

# Admit Deficiencies At State School For Feeble-Minded

## Authorities Blame Shortage of Qualified Help, Lack of Funds

Superintendent Cites 'Unending Fight' For More Money to Improve Conditions

After Reporter David Watson had surveyed the Ft. Wayne School for Feeble-Minded Youth, The Times sent Victor Peterson to photograph the institution. Mr. Peterson interviewed school officials and hereewith presents their explanation of conditions Mr. Watson found.

By VICTOR PETERSON

Administrators of the Ft. Wayne School for Feeble-Minded Youth admit that institution conditions are not all they could be. They admit that:

Patients at times are mistreated by employees who take disciplinary action into their own hands.

Physical surroundings leave much to be desired.

There is a severe shortage of help.

Qualifications for employment are lax.

The pay scale is low, the hours long and living quarters undesirable.

Labor turnover is high.

The struggle for state money is unending.

Worked as Attendant For a week, Times Reporter David Watson worked at the school as an attendant to investigate these conditions which complainants had reported to this newspaper.

His observations have been recorded in the preceding four articles of this series.

I went to Luther Hurley, superintendent, and asked to be shown every room and broom closet in the institution. I told him I wanted to mirror the school in photographs.

He gave me free rein and said:

"We are not proud of a good many things here, but we make no attempt to hide anything. We are trying to do the best we can with what we have to work with."

Taken on Tour Dr. L. P. Harshman took me on an exhaustive tour of the school.

He is head of the hospital and has direct control over every movement of every patient.

Two factors seem to be the crux of the problems.

One is the continuous lack of funds. They are adequate to keep institution doors open. That's about all.

When funds are available for improvement or repair, the school cannot hire the work done.

1900 in Institution

"We have 1900 patients," Mr. Hurley said. "We should have 2000 employees. We have 200. Frankly, we have a hell of a time getting help. We cannot offer attractive pay, hours or living quarters."

Many of our employees are older persons, loyal and understanding but untrained. At times a patient becomes violent. The older ones are in grave physical danger for they might be unable to protect themselves or restrain the patient from hurting himself or another inmate.

"We know of a few times when employees have taken immediate disciplinary action. They have been discharged," Mr. Hurley said.

Beg for Money

It is a known fact that state institutions have trouble getting money. For years administrators have converged on Indianapolis to beg. They wine and dine those who control the purse strings. It is un dignified, but it has secured enough funds to keep institutions operating.

Dr. Harshman took me into the crippled ward for the feeble-minded. His only comment was, "See for yourself."

Here were 60 to 70 hopelessly crippled feeble-minded. Their bodies were so twisted I wanted to turn my head. The stench of human waste filled the air.

Many sat completely nude. On some no clothes can be kept for they tear them off immediately. The others were waiting for their bath.

These people can do nothing for themselves. Yet there was no attendant.

Inmates Lend Aid

Higher type inmates are used here as help. In the same series of rooms are cells for those who have insanity as a complication of feeble-mindedness. Inmates care for them also.

"This is the room that members of the budget committee always avoid. They don't want to see it. They ask to be excused. They say they will take our word for it," Dr. Harshman said.

The physical plant of the school

## Churchill Fears New World War

Says U. S. Atom Sole Bar to Soviet Grab

LLANDUDNO, Wales, Oct. 8 (UPI)—Winston Churchill warned today that a third world war seems to be "remorselessly approaching" and that the only thing keeping the Soviets from overrunning Europe is the American stockpile of atomic bombs.

"There seems to be remorselessly approaching a third world war," Mr. Churchill told the Conservative Party conference here.

"Nothing stands today between Europe and complete subjugation to Communist tyranny but the atomic bomb in American possession."

"Bolshevik Russia is already heavily armed and her forces in Europe far exceed those of all the western countries put together."

### Hits Red Aggression

"I will not encourage you with false hopes of a friendly settlement with Soviet Russia," Mr. Churchill said in one of the most pessimistic declarations yet made by a British leader.

He denounced the "growing aggressiveness and malignity of the Soviet government and its complete breaches of good faith."

"Indeed, I only wondered that it took the British and American peoples, in spite of all the lessons of the past, so long to realize the fearful challenge to their life and freedom which was being opened upon them from the east."

## O'Banion Fortune Is Fast Fading

Continued from Page One

much like the millions. But there is one who has attempted to keep the Irish family tree up to date.

Mr. O'Banion sought out his cousin, Ira O'Banion of Tipton, former owner of the Tipton-Tribune. The 90-year-old cousin has delved deep to trace the family line. He has written a family history.

