

2-5-37.

8:45 P.m. - In on 123.

Has

Woman - Is "Dutch" there?

Corrington - No. He's at home sick.

8:52 P.m. - Out on 123.

Man - Called 1349. (Res of "Ruby" - girl friend of  
no one answered - <sup>Shunett Moore.</sup>)

10:13 P.m. - In on 123.

Woman - How can I get in touch  
with officer Kelly?

Officer - Call 3337.

Has.

11:15 P.m. - In on 123.

Man - Is Rogers there?

Corrington - No. He's uptown - call  
494 (Western Union).

11:18 P.m. - In on 123.

Boy - Is Mollie Hicks in jail?

Corrington - No.

(22)

Has.

2-5-37.

Has.

11:28 Pm. - In on 123.

Akers - Rogers come in yet? He's not at the Western Union.

Corrington - No he hasn't. Murray and Abbott are here.

Abbott - Hello.

Akers - go out and find Rogers. Tell him to call me at home - right away.

Has.

11:30 Pm. - In on 123.

L. D. Opr. - Have a call for the Acting Chief of Police.

Corrington - Call Mr. Rasberry at his home - #1696.

11:40 Pm. - Out on 123.

Has.

Corrington - Called "Information" for the number of Walter Wilham (phonetic - possibly - Wilhelmi)

Opr. - No number listed for him.

Top on #648 (Mayor)  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Plant at 207-Laural.

2-5-37

8:15 am

In 648

WTH

(Test call - no answer)

8:16 am

In 648

WTH

(no answer)

8:33 am

In 648

WTH

Man: Is Mayor McLaughlin in?

Hazel: No - Can I take your message?

Man: This is Mr. Laver and I wanted  
to speak to him to see if he would be  
interested in talking to "the league"  
next Thursday night. Just to let him  
know what we think of him, and he  
can tell us what to do.

Hazel: Yes, I'll tell him - what time  
did you say it would be?

Mr. Laver: Thursday night at 8:00'clock.

1

2-5-37

8:40 am

IN 648

WTR

Bob Plean (call sounded like it  
came from newspaper print shop)  
called for the Mayor. Hazel advised  
him the Mayor was out and when  
he returned he would be in the office  
very short time. Plean said he would  
call again, never-the-less.

8:48 am

IN 648

WTR

Woman: Hello! Is this Miss Marsh?

Hazel: Yes

Woman: Is the office full - are there any  
body much around in the office? I don't want  
to carry on too much conversation over the phone.

Hazel: No that's alright - ~~you~~ go on and  
talk all you want.

Woman: Jerry (not saying who) talked to  
Fred Jones in Little Rock yesterday  
and he is getting scared of <sup>the Murray</sup> <sup>(K. S. MURRAY - Representative)</sup>  
(Note: this woman didn't identify herself and  
Hazel apparently recognized her voice.)



2-5-39

9:01 am

Out 648

WTM

17 (H. D. Cooper Grocery)

Answering voice: Cooper talking

Hedgerwood: let me speak to H. D. Jr.

Cooper: This is him.

Hedgerwood: This is Hedgerwood. About that traffic matter - I've got another angle on it - can't we put it off until tomorrow?

Cooper: That will be alright.

Hedgerwood: I'll see you in the morning then.

#3.

Sp on #648 (Mayor,  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Plant at 207-Lauel.

2.5.37.

Haz.

9:12 Am. - In #648.

Hazel - Mayor's Office

Man - This is the Market Street Gang

I just wanted to let the Mayor know  
that we're all for him around  
here, and proud of him.

Hazel - Thanks for calling. The Mayor  
is busy now but I'll tell him.

Haz.

9:20 Am - In #648.

Woman - Is Judge Sedgewood there?

Hazel - He's in court right. Have  
him call you?

Woman - Tell him to call 1559.

9:25 Am. - In #648.

Hazel - Hello.

Man - Is the Mayor there?

Haz

Hazel - No. Who's this, Jerry?

Jerry - Yes.

4 (Cont.)

(Cont.)

2-5-37.

Hazel - The Mayor's out of town today.

Jerry - Is he in Little Rock?

Hazel - Yes.

Jerry - I was to see him before he went over there.

Hazel - Well, he left a while ago.

Jerry - Can you get him a message some time this morning?

Hazel - Maybe I can.

Jerry - Tell him that "Ike" Murray is getting "wobbly" - I talked to Fred Jones this morning and he told me about it.

Hazel - Yes, I understand. Heard it this morning already. Be careful what you say on this phone, because they might plug in on it any time.

Jerry - Yes, all right. Get him that message, will you?

Hazel - OK. Thanks for calling.

(Note: "Ike" Murray referred  
5 (cont.)

(cont.)

Haz.

to by Perry is probably D. T. (D.K.)  
Murray, from Fordyce, Lafayette County,  
Arkansas, a member of Legislature  
Committee probing conditions at Hot Spring.  
Fred Jones referred to probably resides  
at Little Rock, Ark. No unusual noises  
were heard on the line to warrant  
Hazel's apprehension of use of telephone.

9:42 AM. — In # 648.

Haz.

F.P. Opr. — Reported Long Distance from  
Little Rock, Mr. Perry.

Hazel — Hello.

Perry — Will Mr. McLaughlin be up  
there today?

Hazel — Yes, you're expecting him at  
the meeting today, aren't you?

Perry — Yes. He doesn't have to  
be here before the commission  
before 1:30 though.

Hazel — If you see him before then, tell  
him to call me. <sup>6</sup> something important.

2-5-37.

9:45 Am. - Out # 648.

Har.

Ledgerwood - Called 1559.

Woman - Hello.

Ledgerwood - Did you want me?

Woman - Yes. That fellow who used to have the ball game and the fellow with him who is getting rooms for the ball team, and used to run the Leon Hotel, offered me \$1500.00 for mine - \$500.00 down. Said he might be able to raise \$200.00 more cash from <sup>(Rayburn)</sup> Doan (or Downen). That's too cheap isn't it?

Ledgerwood - Yes. I wouldn't consider it. Wouldn't talk to him unless he offers more - You'll get along all right like you are. Tell him to forget it.

2-5-37

B. M. S.

9:55 A. M. In 648.

HAZEL - Mayors Office.

L. D. Operator - St. Louis is calling the Mayor.

HAZEL - The Mayor is out of town, not expected in until tomorrow, will anyone else do.

L. D. OPER - Just a minute I'll see, (operator asks man in St. Louis if he cared to place a call tomorrow morning. Man stated no - if he could talk to the Mayor this morning to cancel the call.) Call is cancelled.

9:57 A. M. In 648.

B. M. S.

Hazel - Mayors Office.

~~HAZEL -~~

Milton SANDERS. (Phonetic) - Hazel this is Milton Sanders, is the Mayor in, I think he wants to see me, I come by there yesterday but he was out.

9:57 (Continued) In 648

Hazel - Sorry - he's out of town he'll be here in the morning.

Sanders - Ok. I'll see him then.

10:08 Hazel In 648.

B.M.S.

Hazel - Mayors Office.

Anderson - Is the Mayor In, this is Mr Anderson.

Hazel - No I'm sorry.

Anderson - Well this is one of his losses on the "Hill".

(Hazel hung up before he finished).

10:26 - In - 648

B.M.S.

Hazel - Mayors Office.

Man - Miss Marshall This is Leo Dinglesfield, tell the Mayor to call me at 879 when he gets the chance.

Hazel: Ok. I'll call you myself.



2-5-37.

Haw

10:30 Am. - In # 648.

Woman - Is Fannie there?

Hazel - No. She just left with  
Mary Katharine.

Woman - Thanks.

10:34 Am. - In # 648.

Haw

Hazel - Hello, Mayor's Office.

Man - This is me - Johnnie (Scudder?)

Just heard that the Democrat  
(Little Rock paper) is trying to dis-  
prove that statement in the  
Gazette (Little Rock paper) by Downen.  
I wanted to ask the Mayor what  
he thought about it.

Hazel - Well, he's out of town today.  
Somebody told me that Downen  
himself said that he didn't  
make such a statement.

Johnnie - Well, thanks.

(10)

(Refer to news item in Ark. Gazette, 1-5-37  
intendedly made by W.P. Downen, Hot Springs,

2-5-37.

Hps.

10:40 Am. - In # 648.

Hazel - Mayor's Office.

Z.D. Jr. - Mr. Miller (McLaughlin) at Little Rock is calling. Will speak to anyone. Wishes you to pay for the call.

Hazel - all right, operator.

McLaughlin - all right?

Hazel - Have a couple of things to tell you but don't know whether I can make you understand or not. Here's the first one:- The fellow over in Little Rock - who's a protege of a friend of yours - you talked to a man about him - you know who I'm talking about?

McLaughlin - No.

Hazel - Well, he's a friend of one of Joe Snider's boys or Joe Hunsley's - I've forgotten  
" (cont.)

(cont.)

Hds.

which one - a young fellow -  
know who I mean <sup>(probably referring to steady meaning)</sup>  
McLaughlin - yes, I do now.

Hazel - Well Jerry called and  
said that his friend over  
there said "he'd" done an  
about face - You'd better get in  
touch with him while you're  
over there - better do something.

McLaughlin - all right.

Hazel - Another thing is that  
Verne (Sedgewood) wants you to  
call him. He has a lot of  
information for you. Said that  
his "ex" (wife?) had been called  
before them and had given  
a lot of information.

McLaughlin - You mean Verne's  
"ex" - not mine?

Hazel - Yes, that's right. Starts  
(cont.)

(cont.)

2-5-37.

Haz.

with "M".

McLaughlin - All right. I'm at the Marion Hotel if you want me.

10:45 Am. - out # 648.

Man - Called 2106.

No one answered.

Haz.

11:10 Am. - In # 648.

Man - Is the Mayor there?

Hazel - No. Who's this?

Roy - This is Roy. Will he be in his office today?

Hazel - No. Not until in the morning.

11:20 Am. - In # 648.

Man - Is this Dr. Byrd's office?

Hazel - No. Call 471 (City Health Dept.)

Haz.

2-5-37.

Haz.

11:30 Am. - Out # 648.

Hazel - Called 184 (City Clerk) asked  
for Violet.

Man - She's not here - at home with  
a "crick" or do you call it  
"crook" in her neck.

Hazel - Lets not call it "crook".

11:35 Am. - In # 648.

F. D. Opr. - Little Rock calling Mayor  
McLaughlin.

Hazel - He's not here, Quator.

Opr. - What time do you expect him

Hazel - I don't know.

Opr. - Is he out of town?

Hazel - I really don't know. He didn't  
leave any message.

Opr. - (pause) That's all.

Haz.

2-5-37.

Has.

11:45 Am - Out # 648.

Hazel - Called 65 (Bus Station)  
Asked for Mary.

Clerk - she went to Little Rock today.  
Will be back at 3:30 Pm.

11:56 Am. - In # 648.

Man - gave his name as Fuller,  
from Kentucky, repeatedly asked  
Hazel if he might see McLaughlin  
during the afternoon; that she  
was to leave town soon but  
wanted to bring "this woman"  
by to see McLaughlin on business.  
Hazel - informed that he would  
have to wait until 9:00 Am. on  
the following morning.

Has.

2-5-37

Hos-

12:15 Pm. - Out #648-

Hazel - Called 212 (Chamber of Commerce),  
informed Miss Madge Wood that  
the "boss" was away and requested  
her to have lunch together.

Madge - OK come on over.

12:20 Pm. - In #648-

No one answered.

Hos-

12:25 Pm. - In #648

No one answered.



648

2/5/37

1.36 p.m. In on 648  
for Mayor - Not in.

WPS

2.01 p.m. In on 648  
Woman. Did the Mayor ever sign those  
checks for the last election?  
Hazel. No. He's been so busy, he just hasn't  
had time.

WPS

2.24 P.M. In on 648 for Mayor - Not in WPS

2.38 p.m. Out on 648 to 2399  
Hazel Marsh in friendly conversation with girl friend, Violet

WPS

2.45 p.m. In on 648  
asked for the Mayor. He won't be in this afternoon.

WPS

2.46 p.m. In on 648  
Mrs. Gladwin at the Arlington Hotel calling and told  
Hazel Marsh, she was calling for Mr. Myers known as  
"Red" Myers from Detroit, who wished to send his  
regards to the Mayor.

WPS

648

2/5/37

Mrs. Bert (Ruby) Rose, sister of Bert Coffman called and talked with Hazel at length, stating she was raised with the mayor and she wanted him to know that she and all her family are for him and will stick by him.

3.07 PM In on 648 for Mayor's office from 1075

Mayor McLaughlin calling from Little Rock, Ark.

Hazel March, Hello.

Mayor. Look in that drawer under the pad on my desk. There a couple of letters addressed to the Oklahoma Track from St. Louis, with a list of the officials Hazel - I have it. It has a little tag on it.

Mayor - Read them to me

Hazel. Dr. F. W. Ash - Presiding Judge  
Eugene W. Bury - <sup>Associate</sup> Presiding Judge & Racing Secy.  
George R. Palmer - Associate & Paddock Judge  
Wm. Hamilton - Starter  
Clifford Sanford - Clerk of Seales.  
A. J. Heffernan - Patrol Judge  
Tom Moran - Timer.  
Leo P. McLaughlin (the mayor laughed)  
Dr. J. P. Randolph - Track Physician.  
18

2/5/37  
648

Hazel Marsh continued. - (call at 3:07 PM)

Mr. E. J. Thompson - Asst. Truck Physician

H. H. Blahut - Veterinarian

Charles J. Cella - President.

Joseph E. Martin - Manager.

Mayor. - Is there anything about the salaries there?

Hazel - No.

Mayor. - I'll get that from Mr. Cella.

Hazel. Mr. Cella, or I presume it was Mr. Cella  
called you from St. Louis this morning.

Mayor. Well, I'll call him.

3:22 PM. out on 648

WVS

Hazel ordered some medicine from the City Drug Store.

3:56 PM out on 648 to 212 (Chamber of Commerce)

WVS

Hazel - Wadge did you read this afternoon's paper. The  
headlines read Probe of Spa failure! The Reporters  
privately admit that the Representatives admit their  
sorrow at starting the investigation.

Wadge I can hardly believe it.

4:02 PM out on 648 to 743 (Judge Edgewood)

WVS

Talked with "Sunny" Davies, who said he had read  
19

2/5/37

the headlines but had been too busy to read the paper.

4.02 pm Out on 648 to 2399-

W.S.

Hazel advised Violet of the newspaper headlines

20

2-5-37

5:10 pm

In 648

WTH

No answer.

27

648

2/7/37

1203 pm. Inou 648 - No answer.

NPS

①

2-7-37

4:05 pm Out 648 (mugshot office) WTM  
3574

Ordered 24 prisoners (for city prisoners)

(2)



Hot Springs, Arkansas  
Feb. 9, 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE JOHN E. LITTLE:

RE: BREKID

Attached are logs for Feb. 7, 1957 for the tap on the telephone number 2115, at the residence of W. S. Jacobs, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Your attention is directed to the calls at 11:28am and 11:52 am, wherein Mr. Noble, who is manager of the Western Union at Hot Springs, Arkansas tells Jacobs that he obtained some information at Little Rock, Arkansas that probably would be "of interest and value" to Jacobs. Noble is considered as an informant of the Little Rock Field Division. The above conversations should be kept in mind when contact is made with Mr. Noble hereafter.

Respectfully submitted,

D. P. Sullivan  
D. P. Sullivan  
Special Agent

TAP OUT #2115 (K.S.)  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Plant at 205 1/2 Cedar St.

2-7-37

10:27 <sup>A.M.</sup> In on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: "Hello."

Woman: "Is Mr. Lout in?"

Jacobs: "You have the wrong number."

NOTE

11:28 A.M. Out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: "Give me Western Union."

W. U.: "This is Western Union."

Jacobs: "Let me speak to Mr. Noble."

W. U.: "Sorry he's on the other phone, will you  
leave your number?"

Jacobs: "Yes, 2115."

(1)

2-7-37

NOTE

11:32 A.M.

In on 21N

J.M.S.

JACOBS: "Hello."

NOBLE: "This is Noble."

JACOBS: "Mr. Noble, Jacobs, were you trying to find me yesterday?"

NOBLE: "Yes I was Mr. Jacobs, they summoned me over to that hearing yesterday to testify, while I was there I got some information that will be of interest & value to you. I wanted to meet you to tell you this and also to talk to you."

JACOBS: "Ok. - good, I'll run in to see you."

Noble: "Will you let me know when?"

JACOBS: "Yes - thank you, goodbye."

2-7-37

5:20 P.M. out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Called 2184  
(No Answer)

5:42 P.M. out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Called 2184  
(No Answer)

6:05 P.M. out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Called 2184  
(No Answer)

(3)

2-7-37

6:55 P.M. In on #2115 J.M.J.

Gladys: "Jake"

Jacobs: "Yes who is this"

Gladys: "Gladys"

Jacobs: "OK I'll see you in 1/2 hour"

7:15 P.M. In on #2115

Party calling identified himself as Fred or Ted

Fred: "Hello who is up there anybody"

Jake: "No"

Fred: "OK I'll be up in a minute"

Jake: "OK"

7:38 P.M. Out on #2115 J.M.J.

Man called #2393 (Residence - Marion Anderson)

Man "Kids OK"

Woman "Yes - What's all the ambulances"

Man "I don't know"

Woman "Where are you"

Man "I'll be out at Georges in a minute"

(4)



2-7-37

9:05 P.M.

In on #2115

*Ind*

Girl: "Is there?"

Jacobs: "No"

Girl: "Has he been there this evening?"

Jacobs: "Not yet"

Girl: "OK when he gets there have him call  
us will you?"

Jacobs: OK.

10:55 P.M.

In on #2115

Woman calling - told Jacobs she and Bud were  
going home for a few days and were leaving  
tonight

Jacobs "That's all right it don't bother me"

Woman "I just thought I'd tell you"

Jacobs "It don't bother me"

Woman hung up.

2-8-37

9:32 A.M.

In on #2115

J. R. J.

NOTE - "Nick" is probably Fred Nickels,  
manager of the Chicago Club.

"Nick" called Jacobs and advised him that 2 or 3 fellows in town were trying to sell a "wire service" that these men were strangers. Nick claimed to have been approached by one of these men who stated the service was supplied through the "other" telegraph Co. Jacobs seemed somewhat concerned about the matter and asked Nick to find out more about the deal and where these strangers "hung out". Jacobs also advised Nick that he was "sort of laying low" around the house as he heard "they" might try and serve a paper on him to appear in Little Rock before the committee.

11:25 A.M.

In on #2115

J. R. J.

Party calling said he had some Ohio Club money \$973.<sup>00</sup> most from Tom Tracy and horse money - asked Jacobs should he give Henry 10%.

Jacobs "That's most horse money, I guess - very little dice money - Yes give Henry 10%, take yours and send the rest up." At this time Jacob repeated statements about staying home to avoid a paper but that he intended going out later - Stated even



if he had to appear they could only ask him as to money losses and he wouldn't know anything about those items.

11:50 A.M. Out on # 2115 J. M. J.

Jacob called #648

Jacob - "Did you get back"

Mayor - "Yes"

Jacob - "I heard you got jailed - anything new"

Mayor - "No"

Jacob - "Saw by the paper they intended giving me a paper"

Mayor - "Yes I read about that in the Memphis papers" "Where are you at 2:30"

Jacob - "Well we generally work on the books from 12:00 to 2:30 P. M."

Mayor - "OK I'll call you then"

11:55 A.M. Out on # 2115 J. M. J.

Jacob called #3876 asked for Miss Smith  
Not In

2-8-37

12:08 P.M.

In on #2115 J.H.J.

Gil calling spoke to "Johnny" told him Dick was in town and trying to reach him - Dick at present at <sup>(HON. WEYLAND)</sup> how Weyland's house 903 Ward Telephone #3736

2:10 P.M.

Out on #2115 J.H.J.

"Johnny" called 3236 asked for Dick Windson and held general conversation re "Dick's" stay in town - Dick stated he only would be in town 2 or 3 days - Made date for 2:30 P.M. at "Johnny's" place.

12:45 P.M.

Out on #2115 J.H.J.

Johnny Morris called #3700 and asked book-keeper for amount of Belvoir Dairy Statement Gil advised \$116.10 less 10% - Mr Jacobs bill \$21.00

1:00 P.M.

In on #2115 J.H.J. (Arthur Ledgerwood)

Gil called Johnny and told him Art Ledger wanted to see him in his (Ledger's) office at 2:00 P.M.

2-8-37

1:26 P.M.

Out on #2115 I.M.J.

Johnny Morris called #2526 and spoke to Miss McHaw asking her if she had picked up the wrong pad in error when she was up to the office in Jacobs house — Miss McHaw found pad Johnny was referring to but told him there were no notations on it.

1:33 P.M.

Out on #2115 I.M.J.

Johnny Morris called 1065 asked for Mr. Gilkey (phone Southern Bell Stand)  
Johnny Morris "This is Morris I make out Mr. Jacobs income tax return - What is the amount of that debt he wants to deduct it?"

Mr. Gilkey: "Do you want to make it a couple of thousand?"

Johnny: "No I want to make it what it is"

Mr. Gilkey: "575.00"

Johnny: "OK thanks"

2:00 P.M.

Out on #2115

I.M.J.

Maid called #2346 W and spoke to Marie - Personal conversation - Ellen said "He has just gone" during this conversation

2-8-37

2:70 P.M.

In on #2115 Inf.

Call for Jacobs - Not In  
Sounded like Mayor calling - He discomm.  
and called #1065

6:35 P.M.

Out on #2115 Inf.

'Roscoe' called Jackie Smith at the Hotel  
Lindberg Miami Fla

Roscoe: "Hello Jackie"

Jackie: "Hello Roscoe I wired you again today - Here  
is the set up - they are going to open up again but for  
you to open will be quite expensive I'll give you the  
setup - \$1000. # flat rate for 10 days rent to the hotel.  
This fellow in my room wants 40% - The fines are  
\$500. # a week - There are 450 guests in the hotel  
all Jewish - retired - and all like to gamble

Roscoe: "\$1000. # for fix?"

Jackie: "No for rent - The hotel supplies  
music and entertainment etc. - \$1000. # when  
you open up and \$100 a day after the first 10  
days

Roscoe: "What about the fix?"

2-8-37

6:35 P.M. call continued #2 Aug.

Jackie: "That's all right - nothing - At 3:00 P.M. I got the O.K. - Every one is going to open. - Lefty Clark Williams of New York - And "Home Boy" is opening the Palmolive Club. - If anything happens they will only close you up - no pinch and you won't loose your tools."

Roscoe: "What are the other expenses - Can I bring my own men or do we have to hire them down there?"

Jackie: "Well I think it would be better if you hired about three down here"

Roscoe: "What is their salary?"

Jackie: "About \$10 or \$15 a day - if I were you I would pay them about \$15. #"

Roscoe: "That's all right but of course we will use our own men also." "Wait Jacob will talk to you."

Jacob: "What sort of entertainment have they got"

Jackie: "The hotel supplies band - singer and table entertainment" "450 guests in hotel and no additional rooms available"

2-8-37

6:35 P.M. call continued #3 *Just*

Jacob: "What do you want out of this"

Jackie: "Nothing for me at all - maybe after you get down here I will take 10% but I will put my money up for it"

Jacob: "What is that fellow putting up for the 40% he wants"

Jackie: "Nothing" "You can get your tools down here if you want to - This fellow says you need 2 wheels - a crap table and a black jack table"

Jacob: "What kind of a room is it and where"

Jackie: "It's a small ground floor room about 20ft from the dance floor"

Jacob: "I think they had 6 wheels in there before"

Jackie: "They did but the room has been cut down and will only hold 2 wheels - Crap table & black jack table"

Jacob: "Ok find out how much it will cost to rent the tools and wire up here tonight - I'll wire you tomorrow" "Can we book the horses there"

Jackie: "I think so but they have been pulling them in for it"

Jacob: "Who is the prosecutor?"

2-8-37

6:35 P.M. call continued #4 Jmf.

Jackie: "Zigler - Zigler said OK this morning about 3:00 A.M. -"

Jacob: "Where is Taylor"

Jackie: "He is prosecutor at Miami not at the beach" "The beach don't have any"

Jacob: - "It must - who is state prosecutor"

Jackie: - "I don't know - Rubel is city attorney and does all that work - something like Sonny Davis up there." "Don't worry I can assure you there will be no arrests the most they'll do is close you up."

Jacob - "OK"

Roscoe - "OK Jackie - wire me tonight - night letter and I will answer you in the morning -"

6:55 P.M. Out on #2115 Jmf.

Roscoe called #210 (Ohio Cigar Store)

Asked for Henry - "Up stairs now"

Roscoe "OK tell him to call me when he comes down - #2115 -"

"OK"



2-8-37

7:00 P.M. In on #2115 J.A.J.

Party calling, may have been Henry referred to in 6:55 P.M. call, asked for Roscoe

Roscoe: "Last races in yet?"

Party: "Yes" - (proceeded to give results of races)

7:01 P.M. Out on #2115 J.A.J.

Party called #1424 (Residence Roscoe Johnson)

Party calling advised woman on #1424 that her husband would be right home then bid her good bye as he was leaving the city.

Woman: "Then the deals off?"

Man: "I don't know"

Woman: "Well I thought if they went down there you would handle things here"

Man: "I don't know what's doing yet"



2-8-37

7:10 P.M. Out on #2115 J.A.J.

Jacob called #600 (Mayors residence.)

Jacob: "Are you still living?" - I was wondering if you went over there?

Party called: - "No I didn't - Are you going to be around for awhile?"

Jacob: "Yes"

Party C. "OK I'll see you"

7:40 P.M. In on #2115 J.A.J.

Woman asked Jacob if Leo was there

Jacob "Yes"

Woman (Talking to Leo) "Rasberry called you he is down the station and I told him I'd let you know" Leo - "OK"

7:42 P.M. Out on #2115 J.A.J.

Leo called #446 and spoke to Rasberry who asked if Leo had tried to get him before as there was so much noise in the station house that when he got to the phone the party had hung up — Leo "No"

2-8-37

8:23 P.M.

Out on #2115

Inf

Mayor called 133

Romancing with woman who answered

8:30 P.M.

Out on #2115

Mr. J.

Mayor called #3700 asked for "Bob"

(Sentinel Record - New Orleans newspaper)

(Bob Dean)

Bob: "Anything new?"

Mayor: "No nothing"

Bob: "I tried to check on Nichols" and asked Albright if any rangers had been over here"

Leo: "That was about 12 or shortly thereafter The car had Michigan license plates - 2 men one very large with glasses"

Bob: "That couldn't be the fellow named Witt?"  
"Maybe it some private investigator"

Leo: "I think some one loaned them a car in case they got tailed"

Bob: "Akers was telling me someone was around saying they were doing some investigation for him."

Leo: "Yes - They had come one up before then and said 'a couple of our men found this man'

-11-

2-8-37

8:30 P.M. call continued #2 J. H. J.

in a ditch" — A nigger woman whose house burned down last September told me (see) that some man spoke to her and wanted her to go before the committee and tell that Akers had carried her to jail naked but she told him she only was missing her shoes & stockings.

Bob - "Yes I hear something like that" About that girl Betty did you tell them she was arrested a couple of times before"

Leo: "No I said they had better look up her record."

Bob: "Then I better not say anything about that for awhile"

Leo "No" — Say that vote on the racing looks good —

Bob "Yes It does"

Leo: - OK then

2-8-37

8:35 P.M. Out on #2115 Ind.

Jacob calling a Mr. Louis Solosky or Prolosky an attorney in Little Rock - told H. D. operator to get him at the Albert Pike Hotel, where he is registered, or page him in the lobby of the Hotel Marion, Little Rock.

Jacob: "Hello - are you in jail yet?"

Louis: "No - I saw 'Dick' up here and there are about 300 Central Ave. merchants here also. They wouldn't let the Lt. Governor in even."

I found out that Griffin Smith issued that warrant then they told the governor - that put him on the spot and he couldn't do a thing about it."

Jacob: "Yes I know Scott Woods and Witt got the warrant."

Louis: "Yes he told me he didn't know a thing till about 4:30 and then he was on the spot."

Jacob: "Well can't do anything now"

Louis: "I think the committee will prefer charges against the judge"

2-8-37

8:35 P.M. Call continued #2 J W J.

Jacob: "Well I hear it will be a close vote 3-2 or something like that"

Lewis: "Well they almost had a fight he insisted upon coming in there - don't know if it will do any good" Guess they will impeach him alright"

Jacob "Were to bad that's all but nothing we can do about it" "The racing bill passed today I guess the administration ordered it"

Lewis "I don't know"

Jacob "Well I was wondering if you heard anything that's why I called"

Lewis "No the hotel is very quite everyone is trying to get in up at the meeting"

Jacob "OK then Bye"

11:50 P.M. Out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Called 3700

Man: "New Era."

Jacobs: "Will you see if Mayor McLaughlin  
is anywhere around there."

Man: "No he's not."

Jacobs: "Thank you."

While Jacobs was waiting for the operator to ring he turned around and spoke to a party named "Dutch", he said "Dutch, I think its"---- the voice at the other end of the line came in and he did not get to finish. This was evidently Dutch Akers, Chief of Detectives in the room with him.

2-9-37

12:05 A.M. In on 2115

P.M.S.

Jacobs: "Hello."

MAN: "Jake, this is Leo (phonetic) it looks like his testimony was all right, he's out now."

Jacobs: "Did he say anything to hurt the 'old man'?"

MAN: "No, he didn't but Sid. Haupt is up now."

Jacobs: "Does it look like he's gonna be bad, Dutch Akers said he thought he would testify against Judge Witt."

MAN: "Yes, it looks like he is gonna be bad, he said Judge Witt had been out there to the Club."

Jacobs: "Do you think he has?"

MAN: "Now I don't think so, but it looks bad. There'll be a streamer out at one o'clock about it, want me to call you back?"

Jacobs: "No, I'm going to bed now."

2-9-37

12:05 A.M. (#2 Cont'd.)

MARY: "Well I hated to bother you but I knew you were interested."

JACOB: "Oh, that's all right, I'm glad you did, has Archer been on the stand yet."

MARY: "No, he's waiting to testify now."

NOTE. Sid Haupt was formerly sheriff of Garland Co.  
"ARCHER" refers to Arthur Ledgerwood, brother  
of Municipal Judge Vern Ledgerwood.



2-9-37

9:40 A.M. out on 2115

B.M.S.

Ella, the maid, called St. Marc's (phonetic)  
office, 1123, he was out.  
(hinted to Dr. McKinley Voorhes, 420 Melvins)

9:54 A.M. out on 2115

B.M.S.

Ella, the maid, called 3012, the laundry.  
(Modern Laundry & Cleaners, 215 3rd)

10:58 A.M. out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: ~~out~~ Called 1065 (Southern News Stand)

Woman: "Southern."

Jacobs: "This is Jacobs, see if I have a letter from  
Houston."

Woman: "No you haven't but you have one  
from Pasadena."

Jacobs: "Well that's probably some of the  
boys wanting something."

Woman: "Oh yes, Roscoe told me to tell you  
he got a telegram saying "Don't come."

Jacobs: "That's fine, thanks."

2-9-37

11:04 A.M. Out on 2115

B.M.S.

JACOBS: "1065."

WOMAN: "Southern."

JACOBS: "Would you mind tearing open that Pasadena letter and seeing what's in it for me."

WOMAN: "Just a minute," (pause) "it says 'Hello dear' 'We leave Pasadena today for Birmingham, we'll get there Sunday' signed 'Wifey'."

JACOBS: "That letter was evidently meant for some of the other boys, not me."

WOMAN: "Yes, evidently."

JACOBS: "Oh. Thanks."

11:08 A.M. Out on 2115

B.M.S.

JACOBS: Called 743. (Office of Judge Vera Edgewood)

JUDGE: "Hello."

JACOBS: "Hello Judge, listen if that boy needs any more money before he gets out let him have it and I'll pay you back."

JUDGE: "All right, I'll do that."

2-9-37

11:08 - A.M. Cont'd 2<sup>nd</sup> page-

LMS.

JACOBS: "Thanks."

JUDGE: "You know our mutual friend <sup>(Sam Watt)</sup> we were  
afraid of, well he was pretty good, his  
testimony was all right."

JACOBS: "I heard that."

JUDGE: "Well I think he wanted to say something  
but just didn't have the 'guts.'" "I just  
left him a few minutes ago, he's all right."

JACOBS: "I think probably he went back in a  
room and had a little drink before he  
was called in." "It worked fine."

JUDGE: "Yeah, well I'll see you later."

JACOBS: "O.K. Judge."

2-9-37

11:21 A.M.

out on 2115

B.M.S.

JACOBS:

Called Joe Poloski or Pulaski at 47251  
Little Rock, Ark.

Poloski:

"Hello."

JACOBS:

"Hears the scandal over there this morning."

Poloski:

"Don't know yet, I haven't been out yet."

JACOBS:

"The Little Rock papers are full of it."

Poloski:

"Yeah - I'm going out after lunch and see  
what I can hear."

JACOBS:

"Judge was telling me this morning that  
he had several hundred letters & calls  
from people about getting a committee  
of three to four hundred to go over  
to Little Rock, the merchants here are  
hat, any thing's liable to happen, it  
needs some cool heads to deal with  
the situation."

Poloski:

"If you're right, a committee like  
that wouldn't get anywhere."

JACOBS:

"You know that fellow that accused  
Witt of gambling at my place, he's a

7-9-37

11:21 A.M. (L.D. call cont'd - page 2) m 2115

P.M.S.

JACOBS: killer, he murdered a man one time and besides that he was fired from my place for stealing.

Polaski: Is that right?

JACOBS: "Yeah. that fellow lied. Witt never gambled at my place in his life."

Polaski: "Well if I hear anything I'll let you know."

JACOBS: "Ok. Friend."

P.M.

12:11 ~~11:11~~

In on 2115

P.M.S.

Johnny: "Hello."

OTHO: "Johnny this is Otho, is Mr Jacobs busy?"

Johnny: "No just a minute"

JACOBS: "Hello."

Otho: "Mr Jacobs, what about the payroll, do you want me to deposit all the money."

2-9-37

12:11 P.M. ~~At~~ (call cont'd) In on 2115

J.M.S.

JACOBS: "Clean everything up, deposit everything, we pay by check any how. Just a minute Johnny wants to talk to you."

JOHNNY: "Otto, I bought a new book for this months business, when that bill comes in from Whalens, pay it, it'll be about \$4.<sup>00</sup>"

OTTO: "Ok. Johnny."

12:16 P.M. In on 2115

J.M.S.

SMITTY: "Hello."

OTTO: "Mr. Jacobs?"

SMITTY: "No this is Smitty."

OTTO: "Johnny lemme talk to Mr Jacobs again."

JACOBS: "All right."

OTTO: "Glad to bother you, but what about the \$70.<sup>00</sup> I've got on that machine?"

JACOBS: "Deposit it, keep what you've got, we aint gonna get the rest of it anyhow, he aint gonna pay, we'll write him a letter and sue and get it."

2-9-37

12:26 P.M.

Out on 2115

Ans.

Johnny: Called 1065 (Southern News Stand)

Ruth: "Southern."

Johnny: "Ruth, Johnny: call Roscoe to the phone."

ROSCOE: "Hello."

Johnny: "Ros, Smitty, theres some bad checks at the bank, tell Frankie to pick em up."

ROSCOE: "Awright."

12:52 P.M.

Out on 2115

Maid called 80, line busy.

12:53 P.M.

Out on 2115

Maid called 2746 W - line busy.

12:54 P.M.

In on 2115

MAID: "Hello."

ARCH COOPER: "Is Mr Jacobs in?"

MAID: "No."

ARCH COOPER: "This is Arch Cooper maid where is Mr Jacobs?"

MAID: "He's at the Southern or Belvedere, been gone about 5 minutes."

2-9-37

12:57 P.M. Out on 2115-

BMS.

Maid calling 2746 W. Line busy.

1:01 P.M. Out on 2115

BMS.

Maid calling her sister at 80, personal conversation.

1:06 P.M. In on 2115

BMS

Maid's sister calling her, personal conversation.

1:32 P.M. Out on 2115

BMS

Maid called 2531 W

MRS ILAIBORNE: "Hello, Mrs Claiborne speaking."

Maid: "Miss Watt this is Mr Jacobs maid, I want to return your pots today."

MRS ILAIBORNE "All right, I'll be here all afternoon."

1:35 P.M. Out on 2115

BMS.

Maid called 33, ordered Red Top Taxi.



2-9-37

6:45 P.M. Out on #2115 J.H.F.

Man called Long Distance

Man "L.D. this is Mrs. H. Strong at #2115 I want  
Mrs. J.T. Earl of 15 Dollar St., San Antonio Tex.  
or she may be at the home of Mrs. Herbert  
Oliver San Antonio, Tex

L.D. attempted to place call - "No Answer"  
Man "Try again in 15 minutes"

6:50 P.M. Out on #2115 J.H.F.

