

Rent Decontrol By City Faces Washington OK

U. S. Approval Required Before Action Effective

(Continued From Page One)

These localities would have to ask for decontrol as did Indianapolis. Last night's resolution may be stymied under a provision which calls for 10-day notice of public hearings and listing of new evidence before final action is taken. The resolution may escape this rule, however, because the new national laws have not been in effect 10 days.

Reversal Required
Only a reversal by City Councilmen can stop the decontrol movement now. Approval is automatic in Washington if the measure meets legal requirements. All rent controls will end on Dec. 31.

Meanwhile, Joseph Romer, state director of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (CIU), said tenants are circulating a petition in an effort to stop Washington action of decontrol here.

Under the law, however, the petition cannot be recognized because hearings have been closed. One councilman, Christian Emhardt, Democrat, said he would favor reinstatement of controls only if rentals soared beyond reason.

Meanwhile, Indianapolis Chapter of American Home Owners, Inc., today urged landlords to keep their rental charges at "reasonable" rates.

Chamber in Uproar

Council chambers were thrown into an uproar when the resolution was adopted last night on a vote of seven to two. In the midst of spectator applause, one unidentified woman shouted "We're free." Another started singing "God Bless America."

Councilmen denied reports that a closed meeting was held for discussion of rent controls prior to action on the bill last night. "The call for a vote was a surprise to me," Mr. Emhardt said.

Richard G. Stewart, city clerk, said the resolution will be forwarded to Washington within a few days. A copy of the national law is needed by city council first, he said.

Voting Record

Voting for lifting of rent ceilings were Joseph Bright, Republican; Christian Emhardt, Democrat; Charles Ehlers, Republican; Donald Jameson, Republican; Guy O. Ross, Democrat; Joseph C. Wallace, Democrat; and Joseph A. Wicker, Democrat.

Councilmen George Luper and J. Porter Seidensticker, both Democrats, voted to retain controls.

Henry A. Werking, president of the home owners association, said his organization is acting to prevent radical increases in rental charges. He doubted that sharp rises would develop.

Opposition to council action was voiced by Mr. Romer, who stated he was also a property owner. He charged the resolution was "railroaded through." He predicted unreasonable increases in rents.

Last night's action climaxed months of delay and heated debate on the rent control issue.

Suits in Doubt

The council's action threw into doubt the status of rent control actions pending in federal court. Seventy-one housing cases were pending in federal court as of June 30. Most of them had been filed by Marion County residents.

A majority of the suits asked for injunctions to restrain landlords from violating rent control laws, and asking restitution in varying amounts.

Restitution of \$10,000 was asked in one case, and the total sought in Marion County exceeded \$30,000.

John J. Gould, area rent attorney, was out of the city and could not be reached for comment.

No Dismissals
Pending cases will not be dismissed, however. The Indianapolis Times was told by Paul Marshall, attorney in charge of the Cleveland office of the housing expert.

Suits seeking recovery of overcharges still are subject to trial. Mr. Marshall said. If violations occurred during the life of the act.

Injunctive features of the act cannot be pressed in decontrolled areas, however, he said.

'Where Will We Go?'



Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, 305 E. Raymond St., and sons George Jr., David, Donald, Jerry, John, Robert and Jack... no place to live.

House Condemned, Family Of Nine Faces Eviction

Father of Seven Boys Unable to Work While Recovering From Hit-Run Injuries

By CARL HENN

Seven boys need a lot of room. Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, 305 E. Raymond St., have been wondering where they will go with their seven youngsters, whose ages range from 14 down to 2, since eight days ago when the following sign was tacked to the front of their house:

This House Condemned—Unfit for Human Habitation

Under ordinary circumstances, the Moores probably could find a place to shelter their brood.

But they have no money and no income except for monthly relief payments from the Marion County Welfare Department. Mr. Moore, 37, has been unable to work since May 13, 1948, when a hit-skip car struck him down, fracturing a vertebra in his back and crushing his right ankle.

"We haven't been getting along too bad," Mrs. Moore said. "The county has been giving me \$158 a month for care of my boys, so we manage to eat and buy clothes and keep warm and pay \$13.50 a month rent."

