pass upon the question than members of this board who have lived in this community for many years."

"By virtue of the total lack of authority vested in us as a board to discharge our duties and responsibilities as we conceive them to be for the general welfare of the community, we are in effect rendering no public service nor are we filling any public need."

**"Pro Landlords"**  
In his criticism of the expediter's policies, the Governor said he had recently been approached by a representative of Mr. Woods' office with a suggestion that boards be supplemented wherever their voting records indicated the board was "pro landlord."

Gov. Gates said he refused to supplement the boards because actually they were appointed by Mr. Woods' office upon recommendations which came originally from the mayors of the cities involved. The Governor said the mayors had carried out their assignment of naming well balanced bi-partisan boards "in good faith."

The DeKalb County board, for example, was made up of three Republicans and two Democrats with three of the members being war veterans, one a labor union official and only one directly connected with real estate interests.

"The apparent policy of the housing administration of turning down any and all recommendations for rent increases is making the job of the local boards extremely difficult if not impossible," the Governor said.

"Because of this attitude resignations from boards have been numerous and are increasing," he added. "It has become almost impossible to secure qualified persons to serve on these advisory boards."

**Fair Board Orders**  
The State Fair Board today ordered preliminary plans drawn for the proposed construction of a new conservation building to house permanent exhibits at the Fairgrounds.

The order was issued on a motion made by Lt. Gov. Richard T. James, commissioner of agriculture. He proposed that the building be large enough to house permanent exhibits on soil conservation, wild life and forestry and that it include a public auditorium.

The cost of the proposed structure will not be estimated until preliminary plans are submitted. Lt. Gov. James suggested that the building be erected on the north side of the Fairground race track, facing on 48th St.

**Eisenhower to Retire  
From Army Saturday**  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced today he will retire as Army Chief of Staff at noon Saturday.

Gen. Eisenhower told a National Press Club luncheon he will take a vacation before assuming his new job as president of Columbia University in May or June.

Gen. Omar N. Bradley succeeds him as chief of staff.

Eisenhower did not say where he will vacation or for how long.

**Airline Sues Pilots**  
MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 5 (UP)—National Airlines today filed in Dade County Circuit Court a \$5 million suit against the Airline Pilots Association charging libel and slander.

**Thieves Get \$500**  
More than \$500 was stolen from Grandma's Kitchen No. 2, 152 E. Illinois St., some time last night, according to manager William J. Hyde, 2035 N. Meridian St.

## Crain, Stocks At New Lows Since June, '47

**Tips for Uncle's Nieces—**

### U. S. to Post Families On How to Buy to Save

**Agriculture Department to Invade Kitchens  
To Advise Housewives in War Upon Inflation**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (UP)—The government was getting ready today to invade the kitchen and tell housewives how to plan their meals in a nationwide campaign to fight inflation by voluntary means.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson was to work out details of the program at a meeting this afternoon with representatives of producers and consumer groups.

Mr. Anderson's aids foresaw a campaign in which the government will advise housewives what foods to buy and may even suggest how much of the family budget to spend on food. They said an effort will be made to get shoppers to pass up scarce items like some meats, in favor of cheaper, more abundant foods.

The new anti-inflation drive will be backed by such slogans as "beat high costs with food budgets."

"What we need," said one agriculture official, "is a little more business administration in running the kitchen. A lot of housewives have been doing just that for years. Now we hope to get a lot more of them to do it."

The Labor Department reported today that average retail food prices increased slightly more than 2 per cent between mid-November and mid-December, continuing the upward trend halted only once since last May.

Congress in December gave Anderson \$1,000,000 to conduct government campaigns to fight inflation and save grain. His aids said that while the contemplated program will be a "brand new approach" to the problem, it will not substitute for the need of legislation to ration and control prices of meat. Republican leaders in Congress are opposed to such legislation.

**Watts Ponders  
New Trial Appeal**

**Lawyers, Family Talk  
With Condemned Man**

By DONNA MIKELS  
Times Staff Writer  
SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Feb. 5—The mother and sister of Robert Austin Watts, condemned to die for the slaying of Mrs. Mary Lois Burney, arrived here today to confer with lawyers concerning an appeal for a new trial.

Officials at Shelby County jail said the condemned man's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Watts, 2814 Scofield Ave., his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Gray and lawyer P. L. Harding and B. L. Brents were conferring with Watts.

