

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG  
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : SUB A - Section 47**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576

SECTION NUMBER Sub A Section 47

SERIALS 2/16/37 - 2/14/37

TOTAL PAGES 65

PAGES RELEASED 65

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED NONE

*Wash Post 2-16-37*  
**Flier Admits He Aided  
Karpis Gang in Theft**

Cleveland, Feb. 16 (AP). — John Zetzer, 37-year-old garage mechanic and aviator, of Port Clinton, Ohio, pleaded guilty in Federal court yesterday to being an accomplice after the fact in the \$46,000 mail train robbery at Garrettsville, Ohio, November 7, 1935.

*7-576-A*

*pub*

*He*

*Wash Post 2/17/37*

# The Sentinel-Record

## CONFLICTING REPORTS ON SPA PROBE BACK TO HOUSE

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS,

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1937.

*Re: Brekid.*

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

*Chapman*

7-576-A

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SHEDS RESPONSIBILITY IN MATTER

### PROBER IS ASSAILED

Minister-Solon Gives His  
Nichols to Task for "In-  
sults" to Spa Citizens.—  
Minister-Solon Gives His  
Version of Affair.

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—(AP)—A charge that a member of the legislature's Hot Springs investigating committee had "insulted" citizens of the resort city was made in the house late today. The chamber sought to dispose of two conflicting reports from the investigators.

A majority of the inquiry group, which investigated alleged laxity in Hot Springs law enforcement, recommended impeachment proceedings against circuit judge Earl Witt, presiding over the district. A minority said it found no basis for such action.

The 24-member judiciary committee to which the two reports were referred yesterday, washed its hands of the matter today, returning them to the house without action. The chamber then agreed to consider the reports as a committee of the whole next week.

As the House debated procedure, Rep. Ernest Maner of Hot Springs took the floor on personal privilege to charge that the Rep. Lee Nichols, minister-representative and member of the investigating committee, had "insulted" Mrs. Earl Witt, wife of the 18th district judge, and others, while they were in the House yesterday to hear the inquiry reports read. Maner said Mrs. Witt and two women relatives were his guests in the House and that Nichols had attempted to eject them.

"I will not stand for a minister or anyone else insulting the ladies of Hot Springs," said Maner. "Nichols told them they didn't have a constitutional right on this floor. I approached him and told him to his face he was a damned liar and I'll tell him again. He told them the sergeant at arms would put them off the floor. I will not tolerate insult after insult to the people we represent."

As he took the floor he asked if Nichols was present. Other members said Nichols had left for his home in Booneville. Maner proceeded when several members shouted "go ahead."

He also charged Nichols with making "slurring remarks about a group of Hot Springs' best citizens who came over here to testify before the investigating committee."

"After this group appeared before the committee, he made the remark that it was a very low type of business men that had been heard," said Maner.

From his home at Booneville tonight, Nichols said Maner had been misinformed relative to his remarks to the women visitors.

He said that while the Hot Springs investigating committee reports were being read in the house, a Miss Witt, seated directly in front of him, turned around and said:

"You ought to be up at Booneville preaching the Gospel instead of down here scandalizing people."

He said Miss Witt continued to "mumble" and that finally he told her he would call the sergeant-at-arms and have her put out if she did not cease annoying him.

"You've got no constitutional right to sit here and debate a member of the legislature," Nichols said he told Miss Witt.

Earlier in the day, the minister-representative reported Miss Witt took a copy of the report from the chief stenographer's desk, and that the chief stenographer had difficulty repossessing it.

"I told Maner at noon today what took place," Nichols said, "and he replied: 'Well, nevertheless, she is a lady.'"

Nichols added that he had no objections to the visitors in the house chamber but said he did object to being singled out for heckling.

As the Hot Springs reports came back from the judiciary committee without action, the chief immediate difficulty confronting the House was the method by which the entire membership was to be made acquainted with the voluminous testimony taken by the investigators. Some was taken in secret sessions, some in semi-open sittings which newsmen were permitted to attend.

Members' questions brought an estimate from Speaker Bransford that it would cost \$10,000 to reproduce the transcript and supply each member with a copy. An alternative suggestion that the House meet in the evenings next week to hear the testimony read aloud was not acted upon at once. The motion of Ward

of Lee that further action be postponed until Monday carried.

"This House should not go on record as indicting or convicting a man without going into the testimony thoroughly," said Chrisp of Pulaski in asking copies of testimony. "If you want to know the truth about it, I think the whole thing is foolish."

Blair of Logan asked if Judge Witt would have the right to come into the house with an attorney and cross-examine all witnesses against him.

"He certainly would have that right," replied Speaker Bransford.

Chairman Carleton Harris, Jefferson, of the judiciary committee, said his group had refused to act on the inquiry reports by a vote of 27 to 2. He said his committee had more work than any other and that "my committee doesn't want to have anything to do with it."

"This is a responsibility of the entire House and I don't think you should throw it into the judiciary committee's lap and say, 'This is your baby,' he said."

# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 20, 1937.

## REP. NICHOLS DENIES MANER INSULT CHARGE

Garland Solon Misin-  
formed, Prober  
Asserts

Little Rock, Feb. 20.—(P)—Lee Nichols, minister-representative of Booneville, asserted today that charges made in the house by Rep. Ernest Maner of Hot Springs, that he had "insulted" citizens of the resort city resulted from misinformation.

Maner's attack came as the house sought to dispose of two conflicting reports from its Hot Springs investigating committee. After inquiring into alleged lawlessness at the resort city, a majority of the investigators recommended impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt. The minority said there was no basis for such action.

The house sent the reports to its judiciary committee which returned them without action. The body then agreed to consider them next week in committee of the whole.

Taking the floor during debate, Maner charged that Nichols, a member of the investigating committee, "insulted" Mrs. Earl Witt, wife of the circuit judge, and others while they were in the house Thursday to hear the inquiry reports read.

The Hot Springs representative asserted that Mrs. Witt and two women relatives were his guests in the chamber and Nichols had attempted to eject them. He also accused the Booneville lawmaker of making "slurring remarks about a group of Hot Springs' best citizens who came over here to testify before the investigating committee."

Nichols, who had returned to his home at Booneville when Maner made the charges, said while the investigating committee reports were being read, Miss Judge Witt, a sister of Judge Witt, seated directly in front of him, turned around and said:

"You ought to be at Booneville preaching the gospel instead of down here scandalizing people."

Nichols said she continued to "mumble" and that finally he told her he would call the sergeant at arms and have her put out if she did not cease annoying him.

"You've got no constitutional right to sit here and berate a member of the legislature," the representative said he told Miss Witt.

He reported she took a copy of the report earlier in the day from the chief stenographer's desk and that "he stenographer had difficulty repossessing it."