Mayor called <sup>visited to J. J. Turner</sup> #637 and asked for  
"Catherine" - woman said she was not home and  
her mother (Catherine's) did not know where she  
was - (Catherine's mother is Mrs. Mullins)

6:55 P.M. Out on #2115 J.H.F.

Mayor called #1065 (Arthur Gill) and  
told man who answered that he (L.D.) would be  
outside grill in 10 minutes and Jacobs should  
step out and meet him.

6:56 P.M. Out on #2115 J.H.F.

Mayor called #1335 - No Answer.

2-9-37

7:00 P.M. In on #2115 J.M.J.

Girl: "Is he there"

Man: "No"

Girl: "Do you know where he will stop I have a telephone call for him"

Man: "No mam I do not"

7:05 P.M. In on #2115 J.M.J.

L.D. operator advises "still no answer on call to Texas"

7:12 P.M. In on #2115 J.M.J.

Man called L.D. operator and told her to try and place the Texas call at the business address of Mr. Carls. on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

7:20 P.M. In on #2115 J.M.J.

L.D. operator advises Texas call still does not answer.

7:47 P.M. In on #2115 J.M.J.

L.D. advises call may be completed at 8:00 P.M.

2-9-37

8:05 P.M.

In on #2115

L. D. operator advised Mr. Harry Strong she was unable to complete call to Mrs. Carl but that Mr. Oliver at San Antonio would speak for Mrs. Carl.

Strong: "I have been trying to get Mary or John"

Oliver: "They are at the movies and told me to speak"

Strong: "Well she wrote me as if she needed some money - Tell her if \$1000.00 will do I can send it - have her wire me tonight at 116 Cedar St."

Oliver "All right uncle - I'll war you"

Strong "Well I've been quite sick - was in the hospital at Memphis - think I will have to be operated on -"

Oliver - "That's too bad"

— Finish —

L. D. operator advised Mr. Strong charges were \$1.70 including taxes

2-9-37

8:20 P.M.

Out on # 2115 J.M.F.

Jacobs called # 3339

Jacobs "Hello Archie" (Rev. of Arch. Cooper)

Archie "Yes"

Jacobs. "Do they have to have a poll tax  
to serve

Archie "I don't know"

Jacobs "Check on that and let me know  
I have a couple of fellows who lived at Cigger  
Creek and have just moved across the line."

Archie "I'll do that in the morning -  
I think we can say this will be OK - I am  
going to have Sam as one of them."

Jacob: "Did you talk to him?"

Archie "Yes"

Jacob "OK find out about that"

Archie "OK"

N.B. The subject of the above conversation, may be the  
selection of persons, sympathetic to Arch. Cooper & the  
other dismissed police officers, to be placed on the jury  
panel in the murder case against these officers, which is set  
for trial on 2/15/37.

2-9-37

8:50 P.M.

In on #2115

J.M.J.

Calling Party "Hello Jacobs"

Jacobs "Hello how are you"

Call. P. "OK say I got in touch with that party his is going to call me between 9 and 10 in the morning then I'll get in touch with you".

Jacobs "OK"

9:08 P.M.

In on #2115

J.M.J.

L.D. operator advised that Mr Carl of San Antonio Tex was now available if the party who placed the call from #2115 still desired to talk to him.

Jacobs advised operator call was placed by Mr Strong who could be located at the Southern.

9:11 P.M.

In on #2115

J.M.J.

L.D. operator advised Jacobs that Mr Strong had placed another call to San Antonio Texas and desired same be charged to #2115

Jacobs: "OK that's alright"

2-9-37

9:15 P.M. In on #2115 Paul

Jacob: "Hello"

Dutch: "Hello" - "Dutch" "Are you busy?"

Jacob: "No why?"

Dutch: "I thought if you were by yourself I'd drive by"

Jacob: "Not doing anything - just resting but I'll get up."

Dutch: "Don't bother I don't have anything on my mind just thought I'd drive by"

Jacob: "That's alright come ahead"

Dutch: "OK"

Note - The Dutch in the above conversation, who called Jacob, undoubtedly is Herbert "Dutch" Albers.  
(See log for 1234446, indicating Albers made call from the Police Department.)

Japori #2115 (Residence W.S. Jacobs)  
116 Cedar St.

Plental 205 1/2 Cedar St.  
Hot Springs Ark

2-10-37

8:30 A.M.

In on #2115

J.M.F.

Personal conversation between Ellen  
and Marie - (maids)

Out on #2115

J.M.F.

9:00 A.M.

Ellen called #2746 W spoke to Margie -  
personal conversation during which Ellen stated her  
boss was out - Margie asked "Is Little Rock?" Ellen  
said "He said if anyone asks where I am you don't  
know" Ellen advised Margie he would be back  
in time for breakfast.

9:17 A.M.

Out on #2115

J.M.F.

Ellen called #2746 W - Personal conversation

9:42 A.M.

In on #2115

J.M.F.

Personal call to maid.

11:15 A.M.

Out on #2115

J.M.F.

Jacobs called #3339 (Arch Cooper)  
Jacobs: "Hello I see you didn't get to have any fun"  
Man: "No. they are all right here now"  
(next)



2-10-37

11:15 A.M. call continued

we are talking to two attorneys right now. I see by the papers the other side have post paid things for a while

Jacobs: All right give me a call

Man: OK

11:20 A.M.

Out on #2115

J.P.J.

Southern News Stand

Jacobs called #1065 "Asked for Roscoe

Girl: "He is upstairs"

Jacobs: "Have him call me"

11:21 A.M.

Out on #2115

J.P.J.

Jacobs called #2791 (Southern News Co.)

No Answer

11:22 A.M.

Out on #2115

J.P.J.

Jacobs called #648 (Mayor's office)

Girl advised Mayor was not in and did Jacobs want him (mayor) to call.

Jacobs "Yes on #2115"

2-10-37

11:27 A.M. In on #2115 J.H.J.

Roscoe: "Did you want me"

Jacob: "Yes - have \$750. ready - I may come down and get it or have you take it some where"

Roscoe: "OK"

11:29 A.M. In on #2115 J.H.J.

Mayor: "Did you want me"

Jacob: "Yes - are you going to see me tonight?"

Mayor: "Yes"

Jacob: "OK that's all"

11:31 A.M. In on #2115 J.H.J.

Man: "Mr Jacobs are you busy"

Jacobs: "No"

Man: "This is Oles (phonetic) I was going to bring the checks up there"

Jacobs: "OK come on up any time"

Man: "I'll be up very shortly"

2-10-37.

12:32 P.M.

Out on 2115

JMS

JACOBS:

"1065"

MAN:

"Hello"

JACOB:

"Is Roscoe there?"

MAN:

"Naw." (hanging up)

12:37 P.M.

Out on 2115

JMS.

MORRIS:

"618"

HILDA WORKMAN:

"Hello".

MORRIS:

"This is Morris of the Belvedere, is Mrs Johnson there?"

HILDA:

"No, This is Hilda Workman."

MORRIS:

"Miss Workman please make duplicate bills for W. S. Jacobs personal account, the Belvedere & Southern Club accounts, we've misplaced the bill you sent on the first. Send them to Jacobs home, Cedar St."

HILDA:

"Is that all?"

MORRIS:

"Yes."

HILDA:

"I'll fix them."

2-10-37

1:30<sup>PM</sup> Out on 211V

BMS

Maid called 80 - Personal Conversation.

2:57<sup>PM</sup> In on 211V

BMS

ELLA: "Hello".

MAN: "Ella, are you gonna be there a few minutes".

Ella: "Yes Sir".

Man: "Mr Jacobs is not there, is he?"

Ella: "No Sir".

Man: "I'll be there in a few minutes, if anyone happens to ask for me don't tell em I'm gonna be there."

Ella: "Yes Sir."

From later conversations it was learned that the man in the above conversation was "Smitty", an associate of W. S. Jacobs & the reason for his coming to Jacobs home was to avoid being served with a subpoena.

2-10-37

3:07 P.M.

Out on 2115

Bms

Smitty: "3876" (Capt. Wm. J. Smith 1135 Central)

Woman: "Hello."

Smitty: "I'm up at Jakes, they're trying to serve a subpoena on me."

Woman: "You're just as safe at home."

Smitty: "No I'm not, Watt came by but I screwed out on him, they might look for me at home but they won't think about looking here."

Woman: "Will you be home at 5?"

Smitty: "No, you all go ahead and eat, I'll stay here till 6:30 or 7:00, the Committee meets at 7:00 it'll be too late to serve me then."

Woman: "Is Watt with you?"

Smitty: "Hell naw, he's the one I'm avoiding." "If they look for me at home, call me here and lemme know."

Woman: "All right."

2-10-37

3:21 P.M. In On 2115

End.

Smitty: "Hello".

Eble: "Is this Mr Jacobs?"

Smitty: "Who is this?"

Eble: "Eble, who is this?"

Smitty: "This is Smitty, Eble."

Eble: "What you 'Cap'?"

Smitty: "Yeah."

Eble: "I want see you right now."

Smitty: "Why? you got a subpoena for me?"

Eble: "Naw, but they've got one for me,  
that's what I want to talk to  
you about."

Smitty: "OK come on up."

Eble: "I'll be right up."

2-10-37

4:50 P.M.

Out on #2115

Smitty called #1065 (Southern Kew Stand)

Smitty: "Any one show up there"

Roscoe: "No"

Smitty: "Well I wasn't going to stay there I thought Watt was going to put me on the spot - asking me to sit with him" Doing any business?

Roscoe: "A few"

Smitty: "How are you making out"

Roscoe: "Don't know havn't checked yet"

4:51 P.M.

Out on #2115

apt. Wm F. Smith

Smitty called #3876 spoke to woman and asked if there had been any visitors

Woman: "No"

Smitty: "I have company now Harry is here"

Woman spoke of some beer in the house and made remark he should come home through Grand St.

Smitty: "Nothing doing I just want to outsmart this guy"



2-10-37

5:40 P.M.

Out on #2115

Woman called for Leo - "Not here"  
"Have him call up when he comes"

6:00 P.M.

Out on #2115

Smitty called #3876 and asked woman  
to have some one come and take him home.

8:20 P.M.

Out on 2115

Bm8

Mayor McLaughlin called 3700.

Man:

"Hello"

Hot Springs Sentinel-Record

Mayor:

"This is Leo, where there?"

Man:

"Rush Bud."

Mayor:

"Let me speak to Bud." &

Bud:

"Hello Mayor."

Mayor:

"What do you know Bud?"

Bud:

"Nothing yet Mayor, Eble's over there now,  
they served him with a subpoena today."

Mayor:

"Is that right?" "They want him on  
the Dickson Case I reckon."

Bud:

"He don't know anything."

Mayor:

"Well, I'll call you later."

12-11-37

9:23 A.M. In on 2115

Bms.

JACOBS: "Hello".

MAN: "I've got those things ready Mr Jacobs."

JACOBS: "I went to see you before they're mailed, I might have a couple more of announcements to make."

MAN: "OK I'll see you about 11:30"

9:37 AM Out on 2115

Bms

JACOBS: Called 743 but hung up before the party at 743 answered.

9:38 AM Out on 2115

Bms

JACOBS: "648"

Woman: "Mayors Office."

JACOBS: "Is the Judge in there?"

Woman: "No, I guess you'll find him at 743."

JACOBS: "Thanks."

2-11-37

9:40 a.m. In on 2115

Brms

Jacobs:

"Hello."

Man:

"Maybe I'd better meet you at the restaurant at 11:30 instead of your house, don't you think that would be better?"

Jacobs:

"Well, all right, I'll try to be there."

12:20 P.M.

Out on #2115

J.M.F.

Called #1557

Operator "That number has been disconnected"

12:25 P.M.

Out on #2115

J.M.F.

Jacob called #2442

Spoke to man re: purchase of 2 or 3 bags of Corien (phonetic) for some land of his which is being cultivated at the present time.

2-11-37

12:40 P.M.

In on #2115

J.H.J.

Mr. Bernard Machino (phonetic) of Memphis Tenn called on Long distance - after exchange of personal greetings etc -

Bernard - Say that Chairman of the racing commission Hilliard is a personal friend of mine - you know he was one of Bailey's first appointees - he lives at Winn Lake. - He is a right guy and if you want to talk to him you can give me as a reference. - I asked him if he knew you and that any favor shown you would be appreciated.  
Jacob - "Thanks I sure need it"

Bernard - "You can contact him if you want to and say I told you to look him up" "He told me things may come out OK for you"

Jacob - "Thanks that's fine"

Bernard - "Give my regards to Harry"

Jacob "OK good bye"

12:50 P.M.

Out on #2115

J.H.J.

Jacob called 1065 asked Roscoe to look up amount Phillips owed at Chicago Club as he wanted to charge it off on his Tax return

2-11-37

12:55 P.M.

In on #2115 J.M.F.

Incall - Roscoe advised Phillips owed \$500.00 as of 7-15 — \$500 on books and \$150. — for wire service.

Jacob's "That's right I knew it was a little over \$1100.00"

1:00 P.M.

In on #2115 J.M.F.

Woman called Johnny and asked for lend of his car this afternoon — Johnny told her to call him at the office later.

1:30 P.M.

In on 2/15

J.M.F.

No one answered.

1:40 P.M.

Out on 2/15

Was.

Maid

Called 80 (Dr. Carmack's Office) and asked for Nora. Said she was Nora's mother. Nora was not in and maid requested Nora to call her.

2-11-37.

2:05 P.m.

In on 2115

Hot.

Woman inquired what place  
this was. Maid:- Mr. Jacobs  
residence. Woman:- Does Leo  
McLaughlin happen to be there?  
Maid:- "No, he isn't."

2:38 P.M.

In on 2115.

No one answered.

4:10 P.M.

In on #2115

Mr. Young calling Jacobs  
Ellan: "Not In"

6:30 P.m.

Out on 2115

Hot.

Maid called 2746-W;  
spoke to "Nan" - Told him to  
tell Margurite to get her  
white dress out of trunk  
and arrange for pressing -  
"Nan" - ok.

2-11-37

7:25 P.M.

Out on 2115

JMS.

MAN: Called 2184

SALLY: "Hello."

MAN: "Hello, Sally?"

SALLY: "Yeah."

MAN: "Wanna take on a bowl of soup."

SALLY: "Yeah."

MAN: "All right, in about an hour."

The "Man" in the above call was probably Walter M. Ebel of 519 S. Border St., Hot Springs, a close friend of Jacobs, as subsequent conversations reflect Ebel was at Jacobs house at this time.

7:28 P.M.

Out on 2115

JMS.

JACOBS: Called 1993

ANNA: "Hello."

JACOBS: "Miss Anna Howard please."

ANNA: "Who do you think this is?" (Laughs)

JACOBS: "Whatcha gonna do after while."

ANNA: "Nuttin."

(cont'd next page)



2-11-37

7:28 P.M. (Cont'd.)

Bms

JACOBS: "You wanna go places."

ANNA: "Sure, if you don't stand me up like you did last time."

JACOBS: "I'll call you back in 30 minutes."

ANNA: "Oke deke."

8:02 P.M. Out on 2115

Bms

JACOBS: "1993."

ANNA: "Hello."

JACOBS: "We need about four girls over here."

ANNA: "Oh Yeah!"

JACOBS: "That's right, the Government regulations say we got to have a cook, a chambermaid, a house maid and a house girl."

ANNA: "Wouldn't I do."

JACOBS: "Yeah, Ebels over here, we just finished supper, he says we need 5 girls, I told him he wouldn't need 4 or 5 like you, you could j---z all 5 of them."

8:02 <sup>P.M.</sup> - Contd. (Out on 2115)

Bms.

ANNA: "Well if he heard what you just said you tell him you were talking to a gal name Smith."

JACOBS: "Well you could, couldn't you?"

ANNA: "I don't want but one at a time."

JACOBS: "Wouldn't you go with all of them?"

ANNA: "Now, only one, that's you." (Laughs)

JACOBS: "Atta kid." "Say how would you like to go to Glenwood?"

ANNA: "Swell, and then to Caddo, for a swim."

JACOBS: "I'll be by to git cha in thirty minutes."

ANNA: "That'll be swell."

The woman named Anna is evidently Miss Anna Howard, 824 W. Grand, Hot Springs, Ark.

2-11-37

8:25 P.M. In on 2115

BMS.

Jacobs: "Hello."

Mayor: "Have you heard anything?"

Jacobs: "Yeah, have you?"

Mayor: "Yeah, some folks went over tonight that I've been wanting to go."

Jacobs: "Yeah, and some folks went over to the other side today."

Mayor: "So I heard."

Jacobs: "You know this fellow Ebol, I was just getting first hand dope from him when you called, I don't want my lack of education to get this information mixed up, let me get it straight from Ebol." He called Ebol and asked him to tell the party on the other end of the wire what happened this morning.

Ebol: "Well this Wilson woman was testifying and they said her testimony was hearsay evidence gathered from friends unless she had direct evidence to get off the stand."

2-11-37

8:25 P.M. Cont'd. (page v)

Bms.

Jacobs: "Did you hear what Ebel said."

Mayor: "Yeah, she's just an old Cauntry woman."

Jacobs: "Ebel tells me Ray, Nantire (phonetic) and some others have gone over tonight."

Mayor: "Yeah, I told 'Jim' to sit in and listen to everything." "How about that other thing, did you do that today?"

Jacobs: "You mean Verne (Phonetic), yeah we gave him one, two, three today, he's all right now." "What was that some friend told you?"

Mayor: "Some friends told me about Taylor, he wanted Winsey (phonetic), Means 'em Witt impeached."

Jacobs: "He's a damn fool."

Mayor: "Yeah, I heard a lot of them were playing both sides. Watt is playing both sides, I was talking to him today. He says that over at the

2-11-37

8:25 PM (Cont'd - page 3)

Bms

Mayor: Gazette today when Bailey walked on they were all for Bailey that's natural I reckon but the folks over in Little Rock are getting God damn disgusted with the committee. They are beginning to see the whole thing is just a political battle between the "outs" and the "ins."

Jacobs: "I'm glad those folks went over there tonight."

Mayor: "It's perfect, damn em, they're in middle of the pot now and boiling like hell."

Jacobs: "Yeah, and Ed Ebel says Walter Boys (Phonetic) over at the Gazette said Wells was the whole show, said Smith "Wells went over but Work side stepped."

2-11-37

8:25 PM (Cont'd page 4)

Bms

Mayor: "Personally I think they are all God damn anxious to find out why you and I are such good friends, they've been trying to figure it out for 15 years. They can't figure how you are my friend if I'm not tied up in gambling."

Jacobs: "They're crazy. By the way two of the boys came up to the Ohio today and ask if we were booking horses there, they told em no, then they said they better get them two wheels out."

Mayor: "Well that's all right, I'll see about that later."

Jacobs: "Well I'll see you later."

Mayor: "All right."

*The Commercial Appeal*  
*Memphis, Tenn.*  
*Feb. 5, 1937*

## M'LAUGHLIN DEFENDS HOT SPRINGS REGIME

Resort Mayor Claims Backing  
of Spa Citizens

### RESIGNATION STEP DENIED

Voters Will Decide in April on  
Retention of Executive—  
Head of Ministerial Association  
Denies Revenue Action

By The Associated Press

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 4.—Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin replied today to published reports that a delegation of business men would ask his resignation with the assertion that the people of Hot Springs are "for the administration."

He said no such delegation appeared, that he had no intention of resigning, and would be a candidate for re-election in April.

"The local newspapers have closely checked nearly all prominent business people," said the mayor, "and find that they not only failed to have any knowledge of the so-called meeting of business men, but on the other hand expressed themselves as being supporters of the administration."

#### Fails to Appear

"I arrived at my office early this morning, waiting for the so-called committee. . . . No such committee has appeared. On the other hand my office has been thronged with business men all morning who have stated that the people of Hot Springs are overwhelmingly for the administration."

There has been an investigation into the conduct of officials of this district and as yet there is no evidence against any of the officials, except whispering political enemies behind closed doors.

"The people elected me to the mayor's office and the people will have an opportunity to take it from me in the April election if they desire. It is ridiculous to think I would be weak enough to resign. Those who desire to remove me will have an opportunity in April when I will be a candidate for re-election."

#### No Knowledge of Vote

Rabbi A. B. Rhine, president of the Hot Springs Ministerial Association, announced today he had no knowledge of a resolution adopted by the association opposing collection of revenues for the city from "other than honorable and lawful sources." He said he wasn't at a meeting of the group yesterday when the resolution was voted upon.

Mayor McLaughlin told the city council Monday night that Hot Springs faced a financial crisis through loss of money received in fines from bookmaking establishments, which he said netted the city \$21,500 in 1936.

State revenue officers in week end raids confiscated and later burned three truckloads of gambling equipment taken from Hot Springs night spots.

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Informed legislative sources said the House committee named to investigate law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and its judicial district held a further secret meeting tonight and the first public hearing in connection with the investigation may be held tomorrow night.

No statement was forthcoming from the committee, which has bound itself to make no statements except written ones, signed by all five members.

## DEFEAT IS PREDICTED FOR ANTI-RACING BILL

Arkansas Proposal To Be  
Called Up Today

From The Commercial Appeal  
Little Rock Bureau

BY W. D. SISSON

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 4.—Defeat of a bill for repeal of legalized horse racing when it is called up in the House tomorrow was predicted tonight.

Reliable sources said the delegation from Hot Springs has been busy for several days lining up votes in opposition and have sufficient promises to make its defeat certain.

With the spring race meet scheduled to open March 1 at Oaklawn, the Hot Springs representatives are said to be anxious to get the bill defeated so they can step up their advertising for the tourist trade. This trade is said to have been injured by the House investigation of alleged lawless conditions in Hot Springs.

The House committee will hold its first open session since beginning the investigation tomorrow night when several prominent Hot Springs residents are expected to appear and testify concerning alleged lawless conditions in their city under the regime of Mayor McLaughlin.

7-576-3-15



*The Commercial Appeal*  
*Memphis, Tenn.*  
*Feb. 6, 1937*

## HOT SPRINGS CITIZENS HEARD BY COMMITTEE IN FIRST OPEN SESSION

Law Enforcement Inquiry  
Turns to Testimony of Spa  
City's Residents

NEWSPAPER MEN INVITED

Witnesses Reported Unafraid  
To Speak Now

INVESTIGATION NEARS END

Report May Be Given Arkan-  
sas House Next Week—  
Mayor McLaughlin Confers  
With Legislators

From The Commercial Appeal  
Little Rock Bureau

BY W. D. Sisson

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 5.—Nearing the end of an investigation into law enforcement in Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, a special House committee tonight heard testimony from several Hot Springs residents in the first open session here.

Terming the investigation "at a point where Hot Springs people feel safe in talking to us," the committee's hearing tonight followed recent seizure and burning of \$15,000 worth of gambling equipment in the resort city.

### Open Meeting Held

The meeting in the office of John Thompson, the committee's lawyer, was attended by newspaper men. The public was not invited because of the lack of space. Other sessions have been held in secret because the committee said "witnesses were afraid for it to be known they had been talking."

Opinion here is that the committee will wind up its work early next week and present its report to the House a few days later, probably before the end of next week.

Mayor McLaughlin of Hot Springs spent all of today in Little Rock conferring with Representatives Maner and Campbell of Hot Springs.

So far highlights of the investigation have been a raid by state rangers the day the committee was created, when several night clubs and gambling houses were visited, and the raid last week end, when gambling equipment was confiscated and later burned in Fair Park here.

### Officials Testify

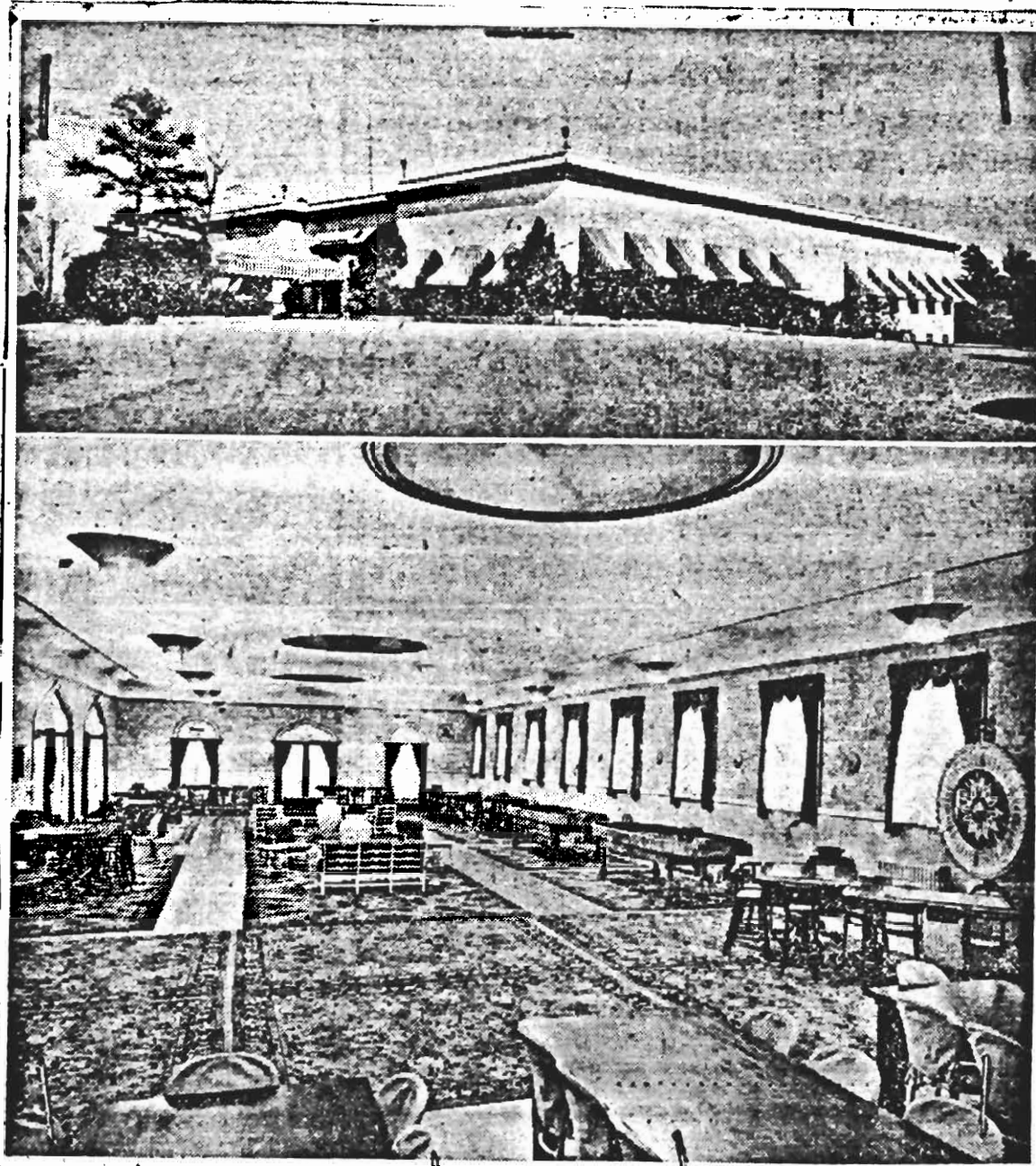
Mayor McLaughlin and Circuit Judge Earl Witt have already testified before the committee in secret session. Judge Witt was one of the chief targets of the resolution authorizing the investigation. The resolution was sponsored by Representative W. M. Thompson and Representative Lee Nichols.

The probe followed closely the death in Hot Springs of John Dickson, city jail prisoner. Dickson's father claimed he had been beaten. The investigation also centered around gambling practices at the resort and the official acts of officers, both in Hot Springs and the district.

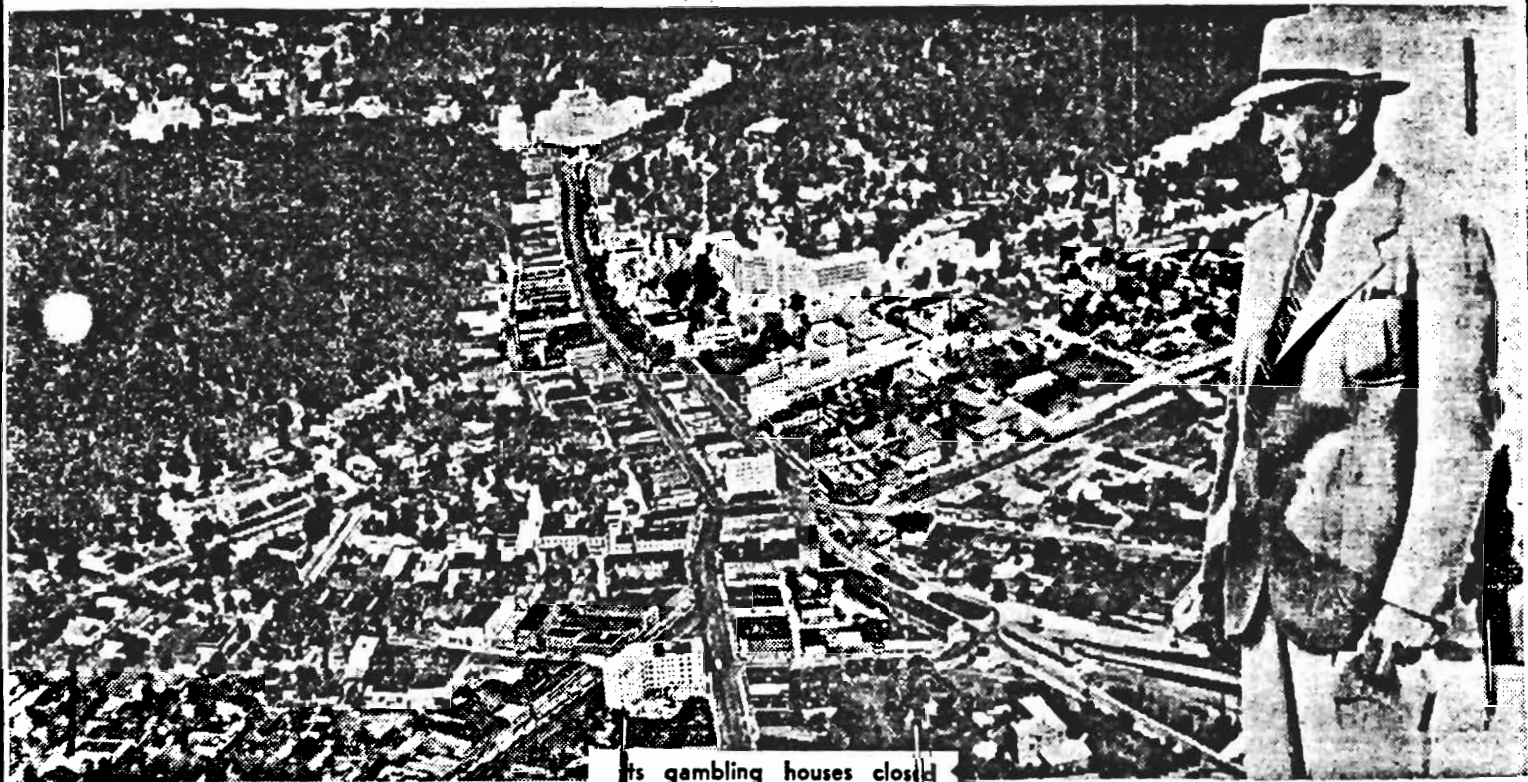
Mayor McLaughlin said several days ago that the city was losing \$30,000 a year in fines from the gambling places and that the loss to the city in that revenue would have to be replaced through some other source.

Following the Dickson death, Judge Witt offered in a letter to former Judge Scott Wood to step down from the bench in the trial of seven policemen charged with Dickson's death, but Wood answered that the principal need was "to take fear from the hearts of witnesses" in the case.

*The Commercial Appeal*  
*Memphis, Tennessee*  
*Feb. 7, 1937*



Lower shows the Club Belvedere, most famous of the gambling clubs here. The other view shows the gambling room at Belvedere.



Its gambling houses closed for the present, Hot Springs, famed resort city of Arkansas, today awaits the result of a House committee investigation into reported lawless conditions. An air view of the city is seen at the upper left. In the upper right is the city's liberal mayor, Leo P. McLaughlin.

# Hot Springs Fears Inquiry May Deprive Famous City Of Rich Resort Patronage

City Officials As Well As Gambling Operators Anxiously Await Outcome—Treasury Would Lose \$30,000 Collected Annually In Fines

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 6.—The click of the dice, the spin of the wheel and the turn of the cards stilled for the moment, this famed resort city—its liberal policy halted suddenly by a legislative investigating committee—today asked itself these questions:

What recommendations will be made to the Arkansas House by the committee named to investigate reported lawless conditions here?

Will gambling be allowed to return in the widespread manner which prevailed before the investigation began?

What effect will the inquiry have on the resort—dependent to a large degree upon out-of-state patronage?

Will the liberal city government headed by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin be able to ride through the furor created by the inquiry and return the city's affairs to "normal?"

## Impeachment Hinted

The questions were partially answered last night by the House investigators meeting in Little Rock, when a statement was issued hinting at "possible impeachment proceedings" after several Hot Springs residents were questioned at an open hearing.

The investigation is nearing an end and the committee is expected to report to the House next week and make its recommendations. Its inquiry has been marked by two raids here, the first three weeks ago; the last several nights ago when \$15,000 worth of gambling equipment—including that of the famed Belvedere and Southern clubs, owned by W. S. Jacobs, a former Memphian—was seized, carted in trucks, taken to Little Rock and burned.

The committee acted under a law passed by the first Arkansas Legislature in 1837 and the writ ordering the raid and burning of the equipment was issued by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Griffin Smith. Lawyers were unable to find a loophole to prevent such action.

Jacobs is expected to be called before the committee Monday at Little Rock.

One member said a complete audit had been made of the records received by the operators and that there were questions the committee wanted to ask about some entries on their books.

## Racing Season Nears

On the eve of a racing meet scheduled to open March 1 at Oaklawn track here, Hot Springs today looked with trepidation on the committee's activities, for along with racing each year, gambling has flourished unabated and city officials collect \$30,000 in gambling fines each year to bolster the city's treasury.

As the investigation progresses, Hot Springs again asks itself:

Is it the purpose of the inquiry to allow high state officials to settle political grudges, or have acts of lawlessness been uncovered which will prompt the committee to actually recommend impeachment proceedings against certain officials in the 18th judicial circuit, of which Hot Springs is a part, and which includes Garland and Montgomery counties?

The investigation was voted overwhelmingly by the House after a resolution charged lawless conditions existed here and in the district. One of the main factors in ordering the investigation was the death in city jail here of John Dickson, held on several charges and who had been arrested following an attack on a Hot Springs officer during a raid in an adjoining county. It has been charged Dickson was beaten to death.

## Seven Await Trial

Seven policemen indicted for second degree murder are awaiting trial for the Dickson death. Circuit Judge Earl Witt has offered to step down from the bench in the trial, because he said "many will think I owe so much to the (Hot Springs) administration that I will be unable to act in the proper manner."

The offer was made in a letter to former Circuit Judge Scott Wood, retained by Dickson's father to assist the state in the prosecution of the policemen. Mr. Wood answered, however, that "that is not the need; what we must have is to take fear from the hearts of witnesses" in the trial.

## City Has Quiet Air

Hot Springs is quiet and subdued these days. Practically the only visitors are people who come here for the baths. One Hot Springs resident estimates that 2,000 visitors left the city during the last week in January. Many of them, he said, were from the flood territory along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and went back to look after their possessions.

Mayor McLaughlin said yesterday that word had spread about the country the "lid was on" Hot Springs as the result of the investigation and that was keeping visitors away.

Hotel officials say hundreds of reservations for rooms during the racing season have been canceled since word has been broadcast about the two week end raids and seizure of gambling equipment.

The bookie places along Central Avenue are deserted.

Most of the dealers and higher priced employees of the gambling establishments were nonresidents and practically all have gone back home to Miami, St. Louis and Kansas City, officials say. The lesser employees are still in town looking for jobs.

## Impeachment Believed Inevitable by Committee

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Chairman W. M. Thompson of the House committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district, said here today his committee hoped to complete the inquiry next week.

A statement from the committee said it believed impeachment proceedings against officials in the Hot Springs area "are inevitable."

Mr. Thompson said the investigators would meet again Monday or Tuesday night, again permitting newsmen to sit in on the testimony, and indicated preparation of a report to the House would be started within the next few days.

The statement was issued after the committee's first non-secret session at which three young women from Hot Springs, now serving time in the state reformatory, charged under oath that immoral conditions existed in the Hot Springs city jail, and that women arrested there had been whipped and otherwise abused by officers.

## Charges Seduction

One of the women prisoners, giving the name of Billy Blair, 24, said the committee she had been seduced by force at the age of 15 by a Hot Springs police official, instigated to commit robbery by a policeman, arrested and beaten and sent to the women's prison for a year.



She alleged that the judge, in sentencing her, promised to aid her in obtaining a release after serving a part of her time.

"But they won't help me now," she told the committee shrilly. "They'll kill me if I ever go back to Hot Springs, because they will know about my testimony here."

Asked by the committee attorney who "they" were, she replied: "The law over there."

#### Ample Evidence

"The testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable," said the committee's statement.