Immediately after he was sentenced to die May 10 for the Nov. 12 slaying of the Indianapolis woman Watts said he had no plans to ask a new trial or appeal the decision.

"Everybody's got to die sometime," he said lightly.

However, jail attaché said he has become "considerably less cheerful" since his sentencing Jan. 28.

"He's beginning to realize what it means and he's a lot less cocky," Sheriff Fred Gravely said. "He's decided he does want a new trial."

Watts is entitled to file an appeal for a new trial before Judge Harold G. Barger of Shelby Circuit Court. This would probably be overruled but it would entitle him to appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, W. S. Henry, one of Watts' five trial lawyers, said he had sent the two attorneys from his office to confer with Watts and the family to establish definitely what Watts wishes concerning a new trial were.

"I promised the boy during the trial I would if he got the death penalty," Mr. Henry said. "However I will not unless he and his family wish it."

Mr. Henry said two organizations had indicated they were prepared to give \$500 each for a defense fund for a new trial.

"These people have a lot of confidence in me because of the Shaw case," he said.

He referred to the case of John (Continued on Page 4—Col. 4)

**Inflation Note: High-Paid  
Actor Gets \$20 Weekly**

**Robert Mitchum Earned More Than Truman;  
Charges Agent 'Melted' \$68,000 in Savings**

By PATRICIA CLARY, Times Special Writer  
HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5—Robert Mitchum's former business manager promised a complete explanation today of how the star earned more than President Truman and still got only \$20 a week.

Paul R. Behren, ex-manager for movie celebrities, is on trial on charges of grand theft from two former clients.

Mr. Mitchum said Behren's management melted his \$68,000 savings down to \$58 while he was being doled out a slim allowance. After he was fired, Behren threatened Mr. Mitchum's wife with death, an accountant testified.

"All will be explained today," Behren promised. He said he will testify when the defense takes over and will call a number of movie celebrities to support his explanation.

Behren also is accused of obtaining \$19,748 for his own benefit from two former clients, ping-pong player and actress.

**Drop in Corn  
Blamed Upon  
Over-Pricing**

**Curb Inflation,  
Truman Warns**

By United Press  
A major price decline swept the big grain exchange changes today and industrial stocks at New York plunged to their lowest level since June 2, 1947.

Here are the developments:  
ONE: The price of corn, wheat, oats and soybeans dropped the full limit allowed for the second day in a row at Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City.

TWO: The new late stock market apparently was reacting to the downward plunge of grains.

THREE: At Washington, government officials were wondering whether it was a temporary decline or whether inflation had reached the peak and a sharp downward trend had begun.

Declines Comment  
President Truman declined to comment on the tumbling prices of the last two days. But at a news-conference, he said the nation still faces the dangerous prospect of an economic crash unless Congress curbs rising prices.

Chicago traders disagreed on the cause of the break. Some said corn, the nation's basic crop, had "over-priced itself." They said farmers had curbed drastically their use of corn in fattening livestock.

On the Chicago Board of Trade, corn for delivery in May opened at \$2.31 1/4 a bushel and July corn sold at \$2.21 1/4. Both were down the full 8-cent limit permissible for a single day's trading.

Traders said corn had "over-priced" itself, and that farmers had curbed their use of the grain as livestock feed.

A wave of selling engulfed the markets yesterday, touched off by fears of new credit curbs.

Stocks cracked sharply on Wall Street in the final hour of trading yesterday after slipping downward all day. Some stocks dropped as much as \$5 a share with chemical listings the hardest hit.

**Little Drop Seen  
In Temperature**

**Weather May Hit  
12 Degrees Tonight**

Weather Map and National Weather, Page 4.

A cloudy day with temperatures slightly below freezing was forecast for today as warm air from the south held off a zero wave from Canada.

The Weather Bureau reports only slightly colder temperatures tonight with occasional light snow. The mercury is expected to drop to between 12 and 16 degrees.

Meanwhile, Indianapolis and the state continued to dig out from under the heaviest snow of the season which fell yesterday.

Although most streets and highways were still slippery, transportation was returning to normal through the efforts of road and street crews.

**LOCAL TEMPERATURES**  
6 a. m. ... 20 10 a. m. ... 19  
7 a. m. ... 19 11 a. m. ... 20  
8 a. m. ... 20 12 (noon) ... 20  
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### Drop in Corn Blamed Upon Over-Pricing

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