"I told Maner at noon today what took place," Nichols said, "and he replied: 'Well, nevertheless, she is a lady.'"

Nichols reported he had no objections to the visitors in the house chamber but declared he did object to being singled out for heckling.

Re: Brekid.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

7-576-18

Chapman

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-22-37

# House Votes to Drop Hot Springs Inquiry

## Ward's Motion To Kill Action Given Approval

The House of Representatives, sitting as a committee of the whole, voted to drop further investigation of law laxity at Hot Springs, and to decline to vote impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt.

The vote was on a motion by Ward of Lee county that the House, as a committee, recommend to itself that further action on both the majority and minority reports be indefinitely postponed. This, in effect, ended the matter.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Dawsey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

*Chapman*

*Re: Brekid.*

*7-576-A*



The vote in favor of dropping the investigation of Hot Springs law enforcement conditions was 68 to 15, with 17 not voting. The committee of the whole dissolved and a roll call vote on the question was expected momentarily.

Later the House voted 70 to 20 to exonerate Judge Witt of charges of official misconduct.

When the House reconvened Ward announced he wished to amend his motion to add that the House committee of the whole "recommend that we do not bring impeachment proceedings."

"That's what your original motion means," Toney replied.

Brickhouse of Pulaski, favoring the Ward motion, said: "We have voted on bills involving millions of dollars but we have voted on no question as important as this. I think this motion should be adopted because that is the only way you can protect a man's good name. The man least responsible for conditions at Hot Springs has his reputation at stake here."

"My conscientious conviction is that this thing should not go one step further. It should be thrown out of this house to show Judge Witt we will not give it the dignity of a hearing."

Murry of Dallas, a member of the investigating committee who signed the majority report, said: "I had absolutely no interest in this matter until you voted for the investigation. I didn't ask to be put on that committee, but I did what I thought was right in the matter. If I had it to do over again I would do the same thing."

"I wouldn't convict anyone solely on the testimony we received. Judge Witt should have the opportunity to bring his witnesses in here. I believe the evidence is sufficient for this house to consider. If you hear both sides and are convinced he is innocent you should vote to acquit him."

#### Parviance Favors Motion.

Parviance of Union said he believed that the investigation should be dropped.

"My county and my section are ready for this thing to be hushed up," he said. "They jumped on me Saturday at El Dorado and asked why we didn't get down to attending to legislative business."

"They talk about gambling, but I want to tell you that we do gambling on a petty larceny basis around this legislature."

Thompson of Independence and Nichols of Logan, both members of the investigation committee, urged defeat of Ward's motion.

"This is not a question of expense or the taking up of time. It is a question of duty. When you whitewash this matter, you are saying to me and to the people of Arkansas that I have been unfair and unjust. You are casting an aspersion on me as chairman of the investigating committee."

Nichols said, "I don't believe anyone could read this transcript without believing that Judge Witt knew all about these election frauds. I'm speaking against this motion to whitewash."

Tackett of Pike declared: "This has already cost plenty of money, and I don't believe there are over 15 members of the House who would vote to impeach Judge Witt."

When the House adjourned at noon Coffelt of Saline had urged adoption of Ward's motion offered with the representatives in session as a committee-of-the-whole, and with Representative Toney of Jefferson county as the presiding officer. Debate on the motion has not been limited and a vote on the motion is expected during the afternoon.

#### Debate Is Resumed.

The house recessed until 1:30 p. m.  
(Continued on Page 2)

## MOVE TO BLOCK ACTION ON SPA INQUIRY STARTS

(Continued from Page 1)

when debate was resumed on the motion.

"The statement of Jay Rowland, one of the most prominent attorneys of Hot Springs, is sufficient in itself to direct a verdict of acquittal and exoneration by this house," Coffelt said.

"Mr. Rowland, who opposed Judge Witt in the 1934 primary, comes in here and tells you that Judge Witt won fairly and squarely. What better evidence could you want than that?"

Purviance interrupted to inquire: "Mr. Coffelt, don't you know that this house is not going to impeach Judge Witt? Don't you know that all this oratory is just wasting our time?"

At another point during Coffelt's debate on the motion, a member of the House inquired: "Did Judge Witt agree to let gambling houses run for \$100 a month?" To this question Coffelt replied that Judge Witt, "can and did call the matter to the attention of grand juries," and then asked: "What more can he do?"

"Only Political Fight."

To the House members he said: "Your vote on this motion will be a criterion of the attitude of the House toward this investigation. We are just about as well informed now as if we had studied the committee reports in detail; if I thought the matter deserved further consideration, I would not be up here asking support for this motion."

The whole affair is nothing but a political fight in Garland county, with it is sought to air out before this House. Judge Witt was not drunk when I had cases before his court. There are gambling houses being operated in Pulaski and several other counties in Arkansas and it is not fair for political factions to bring their fights here. In the John Dickson case at Hot Springs, Judge Witt acted when the matter was called to his attention, the grand jury was called, and indictments were returned. The mayor of Hot Springs is not on trial here."

Before Ward of Lee offered his motion, Representative J. R. Campbell of Garland was asked if Judge Witt desired to be heard and replied that "he desires to come before this House and there will be no disposition to sidetrack any issue involved."

The Garland legislator suggested that the matter is a personal attack on Judge Witt and asserted that the testimony about his being drunk is not sufficient to convict a negro. "We propose to bring some of the best citizens of the county here to testify, and they are securing affidavits by the hundreds in his behalf; also affidavits from Montgomery county citizens," Campbell said.

Thinks Inquiry "Fair."

The discussion of the Hot Springs investigation started with a suggestion from Representative Toney that "We should proceed carefully. I think the investigation made by the committee has been fair and that the committee has done its duty. We must proceed according to parliamentary law and the matter here is one of voting, or not voting an impeachment action to be tried before the Senate, if the House votes to file a charge."

Chrisp of Pulaski offered a motion to have the committee reports and testimony published and placed on the desks of members of the House.

Arbaugh of Newton suggested that the committee testimony relating to Judge Witt was the only information in the transcript which is of material importance to the House and Murry of Dallas, who was a member of the investigating committee signing the majority report, offered a substitute motion to publish the testimony as suggested by the Newton solon.

"We cannot and should not whitewash this thing," he said. "We should vote an impeachment action, if it is warranted, and if not, Judge Witt is entitled to exoneration by this body," Murry declared.

Blair of Logan then offered an amendment to the substitute motion asking that Judge Witt be notified the House is ready to proceed with the inquiry.

Chrisp of Pulaski then withdrew his original motion which left the matter where it started; and Ward offered the new motion which still is before the representatives.

## THE SENTINEL-RECORD.

### HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS.

Monday Morning, February 22, 1937.