At Hot Springs, Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry, recently appointed, said "there is not a word of truth" in the charges of immoral conditions at the jail.

Mr. Rasberry several weeks ago succeeded Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, suspended by Mayor McLaughlin during a grand jury investigation into the death of John Dickson, a city jail prisoner, allegedly from a beating. Seven policemen were indicted for the death of the prisoner. But those charged did not include the suspended chief.

The resolution under which the House committee is working authorized it to determine whether impeachment proceedings should be brought against officials in the Hot Springs area. The resolution alleged a breakdown in law enforcement and an alliance between peace officers and the "criminal classes."

#### Investigator Testifies

Frank Witte, the committee investigator, told the committee he took part in the recent seizure and destruction of Hot Springs night clubs' gambling paraphernalia.

He identified in evidence 39 poll tax receipts which he said had been given to him by a man he named as "Charles Sellers, a former policeman."

Mr. Witte charged the poll tax receipts were distributed in Hot Springs for voting purposes in the primary and that a "pink ticket" of the city administration's selections for state and district offices was distributed also to voters.

He said the selections were headed by Ed F. McDonald for governor, who was given a large majority in the resort city over Carl E. Bailey, who won the office.

### Witnesses' Accusations Denied at Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 6.—Members of the Hot Springs police department implicated in testimony given the committee of the Legislature investigating alleged lawlessness in this city, today made affidavits denying statements made to the committee by Billy Blair, 24, Roxie Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20.

Those who made affidavits were Mrs. Emma Warrington, police matron; Owen Corrington and F. H. Tucker, who alternate day and night shifts as jailers; Officer T. G. Evans, and Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers.

The sworn statements of Akers and Evans touch directly on the alleged theft of \$400 the Blair woman said was taken from her, and which she told the committee she had stolen from a man.

#### Cites Criminal Records

In his statement, Akers said he had known the three women who testified before the committee, and that they were "police characters." Akers said he checked the criminal record of all three.

Officer T. G. Evans, in denying the testimony of Iva Lee Johnson, who told the investigating committee that Evans had whipped her, said that "I am a Holiness preacher and pursue that occupation in addition to my police duties. I have never struck any prisoner and never intend to. I have always believed in treating everyone fair and humane."

Mrs. Emma Warrington, police matron, said she has charge at all times of women prisoners, and that Billy Blair, Roxie Parker and Iva Lee Johnson, she stated, "are probably the most vicious type of women delinquents that I have ever come in contact with."

#### Hotel Head Replies

From another source also came a denial of testimony offered by another witness, Fred L. Pennington, who, until a few days ago, was employed in the engineer's department at the Majestic Hotel.

Pennington, according to published reports, testified he lost his position because of his personal interest in behalf of Governor Bailey.

Bruce Wallace, manager of the Majestic Hotel, refuted that statement by Pennington. In a letter addressed to the editor of a local

paper that carried Pennington's testimony, Wallace wrote:

"Replying to your statement in the paper made by Mr. Pennington, who was dismissed from the Majestic Hotel, due to his political affiliations, will state it could not have possibly been for that reason, as the management was quite active in supporting Carl Bailey for governor and asked all hotel employees to vote for Mr. Bailey. Mr. Pennington was dismissed from our service for an entirely different reason."

### Hot Springs Mayor Misses Gambling Fines

"I've waited all day long," said Mayor Leo McLaughlin of Hot Springs late Thursday afternoon, as newshawks approached, wanted to know how many business men showed up to demand the resignation forecast in Thursday morning's Arkansas Gazette. Added His Honor, "instead of receiving any such demand, I have got numerous calls from business leaders all over town pledging me their continued support and insisting that I am perfectly right in the stand I am taking."

His Honor's stand, that the suppression of gambling caused by the sensational raid of 10 days ago is costing Hot Springs \$1,800 a month in gambling fines, that the city treasury must suffer as a result. Continued Mayor McLaughlin, "within the last 30 years the state has found new taxes in gasoline, tobacco sales; but the cities have been passed by. Hot Springs is known as a liberal town, as all resorts are, and the public knows all about it. I am a candidate for reelection in April, and I am anxious for Hot Springs people to pass upon my record."

Though the Spa has known occasional raids before, none of them have struck with more swiftness, been more devastating than the one last week end, which began at the celebrated Belvedere Club and went down the line. Result, \$15,000 worth of highly polished gambling equipment, roulette wheels, dice tables, what not, carted out of the Belvedere, the Southern, Ohio, Kentucky, Millsaps, Millers, Citizens and Blue Ribbon by 17 state revenue agents acting under a writ based on an ancient statute.\* Adding insult to injury, the writ was issued by Chief Justice Griffin Smith of the Supreme Court, lawyers were at a loss in going about an appeal or a stop order. Further result, three van loads of gambling equipment rolled up to the state fair grounds in Little Rock, furnished the fuel for a huge bonfire.

Growled W. S. Jacobs, owner of the Belvedere, the Southern, "I have a yearly pay roll of \$375,000, an investment of nearly \$400,000; it looks to me like hijacking."

Meanwhile, the select committee of the Legislature reports no progress on its investigation of Hot Springs conditions; Hot Springs goes forward with plans for the spring racing meet, beginning March 1.

\* Enacted in 1837 by the first Legislature of Arkansas, the statute reads: "It is hereby made the duty of the judges of the Supreme Court, of the circuit courts and justices of the peace, on information given or of their own knowledge, to issue their warrant to some peace officer directing a search for such gambling tables heretofore referred to and directing that on finding any such they shall be publicly burned."

*The Commercial Appeal*  
*Memphis, Tenn.*  
*Feb. 9, 1937*

## RACING BAN DEFEATED BY ARKANSAS HOUSE

Repeal Bill Voted Down in  
30 to 64 Ballot

### LEGALIZED GAMBLING HIT

Proponents Oppose Pari-Mutuel  
System on Hot Springs Track  
—Mississippi County Man  
Speaks Against Proposal

From The Commercial Appeal  
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 8.—The House this afternoon defeated a bill by Rep. John K. Butt of Carroll County to repeal legalized horse racing. The vote was 30-64.

Those voting aye were:

Blount, Brown, Butt, Burris, Cloer, Chapman, Coffelt, Cunningham, Foster, Gooch, Graham, Horton of Craighead, Houston, Launius, McInturff, Murray of Boone, Murry of Dallas, Nichols, Perryman, Pace, Purviance, Raley, Roberts, Smelser, Smith of Franklin, Thompson, Walker, Wilkinson, Wood and Wright.

The noes:

Abington, Anthony, Arbaugh, Baker, Baxter, Beck, Bell, Blair, Boyers, Bradford, Brickhouse, Bryson, Buerkle, Campbell, Cheyene, Chrisp, Coates, Coleman, Combs, Condrey, Cowart, Crawford, Creekmore, Darnell, Eddy, Forehand, Gilder, Hardgrave, Harris, Horton of St. Francis, Hudnall, Jones, King, Lancaster, Ledford, Machen, McGraw, Maner, McHaney, Moore, Michel, Nyberg, Plant, Rice, Robinson, Sampler, Shaw, Sherrill, Sikes, Smalley, Smith of Cleveland, Taber, Tackett, Thomas, Thompson, Tibbels, Toland, Toney, Van Dalsem, Ward, Warfield, Wear, Woodrome and Speaker Bransford.

Racing, with pari-mutuel betting, was legalized by the 1935 Legislature. A 30-day meet will open at Oaklawn track at Hot Springs on March 1.

Representative Butt spoke vigorously for his bill, declaring "no one objects to horse racing itself, but to what follows—legalized gambling."

The only issue involved is whether you are willing to prostitute the

## RACING BAN DEFEATED BY ARKANSAS HOUSE

(Continued From Page One.)

good name of Arkansas for the dollars that this state will get through legalized gambling," he said. "Is the amount of money that we get worth the bad reputation and bad publicity and defamatory remarks we get through the racing? By legalizing gambling we have lowered the moral tone of the state."

In answering the question if he thought it possible to legislate morals into the public, Mr. Butts declared "no, but we can punish them for being immoral."

### Investigator Takes Floor

Representative Thompson of Independence, chairman of the House committee investigating alleged lawlessness in Hot Springs, also warmly supported the bill.

"It seems free government already has ceased to exist in Garland County and tentacles of horse racing will reach out into other counties," he declared. "I guess after this Legislature, it won't be safe for me to go to Hot Springs," he added.

Representative Crawford of Mississippi took a leading part in speaking against the bill, declaring "no law is stronger than the sentiment of the people back of it. Legalizing of racing by the 1935 Legislature was a commendable act. I'd love for some of these gentlemen to tell us what moral loss we have suffered through legalized racing during the past two years."

Representative Maner of Hot Springs pointed out that the 1935 act was the first which gave money to the old age pension fund. He declared repeal of racing would "ruin Hot Springs."

### Cites Better Business

Until two years ago there were a number of business houses in our town closed," he said, "and people in the rural districts around there were hard up."

"In contrast, last summer there was not a vacant store building and the people had money. It was attributed to the sport of kings. During the races last year, every room in the hotels and apartment houses were filled."

"Horse racing is about all we've got left except the hot water and we'd like to keep the races. The people who come to Hot Springs want some diversion. The races

paid \$255,000 to the state in the past two years."

The Senate this afternoon passed a bill by Senator Norrell of Monticello placing small loan companies under supervision of the state banking department. The bill was drafted by the state labor department and the Pulaski County prosecuting attorney's office and is designed to end "salary buying."

### Pass Liquor Ads

Rep. Les Nichols, Baptist pastor of Booneville, introduced a bill in the House to prohibit advertising of liquor in newspapers. Another bill by Rep. Boyer would provide for a special liquor referendum election to give the electors of the state the right to approve or reject the Thorn liquor act.

Sale of liquor would be barred in any election district where a majority of the votes cast were against the act.

The House rejected, 43 to 44, a bill by Representative Cloer of Washington to change the method for selecting grand and petit jurors. He proposed that a board of five commissioners in each county select jurors by drawing names from a jury wheel.

The House approved budget bills appropriating approximately \$2,000,000 for the biennial support of seven state colleges. The schools and appropriations:

Magnolia A. & M., \$179,300; Arkansas State Teachers College, \$264,000; Monticello A. & M., \$177,744; Arkansas Tech, \$180,000; Henderson State, \$164,520; University of Arkansas, \$943,474; Beebe Junior Agricultural College, \$50,000.



## GAMBLING OPERATORS HEARD BY COMMITTEE IN HOT SPRINGS PROBE

Investigators Question Owners  
of Establishments At  
Open Session

### DISAGREEMENT REPORTED

Members Understood To Be  
Quarrelling in Inquiry

### WITT SEEKS TO TESTIFY

Judge Asks Chance to Tell Own  
Story Before Group Concern-  
ing Efforts to Prevent Law-  
lessness in City

From The Commercial Appeal  
Little Rock Bureau

BY W. D. Sisson

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 8.—Questioning operators of gambling establishments at Hot Springs concerning their books which have been audited by the state revenue department on order of the committee, the House committee investigating reported lawless conditions in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district, tonight conducted its second open hearing here.

While reports continued that there was sharp disagreement between certain committee members over the handling of the investigation, the committee prepared to close the inquiry and submit its recommendations to the House.

### Impeachment Favored

Following a session Friday night in which charges were made by witnesses that lawlessness existed at the resort, a committee statement said that "impeachment recommendations appear inevitable."

In high legislative circles tonight, however, it was doubted whether impeachment would be voted for certain district officials even if recommended to the House.

The committee's activities have been marked by the seizure and burning of gambling equipment at the resort.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, who wrote the committee over the week end asking privilege to appear and make a sworn statement, said early tonight he had not been notified of the meeting.

### Wants to Testify

Judge Witt said in his letter that he had been ill for several days and tonight he said over long distance telephone his doctor would not let him out of the house yet.

"I just want to appear and tell the committee some of the things I have done over here to further law enforcement," the judge said.

"I would like to get my side of the story in the record. I know the committee wants to be fair, and I hope they notify me of their next meeting so I can be present."

In his letter, Judge Witt wrote that "in the event I am unable to come to Little Rock by Monday night for the purpose of making the statement I refer to, then I shall gladly pay all expense of the entire committee to come to my home and secure such statement."

Chairman Thompson of the committee said the body would gladly take any statement Judge Witt might make before them, but that the committee's going to Hot Springs was out of the question.

7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-12-37

## Donham Enters Spa Gambling Investigation

To Probe Samuel Yudin's Claim of \$21,000 Robbery in Hotel.

While Prosecuting Attorney Fred A. Donham began investigation today of sensational testimony given last night, the House committee probing alleged lawlessness and gambling at Hot Springs prepared for one more meeting before submitting their report to the legislative body.

Prosecutor Donham was called in to the investigation last night to hear the testimony of Samuel M. Yudin, Russian emigrant, who said that in 1934 he was beaten and robbed of \$21,000 by confidence men whom he met in Hot Springs. Mr. Yudin said he was kidnaped and brought from Hot Springs to the Albert Pike hotel here, where the robbery occurred. He named several men as the robbers, supplying pictures for identification.

The \$21,000 stolen represented an intended trust fund for his invalid 19-year-old daughter, a victim of infantile paralysis, Mr. Yudin said.

Several Garland county residents who had been subpoenaed to give testimony in the House committee investigation of alleged lawlessness and gambling in Hot Springs were joined last night by a delegation of 147 citizens of Hot Springs in an appearance before the committee.

Following sworn testimony of the witnesses, the delegation, through a spokesman, reported a marked improvement in business conditions at Hot Springs as a result of the legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness at the National Park health resort.

"Each day now shows a good improvement in business and reports this week have shown records broken by bath houses, trains and many legitimate businesses, propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding," said a statement presented the investigating committee by the delegation.

### Citizens Issue Statement.

The citizens, representing 34 professions and businesses, came here in 39 automobiles to tell the investigators they were "looking to the legislature for relief from the present conditions of disfranchisement and official oppression."

"Hot Springs needs a new deal," said the statement. "Hot Springs is entitled to better election machinery and better law enforcement." It charged 33 judges and clerks serving in the Democratic primary last August were connected with the operation of gambling houses.

"Under a political 'czarism' continued the statement, 'Hot Springs has received world wide publicity as the haven for nationally hunted criminals, and such men as Galatas, Nash, Luciano and Karpis have been residents in the city and have consorted with the men in political control.'"

The delegation's appearance came at the conclusion of hearings by the investigators. They started today preparation of their report to the legislature which will be submitted the middle of next week. A recent committee statement said "we believe evidence is sufficient that impeachment proceedings are inevitable."

Circuit Judge Earl Witt, under fire in the investigation, was unable to appear before the committee due to illness but sent an affidavit declaring he never had been in a gambling house and charging "exaggeration" in testimony relating to his use of "strong drink."

### Yudin's Testimony Heard.

Testimony of Samuel M. Yudin of Tucson, Ariz., and Hot Springs that he had been a victim of a confidence game two years ago in the resort city and lost \$21,000 brought a protest from Rep. Pat Robinson of Lafayette county, member of the committee, over "hearsay" evidence.

Yudin reported he learned "only recently that the money was split up in Hot Springs" and that a relative of an official "was mixed up in it." Robinson's protest came when the witness did not give a direct reply to questions as to whether he knew from his own knowledge that there was a division of the money.

Mack Wilson, Garland county tax collector, testified that 1936 poll tax receipts in the county totaled about 11,800. He did not have the 1936 records with him but said the total was "short of 1936."

The official reported 43 per cent of poll tax payers in the county were women, and most of them did not pay the tax in off-years. Committee Chairman W. M. Thompson brought out that 1935 was a municipal election year.

John Albright, Hot Springs beer dealer, said he served on a jury in a damage suit in Judge Witt's court about two years ago and "he looked like he was drinking."

Dr. M. O. Evans, Hot Springs chiropractor, reported he was a witness in the same damage suit. Asked if he observed Judge Witt's condition, he answered: "Yes, if I'm a judge, he was drunk." Evans was defeated for the senatorial nomination last August and made a futile challenge against seating of Senator Walter Wheatley, the winner.

Evans testified he had been arrested for punching a punch board which Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers also had been punching.

"Akers punched the board and then arrested me for doing the same thing," he said. "I paid a fine."

The chiropractor also testified he had been arrested another time "for being drunk."

Nat W. Burgess, Hot Springs, said he was a neighbor of Judge Witt and "saw him drunk," adding he had not "talked to Judge Witt in three or four years."

"Yet you just said you smelled whiskey on him," said Committee-man Jones.

### Income Reports Bared.

"It was just in passing, on the street," asserted Burgess.

Ormand Shaw, superintendent of the Revenue Department income tax division, testified Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs filed an income tax report on \$6,693.36 for 1935 and paid tax on \$3,068.86 after exemptions.

He introduced income tax returns showing Archie Leugerwood, Hot Springs, received a 1934 salary of \$21,264 and \$22,522 in 1935. Shaw said beside the figures was recorded the name of "W. S. Jacobs."

He also entered into the records the income tax return of former Prosecutor Houston Emery, Hot Springs, showing a \$7,800 salary for 1936.

Claims have been prepared which would pay seven witnesses from Hot Springs \$25 as expenses for having come to Little Rock to testify before the committee. Another claim was prepared to allow the committee attorney \$25 as rent on his office which has been used as committee headquarters during the investigation.

7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-12-37

## DONHAM CALLED TO AID IN PROBE OF HOT SPRINGS

### Prosecutor Ques- tions Witness.

A witness who appeared before the House committee investigating charges of a breakdown of law enforcement in Hot Springs last night gave testimony so sensational that Fred A. Donham, prosecuting attorney, was called and the witness turned over to him.

It was the committee's last session at which testimony of witnesses was heard.

The witness, who was questioned for more than an hour last night by Mr. Donham, was Samuel M. Yudin, Russian emigrant who in July, 1934 was robbed of \$21,000 by confidence men whom he met in Hot Springs. He was robbed of \$21,000 at the Albert Pike hotel here. Yudin named several men as the robbers. Mr. Donham announced that he would make further investigation today.

### Committee Will Make Its Recommendations Next Week.

Today the committee will meet to discuss plans for the future and the evidence submitted. The meeting will be private, it was announced by Chairman Thompson of Independence county. He hoped the committee's work would be completed early next week and its recommendations given the House by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Yudin was not satisfied with dominating Garland county. In the last primary election it became a big factor in state elections. Their lopsided majority almost upset the selections of our governor and chief justice that were being made by the people of the state. "This condition together with the intimidation of the electorate, who dared to oppose those in power, has caused the people to be disfranchised and oppressed."

"Under a political 'czarism,' financed by monies received from illegal privileges, Hot Springs has received worldwide publicity as the haven for nationally hunted criminals. Such men as Galatas, Nash, Luciano and Karpis have been residents in the city and have consorted with the men in political control. Such people and such publicity is detrimental to the progress of any community. It was only through the strenuous efforts of our present governor, Carl Bailey, that we were able to have one of our criminal visitors (Luciano) torn from the city's protective walls."

"The published reports of this committee's open meeting has shown that you have found many witnesses afraid to testify due to general condition of terrorism."

"Our officers are living in perpetual perjury when open refusal of law enforcement is continued in the community and there can be no moral betterment so long as the political leaders continue to permit flagrant law violations."

"Hot Springs is entitled to a new deal in business and politics. Gambling does not have to become such a big business and dominate our community. The baths are still our main selling commodity, and there is plenty of good, clean recreation in and around our city."

"Business conditions have improved since the date of the appointment of the Investigating Committee, although the serious flood in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys has caused many of our visitors to stay at their homes. Each day now shows a good improvement in business and reports this week have shown records broken by bath houses, trains and many legitimate businesses. Propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding."

"This delegation appearing before you tonight represents many business interests and was assembled on very short notice. They are representative of the hundreds of citizens of the county who are looking to the legislature for relief from the present conditions of disfranchisement and official oppression."

### Robinson Protests Testimony as Hearsay.

Representative Pat Robinson of Lafayette county, member of the committee, protested against receiving the testimony of Yudin, which he declared to be hearsay.

Yudin said he had learned only recently that this \$21,000 was split up in Hot Springs and that a relative of an official was "in on it."

Representative James R. Campbell of Hot Springs, who was present, although not a member of the committee, asked the witness to go into details.

"You know who splits the money over there," Yudin told Campbell.

Swinging on the witness and speaking heatedly, Robinson interrupted:

"If you know names, tell them."

"I was told—" began the witness.

"What you have heard doesn't amount to anything," said Robinson. "You don't know of your own knowledge about this split?"

"I wasn't there when it was split."

"Do you know yourself, of your own knowledge, that there was a division of your money there?"

When the witness did not give a direct reply, Robinson cried: "Why take up the time of this committee with hearsay?"

Yudin came to the committee room with his 19-year-old daughter, who he said he had brought to Hot Springs several years ago for treatment of infantile paralysis. He reviewed the story of a confidence game in which he was the victim and which he said was investigated by a Federal Grand Jury here two years ago, resulting in indictments against three persons.

He said the men indicted were from out of the state and that one of them never was arrested.

He said he met the men through an acquaintance in Hot Springs after he had told the acquaintance he desired to invest about \$20,000 which he had in government bonds, as a trust for his daughter. He said he desired to buy real estate but was advised by his friend that there were two men in Hot Springs who desired to borrow \$20,000 quickly and would pay \$1,000 interest for use of the money for a few days.

Yudin said he had \$21,000 sent by registered mail from his Tucson bank to a Hot Springs bank and that he took it out and the prospective borrowers "took me to a hotel and gave me a drink. It must have had knockout drops in it, because I could hardly walk afterwards. They brought me to a Little Rock hotel and said everything would be O. K."

"When they were not looking I hid the money in a bureau drawer but they grabbed it, then someone knocked me over the head and they left."

He said he was reluctant at first to allow his loss to become known but that he later told the story to Hot Springs officials "and they laughed it off."

He said he went to Washington and saw J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F. B. I. and was referred to the Postoffice Department, obtaining an investigation there, resulting in the Federal Grand Jury action.

"I saw various lawyers and they all told me I couldn't do a thing about the case in Hot Springs," he testified.

He was asked by Campbell if he had also suffered a loss by fraud in Tucson, and replied that he was "defrauded of \$9,000 in Tucson."

#### Minister Compares McLaughlin Machine to Tammany.

Smith was the last to appear before

the committee. As he and his delegation left the building, Chairman Thompson read a letter he had received from the Rev. J. Frank Simmons of Dermott, who was pastor of Grand Avenue Methodist church until November. The minister informed the committee he would be willing to appear if needed, as "the people of Garland county need relief."

He wrote of having attended a meeting last summer at which McLaughlin told "the gang" who to vote for and informed his listeners that he was looking for bets on the outcome of the election, offering 3 to 1 that the administration's candidates would win by at least 1,000 votes each.

The only difference the minister saw between McLaughlin's machine and Tammany hall was that the latter had "longer whiskers and was older, but no wiser."

Committeeman Murry moved to place the letter on file, but the minister's testimony would only be accumulative as similar testimony already had been heard. Another letter was read after which a motion to place all correspondence in the file, was adopted. Chairman Thompson said he had received many anonymous letters but had disregarded them.

#### Tells of 11,800 Poll Tax Receipts in Garland County.

Mack Wilson, Garland county tax collector, appeared in answer to subpoena with a box full of poll tax records. He testified that 1936 poll tax receipts in the county totaled about 11,800. He said he did not have the 1935 records with him but that the total that year was "short of 1936."

"Forty-three per cent of our poll tax payers are women and most of them do not pay the tax in off-years," he said.

Chairman Thompson brought out that 1935 was a municipal election year, how-

ever. Because the records are required in a pending contest, Wilson was instructed to take them back to Hot Springs and prepare a statement on the number of proxy applications he had had for poll tax receipts last year.

#### Several Witnesses Charge Drinking by Judge Witt.

Several witnesses gave testimony as to alleged drinking habits of Judge Witt, a matter which has loomed large in the investigation.

John Albright, Hot Springs beer dealer, testified he served on a jury in a damage suit in Judge Witt's court about two years ago. He was asked about "Judge Witt's condition."

"He looked like he was drinking," said Albright. "I did not see him take a drink."

"Was he drunk?"

"No, I wouldn't say that."

Dr. M. O. Evans, Hot Springs chiropractor, next on the stand, identified himself as the defeated senatorial candidate in last August's primary who unsuccessfully challenged the seating of Senator Walter Wheatley of Garland, the winner on the ground that Wheatley had been convicted of a felony.

He said he was a witness in the same damage suit about which Albright had testified.

"Did you observe Witt's condition with reference to intoxication?" asked Committee Attorney John R. Thompson.

"Yes, if I'm a judge, he was drunk," Evans replied.

Committeeman Jones of Montgomery asked: "What made you think so?"

"He gave that appearance."

Asked if he had ever been arrested, Evans said he had been for punching a punch board which Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers had also been punching.

"Akers punched the board and then arrested me for doing the same thing. I paid a fine," Evans testified.

Nat W. Burgess, Hot Springs, testified he was a neighbor of Judge Witt and "saw him drunk."

Campbell asked him to be more specific but the witness said he could not recall dates.

Under Campbell's questions, he said he once ran for county judge and had not "talked to Judge Witt in three or four years."

"Did you just said you smelled whiskey on him," said Committeeman Jones.

"It was just in passing, on the street," said the witness.

#### Judge Witt Unable To Appear, Sends Affidavit.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt, against whom charges have been made, was unable to appear as a witness last night as he had planned. His physician forbade him to appear, Committeeman Jones of Montgomery county reported. However, he submitted a written affidavit which follows:

"I have never been inside a gambling house either in Hot Springs or elsewhere at any time during my entire life."

"I have never at any time in my life either dined or danced at Belvedere Club."

"I strongly suspect there had been an inclination on the part of a very few to somewhat exaggerate my inclination for strong drink."

The affidavit was sworn to before D. W. Parker, deputy circuit clerk.

#### Archie Ledgerwood's Income Tax Report Studied.

An interesting exhibit introduced in the records last night by Ormand Shaw, superintendent of the income tax division of the state Revenue Department was the income tax report of Archie Ledgerwood, part owner of Belvedere Club, who testified earlier in the week to having given his brother, Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood, a "gift" of \$20,000 in 1934 in "love and affection."

Archie Ledgerwood's income tax return revealed an income in 1934 of \$21,264, which he listed as salary from W. S. Jacobs. In the following year he listed an income of \$22,532.63.

"Does either return list any gifts or donations?" Shaw was asked.

"They do not," was his answer.

Ledgerwood had told the committee that he merely placed the money in his brother's care to keep for him, as he needed it to meet a note.

Shaw told the committee that Judge Ledgerwood had not filed a return since 1931.

He introduced Mayor McLaughlin's return in 1935 which listed \$5,975.04 as his net profit from his business and profession, \$220 from Liberty bonds and \$498.32 from rental property, making his net income \$6,693.36. Among the exemptions he claimed were "taxes, \$137 and contributions, \$170."

Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney in his return showed a net income of \$5,071.84.

#### Hot Springs Business Men Ask For a New Deal.

The committee then called on a delegation of business and professional men of Hot Springs who had crowded the anterooms all night. Ray S. Smith, real estate dealer and former secretary of the Democratic Central Committee, spokesman for the group, informed the committee that 147 persons had come from Hot Springs in 39 cars to "be heard."

He said the group represented 24 professions and businesses, including six ministers, 12 lawyers, several doctors and bankers.

Although Smith was not summoned as a witness, Chairman Thompson read over a list of the judges and clerks in the August primary for him to identify. He said most of them were either directly or indirectly connected with the gambling houses, bookmakers or the McLaughlin administration. Smith was a witness earlier in the investigation. The statement of the delegation to the committee, follows:

"Hot Springs needs a new deal. Hot Springs is entitled to better election machinery and better law enforcement.

"Under conditions existing in Garland county the people are practically disfranchised. Large sums of money from the profits of unlawful business which are operated in our county are used for the payment of illegal poll taxes and the corruption of the elections. The condition we are in was demonstrated by the election of August 11, 1936, which was under the control of judges and clerks who were connected with the operation of unlawful businesses in Garland county. Thirty-three of the judges and clerks who conducted this election were connected with the operation of gambling houses. Nearly all of the election laws were violated.



7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-11-37

## Probe of Spa Gambling May Close Tonight

### Judge Witt to Appear if Health Permits; "Lib- erality" Defended.

Investigation of laxity in law enforcement at Hot Springs by a committee of the House of Representatives may be brought to a close tonight when Circuit Judge Earl Witt, object of the investigation, is scheduled to appear before the group.

The committee heard a number of witnesses last night and adjourned without issuing a statement. It was announced following the meeting that Judge Witt is expected to appear before the body at a session here tonight.

Judge Witt last week wrote members of the committee asking the privilege of making a statement. He said that if illness prevented his coming to Little Rock for that purpose, he would pay expenses of the committee to Hot Springs to hear his side of the investigation.

After receiving the letters, members of the committee voted to hear his statement but said no subpoena would be issued for him.

A delegation from Montgomery county, which is in Judge Witt's judicial district with Garland (Hot Springs) county, presented a statement to the committee last night expressing confidence in the jurist.

Lon Warneke Here.

Lon Warneke, major league hurler who lives at Mt. Ida, accompanied the group of 14 business men to Little Rock but was not in the spokesman-group admitted to the committee room.

Earlier in the week the committee heard a Hot Springs delegation express "faith and confidence" in Judge Witt and assert that competition with other resorts dictated a "liberal policy" in the world-famous Spa.

Seventy-four-year-old L. D. Cooper, onetime president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and

(Continued on Page 2.)

a member of the Garland county grand jury last year, testified last night that he had been receiving annual dividend checks from W. S. Jacobs, principal owner of palatial Club Belvedere, "for the last three or four years."

He said he loaned Jacobs "a few hundred dollars years ago when he came to Hot Springs and tried to get into the motion picture business," and had been getting a check from him once a year in return for that favor.

The first check was for about six or seven hundred, "and then there were bigger ones," he added. The 1936 check was for about a thousand dollars, testified Cooper. He said he believed his interest in the Belvedere gambling resort was about three per cent. He denied any interest in the Southern Club, another gambling show spot.

Served on Grand Jury.

"Have you served on the grand jury since August?" Cooper was asked.

"I believe so."

"Did the circuit judge instruct you to investigate any election violations?"

"I can't remember."

He described himself as a "good friend" of Judge Witt and said: "I never saw him intoxicated. I never heard anyone say that about him."

"Hot Springs rests on the value of its healing waters, not on gambling or racing, but as a resort some latitude should be allowed to provide pleasure for the visitors within the bounds of decency," said Martin E. Eisele, 83, Hot Springs drug store operator.

Expressing the belief that "there are some dives in the city that should be suppressed," Eisele added "Perhaps there has been too much liberality."

"I feel that if the mayor (Leo P. McLaughlin) tightened up some, he would be very popular indeed," asserted the druggist.

"A place like Belvedere is an asset," he testified. "They don't ask poor people or boys to come out there and gamble. The place is run fairly and caters to a class that has money and wants to take a chance."

"Is there a reign of terror in Hot Springs?" committeemen asked Eisele.

"Some feel there has been too much latitude if they try to oppose things they may be persecuted," he answered.

No Arrangements.

B. K. Vernon, testifying he had worked at the Southern Club and once ran a race horse book for himself in 1931, answered in the negative when asked if he had "any arrangements to run openly."

"The sheriff and constable told us to report in court at times," he testified. "We were told a name, not our own, would be called out for us to answer to a charge of gambling."

"When we entered a plea of guilty, the fine was \$100 and costs. The sheriff or constable then collected the money." He did not recall who told him this fine would be demanded at intervals.

Vernon reported "the mayor" told him he could open on Malvern street when he made inquiries about a location, but that other officials objected. He said he was told that



7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-11-37

## EARL WITT DUE TO TESTIFY IN PROBE TONIGHT

### Investigation Near Its Close.

After hearing another group of witnesses last night the House committee, investigating charges of terrorism and lawlessness in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in general, announced they hoped to close their investigation with another hearing tonight. Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, whose conduct as a jurist and private citizen has been under investigation, was expected to be among the witnesses to appear.

The committee had no statement to make last night after the meeting at which a group of 14 business men of Norman and Mt. Ida, Montgomery county, through a spokesman told of the esteem which Judge Witt enjoyed in their county. No Little Rock police were on hand last night as was the case Monday when a group of Hot Springs business men appeared to be heard.

#### Recent Grand Juror Tells Of Checks From Jacobs.

L. D. Cooper, one-time president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Garland county Grand Jury last year, told the committee that he had been receiving annual dividend checks from W. S. Jacobs, principal owner of Club Belvedere "for the last three or four years."

Seventy-four years old, Cooper told the House group, inquiring in charges of breakdown in Hot Springs law enforcement, that he could not attempt to give exact dates and figures, due to his age and bad hearing.

Previous witnesses before the committee had referred to the owner of a part interest in Club Belvedere and its associated Southern Club, fashionable gambling resorts, but he denied having any interest in Southern Club. He said he was in the grocery and produce business.

Cooper told the committee he had been president of the Chamber of Commerce several years ago and served on the Grand Jury in Hot Springs last year.

"You own an interest in Belvedere?" asked John R. Thompson, committee attorney.

"I don't know whether I do or not," said Cooper. "Mr. Jacobs is one of my best friends—I once did him a favor—and I have been getting a check from him once a year in return for that favor."

He said he had loaned Jacobs "a few hundred dollars years ago when he came to Hot Springs and tried to go into the motion picture business."

"How big were the checks?"

"I couldn't tell you exactly, the first was for about six or seven hundred, and then there were bigger ones."

"Were you on the Grand Jury?"

"Yes, about six months ago."

"And you still have a 15 per cent interest in Belvedere and Southern Club?" asked Committee Chairman William M. Thompson.

"I have no interest in Southern Club. The interest in Belvedere was about three per cent I believe."

"Did you know there was gambling there?"

"Everyone knew of the gambling."

"If Jacobs' records should show you had a dividend of \$1,500 from Belvedere and \$1,875 from Southern Club in 1936, would that be correct?"

"No, they would be wrong, because I did not have any connection with Southern Club."

"Did the Grand Jury investigate gambling while you were on it?"

"No, it wasn't brought up. We just passed on the cases that were brought before us."

"Did you have any instructions from Circuit Judge Earl Witt to investigate violation of penal laws other than the cases laid before you?"

"I can't be sure."

"Have you served on the Grand Jury since August?"

"I believe so."

"Did the circuit judge instruct you to investigate any election violations?"

"I can't remember."

"Can you remember everything he charged you with?"

"I don't think so. I am 74 years old and you will have to excuse me from attempting to answer all questions exactly."

He described himself as a "good friend of Judge Witt," and in answer to committee question said: "I never saw him intoxicated. I never heard anyone talk about him."

#### May Have Been Too Much Liberality, Says Eisele.

Martin E. Eisele, 83-year-old Hot Springs drug store operator, told the committee he believed that "Hot Springs rests on the value of its healing waters, not on gambling or racing, but as a resort some latitude should be allowed to provide pleasure for the visitors within the bounds of decency."

"Perhaps there has been too much liberality," he said. "I feel that if the mayor [Leo P. McLaughlin] tightened up some, he would be very popular indeed."

Asserting that "some of these clubs are an asset and others are a hindrance," he said:

"A place like Belvedere is an asset. It is the type of place that is run in Florida, where I have visited recently. They don't ask poor people or boys to come out there and gamble. The place is run fairly and caters to a class that has money and wants to take a chance."

"There are some dives in the city that should be suppressed."

Eisele, who told the committee he had lived in Hot Springs for 60 years, and that he was a former superintendent of the national park and present vice president of the Arkansas National Bank there, was questioned about "lib-

intimidation" of employees in his drug stores.

"Was there ever any intimidation or boycott?" he was asked.

There was an instance three years ago after the mayor's election, which generated a good deal of heat. A number of people voted for me for mayor in that election although I was not a candidate. After the election, a man came into one of my stores and made quite a purchase, about \$10 or \$12 worth. Three or four men saw him there and rushed in, telling him to "cut that out—this firm is against the administration." He turned in the purchases. When he went to another of our stores, he was warned again.

"I don't believe the mayor had any connection with that occurrence. It was just some of his over-zealous followers."

In answer to a question about Judge Witt, he said: "I never saw him drunk."

Representative James R. Campbell of Garland asked permission to press the question, asking if Judge Witt had "a reputation for heavy drinking."

"Good gracious, no!" said the witness.

"Is there a reign of terror in Hot Springs?" asked the committee attorney.

"Some feel there has been too much latitude if they try to oppose things they may be persecuted."

"Do you feel you might be hurt if the impression should go out that you were in sympathy with this investigation?"

"I don't think so."

#### Says Judge Witt Warned Of 'Gentleman's Agreement.'

B. K. Vernon, bookmaker, said he talked with the mayor about a location for his "shop" and was told him he could open on Malvern avenue, but other officials objected. He said he was told that "Judge Witt said there was a gentleman's agreement against any gambling establishment on that avenue."

"So I opened on Broadway," he said. "I paid Jacobs \$75 a week for the racing news service."

