

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 is 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.

HOWEVER, an 80-year-old

man and his 75-year-old wife, who receive \$30 a month in addition to a \$57 social security check, expressed the opposite opinion.

"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 chiselers."

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.

HER TINY one-room home in an industrial section of downtown Indianapolis was

spotless. The freshly laundered clothing lay on the bed. Over her mirror was a religious plaque.

"If 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, and no one has ever

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.

"HER PLAYMATES and her teacher found out we were on welfare," she said, "and they began calling her a pauper. And I had to take her out of church after a woman came here and asked about our being on welfare. She spread it all around."

"It's no disgrace to be on welfare," she continued. "We're poor, and we can't help it."

"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 chiseler.

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.

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NO MAN-EATER—Sambo the alligator thinks ice cream tastes better than people. He's the pet of Walter Moore, 15, of 4542 Evanston Ave., a Broad Ripple High School sophomore. Walter's dad bought Sambo in Louisiana last summer. Mrs. Odabell Moore (no relation), manager of an ice cream store at 2028 E. 46th St., proffers the cone.

Expect to Ask 10 Pct. Pay Hike For Servicemen

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—The Defense Department is expected to recommend to Congress soon 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 Secretary Anna M. Rosenberg.

The proposed increase for members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Coast and Geodetic Survey is intended 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, the increase would not be a full 10 per cent of that amount.

Instructors in Session

HANOVER, Oct. 5 (UP)—The Indiana Academy of Social Science opened a two-day annual meeting at the Hanover College today. The meeting was held at the Hanover College Hotel and was attended by university instructors discussing mobilization of resources in social, business, administration, economics, government and history.

Producer Granted Movie Rights to Life of FDR

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 will come out in the spring of 1952.

No financial details were revealed. The Roosevelt story has been one of the most eagerly sought subjects for the screen.

Roosevelt always made it clear that nothing would be done about the rights until at least five years after her husband's death in the spring of 1945.

"I am happy that Mr. Kramer will be the one to produce this picture," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "I am familiar with his work and have great confidence in his honesty and integrity as well as his ability."

Mr. Kramer is a young New Yorker who created a stir in movie circles in recent years as the independent producer of such films as "The Champion," "Home of the Brave" and "Cyrano De Bergerac."

He now heads his own company in a working agreement with Columbia Pictures through which the Roosevelt film will be produced.

Mrs. Roosevelt's statement was quoted by Mr. Kramer as saying: "This is for me a personal dedication to what I consider the most important of all American subjects for the screen."

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 Charleston today. They won't have to walk a bit.

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Paroled Prisoner Being Quizzed In Gem Theft

Police today questioned an Indianapolis man on parole from Indiana State Prison in connection with the \$75,000 gem robbery of a diamond importer here Wednesday.

Walter Steagall, 40, Gilbert Hotel, was brought in by Detective Sgt. James Burford for interrogation.

Sgt. Burford was not specific in explaining the pickup of Steagall, who was paroled after serving part of a 10-year sentence after conviction of robbery in Crown Point.

Has 'Good Reasons' "I have several good reasons," Sgt. Burford said.

Meanwhile, police here were highly interested in a similar jewel robbery which took place yesterday on the highway near Hinsdale, Ill.

Ben Rubenstein, Chicago jewelry salesman, said two men took his briefcase containing \$30,000 in diamonds while he was driving from Chicago to Joliet, Ill.

Mr. Rubenstein said he heard a siren from a car behind his and stopped, believing it to be a police squad car. Two men alighted, he said, and entered his car from each side.

One of them was dressed as a policeman, he reported.

Mr. Rubenstein said the bandits drove him to a point north of Hinsdale, took his briefcase and left him bound with wire in the back seat.

Much Alike The Illinois "heist" was similar in several respects to the smooth grab of unset diamonds and diamond-studded jewelry here from Stanley Levinson, 44, in front of his home at 5144 College Ave.

One of three men in a car which forced Mr. Levinson's car to the curb hopped in beside the wholesale merchant, flashed a "bronze-colored" badge and said he was a police officer.

When Mr. Levinson got out and ran into a neighbor's yard, the men snatched his briefcase from his car and drove away. Their car was reported to have Illinois license plates.

Police Find Man Dead In Locked Apartment Clarence Burton, 55, machine operator at Zenite Metal Corp., was found dead at his apartment at 519 1/2 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 (UP)—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.

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