"But now they're going to evict us and we have no place to go. My husband can't even get around to look for a place and I can't leave him and the boys."

Mr. Moore underwent an operation on his ankle at General Hospital and he was given a brace for his back. Both injuries still give him trouble, although he hopes he will be healed some day.

"I tried working in a garage," he said. "But my ankle wouldn't take it. I'd like to find a job where I could sit down and work, but I haven't so far. A couple of friends looked and they couldn't find anything for me, either."

Neither Mr. Moore nor his wife, Gertrude, 35, have any hope the house will be repaired enough to have the condemnation sign removed. It lacks inside water and toilet facilities. City Health Board authorities say the ceilings and kitchen floor are dangerously shaky and the flue is a fire hazard.

Mr. Moore, a machine-shop workman until his accident, hasn't been able to solve the problem.

"It's out of the question for us to buy a place," he said. "We couldn't pay more than about \$20 a month rent unless we had more money coming in. The real estate office helped us find this place when our last house was sold under us, but they don't have any place for us to go right now."

"We just don't know what to do," he said.

Marty Baughman, whose moth-

er publishes a weekly newspaper in nearby Princeville, said the El Capitan bore the brunt of the collision. Two of its cars were telescoped, she said.

"Every passenger on both trains seemed to be at least bruised or shaken up," she said. "I saw six men and women sitting in a row, covered with blood. One lady's head appeared to be injured badly and doctors were trying to bandage it."

There was an elderly couple nearby. The woman was unconscious and her husband sat close by her side, bruised and scratched. When they put the wife into an ambulance, her husband climbed into the front seat.

Miss Baughman said the injured "sat around in groups of six or seven persons—they looked shell-shocked."

H. R. Beaumont, chief dispatcher for the Santa Fe at Chillicothe, said Conductor A. D. Belows of the El Capitan told him his train had "just cleared" passing The Chief when the derailment occurred.

Within minutes after the crash, all doctors, nurses and ambulances in the area had been called to the scene.

Send Out Train
The wreckage halted traffic on the Santa Fe's main transcontinental line for almost the entire day. Later, however, the Chief was backed away and service over the route was partially restored.

Passengers from the two trains were loaded onto busses and shuttled around the wreck scene to where a special train sent from Chicago could pick them up.

Coroner Wood directed rescue workers who searched for bodies. The crash occurred at 5:31 a. m. (Indianapolis Time) as the passengers of both trains still slept on their journey toward Chicago where the El Capitan was due at 7:15.

Mark Friess of Chillicothe, Ill., who was in charge of the El Capitan's mail car, said it appeared to him that the coupling broke between his car and the following one.

"I felt a jerk and the car behind me seemed to jump about two feet into the air," he said. "Then it jumped the track and all the others behind it followed."

"A second later I heard The Chief plow into them."

The El Capitan locomotive proceeded a quarter of a mile with the baggage car before the engineer could brake it to a halt.

"When we backed up, I saw the worst mess I've ever seen," Mr. Friess said. "It was horrible. I looked into one coach of The Chief and saw what looked like a woman's head. Nearby lay what must have been her arm."

Marty Baughman, whose moth-

El Capitan Jumps Track At 90 MPH, Is Ripped Apart

(Continued From Page One)

coaches hit directly by The Chief were tossed around like rubber balls in a box, witnesses said. Four men were killed instantly in a washroom.

Treat Injured
Baggage and clothing were tossed about among the reclining chairs and heaped upon the bodies of the dead and injured.

Twisted metal trapped many of the victims in their seats. The El Capitan's two stewards, both registered nurses, began treating the injured who screamed and moaned as rescue workers pulled them from the wreckage.

Children wandered about weeping as they sought their parents. Mothers crawled through the jumble of coaches, seeking their youngsters.

Ambulances called from surrounding towns took 10 injured to the Cottage Hospital and one to St. Mary's Hospital at Galesburg, 14 to St. Francis, 12 to Proctor and 11 to Methodist Hospital at Peoria.

All of the known dead were aboard the El Capitan, eight of them in the two coaches struck by The Chief.

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10 To 40 Pct. Rent Boosts Are Forecast

Landlords Plan 'Moderation' Policy On Increases

(Continued From Page One)

today to adopt a policy of moderation toward rental increases.