## TESTIMONY ON SPA INQUIRY TO BE READ HOUSE

WILL BE HEARD AT SEV-  
ERAL NIGHT SES-  
SIONS THIS WEEK

## BUSY WEEK IS AHEAD

Much Interest Centered On  
Parliamentary Tangle  
Holding Vesey Liquor Re-  
peal Bill In House Despite  
Its Passage.

Little Rock, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Legis-  
lative interest centered tonight on  
whether the coming week would end  
a parliamentary tangle which has  
kept the Vesey prohibition measure  
in the house despite its passage last  
Monday.

A new angle was expected to be  
presented tomorrow. Rep. Russell  
Baxter of Drew announced he  
would move then for an amendment  
to house rules. He voted against  
the Vesey measure.

Several legislators predicted he  
would seek to have action on bills  
placed ahead of "unfinished busi-  
ness" into which classification the  
prohibition proposal has fallen. Re-  
quiring a two-thirds vote, such a  
motion would make virtually im-  
possible any additional efforts to  
get the bill to the senate for a vote.

Voting for Vesey's bill last Mon-  
day, 56 to 37, the house failed to  
pass the emergency clause—which  
would make it effective upon adop-  
tion by the senate and signature of  
the governor. That failure pro-  
duced a snarl which has defied ef-  
forts of solution since.

Obtaining a unanimous vote for  
reconsideration of the vote by  
which the emergency clause failed,  
Campbell of Garland yielded to  
Nyberg of Phillips who moved to  
amend the emergency clause. An  
adjournment Wednesday in an up-  
roarious session found Nyberg still  
on the floor and made his motion  
unfinished business.

Filibusters Thursday and Friday  
again balked the prohibitionists.  
Vesey, Hempstead county represent-  
ative, charged the wets with at-  
tempting to kill his bill through a  
parliamentary technicality.

The house starts night sessions  
this week to insure action on meas-  
ures sponsored by Governor Carl E.  
Bailey. Senators indicated that the  
upper branch would follow suit.

Another controversial matter be-  
fore the house was the action to  
be taken on a majority and minority  
report of its committee which in-  
vestigated law enforcement condi-  
tions at Hot Springs.

The majority report recommend-  
ed impeachment of Circuit Judge  
Earl Witt. The minority urged the  
investigation be dropped.

The house referred the reports  
to the judiciary committee which  
promptly voted to return them to  
the house for action in committee  
of the whole. Indications were that  
two or three nights this week would  
be spent in having the testimony  
read before the house.

The senate will resume considera-  
tion tomorrow of seven amendments  
tacked on to the Northcutt sales  
tax bill in the house. The senators  
last week refused to concur in two  
of the amendments which would  
have authorized the use of tokens  
and made the act expire auto-  
matically July 1, 1939.

A special order of business in the  
senate tomorrow is the integrated  
bar bill by Marlin of El Dorado.  
The original measure, endorsed by  
the Arkansas Bar Association, has  
been changed drastically by senate  
amendments.

While the Vesey measure re-  
mained deadlocked in the house,  
Senators Smith and Coleman an-  
nounced they would seek early ac-  
tion on their bill to have the stat-  
ute over wholesale sales of liquor.

7-576-15

Re: BREKID.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
Chapman .....

# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

MONDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 22, 1937.

## EXTRA

Re: BREKID.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Chipman

AS

7-576-A

**HOUSE**  
**VINDICATES**  
**WITT**

**JURIST IS VINDICATED**



**CIRCUIT JUDGE EARL WITT**

# VOTES AGAINST CHARGES OF IMPEACHMENT; SPA INVESTIGATION DROPPED

Little Rock, Feb. 22.—(AP)—The House of Representatives, meeting as a committee of the whole, recommended today that no impeachment charges be brought against Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the Eighteenth Judicial District.

The vote in favor of dropping the investigation of law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs was 68 to 15. The committee of the whole dissolved and a roll call vote on the question was expected momentarily.

Five minutes later the House voted to exonerate Judge Witt of charges of official misconduct.

The vote was 70 to 20.

Ward of Lee, immediately moved that the records of the investigation be expunged from the House journal. When Thompson of Independence, objected, Ward withdrew the motion.

The vote of the committee of the whole was on a motion by Ward that the House indefinitely postpone any further action on the Hot Springs investigation.

Thompson of Independence and Nichols of Logan, both members of the investigation committee, urged defeat of Ward's motion.

"All I'm asking is that this committee of the whole read the testimony that we have taken," Thompson said. "Judge Witt was invited to appear before the committee, but he did not do so."

"This is not a question of expense or the taking up of time. It is a question of duty. When you white wash this matter, you are saying to me and to the people of Arkansas that I have been unfair and unjust. You are casting an aspersion on me as chairman of the investigating committee."

Nichols said "I don't believe anyone could read this transcript without believing that Judge Witt knew all about these election frauds. I'm speaking against this motion to white wash."

"I would consider that I had lowered myself if I took this floor on a point of personal privilege particularly if the man I were talking about were gone."

(Last Friday, Rep. Ernest Marner of Garland county, arising on a point of personal privilege charged that Nichols had insulted Mrs. Witt and two other relatives of Judge Witt on the floor of the house.)

Tackett of Pike declared "this has already cost plenty of money and I don't believe there are over 15 members of the house who would vote to impeach Judge Witt."

"Any time they tell you that Earl Witt has been on the bench drunk they are telling you a lie," Tackett said. "There is not a man in Arkansas with a bigger heart than Judge Witt. Lon Warneke got his first money to go off and start playing baseball from Earl Witt. There are not many members of this legislature who have not taken a drink since they have been up here."

"All this investigation has amounted to has been to get a little publicity for three or four people."

Ward made his motion after Campbell of Garland said "the evidence in hand would not be sufficient to convict the blackest negro in Arkansas."

"They say Judge Witt was addicted to strong drink," Campbell said. "We propose to bring the best citizens of Garland and Montgomery counties here to testify for Judge Witt. We are now securing affidavits by the hundreds."

Debate started on Ward's motion. Under rules of the house debate was to be unlimited. Coffelt of Saline took the floor to argue in favor of indefinite postponement of action.

Coffelt shouted that "the truth of the matter is that this is nothing in the world but a political fight over there in Garland county which they are seeking to air out in the Arkansas legislature."

"If we dispose of this matter now we can get back to transacting the legislative business that we were sent down here to transact," he said. "I have tried a few cases in Judge Witt's court and I have never see him intoxicated in my life. They talked about gambling, but I tell you that gambling houses



are operated in Pulaski and several other counties and everybody knows it."

Toney interrupted proceedings to warn that if spectators did not remain quiet he would have the house chamber cleared.

The house recessed until 1:30 p. m., when debate was to be resumed on the motion.

"The statement by Jay Rowland, one of the most prominent attorneys of Hot Springs, is sufficient in itself to direct a verdict of acquittal and exoneration by this house," Coffelt said.

