

Needy Folks Divided On Question Of Opening Welfare Files

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FORWARD

Indiana's red hot welfare issue has been buffeted by stormy debate from the State Legislature to Congress. Politicians, pressure groups and the man on the street all have had their say. Virtually everyone but those most vitally concerned — the welfare recipients themselves. With the permission of county welfare officials, The Times has obtained the views of a group of recipients. Here's what they say.

By JOHN V. WILSON
MAKING public the names of welfare recipients will not reduce the rolls in Marion County.

Needy elderly persons and mothers of dependent children say they have no other place to turn to.

But, just as other groups, they are almost equally divided on the question — whether their names should be open to public inspection.

One 82-year-old man, whose sole income is his \$50-a-month welfare check, put it this way: "I don't care who knows what I get," the elderly man said. "And I think it's OK to open the files if it helps catch cheaters."

The conflicting views of these old-age recipients were typical of the group I talked with. They live from day to day on meager welfare aid. But they remain proud.

One 77-year-old widow went to her mirror to fix her hair before we sat down to talk. She had just finished her small washing.

"I tend to my own business, and I think others should, too," he explained.

HOWEVER, an 80-year-old

man and his 75-year-old wife, who receive \$30 a month in addition to a \$37 social security check, expressed the opposite opinion.

"I could work. I wouldn't be on welfare for one minute," she started out. "I get \$50 a month but just hardly can get by."

"They might as well take my life as my welfare check," she said simply.

"No, I wouldn't be embarrassed if they opened welfare records. I don't care if they go down there every day and look at my name."

AN ALERT 74-year-old man, whose wife died five years ago, was well informed on the welfare issue.

"It's poor business to open welfare files," he stated. "If elected officials can't run the

welfare department efficiently, they should be put out of office."

"Senate Bill 86 wouldn't make me leave the rolls," he continued. "After all, I didn't apply until I had to. People who can't help themselves should be assisted."

A 79-year-old man, who was forced to quit work three years ago because of failing sight, opposed the Republican Party's "home rule" welfare program.

"THE FEDERAL government ought to continue to handle welfare," he said. "It shouldn't be thrown on the state. The way they're running it now seems all right to me."

He also opposed public inspection on the rolls.

"I never tell anyone I'm on welfare," she continued. "We're poor, and we can't help it."

asked," he said. "I always keep my business to myself."

The widowed mother of an 11-year-old schoolgirl threw a different light on the problem.

She opposed lifting welfare secrecy provisions because of an unfortunate incident that happened to her daughter recently.

"I couldn't drop off the rolls if I wanted to because of my health. If I could, I would get off right now because I believe in everybody helping themselves if they can."

The woman also warned that opening welfare files might lead to political pressure on recipients.

Before the last primary, I was indirectly told if I didn't vote a certain way none of the poor people would get their checks," she said.

"It's my business how I vote, and I told them so."

"ANOTHER mother of eight children, ranging in age from 4 to 15 years, said public inspection of the rolls would not force her off.

"I don't know how we'd live

without those checks," she said. "My husband is a cripple and can't work. If the checks stopped, I guess I would have to put the kids in some home."

Similar stories were repeated by other mothers. Some had six children, others three and four. All said they were unashamed of welfare aid, but they "have to have help."

All of the recipients interviewed also expressed a disgust for the welfare chisele.

IF THEY don't need welfare money, they ought to come off," one elderly man said.

And another mother told of a recipient who "drank a lot."

"I know she spends most of her check on liquor. That's not right," she said.

Running Away Is Mostly Walking

Two runaway girls from West Virginia complained to Indianapolis police they had to walk too much of the way here.

The girls, 14 and 16, said they had many offers of rides. But every time a driver "got fresh," they said, they had to walk.

The girls, who left Charlestown, W. Va., Monday, got here Tuesday—thanks mostly to a "gentleman" from Ohio. A cab driver who picked them up downtown last night turned them over to police when he learned they were runaways.

West Virginia authorities were to take the girls back to Charlestown. They "won't have to

Mrs. Roosevelt's statement walk a bit."

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Expect to Ask 10 Pct. Pay Hike For Servicemen

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—The Defense Department is expected to recommend to Congress soon to increase a 10 per cent cost-of-living pay raise for military personnel, it was learned today.

The recommendation was drafted by a Defense Department committee headed by Marine Col. S. K. Bird. It is reported to have been approved by the Office of Defense Secretary Robert A. Lovett and Assistant Defense Secretary Anna M. Rosenberg.

The proposed increase for members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Navy, business administration, Coast and Geodetic Survey is in economics, government and histored to put this personnel in line.

with other government employees who have been given cost-of-living pay raises.

The military increase would cost an additional \$700 million a year, but no actual figures were immediately available.

Military pay and allowances for the current fiscal year will be about \$10 billion. Since the proposed increase is expected to be sent to the Hill would apply only to basic pay and not allowances, an increase would not be a full 10 per cent of that amount.

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Producer Granted Movie Rights to Life of FDR

By United Press

NEW YORK, Oct. 5—Movie rights to the life story of Franklin Delano Roosevelt have been granted to Producer Stanley Kramer, the widow of the late President revealed last night at her Hyde Park Home.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt said the arrangement provides that she will collaborate in the making of the film, which won't come

until 1945.

university instructors discussing mobilization of resources in society.