Vernon said the wire and office help cost Jacobs \$325 a week and that Jacobs collected \$75 each week from nine bookmakers.

"The three operated by Jacobs himself did not have to pay," he said. "That left the nine of us paying \$675. I was told that the difference between what Jacobs collected and paid went to certain politicians."

Vernon also said he and the eight others were called to headquarters every two weeks and were given names by officers. When these names were called in open court to answer charges of gambling, they pleaded guilty and each paid a "fine" of \$100. When he went into the business, Vernon said, he was told that he would have to go through such procedure. He did not know what politicians, if any, were paid by Jacobs.

#### Says Judge and Prosecutor Outlined Investigations.

C. B. Lovell Sr., druggist, chairman of the Bailey for Governor club at Hot Springs last summer, testified that while

he was a member of the Grand Jury, it never investigated anything that was not brought to its attention by Judge Witt for Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney. He also said it was generally talked in the city that Judge Witt "used liquor extensively."

#### Jacobs Revealed As Financing 'Boosting.'

Walter Ebel, newspaperman told the committee that he received \$25 weekly from W. S. Jacobs for boosting Hot Springs. Ebel said he had proposed a publicity campaign to the Chamber of Commerce several years ago and while that body had his suggestion under consideration, Jacobs, hearing about it, promised that he would assume the debt himself. Ebel described Jacobs as "deeply interested" in the welfare of Hot Springs. He denied having any other business dealings with him.

Asked if Mayor McLaughlin had asked him last summer to take charge of the Second Ward box, Ebel was emphatic in his denial.

"The mayor never asked me to do anything unlawful in connection with any election, nor do anything else dishonorable," said the witness. "I think he's too smart a man and has better sense than to ask anything like that of me."

Ebel said that Judge Witt was not a drunkard, nor had he ever seen the judge while drinking.

#### Refuses to Give Testimony Before Reporters.

The next witness, Miss Gladys Wilson stopped as she entered the room and informed the committee she would not testify before reporters. After taking the oath she identified herself, told of having published Public Opinion, a Hot Springs newspaper until it suspended publication after the election. Asked why it was suspended, she said:

"We got tired of fighting a losing battle."

She then again refused to testify.

Chairman Johnson asked for a reason.

"Hot Springs is my home and I want to continue living there."

Committeeman Robinson informed the witness that should the matter come before the Senate for a hearing, her testimony then would become public property. He declared the committee should hold her in contempt.

It then was decided to excuse her for the time being and decide in executive session to decide further action. Robinson withdrew his motion.

After all witnesses had been heard, Miss Wilson was admitted to the chambers to testify before the committee alone. The nature of her testimony was not made public.

City Committee Secretary

Produces Minutes.

L. V. Freeman, lumberman, secretary of the City Democratic Committee gave the committee copies of his minutes of various meetings held in connection with the August primary. The records also contained the names of the judges and clerks.

Freeman said that he did not know that gambling existed in Hot Springs.

"I never went around those places. I've always been too busy with my work to run around," he said.

He had served on the Grand Jury, he said, but could not recall whether Judge Witt ever had asked for an investigation into alleged gambling and lawlessness.

O. D. Taylor, 63, of Jack Mountain, 12 miles southeast of Hot Springs began telling the committee of incidents in Garland and Hot Spring county as well as in St. Louis, Mo., which the committee held had no connection with the investigation. Taylor said he apparently had been misinformed as to what was being investigated, so after leaving several records with the committee, was excused.

#### Deny That Judge Witt Ever Becomes Drunk.

J. L. Pinkerton and J. B. Hughes, lumbermen of Norman, were spokesman for the Montgomery county group. They told of intimate friendship with Judge Witt for a number of years and denied he ever "got drunk." Both said he had been suffering with a throat ailment that had resulted in his going to a hospital.

"Judge Witt had no knowledge of our plans to come before you gentlemen," Pinkerton said, "until we passed through Hot Springs today. The majority of people in our county are for him. Personally, I've served on Grand Juries in our county and each time Judge Witt has included in his charge the enforcement of all laws."

#### Judge Witt Endorsed By Montgomery County Citizens.

A written statement given to the Gazette by a member of the committee follows:

The undersigned citizens of and officers of Montgomery county came to Little Rock today for the purpose of appearing before the Investigating Committee in behalf of Circuit Judge Witt. We have known Judge Witt since boyhood; have observed his conduct as a judge on the bench and feel that as his home folks we are qualified to speak for him. He is a native son of Montgomery county and enjoys the confidence and esteem of our people. There is no question as to his fitness, character or ability and we trust that he will receive that consideration from the legislature that is justly due him.

(Signed)

J. B. Hughes, J. L. Pinkerton, J. H. Shaw, Jeff Carpenter and P. G. Warneke, brother of Lon Warneke, all of Norman; County Judge Frank Hale, Sheriff Mathias Glaze, Deputy Sheriff John Johnson, J. H. Alley, merchant, Attorney Leo Radford, Attorney John Freeman, County Treasurer Joe Simpson, Everett Sims, merchant and Tom O'Neal, garage operator.

Lon Warneke, the baseball pitcher accompanied the group to Little Rock and remained in an ante-room for a short time, but was not present when the delegation was admitted.

Hot Springs, Arkansas.  
Feb. 9, 1937

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE JOHN B. LITTLE

RE: BREKID.

Attached are the telephone logs on the taps on telephones 125, and 648, at Hot Springs, Ark., for Feb. 7, 1937. Also attached will be found clippings from local newspapers for the above date (2-7-37), particular attention should be directed to the telephone call at 8:00pm over number 125 where Hubert Akers informs one "Mack" that the Secret Service is looking for his brother "Phil" who apparently is wanted for forgery of a Government check. It is possible that Mack's brother is named Fred or some such sounding name other than Phil. It is suggested that the identity of the subscriber to the telephone 5217 be obtained at the telephone company in Little Rock. If it can be done without arousing suspicion it is suggested that discrete inquiry be made at the United States Secret Service of the identity of the operative who was working at Hot Springs on the date Feb. 7, 1937; the identity of the man sought, ascertaining whether he is a fugitive in order that this matter can be completely investigated at the proper time, involving as it does, a possible harboring charge against Chief of Detectives Akers.

Previous to this date memorandums have been prepared and attached to each day's logs. They have set out pertinent conversations overheard over the telephone taps at Hot Springs and have called attention to various conversations which appear pertinent to the present investigation. In as much as the Little Rock Field Division thoroughly reads and analyzes these logs and prepares current reports from week to week, setting out practical the same information as has been contained in the daily memoranda submitted at Hot Springs, there appears to be a needless duplication of effort. For this reason a memorandum will not be submitted with each day's logs hereafter, except in those cases where information may ~~have~~ be in possession of the agents on the plants at Hot Springs which normally might not come the attention of the agent reading the logs at the Little Rock Field Division.

Respectfully submitted  
*D. P. Sullivan*  
D. P. Sullivan,  
Special Agent

#123.

Tap c ; #123 (Chief Police)  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Plant at 207-Laurel.

2-7-37.

12:02 A.M. - out on 123.

Man - Called 820.

No one answered -

12:10 Am - out on 123.

George - Called 718.

Harry - Hello.

George - What time did Glen get off  
work tonight?

Harry - He's not working tonight. I  
was working.

George - Well, the messenger boy grabbed  
up a bunch of papers for a  
feature in the morning paper  
and they got in the vault.  
Come down and open it up.

Harry - OK - Come out and get me -  
I live out at Birchwood.

2-7-37

7:15 Am. - Out on 123. Has

Rogers - Called 3232-W. (Res. Ben Rogers)

Mrs. Rogers - Hello.

Rogers - Advised his wife that he  
would be home for breakfast.

8:12 Am. - Out on 123.

Man - Called Rural #9520 for  
Mountain Pine Telephone -

Op. - Mt. Pine doesn't answer Has.

8:20 Am. - In on 123.

Child - Is Willard Phillips in jail?

Corington - Yes he is.

8:23 Am. - Out on 123.

Man - Called "Information" for number  
at Mountain Pine.

Op. - Number - Rural 2072 - Called -  
No one answered - Has.

(2)

2-7-37.

8:30 Am. - Out on 123.

had

Floyd - Called 2488.

Woman - Hello -

Floyd - advised he called to see how  
she was feeling. Social conversation.

Woman - Feeling OK. Thought you  
might have been in trouble -

Floyd - No.



123

2/7/37.

8.37 am On on 123.

WPS.

man, Send Buster down to meet me.

8.59 am out on 123 to 666 (Abus Res.)

WPS.

Abus did Mrs. Abus get away alright?

maud. Yes

Abus. Go back to sleep as I won't be home for dinner.

9.04 am In on 123.

WPS.

Arch Cooper. Is Swede (Watkins) there?

P.D. No. I saw that "big bookie". He wants to see you tomorrow, I gave him your telephone no. & he will call you today.

9.19 am In on 123.

For Rogers - He's gone home.

9.31 am out on 123 to 600 (Majors res)

WPS.

Abus. Did the mayor get a Democrat (newspaper) this morning?

(4)



123

2/7/37

Mrs McLaughlin - I don't know. He went down town to  
the barber shop. Was it good.

ah yes very good. If he didn't get one, let  
me know and I'll bring one out.

Mrs McLaughlin. Alright, I'll tell him when he  
gets in.

10.02 Am In on 123

P.S.

man Is Cusby Evans there?

P.D. No. Have you number

man 642.

P.D. What's your name?

man. (Hung up)

10 06 Am. Out on 123 to 3339 (Cooper's Rest.)

P.S.

Watkins Is back there.

Cooper. Hello, Go by and get a Gazette (newspaper)  
and bring it out the house.

Watkins. There is nothing in that. What you  
want is a Democrat.

Cooper. Alright. Bring it out.

⑤

10:20 am In 123 WTM

Man called for Akers and received the reply that Akers was upstairs and would be down in a few minutes

10:21 am In 123 WTM

Woman called for "Curly" Evans and was told Evans wasn't working today.

10:25 am Out 123 WTM

Akers placed long distance call to Cotton Plant (Ark) <sup>for</sup> the sheriff. Call was not completed as sheriff was away

10:36 am In 123 WTM

Party calling: Dutch, this is Joe ~~Primer~~ <sup>Tulley</sup>. Do you want John Primer?

Akers: I - don't - know - why don't you talk to him about that dammed stuff in the paper and see what he says?

Tulley: Well, he say he'll do what you want him to.

(6)

2-7-37

Akers: I can't do anything about it today.  
I don't have a notary public.

Tully: Well, you want him to come up  
there tomorrow?

Akers: Yes, tell him I want to see him  
tomorrow morning.

(Note: See Akers' statement in the Sentinel-Record, 2-7-37)

10:51 am

In 123

WTM

Woman called and asked for Milton  
Sanders. He was not there.

10:52 am

Out 123

WTM

Akers called Postal Telegraph and inquired  
if they had an office in Jefferson City, Mo.  
The reply was that they did. Akers then  
asked for a messenger boy.

10:55 am

In 123

WTM

(Completion of call to Sheriff at Cotton Plant (Ark))  
Akers asked the sheriff to pick up a  
negro named Fred Eagle as he has a  
warrant for his arrest charging assault  
①

2-7-37

With intent to kill. The negro has  
a sister named Bessie Floyd, Rt # 2, box  
30, Cotton Plant and mother, Annie  
McGuire who lives out in the country  
from Cotton Plant. Negro is described as  
having a leg that bows out, 30 yrs. old,  
135 lbs., and works around garages.  
~~(Note: In the Serial Report, the date was 2-7-37)~~

11:35 am

In 123

WTR

Woman called and asked if the police  
had a colored man there named William  
Hudgens. They told her he was there. (Note:  
Hudgens evidently is a prisoner.)

11:50 am

In 123

WTR

Woman called for Akers. He was out.

123

2/7/37

12.04 pm On on 123

SPS

for Garnett Wood - Love to Lennie.

12.38 pm On on 123

SPS

Alans. See if there is a telegram there for me? Tell them I am over at #291 (Hot Springs Confectionery)

12.39 pm Out on 123 to #1349 (Res of Ruby)

SPS

Garnett asks girl friend Ruby to call for him.

1.53 pm On on 123

SPS

Woman send someone out on Fenwood St. near Mrs. Jerry's house to search for liquor.

Dutch. Who is it this?

Woman. Never mind them.

L-7-37

3:15 pm

In 123

WTRM

Woman giving name of Mrs. Adams called and explained that her neighbor's dog had attacked her child. She inquired if it would be alright to shoot the dog. The answering officer advised her against shooting the dog and suggested that she obtain a warrant against the owner.

#123.

2-7-39.

5:15 P.m. - Out on 123. Has.

Man - Called 1316.

No one answered.

5:17 P.m. - In on 123.

Man - Is Dutch Akers there?

Akers - Hello

Ed - Dutch, I'll be over at the

Post Office - This is Ed -

Akers - All right.

Has.

5:20 P.m. - In on 123.

Man - This is Dodson (R.L.) at

115 Ramble St. Have you got

Grove down in jail?

Tucker - No. Not there.

5:25 P.m. - In on 123.

Mrs Rastbury - Is Mr. Rastbury there?

Tucker - No - He's gone out.

Has.

(14)



2-7-37.

Har.

5:30 Pm. - Out on 123.

Akers - Called 599.

Robert - Hello -

Akers - Robert, have you got that "half"?

Robert - No. A fellow came and got it, but I had showed it to the cashier at the bank and he said he'd take a thousand like them. It was ok.

Akers - You walk up here Robert.

Robert - All right.

(Probably a Treasury Agent with Akers at Police station)

5:40 Pm. - Out on 123.

Har.

Ebel - Called 3548. (his residence)

Mrs Ebel - Hello -

Ebel - I'll be home in half hour. Have to go up town first.

2-7-37.

Has.

5:45 Pm. - In on 123.

Woman - Is Mr. Tucker there?

Tucker - This is Tucker.

Woman - Delivered a message from  
Tucker's relatives.

5:46 Pm. - In on 123.

Man - Is Capt. Smith there?

Tucker - No.

Has.

5:50 Pm. - Out on 123.

Akers - Called 1987 (Spencer's)

Oliver - Hello -

Akers - Oliver did you take in one  
of those "halves" last night, or  
just see one.

Oliver - I just saw one - Robert Jenks  
had it.

Akers - OK, that's all.

Has.

2-7-37.

5:55 Pm. - Out on 123.

Akers - Called 770 (Heady's Undertaker)

Clerk - Paul Heady's.

Akers - Is Milford Sanders there?

Sanders - Hello.

Akers - Do you still have your application in down here?

Sanders - Yes - guess so - want me to come down?

Akers - Yes - Come down about nine in the morning.

[ NOTE ]

6:00 Pm. - Out on 123.

Akers - Called 3217 (Subscriber not known)

"Mack" - Hello -

Akers - Have you got a brother?

Mack - Yes - four of them.

Akers - One named Phil (phonetic)?

Mack - Yes - He's supposed to come in here in a few days.

Akers - Well, just thought I'd let  
(14) (cont.)

(cont.)

2-7-37.

you know that the government is looking for him. Fellow with the secret service was just asking me for information where he would be. I didn't let on much. Referred him to Albert. He's going to see Albert in the morning and he will probably send him out to see you. I told him that I couldn't give him much information.

Mack - What's he wanted for?

Alex - For forgery on a government check. I happen to know that they handle forgeries only when it's on a government check. Has your brother been out west in a CCC camp?

Mack - Yes. He was supposed to have left there and headed

(15)

(cont)

(cont.)

2-7-37.

Has-

back this way. The government  
has been mailing his CCC  
check here to me each month  
and I'd send him part of it.  
Akers - Well, whatever this was  
must have happened out there  
at the camp. Guess he'll be  
out to see you - just wanted  
to get word to you.

Mack - Thanks for letting me know.

6:22 Pm. - In on 123.

Norman (cook) - conversed with Akers  
about preparation of meal -

Has-

123

2/7/38

6.31 pm Out on 123.

WAS

Answered #16 - No answer.

6.34 pm In on 123.

WAS

Dech - Butch did you call me?

Butch - Yes, Come on down.

Dech - I'll be by in a little bit.

6.36 pm out on 123 to 124 (7 in kept).

WAS

Butch. Tell Babe to come on back to jail. - OK

6.50 pm In on 123.

WAS

Long distance operator asked if P.D. knew of a gypsy camp around Hot Springs, as she was trying to locate a man there. - No such camp around Hot Springs.

123

2/7/37.

7.20 p.m. In on 123.

WPS

Postal Telegraph stating there is no boy to pick up that message, right now. - alright send one when you get one

7.24 p.m. out on 123 to 1723.

WPS

Wakelin / tells.

Curly Evans. Dutch told me you wanted <sup>me</sup> to come out tomorrow.

Wakelin. It won't be necessary now, Curly.

8.11 p.m. In on 123 to Akus-His out

WPS

8.39 p.m. In on 123.

WPS

Woman. Is David Holler there?

P. H. yes. He's here since night before last.

Woman. What for

P. H. Drunk.



# 123-

2-7-37.

Hrs.

9:20 P.m. - In on 123-

Man - The people near Garden School  
say three cars out there look  
like trouble.

Corrington - Call the Sheriff - # 613-

9:35 P.m. - In on 123-

Hrs.

Man - Is Dutch there?

Abbott - No, not here. This is Abbott.

Man - Bill, this is Beck (phonetic)  
There's a guy over here you  
can put on the "holdover". Come  
over here.

Abbott - ok, I'll be over.

11:15 P.m. - In on 123-

Man - Is Ben Rogers in?

Corrington - No. He's out cruising -

Hrs.

(19)

7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-10-37

## Spa Probers May Receive Delegation

Lon Warneke Said to  
Head Montgomery  
County Group.

More "fireworks" in the House committee's investigation of alleged lawlessness in Hot Springs were expected tonight with receipt of word that a delegation of about 25 Montgomery countians, headed by county officials and Lon Warneke, major league hurler, would be present at the committee's session here.

The reliable information was that the group will testify on behalf of Circuit Judge Earl Witt, whose 18th district includes Garland and Montgomery counties.

The meeting will be held in the Wallace building office of John R. Thompson, assistant city attorney, who is attorney for the district. An unverified report said that W. S. Jacobs, one of the owners of Club Belvedere and the Southern Club at Hot Springs, may be summoned to take the witness stand.

Among the Montgomery county delegation expected to come here from Mt. Ida are County Judge Frank Hale, Sheriff J. M. Glaze, County Treasurer Joseph Simpson, former County Judge J. B. Hughes, manager of the Briggs-Hughes Lumber Company; J. L. Beavers, president of the Montgomery County Bank; Arthur Standridge, Montgomery county manager for the Louisiana Oil Company, and about a score of business men of the county.

Another House committee investigating the practices of so-called "loan shark" finance concerns has a session planned for tonight and during the day a dozen operators in Little Rock and Fort Smith are due to submit to the committee records showing the names of borrowers, the amount of each loan and other data which the operators failed to submit when called before the committee last Saturday.

Plans for tonight's meeting were discussed by the committee in a short conference at noon today. Rep. Carneal Warfield of Chicot county is chairman of the "loan shark" investigating committee, and Rep. W. M. Thompson of Batesville heads the committee making the inquiry into conditions in Hot Springs, and also Garland and Montgomery counties which compose the 18th judicial district.

7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 9, 1937

## SPA INQUIRY TO BE RESUMED AT SESSION TONIGHT

SUBPOENAS SERVED ON  
MORE WITNESSES TO  
BE HEARD.

Little Rock, Feb. 9.—(P)—A house committee investigating alleged laxity in law enforcement in Hot Springs and the 18th Judicial district took a recess today. Its special agents served subpoenas on witnesses to be heard at a further session tomorrow night.

The committee, which has taken extensive testimony on the operation of luxurious gambling casinos in the spa, alleged voting irregularities and mistreatment of city jail prisoners, and the conduct of officials in the district, did not disclose the names of those yet to be heard.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th District, criticized in the resolution authorizing the investigation, and who previously testified, has asked for a further hearing. Ill at his Hot Springs home, he offered to pay the expenses of the committee to wait on him there. The committee voted to receive him in Little Rock "at his convenience."

Frank Witte, committee investigator, told the committee he had been unable to serve a subpoena on a young woman witness whom the committee desires to hear.

He said he had interviewed the young woman in Hot Springs last week, but was unable to find her again when he returned there with a subpoena.

Chairman William M. Thompson instructed him to continue his efforts to serve the subpoena.

A group of Hot Springs business men who appeared before the committee last night expressed "faith and confidence" in Judge Witt. With reference to gambling in Hot Springs, they said "the people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this."

## Witt Indefinitely Postpones Trials Of Seven Officers

At the request of relatives of the late John Dickson, their attorney, Scott Wood and the prosecuting attorney's office, Circuit Judge Earl Witt late yesterday agreed to set a new date for the trial of seven former police officials under indictment on second degree murder charges in connection with the death of Dickson, city jail prisoner.

Judge Witt stated that Dickson's relatives, their attorney and Deputy Prosecutor Curtis Ridgeway claimed they could not get ready for trial by Monday and for that reason he agreed upon a new trial date which will be announced later.

Judge Witt stated that he regretted the necessity for continuance of the cases, adding that he "did everything I knew how to do to provide for a speedy and fair trial of the cases."

The trials were scheduled for Monday with Circuit Judge A. P. Steel, Ashdown, presiding at invitation of Judge Witt.

## Spa Gambling Hearings Has Police Guard

Night Club Owners De-  
tails Operations to  
House Members.

Guarded against hinted "trouble" by a special detail of Little Rock policemen, the House of Representatives committee investigating laxity in law enforcement at Hot Springs heard testimony on the gambling business recited here last night.

The testimony was augmented by an auditor's report which placed net profits for the 1936 season at Hot Springs gambling houses at \$330,200. The audit was prepared by Earl Screston of the revenue department income tax division. The season ended was from January 15 to mid-April, 1936.

Two members of the Little Rock police department stood guard outside the door of the committee room in the Wallace building as the four-hour session was held.

"We were here just in case," one officer said.

At one time, more than a hundred Hot Springs residents milled about the office, many of them members of a business men's committee which had come here to read a statement before the committee defending Judge Earl Witt, object of the committee's attack.

That trouble had been expected was revealed by Rep. W. M. Thompson when during the questioning of a witness concerning persons on the pay roll at the Southern Club, he said:

"Isn't this man, Tex Rutherford, one of the mayor's bodyguards who is waiting outside to break up this meeting?"

Club Owner Testifies.  
Sam Watt and Archie Ledgerwood, part owners of the Southern Club, Club Belvedere and other clubs at the resort city, gave the committee its lesson in how to run a gambling house. They revealed the distribution of profits of the organizations, how a "bankroll" operates, the various games that were operated at the clubs and identified the names of many employees of the clubs as firemen or policemen at Hot Springs.

Mr. Watt told how W. S. Jacobs, owner of Belvedere, gave away part interests in the club to "influential" men.

Among these "influential" men he named: Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Judge Verne Ledgerwood, municipal judge.

L. D. Cooper, former president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Douglas Hotchkiss, manager of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Among employees of either Belvedere or Southern Club, he listed:

P. O. Witt, uncle of Judge Earl Witt.

Buddy Wakelin, son of former Police Chief Joe Wakelin.

Bob Moore, former captain of police.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

lice.

Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of the chief of detectives.

Dorothy Halsey, daughter of a city detective.

Mr. Watt was insistent in that he had no personal knowledge of any protection payments to Hot Springs authorities.

"If that was done, I had no knowledge of it," he said.

As for the employment of relatives of officers, he told the committee:

"I guess the officers asked to be placed."

Ledgerwood told the committee that competition with other resort centers required that Hot Springs be operated under a liberal policy.

Says Gambling Necessary.

"Why didn't Hot Springs officers enforce the gambling laws?"

"Hot Springs is a resort and people come there for health and pleasure," he said. "Gambling houses there were closed up once before and the people went to Florida."

Ledgerwood told the committee he was a brother of Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood and added:

"He gave me plenty of hell for being in the gambling business and I told him it was and I had to on account of my health."

Jess R. Murphy, spokesman for the group of Hot Springs business men, told the committee that the people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health resorts, and the officials of the community should not be blamed for this policy.

Continuing, he declared:

"It has been repeatedly said in the press that you are investigating Judge Earl Witt, our circuit judge, and let us say now that he has been our circuit judge for 15 years and the people of Hot Springs have confidence in his honesty, integrity and ability. Judge Witt bears the reputation in our judicial district of being extremely fair and impartial in the trial of all cases and matters that come before him. He is learned in law and is eminently qualified for the position he occupies. An audit of the circuit court expenses made by the firm of Chase and Gaunt, public accountants, shows that during the first ten years of the tenure of office of Judge Earl Witt there was a saving to the taxpayers of more than \$80,000 as compared with the last ten years of his predecessors."

"We take this opportunity of expressing to your committee our faith and confidence in Judge Witt both as our circuit judge and as a citizen of our district. We further state to you that our people living directly under the jurisdiction of Judge Witt's court are satisfied with the conduct of that court and beg of you to not permit politicians or politics to cause you to do anything that will reflect upon Judge Witt or the people of the 18th Judicial district."

Billy Mann, Hot Springs grocer 15 years, told the committee the August primary was conducted "under pressure."

"I attended what is commonly known as a pressure meeting, held in police court," he testified. "Judge

McLaughlin

talk-

They told the firemen they ex-

pected each of them to account for

10 poll tax receipts "and if you

can't get them, we can arrange it."

Ex-Policeman Testifies.

Mann said he was a former po-

liceman and was a candidate for

constable in the election but that his

name was "scratched off" the ad-

ministration ticket and he was de-

feated.

L. G. Stanley, Mt. Ida, told of

presence of gambling machines

"running openly" in Montgomery

county, a part of the Eighteenth dis-

trict presided over by Judge Witt.

He reported they disappeared after

the present investigation started.

Mrs. W. L. Haynes, aunt of John

Dickson, reviewed charges which

her family has made that Dickson,

Hot Springs jail prisoner, died last

Christmas Eve as a result of being

beaten by officers.

Seven policemen were indicted in

the death and are slated for trial

Monday. Judge Witt disqualified

himself for the trial. Circuit Judge

A. P. Steel, Ashdown, accepted an

invitation to preside.

The Rev. F. L. Hurst told the com-

mittee:

"It is a known fact that Leo Mc-

Laughlin dominates elections in Hot

Spring. I feel that the people of

Garland county need a new deal.

Right now, they are depressed."

He described a meeting conducted

at City Hall shortly before the

August primary, at which he said

Mayor McLaughlin spoke and told

city policemen and firemen to see

that "all of your relatives have poll

taxes."

He declared that Mayor Mc-

Laughlin told the employees they

could vote as they pleased but if

they didn't vote right, someone

would be around to take their jobs.

Rep. Jim Campbell of Garland

made a brief statement at the close

of the meeting, defending Judge

Witt. He said the reputable busi-

ness men of Hot Springs were for

Judge Witt. He declared he had

known Judge Witt many years and

that his reputation was the best pos-

sible.

The committee voted to invite

Judge Witt to appear before the

committee at a future meeting, if he

so desires.

This action was taken after Judge

Witt had sent letters to each mem-

ber asking to be heard.

In his letters, Judge Witt said he

had been confined to his home by

illness and for that reason unable to

appear before the committee. He

asked to be heard, if his health per-

mits. In the event he is physically

unable to appear before the commit-

tee, he offered to pay expenses of

the group to Hot Springs to hear his

statement.

The investigating committee will

hold another session Wednesday

night. Members said they hoped to

complete the inquiry by Saturday

night.

While the investigators were in

session last night, Detective Chief

Herbert Akers charged at Hot

Spring that two women had been

offered money to testify against him

before the probers.

He reported possession of deposi-

tions from two women declaring

they had been offered money by a

man representing himself as an in-

vestigator for the committee.

7-576-3-15

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

DATE: Feb. 8, 1937

# Race Repeat Bill Is Defeated by House

**Vote on Representative  
Butt's Bill to Repeal  
Law Results in 30 to  
64 Total.**

## Argument Brief

**Bills Introduced Also to  
Amend Thorn Liquor  
Law by Referendum  
Vote in August.**

The House defeated late today the bill by Butt of Carroll to repeal the 1935 act legalizing horse racing. The vote was 30 to 64.

"The Hot Springs newspapers and the Garland county representatives report that people are moving out of Hot Springs by the hundreds because of activities of this legislature," Butt said.

Representative Butt opened debate on the bill.

"The only issue involved is whether or not you are willing to prostitute the good name of Arkansas for the dollars that this state will get through legalized gambling," Butt said.

"Is the amount of money that we get worth the bad reputation and bad publicity and defamatory remarks we get through the racing? By legalizing gambling we have lowered the moral tone of the state."

Speaking against the bill, Crawford of Mississippi, said:

"No law is stronger than the sentiment of the people back of it. Legalizing of racing by the 1935 legislature was a commendable act. I'd love for some of these gentlemen to tell us what moral loss we have suffered through legalized racing during the past two years."

Blount of White speaking for the bill, said:

"I don't see how we can consistently war against gambling in our schools and churches and then legalize it in the high places. Many times it's the little fellow with a starving family who gambles away his money on horse races. I'm opposed to any form of gambling."

Thompson of Independence said: "It seems that free government already has ceased to exist in Garland county and tentacles of horse racing soon will reach out into other counties."

Thompson, chairman of the House committee investigating law enforcement conditions at Hot Springs, said that the books of eight Hot Springs gambling houses showed a profit of \$332,000 last year.

"Operation of crooked gambling machines is taking money away from Hot Springs visitors," he said. "Three-fourths of the dice taken in recent raids on Hot Springs gambling houses were crooked."

"I guess after this legislature adjourns, it will be dangerous for me to go to Hot Springs."

Bills were introduced in the lower branch of the general assembly today to amend the Thorn liquor control act to prohibit the advertising of liquor and for the enactment of a law calling for a special liquor referendum election to give the electors of the state the right on the second Tuesday in August to approve or reject the Thorn liquor act of 1935.

Should a majority of the votes in the election be cast in favor of legal sale of liquor, the bill by Boyer of Yell contains a provision that the sale of legal liquor would be outlawed in all wards, townships, cities and towns and counties voting against liquor sales should be majority in any subdivision of the state government vote against legal sales.

The bill to prohibit the advertising of liquor was introduced by the Rev. Lee Nichols, Logan county representative, and was referred to the temperance committee after having been read the second time. Boyer's measure was sent to the committee on banks and banking.

The representatives passed 11 measures within two hours after reconvening after the recess over the week-end. Seven of the bills were budget measures to make \$1,950,638 available during the next biennium for the operation of state schools.



## Hot Springs Probers Meet Tomorrow

The House Committee of the legislature, investigating charges of terrorism and lawlessness in Hot Springs, announced yesterday that another meeting will be held tomorrow night and that members of the press would be admitted. Another meeting may be held later in the week, it was said by John R. Thompson, attorney for the committee.

The committee has been conducting its investigations behind closed doors until Friday night when newspapermen were invited. Mr. Thompson said a list of witnesses had been prepared, but the subpoenas had not been served as yet.

The committee plans to make its report soon. In a statement released Friday night they said enough evidence already was at hand that "impeachment of certain officials seemed inevitable."

### Hot Springs Police Officers Deny All Charges.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Feb. 6.—Members of the Hot Springs Police Department accused in testimony given the committee of the legislature investigating alleged terrorism in this city today made affidavits denying statements the committee received from Billy Blair, 24, Roxie Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20, of this city.

Those who made affidavits were Mrs. Emma Warrington, police matron; Owen Corrington and F. H. Tucker, who alternate day and night shifts as jailers; Officers T. G. Evans, and Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers.

#### Hotel Manager in Denial.

Bruce Wallace, manager of the Majestic hotel, issued a statement denying that he had discharged Fred Pennington, until recently employed by the Engineers Department at the hotel because Pennington had aided Frank Witte of the state Revenue Department in the investigation here.

In a letter addressed to the editor of a newspaper here, Wallace wrote: "Replying to your statement in the paper made by Mr. Pennington, who was dismissed from the Majestic hotel, due to his political affiliations, will state it could not have possibly been for that reason, as the management was quite active in supporting Carl Bailey for governor and asked all hotel employees to vote for Mr. Bailey. Mr. Pennington was dismissed from our service for an entirely different reason."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 7, 1937

## Discord Marks Probe Sessions

Much Strife in Ranks of  
Delegation of Repre-  
sentatives Investigating  
Hot Springs.

### Secrecy Charged

Reports Say Impeach-  
ment Charges to be  
"Handed Committee"  
May Finish This Week.

Internal strife was reported near the breaking point within the legislative committee investigating laxity of law enforcement at Hot Springs last night.

Reports were current that articles of impeachment already had been drawn, without the consent or knowledge of a majority of the committee, and that the draft would be presented to the five-man body for approval within a week.

It was learned on high authority that until Friday night's open hearing conducted by the committee, a majority of the body had been unaware of developments or progress in the investigation.

Shortly before Friday night's meeting got under way, one member of the committee attempted to gain entrance to a room where Chairman W. M. Thompson was talking to several witnesses. Repeated raps on the door for admission were ignored, even though the committee member identified himself.

Another committee member standing nearby urged his colleague to "kick in the door."

#### May Finish This Week.

Meanwhile, Chairman Thompson announced that another hearing similar to that held Friday night is scheduled for Monday or Tuesday night. He indicated that it is hoped to complete all investigation by the end of the week.

The committee has been functioning for three weeks now under orders of a House resolution adopted early in the session.

A statement issued following Friday night's committee meeting said: "The testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable."

The statement, however, was signed only by Rep. Lee Nichols of Booneville.

It was learned from unquestionable sources that at least two other members of the committee refused to sign the statement, expressing the opinion that it would pledge them as believing impeachment proceedings were in order.

It was learned that at least one member of the committee had expressed the opinion that "if the present testimony is sufficient to impeach anyone in the Eighteenth Judicial circuit, it is sufficient to impeach any official in the state."

#### Not "in" on Raids.

It was also learned last night on high authority, that two raids apparently under sponsorship of the committee, were organized and carried out without the knowledge of a majority of the committee. At least (Contin. on Page 2, Gen. News Sec.)

## DISCORD MARKS PROBE SESSIONS

(Contin. from Pg. 1, Gen. News Sec.)

three members of the five-man group were unaware that the first raid at Hot Springs in which a number of persons were subpoenaed to appear before the committee, was to be conducted, it was reported.

A majority of the members of the committee also were unaware of plans for the raid at Hot Springs one week ago Friday night, when gambling paraphernalia valued at \$15,000 was seized.

Two members of the body were acquainted with facts of the raid as they stood in the lobby of the Hotel Marion more than an hour after the equipment had been seized. Expressing doubt that the raids had been staged, they called the office of a news service to verify the report.

It was said that proposals carried out at the meeting here Friday night were the first which have received sanction of a majority of the committee.

**Near Fist Fight Reported.**

Reports that two members of the committee came near to blows at a recent meeting were verified last night by news sources.

It was reported that during the course of a discussion, Rep. Pat Robinson, member of the committee, invited Rep. Nichols to "step outside and we'll see who is the best man." Actual blows were averted by efforts of friends, it was said.

The question of where funds will be found to finance the inquiry also arose yesterday, when it was revealed that approximately only \$300 remains in the House of Representatives contingent fund, from which expenses of the probe were to be paid.

A voucher for \$60 to pay the salary of a stenographer-secretary for the committee up until Feb. 2, was paid the past week. Several vouchers for witnesses' fees have been issued.

It was learned that no voucher has been issued for payment of John R. Thompson, attorney for the committee, and it was reported that no agreement had been reached by the committee on the amount of salary to be paid Mr. Thompson, who is assistant city attorney for the City of Little Rock.

A court reporter employed by the committee to record statements of witnesses also has not been paid.

A House committee conducting an investigation of loan companies already has approved a claim of \$250 for legal services for Carroll Hollensworth, House parliamentarian, and this claim must be paid from the House contingent fund. This would leave approximately only \$50 to care for expenses of the Hot Springs investigating committee.

The opinion was expressed in several places yesterday that Gov. Carl E. Bailey might make an allotment from the governor's emergency fund to carry on the Hot Springs investigation.

**To Disqualify Self.**

Hot Springs—Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night announced he would disqualify himself in the trials of seven former policemen charged with second degree murder in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, and said he had invited Circuit Judge A. P. Steele, of Ashdown, to preside in his place.

"In view of recent developments, I think it best to have another judge preside over these cases," Judge Witt said. "Also, these men have been under indictment for several weeks and I think there should be some effort to set their trials."

"I will set these cases to suit your convenience," Judge Witt advised Judge Steele in urging him to "let me know the earliest date you could come to Hot Springs for this pur-



ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 6, 1937

## Impeachment Action May Follow Probe

### Hot Springs Committee Closes 'Open' Hearing to Newspapermen.

A legislative committee investigating charges of a breakdown in law enforcement in Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial district said today it believed impeachment proceedings against officials in the Hot Springs area "are inevitable."

The statement was issued over the signature of Rep. Lee Nichols of Booneville, committee secretary; last night after an "open hearing" at the office of John R. Thompson, committee attorney, in the Wallace building.

