

State Senate OKs Bill to Outlaw Reds

Lawmakers Doubt Any 'Witch Hunt'

Hoosier lawmakers declared today that newly passed legislation to outlaw the Communist Party would not touch off a "witch hunt" in Indiana.

The sweeping measure to ban activities advocating the overthrow of the U. S. government was passed by the Senate yesterday. The vote was 46-1.

The lone dissenter, Sen. Von Elchhorn, Democratic caucus leader, charged the measure was "unconstitutional."

"Free speech and freedom of assembly are denied under the measure," Sen. Elchhorn said. "I voted no because I want to protect the people's rights and I think it takes away some liberties."

But, Sen. Richard Ellis, Kokomo Republican, defended the measure, asserting:

"It will not start a witch hunt in the state. Liberals and persons with more progressive ideas won't be subject to persecution."

Conviction under the measure's provisions would bring a stiff 1-to-3-year prison term.

The House-passed bill, completely rewritten by the Senate Judiciary Committee, now goes back to the House for concurrence.

The rewritten bill outlaws membership in the Communist Party only if its activities advocate overthrow of the government by force. The original measure banned party membership without conditions.

Rewritten to eliminate unconstitutional phrases, the bill also includes all organizations and publications that advocate overthrow of the government.

Welfare Records

House amendments modifying a bill to expand the state welfare program were approved by the Senate. The measure now goes to Gov. Schricker.

Under the measure, names, addresses and amounts paid to welfare recipients will be open for public inspection. But it limits their use for "purposes directly connected with the administration of the welfare program."

Runaway Pappies

Legislation to crack down on fathers who abandon their families was approved by the Senate and returned to the House for concurrence in minor amendments.

The bill authorizes Indiana to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states to enforce court actions for payment of support to abandoned families.

Package Liquor Stores

An emasculated bill to permit package liquor stores to sell tobacco and bar supplies was passed by the Senate.

As introduced, package stores would have been allowed to sell packaged beer. But the provision was removed in House committee.

The bill also limits package stores to one for each 5000 population in cities.

Mentally Ill Support

Payment of \$10 a week for the care of patients in mental institutions was approved by the Senate.

The House-passed measure requires payment by relatives of the patients or by county welfare boards for indigent cases. It applies to new admissions only.

Schricker Vetoes Tax Amendment

Opposes Change in Inheritance Law

Gov. Schricker issued his first veto in the Senate today against a bill that would have amended the state's inheritance tax law.

The Governor opposed the bill on the ground that it "in effect would make inheritance tax payments virtually voluntary and reduce the state's revenues considerably."

The Senate agreed with him and voted to sustain the veto.

Lobby Probe

Investigation into the purported use of public funds for lobbying purposes will be started by the House Ways and Means Committee B at 6 p. m. today.

Rep. Robert S. Webb, committee chairman, issued subpoenas for eight officials of the State Welfare Department and four others connected with lobbying for the State School for the Deaf.

The committee will question welfare officials regarding the use of state personnel, and material in lobbying activities in connection with welfare legislation.

Other witnesses will be questioned about use of public facilities to lobby against legislation that would create special classes for deaf children in public schools of home communities.

Witnesses subpoenaed from the welfare department include: Administrator Maurice O. Hunt; Administrative Assistant Charles H. Marshall; Miss Ethel Harrison, public assistance director; Miss Louise Griffin, child welfare director; Mrs. Helen C. Rogers, librarian and Miss Mildred P. Beard, editor of "Public Welfare in Indiana."

Siamese Twins Die

MONTREAL, Que., Mar. 2 (UPI) — A set of Siamese twins died yesterday 30 minutes after they were born. Doctors said the twin girls were joined at the abdomen, thorax and face.

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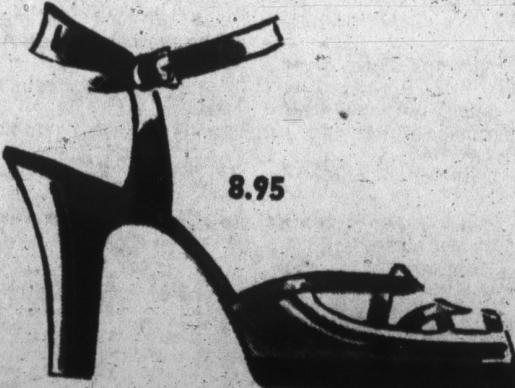
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