"Mr. Rowland, who opposed Judge Witt in the 1934 primary comes in here and tells you that Judge Witt won fairly and squarely. What better evidence could you want than that?"

Purviance interrupted to inquire: "Mr. Coffelt, don't you know that this house is not going to impeach Judge Witt? Don't you know that all this oratory is just wasting our time?"

When the house reconvened Ward announced he wished to amend his motion to add that the house committee of the whole "recommend that we do not bring impeachment proceedings."

"That's what your original motion means," Toney replied.

Brickhouse of Pulaski, favoring the Ward motion, said "we have voted on bills involving millions of dollars but we have voted on one question as important as this. I think this motion should be adopted because that is the only way you can protect a man's good name. The man pleases responsible for conditions at Hot Springs has his reputation at stake here."

"My conscientious conviction is that this thing should not go one step further. It should be thrown out of this house to show Judge Witt we will not give it the dignity of a hearing."

Murry of Dallas, a member of the investigating committee who registered the majority report, said "I had absolutely no interest in this matter until you voted for the investigation. I didn't ask to be put on that committee, but I did what I thought was right in the matter. If I had it to do over again I would do the same thing."

"I wouldn't convict anyone solely on the testimony received. Judge Witt should have the opportunity to bring his witnesses in here. I believe the evidence is sufficient for this house to consider. If you hear both sides and are convinced he is innocent you should vote to acquit him."

Purviance of Union said he believed that the investigation should be dropped.

"My county and my section are ready for this thing to be hushed up," he said. "They jumped on me Saturday at El Dorado and asked why we didn't get down to attending to legislative business."

"They talk about gambling, but I want to tell you that we do gambling on a petty larceny basis around this legislature."

Three members of the committee advocated impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th judicial district. The other two urged that the matter be dropped.

Toney of Jefferson took the speaker's chair as the House went into committee of the whole.

"This is a very serious matter upon which you are going to take action," he said. "We should proceed carefully, slowly and fairly. I think the investigation by the committee has been fair. They have done their duty as they saw it. Right and justice will stand when we have left here."

Chrisp of Pulaski moved that a transcript of all testimony taken by the committee be printed and given to each member of the House.

Campbell of Garland told the House that Judge Witt desired to be present when the taking of testimony started.

"In behalf of Judge Witt I will say that the House now has in its possession only testimony that is against him," Campbell said. "Judge Witt desires to come before this house. There will be no disposition on his part to sidetrack any issue involved in this investigation."

"It is a matter of common knowledge that the three members who signed this majority report were three who signed the original resolution calling for this investigation to be made. The two who signed the minority report were not members who signed the original resolution."

Speaking in behalf of his motion to have printed copies of the testimony made, Chrisp said:

"All we knew is what we read in the newspapers. Most of the inquiry has been behind closed doors. Printed copies of the proceedings should be placed on the members' desks. We are in the position of jurors and any man is innocent until he is proven guilty."

#### WITT DEEPLY GRATEFUL

Visibly affected by word that the legislature had dropped impending impeachment proceedings against him, Circuit Judge Earl Witt today said, "I had every confidence that the legislature would do the right thing and I think they have."

Judge Witt, target of an investigating committee inquiring into alleged lax law enforcement in Hot Springs, said:

"I had every confidence that the legislature would do the right thing about it and I think they have."

"Of course, I am deeply grateful to all my friends over there that helped me and to my friends here and in Montgomery county."



# NEW ERA HOT SPRINGS

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS, MONDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 27, 1957.

## HOUSE DEBATES MOVE TO ABANDON SPA INQUIRY

Re: BREKID.

7-576-A

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Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

*Chapman*

*Can*

# EVIDENCE IS INSUFFICIENT, SOLONS CHARGE

Ward of Lee, Calls for  
Indefinite Post-  
ponement

WITT DEFENDED

Saline Representative  
Says Politics Back  
of Probe

Little Rock, Feb. 22.—  
(AP)—Rep. W. L. Ward of  
Lee moved today that the  
house postpone indefinitely  
any further action on the  
Hot Springs investigation.

Members agreed that  
adoption of the motion  
would have the effect of  
concluding the investigation  
of law enforcement condi-  
tions at Hot Springs. Ward  
made his motion after Camp-  
bell of Garland said "the  
evidence in hand would not  
be sufficient to convict the  
blackest negro in Arkansas.

"They say Judge Witt was ad-  
dicted to strong drink," Campbell  
said. "We propose to bring the best  
citizens of Garland and Montgom-  
ery counties here to testify for  
Judge Witt. We are now securing  
affidavits by the hundreds."

Debate started on Ward's motion.  
Under rules of the house debate  
was to be unlimited. Coffelt of Sa-  
line took the floor to argue in favor  
of indefinite postponement of ac-  
tion.

Coffelt shouted that "the truth of  
the matter is that this is nothing  
in the world but a political fight  
over there in Garland county which  
they are seeking to air out in the  
Arkansas legislature."

"If we dispose of this matter now  
we can get back to transacting the  
legislative business that we were  
sent down here to transact," he  
said. "I have tried a few cases in  
Judge Witt's court and I have never  
seen him intoxicated in my life.  
They talked about gambling, but  
I'll tell you that gambling houses  
are operated in Pulaski and  
several other counties and every-  
body knows it."

Toney interrupted proceedings to  
warn that if spectators did not re-  
main quiet he would have the house  
chamber cleared.

The house recessed until 1:30 p.  
m., when debate was to be resumed  
on the motion.

"The statement by Jay Rowland,  
one of the most prominent attor-  
neys of Hot Springs, is sufficient  
in itself to direct a verdict of ac-  
quittal and exoneration by this  
house," Coffelt said.

"Mr. Rowland, who opposed Judge  
Witt in the 1934 primary comes in  
here and tells you that Judge Witt  
won fairly and squarely. What bet-  
ter evidence could you want than  
that?"

Purviance interrupted to inquire:  
"Mr. Coffelt, don't you know that  
this house is not going to impeach  
Judge Witt? Don't you know that  
all this oratory is just wasting our  
time?"

When the house reconvened Ward  
announced he wished to amend his  
motion to add that the house com-  
mittee of the whole "recommend  
that we do not bring impeachment  
proceedings."

"That's what your original mo-  
tion means," Toney replied.

Brickhouse of Pulaski, favoring  
the Ward motion, said "we have  
voted on bills involving millions of  
dollars but we have voted on no  
question as important as this. I  
think this motion should be adopted  
because that is the only way you  
can protect a man's good name. The  
man pleads responsible for condi-  
tions at Hot Springs has his repu-  
tation at stake here."

"My conscientious conviction is  
that this thing should not go one  
step further. It should be thrown  
out of this house to show Judge  
Witt we will not give it the dignity  
of a hearing."