"Poof, it's a myth," the historian exploded. "Don't you be putting any money into it, John," he warned.

"There's no estate. I think you're fooling away your time. Take the advice of an old man and forget it."

"The O'Banions have been chasing that pot of gold for a long time. It was 50 or 60 years ago that we had this same story and everyone got excited."

"Later many an O'Banion spent good money trying to get the fortune. I don't think it exists," he said.

"John, it's a family tale and once was more than just legend. But that was long ago," the aging newspaperman said.

Democratic committee's latest effort is picture-book story of Truman life, with heavy emphasis on war record, no mention of boss Pendergast connection.

Truman friends discount announcement that Al Smith relatives are for Dewey. Just an old family tradition, they say. Smith supported Al Lanahan and Willkie. He backed Roosevelt fourth term only because of war.

Don't expect anything to come of declaration by Gov. Folsom of Alabama for Truman. There's no way to vote for Truman in his state. And Folsom doesn't control legislature, can't alter situation.

Seek Cabinet Posts

LOUIS BROMFIELD, author and Ohio farmer, is reported as hoping he'll be Secretary of Agriculture in Dewey cabinet.

Same sort of indications come from Sen. Guy Cordon (R. Ore.) about Interior post.

Some Program Likely

HOUSE REPUBLICAN Leader Halleck predicts Dewey will demonstrate program initiated by 80th Congress.

In Illinois state Chamber of Commerce speech he forecast reduced government spending, lower taxes, retirement of public debt, and "better regulation of what is exported abroad in carrying out the foreign aid program."

Talk like that is giving Europe jitters, say men just back from there. Marshall plan countries remember Taber's try at cutting funds: shiver at what they think may be coming.

May Face Defeat

REP. GERALD W. LANDIS (R. Ind.), slated to be chairman of House Education and Labor Committee in next Congress, may be defeated because of his vote for Taft-Hartley.

He once was mine worker, comes from Indiana's leading coal-producing district. He tried

"I'd kind of like to know how we stand. One thing is sure, if we never get it, we'll never miss it."

"I know I'm not dreaming the whole thing, but if someone is pulling my leg they better find a hole, crawl in and pull the hole in after them," he said.

Late yesterday he again checked his box in the post office, hoping a promised letter from the New York lawyer had arrived. "I could use the money. I owe about \$300 now," he said.

There was a card in the box. It was from a business concern. It read:

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Our Fair City—

## Gates Is 'Hatchet Man' For Worried GOP Cohorts

(Continued from Page One)

the much younger law enforcement organization, the State Troopers, who have high morale, are well dressed, polite and efficient on no more pay than City Policemen get.

**Dalley Pledges No Privileges**

Prosecutor Candidate Addresses Lawyers

Operation of the prosecutor's office free from the pressure of any special privilege groups was pledged by George S. Dalley, Democratic candidate for prosecutor, in a speech before more than 100 Democratic lawyers in the Lincoln Hotel yesterday.

"My candidacy is something

new in politics," he said. "I have not been obligated to make a single promise or commitment to any individual or group in or out of politics if I am elected prosecutor."

Mr. Dalley also denied that there was any split in the Democratic Party leadership.

"Every worker in the party is working in complete harmony with the organization leadership 100 per cent," he said. "Rumors that the party is divided are definitely untrue."

Others who spoke included Frank McHale, Democratic national committeeman and Paul McDuff, county Democratic chairman.

### Politics on 'Bench'

THERE'S A STRONG continuing movement, especially among the top lawyers, to get the judicial candidates off the party ticket.

They point out the judge elected by a party too often gets the idea that he owes the party bosses something for getting him in the party.

This leads to political pressure on the courts, breaks down justice, and puts the politicians in a position to "do a few favors" for their friends, political henchmen and the special privilege operators who skim a living off suckers in the petty rackets.

The pressure is such the year that something may be done about it. The judges want it most of all to prevent infringement on their self-respect, their community standing and their careers in public office.

Observers have pointed out that it is almost impossible to put a confessed and convicted killer in the electric chair in Indiana, and even after they get the death verdict, they hang around a year or two to be fed and clothed by the State.

### Need More Police

CITIZENS WHO are up in arms about the consistently high record of attacks on women in Indianapolis streets have taken a close look at the Police Department. They report that, while the police admittedly have failed to stop molesters, the department actually has about 60 unfilled vacancies.

At one time this year the number of vacancies is reported to have totaled 90.

And there is some concern over the morale and efficiency of the department. Observers point to

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