Newspaper men who had been invited to attend the "open hearing" were permitted to hear testimony of three inmates of the State Farm for Women at Alexander; a Hot Springs hotel engineer who was fired for "talking to people I had no business talking to" and a committee investigator.

They were excluded from the room when six Hot Springs business men were called, individually, to present testimony.

The committee decided to close the "open hearing" when the six business men objected to testifying in the presence of newspaper men. A member of the committee said the business men told him it wouldn't be safe for them to testify at a hearing at which newspaper men were present.

#### Lawmaker "Explains."

A member of the committee later explained the exclusion of reporters from the room with the question:

"You wouldn't want to be responsible for the death of some man, would you?"

The three inmates of the State Farm for Women charged under oath that immoral conditions existed in the Hot Springs city jail, and that women arrested there had been whipped and otherwise abused by officers.

One of the women prisoners, giving the name of Billy Blair, 24, told the committee she had been seduced by force at the age of 15 by a Hot Springs police official, instigated to commit robbery by a policeman, arrested and beaten, and later sent to the women's prison farm for a year.

She alleged that Circuit Judge Earl Witt, in sentencing her, promised to aid her in obtaining a release.

(Continued on Page 2)

## IMPEACHMENT ACTION MAY FOLLOW PROBE

(Continued from Page 1)

leave after serving a part of her time.

"But they won't help me now," she told the committee shrilly. "They'll kill me if I ever go back to Hot Springs because they will know about my testimony here."

Asked by the committee attorney who "they" were, she replied:

"The law over there."

"The testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable," said the committee's statement.

#### Acting Chief Heard.

At Hot Springs, Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry, only recently appointed, said "There is not a word of truth" in the charges of immoral conditions at the jail.

Rasberry several weeks ago succeeded Chief of Police Joe Wakefield, suspended by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin during a grand jury investigation into the death of a city jail prisoner, allegedly from a beating. Seven policemen were indicted for the death of the prisoner, but those charged did not include the suspended chief.

Since the house committee started its inquiry, state revenue department agents, apparently working in close co-operation with the investigators, raided night clubs at Hot Springs, seized and burned several thousand dollars worth of gambling equipment.

The resolution under which the house committee is working authorized it to determine whether impeachment proceedings should be brought against officials in the Hot Springs area. The resolution alleged a breakdown in law enforcement and an alliance between peace officers and the "criminal classes."

#### Women Inmate Testifies.

The other women's reformatory inmates appearing before the legislative group gave their names as Roxie Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20.

Roxie Parker said she didn't know why she had been sent to the reformatory. She explained that she previously had been arrested and released in connection with a fatal shooting at Hot Springs.

"That time, they took me to jail and a police officer said he would whip me unless I talked, and he did. He took me where a dead man was and made me put my hand of the dead man while he questioned me. They put me under the hot lights and bent my fingers almost double."

7-576-3-15

and shoved their thumbs behind my ear.

"That was last June. It was in connection with the killing of Harvey Cook, but I didn't know anything about it."

Iva Lee Johnson said she had been sentenced from Judge Verne Ledgerwood's municipal court for drunkenness and had been at the prison farm just a week.

Mrs. Helen D. McDonald, superintendent of the state women's farm, told the committee the Parker girl was an "ideal inmate" but that both the Blair and Johnson girls had been treated in the state hospital for nervous disease, while serving time at the reformatory.

Excepting newspapermen, John T. Williams of the local district attorney's office, and Representative James R. Campbell of Hot Springs were the only outsiders permitted to attend the session.

#### Ex-Hotel Employee Heard.

Fred L. Pennington, describing himself as until recently a maintenance engineer at the Majestic hotel, said he "was let out of my job at the hotel yesterday because I talked to Mr. Witte (a committee investigator)—at least it looks that way."

"The chief engineer fired me because he said I was talking to people I had no business talking to," he continued. "He said my work was satisfactory."

Frank Witte, the committee investigator, told the committee he took part in the recent seizure and destruction of Hot Springs night clubs' gambling paraphernalia.

He identified in evidence 39 poll tax receipts which he said had been given to him by a man he named as Charles Sellers, a former police man.

Witte charged the poll tax receipts were distributed in Hot Springs for voting purposes in the primary and that a "pink ticket" of the city administration's selections for state and district offices was distributed also to voters.

He said the selections were headed by Ed F. McDonald for governor, who was given a large majority in the resort city over Carl E. Bailey, who won the office.

Representative Campbell said that the man identified by Witte as "Charles Sellers," was removed from the resort police force recently when he was indicted in connection with robbery of a club at Hot Springs. Campbell said he was appointed by the court to defend Sellers.

Witte said Sellers told him the 39 poll tax receipts were part of 125 he was given to distribute to persons named on a list given him.

He told me the 69 were for people he didn't get around to seeing," Witte said.

Pennington told the committee that he was "thrown out" of a polling place in Hot Springs, the night of the August 11 primary, after he had been commissioned by Carl E. Bailey to watch the counting of ballots. He said his father-in-law was arrested the day of the primary and placed in jail for 24 hours, after which he was released. His father had been carrying Bailey voters to the polls, Pennington said.

Mrs. M. C. Hickman, a registered nurse, called to appear before the committee, declined to answer a question concerning the nature of an illness of Judge Witt during which time she attended him.

Mrs. Hickman said she did not know the exact illness of Judge Witt and that she merely carried out the treatment prescribed by the attending physician.

"Have you ever attended patients suffering from alcoholism?" a committee member asked.

Mrs. Hickman replied that she had. "Would you say that the symptoms of Judge Witt's illness were the same as those of a patient suffering from alcoholism?" she was asked.

Mrs. Hickman refused to answer the question, declaring that it would be a violation of professional ethics.

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(Continued on Page 3)

## IMPEACHMENT ACTION MAY FOLLOW PROBE

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XX  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 5, 1937

#### THE ANTI-RACING BILL

The House Banks and Banking Committee, after an open hearing, has voted, 7 to 3, to recommend that a bill repealing the 1935 act legalizing betting on horse races, "do not pass". The proposed law was introduced by Representative Butt of Carroll county.

And that voting ratio should, and we believe will, prevail when the Butt bill reaches the floor of the legislature.

It was expected that efforts would be made to repeal the law which makes it possible to hold races at Hot Springs. But the House committee's open hearing has brought the question to public attention for the first time.

What are the principal arguments against legalizing the "sport of kings" in Arkansas?

It is demoralizing to the public morals to allow people—of the "leading" as well as "lowest" classes—to bet on a horse race. It is bad advertising for Arkansas. It attracts crooks, panhandlers, touts, et al., to the state.

Why go on? You have heard those arguments many times. When a racing season was held illegally, in 1934, at Hot Springs, they were warmed over, and over, and among those who did the "warming" were some of our good citizens who not only attended that illegal meet but actually bet on the horses.

Legalizing racing in this state by the 1935 legislature was a commendable act of honesty. By that we mean the majority of members were opposed to the hypocritical denouncing of the sport while we allowed it to go on. They knew that more than 20 states had legalized horse racing and had suffered no moral loss.

It may be that we are "belaboring the obvious" in defending horse racing. Our only intention is to remind the legislature that the majority of Arkansans want racing at Hot Springs and the sooner they kill not only Mr. Butt's bill but all akin to it, the better.

7-576-3-15

## DOWNEN DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF OUSTER ACTION

SAYS GAZETTE MIS-  
QUOTED HIM IN STORY  
ON M'LAUGHLIN.

W. R. Downen, Hot Springs business man, and former sheriff of Garland county, said yesterday he had been misquoted by the Arkansas Gazette in a story telling of a purported organized movement among business men here to demand the resignation of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin.

The newspaper story in which Mr. Downen claims he was misquoted, was published Friday morning and followed a story in the Thursday edition of the Gazette, quoting an unnamed Hot Springs business man as saying that a group of citizens would meet at 10 a. m. Thursday for the purpose of naming a spokesman and visiting Mayor McLaughlin to demand his resignation. Nothing materialized Thursday except a statement by Mayor McLaughlin that he would not resign if a committee visited him. Yesterday the Gazette—this time quoting Mr. Downen—said the group of business men had met, but had decided that no good would be accomplished by asking the mayor to resign.

Mr. Downen yesterday denied knowledge of any organized movement to obtain the mayor's resignation. He said the Hot Springs situation had been discussed at various times by business men and others who gather at a downtown confectiory every morning for their pre-arranged meeting. He said there had been no

The former sheriff named a number of those present at the confectiory Thursday. All of those who could be located yesterday denied that there had been any discussion of a movement to get the mayor to quit his office.

Seeming somewhat perturbed over the alleged mis-statements, Mr. Downen denied emphatically that he had told the Gazette: "I'm all through with politics."

"I'm not through with politics," he said. "I've been in it for 25 years and I guess I'll be there as long as I live, or as long as I can walk to the polls to vote."

Another development yesterday was a news dispatch by Pat Walsh, Little Rock correspondent of the United Press, which stated that political observers in the capital were predicting that the Hot Springs investigation would fail in its objective—to oust Mayor McLaughlin.

## DAILY SALIVA TESTS ORDERED FOR RACE MEET

STEWARDS, JUDGES  
RAISED TO SIX—FARRIS  
REAPPOINTED.

Little Rock, Feb. 5. (AP)—The Arkansas Racing commission voted today for daily saliva tests during the Oaklawn Jockey club's 30-day spring meet at Hot Springs and named a steward and judge to represent it during the racing season.

It increased the number of stewards and judges for the meet from three to six. Three men previously have served in both capacities but three now will serve as stewards and three as judges.

Bill Hamilton, of Hot Springs, veteran starter, who was to have started the races this season, was selected as the commission's steward. Ed Landers, of Harrisburg, was appointed commission placing judge. Ed Farris, secretary of the commission, said both had accepted. The track management will name the remaining official.

Funds for daily saliva tests are provided in a senate bill now pending in the house. The commission voted itself authority to appoint the veterinarian to make the tests.

No provisions were made last year for the tests. The commission reappointed Farris secretary.

7-576-3-15



# WOMEN'S CHARGES AGAINST POLICE AIRED AT SPA PROBE

HOUSE GROUP SAYS IM-  
PEACHMENT ACTION  
"INEVITABLE."

## SORDID STORIES HEARD

Committee Turns From  
Gambling and Alleged  
Collusion to Moral Con-  
ditions in Jail—Deny Re-  
ports That Quiz Is Failure

Little Rock, Feb. 5—(AP)—Holding its first non-secret session, the house committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs heard tonight three inmates of the women's state reformatory at Alexander recite charges of immoral conditions in the Hot Springs jail and abuse of women prisoners by the resort's police force.

The committee said in a formal statement issued shortly after 11 p.m. that "the testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable."

The three young women gave names to the committee as Billy Blair, 24, Roxie Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20, all of Hot Springs.

Mrs. Helen D. McDonald, superintendent of the state women's farm, called to testify immediately after the young women, said that the Parker girl was "an ideal inmate," but that the Blair and Johnson girls had been treated in the State Hospital for Nervous Diseases, while serving time at the farm.

She gave the testimony in answer to a question from John R. Thompson, committee attorney, inquiring about "the physical and mental conditions" of the three girls, all of whom claimed to have been mistreated by Hot Springs police.

Another witness was Mrs. M. C. Hickman, Hot Springs, a registered nurse, who said she attended Judge Earl Witt, of the 18th judicial district, in which Hot Springs is located.

When Attorney Thompson pressed her for answers about the nature of his illness, Secretary Lee Nichols of the committee pointed out that she could claim professional immunity, if she desired.

Mrs. Hickman was excused after claiming professional immunity.

Frequently incoherent, the Blair girl, her face tense above the severe blue reformatory uniform, told the committee under oath that she was seduced, by force, by a Hot Springs police official when she was 15 years old.

She is now serving six months at the state farm on a robbery conviction.

Miss Blair said she was employed as a housekeeper in Hot Springs when she was picked up on the street by the police official who she said offered to drive her to work but instead took her to headquarters.

"He took me to a room and I tried to fight him off, but I couldn't," she testified. "Afterwards he said if I ever told he would lock me up."

"Later he picked me up and attacked me again. I was afraid to tell anyone. Once, he picked me up in his car and took me out into the country."

She said she was later arrested and fined on a "trumped up" charge and that subsequently, at a road house, a policeman had suggested that "I had a chance to get \$400 off a customer there by getting him drunk."

She related that she got the customer drunk and took \$475 from his pockets, and that she was arrested on a robbery charge after returning to her rooming house.

"At headquarters, the police tried to make me give them the money and they beat me with a strap to make me give it up. I finally did. I had it hid in the lining of my coat."

She charged she was promised protection and advised by the police not to tell the truth to the grand jury.

"They didn't want me to tell the truth because they had the money," she testified. "I told the grand jury I had destroyed the money. Judge Witt sentenced me to a year and promised he would help me get out after I had done part of my time."

"But they won't help me now," she said shrilly. "They'll kill me if I ever go back to Hot Springs because they will know about my testimony here."

"Who are the 'they' you keep referring to?" asked the committee attorney.

(Continued on Page Five)

## Women's Charges Against Police Aired at Spa Probe

(Continued from Page One)

"The law over there," she said. "If you were being persecuted, why didn't you tell the public, in a statement?"

"The public over there knows what's going on," the Blair girl replied.

Of her stay in the Hot Springs jail, the witness said:

"The jailer told me that if I'd be good to him, he'd be good to me. I refused, although he threatened me."

She said the jailer had illicit relations with another woman prisoner, in her presence.

Roxie Parker, on being sworn, insisted she did not know why she had been sent to the women's state farm.

"I don't know why I am there," she said. "I have been working in Hot Springs for a year and I was arrested in December and sent to the farm but I don't know what for. The police just came and picked me up and put me in jail."

She said she had been previously arrested, and released, in connection with a fatal shooting in Hot Springs.

"That time, they took me to jail and Cecil Brock (a police officer) said he would whip me unless I talked, and he did. He took me where the dead man was and made me put my hand on the dead man while he questioned me. They put me under the hot lights and bent my fingers almost double and screwed their thumbs behind my ear."

"That was last June. It was in connection with the killing of Harvey Cook, but I didn't know anything about it. I just knew the man by name."

"Don't you know what they picked you up for the last time?" Attorney Thompson insisted.

"No, I don't. They took me into a court, I don't know which one and Dutch Akers (chief of detectives) said something to the judge about sending me up for six months and the judge wrote it down." She was excused on that statement.

Iva Lee Johnson said she had been a prison farm inmate for just a week. She said she was sentenced from Judge Verne Ledgerwood's municipal court for drunkenness.

"I offered to pay for the stove I broke up in the jail, but they wouldn't listen to me," she testified. "They would not let me make an appeal bond or get in touch with a lawyer, although I had the money to pay a lawyer."

"I lived in Hot Springs with my mother and worked in a cafe."

She also alleged that a Hot Springs officer "took me out into the country in a car after picking me up on the street."

"He gave me three dollars after we got out into the country," she testified. "Later he fingerprinted me and said that if I dated him he would tear up the fingerprints, and he did."

"In jail, I was switched with switches by Curly Evans and Cecil Brock because I wouldn't tell where my boy friend was."

"This last time they arrested me, they hit me over the head with a blackjack. One officer slapped me down."

Displaying arm-bruises to the committee, she said:

"Three cops made propositions to me while I was in jail the last time. They said if I would date them, they would turn me loose. I wouldn't do it. Another girl who was sentenced the same time I was dated one of the policemen and she hasn't shown up at the women's farm yet."

The committee session, at which Rep. William M. Thompson of Independence, author of the investigation resolution presided, was open only to newsmen after several weeks of secret sessions, but exceptions were made tonight to admit John T. Williams, of the local district attorney's office, and Rep. James R. Campbell of Hot Springs.

Nichols told the committee at one point that "seven Hot Springs business men are here ready to testify, but they don't want to testify except in an executive session."

"I believe they would testify if Mr. Campbell were not present," he said.

The committee tentatively decided to go into executive session and then decided to hear as many persons as were willing to testify before the outsiders present.

Fred L. Pennington, called as a witness, said he was a maintenance engineer at the Majestic hotel, Hot Springs, "until yesterday."

"What activity did you have in the August democratic primary," he was asked.

"I was commissioned by (Governor) Carl Bailey to be at the count of votes at the city hall, but I was thrown out by an ex-fireman named Lovick while they were still counting," Pennington said.

"I was let out of my job at the hotel yesterday because I talked to Mr. Witte (a committee investigator)—at least it looks that way."

"The chief engineer fired me because he said I was talking to people I had no business talking to. He said my work was satisfactory."

Frank Witte, committee investigator, placed under oath, testified to taking part in the recent seizure and destruction of gambling equipment taken from Hot Springs night spots by the state revenue department, with which he is regularly connected.

He identified in evidence 39 poll tax receipts which he said had been given to him by a man he named as "Charles Sellers," a former policeman.

Witte charged the poll tax receipts were distributed in Hot Springs for voting purposes in the primary and that a "pink ticket" of the city administration's selections

for state and district officers was also distributed to voters.

The selections, he alleged, were headed by Ed F. McDonald for governor, who was given a large Hot Springs majority over Carl Bailey, the winner.

After Witte was heard, the committee went into an executive session, from which was issued this statement:

"Our attention has been called to a report published in a Hot Springs paper that the investigation in which we have been engaged for the past three weeks is about to result in failure and that members of the committee had frankly admitted to their friends that they regret having started it."

"We desire to say that our progress so far has been quite satisfactory to every member of the committee and that we expect to continue our investigation until the matters set out in the resolution by which we were created have been thoroughly investigated."

"Testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable and the statements which have been made in the papers reflecting upon the committee are without foundation and are being used only for the purpose of suppressing information by intimidation and otherwise."

#### Dispatch Carried

(The Hot Springs newspaper story referred to by the committee was an United Press dispatch carried on the front page of yesterday's New Era. The substance of the dispatch will be found in this newspaper in the story on the reported movement among business men to ask Mayor McLaughlin's resignation.)

#### Long Police Records

Hot Springs police last night described the three women who appeared before the house committee as "having long police records extending back to their childhood."

"We had to send them to the state farm for women before they became of age, Chief Detective Akers said, explaining, "they became so unruly officials at the girls reform school refused to accept them."



"The Black girl is under sentence now for larceny in connection with the 'rolling' of a man in a Malvern rooming house," Akers said. The other two were sentenced after having been sentenced innumerable times for loitering.

"The larceny case involved a \$80 theft. This was the only larceny case ever entered against her here. She never was arrested for stealing as much as \$475 from anybody.

"She was always a continual source of trouble. Only a short time before she was last admitted to the farm she had to receive treatment at the Levi hospital for a head wound suffered when a man broke a beer bottle over her head in a drunken brawl. I think she

claimed the man was her husband. "I'll have to have my records to see how many times she was sent up for loitering. We had to keep her off the streets. She continually came to receive treatment at the government clinic. So did the other two women.

"I think the only thing we ever sent the Johnson woman up for was loitering.

"This Roxie Parker was investigated in the Harvey Cook slaying. She was at the bar room with Cook and the man who killed him. We never found the slayer but we had reason to believe the Parker girl knew him because she was with both of them a few minutes before the slaying.

"She was investigated before a coroner's inquest but she denied knowledge of the slayer's identity. She admitted she was the slain man's 'girl,' however. We believe the fatal fight was over her."

Former Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock denied "switching" any of the girls.

"I admit I questioned the Parker girl. I had every reason to believe she could name the slayer. The Cook case is still unsolved and she was our most important witness.

"All of the girls had every reason to try to get back at the police department. Offhand, I couldn't even estimate the number of times we arrested them. In their conditions, we had to keep them off the streets."

Police Matron Warrington supported the testimony about the trio. She said just a few weeks ago the Johnson girl broke up a stove and turned on water faucets to flood the jail.

"Those girls have been causing trouble ever since they were little things," Mrs. Warrington said. "I can't estimate the number of times they were arrested either but in the morning I can make available their police records."

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry said tonight "there was not a word of truth" in charges of immoral conditions in the city jail here.

He said that he believed Iva Lee Johnson, the only one of the trio taken into custody since he became head of the local department.

SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 2, 1937

## Officials Rushing Plans for 1937 Race Meet Here

With horse owners, jockeys, trainers and tourists arriving in this resort city on every train, officials of the Oaklawn Jockey club are rushing completion of plans for the 30-day race meeting beginning March 1.

A bright, warm sun the past two days brought many visitors out for a look at the track, some of them early in the morning when training is at its height. The seasonable weather has increased activities around the track with an average of 50 horses going through intensive drills each morning.

Horses are arriving daily from such racing points as Miami, New Orleans and Los Angeles and officials are constantly on the jump checking and giving out written reservations for stall space.

The W. C. Reichert stable is expected here shortly with the following horses: Baby Way, Joyce K, Sir Midas, a candidate for the \$5,000 added Arkansas Derby which will be down for decision April 3, Miss Ritz, Denbigh and a couple of 2-year-olds, Miss Pitty Pat and Dandy Dan.

Owner E. Eslick, with Miss Ginkbar, Makalaw, Evangelist, and Forget Not are also due within the week. The young apprentice star, E. Eccard is expected to land here with the D. L. Ogle string before Feb. 15. The Ogle string includes the stake performer Infidox, which will be a candidate for the Governor's handicap and Patch Pockets, Top Tax, Busy K, Steel Worker, Merrily On, Mystic Ann and Oklahoma Ring.

Mrs. V. Berry has written from San Antonio that she is shipping the platers Berett, Bitt O'Black, Bunglerm, Dead Ready, Girl's Chance, Hay Top, Marion Burr, Merry Peggy, Our David and Zorana.

George Leeds visited here the other day and before departing for New Orleans announced that his shipment to Oaklawn would include Sir Ten, Maystick, Speed Demon, Rockrim, Hi Ben and Memory.

About 80 riders are expected by March 1.

Sir Midas is but one of many good 3-year-olds which have already been named for the Arkansas Derby. Orientalist and Prairie Dodge, owned by the famed Chicago woman owner, Mrs. Emil Denemark were among the first to be nominated. Then came the naming of High Lark, the undefeated Blue Larkspur colt from the Alderman John J. Coughlin stable, of Chicago.

The Millsdale stable's Bottle Cap, reckoned a strong contender for the Arkansas several weeks ago, has been shipped to Louisville and may not come here. He is to be blistered and given a rest.

## POLICE LATELY DENY CHARGES MADE BY GIRLS

### REFUTE ACCUSATIONS AIMED AT THEM AT INQUIRY HEARING.

## SIX ISSUE STATEMENTS

### Police Matron Terms Trio "Most Vicious Type of Women Delinquents" — Wallace Denies Charges of Discharged Employee.

Five present members and one former member of the Hot Springs Police department issued signed statements yesterday denying the charges of immorality and mistreatment by police, included in the testimony Friday night of three inmates of the Women's State Reformatory at Jacksonville, before the legislative committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs.

The women were Billy Blair, 24; Roxie Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20, all of Hot Springs and described by Mrs. Emma Warrington, police matron, as "probably the most vicious type of women delinquents that I have ever come in contact with."

At the same time Bruce E. Wallace, manager of the Majestic hotel, made a statement denying the charge of Fred L. Pennington who told the legislative probers that he had lost his job as maintenance engineer for the hotel because he had supported Governor Carl Bailey. Mr. Wallace said dismissal of Pennington for that reason was impossible because the hotel management had strongly supported Bailey. Pennington was dismissed for "entirely different reasons" which Mr. Wallace did not divulge.

Statements were made by Mrs. Warrington, Patrolman T. G. (Curley) Evans, Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, Jailer F. H. Tucker, Jailer Owen Corrington and former Lieut. Cecil Brock.

Their statements follow:

Herbert Akers  
I, Herbert Akers, chief of detectives of the Hot Springs Police department, desire to state that I read the newspaper report of the testimony of Billy Blair, Roxie Parker and Iva Lee Johnson given before the investigating committee of the legislature and I have known these women for several years and know them to be police characters and prostitutes.

In checking the records of the city I find that Iva Lee Johnson's record starts on April 19, 1932, and since that time she has been arrested and convicted for drunk and disorderly, inmate of a disorderly house, disturbing the peace, petty larceny and disturbing the peace, by fighting. That she has served three sentences at the State Farm for Women.

I have checked the record of Roxie Parker and find that she was first arrested in the investigation of the murder of Harvey Cook and it was discovered that she was badly infected and in need of treatment for venereal diseases and turned over to the government clinic; that she refused to take treatment and was plying her vocation as a prostitute on the streets.

of Hot Springs and on December 6, 1936, was charged with delinquency and sent to the State Farm for Women.

I have checked the record of Billy Blair and find that her record starts December 24, 1931; that since that time she has been arrested 21 times, the offenses consisting of being drunk and disorderly, disturbing the peace, inmate of a disorderly house, petty larceny, disturbing the peace by fighting, loitering on the street as a prostitute and grand larceny and that she has been sentenced six times to the State Farm for Women.

I have read the statement of Roxie Parker in which she says that I suggested to the court that she be sentenced to the state farm and the reason the court sentenced her to the state farm at my suggestion was that she was loitering on the streets as a prostitute and was infected with venereal diseases and refused to take her treatment at the government clinic.

I have read what Billy Blair said about money being taken from her by the police. These are the facts: She was arrested together with a man whose name is John Prince for stealing about \$80.00 from a drunk man, the money was taken from her and her associate, John Prince, and the money returned to the man they had robbed. The receipt for this money is now in the hands of the police department.

Billy Blair and this man Prince pleaded guilty in Judge Witt's court and were sentenced to one year each in prison. Our records show that she was never arrested for stealing any other money than the amount referred to in this statement.

Our records further show that all of these women have been patients of the government clinic in Hot Springs for chronic G. C. syphilis.

(Signed) HERBERT AKERS.

Mrs. Emma Warrington

My name is Mrs. Emma Warrington, I am 65 years old and I have been police matron in the city of Hot Springs for twenty years.

In my capacity as police matron I have come in contact with all of the women prisoners and I have complete charge of the women's department of the city jail. During my tenure as police matron I have come in contact with Billy Blair, Roxie Parker and Iva Lee Johnson on numerous occasions; they are probably the most vicious type of women delinquents that I have ever come in contact with. They have been repeatedly infected with venereal diseases and insisted upon

playing their vocation upon the streets of this city. As a matter of public interest they had to be sent to the state farm. This type of criminal will tell anything that comes into their mind. I have read their statements in the Gazette, particularly that part about being approached by jailers and policemen. I don't believe any man with normal sense would want to contact women in their physical condition, and their statements are without foundation and entirely untrue.

(Signed)

EMMA H. WARRINGTON.

T. G. Evans

I, T. G. Evans, state that I have read the newspaper report of the testimony given by Iva Lee Johnson before the investigating committee of the legislature in which she said that I switched her for not giving information concerning the whereabouts of her boy friend, and this statement of hers is certainly false in every way.

I have lived in Hot Springs for eighteen years and have been connected with the police department for one year. I am a Holiness preacher and pursue that occupation in addition to my police duties. I have never struck any prisoner and never intend to. I have always believed in treating everyone fair and humane.

Today I talked with a federal prisoner who is confined in the city jail awaiting the arrival of government officers. His name is Jackie Fields and he stated to me that he is responsible for the bruises on the Johnson girl; that he whipped her in front of the Court House bar on Ouachita avenue the night before she was arrested for delinquency because he had contracted a venereal disease from her. These are the bruises the Johnson girl showed the committee. Jackie Fields is a federal prisoner, as I have stated, and will give this testimony before the investigating committee if he is taken there by the federal officers.

T. G. EVANS.

Fields also said that he had given the Johnson girl a watch and that he took it away from her at the time he beat her. She now claims that officers took the watch from her.

(Signed) T. G. EVANS.

F. H. Tucker

My name is F. H. Tucker. I am past sixty-three years of age. I have held the position of jailer at the Hot Springs city jail for upwards of twenty-one years, under the administration of Mayors J. W. McClendon, Harry A. Jones, Robert Jones and Leo P. McLaughlin.

I read the statements of Billy Blair, Roxie Parker and Iva Lee Johnson contained in the Arkansas Gazette of February 6th. I am well acquainted with the women above named for the reason that they have been in my custody, as jailer, many times. They are well known police characters, having been in court many times and were finally sent to the state farm for women for misconduct. Their statements as contained in the Gazette are false. We do not permit any policeman to enter a cell where a woman is confined unless Mrs. Emma Warrington is also present.

When a woman prisoner is brought to jail she is turned over to Mrs. Warrington who has her in charge until released. I am the custodian of the keys to all departments of the jail and know that the statements made by these women are positively untrue.

(Signed) F. H. TUCKER.

Owen Corrington

I, Owen Corrington, do hereby state that I am sixty-three years old and I have lived in Hot Springs all of my life. I am a man of family, having two grown sons who are married with families here in Hot Springs.

I have been connected with the city police department for thirteen years and have been acting as one of the jailers over two years. The other jailer is Mr. F. H. Tucker. I have charge of the keys of the jail and I know that no officer is permitted to go into the cell occupied by women unless Mrs. Emma Warrington, police matron, is present.

I have read statements made by Billy Blair, Roxie Parker and Iva Lee Johnson and know them to be police characters of the lowest type, women who absolutely can not be believed and will testify to anything suggested to them. None of the statements made by them regarding misconduct in or about the city jail on the part of the police department is true. They have been arrested on numerous occasions and naturally they are mad at the arrest.

(Signed)

**Cecil Brock**  
 I, Cecil Brock, formerly a lieutenant with the police department, want to state that I never whipped a woman prisoner in the city jail. It is my understanding that I Lee Johnson told the committ that she was last arrested in H Springs several weeks ago and was whipped by "Curly" Evans or myself. I was suspended from the police department in connection with the John Dickson case on January 2, and have had no connections with the police force or city jail since that time. I was called on to arrest Iva Lee on numerous occasions when she was loitering or drunk and disturbing the peace, but I have never struck her. I didn't know of her last arrest until I read it in the newspapers this morning. Regarding her charge that a Hot Springs officer she did not name had fingerprinted her and then offered to tear up the prints if she would "date" him, I want to say that I don't recall ever having fingerprinted her and I presume I am the one to whom she referred as I did all of the fingerprint work for the department up until the time of my suspension. If I did fingerprint her, however, the prints are certainly on file at the department.  
 (Signed) **CECIL BROCK.**

# JUDGE WITT TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF IN POLICE TRIALS

**INVITES JUDGE A. P. STEELE TO PRESIDE IN DICKSON CASE.**

## SEEKS EARLY HEARING

**Legislative Committee Investigating Hot Springs Indicates Group Will Complete Work And Report To House This Week.**

Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night announced he would disqualify himself in the trials of seven former policemen charged with second-degree murder in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, and said he had invited Circuit Judge A. P. Steele, of Ashdown, to preside in his place.

"In view of recent developments I think it best to have another judge preside over these cases," Judge Witt said. "Also, these men have been under indictment for several weeks and I think there should be some effort to set their trials."

"I will set these cases to suit your convenience," Judge Witt advised Judge Steele, who is of the ninth judicial district, in urging him to "let me know the earliest date you could come to Hot Springs for this purpose."

Judge Witt was among the witnesses recently called before the legislative committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs.

The seven officers under indictment were accused of the alleged "third degree" death of Dickson, who was charged with being a member of an alleged local safe robbery ring as well as being a principal in a brutal attack on former Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, of Hot Springs.

Dickson died Christmas eve after having been confined at the jail here for almost a month. An autopsy on his body by four prominent Hot Springs physicians revealed he had suffered painful and brutal injuries before death. Physicians said his death was caused by pneumonia but did not state whether the injuries were a contributing factor.

The indictments against the officers followed. Those indicted and suspended from duty were former Day Captain L. A. Cooper, Night Captain R. L. Moore, Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock, Detective Glynn Buchanan and Officers Joe Scott, Andy Irwin and Pres Griffin.

Appearing in the New Era yesterday afternoon and The Sentinel-Record this morning an editorial urged the Garland grand jury to investigate the charges made by the three woman's farm inmates.

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry said he "welcomed an investigation by the grand jury, or any other body, into conditions at the jail since Jan. 2, when he took office."

"Iva Lee Johnson (who with Billie Blair and Roxie Parker made the charges) was arrested after I took office and suffered no mistreatment at the jail."

"The charges made by the state farm inmates are making it too hard for my men to carry on where the others left off. Therefore, I approve such an investigation."

### Early Report Looms

Little Rock, Feb. 6—(AP)—An early report to the house of representatives on a three-weeks' inquiry into law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district was indicated by the five-member investigating body today.

The committee, charged with making the inquiry to determine whether impeachment proceedings should be brought against officials

in the area, said in a statement it believed such proceedings "are inevitable."

Rep. William M. Thompson of Independence, author of the investigation resolution and chairman of the committee, announced today that the group hoped to complete its work during the coming week. He said a further hearing would be held Monday or Tuesday night, at which newsmen would again be permitted to sit in.

Previously sitting in private to take testimony from Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, Circuit Judge Earl Witt and other officials, and to obtain financial statements from operators of alleged gambling establishments in Hot Springs, the committee opened its doors for the first time last night.

The investigators took testimony from three women inmates of the state reformatory, whose charges of immoral conditions in the Hot Springs city jail drew a prompt denial from Hot Springs police.

The women also claimed to have been whipped and otherwise abused while in custody of resort officers.

With newsmen present, the committee also heard testimony concerning alleged voting irregularities in last August's primary.

The doors were closed, however, when six Hot Springs business men appeared to testify. Committeemen said the business men declined to talk in an open hearing.



## SPA PROBES TO AGAIN LIFT LID ON INVESTIGATION

SECOND NON-SECRET  
HEARING WILL BE  
HELD TONIGHT

### INQUIRY NEARING END

Judge Witt Offers Women  
Witnesses Opportunity To  
Appear Before Garland  
Grand Jury To Reiterate  
Charges Of Mistreatment.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night announced Judge A. P. Steele, circuit judge of the Ninth Judicial district (Ashdown), had informed him he could come here Monday, Feb. 15, for the purpose of presiding over the trials of the seven officers indicted in the John Dickson death. Judge Witt said he would set the trials for that date.

Little Rock, Feb. 7. —(P)— The house of representatives committee investigating charges of lawlessness and official corruption at Hot Springs will conduct its second non-secret hearing here tomorrow night. John R. Thompson, committee attorney, said a list of witnesses had been prepared but the subpoenas had not been served. He said another meeting may be held later in the week.

Indicating it plans to submit an early report, the committee said in a statement that it believed bringing of impeachment proceedings against officials in the 18th judicial district (Hot Springs) "inevitable."

The committee held its first session at which newspapermen were permitted to attend Friday night. It heard three women inmates of the state reformatory charge immoral conditions had existed in the resort city's jail. Police denied the charges.

Testimony of alleged voting irregularities in last August's democratic primary also was heard.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, Circuit Judge Earl Witt, other officials and operators of several alleged gambling establishments of Hot Springs previously appeared before secret sessions of the investigators.

Judge Witt announced from Hot Springs last night that he was disqualifying himself for the trials of seven Hot Springs policemen, indicted for second degree murder in connection with the Christmas eve death of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner.

He invited Judge A. P. Steele, Ashdown, of the ninth district, to preside at the trials.

"In view of recent developments," Witt said. "I think it best to have another judge preside over these cases."

Mayor McLaughlin removed the officers when a grand jury returned a blanket indictment against the seven following an investigation of charges made by relatives of Dickson that he died of mistreatment while in custody. The prisoner's death certificate showed he succumbed to pneumonia.

The three women inmates of the state reformatory for women, who testified recently before the committee of the Arkansas legislature investigating alleged lawlessness in Hot Springs that they had been subjected to abuse and ill-treatment while in the city jail here, will be given an opportunity to come before the grand jury the next time that body meets and testify, if they care to do so.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt stated yesterday that he had instructed the foreman of the grand jury to give the women an opportunity to give testimony before the grand jury the next time that body meets.

Judge Witt also stated he would have instructed the present or previous grand juries to hear the women, had the latter made any complaint about ill-treatment on the part of city officers. If they care to come before the grand jury now and testify, they will be given opportunity when that body meets, he said.

VOLUME LVI

HOT SPI

# RACE REPEAL BILL BEATEN IN HOUSE

**BUTT MEASURE SMASH-  
INGLY DEFEATED  
BY 64-30 VOTE.**

## HOLD NIGHT SESSION

**Cunningham Luxury Tax  
Measure Is Defeated in  
House — Two New Re-  
form Measures Are In-  
troduced.**

Little Rock, Feb. 8.—(P)—An attempt to repeal the 1935 act legalizing horse racing met smashing defeat today in the Arkansas house.

The representatives rejected, after brief debate, a measure by Rep. John E. Butt of Carroll county seeking to kill the legalization law. There were 30 ayes and 64 noes on the bill.

Hot Springs is the only city in the state where horse racing is held. A 3-day meet is scheduled to start at Oaklawn track there next March 1.