Murry of Dallas, a member of the  
investigating committee who regain-  
ed the majority report, said "I had  
absolutely no interest in this mat-  
ter until you voted for the investi-  
gation. I didn't ask to be put on that  
committee, but I did what I thought  
was right in the matter. If I had it  
to do over again I would do the  
same thing."

"I wouldn't convict anyone solely  
on the testimony presented. Judge  
Witt should have the opportunity  
to bring his witnesses in here. I be-  
lieve the evidence is sufficient for  
this house to consider. If you hear  
both sides and are convinced he is  
innocent you should vote to acquit  
him."

Purviance of Union said he be-  
lieved that the investigation should  
be dropped.

"My county and my section are  
ready for this thing to be hushed  
up," he said. "They jumped on me  
Saturday at El Dorado and asked  
why we didn't get down to attend-  
ing to legislative business."

"They talk about gambling, but  
I want to tell you that we do gam-  
bling on a petty larceny basis around  
this legislature."

Three members of the committee  
advocated impeachment of Circuit  
Judge Earl Witt of the 18th ju-  
dicial district. The other two urged  
that the matter be dropped.

Toney of Jefferson took the  
speaker's chair as the House went  
into committee of the whole.

"This is a very serious matter  
upon which you are going to take  
action," he said. "We should pro-  
ceed carefully, slowly and fairly. I  
think the investigation by the com-  
mittee has been fair. They have  
done their duty as they saw it.  
Right and justice will stand when  
we have left here."

Chrisp of Pulaski moved that a  
transcript of all testimony taken  
by the committee be printed and  
given to each member of the House.

Campbell of Garland told the  
House that Judge Witt desired to be  
present when the taking of testi-  
mony started.

"In behalf of Judge Witt I will  
say that the House now has in its  
possession only testimony that is  
against him," Campbell said. "Judge  
Witt desires to come before this  
house. There will be no disposi-  
tion on his part to sidetrack any  
issue involved in this investigation."

"It is a matter of common knowl-  
edge that the three members who  
signed this majority report were  
three who signed the original reso-  
lution calling for this investigation  
to be made. The two who signed  
the minority report were not mem-  
bers who signed the original reso-  
lution."

Speaking in behalf of his motion  
to have printed copies of the testi-  
mony made, Chrisp said:

"All we knew is what we read in  
the newspapers. Most of the in-  
quiry has been behind closed doors.  
Printed copies of the proceedings  
should be placed on the members'  
desks. We are in the position of  
jurors and any man is innocent un-  
less he is proven guilty."

# House Refuses To Vote for Impeachment

Vote of 70 Members Is  
Favorable to Circuit  
Judge Earl Witt.

With Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs exonerated today as a result of the refusal yesterday of 70 members of the House of Representatives to "dignify the charges and recommendations of a special legislative committee," the attentions of the legislators were turned to other matters.

The House members late yesterday afternoon voted 70 to 20 not to prefer impeachment proceedings against the 49-year-old circuit judge in Garland and Hot Springs counties and rejected the recommendations of three members of a five-member House investigating committee that action be based on charges of his having appeared drunk on the bench and that he had not acted to stop open gambling in Hot Springs and tolerated alleged election frauds in Garland county.

Most of the House session yesterday was devoted to the Hot Springs matter and many spectators from Hot Springs were in the House gallery. So keen was the interest on the part of some of the visitors that a long distance telephone call was made to Hot Springs after the voting started and before the final result was announced.

The House members decided the issue with a standing vote while in session as a committee-of-the-whole. When 68 members stood to declare their opposition to filing impeachment charges, the fact that the majority voted to shelve the investigation was known in Hot Springs before the 16 minority votes could be counted in the House chamber. The 70-20 vote followed with the House in regular session and adopting the committee report.

The investigation resulted in raids on eight palatial Hot Springs night clubs by revenue agents under supreme court warrants. They stripped the places of an estimated \$15,000 in gambling equipment and burned it in a public bonfire at Little Rock.

**Gambling Houses Still Closed.**  
Gambling houses have since closed. Operators had no immediate announcement for publication today concerning plans for reopening. Authorities also declined comment on future policies. Hot Springs opens its spring racing meet March 1.

One Hot Springs delegation appearing before the investigating committee during its four week's in-

(Continued on Page 3)

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-23-37

(Continued from Page 1)

quiry, said people of the Spa favor a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts "and officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy."

Another group of 147 citizens appeared, reported business conditions improved since appointment of the investigating committee and added "We are looking to the legislature for relief from the present conditions of disfranchisement and official oppression."

"I have always felt our legislature would do the right thing about this matter," said Judge Witt. "I am now serving my fourth consecutive term. In each of my elections I received an overwhelming majority and I believe this gives me the right to feel that the people of this judicial district have confidence, at least, in my good intentions."

The majority report of the investigators also recommended a special Hot Springs grand jury to investigate gambling, alleged mistreatment of city jail prisoners and the official conduct of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin and other city officials. McLaughlin asserted the resort city as a result of the inquiry was "crucified on the cross of political spite and hatred."

"It has well been said," he declared, "that there is nothing more vicious than politics. That is especially true when disgruntled and discarded political leaders, under the false pretense of civic reformation, seek to use all the lowest methods of politics in an effort at reprisal."

"It is doubtful if Arkansas has ever seen a more drastic manifestation of that truth than in the effort of local repudiated politicians who sought to ruin the reputation and standing of one of the most reputable jurists in the state."

Judge Witt was ill during the investigation and unable to appear before the committee but sent an affidavit declaring he never had been in a gambling house and that he suspected "an inclination on the part of a very few to somewhat exaggerate my inclination for strong drink."

"Any time they tell you that Earl Witt has been on the bench drunk, they're telling you a lie," declared Rep. Boyd Tackett, Glenwood, in arguing for a motion to exonerate the jurist.

"Lon Warneke got his first money to go off and start playing baseball from Judge Witt," asserted the youthful lawmaker.

Warneke, Cardinal hurler, was a member of a delegation which came before the investigators to express confidence and faith in Judge Witt. The St. Louis player lives at Mount Ida in Montgomery county over which Witt has jurisdiction.

Rep. W. M. Thompson, who headed the investigation and led the fight for further consideration of the matter by the House, declared:

"I have never witnessed an abuse of the courts such as the records show has been the case in the Eighteenth (Hot Springs) Judicial district. When the courts have ceased to function as they have in this case, it's time for the legislature to do something about it."

"All this committee could find was some gambling and drinking down at Hot Springs—nothing but trash," asserted Rep. W. L. Ward, who won approval of his motion to exonerate Judge Witt.

"From 1914 to 1922, when Scott Wood was circuit judge down there," he added, "I won more money in Hot Springs than you could carry off on the backs of two elephants. Gambling was as wide open then, possibly, as it is now."