The meeting, called by President Paul Conn, manager of the vast Moynahan Apartment holdings, will recommend "discretion in making increases."

"There will be many who will not raise rents at all," Mr. Conn said. "Then, again, the fringe housing owners may go way out of line, if they go at all."

Predicts 5 Per Cent
But rental managers won't price their properties out of existence, he predicted.

Henry A. Werking, president of the American Home Owners, Inc., predicted an average 5 per cent increase.

He expected some huge boosts, but a definite settling down to "O.P.A. levels" "just like meats and other items."

Lower properties will make the biggest boosts, but units renting above \$50 will not go up, he said.

"There will also be a lot of fixing up and new equipment going into units now," he forecast. "Landlords will have the rent they needed to spruce up their properties. I'll probably buy 10 new refrigerators for units myself."

His organization represents 1000 landlords and will meet Monday night to set a decontrol policy, Mr. Werking said.

The property management division of the Real Estate Board, representing 42 managers and owners of rental units here, also doubled general increases above 10 per cent.

"There may be big individual rental increases, but I don't see any huge general hike," said Welmer Bushong, acting chairman of the division.

He said PMD will meet to set up rental recommendations "when we learn the real effect of the decontrol resolution." This may not be known for "30 days or even six months," Mr. Bushong said.

Meanwhile, City Clerk Richard Stewart said he hoped to have the resolution en route to Washington for government approval by the end of the week.

The Council resolution will become effective as soon as Tighe Woods, national housing expediter, says O. K.

Petitions Urge Atom Arms Ban

(Continued From Page One)

learned the national Red Party has planned mass meetings in various large cities to promote the so-called peace campaign.

He said such a meeting was scheduled for Indianapolis July 4, but police had no report that it was held.

Chief Rous said the petition strongly resembled Communist "peace" moves during the early part of World War II, when Russia was a fighting ally of Germany.

Mr. Cohen said other groups besides the Communist and Progressive parties were supplied with petitions for circulation.

Kokomo Councilmen Change Minds on Rents

KOKOMO, July 6 (UP)—City councilmen who last week voted to end rent controls here changed their minds last night.

At a special session, they decided to rescind the previous resolution asking federal housing officials to abolish rent controls.

The reversal came, they explained, when they learned that if excessive rates resulted from the decontrol action, they would be unable to reimpose the controls.

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A Calm Voice—Storm, Sagging Tent Send Circus Crowd to Near Panic

Announcer Averts Stampede, Tells Throng To 'Take It Easy, Everything's OK'

JERSEY CITY, N. J., July 6 (UP)—The voice of a circus announcer droning over the roar of a violent thunderstorm quieted a terrified crowd of 4000 parents and children last night and halted a panicked rush for exits which injured 12 persons.

The near tragedy developed as a troupe of high wire artists balanced dangerously high above the crowd in the big top of the Cole Brothers Circus.

Suddenly, a thunderstorm unleashed its full fury on the tent, lightning flashed, thunder roared and rain pelted down. Gusts of wind reached 45 miles an hour.

The small tent over the main entrance crashed down. Seconds later a second tent housing 50 trick horses collapsed.

A woman screamed. Children began to howl. Panicky spectators were drenched by driving rain when stakes holding down the main tent side flaps pulled out of the sodden ground.

The crowd began to run wildly for the exits.

Then city policemen and circus employees sprang into action to prevent a fatal stampede.

The voice of the circus announcer boomed over an emergency sound truck parked near the center ring.

"Take it easy, take it easy," The big throng swayed and sagged under the onslaught of wind and rain. A quivering main pole tore a big hole in the top of the canvas. Torrents of water poured in covering the main performance area several inches deep.

Lions and tigers caged after their opening act roared and growled.

But gradually the police and circus handlers got control of the milling crowd. Many returned to their seats.

The voice of the announcer droned on with premises that the big tent had just been renovated, was securely anchored and would not collapse.

The tentor relaxed with the abating storm, but not before 12 persons, most of them children, were bruised and cut in a rush to leave the grounds. A roustabout broke his leg and was hospitalized.

But the show was flooded out. Circus authorities told everyone to leave quietly.

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