Two other reform proposals were introduced in the house during the day. A bill by Boyers of Yell proposed a statewide election the second Tuesday in August on the liquor question. One by Nichols of Logan sought to prohibit the advertising of liquor through the press, magazines or over the radio. The Nichols bill provided that beer of more than 3.2 per cent alcohol content could be sold only in liquor stores.

The first night session of the 51st general assembly was called for tonight to consider the Cunningham luxury tax measure.

The luxury tax bill was defeated. Debate on the horse racing repeal proposal was spirited. Butt led the attack on the sport. Maner of Garland headed speakers favoring retention.

Calling up of the bill came as a surprise, the house suspending the rules to make it a special order after Butt declared "the house should do something immediately one way or the other about the horse racing bill."

"No one will dispute the fact that gambling is basically and ethically wrong," he declared. "From the earliest times it has been damned. The Bible says 'thou shalt not covet.' Anyone who gambles, gentlemen, covets."

"You may not be able to legislate morals into people but you can put them in jail if they get immoral. Hot Springs is essentially a health resort. The glory of the city has always been based on its curative waters."

"I say let the city grow and thrive as a health center but not as a cesspool of vice. Hot Springs has been a sink hole of iniquity. I say it is not right for the good name of 2,000,000 Arkansans to be dragged through the mire so that 25,000 at Hot Springs can profit."

Maner pointed out that the 1935 act was the first which gave moneys to the old age pension fund. He declared repeal of racing would "ruin Hot Springs."

"Up until two years ago there were a number of business houses in our town closed," he said, "and people in the rural districts around there were hard up."

"In contrast, last summer there was not a vacant store building and the people had money. It was attributed to the sport of kings. During the races last year, every room in the hotels and apartment houses were filled."

Horse racing is about all we've got left except the hot water and we'd like to keep the races. The people who come to Hot Springs want some diversion. The races paid \$255,000 to the state in the past two years."

Other speakers for the bill were Blount of White, Thompson of Independence. Joining Maner in addresses of opposition were Abington of White, Crawford of Mississippi and Baker of Jackson.

Those voting for repeal were: Blount, Burris, Butt, Brown, Chapman, Cloer, Coffelt, Cunningham, Foster, Gooch, Graham, Horton of Craighead, Houston, Launius, McInturff, Murray of Boone, Murry of Dallas, Nichols, Perryman, Price, Purviance, Raley, Roberts, Smelser, Smith of Franklin, Thompson, Walker, Wilkinson, Wood and Wright.

Those absent and not voting: Grisham, Hardgrave, Holmes, Johnson and Vesey.

The house rejected, 43 to 44, a bill by Cloer of Washington to change the method for selecting grand and petit jurors. He proposed that a board of five commissioners in each county select jurors by drawing names from a jury wheel.

Launius of Ouachita led the floor fight against adoption, charging that passage of the bill would be "a slap in the face to the integrity of the circuit judges of Arkansas."



# NUMEROUS WITNESSES ARE GRILLED BY SPA PROBERS

## STOCKHOLDERS IN CLUB BELVEDERE ARE NAMED.

## PAYROLLS SCANNED

Testimony Introduced to Show Relatives of City and County Officials Connected With Belvedere and Southern Club.

Little Rock, Feb. 8. — (P) — The house committee investigating alleged laxity in law enforcement at Hot Springs tonight delved into the ownership of the gambling rooms at fashionable Club Belvedere, resort show place, and the club's payroll.

With Sam Watt, part owner of Belvedere and its associated club, Southern Grill, on the stand, committeemen repeatedly asked questions designed to establish that the two places operated under "protection."

To all these questions, Watt replied that he had no personal knowledge of any protection payments.

He estimated profits from the two places in 1936 at "between \$0 and 100 thousand dollars," advising the committee that the books recently obtained would "show the exact figures."

After evidence and testimony had been introduced to show that relatives of Hot Springs officials and peace officers were carried on the clubs' payrolls in various capacities, Committee Chairman William M. Thompson asked:

"Isn't it so that you employed these relatives of officers to keep the officers off your places?"

"I guess the officers asked to be placed," Watt replied.

Several score Hot Springs residents stood in the hallways of the downtown office building where the committee sat, but the committee again held its session in a small conference room in the offices of John R. Thompson, committee attorney, admitting only accredited newspaper representatives and legislators from the 18th judicial district in which Hot Springs is located.

Rep. James R. Campbell, Garland, advised the committee that "about two hundred Hot Springs business men are over here with a year's" and was associated there spokesman and they would like for him to be heard" but no immediate action was taken on the request.

Before turning its attention toward alleged gambling operations out being arrested "he was asked the committee heard Mrs. W. L. Haynes, aunt of John Dickson, review charges which her family has made that Dickson, Hot Springs jail prisoner, died there last Christmas Eve as a result of being beaten by Hot Springs officers.

Seven policemen are now under indictment for Dickson's death and Circuit Judge Earl Witt has disqualified himself for their trial tentatively set for next Monday.

Mrs. Haynes charged that after Dickson was arrested on robbery and assault charges, and lodged in the city jail, she was denied permission to see him by Chief of Police Joe Wakelin.

She said she also appealed Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin for doctors to attend her nephew after a had received a tip from a police officer that he had been "beaten up."

She alleged that Mayor McLaughlin, Judge Witt and the Prosecuting Attorney Houston E. ory promised to investigate but that no investigation was made until after Dickson's death.

George Gower, Hot Springs furniture man, was called and asked by the committee attorney if he "ever saw Judge Witt drunk."

"Several times," Gower testified. In answer to another question, he said:

"I never saw him drunk in court." Sam Watt, dignified, slow-spoken and past middle age, told the committee he had used in the

for 60 years and had been "in the gambling and clubroom business for quite awhile—since 1904, I believe."

"At times, I have also invested in real estate and the oil business," he said.

He said he was "interested in the bank roll at Mountain Lake for eight years" and was associated there with a partner from near Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and another from New Orleans.

"How did you operate there without being arrested?" he was asked by Attorney Thompson.

"Brother, I don't know," he smiled. Mr. Nolan (identified as one of the partners) was a good outside man and he made arrangements.

He said officers came out to raid several times "and we closed up."

"You mean you knew they were coming and closed?"

"That's a hard question to answer," he said.

Asked if anyone beside the partners shared in the profits, he said:

"I don't think so. If they did, Nolan took care of that."

He testified he subsequently "became interested in Belvedere."

The interrogation continued:

"Who was interested with you?"

"Must I answer?"

"Yes."

"Mr. W. S. Jacobs and Mr. Cleveland Young, and some others had minor interests."

"Who?"

"Well, Mr. L. D. Cooper—"

"Who else?"

"Some of these people were let in probably because they had influence. Mr. Cooper has a lot of influence. I think he was president of the Chamber of Commerce."

"Who else?"

"Douglas Hotchkiss."

"Did they all pay for an interest?"

"Some did not pay for an interest."

"Who else?"

"Harry Strong, Roscoe Johnson."

"Because of their influence?"

"I don't know."

"Who else?"

"Archie Ledgerwood."

"What was Ledgerwood's interest?"

"Twenty-five per cent."

"How did he get it?"

"It was given to him by Mr. Jacobs, I believe."

"Why did you consent?"

"It was from Mr. Jacobs' interest. I thought it would be beneficial."

"Does Ledgerwood have relatives in official positions?"

"Judge Verne Ledgerwood is his brother."

"Judge Ledgerwood is the municipal judge?"

"Yes."

"It that all that were in the club?"

"Since then five per cent interest has been given to Otis McGraw. I had and kept my 15 per cent interest. Captain William Smith had three and a half per cent, I believe."

"Watt departed from the questions to comment:

"The games were always straight. A straight game is the only way to get business. If you run any other kind, it follows you around and ruins you."

One committeeman asked "Why does the house always operate profitably?"

"The banking end of any game has a percentage," said Watt. "It only takes time for the percentage to show up."

He said that Belvedere records were kept in triplicate, for himself, for Jacobs and for Ledgerwood. In answer to a question he replied that "the same parties are interested in Southern Club."

Watt explained that it was the custom at Belvedere to pay its employees "in advance, each day," and that no recorded payroll was necessary. He said many dealers drew \$10 to \$15 a day.

"We knew all these employees by sight," he explained, "and paid them as they came on duty."

"Did you ever pay anyone beside the help," asked the attorney.

"I came on late. If it was done, it was done in the daytime," said Watt.

He supplied the information that he financed the Kentucky Club's book, but had no part in the management of that place."

"Do you know if the Garland county officers knew you were running?"

"I wouldn't say. Everyone knew."

"Did you ever see any officials in the gambling rooms?"

"No."

"Why didn't the officers raid or make arrests at Belvedere?"

"I don't know."

"Was there any arrangement about that?"

"I can't say. You are asking me to tell you what I know. I only heard talk."

"Did you hear the other owners say anything about that?"

"I don't know."

"Do you know what it means to pay off officers?"

"Yes."

"Do you have any information on that?"

"I might have but such information would not be reliable."

"You know you were never bothered?"

"Yes."

Chairman Thompson then started

calling off names of club employees from a list previously supplied by Belvedere.

"I find the name of P. O. Witt," he said. "What relation to the judge?"

"Uncle, I think."

"There's a Buddy Wakelin on the list. What's his relationship to the chief of police?"

"Son."

"Tex Rutherford, on the list here, is a city fireman, isn't he?"

"Yes."

"And also a watchman at the club," said Thompson.

Asked if "some of these men on the list aren't bodyguards for Mayor McLaughlin," Watt replied: "I don't know."

"Who is Bob Moore on this payroll?"

"He was a captain of police."

"I find Curley Evans on the roll," said Thompson. "I believe he was on the force, too. And I see he has made an affidavit in Hot Springs saying he is a Holiness preacher."

"He is a pretty busy boy," replied Watt.

Chairman Thompson asserted that he found the name of "Mrs. Herbert Akers" and said she was "the wife of the chief of detectives."

Asked about the continuity of gambling in Hot Springs, Watt testified that "we did not have any gambling when Scott Wood was district judge."

Archie Ledgerwood testified that he was one of the partners at Belvedere and Southern Grill. He said he started as an employee but was told by Jacobs in 1932 that since he had learned the business he could acquire an interest if he raised \$12,500.

He said he borrowed the money from Ed Ballard, former circus man, who met death in a shooting in a Hot Springs hotel room last year. Ledgerwood said he had settled the debt shortly before Ballard's death.

Asked about his relationship to Municipal Judge Ledgerwood, the witness testified:

"He gave me plenty of hell for being in the gambling business. I told him that all I could find to do on account of my health."

"Why didn't the Hot Springs officers enforce the gambling laws?" he was asked.

"Hot Springs is a resort and people come here for health and pleasure. Resorts there were closed up once before and the people went to Florida."

"That is why I believe the officers were a little liberal."

"You said big names came to Hot Springs. Who?"

"Lots of big people from Chicago, including practically every big politician."

"Ever heard of Al Karpis and his being around the gambling halls?"

"Yes."

"Nash?"

"Yes."

"Galatas?"

"Yes."

"Did the visitors ever win?"

"Yes, the club paid one man \$27,000 in one night."

"Did you ever pay off any officers?" Ledgerwood was asked.

"No," he said.

"Fines?"

"No."

"What business connection did Jacobs and McLaughlin have?"

"They were only friends."

Sid Haupt, Hot Springs, called next, said he worked at Belvedere seven years but had not been there for the last three years. He said he was formerly a sheriff in Garland county.

"Did you ever see Judge Witt at Belvedere?" asked the committee attorney.

"Yes."

Billy Mann, who said he had been a Hot Springs grocer for 15 years, testified that the August primary was conducted "under pressure." He was defeated for constable in that election.

Asked to explain, he said:

"I attended what is commonly known as a pressure meeting, held in police court. Judge Ledgerwood and McLaughlin talked. They told the firemen they expected each of them to account for ten poll tax

receipts and if you can't get them, we can arrange it.

He charged McLaughlin threatened to replace a city employe who was quoted as saying he would "vote for whom he pleased."

Mann said he was a candidate for constable, but that his name was "scratched off" the administration ticket.

"I was informed it was scratched off in the mayor's office," he said.

"Were you defeated?"

"Yes."

He said he was a former policeman.

L. G. Stanley of Mt. Ida testified to the presence of gambling machines "running openly" in Montgomery county, a part of the 18th district. He said they disappeared after the present investigation started.

Roy Hurst, a minister, of Hot Springs, corroborated Mann's testimony about the pre-primary political meeting.

Asked if any laws were "overrun in Hot Springs," he said:

"Yes, the gambling and election laws."

He said he had asked city and circuit officials to stop gambling.

He said he protested the "pressure meeting" in a letter to Governor Carl Bailey.

Earl Screeton, auditor for the income tax division of the state revenue department, testified he had examined books and gambling records turned over by the committee.

He presented data from 1936 records of various resorts in Hot Springs and Chairman Thompson asked for the total.

Screeton said he did not have the total with him but Thompson asked:

"Don't you believe the net earnings would total around \$332,300?"

"Yes, I believe it would be something like that."

He introduced a 12-page audit in the record.

Before the committee adjourned, it received a group of Hot Springs business men, whose spokesman, Jess B. Murphy, protested against criticisms of Circuit Judge Witt and expressed "faith and confidence in him."

The committee agreed to meet again Wednesday night.

A stamp collector in Boston recently pasted 18,000 stamps on his automobile, completely covering it.

## SPA-BUSINESS LEADERS CALL ON COMMITTEE

### DELEGATION URGES LIBERAL POLICY FOR HOT SPRINGS.

A delegation of between 150 and 200 Hot Springs business men, traveling together in a motorcade of 35 automobiles, late yesterday afternoon left the city for Little Rock where the group presented itself as representing "the sentiment of the people of Hot Springs" before the legislative committee currently conducting an investigation into conditions existing in the resort.

Returning to Hot Springs after mid-night last night, several members of the local delegation stopped at The Sentinel-Record office long enough to express their appreciation of the courtesy shown them by the investigating committee when the Spa group appeared at the session.

"Exceptional courtesy was shown us by the committee," the Spa business men stated. "Our appearance took up a great deal of the committee's time, but Murphy was asked to introduce us individually—which he did. The committee members listened to our petition attentively."

J. B. Murphy, former county treasurer and head of Murphy Brothers Garage, acted as spokesman for the Spa delegation.

Murphy declared that the people of Hot Springs favor a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts. The officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy, he said.

The local delegation, through Murphy, expressed its confidence in Judge Earl Witt "both as our circuit judge and as a citizen of our district." The people living directly under the jurisdiction of Judge Witt's court are satisfied with the conduct of the court, Murphy said.

This prepared statement, which he planned to make to the committee follows:

"I have been selected as the spokesman for this delegation of business men, who represent the best business interests of Hot Springs, and who have accompanied me unsolicited and voluntarily to Little Rock to present to you the sentiment of the people of Hot Springs.

"I am 66 years old and I have lived in Hot Springs for 49 years and, of course, have had an opportunity to know the conditions existing in Hot Springs over this period of years. We who have come here tonight, representing the people of Hot Springs, are sorry over the fact that Hot Springs has gained much unfavorable publicity since your investigation started because of the fact your investigation was inspired by a certain political group in Hot Springs commonly known in politics as the "outs," and in order to cast as many reflections as possible on the group which is in authority the most extreme and unjust accusations have been made.

"The people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy.

"It has been repeatedly said in the press that you are investigating Judge Earl Witt, our circuit judge, and let us say now that he has been our circuit judge for 15 years and the people of Hot Springs have confidence in his honesty, integrity and ability. Judge Witt bears the reputation in our judicial district of being extremely fair and impartial in the trial of all cases and matters that come before him. He

is learned in law and is eminently qualified for the position he occupies. An audit of the circuit court expenses made by the firm of Chase & Gaunt, public accountants, shows that during the first 10 years of the tenure of office of Judge Earl Witt there was a saving to the taxpayers of more than \$80,000 as compared with the last 10 years of his predecessors.

"We take this opportunity of expressing to your committee our faith and confidence in Judge Witt both as our circuit judge and as a citizen of our district. We further state to you that our people living directly under the jurisdiction of Judge Witt's court are satisfied with the conduct of that court and beg of you to not permit politicians or politics to cause you to do anything that will reflect upon Judge Witt or the people of the 18th Judicial District."

## WOMEN CHARGE MONEY OFFERED FOR TESTIMONY

### DETECTIVE AKERS OB- TAINS AFFIDAVITS FROM PAIR.

Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers said last night he had depositions from two women charging that a man representing himself as an investigator for the legislative committee investigating law enforcement in Hot Springs, had offered one of them a sum of money if she would testify against Akers before the committee.

The sworn statements were made yesterday before C. T. Bates, a notary public, by Mrs. Jessie Sims, Jr., 18, and her mother, Mrs. Dixie Williams, 51, both of Hot Springs.

Mrs. Sims said she was approached yesterday by the man who represented himself as an investigator for the house committee, and asked if she had ever been arrested by Akers. The woman said in her statement that she told the man she had never been arrested by Akers, but that she had been arrested one time by other officers. She said he then asked her if she had ever had any experience with Akers when she was younger and that she replied she had not.

"He seemed to doubt that I was telling him the truth," the statement said, "and when I started to walk away, he said: 'If you change your mind and want to tell something I will pay you from \$50 to \$100.'"

Mrs. Williams said three men accompanied by a Hot Springs woman, Betty Johnson, came to her home before noon yesterday and asked for her daughter who was not there. She said they left word for Mrs. Sims to meet them at the Townsend hotel at 1 o'clock and that if she did not come, they would come after her. Mrs. Williams said she was told there would be "some money" in it for her daughter. Mrs. Williams said that shortly after noon, the Johnson woman and the man representing himself as an investigator, came to the house again and conversed with her daughter.

Akers was one of the officers mentioned in the testimony of three women inmates of Jacksonville State Farm for Women, who appeared before the committee Friday night.

Akers also said yesterday that for the past week a man representing himself as an investigator out of the detective chief's office had been visiting various persons in Hot Springs.

"If anyone other than a regular member of this police department approaches anyone and represents himself as an investigator out of my office, then something is wrong and I request any person so contacted to telephone police headquarters at once," Akers said.

The statements of the two women follow:

I, Mrs. Jesse Sims, Jr., do hereby state that I am 18 years old and that I have been married for the past two years; that about 2 o'clock p. m., February 8th, 1937, a man representing himself to be an investigator for the Legislative Investigating Committee, investigating Hot Springs, talked to me and asked if I had ever been arrested by Herbert Akers. I told him I had never been arrested by Herbert Akers but that I had been arrested one time by other officers; that he then asked me if I had ever had any experience with Herbert Akers while I was younger and I told him I had not. He seemed to doubt that I was telling him the truth and when I started to walk away he said: "If you change your

mind and want to tell something I will pay you from fifty to one hundred dollars." He also asked who had taken me to court from the jail at the time I was arrested and I told him that Mrs. Warrington had taken me from the jail to the court.

I solemnly swear the facts set forth in this statement are true.

MRS. JESSE SIMS, JR.  
State of Arkansas, County of Garland, ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 8th day of February, 1937.

C. T. BATES, Notary Public.  
My commission expires March 18, 1938.

I, Mrs. Dixie Williams, do hereby state that I have lived in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for eight years, and I am 51 years old and the mother of Mrs. Jesse Sims, Jr. That on the morning of February 8th, 1937, about 11 o'clock, three men and a woman whose name is Betty Johnson came to my house looking for my daughter and I told them she was not there; they said they wanted me to tell her to meet them in the lobby of the Townsend Hotel at 1 o'clock. This woman, Betty Johnson, said that if my daughter would meet them in the lobby of the Townsend Hotel there would be some money in it, possibly thirty or forty dollars, and if my daughter did not come that they were coming after her and make her come. Later, shortly after noon, this woman, Betty Johnson, and one of the men came back and this is the one that told my daughter he was an in-

vestigator for the Legislative Investigating Committee.

I solemnly swear that the facts set forth in this statement are true.

DIXIE WILLIAMS.  
State of Arkansas, County of Garland, ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 8th day of February, 1937.

C. T. BATES, Notary Public.  
My commission expires March 18, 1938.



SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.  
DATE: Feb. 10, 1937

## Witt Indefinitely Postpones Trials Of Seven Officers

At the request of relatives of the late John Dickson, their attorney, Scott Wood and the prosecuting attorney's office, Circuit Judge Earl Witt late yesterday agreed to set a new date for the trial of seven former police officials under indictment on second degree murder charges in connection with the death of Dickson, city jail prisoner.

Judge Witt stated that Dickson's relatives, their attorney and Deputy Prosecutor Curtis Ridgeway claimed they could not get ready for trial by Monday and for that reason he agreed upon a new trial date which will be announced later.

Judge Witt stated that he regretted the necessity for continuance of the cases, adding that he "did everything I knew how to do to provide for a speedy and fair trial of the cases."

The trials were scheduled for Monday with Circuit Judge A. P. Stael, Ashdown, presiding at invitation of Judge Witt.

## SPA INQUIRY TO BE RESUMED AT SESSION TONIGHT

### SUBPOENAS SERVED ON MORE WITNESSES TO BE HEARD.

Little Rock, Feb. 9.—(AP)—A house committee investigating alleged laxity in law enforcement in Hot Springs and the 18th Judicial district took a recess today. Its special agents served subpoenas on witnesses to be heard at a further session tomorrow night.

The committee, which has taken extensive testimony on the operation of luxurious gambling casinos in the spa, alleged voting irregularities and mistreatment of city jail prisoners, and the conduct of officials in the district, did not disclose the names of those yet to be heard.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th District, criticized in the resolution authorizing the investigation, and who previously testified, has asked for a further hearing. Ill at his Hot Springs home, he offered to pay the expenses of the committee to wait on him there. The committee voted to receive him in Little Rock "at his convenience."

Frank Witte, committee investigator, told the committee he had been unable to serve a subpoena on a young woman witness whom the committee desires to hear.

He said he had interviewed the young woman in Hot Springs last week, but was unable to find her again when he returned there with a subpoena.

Chairman William M. Thompson instructed him to continue his efforts to serve the subpoena.

A group of Hot Springs business men who appeared before the committee last night expressed "faith and confidence" in Judge Witt. With reference to gambling in Hot Springs, they said "the people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy."

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
Feb. 4, 1937.

## Mayor Waits in Vain For Ouster Committee Visit; Announces for Re-election

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin sat in his office throughout the morning today waiting in vain for a visit by a citizens' committee which a Little Rock newspaper said would ask him to resign his office. When the visit failed to materialize the mayor issued a terse statement in which he denounced "unfairness" by the newspaper and announced his candidacy for re-election subject to the city election in April.

Commenting on a story which appeared in the Arkansas Gazette this morning relative to the reported request for his resignation, Mayor McLaughlin said he had remained in his office from 7 a. m. until noon and that no committee had appeared.

Pointing to a large stack of letters, notes and telegrams on his desk, the mayor declared he had been receiving messages all morning from local citizens asking him not to resign. He said he had received innumerable telephone calls from business men who asked him to ignore any such request should it be made. The telephone was jingling almost constantly as the mayor talked with reporters.

He expressed astonishment that a newspaper "the size and importance of the Gazette would print a story as vicious based on such information."

Newspaper reporters contacted innumerable business men of the city this morning and could find no trace of such a committee.

In a special story by Joe Wirges, Gazette photographer and reporter, under a Hot Springs date-line, the newspaper quoted a Hot Springs business man, whose name was not divulged, as saying:

"You can say we'll ask for his (Mayor McLaughlin's) resignation. The reason? Well, there are plenty of them."

The paper said it was planned for the ousting force to select a spokesman and have the entire group accompany him to the mayor's office. The committee, the paper said, was to meet at 10 o'clock this morning.

The statement by the mayor follows:

"I read the story of Mr. Wirges on the front page of the Gazette this morning and whoever the business man was who talked with him must have been an enemy of administration, because the local newspapers have closely checked nearly all of the prominent business people and find that they not only failed to have any knowledge of the so-called meeting of business men, but on the other hand ex-

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 8

pressed themselves as being supporters of the city administration.

"It would be silly indeed for me to attempt to carry on a controversy with the Arkansas Gazette, but I am astonished that a newspaper of its size and importance would print a story as vicious based on such information, and I can only say that it is very unfair. However, when a man holds public office he must make up his mind not to fight with a newspaper, but to simply grin and bear it."

"I arrived at my office this morning waiting for the so-called committee. It is now eleven o'clock and no such committee has appeared. On the other hand, my office has been thronged with business men all morning who have stated that the people of Hot Springs are overwhelmingly for the administration."

"There has been an investigation into the conduct of the officials of this district and as yet there is no evidence against any of the officials excepting the whisperings of political enemies behind closed doors."

"The people of Hot Springs elected me to the mayor's office and the people of Hot Springs will have an opportunity to take it from me in the April election if they desire. It is ridiculous to think that I would be weak enough to resign from the Mayor's office."

"Those who desire to remove me from the Mayor's office will have an opportunity in the coming April election at which time I will be a candidate for re-election."

7-576-3-15

## Current Events Here Find Parallel Way Back in The Days of Jeff Davis' Rule

Admonishing Hot Springs not to weep over its recent difficulties, that everything will come out in the wash, so to speak, the "Run of the News" editor of the Arkansas Democrat, digs deep into the files of his newspaper to find a parallel for the current happenings during the third term of Governor Jeff Davis, nearly two score years ago.

The Democrat columnist says: "Swanky Belvedere is closed. Mayor McLaughlin is melancholy, the gambling clubs are gloomy, the Spa is not the same."

"The wheel no longer spins, the chips no longer clink; the dice no longer roll, the ponies no longer run. The legislature has clamped down the lid and the night spot boys and girls are finding what the sun looks like again."

"The money has stopped the hotels have cancelled their entertainments; the people who love the games of chance are forlorn; the city fathers wonder how to fill the coffers—in short Hot Springs is in dire straits."

"But don't cry, little city. Though there is a loss of familiar things just now, all of this has happened before and probably will again, for this gambling business is like that fabled bird, the 'phoenix' which was believed to rise from the ashes where it was burned. This letter reminds us so:

"Dear Sir:

"Do you remember 'Way Back When' Gov. Jeff Davis, during his third term, I believe, sent the state

militia to Hot Springs to chase the gamblers out of town? Thirty years or so ago?"

G. C.  
"Little Rock."

"No, we do not remember, but a perusal of the files of 1900 and 1901 recalls Hot Springs' early trials and tribulations."

"On the afternoon of March 27, 1901, Governor Davis, who a few months previously had won the election after a hard fight in Garland county, signed the Wilson anti-gambling bill, which was aimed chiefly at the Spa."

"That was at 2:30 p. m. By 3 o'clock word of the disaster had reached Central avenue and at 6 o'clock—for the first time in many years—the avenue's clubrooms were dark. The fires say: 'People congregated on sidewalks in the early evening, discussing with sad faces and ominous forebodings outcome of the gambling ban."

"Further—we find: 'The sporting men of the city, who have thousands invested in their clubrooms, are 'much' disgruntled.' The citizenship, however, seems to have taken that early catastrophe calmer, viz: 'They are taking the attitude that while the immediate effect will be to lower rents and property values a city can not build on vice and immorality.'"

"The gamblers had not lost their paraphernalia (as in the present instance), but they couldn't use it. At the Springs the ban did not include pool halls, and horse betting continued, but that did not lift the gloom."

"Gamblers packed their equipment left by the dozens. The sports from Chicago, New York, Cincinnati, left for Memphis, New Orleans, Louisville. Much of their trade followed them; those who didn't left for home. All that remained we are told, was the hot water."

"In Little Rock, which was no Sunday school town then, either, Police Chief McMahon 'informed' the boys their day was over. The files tell how well they listened: 'Without protest they all closed at once (this was 4 minutes after Governor Davis signed the bill) and to one who knew where their places were located. Main street presented a curious appearance after

6'clock with its dark windows in the second stories."

"Twenty gambling houses closed in Little Rock and 100 gamblers left town—as soon as they could pack their grips."

"At the same time old Clinton race track, located at the foot of East Ninth street, was running wide open. That year it broke all records in attendance."

"The gambling ban was felt else where in Arkansas, we read. Houses closed quickly in Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, Texarkana."

"The state quieted down for the next few years and then Hot Springs began to revive. Governor Davis at the time was running for the United States Senate and found the Spa still unruly. That was when he dispatched the militia to clamp the lid 'down tight' in Hot Springs."

"After that, old timers say it was 10 years before the lights burned bright again. When they did, they continued through the war; afterward, through depression and until the bonfire last week-end."

"So don't cry, Hot Springs. They have broken up your playthings, taken away the glitter of the bright lights, but, after all, the real things which make you a queen city of Arkansas, you still have."



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 5, 1937

## GAZETTE STORY REPUDIATED BY W. R. DOWNEN

Denies Part in Org-  
anized Move To  
Oust Mayor

### TALK INFORMAL

Reports Declared Re-  
sult of "Coffee"  
Gossip

Denying a report in the Arkansas Gazette that he had attended any pre-arranged meeting of local business men at which it was decided to ask Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin to resign, W. R. Downen, local furniture dealer and former sheriff of Garland county, said this morning the Little Rock newspaper had misquoted him.

There was, however, an informal session of the business men over "coffee cups" in the Hot Springs Confectionary yesterday morning, Mr. Downen said. Such sessions, he added, are held practically every morning of the year by the business men who generally happen to drop in the confectionary for their morning coffee at about the same time.

Asked if the matter of requesting Mayor McLaughlin to resign had been discussed by the group in the confectionary yesterday morning, Downen said they "had previously discussed such a possibility."

He named eight business men who he said were present at the confectionary yesterday when the alleged discussion of the McLaughlin resignation took place. The New Era was able to contact only seven of these by noon today. Six admitted being at the confectionary yesterday morning, but denied they took part in any such discussion. The seventh said he was sick in bed yesterday.

They also denied any knowledge of any organized movement by a committee to ask the mayor's resignation.

Downen also denied a statement attributed to him by the Gazette in which he was quoted as saying: "I'm all through with politics."

"I'm not through with politics," the former sheriff declared. "I've been in it for 25 years and I guess I'll be there as long as I live, or at least as long as I can walk to the polls to vote."

He admitted he and Mayor McLaughlin were not on the best of political terms, but did not deny he had given the mayor permission on a downtown street this morning to officially deny for him (Downen) the Gazette story. Mayor McLaughlin made the denial shortly before he left for Little Rock this morning where he was to meet with the chairman of the state racing commission on matters pertaining to the opening of the race meet at Oaklawn March 1. The mayor is attorney for the track.

The Gazette story this morning quoted Downen as saying there was a meeting of more than 25 business men yesterday at which it was decided no good would be accomplished by asking the mayor to resign. Downen said today there were possibly 12 persons at the confectionary during the discussion.

Downen was also quoted by the Little Rock newspaper as saying he (Downen) had met the mayor in a barber shop shortly before the "coffee cup" session and that the mayor had delegated him to tell the "committee" that he had no intention of resigning, but would run for re-election in April. For this reason, the Gazette quoted Downen as saying, the "committee" did not call upon the mayor as it already had his answer.

Quoting the Gazette: "Mr. Downen said that those present at the meeting expressed belief that the house committee, headed by Rep. Thompson of Independence county, which is investigating conditions in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Garland county and Hot Springs, is making a sincere effort to get at the truth of conditions. It was the consensus of opinion of those present that the investigating committee will make an earnest effort to bring about an improvement of conditions here. It was believed that any action by the business men of the city might only handicap and embarrass the investigators."

None of those contacted by The New Era today and whom Downen said were present at the meeting expressed such opinions, however. Downen did not deny that part of the Gazette story.

"The whole thing is purely politics," the former sheriff told a reporter this morning. "It has been this way every since I can remember."

He was somewhat wrought up over the apparent misquotings by the Little Rock newspaper and told this reporter on his departure: "I don't mind giving statements if they are printed correct."

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10

# RACING REPEAL BILL REJECTED BY COMMITTEE

"Do Not Pass" Will be  
Report To Lower  
House

Little Rock, Feb. 5.—(P)—Arkansas' General Assembly veered today toward another week-end breathing spell with 40 bills signed into law attesting to the rapid pace it has set.

Governor Bailey's signature on 13 measures, committee approval of the administration sponsored sales tax bill and disapproval of an act to repeal the 1935 law legalizing betting on horse races were overnight developments.

The committee vote on the racing bill was 7 to 3.

Dr. A. C. Millar, editor of the Arkansas Methodist and Representative Butt spoke for passage. Campbell and Maner, Garland county representatives, spoke against passage.

Dr. Millar said that he was a "friend of Hot Springs." He declared that the hot springs were an asset to the whole country and had the capacity to bring far more people to Arkansas than ever came for any one thing.

"Unfortunately," he said, "a great part of Hot Springs' progress has been built on sports, some of which are known as vices. These sports have injured the state more than all the good publicity the state has received through newspapers and organizations because of the springs."

"I like horse races," he said. "I wish it were possible for us to have good, clean horse races. But I do not like to see the horses run as an instrument of the bettors."

"I know that we cannot stop gambling. People will bet. I imagine that people have bet on the length of time that I would preach. But we have no right to legalize that which is repulsive to a large portion of our people."

"The excuse we have for horse races is that we must have the revenue. The costs of vice, however, are far more than the revenue derived. We need the revenue, you say. But now, that we have the sales tax there is no need for the revenue from race horse betting. We will gain more from increased sales tax revenue than we will lose by abolishing race gambling."

Dr. Millar praised the legislature during his speech and said that he did not know of an Arkansas legislature that "has done so much in so short a while."

Representatives Campbell and Maner spoke briefly against passage. Campbell declared that the bill would hurt merchants in Hot Springs and others who may have stocked already in preparation for the March races. Maner declared that business is at a standstill in Hot Springs now as a result of uncertainty brought about the legislative inquiry and raid on gambling casinos.

He said that one hotel in Hot Springs last year paid a \$60,000 dividend, the first dividend in years, because of the visitors coming to Hot Springs. "Every business has

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10

been hurt," he said. "The filling station owners and small shop owners feel the effect of the uncertainty as well as the large hotels and large business firms."

Representative Butt, in closing the argument, said that he could "see no reason for prostituting the morals of the state for the sake of the 20-some-odd thousand inhabitants of Hot Springs."

"The state derived \$140,940 from race horse betting in taxes last year," he said. "To old age pensions, the excuse for the legalized gambling, went \$45,000 which is just a drop in the bucket compared to funds expended for relief."

"The cold cash is not worth the cost," Butt declared. "Hot Springs has been exposed to public condemnation. There have been articles in the American magazine and the Liberty magazine which give Hot Springs a deplorable name. It is my belief that the races were the cause of these articles and the condition which brought about the writing of them."

Spectators and reporters were barred from the room while the committee voted.

The chief executive signed bills to increase the damages for wrongful cutting of timber and providing for publication of a digest of state statutes. The 40 bills he has approved during the present session exceeded by 25 the number signed at the same time during the 1935 legislature.

He used his veto power on items in the attorney general's department appropriation bill calling for a \$2,400 annual salary for an assistant attorney general and \$1,500 for a secretary-reporter as well as \$2,400 for a first deputy state treasurer in the appropriation of that office.

The house revenue and taxation committee marked "do pass" on the two per cent sales tax bill by Senator Northcutt. It did not act upon 13 proposed amendments which will be considered by the House.

"Everyone in Arkansas knows we must have a sales tax to produce needed revenue, so why defeat the purpose of the bill by tacking on amendments," said Representative Sampler of Benton in asking the act not be undermined with exemptions. Many of the amendments provide exemptions.

The house passed yesterday a bill to double the gallonage tax on liquor and a measure to make optional with the counties the requirement of publication of personal property tax delinquents. It also approved a resolution to submit a constitutional amendment at the general election for a workmen's compensation law.

Also passed by the lower branch were bills providing for election of school teachers before the district school elections and to regulate the type and form of life insurance policies to be sold in Arkansas.

In the defeated list were bills to allow school districts to issue bonds up to 10 per cent of assessed valuation of real and personal property and to prevent tax dodgers from claiming the right to set up a claim on land that has been sold by the county and state for non-payment of taxes on account of incorrect description.

The senate gave its approval to force orderly liquidation of all county floating debts through creation of 15 per cent sinking funds. It voted down a bill to prohibit cigar dealers from absorbing the state's ten per cent cigar tax.

Other measures it passed were the administration's free trade bill and one regulating assistance to voters in elections.

## No Doubt Arkansas Will be \$13 Richer

Wanted: One owner of a slot machine confiscated during a raid on Hot Springs establishments last Friday night. The reason? They want to give him \$13.75 in nickels, six pennies and one worthless slug.

This huge quantity of money was found in one of the slot machines taken from the Club Belvedere by state revenue department agents led by Amis Guthridge, personal secretary to Revenue Commissioner Dave L. Ford.

The writ for seizure issued by Chief Justice Griffin Smith, covered only gambling paraphernalia and when several slot machines were found Mr. Guthridge asked W. S. Jacobs, proprietor of Belvedere, to

take charge of the money in the machines.

Explaining that the machines did not belong to him, but were merely leased and that Belvedere got a percentage of the "take" Mr. Jacobs called the agent for the lessors. The agent came out and took the money from the machines. That is, all except one.