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Baughman ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Dawsey ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Foxworth ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Joseph ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Joseph ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓

Chipman

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

# Sentinel-Record

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1937.

## HOUSE VOTE DEALS DEATH BLOW TO PROBE OF SPA

Re: BREKID.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Dawsey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

Chipman

7-576-A

# WITT EXONERATED OF "MISCONDUCT" BY HEAVY MARGIN

HOUSE VOTE IS 70 TO 20  
TO VINDICATE  
JUDGE.

## NO PROOF IS CHARGE

Representatives Favoring  
Abandonment of Investi-  
gation Charge Probe  
Brought on by Political  
Groups.

Little Rock, Feb. 22—(AP)—The Arkansas house of representatives closed a five weeks investigation of law enforcement conditions at Hot Springs today by voting, 70 to 20, to exonerate Circuit Judge Earl Witt of charges of official misconduct.

The charges, made in a majority report signed by three members of an investigating committee, were that Judge Witt had been intoxicated in court, took no steps to close open gambling at the resort city and failed to cause an investigation of vote fraud allegations following the democratic primary last August. The majority faction advocated impeachment proceedings.

A minority report, signed by two committee members, said no proof of the charges against the jurist had been developed and urged that the investigation be dropped.

The final vote came after the house, sitting as a committee of the whole, voted 68 to 15 to recommend that "the house do not impeach Judge Witt."

Speaking for a motion by Rep. W. L. Ward of Lee to absolve the judge, Rep. Boyd Tackett of Glenwood said:

"Any time they tell you that Earl Witt has been on the bench drunk, they're telling you a lie. Len Warneke got his first money to go off and start playing baseball from Judge Witt."

Warneke, pitching star for the St. Louis Cardinals, was a member of a delegation which came before the investigating committee two weeks ago to defend the circuit judge. He lives at Mount Ida in Montgomery county over which Witt has jurisdiction.

The investigation brought raids by state revenue officers three weeks ago on eight ornate Hot Springs clubs in which gambling paraphernalia valued at \$25,000 was seized, removed to Little Rock and publicly burned. The gambling houses since have been closed.

Members of the investigating committee who urged impeachment sought unsuccessfully to defeat Ward's motion. They advocated further consideration including a complete study by the house of 700 pages of testimony taken from three score witnesses.

"I'm only asking that this house read that transcript of testimony," said Rep. W. M. Thompson, chairman of the investigators.

"When you whitewash this matter you are saying to me and the people of Arkansas that I have been unfair and unjust."

The 40-year-old Judge Witt is serving his fourth consecutive term on the bench of Garland (Hot Springs) and adjoining Montgomery counties, the only political office he ever held.

"All this committee could find was some gambling and drinking down at Hot Springs—nothing but trash," Ward said. "On the testimony of a few disgruntled politicians, the majority report saw fit to recommend impeachment of Judge Earl Witt."

"I've practiced law for 30 years and never yet have I heard of a judge going out single-handed and trying to break up crime. It is their duty to charge the grand jury as to crime."

"There is not enough evidence in this entire record to cause the house to take up its time by going into it. From 1914 to 1922, when Scott Wood was circuit judge down there, I won more money in Hot Springs than you could carry off on the backs of two elephants. Gambling was as wide open then, possibly, as it is now."

The vote to clear Judge Witt almost duplicated that of January 13 in which the house authorized the investigation. At that time 71 voted for the inquiry and 21 against.

After today's vote, Ward moved that the entire record of proceedings be expunged from the house journal but withdrew the motion later when Thompson interposed an objection.

Debate on the Ward motion consumed four hours. Coupled with a filibuster on the Vesey prohibition bill, it took up the entire day, no time being called up for final passage.

Closing debate against the Ward proposal, Thompson declared that a favorable vote would constitute a "whitewash."

"The news will go out through the country that the Arkansas house of representatives kicked this thing out the back door because it was too hot to handle," he said. "With the eyes of the world focused on this body, do you intend to say that 'we'll have nothing to do with it?'"

"It has been whispered about that money was being spread around among the members of this investigating committee. But we wait about our duty as we saw it. I say sincerely that I do not question the motives of the two gentlemen who presented the minority report."

Thompson, Rep. Ike Murry of Dallas and Rep. Lee Nichols of Logan signed the majority report recommending impeachment. Rep. Pat Robinson of Lafayette and Rep. Fred Jones of Montgomery constituted the minority.

"The testimony in hand would not be sufficient to convict the blackest negro in Arkansas," said Campbell of Garland. "In behalf of Judge Witt I will say that the house now has in its possession only testimony against him."

Quotations from speakers during the hectic floor battle:

Coffelt of Saline: "The truth of the matter is that this is nothing in the world but a political fight over there in Garland county which they're seeking to have aired out in the Arkansas legislature. If we dispose of this matter now we can dispose of the legislative business that we were sent down here to transact."

Thompson of Independence: "I have never witnessed an abuse of the courts such as the records show has been the case in the 18th Judicial district. When the courts have ceased to function as they have in this case, it's time for the legislature to do something about it."

Brickhouse of Pulaski: "The man who is least responsible for conditions at Hot Springs has his good name and reputation at stake here. He has dispensed justice to the satisfaction of the people of his district. If you take from him his good name, you take everything."

Murry of Dallas: "I didn't ask to be put on that committee but I did what I thought was right in the matter. And if I had it to do over again, I'd do the same thing. I believe the evidence is sufficient for this house to consider. After you hear both sides, if you are convinced that Judge Witt is innocent, you should acquit him. But you should go into the testimony before you act."

Surviance of Union: "My county and my section are ready for this thing to be hushed up. They jumped on me Saturday at El Dorado and asked why we didn't get down to attending to business. I served overseas with Mayor Leo McLaughlin of Hot Springs and I don't think much of him. But Judge Witt is a temperate man. Speaking of gambling, we do gambling on a petit larceny basis around this legislature."

Nichols of Logan: "It's in the realm of possibility that evidence could be produced that would refute that heard by the committee. But the people of Arkansas are watching us today and the house should go into all the evidence. I don't believe any man could read this transcript without believing that Judge Witt knew all about these election frauds."

"Those voting against the exoneration of the jurist without going into the entire record of proceedings were: Blount, Butt, Cloer, Combs, Creekmore, Cunningham, Gooch, Graham, Murray of Boone, Murry of Dallas, Nichols, Sherrill, Smalley, Smelser, Smith of Franklin, Thompson, Van Dalsem, Vesey, Wood and Woodrume."

Absent or not voting: Anthony, Blair, Coates, Eddy, Horton of Craighead, Johnson, Kendrick, Perryman.



Tuesday Morning, February 23, 1937.