No financial details were revealed.

The Roosevelt story has been dedicated to what I consider the one of the most eagerly sought most important of all American by movie companies, but Mrs. subjects for the screen.

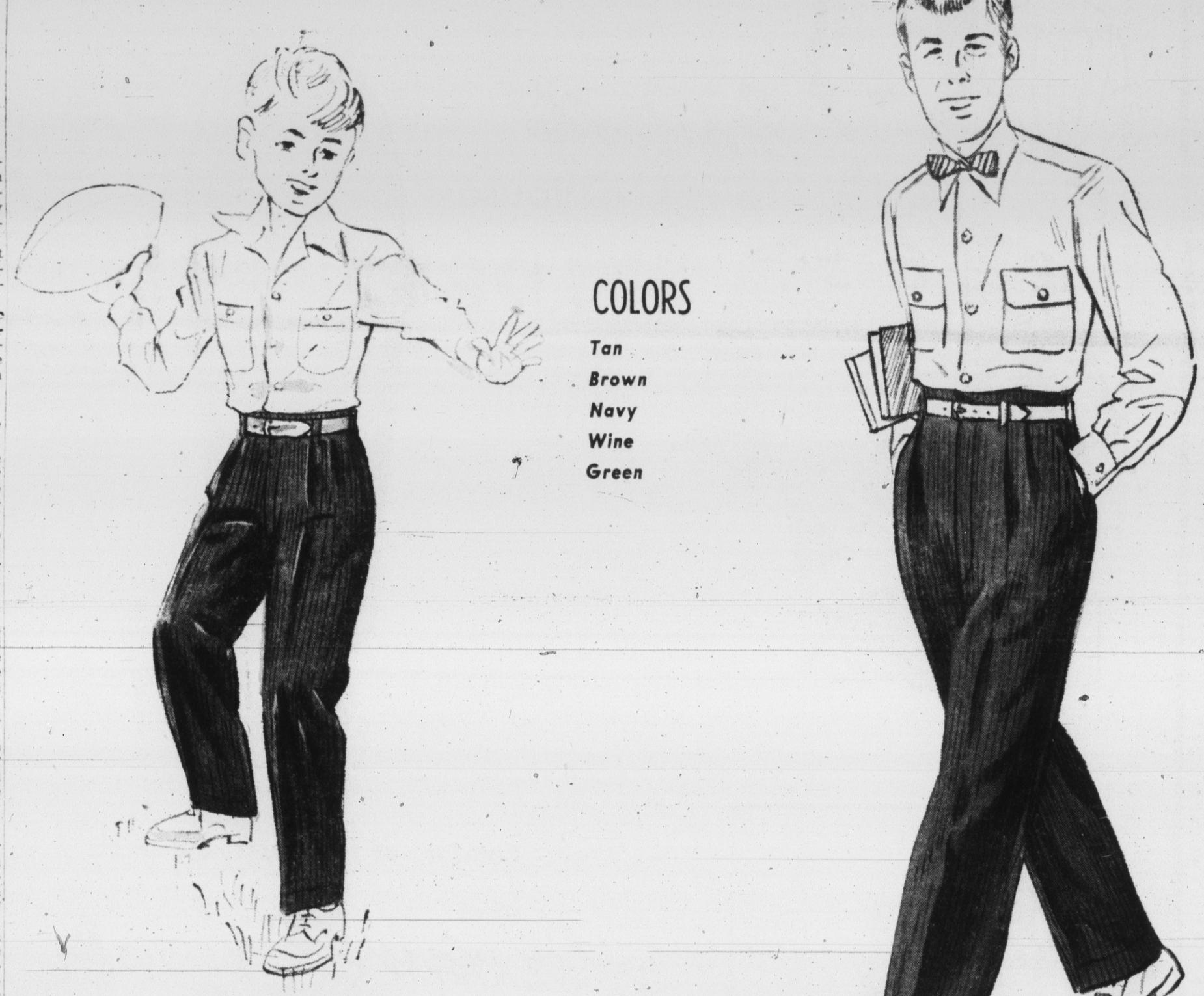
Mrs. Roosevelt's statement quoted Mr. Kramer as saying:

"This is for me a personal

one of the most eagerly sought most important of all American

by movie companies, but Mrs. subjects for the screen."

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DRESSES—FOURTH FLOOR

L. STRAUSS & COMPANY

Clarence Burton, 55, machine operator at Zenith Metal Corp., was found dead at his apartment at 519½ W. Washington St. last night.

Police called by neighbors after Mr. Burton had not been seen since Monday, estimated he died four or five days ago. They ordered a post-mortem examination.

Officers said no violence was indicated. The door of the apartment was locked from the inside and Mr. Burton's money and personal papers were intact.

Youth Strangled
While Doing Exercises

LAKE CITY, Minn., Oct. 5 (UPI)—Fred Hibbard, 16, son of a weekly newspaper publisher, accidentally strangled himself while doing body-building exercises, authorities said today.

A first-string center on the High school football team, the youth had rigged a jumping rope to an eye-hook on the door casing of his room yesterday and apparently had fallen so that the rope tangled around his neck.

A book on body-building was on the bed, open to a page illustrating exercises for shoulder development.