When that machine was brought to Little Rock to be burned the \$35 nickels were found in it. Advised unofficially by Chief Justice Smith that he should return the money to the owner of the machine, Mr. Guthridge now faces the problem of finding someone who will admit ownership of the slot machine, a gambling device.

## NEW MYSTERY FOUND IN SPA BY REPORTERS

Hot Springs today had a deep-dyed "airport mystery" to add to its legislative investigations, gambling house raids and political situations.

It all revolves about a "suspicious" airplane now housed at the municipal airport. The mystery, however, is not the airplane, but rather why the anxious Arkansas Gazette should send a photographer-reporter here to find out something about the plane.

An airport attendant told reporters a strange tale yesterday of a mysterious questioner who wanted to know all the whys and wherefores regarding the plane. The inquisitive one posed as an aerial photographer. Whether or not his queries had anything to do with the legislative investigation of Hot Springs was not known, but apparently his mission was futile.

The plane, an ordinary type, belongs to an Illinois man engaged in aerial survey work. He is not a politician.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 6, 1937

## SALIVA TESTS AND ADDITIONAL JUDGES DECREED FOR OAKLAWN

Little Rock, Feb. 6.—(A)—Daily saliva tests will be conducted during the 30-day spring racing meeting of the Oaklawn Jockey Club at Hot Springs, the Arkansas Racing Commission decreed at a meeting here.

The commission also increased the number of stewards and judges from three to six.

At previous meets, funds have not been available for saliva tests, and the three placing judges have served also as track stewards, giving horse owners no appeal on race decisions, other than to the same group who returned the first decision, members were told.

In spite of protests from Charles Cella of St. Louis, Mo., president of the Oaklawn Jockey club, made through Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, attorney for the club that both judges and track stewards should not be employed, the commission voted to conform to the state racing law.

The law stipulates that the club shall select one placing judge and one track steward, subject to the approval of the commission. The commission also is directed to select one placing judge and one steward, and the appointive officials are empowered to select the third judge and third steward. The management pays salaries of all track officials.

The commission selected Bill Hamilton, veteran starter, as its steward, and Ed Landers of Harrisburg as its placing judge. Ed Farris, secretary, said both had accepted.

Other track officials will be named by the track management. Funds for the saliva tests—to determine whether horses have been doped—are provided in a Senate bill now before the House. The commission voted itself authority to appoint a veterinarian to make the tests. Farris told members that attempts to have tests made during last year's meet were unsuccessful because the commission had no funds for the purpose, and efforts to enlist the aid of the commissioner of revenues failed.

In protesting employment of three placing judges and three track stewards, Mayor McLaughlin read a letter from Cella saying that the track earned a net profit of around \$42,000 last year—an average of \$1,112 per day for 37 days—and that since more than \$18,000 will be added in purses this year, the track management must practice strict economy to make a profit, even with unusually good weather.

Only \$15,360 would have been earned last season if purses proposed for this year had been paid, McLaughlin said.

A petition asking the commission to disprove appointment of Eugene Bury as secretary and placing judge, signed by about 40 Hot Springs residents, was presented by Foster A. Vineyard of Little Rock.

McLaughlin charged that it had been prepared by E. Sigman, Hot Springs horse owner, "who finds fault with everything," he said.

McLaughlin said that Cella was worried about profits because of newspaper accounts concerning possible repeal of the horse racing act. "Of every five people who

read a newspaper, two get what they read wrong," he said. "From all over the country, Mr. Cella has had accounts indicating that people believe there will be no racing in Hot Springs this year," he said.

"Stories about the 'lid being on' at Hot Springs broke in the newspapers about the same time stories concerning possible repeal of the horse racing act, and many people around the country got the idea there will be no racing," he said. "The Florida people eat that up—it's water for their wheel," he said.

Mr. Vineyard, Commissioner J. R. England of England, and Secretary Farris, questioned McLaughlin about police protection at Hot Springs and were told by Mr. McLaughlin that Revenue Commissioner D. L. Ford and the State Rangers have assured him they will co-operate in police work during the racing season.

McLaughlin filed with the commission a proposed list of track officials after talking by telephone with Mr. Cella.

Farris said that the last commission adopted a resolution requiring the track management to file such a list with the commission at least 30 days before each meet.

Starter Hamilton was called to answer questions concerning necessity for appointment of experienced horsemen to represent the commission at the meet. He was quizzed about complaints of "crookedness" during past meets which commissioners said they had heard from several sources.

Members present included John C. Hilliard of Wynne, chairman; Mr. Vineyard, Conway Hale of Batesville, Mr. England, A. M. Jackson of Berryville and B. C. Reed of Paris. Henry Morsheimer of Parkdale was absent.

# IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS LOOM, REPORT

Committee Declares  
Threatened Action  
"Inevitable"

MEET MONDAY

Newspapermen Again  
To Be Permitted  
In Session

Little Rock, Feb. 6.—(P)—Chairman W. M. Thompson of the house committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district, said here today his committee hoped to complete the inquiry next week.

A statement from the committee said it believed impeachment proceedings against officials in the Hot Springs area "are inevitable."

Thompson said the investigators would meet again on Monday or Tuesday night, again permitting newsmen to sit in on the testimony, and indicated preparation of a report to the house would be started within the next few days.

The statement was issued after the committee's first non-secret session at which three young women from Hot Springs, now serving time in the state reformatory, charged under oath that immoral conditions existed in the Hot Springs city jail, and that women arrested there had been whipped and otherwise abused by officers.

One of the women prisoners, giving the name of Billy Blair, 24, told the committee she had been seduced by force at the age of 15 by a Hot Springs police official, instigated to commit robbery by a policeman, arrested and beaten, and later sent to the women's prison farm for a year.

She alleged that Circuit Judge Earl Witt, in sentencing her, promised to aid her in obtaining a release after serving a part of her time.

"But they won't help me now," she told the committee shrilly. "They'll kill me if I ever go back."

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 5

to Hot Springs because they will know about my testimony here."

Asked by the committee attorney who "they" were, she replied:

"The law over there."

"The testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable," said the committee's statement.

At Hot Springs, acting chief of police Weldon Rasberry, only recently appointed, said "there is not a word of truth" in the charges of immoral conditions at the jail.

Rasberry several weeks ago succeeded Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, suspended by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin during a grand jury investigation into the death of a city jail prisoner, alleged from a beating. Seven policemen were indicted for the death of the prisoner, but those charged did not include the suspended chief.

Since the house committee started its inquiry, state revenue department agents, apparently working in close co-operation with the investigators, raided night clubs at Hot Springs, seized and burned several thousand dollars worth of gambling equipment.

The resolution under which the house committee is working authorized it to determine whether impeachment proceedings should be brought against officials in the Hot Springs area. The resolution alleged a breakdown in law enforcement and an alliance between the peace officers and the "criminal classes."

Of her stay in the Hot Springs jail Billy Blair said:

"The jailer told me that if I'd be good to him, he'd be good to me. I refused, although he threatened me."

The other women's reformatory inmates appearing before the legislative group gave their names as Roxie Parker, 20 and Iva Lee Johnson, 20.

Roxie Parker said she didn't

know why she had been sent to the reformatory. She explained that she previously had been arrested and released in connection with a fatal shooting at Hot Springs.

"That time, they took me to jail and Cecil Brock (a police officer) said he would whip me unless I talked, and he did. He took me where a dead man was and made me put my hand on the dead man while he questioned me. They put me under the hot lights and bent my fingers almost double and screwed their thumbs behind my ears."

"That was last June. It was in connection with the killing of Harvey Cook, but I didn't know anything about it."

Iva Lee Johnson said she had been sentenced from Judge Verne Ledgerwood's municipal court for drunkenness and had been at the prison farm just a week.

She said that a Hot Springs officer "took me out into the country in a car after picking me up on the street."

"He gave me three dollars after we got out into the country," she went on. "Later he fingerprinted me and said that if I dated him he would tear up the fingerprints, and he did."

The witness said that she had been switched and hit over the head with a blackjack by officers.

"Three cops made propositions to me while I was in jail the last time," she testified. "They said if I would date them, they would turn me loose. I wouldn't do that. Another girl who was sentenced the same time I was dated one of the policemen and she hasn't shown up at the women's farm yet."

Mrs. Helen D. McDonald, superintendent of the state women's farm, told the committee the Parker girl was an "ideal inmate" but that both the Blair and Johnson girls had been treated in the State Hospital for Nervous diseases, while serving time at the reformatory.

Excepting newspapermen, only John T. Williams of the local district attorney's office and Rep. James R. Campbell of Hot Springs were the only outsiders permitted to attend the committee session.

Rep. Lee Nichols of the committee said that "seven Hot Springs business men are here ready to testify, but they don't want to testify except in an executive session. I believe they would testify if Mr. Campbell were not present."

The committee decided to hear as many persons as were willing to testify before outsiders present.

Later Campbell and the press were excluded and the testimony of the business men taken behind closed doors.

Fred L. Pennington, describing himself as until recently a maintenance engineer at the Majestic hotel, said he "was let out of my job at the hotel yesterday because I talked to Mr. Witte (a committee investigator)—at least it looks that way."

"The chief engineer fired me because he said I was talking to people I had no business talking to," he continued. "He said my work was satisfactory."



Frank Witte, the committee investigator, told the committee he took part in the recent seizure and destruction of Hot Springs night clubs' gambling paraphernalia.

He identified in evidence 39 poll tax receipts which he said had been given to him by a man he named as "Charles Sellers, a former policeman."

Witte charged the poll tax receipts were distributed in Hot Springs for voting purposes in the primary and that a "pink ticket" of the city administration's selections for state and district offices was distributed also to voters.

He said the selections were headed by Ed F. McDonald for governor, who was given a large majority in the resort city over Carl E. Bailey who won the office.

#### Police Deny Charges.

Members of the Hot Springs police department named in testimony given before the legislative committee in Little Rock last night, today issued statements making a blanket denial of the charges made by three women witnesses. For-

mer Lieut. Cecil Brock, who was also named, added his denial.

Mrs. Emma H. Warrington, police matron, described the women as "probably the most vicious type of women delinquents that I have ever come in contact with."

"We had to send them to the state farm for women before they became of age," Chief Detective Akers said, explaining, "they became so unruly officials at the girls reform school refused to accept them."

"The Blair girl is under sentence now for larceny in connection with the 'rolling' of a man in a Malvern rooming house," Akers said. The other two were sentenced after having been sentenced innumerable times for loitering.

"The larceny case involved a \$60 theft. This was the only larceny case ever entered against her here. She never was arrested for stealing as much as \$475 from anybody."

"She was always a continual source of trouble. Only a short time before she was last admitted to the farm she had to receive treatment at the Levi hospital for a head wound suffered when a man

broke a beer bottle over her head in a drunken brawl. I think she claimed the man was her husband."

"We have to keep her off the streets. She continually had to receive treatment at the government clinic. So did the other two women."

"I think the only thing we ever sent the Johnson woman up for was loitering."

"This Roxie Parker was investigated in the Harvey Cook slaying. She was at the bar room with Cook and the man who killed him. We never found the slayer but we had reason to believe the Parker girl knew him because she was with both of them a few minutes before the slaying."

"She was investigated before a coroner's inquest but she denied knowledge of the slayer's identity. She admitted she was the slain man's 'girl,' however. We believe the fatal fight was over her."

Former Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock denied "switching" any of the girls.

"I admit I questioned the Parker girl. I had every reason to believe she could name the slayer. The Cook case is still unsolved and she was our most important witness."

"All of the girls had every reason to try to get back at the police department. Offhand, I couldn't even estimate the number of times we arrested them. In their conditions, we had to keep them off the streets."

Police Matron Warrington supported the testimony about the trio. She said just a few weeks ago the Johnson girl broke up a stove and turned on water faucets to flood the jail.

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry said last night "there was not a word of truth" in charges of immoral conditions in the city jail here.



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 8, 1937

## POLICE TRIALS ARE SET FOR FEBRUARY 15

Circuit Judge Steele  
of Ashdown, To  
Preside

WITT STEPS OUT

Disqualifies Self In  
View of "Developments"

Circuit Judge A. P. Steele, of the Ninth Judicial District (Ashdown), will come here Monday, February 15, to preside over the trials of seven former officers indicted in connection with the alleged "third degree" death of John Dickson, a city jail prisoner.

Judge Steele, invited to preside over the trials by Circuit Judge Earl Witt, of this district, informed the local judge last night he could come here on that date. Judge Witt who had disqualified himself "in view of recent developments," immediately set the trials on the docket for Feb. 15.

Following his announcement Saturday night that he would disqualify himself, Judge Witt informed the Ashdown jurist that he would set the trial date here to suit Judge Steele's convenience. He added that the seven former city policemen have been under indictment for several weeks and expressed the belief that some effort should be made quickly to set their trials.

Judge Witt was included among the Hot Springs witnesses called to testify before the legislative committee investigating alleged lawless conditions in this city recently.

The seven officers under indictment are accused of using "third degree" methods on Dickson, who was charged with being a member of an alleged local safe robbery ring. Dickson also admitted before his death membership in a band of thugs which brutally attacked former Chief of Police Joe Wakelin during a raid by officers on a "hide-out" north of here.

Dickson died Christmas eve after having been confined at the jail here for almost a month. An autopsy on his body by four prominent Hot Springs physicians revealed he had suffered painful and brutal injuries before death. Physicians said his death was caused by pneumonia but did not state whether the injuries were a contributing factor.

The indictments against the officers followed. Those indicted and suspended from duty were former Day Captain L. A. Cooper, Night Captain R. L. Moore, Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock, Detective Glynn Buchanan and Officers Joe Scott, Andy Irwin and Pres Griffin.

Complying with an editorial request in the local papers that the grand jury delve into charges of three women inmates of the state reformatory that immoral conditions exist in the city jail, Judge Witt said Sunday he had instructed Charles Goslee, grand jury foreman, to give the women an opportunity to give testimony before the grand jury the next time that body meets.

Judge Witt also stated he would have instructed the present or previous grand juries to hear the women, had the latter made any complaint of ill-treatment on the part of city officers.

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry said he "welcomed an investigation by the grand jury, or any other body, into conditions at the jail since Jan. 2, when he took office.

"Iva Lee Johnson (who with Blinn Blair and Roxie Parker made the charges) was arrested after I took office and suffered no mistreatment at the jail.

"The charges made by the state arm inmates are making it too hard for my men to carry on where the others left off. Therefore, I approve such an investigation."

## OPEN SESSION WILL BE HELD IN SPA PROBE

"Sensational Developments" Hinted  
Tonight

Little Rock, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Attorney John R. Thompson said he expected "sensational developments in testimony" to be given tonight before an Arkansas house of Representatives committee investigating alleged lawlessness at Hot Springs.

"At least five witnesses will appear," said Thompson, counsel for the committee. Tonight's meeting will be the second non-secret session of the investigation within a week. Thompson declined to give the names or occupations of those who will testify.

"The people of Hot Springs are getting so they are willing to talk," he declared. "Our investigators are doing a good job at Hot Springs. They are uncovering plenty of stuff." He indicated another meeting may be held later in the week.

Three inmates of the state reformatory for women appeared before the committee at a hearing Friday night, the first at which newspapermen were permitted to attend. They testified they had been whipped and otherwise abused while in custody at Hot Springs and that immoral conditions had existed at the city jail. Police denied the charges.

The statements of the women drew prompt action from Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th judicial district (Hot Springs.) He instructed Charles Goslee, foreman of the grand jury, to invite the three young women to appear before that body. No date has been fixed for the jury to convene.

Judge Witt, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs, other officials and operators of several alleged gambling establishments appeared before the legislative group at private sittings.

Members of the committee said they may finish taking of testimony this week and indicated an early report. The group said in a statement that it believed bringing of impeachment proceedings against

# HOUSE KILLS RACING REPEAL BILL: VOTE, 64 TO 30

**BUTT MEASURE  
CALLED UP IN  
SURPRISE MOVE**

**Campbell and Maner  
Agree to Prompt  
Action**

**DEBATE IS BRIEF**

**Hot Springs Flayed  
by Chairman of  
Probe Body**

Little Rock, Feb. 8.- (AP) The House defeated late today the bill by Butt of Carroll to repeal the 1935 act legalizing horse racing. The vote was 30 to 64.

The House suspended its rules to bring up the bill for final action.

The Hot Springs newspapers and the Garland county representatives report that people are moving out of Hot Springs by the hundreds because of activities of this legislature," Butt said.

"Blooming houses are being vacated and businesses being ruined. It strikes me that the House should do something one way or the other immediately about the horse racing bill. I have conferred with Mr. Campbell and Mr. Maner, the Garland county representatives, and they agree with me that immediate action is necessary."

The House agreed to have four speakers on each side.

"The only issue involved is whether or not you are willing to prostitute the good name of Arkansas for the dollars that this state will get through legalized gambling," Butt said.

"Is the amount of money that we get worth the bad reputation and bad publicity and defamatory remarks we get through the racing? By legalizing gambling we have lowered the moral tone of the state."

Speaking against the bill, Crawford of Mississippi, said:

"No law is stronger than the sentiment of the people back of it. Legalizing of racing by the 1935 legislature was a commendable act. I'd love for some of these gentlemen to tell us what moral loss we have suffered through legalized racing during the past two years."

Blount of White, speaking for the bill, said:

"I don't see how we can consistently warn against gambling in our schools and churches and then legalize it in the high places. Many times it's the little fellow with a starving family who gambles away his money on horse races. I'm opposed to any form of gambling."

Thompson of Independence said "It seems that free government already has ceased to exist in Garland county and tentacles of horse racing soon will reach out into other counties."

Thompson, chairman of the House committee investigating law enforcement conditions at Hot Springs said that the books of eight Hot Springs gambling houses showed a profit of \$332,000 last year.

"Operation of crooked gambling machines is taking money away from Hot Springs visitors," he said. "Three-fourths of the dice taken in recent raids on Hot Springs gambling houses were crooked."

"I guess after this legislature adjourns, it will be dangerous for me to go to Hot Springs."

Closing against the bill, Maner of Garland, said:

"Horse racing is about all we've got left except the hot water and we'd like to keep the races. The people who come to Hot Springs want some diversion."

"The races during the last two years paid \$255,000 into the state's old age pension fund. The races have brought business back to Hot Springs."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
DATE: Feb. 8, 1937

## Blaylock Commends Inquiry

Endorsement of the House investigation of reported lawlessness in Garland county and the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit was contained in a sermon delivered by the Rev. Arden P. Blaylock, pastor of the First Baptist church, Twelfth and Louisiana streets, last night.

The Rev. Mr. Blaylock said that Arkansas is not proud of anything "Hot Springs has except its famous springs," and that he was not in favor of gambling interests "controlling any part of the state."

The pastor endorsed the Vesey bill to repeal the liquor act, saying that "returns from the Thorn liquor law have justified introduction of the Vesey bill." People should have an opportunity to vote on the prohibition question without having to initiate legislation, he said.

A revival scheduled to begin this morning at the church with the Rev. Herman Appleman of Fort Worth, Tex., conducting services, will begin at 7:30 tonight, the Rev. Mr. Blaylock announced. The Rev. Mr. Appleman will arrive from Muskogee, Okla., this afternoon.

*The Arkansas Gazette*  
*Little Rock, Arkansas*  
*Feb. 10, 1937*

## Impeachment Law of State Never Used

The statement issued by the House committee investigating alleged lawlessness in the Hot Springs case, which committee members said that impeachment proceedings are inevitable, has caused wide interest in provisions of the state constitution relating to impeachment. Inquiry revealed that the state has a complete set of impeachment laws which never have been used.

**Attempted Removal Fails.**  
The only case cited by annotators of the constitution under the section authorizing impeachment is a case which originated in 1917 in Garland county.

In that case, Scott Wood, then circuit judge, sought to remove H. H. Speer from the office of prosecuting attorney on a charge of criminal misconduct in office. Speer applied to the Arkansas Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition to prevent Judge Wood from proceeding with the removal order.

The Supreme Court granted the writ, holding that an act of 1877 attempting to authorize circuit courts to suspend or remove certain officials was unconstitutional, that a prosecuting attorney is a state officer and that the only way to remove such officer from office is by impeachment.

### Constitutional Provisions.

Article 15 of the constitution provides that the governor, all state officers, judges of the Supreme Court, circuit courts, chancellors and prosecuting attorneys shall be liable to impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office.

An impeachment judgment can go no farther than to remove the impeached official from office and to bar him from holding "any office of honor, trust or profit under this state."

An impeachment, whether successful or not, does not act as a bar to indictment for criminal offenses.

### Legislative Action Necessary.

The constitution provides that the House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment and that all impeachments must be tried by the Senate, with the chief justice of the Supreme Court presiding. If the chief justice is the subject of the impeachment, or is otherwise disqualified, the constitution provides that the Senate may select a presiding officer. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is required for conviction at an impeachment trial.

In addition to the provision for impeachment, the Arkansas constitution contains a provision that the auditor, treasurer, secretary of state, attorney general, judges of the Supreme and circuit courts, chancellors and prosecuting attorneys may be removed by the governor "for good cause upon the joint address of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly."

Members of the Senate are required by a law enacted prior to adoption of the present constitution to take a special oath in impeachment cases to faithfully and impartially try the impeachment and to give their decision according to the law and the evidence.

If an official against whom impeachment charges are brought refuses to appear or to answer the charges, the Senate may proceed with the trial without his presence, but the accused is given the right to answer charges and to appear with counsel at the impeachment trial.

If the accused is acquitted, the state must bear the cost of the impeachment trial, but if he is convicted, he is liable for the costs which may be recovered by motion of the attorney general in Pulaski Circuit Court.

The power of impeachment does not extend to mayors and other municipal officers, but an act passed in 1895 authorizes circuit judges to remove mayors or police judges from office upon indictment charging nonfeasance in office.

The act says that any mayor or police judge who "wilfully and knowingly fails, refuses or neglects to execute or cause to be executed any of the laws or ordinances within their jurisdiction, shall be deemed guilty of nonfeasance in office."

## Hot Springs Officers' Trial Postponed

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 9 (AP).—Circuit Judge Earl Witt announced indefinite postponement tonight of the trial of seven former Hot Springs policemen accused of murder in the Christmas Eve death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner. The trials were scheduled for Monday with Circuit Judge A. P. Steel, Ashdown, presiding at invitation of Judge Witt. The court said the postponement was at request of relatives of Dickson and their lawyer, Scott Wood, and the prosecuting attorney's office.

### NO GETTING AROUND IT.

It is generally accepted in Arkansas that so far as the future that may be foreseen is concerned Hot Springs is to have horse racing.

But the author of the defeated House bill to repeal the racing act, Representative Butt of Carroll county, was impregnable right in these two propositions he stated on the House floor:

Any kind of legalized gambling is demoralizing.  
The revenue received by the state is not worth what it costs.



## EARL WITT DUE TO TESTIFY IN PROBE TONIGHT

### Investigation Near Its Close.

After hearing another group of witnesses last night the House committee, investigating charges of terrorism and lawlessness in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in general, announced they hoped to close their investigation with another hearing tonight. Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, whose conduct as a jurist and private citizen has been under investigation, was expected to be among the witnesses to appear.

The committee had no statement to make last night after the meeting at which a group of 14 business men of Norman and Mt. Ida, Montgomery county, through a spokesman told of the esteem which Judge Witt enjoyed in their county. No Little Rock police were on hand last night as was the case Monday when a group of Hot Springs business men appeared to be heard.

#### Recent Grand Juror Tells Of Checks From Jacobs.

L. D. Cooper, one-time president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Garland county Grand Jury last year, told the committee that he had been receiving annual dividend checks from W. S. Jacobs, principal owner of Club Belvedere "for the last three or four years."

Seventy-four years old, Cooper told the House group, inquiring in charges of breakdown in Hot Springs law enforcement, that he could not attempt to give exact dates and figures, due to his age and bad hearing.

Previous witnesses before the committee had referred to the owner of a part interest in Club Belvedere and its associated Southern Club, fashionable gambling resorts, but he denied having any interest in Southern Club. He said he was in the grocery and produce business.

Cooper told the committee he had been president of the Chamber of Commerce several years ago and served on the Grand Jury in Hot Springs last year.

"You own an interest in Belvedere?" asked John R. Thompson, committee attorney.

"I don't know whether I do or not," said Cooper. "Mr. Jacobs is one of my best friends—I once did him a favor—and I have been getting a check from him once a year in return for that favor."

He said he had loaned Jacobs "a few hundred dollars years ago when he came to Hot Springs and tried to go into the motion picture business."

"How big were the checks?" "I couldn't tell you exactly, the first was for about six or seven hundred, and then there were bigger ones."

"Were you on the Grand Jury?" "Yes, about six months ago."

"And you still have a 15 per cent interest in Belvedere and Southern Club?" asked Committee Chairman William M. Thompson.

"I have no interest in Southern Club. The interest in Belvedere was about three per cent I believe."

"Did you know there was gambling there?"

"Everyone knew of the gambling."

"If Jacobs' records should show you had a dividend of \$1,500 from Belvedere and \$1,875 from Southern Club in 1936, would that be correct?"

"No, they would be wrong, because I did not have any connection with Southern Club."

"Did the Grand Jury investigate gambling while you were on it?"

"No, it wasn't brought up. We just passed on the cases that were brought before us."

"Did you have any instructions from Circuit Judge Earl Witt to investigate violation of penal laws other than the cases laid before you?"

"I can't be sure."

"Have you served on the Grand Jury since August?"

"I believe so."

"Did the circuit judge instruct you to investigate any election violations?"

"I can't remember."

"Can you remember everything he charged you with?"

"I don't think so. I am 74 years old and you will have to excuse me from attempting to answer all questions exactly."

He described himself as a "good friend of Judge Witt," and in answer to a committee question said: "I never saw him intoxicated. I never heard anyone say that about him."

#### May Have Been Too Much Liberality, Says Eisele.

Martin E. Eisele, 83-year-old Hot Springs drug store operator, told the committee he believed that "Hot Springs rests on the value of its healing waters."

not on gambling or racing, but as a resort some latitude should be allowed to provide pleasure for the visitors within the bounds of decency."

"Perhaps there has been too much liberality," he said. "I feel that if the mayor [Leo P. McLaughlin] tightened up some, he would be very popular indeed."

Asserting that "some of these clubs are an asset and others are a hindrance," he said:

"A place like Belvedere is an asset. It is the type of place that is run in Florida, where I have visited recently. They don't ask poor people or boys to come out there and gamble. The place is run fairly and caters to a class that has money and wants to take a chance."

"There are some dives in the city that should be suppressed."

Eisele, who told the committee he had lived in Hot Springs for 60 years and that he was a former superintendent of the national park and presently vice president of the Arkansas National bank there, was questioned about "intimidation" of employees in his drug stores.

"Was there ever any intimidation or boycott?" he was asked.

"There was an instance three years ago after the mayor's election, which generated a good deal of heat. A number of people voted for me for mayor in that election although I was not a candidate. After the election, a man came into one of my stores and made quite a purchase, about \$10 or \$12 worth. Three or four men saw him there and rushed in, telling him to 'cut that out—this firm is against the administration.' He turned in the purchases. When he went to another of our stores, he was warned again."

"I don't believe the mayor had any connection with that occurrence. It was just some of his over-zealous followers."

In answer to a question about Judge Witt, he said: "I never saw him drunk."

Representative James R. Campbell of Garland asked permission to press the question, asking if Judge Witt had "a reputation for heavy drinking."

"Good gracious, no!" said the witness.

"Is there a reign of terror in Hot Springs?" asked the committee attorney.

"Some feel there has been too much latitude if they try to oppose things they may be persecuted."

"Do you feel you might be hurt if the impression should go out that you were in sympathy with this investigation?"

"I don't think so."

### Says Judge Witt Warned Of 'Gentleman's Agreement.'

K. Vernon, bookmaker, said he talked with the mayor about a location for his "shop" and was told him he could open on Malvern avenue, but other officials objected. He said he was told that "Judge Witt said there was a gentleman's agreement against any gambling establishment on that avenue."

"So I opened on Broadway," he said. "I paid Jacobs \$75 a week for the racing news service."

Vernon said the wire and office help cost Jacobs \$325 a week and that Jacobs collected \$75 each week from nine bookmakers.

"The three operated by Jacobs himself did not have to pay," he said. "That left the nine of us paying \$875. I was told that the difference between what Jacobs collected and paid went to certain politicians."

Vernon also said he and the eight others were called to headquarters every two weeks and were given names by officers. When these names were called in open court to answer charges of gambling, they pleaded guilty and each paid a "fine" of \$100. When he went into the business, Vernon said, he was told that he would have to go through such procedure. He did not know what politicians, if any, were paid by Jacobs.

### Says Judge and Prosecutor Outlined Investigations.

C. B. Lovell Sr., druggist, chairman of the Bailey for Governor club at Hot Springs last summer, testified that while he was a member of the Grand Jury, it never investigated anything that was not brought to its attention by Judge Witt for Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney. He also said it was generally talked in the city that Judge Witt "used liquor extensively."

### Jacobs Revealed As Financing 'Boosting.'

Walter Ebel, newspaperman told the committee that he received \$25 weekly from W. S. Jacobs for boosting Hot Springs. Ebel said he had proposed a publicity campaign to the Chamber of Commerce several years ago and while that body had his suggestion under consideration, Jacobs, hearing about it, promised that he would assume the debt himself. Ebel described Jacobs as "deeply interested" in the welfare of Hot Springs. He denied having any other business dealings with him.

Asked if Mayor McLaughlin had asked him last summer to take charge of the Second Ward box, Ebel was emphatic in his denial.

"The mayor never asked me to do anything unlawful in connection with any election, nor do anything else dishonorable," said the witness. "I think he's too smart a man and has better sense than to ask anything like that of me."

Ebel said that Judge Witt was not a drunkard, nor had he ever seen the judge while drinking.

### Refuses to Give Testimony Before Reporters.

The next witness, Miss Gladys Wilson stopped as she entered the room and informed the committee she would not testify before reporters. After taking the oath she identified herself, told of having published Public Opinion, a Hot Springs newspaper until it suspended publication after the election. Asked why it was suspended, she said:

"We got tired of fighting a losing battle."

She then again refused to testify. Chairman Johnson asked for a reason.

"Hot Springs is my home and I want to continue living there."

Committeeman Robinson informed the witness that should the matter come before the Senate for a hearing, her testimony then would become public property. He declared the committee should hold her in contempt.

It then was decided to excuse her for the time being and decide in executive session to decide further action. Robinson withdrew his motion.

After all witnesses had been heard, Miss Wilson was admitted to the chambers to testify before the committee alone. The nature of her testimony was not made public.

### City Committee Secretary Produces Minutes.

L. V. Freeman, lumberman, secretary of the City Democratic Committee gave the committee copies of his minutes of various meetings held in connection with the August primary. The records also contained the names of the judges and clerks.

Freeman said that he did not know that gambling existed in Hot Springs.

"I never went around those places. I've always been too busy with my work to run around," he said.

He had served on the Grand Jury, he said, but could not recall whether Judge Witt ever had asked for an investigation into alleged gambling and lawlessness.

O. D. Taylor, 63, of Jack Mountain, 12 miles southeast of Hot Springs began telling the committee of incidents in Garland and Hot Spring county as well as in St. Louis, Mo., which the committee held had no connection with the investigation. Taylor said he apparently had been misinformed as to what was being investigated, so after leaving several records with the committee, was excused.

### Deny That Judge Witt Ever Becomes Drunk.

J. L. Pinkerton and J. B. Hughes, lumbermen of Norman, were spokesman for the Montgomery county group. They told of intimate friendship with Judge Witt for a number of years and denied he ever "got drunk." Both said he had been suffering with a throat ailment that had resulted in his going to a hospital.

"Judge Witt had no knowledge of our plans to come before you gentlemen," Pinkerton said, "until we passed through Hot Springs today. The majority of people in our county are for him. Personally, I've served on Grand Juries in our county and each time Judge Witt has included in his charge the enforcement of all laws."

### Judge Witt Endorsed By Montgomery County Citizens.

A written statement given to the Gazette by a member of the committee follows:

The undersigned citizens of and officers of Montgomery county came to Little Rock today for the purpose of appearing before the Investigating Committee in behalf of Circuit Judge Witt. We have known Judge Witt since boyhood; have observed his conduct as a judge on the bench and feel that as his home folks we are qualified to speak for him. He is a native son of Montgomery county and enjoys the confidence and esteem of our people. There is no question as to his fitness, character or ability and we trust that he will receive that consideration from the legislature that is justly due him.

(Signed)

J. B. Hughes, J. L. Pinkerton, J. H. Shaw, Jeff Carpenter and P. G. Warneke, brother of Lon Warneke, all of Norman; County Judge Frank Hale, Sheriff Mathias Glaze, Deputy Sheriff John Johnson, J. H. Alley, merchant, Attorney Leo Radford, Attorney John Freeman, County Treasurer Joe Simpson, Everett Sims, merchant and Tom O'Neal, garage operator.

Lon Warneke, the baseball pitcher accompanied the group to Little Rock and remained in an ante-room for a short time, but was not present when the delegation was admitted.



ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-13-32

## Hot Springs Report Due Next Week

Recommendations to be made by the committee that investigated charges of terrorism and lawlessness in Hot Springs with special reference to the conduct of Earl Witt, judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, will not be revealed until the report is filed with the House, it was said by a spokesman for the committee last night. It was said that any attempts to predict the nature of the committee's report would be mere guesswork.

The committee completed hearing testimony at Thursday night's session. Three of the five members met in the office of John R. Thompson, committee attorney, in the Wallace building last night. It was said that the meeting was held for the purpose of reviewing the large amount of testimony received, including that given at closed sessions. Present were Chairman W. M. Nichols of Independence county, I. T. ("Ike") Murry of Dallas county and James Fred Jones of Montgomery county. Lee Nichols of Logan county, committee secretary, and Pat Robinson of Lafayette county were not present.

The committee spokesman said that every possible effort will be made to have the report ready to present to the House next week.

Tap on #123 (Chief Police)  
and #446 (City Jail)  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Plant at 207-Lourel

2-9-37.

Wd.

12:01 Am. - In on 446 -

Bradley & Murray - Reported at 116 (Miller's).

12:45 Am. - In on 123 -

Man - Do you know where I can  
get a doctor for emergency at  
115 Plateau Street? Its a woman.

Corrington - City Doctor wouldn't go out  
this time of night. You might  
try Dr. Cassidy, or Shaw and  
Browning -

Has

12:48 Am. - In on 446

Man - You'd better get busy and  
get a doctor out to Plateau Street.  
Corrington - I told him to call one.  
(hung up).

12:55 Am. - In on 446 -

Has

Man - again requested a doctor on Plateau  
Street -

I told you, who to call -

2-9-37.

Has.

1:05 Am - In on 446.

Murray + Bradley - Reported at ???.

1:30 Am. - In on 446.

Man - Any of the boys there?

Corrington - They're all out on a call.

Man - ok.

Has.

2:00 Am - In on 446.

Murray + Bradley - at 126.

2:35 Am - In on 446.

Rogers - Anything doing sgt.?

Corrington - No. All quiet.

Rogers - I'll be at 3606 (Firestone) -

3:10 Am - In on 446

Bradley + Murray - Reported at 291.

Has.

2-9-37.

Has.

4:02 Am. - In on 446.

Murray & Bradley - at 126.

5:00 Am. - In on 446.

Murray & Bradley - at 777.

5:05 Am. - Out on 446

Has.

Man - Unable to get operator to answer.

6:00 A.M. - In on 446.

Woman - How many breakfasts?  
Corrington - Eight.

Has.

2-9-37

6:25 am

In 123 (512)

WTM

Pleasant (negro attendant at Pythian Bath House)  
Spoke to Corning ton about whether he was  
coming down this morning and  
Corning ton said he would be there about  
10:30

~~Out~~

7:35 am

Out 446

WTM

3232-W (receiving phone of Ben Rogers)

Man called to a woman to fix his breakfast  
as he would be there right away.

8:24 am

Out 446

WTM

226

Man called, talking to Fred, said his brother  
is in jail, arrested last night, and wants  
him.

2-9-37

8:34 am

In 446

WTH

Man called and asked if the chief had gotten that woman named Pat arrested in North Little Rock last night. Carrington told him to call the chief when he came in.

8:37 am

Out 446

WTH

184 (City Court clerk's office)

Carrington talked to Mr. Jackson asking Jackson to check the Sunday docket to see what James Kennedy is in there for. Jackson replied that that person was not on the docket.

8:45 am

In 123

WTH

Missouri Pacific Ry. office in Hot Springs reported the robbery of a box car of 15 cases of beer Saturday night and this morning found that a car of flour had been entered but the loss had not been established.

The flour was billed to Stewart Grocery Co.



2-9-37

(Hot Springs, Ark.). The officer receiving this report asked that the police be advised of the shortage of flour when ascertained.

9:09 am

In 123

WTM

~~Henry~~ Man giving name "Henry" told Chief Pasherry: "I made that call lost and he hadn't gotten back. You know he went out to see his mother." No names were mentioned and Chief merely said "OK".

9

1234446.