# JUDGE WITT IS "GRATEFUL" FOR HOUSE SUPPORT

## McLAUGHLIN FLAYS "DISGRUNTLED POLIT- ICAL LEADERS."

Visibly affected by the over-  
whelming vote of the state House  
of Representatives vindicating him  
of charges of misconduct in office,  
Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night  
expressed "deepest gratitude" to  
the members of the legislature for  
their confidence.

"For such confidence and friend-  
ship, I am truly grateful," he said.  
At the same time, Mayor Leo P.  
McLaughlin issued a signed state-  
ment in which he charged the probe  
was the result of "disgruntled and  
discarded political leaders."

In a brief statement he dictated  
at his home, Judge Witt said:

"I am now serving my fourth con-  
secutive term. In each of my elec-  
tions I received an overwhelming  
majority, and I believe this gives  
me the right to feel that the people  
of this judicial district have confi-  
dence, at least, in my good inten-  
tions."

"I have always felt our legisla-  
ture would do the right thing about  
this matter. I believe it has. To the  
members of legislature I wish to  
express my deepest gratitude. So  
many of my friends in this district  
and throughout the state, have  
manifested the deepest interest in  
me. For such confidence and  
friendship I am truly grateful."

Mayor McLaughlin's statement:

"It has well been said that there  
is nothing more vicious than politi-  
tics. That is especially true when  
disgruntled and discarded political  
leaders, under the false pretence of  
civic reformation, seek to use all  
the lowest methods of politics in an  
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Arkansas has ever seen a more  
drastic manifestation of that truth  
than in the effort of local reput-  
ed politicians who sought to ruin  
the reputation and standing of one  
of the most reputable jurists in the  
state."

"It mattered little to the clique  
who promoted that travesty on  
fair play that they brought about  
the loss of thousands and thousands  
of dollars to our merchants and  
professional interests. It was of no  
concern to them that they caused  
officers to swoop down upon Hot  
Springs and have the city publi-  
cized the length and breadth of  
the nation. They cared not one iota  
that Hot Springs, their home town,  
was held up in the light of a dis-  
graced municipality. No limit was  
too far for them to go—no method  
too low for them to stoop and  
seize. They were out to ruin char-  
acters, and if they ruined the bus-  
iness life of Hot Springs, that, too,  
in their estimation also was all  
right with them."

"It is not necessary to review  
the type of witnesses, their charac-  
ter and the testimony they gave.  
Those who were out to ruin wanted  
but one kind of testimony. They  
were in a position to demand that  
type, and they got it, and all  
through the investigation Hot  
Springs, the world's outstanding  
health and pleasure resort, con-  
tinued to be centered on the cross  
of political spite and hatred."

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Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
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Mr. Harbo .....  
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Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

*Chapman*

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

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Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

*Chapman*

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

125



# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

FEBRUARY 23, 1937.

## SPA INVESTIGATION ENDS SWIFTLY AS HOUSE DROPS MOVE TO IMPEACH WITT

Citizenship Generally  
Voices Relief It  
Is Over

CITY IS QUIET

Club Owners Make No  
Announcement As  
To Plans

Little Rock, Feb. 23.—(AP)—Legislative exoneration of 49-year-old Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, terminated today an investigation into alleged lawlessness at the world-famed resort city.

The Arkansas house of representatives by a vote of 70 to 20 refused to bring impeachment proceedings against the jurist in the face of an investigating committee's majority report recommending such action on charges of official misconduct.

The majority accused Judge Witt of appearing on the street and in his court apparently intoxicated, having knowledge of open gambling operations in Hot Springs without taking any action, and failing to act in connection with alleged voting irregularities. A minority report said there was no proof of such charges.

The investigation resulted in raids on eight palatial Hot Springs night clubs by revenue agents under supreme court warrants. They stripped the places of an estimated \$25,000 in gambling equipment and burned it in a public bonfire at Little Rock.

Gambling houses have since closed. Operators had no immediate announcement for publication today concerning plans for reopening. Authorities also declined comment on future policies. Hot Springs opens its spring racing meet March 1.

One Hot Springs delegation appearing before the investigating committee during its four weeks' inquiry, said people of the Spa favor a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts "and officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy."

Another group of 147 citizens appeared, reported business conditions improved since appointment of the investigation committee and added: "We are looking to the legislature for relief from the present conditions of disfranchisement and official oppression."

Judge Witt was ill during the investigation and unable to appear before the committee but sent an affidavit declaring he never had been in a gambling house and that he suspected "an inclination on the part of a very few to somewhat exaggerate my inclination for strong drink."

"Anytime they tell you that Earl Witt has been on the bench drunk, they're telling you a lie," declared Rep. Boyd Tackett, Glenwood, in arguing for a motion to exonerate the jurist.

"Lon Warneke got his first money to go off and start playing baseball from Judge Witt," asserted the youthful lawmaker.

Warneke, Cardinal hurler, was a member of a delegation which came before the investigators to express confidence and faith in Judge Witt. The St. Louis player lives at Mount Ida in Montgomery county over which Witt has jurisdiction.

Rep. W. M. Thompson, who headed the investigation and led the fight for further consideration of the matter by the house, declared:

"I have never witnessed an abuse of the courts such as the records now has been the case in the 18th (Hot Springs) judicial district. When the courts have ceased to function as they have in this case, it's time for the legislature to do something about it."

"All this committee could find was some gambling and drinking down at Hot Springs—nothing but trash," asserted Rep. W. L. Ward, who won approval of his motion to exonerate Judge Witt.

"From 1914 to 1922, when Scott Wood was circuit judge down there," he added, "I won more money in Hot Springs than you could carry off on the backs of two elephants. Gambling was as wide open then, possibly, as it is now."

Debate on the Ward motion consumed four hours. Coupled with a filibuster on the Vesey prohibition bill, it took up the entire day, no bills being called up for final passage.

Closing debate against the Ward proposal, Thompson declared that a favorable vote would constitute a "whitewash."

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Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schlichter .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

RE:  
BREKID

7-576-A

"The news will go out through the country that the Arkansas house of representatives kicked this thing out the back door because it was too hot to handle," he said. "With the eyes of the world focused on this body, do you intend to say that 'we'll have nothing to do with it?'"

"It has been whispered about that money was being spread around among the members of this investigating committee. But we went about our duty as we saw it. I say sincerely that I do not question the motives of the two gentlemen who presented the minority report."

Thompson, Rep. Ike Murry of Dallas and Rep. Lee Nichols of Logan signed the majority report recommending impeachment. Rep. Pat Robinson of Lafayette and Rep. Fred Jones of Montgomery constituted the minority.

"The testimony in hand would not be sufficient to convict the blackest negro in Arkansas," said Campbell of Garland. "In behalf of Judge Witt I will say that the house now has in its possession only testimony against him."