2/9/37

9.59 am

out 446

DPS

To 471 (City Health Dept.)

Corrington ordered some aspirin.

10.14 am

out 446

DPS

To 3574

ordered dunnies.

10.16 am

In 123

DPS

Hurry.

Hello, I missed you last night, if nothing happens, I am going into it.

alms.

Alright.

10.33 am

In 123

DPS

Mr. Brewer

Did you call me?

alms.

yes. I have some poisoning in me, I am feeling better now.

Mr. Brewer

You had better run over see me today.

10.43 am

In 446

DPS

Woman asked for Jack Puckett. "It is out"

-7-

123 + 446

2/9/37

10.45 am.

In 123.

NPS

Woman talked to Jack Puckett and  
told him in vigorous language if  
he didn't come home and get some  
persons out, she was going to pack  
and leave.

10.46 am

NPS

Out 446

1

To 3672 (Marquette Hotel).

Alens called for Agent Sammons.  
"Not in".

10.53 am.

out 446

NPS

To 152 (Kett Park Ave)

P.W. Who is Manager of the LaMar Beth  
House.

man. Jack Rennie.

10.54 am.

In 446.

NPS

man. This John Bender. Is Harry Bell who  
stole that money from Johnnie Jones still there?

Inches. Yes.

-8-

123 + 446

2/9/37.

11.01 A.M.

In 446

WPS.

Long distance call from Little Rock.  
man. Ray Cotton (a girl) is coming over there.  
Put a tail on her. She's a blonde.  
Alma. Who is this?  
man. This is Jack.  
Alma. O.K.

11.05 A.M.

In 123.

WPS.

Judge Ledgewood. That girl who went to the  
Grand Jury for larceny with  
that taxicab driver, says that  
you boys have her clothes. She is  
coming over. Give them to her.  
Tucker. O.K. Judge. Alma forgot to give  
them to her.

11.10 A.M.

In 123.

WPS.

Woman. Have Ciel (Brook) call home,  
if he comes in.  
P.D. Alright.

123 4446

4/9/37.

11.16 am.

Out 4446

WPS

Ordered 4 dinners.

11.19 am.

In 123

WPS

Man asked for "Ed" and was told  
he was out with the Red Cross.

11.25 am.

On 4446

WPS

Woman left message for Garnett Moore  
to call his aunt.

11.37 am.

In on 123

WPS

From 648 (Mayor's office)

Hazel Marsh left a message for Albus to  
come to the Mayor's office before lunch.

11.47 am.

Out 123.

WPS

To 707 (Crim & Clark)

Earl Brock.

There is a boy named Norman Hodges  
getting a divorce. See if it has been granted.

Clark.

All the papers are ripe, they'll be down at  
12 noon. Call them.

- 10 -

123+446

2/9/37

11.50 a.m.

On 446

WPS

for Albus - Not in.

11.54 a.m.

On 446

WPS

Negro (very excited.) Send the police to 1426 Central Ave  
right away.

11.55 a.m.

On 123

WPS

7 o'clock at 458

11.56 a.m.

On 123

Long distance call. Albus speaking with  
G. B. Bennett, of the Circuit Clerk's office,  
town not known.

Albus. Did a Mr. Norman Hodges obtain a  
marriage license there?

woman to phone. yes, this morning at 2 a.m. they  
were married here.

Albus. yes, ma'am. Thanks

12.04 p.m.

On 446

WPS

for Albus. "He's out" -H-



1234446

2/9/37.

12.06 p.m. Dr 123.

NPS.

Former Chief of Police Wakelin <sup>asked</sup> wife box of  
fish food had come in the mail for  
him. Incher stated he had not seen it.

12.28 p.m.

out 446

NPS.

To 2815 - No answer.

1231 p.m.

Dr 123.

NPS

Mr Webb.

Terry my wife had a heart attack.  
John's 10 days are up tomorrow.  
I wonder if Mr. Rasberry would  
let him come home tonight.

Incher.

I think it that the Chief would  
feel it was alright.

12.32 p.m.

Dr 123.

NPS

For Akers, - not in

123+446

2/9/37

12.38 p.m.

On 123

OPS

Alice called in and asked for any messages  
and was told that Hazel Marsh had  
called.

1.19 p.m.

On 446

OPS

Officer Kelly reported at 3497.

1.27 p.m.

On 446

OPS

For Alice - "Out to lunch"

1.30 p.m.

Out 123

OPS

To 1349 (Suburban not known)

Barnett Moore -

Is Ruby there?

Woman

She left exactly 12 minutes ago  
to walk downtown with 2 other  
girls.

1.39 p.m.

Out 123

OPS

To 648 (Mayor's office)

Alice

Do you want me to come up?

Hazel Marsh

yes

-13-

123 + 446

2/9/37.

1.40 p.m.

Out 123.

OPS

Long distance call to Mrs or Mrs. Lawton

Fleming at Arkadelphia Ark Telephone #361.

Arch Cooper.

Hello, how are things?

Gil.

Happy Birthday.

Cooper.

I am having a hell of a birthday  
as he at home.

Gil

yes, Oscar is sick in bed with  
the flu.

Cooper.

I wouldn't have called if I had  
known that.

Gil.

That's alright. He's in the other  
room and the door is closed. I

Cooper.

may be up Monday & see you  
alright. I just wanted to talk  
to you.

1.44 p.m.

Out 123

OPS

To 2142 (Belvedere Park).

Cooper.

Is Mr. Jacobs there?

man.

I don't know, He may be over at  
the club (Club Belvedere).

-14-

123 + 446

2/9/37.

Cooper. Is Sam Gold there?  
Man. not now.  
Cooper. I'll call the club.

1.46 p.m. Out 123. DRS.  
To 2485 (Belvedere Club Cafe)

Cooper. Hello, who's this.  
Man. Ed Brown speaking.  
Cooper. Is the old man out there?  
Ed Brown. No. He may be down at the Southern (Club)

1.46 p.m. Out 123. DRS.  
To 1065 (Southern newsstand)  
Line Busy.

1.47 p.m. Out 123.  
To 2791 (Southern News Co. Unpublished)  
Line Busy.

1.49 p.m. In on 123. DRS.  
Wrong number

123 + H46

2/9/37.

1.50 pm

out 123.

NR3

To 1065 (Southern new stand).

Cooper.

Is Mr. Jacobs there?

Girl

He's busy now. Will you leave  
your number?

Cooper.

This is Arch Cooper. Ask him if  
it would be alright for me to come  
up and see him.

Girl

He said to come on up.

1.54 pm.

out 446

To. 226,

Inquired about the price of lumber.

23

2-8-37

1:55 pm

~~2:00~~ pm

In 446

WTM

Woman asked to have Akers call  
1992.

2:00 pm

Out 123

WTM

648 (Mayor's Office)

Man calling: Dutch, listen, I just heard a  
call come in for you to call 1992. It was Ma  
Harney's voice - I don't know what's up.  
Akers: OK.

2:01 pm

In 123

WTM

Officer Morris Young called in at 33

2:02 pm

In 446

WTM

Woman asked for Archie Young -  
he was not in

2:05 pm

In 446

WTM

Officer Kelly calling in at 3337



123 + 446

2/9/37.

2.30 pm

In 123.

NR3

Fowler at 458

2.33 pm.

In 123.

Woman at Virginia Cafe reported to being  
that a man was getting impressions of  
hands and sending them away to  
get your fortune told for 50¢.

2.46 pm.

In 446

Woman, named Pauline Holt, inquired about  
a negro named Clayburn who had been  
arrested and had been sentenced to the  
chain gang, Clayburn being her maid's  
husband. Incher told her that Clayburn  
was a "low down nigger" and the Judge  
probably wouldn't do anything for  
him.

2.55 pm.

out 446

NR3

To 2400 (Orlington Hotel)

P. D.

Let me talk to the head bell boy

- 18 -

123+446

2/9/37.

man answering - He's gone & won't be back until 7 pm.  
P.W. Oh, forget it.

2.58 p.m.

out 446

DPS

To 401

operator reported that line was disconnected.

3.00 p.m.

in 446

DPS

Woman

Do you where Herbert is?

Rasberry

I don't know.

3.10 p.m.

In 446

DPS

Try reporting at # 3497

3.14 p.m.

In 123.

DPS

Woman inquired if the Police had heard  
anything from a pocketbook, stolen at  
126 Central Ave.

3.24 p.m.

Out 446

DPS

To 448 (W.E. Pratt, Strong)

Mrs. Warrington inquired about groceries

123 + 446

8/4/37.

3.34 pm.

out 446

WPS

Fueber called Siatta Grocery and inquired  
about groceries.

3.59 pm

In 446

WPS

for Alms - "He's out"

2-9-37.

Har.

3:57 PM. - In on 123.

Man - Reported to Rasberry that an itinerant salesman employed by Kilgore Bros Furniture Store had shipped town with the company trailer and a washing machine.

Rasberry - OK. We'll try to find him.

Man - Expect I'd better give you his name - its E.F. Rose. Lived at apartment house at 300 Benton St.

4:00 PM. - In on 446

Kelly - Reported at 3337.

Har.

4:30 PM. - In on 123.

Sheriff - At Texarkana, requested pick-up of 25 year old boy driving Whippet sedan accompanied by Mrs M. D. Hurt and 3 year old child. Car belongs to Mr. Hurt who swore out warrant. May visit a Joe or Jim Shannon -  
Eckers - OK. I'll go down to Shannons now.

4:35 P.m.

2-9-37.

Fowler - Reported at 273.

Hae.

4:50 P.m. - In on 446.

Spencer - Reported to Young that a man had showed him a "half" that looked like the one he saw few days ago. Man said he got it from "Uncle Bob's" Restaurant on Benton Street.

Young - We'll look into it.

4:53 P.m. - In on 123.

Hae.

Man - at Orange Hotel - Requested officers to pick up parties in auto bearing Missouri license # 623-123 who were skipping without paying room rent.

Dacker - You'll have to go over to the City Clerk's Office and get a warrant.

Man - ok I'll go right over.

2-9-37.

Has.

5:00 Pm. - Out on 446.

Officer - Called 3574. Ordered 18 dinners.

5:05 Pm. - In on 446.

Woman - What did they put "Squirt" in jail for?

M. Young - He and another boy broke out a window glass last night.

Woman - I don't have enough to pay his fine. Guess he'll have to stay in. See if he has on his leather jacket and call me at 3780.

Has.

5:08 Pm. - Out on 446.

M. Young - Called 3780.

Woman - Hello.

Young - He has it.

Has.



2-9-37.

Har.

5:10 Pm. - In on 446.

Kelly - Reported at 66.

5:20 Pm. - In on 446.

Man - Is Apes or the Chief there?

Officer - No, neither one.

Man - send a detective to 1018 Central.

We want to make an investigation

Officer - All right.

Har.

5:35 Pm. - In on 123.

Wright. (at Tourist Court) advised Tucker what to do about a parking ticket one of his tenants got.

Tucker - He'd better come up and see Judge Ledgerwood in the morning. I can't do anything about it.

Wright - Does Ledgerwood have a phone?

Tucker - Not that I know about.

Har.

2-9-37.

6:00 Pm. - In on 123.

Has.

Mrs. Rasberry - Tucker will you tell  
Mr. Rasberry to call me?

Tucker - all right.

6:10 Pm. - Out on 123.

Akers - Called Postal Telegraph - Requested  
boy to come to city jail.

6:30 Pm. - In on 446.

Has.

Kelly - Reported at 99.

Akers - OK. Tell the place out there  
to be on look out for counterfeit  
half dollars - right new looking.  
Think I'll have the fellow's descrip-  
tion tonight.

Kelly - OK

Has.

2-9-37.

6:35 Pm. - In on 123

Dr. Randolph - advised Fowler to have  
witnesses to death of Kilgore  
boy on bicycle, present at  
coroner's hearing at gross  
mortuary tomorrow at 2:00 Pm.

Fowler - I'll tell the chief.

6:40 Pm. - Out on 446

J. Moore - Called 3574 (Dick Plain Rest.)  
Ordered one more meal.

6:45 Pm. - In on 123.

Man - Is Mr Watkins in?

Fowler - No. He should be back at seven.

Man - Tell him to call 116 (Muller)  
and ask for Keller.

2-9-37.

6:50 Pm. - In on 446.

Man - Is "Suede" Watkins there?

Fowler - No - Out for supper.

7:00 Pm. - In on 123.

Mrs Kasting - Asked if Mr Robery had come in yet, and left a personal message for him.

7:05 Pm. - In on 123.

Man - Is Sucker there?

Fowler - Out now.

Man - Tell him that the fellow he was looking for on Grant St is at home now.

7:10 Pm. - In on 446.

Kelly - Reported at 3746.

2-9-37

7:12 Pm. - Out on 123.

Has.

Watkins - Called 116. (Miller's Reg. 5th)

Clerk - Miller's -

Watkins - Is a man named Keller there?

Keller - Hello - Swede? This is "Harvy".

Watkins - Yes -

Keller - What time do you get off?

Watkins - At nine.

Keller - Come by Miller's - I'll be

here. Am leaving tomorrow

and want to see you tonight.

Watkins - all right.

Has.

7:15 Pm. - In on 446.

Woman (whispering) Is Mr. Atkins there?

Tucker - Couldn't understand and  
woman hung up.

7:17 Pm. - In on 123.

Has.

Woman - (same) Is Mr. Atkins there?

Tucker - Failed understand & woman hung  
up phone. - 28 -

2-9-37-

HW

7:27 Pm. - In on 123-

Man - Is "Swede" there?

Watkins - Hello-

Man - This is - you know  
where Ed lives?

Watkins - Yeah-

Man - Wish you'd go up there  
and tell him to call me in  
the morning between nine and  
ten at home. Call me back  
so I'll know whether you got  
in contact with him-

Watkins - OK.

7:55 Pm. - out on 446

(Cousin Anderson  
106 Kenwood)

HW

Man - Called 3191 (Voice of Bob Moore)

Woman - Hello.

Bob Moore - conversed socially with  
woman and advised that the  
trials of police officers would  
come up Monday-

Woman - Hope you come out OK.

-29-



2-9-37

8:00 P.m. - In on 446.

Kelly - Reported at 3343.

8:10 pm

In 123

WTM

Man calling Reed: Have you seen that party yet?

Reed: Yes. Just got back. Everything is O.K.

Will call you between 9 & 10.

Man: Alright.

8:15 pm

In 443

WTM

Woman calling for Akers

Woman (hushed voice): Can you come down?

Akers: Yes.

Woman: I'll call you at mine

(Woman did not identify herself, but  
voice sounded like Ada Harnish.)

8:16

Out 446

WTM

3339 (Residence phone of Arch Cooper)

Man called and spoke to Arch.

Man: Arch there is a bunch down here. I talked

2-9-37

to Ed and he said he would call you  
about mine.

(Following this Arch, apparently in  
an intoxicated condition, said he  
was having a birthday (his) celebration  
at his home and argued with the  
caller about his coming.)

8:25 pm

In 123

WTN

A Mrs. Stevens of McCharg Hotel called  
that city prisoner, Floyd Cosh had a long distance  
call from Dallas (Operator #1) waiting for  
him.

8:26 pm

Out 123

WTN

Floyd Cosh connected up with long distance  
call from Dallas, Texas. The party or other  
end probably used a pay station as coins  
were dropped in phone.

Cosh: Hello!

Woman: What are you doing? Waiting for  
me?

2-9-37

Cash: Ah yes — I am waiting alright.

Woman: Just for me?

Cash: No you know where I am?

Woman: Oh! Oh! What tagged? I am  
coming down there tomorrow?

Cash: You going to stay there tonight?

Woman: Yes. William has been sick. I am  
going to spend the night in Dallas.

Cash: You say you are coming tomorrow —  
I am in some difficulty here.

Woman: Yes. Is it alright for me to come  
What kind of trouble are you in.

Cash: Well — I'll tell you tomorrow when  
I see you. Is that alright?

Woman: Yes

Cash: Well, I'll see you tomorrow

8:40 pm

In 123

WTM

Abner Russell called Officer Fowler to quote a  
traffic ticket #7562 given Russell's wife  
for overparking. Fowler agreed to do it.

2-9-37

8:41pm

Out 123

WTM

1152 (White House Sandwich Shop)

Officer George Young talked to the woman in charge (name not mentioned) and attempted to reach a settlement for the damages done by two boys arrested by police several weeks ago. No settlement was effected as the woman contended for \$10.00.

8:49pm

In 446

WTM

Woman with husky voice calling for Ahern.  
(Note: This is same voice as call at 8:15pm)

Woman: Is it alright?

Ahern: Yes.

Woman: They were there?

Ahern: Yes.

Woman: They were all back there.

Ahern: Yes.

Woman: You say - (interrupted)

Ahern: It is all tied up.

Woman: And he is there?

2-9-37

Akers: Well, I say he is there - I mean  
that his car is there. I didn't see  
him.

Woman: Well, I'll see you then.

Akers: Well I am in and out - you may  
catch me here.

9:00 pm

Out 123

WTM

1349

Harnett Moore called up "Ruby" and  
conversed with her.

9:03 pm

In 123

WTM

Woman called for Ben Rogers - he was out.

9:10 pm

Out 123

WTM

Akers talked to Sheriff Shaw at Philadelphia  
about Jess Bridges, arrested on that night by  
Hot Springs Police for Kirby, Ark. Sheriff  
Shaw made arrangements for his release and  
proceedure to Philadelphia immediately as he, Shaw,  
had arranged bond for Bridges.

2-9-37

9:16 pm In 446 WTM  
Officer Kelly called in from 3337 (O'Donnell  
Liquor Store)

9:24 pm Out 446 WTM  
2115 (W.S. Jacobs)  
Akers called Jacobs saying he was  
coming there, explaining, however, that  
he had nothing on his mind.

10:00 pm In 446 WTM  
Man called for Akers - he was out.

10:13 pm In 446 WTM  
Officer Kelly called in from 3012

10:24 pm In 446 WTM  
Woman called for an officer to come to  
B & B Cafe to get a drink.

10:24 pm In 446 WTM  
Woman called for Akers - he was out.

2-9-37

11:04 pm In 123 WTM  
Akers called up to send "all three of them (officers) over to the Confessionary right away."

11:06 pm In 446 WTM  
Officer Kelly called in from 3337

11:15 pm In 446 WTM  
Officer Bill Terry called in from 116

11:18 pm In 446 WTM  
Woman from Virginia asked that an officer be sent to stop the revins in the Jew store across the street.

11:25 pm In 446 WTM  
Man put in same complaint as above call.

11:29 pm In 446 WTM  
Akers called and ordered a man (officer) to call him at the Confessionary when he comes in.  
- 36 -



2-9-37

11:30 pm Out 123 WTM

291 (Hot Springs Confectionery)

Corrigan called Akins there and said a telegram had come in for him.

11:31 pm Out 123 WTM

Officer Bradley called Akins there and Akins ordered him to go up and stop the noise that was bothering the complainants at the Virginia Hotel.

11:50 pm In 446 WTM

Officer Kelly called in at 3012

Tap on #446 (City Jail)  
and #123 (Chief Police)  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
Plant at 207-Laural.

2-10-37.

12:02 Am. - In on 446.

Abbott & Evans - Reported at 777. Haw.

12:05 Am. - In on 123.

Rogers - anything doing, sgt.?

Corrington - Alkers called about a complaint.  
Nothing much to it - station agent  
at Mo. Pac. Thought he might be held up.

Rogers - Obtained description of suspect.

1:00 Am. - In on 446. Haw.

Abbott and Evans - Reported at 777.

1:10 Am. - In on 446.

Rogers - I'll be over soon.

1:30 Am. - In on 446.

Abbott - Reported bicycle probably  
stolen in alley near flower shop.

Rogers - Bring it over. Haw.

2-10-37

2:06 Am. - In on 446

Abbott & Evans - at 126.

2:45 Am. - In on 446.

Evans - Rogers This is Curley (Evans)  
at Jim & George Cafe - Come over  
here - I've got something for  
you -

Rogers - All right.

3:15 Am. - In on 446

Abbott & Evans - at 291

1. 7 7

4:10 Am. - In on 446.

Abbott & Evans - at 126.

2-10-37.

Has

5:00 Am. - In on 446.

Abbott and Evans - at 126.

5:30 Am. - In on 123.

Man - send an officer to get a  
drunk at Gibbs Mill.

Corrington - is that in the city limits

Man - yes.

Corrington - all right.

Has

6:00 Am. - In on 446.

Woman - inquired the number of  
breakfasts for prisoners.

7:00 Am - In on 446.

Corrington - Hello.

McFarquhar - This is Sec. Get Jack,  
the janitor, to bring that hose  
out here.

Corrington - yes sir, I will.

Has

2-10-37.

HAS.

7:05 Am. - out on 446.

Rogers - called 3232-W (his no.)  
Advised Mrs Rogers he would  
be out for breakfast.

7:20 Am. - In on 123.

Man - Is Rogers there?

Corrington - No. Her out for breakfast.

HAS.

7:35 Am. - In on 446.

Woman - Inquired if her son,  
Cobb Owens was in jail and  
requested to speak to him.

Owens - Hello.

Woman - Engaged in personal conversation and advised she was  
sending toilet articles to him.

HAS.

2-8-37.

Har.

8:00 Am. - Out on 446.

"Will" (col) - Called Mrs Basham at  
420 (Basham Motor Co.)

Clerk - She's at home - 1949.

8:01 Am. - Out on 446.

"Will" - Called 1949.

Mrs. Basham - Hello.

"Will" - Advised her that he  
had been arrested for 'speeding'  
while driving Mrs Jennings car  
for delivery from storage. Requested  
Mrs Basham to make his bond.

Mrs. Basham - Talked to Corrington  
and asked that he let "Will" out  
on her word that he'd appear  
to answer charges.

Corrington - I'll see.

Har

2-8-37

8:12 A.M. - out on 446 -  
Corrington - Called 1949. Informed  
Mrs. Basham that the case  
against Will would be tried  
at nine o'clock and he must  
stay in jail.

H.H.



2-10-37

8:15 am

Out 446

WTR

184 (City Const Clerk)

Conington called and said to put William Jones on the docket for speeding.

8:16 am

In 123

WTR

Chief Rosberry called and said: Are you ready for one of them to come on up?  
Answering sir

8:18 am

In 123

WTR

Woman called about getting out one of her colored employees who is in jail for speeding. Officer told her she would have to call the Captain when he comes. She asked him to call 420. (Basham Motor Co.)

8:31 am

Out 446

WTR

3543

No answer.

2-10-37

8:23 am

Out 446

WTM

3574

Man calling: There is a boy coming in up there.  
Give him one meal.

8:30 am

Out 446

WTM

3574

Man called and asked "Mr. Page" if he brought  
a negro up there named John Henry Morris. Page  
said he had Robert Gray with him.

8:31 am

In 446

WTM

Mayor called for Akers. He was not in. Mayor  
~~not~~ ordered him to come to his office when he  
came in.

8:32 am

Out 446

WTM

291 (Hot Spring Confectionary)

Carrington asked for Akers. He was not there.

2-10-37

8:32 1/2 am ~~Out~~ Out 446 WTM  
1987 (Spencer's Cigar Store)  
Corrington called for Akers. He was not there.

8:33 am Out 446 WTM  
341 (Citizens Cigar Store)  
Corrington called for Akers. He was not there.

~~8:55 am~~  
8:56 am Out 446 WTM  
Corrington called 1987 (Spencer's Cigar Store) for Akers.  
He was not there.

8:58 am Out 446 WTM  
291 (Hot Springs Confectionary)  
Corrington called for Akers but hung up before  
answer.

9:19 am In 446 WTM  
Judge Cotham asked to have Ben Rogers to call  
him at 646.

2-10-37

9:26 am

Out 446

WTM

291 (Hot Springs Infirmary)  
Man asked for George - answering party  
said George would be in at 10 (O'clock)

9:30 am

In 446

WTM

Man asked for Ernest Magnard. Not there

9:50 am

In 123

WTM

Mrs. Bachman of Bachman Motor Co. made arrangements  
with the officer (name unknown) to release "Bill"  
a city prisoner and she would pay his fine of \$5.00  
out of his wages on Saturday. The officer clearly  
told her that he was releasing the prisoner with  
the understanding that she was paying the fine  
Saturday whether he worked or not.

9:51 am

In 123

WTM

Chief Wakekin called and asked them to look for  
a small package that would come there addressed  
to him or his wife.

2-10-37

9:52 am

Out 123

WTM

646 (Atty. C. T. Cotham)

Rogers called and was told that Judge Cotham wanted him present at the inquest at 2:00 pm

9:54 am

Out 123

WTM

646 (Atty. Cotham)

Rogers called speaking to a man in Cotham's office inquired if Cotham had gotten the witnesses he (Rogers) had gotten for him. Answering man said he thought so.

9:55 am

In 123

WTM

Man left word for Geny Young to call him at Dixie Shot Store (man calling unidentified)

10:01 am

Out 446

WTM

Man called information for members of Dixie Shot Store and she advised they had no listed phone.

2-10-37

10:04am

In 446

WTM

Man called and advised that convict  
McClellan had escaped from the gang this  
morning.

10:05 am

In 123

WTM

Man calling for Mrs. Warrington - She was not in.

10:14am

In 123

WTM

Former Chief Wakelin talked to Aheer about  
a package he was expecting to come to the  
police station. Aheer said he would look it  
up and bring it out.

10:20am

In 123

WTM

Former Chief Wakelin ~~was~~ called for Aheer.  
He was not in.

10:25am

In 446

WTM

Woman called for Jerry Watkins saying she  
was at Malvern Ave. Blue Star and lives  
in one of Mr. Bellard's cottages, #3 (Orlando) Court

2-10-37

and asked Watkins what he had found out. Watkins told her he hadn't done anything as yet but if he found it was alright he would call her, but if he found it was not alright he would not contact her.

10:28 am Out 123 WTC

~~Watkins~~ 1723 (former Chief Wahelins)  
Akers called Wahelins and said he hadn't found the package he was looking for.

10:30 am Out 123 WTC

Man called the Police Department at Little Rock and requested them to notify Robert Pettifer (employed at Little Rock PD) that his father is dangerously ill at 224 1/2 Oca Chila in Hot Springs.



2/10/37.

123 + H46

10.34 am.

On 123.

NPS

for Garnett Moore.  
He's out.

10.36 am.

Out 123  
to 184

NPS

Jules. Is Lee around there?  
No. I haven't seen him.

10.37 am.

On 123.

NPS

Woman What did you do with "Cootie" Bush (phonetic)  
Jules I paid him \$10<sup>00</sup>.

10.42 am.

On on 123.

NPS

One more at 544 W. Grand Ave, Tel.  
3144, reported a burglary.

10.46 am.

On 123.

NPS

for Garnett Moore  
"He's out"

123 + 446

2/10/37.

10.56 am Out 123 to Cooper's Restaurant WPS

man calling. This is Ben Shaver. I am at the Police Dept.

Cooper. Let me talk to "Jerry".

Watkins. Hello.

Cooper. Jerry bring that fellow out to my house

Watkins. O.K.

11.03 am Out 446. WPS

To 3574.

ordered 4 dinners.

11.15 am Out 123. WPS.

To 743 (Judge Ledgerwood)

Rasberry. Hello.

Judge Ledgerwood. Have they had those girls down?

Rasberry. Yes and they ordered both back to the clinic.

Ledgerwood. Have Bert get some other girls then.

123 + 446

2/10/37.

11.22 am.

On 446

WPS

for Rasky

"It's out now."

11.24 am.

On 446

WPS

men.

This is Pritchard. That Folie  
Wish at 16. Could that be the Wish  
girl that you have?

Folier Who.

Pritchard (Repeated the above several times,  
but Folier couldn't understand  
him). "never mind I'll come  
down".

note. The conversation of Pritchard was clear  
and there was no interference on the  
line. The fault lies with Folier who  
can't understand anything over the tel-  
ephone.

11.40 am.

On 123.

WPS

Long distance call for Cecil Brock. The operator  
was advised that Brock was not there.

2-10-37

11:55am

9m/23

ZUT

Officer Fowler calling in at 273 (Borris Beauty Shop)

123 + 446

2/10/37.

11.07 am.

In 123.

NPS.

Man. This is Boistrom (phonetic).

Akers. Hello Doc,

Doc. Is there something wrong out at Arch Cooper's? People are coming and going. They are dressed in black. Is somebody dead?

Akers. No. There are just some lawyers out there.

11.10 am

Out 123.

NPS

To 1402 (Pres Cecil Brock)

Brock. Somebody call for me today.

Woman. Yes. It was Gerald, but he wouldn't talk to me.

Brock. They postponed it.

Woman. How long

Brock. Indefinitely.

12/2 pm.

Out 123.

NPS.

Cecil Brock called long distance on call from Guy Carter Ark and left message he could be reached at 123 or 1402.

123 + 446.  
2/0/37

12.22 pm.

In 446

UPS

Man calling. Let me speak to "Slots" Wilson.  
"Slots": Hello.

Guy See that boy there. He got his  
money.

Slots. Alright.

Note Guy apparently is an attorney and talking  
about some prisoner.

12.41 pm.

In 446

UPS

Brownie told Tucker, he would take  
care of a debt on Saturday.

1.01 pm.

In 123.

operator rang and said she had  
called the wrong number.

1.09 pm.

In 446

UPS

Mrs. Alms. Aren't you coming home?

Alms. Old man Todhunter is down here. He  
wants to take me to the penitentiary (laughed)  
(Todhunter then came to the phone and

123+446.

2/10/37

carried on a friendly conversation with  
Mrs. Ahns.)

Ahns. Will be home in a minute

1.13 p.m.

On 446

SPS

man asked for Jack Puckett. Was told  
he was out. Man left message for  
Puckett to call Mr. Hogan at 1134.

1.20 p.m.

On 446.

SPS.

maid inquiring of Ahns about groceries.

1.21 p.m.

out 123

To 100.

Joe Young ordered glass apparently  
for his car door

1.28 p.m.

out 446

SPS

To 728. <sup>Comes Hotel.</sup> Judge Edgewood.

P.O. Is Judge Edgewood there?  
Woman No. He is not in.



123 + 1446

2/14/37.

1.28 pm.

On 1446

SPS

to 2378-W. (Country Home July, Edgewood)

Alex. You want me to turn those girls  
over to Bert and get their health cards  
made out? I am through with  
them.

Edgewood. That's alright Dutch.

1.45 pm.

On 1446.

SPS

Woman If I send something over for  
Mr. Alex, will he get it.

P. Al

yes ma'am.

2.15 pm.

On 123

SPS

mouse young at # 201.

2-10-37

2:43 pm

In 123

WTTM

This call preceded by distinct clicking on the line similar to clicks attendant to plugging in a line rather than the usual noises heard when the receiver is taken off the hook or when the operator connects.

Man calling: Can you hear me? This is a

Man answering: <sup>Ext. Call.</sup> Yes.

Man calling: Can you hear me alright?

Man answering: Yes, but not so hot.

Man calling: They've got taps on these wires - they got Redistinct receivers on 64 (Paw) 8, and the police phone.

Man answering: Which one.

Man calling: On 446. I got to go down and look at the diagram.

2-10-37

8:35 am

In 648

WTM

Mrs. Basham (see call to #123 at 8:18 am) spoke to Judge Hedgerwood about one of her colored employees in jail. Hedgerwood said he would do the best he could. ~~the~~ Names of prisoners not mentioned.

8:40 am

In 648

WTM

Mr. Ernest Patton spoke to Judge Hedgerwood about a negro employee of his in jail for going around there hot and cutting a tree. Hedgerwood said he didn't believe he could turn this negro loose and advised Patton to come by to see him (Hedgerwood) in the morning about it. Person's name not mentioned.

9:01 am

Out 648

WTM

Hazel put in a call for Mr. Shepherd at the telephone office. Shepherd was not in and Hazel left word for him to call Mayor's office when he came in.

2-10-37

9:06am Out 648 WTM

2820 (John R. Stevens, 5 Bond)

When called and Mrs. Stevens asked him to  
come by.

9:25am Out 648 WTM

2234 (Judge Earl Witt)

Man calling: Judge if any of those fellows want  
to see Indictment tell them he will meet them at  
the Census Hotel.

Judge: Well, thank you (Mock or Max).

9:30 1/2 am On 648 WTM

Man asked for Ernest Maynard - not there.

9:34am Out 648 WTM

Hazel put in another call for Mr. Shepherd at  
1200 - Telephone Co.

9:35am Out 648 WTM

820

(him busy)

2-10-37

9:36 am

Det 648

WTM

613 (Sheriff's Office)

Mayor: You know about that case you were talking about - there's costs in the case -

well you need not make any reference to that (prosecuting party was unidentified)

9:37 am

Det 648

WTM

707

Man <sup>named</sup> James called and asked "Watt" to come by Mayor's office and get him.

9:50 am

Det 648

WTM

Mr. Shepherd of the Telephone Co. called the Mayor who asked Shepherd to come by his office the first time he was down that way, explaining that he didn't ~~want~~ want anything special, but he did have something he wanted to talk to him about.

648

2/10/37

10.32 a.m.

In 648

WPS

Mayor spoke with a man named Stephens  
about purchasing shirts.

10.49 a.m.

In 648

WPS

Mrs Penn complained of neglect of  
flowers in the city parks.

10.50 a.m.

Out 648

WPS

to 661 (City Bank & Garage)

Hazel Marsh Is him there?

Kilgore no.

Hazel If he does come in, have him  
call the Mayor's office.

11.02 a.m.

In 648

WPS

Elmer Diggs Telephone II 6, asked for the Mayor.

Hazel said she would have the Mayor call  
Diggs when he comes in.

11.04 a.m.

In 648

WPS

Mayor told Hazel he would be over in a few minutes

648

2/10/37

1120 am.

In 648

WPS

Mr. Hillon left a message for the Mayor  
to call him in 10 or 15 minutes.



2-10-37

11:25 am

Det 648

WTM

3800 (Arkansas Nat'l Bank)

Hazel: let me speak to Mr. McLaughlin  
Answering Party calls him to phone.

Hazel: yes, Mr. Dillon wants you to call him and  
Mr. ~~Wheaton~~ Martin is here now.

yes: let me talk to Mr. (Howell or Hill) - No -  
you take him outside the office and tell him  
that in about two weeks I want to have  
a long talk with him about the fire department.

11:30 am

Det 648

WTM

3800

Hazel: yes, I am afraid you didn't understand  
me when I just called - it was Mr. Hill  
Martin in the office

Mayor: Oh, yes. I understood you.

2-10-37

11:33 am

Out 648

WTM

1176

Woman talked to another woman about a dress.

11:35 am

In 648

WTM

Man called for the mayor. Hazel recognized his voice, said he was out. Man left word for mayor to call him at 2115 (W.S. Jacobs)

11:36 am

Out 648

WTM

471 (City Health Office)

Woman spoke to Janita asking her to tell Dr. P. (indistinct) that there will be no meeting of the clinic this afternoon.

11:37 am

Out 648

WTM

807

Man calling asked for Ray Stuart and called him "Pete", He told "Pete" that he would not be able to meet him for lunch and repeatedly said: "Don't pay any attention to me" Note: voice of man calling was not similar sounding to mayor's.

2-10-37

11:40 am

Out 648

WTM

1124 (Fire Dept.)

Hazel told them to look out in front where  
Whereas was standing and tell him to come up  
to the Mayor's Office.

11:45 am

~~Out~~ In 648

WTM

Man called for the Mayor and Hazel said  
the Mayor was outside. Man asked to be  
called at 637 (County Judge's Office)

11:46 am

In 648

WTM

Woman calling: This is (Miss or Mrs. Simmons (?)). Let

me speak to Mr. Aker, please. (When called to please)

Aker: Yes.

Woman: Butch, he hasn't been here for 2 months,  
I haven't found him.

Aker: It's his little sister.

Woman: Well, I'll see if I can't find him.

2-10-37

11:52 am

In 648

WTA

County Judge Elzie Tinsley called the mayor about the problem of rooms and trucks in connection with apparent relief work.

McLaughlin told him that the city was planning to rent its vacant rooms; that the city had no money to put gas in its trucks and he was too busy now to talk about it.

11:55 am

In 648

WTA

Woman called for Hedgerwood (Judge). He was not there.

12:23 pm

In 648

WTA

Man called from #123 saying he was coming up.

12:24 pm

In 648

Man giving name of Elmer Biggs, asked the mayor how to go about getting a job at race tracks. The mayor said to call him in two or three days as he would not know before then who would be out there.

2-10-37

12:25 pm

Out 648

Wm

65 (Relix Motor Coach Corp.)

Hazel called Mary and made lunch date  
saying she would be out in a few minutes.

648

5/10/37

1.35 p.m.

In 648

WPS

no answer

2.00 p.m.

In 648

WPS

no answer.

2.01 p.m.

out 648

WPS

To 170 (Simms Bros. Grocery)

no answer.

2.38 p.m.

In 648

WPS

The telephone rang & Hoyt Marsh answered the phone. A man, apparently a telephone company employee stated "Porter man; just testing."

2-10-37

2:40 pm.

On 648

WTH

(no answer)