Quotations from speakers during the hectic floor battle:

Coffelt of Saline: "The truth of the matter is that this is nothing in the world but a political fight over there in Garland county which they're seeking to have aired out in the Arkansas legislature. If we dispose of this matter now we can dispose of the legislative business that we were sent down here to transact."

Thompson of Independence: "I have never witnessed an abuse of the courts such as the records show has been the case in the 18th Judicial district. When the courts have ceased to function as they have in this case, it's time for the legislature to do something about it."

Brickhouse of Pulaski: "The man who is least responsible for conditions at Hot Springs has his good name and reputation at stake here. He has dispensed justice to the satisfaction of the people of his district. If you take from him his good name, you take everything."

Murry of Dallas: "I didn't ask to be put on that committee but I did what I thought was right in the matter. And if I had it to do over again, I'd do the same thing. I believe the evidence is sufficient for this house to consider. After you hear both sides, if you are convinced that Judge Witt is innocent, you should acquit him. But you should go into the testimony before you act."

Bussiness of Union: "My county and my section are ready for this thing to be hushed up. They jumped on me Saturday at El Dorado and asked why we didn't get down to attending to business. I served overseas with Mayor Leo McLaughlin of Hot Springs and I don't think much of him. But Judge Witt is a temperate man. Speaking of gambling, we do gambling on a petit larceny basis around this legislature."

Nichols of Logan: "It's in the realm of possibility that evidence could be produced that would refute that heard by the committee. But the people of Arkansas are watching us today and the house should go into all the evidence. I don't believe any man could read this transcript without believing that Judge Witt knew all about these election frauds."

Those voting against the exoneration of the jurist without going into the entire record of proceedings were: Blount, Butt, Cloer, Combs, Creekmore, Cunningham, Gooch,

Graham, Murray of Boone, Murry of Dallas, Nichols, Sherrill, Smalley, Smelser, Smith of Franklin, Thompson, Van Dalsem, Vesey, Wood and Woodrome.

Absent or not voting: Anthony, Blair, Coates, Eddy, Horton of Craighead, Johnson, Kendrick, Perryman.

Expressing "deepest gratitude" for the vote of vindication given him by the House of Representatives yesterday, Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night issued a signed statement in which he acknowledged the confidence shown in him, while, at the same time, Hot Springs citizens for the most part breathed a hearty sigh of relief as the news spread that the investigation of alleged lawlessness here had been dropped.

Up and down the avenue the chief topic of discussion today was the action of the House last night. The investigation broke just as Hot Springs was entering its annual winter season and came at a time when the city was expecting the greatest patronage in several years.

Issuing a statement last night along with that by Judge Witt, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin flayed what he termed "disgruntled and discarded political leaders" for instituting the probe.

In a brief statement he dictated at his home, Judge Witt said:

"I am now serving my fourth consecutive term. In each of my elections I received an overwhelming majority, and I believe this gives me the right to feel that the people of this judicial district have confidence, at least, in my good intentions."

"I have always felt our legislature would do the right thing about this matter. I believe it has. To the members of the legislature I wish to express my deepest gratitude. So many of my friends in this district and throughout the state, have manifested the deepest interest in me. For such confidence and friendship I am truly grateful."

Mayor McLaughlin's statement:

"It has well been said that there is nothing more vicious than politics. That is especially true when disgruntled and discarded political leaders, under the false pretense of civic reformation, seek to use all the lowest methods of politics in an effort at reprisal. It is doubtful if Arkansas has ever seen a more drastic manifestation of that truth than in the effort of local repudiated politicians who sought to ruin the reputation and standing of one of the most reputable jurists in the state."

"It mattered little to the clique who promoted that travesty on fair play that they brought about the loss of thousands and thousands of dollars to our merchants and professional interests. It was of no concern to them that they caused officers to swoop down upon Hot Springs and have the city publicized the length and breadth of the nation. They cared not one iota that Hot Springs, their home town, was held up in the light of a depraved municipality. No limit was too far for them to go—no method too low for them to stoop and seize. They were out to ruin characters, and if they ruined the business life of Hot Springs, that, too, in their estimation also was all right with them."

"It is not necessary to review the type of witnesses, their character and the testimony they gave. Those who were out to ruin wanted but one kind of testimony. They were in a position to demand that type, and they got it, and all through the investigation Hot Springs, the world's outstanding health and pleasure resort, continued to be crucified on the cross of political spite and hatred."

## Judge Witt Expresses His Appreciation

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Feb. 22.—In a brief statement dictated at his home here tonight, Circuit Judge Earl Witt expressed his appreciation over the exoneration given him by the House of the Arkansas legislature today.

At the same time, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin issued a statement violently denouncing those who have opposed his regime.

### Judge Witt's Statement.

Judge Witt's statement follows:

"I am now serving my fourth consecutive term, in each of my elections I received an overwhelming majority, and I believe this gives me the right to feel that the people of this judicial district have confidence, at least, in my good intentions.

"I have always felt our legislature would do the right thing about this matter. I believe it has. To the members of the legislature I wish to express my deepest gratitude. So many of my friends in this district and throughout the state have manifested the deepest interest in me. For such confidence and friendship I am truly grateful."

### Mayor McLaughlin's Statement.

McLaughlin's statement:

"It has well been said that there is nothing more vicious than politics. That is especially true when disgruntled and discarded politician leaders, under the false pretense of civic reformation, seek to use all the lowest methods of politics in an effort at reprisal. It is doubtful if Arkansas has ever seen more drastic manifestation of that truth than in the effort local repudiated politicians who sought to ruin the reputation of and standing of one of the most reputable jurists in the state.

"It mattered little to the clique who promoted that travesty on fair play that they brought about the loss of thousands and thousands of dollars to our merchants and professional interests. It was of no concern to them that they caused officers to swoop down upon Hot Springs and have the city publicized the length and breadth of the nation. They cared not one iota that Hot Springs, their home town, was held up in the light of a depraved municipality. No limit was too far for them to go—no method too low for them to stoop and seize. They were out to ruin characters, and if they ruined the business life of Hot Springs, that, too, in their estimation also was all right with them.

"It is not necessary to review the type of witness, their character and the testimony they gave. Those who were out to ruin wanted but one kind of testimony. They were in a position to demand that type, and they got it. And all through the investigation Hot Springs, the world's outstanding health and pleasure resort, continued to be sacrificed on the cross of political spite and hatred."

# HOUSE AGAINST IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE WITT

## Exoneration Move Wins, 70-20.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, of the Eighteenth Judicial District, was exonerated of official misconduct by the House yesterday. The vote was 70 to 20 for adoption of a recommendation of the House Committee of the Whole against impeachment proceedings.

Practically the entire day was devoted consideration of a motion by Ward of Lee not to vote impeachment. Majority and minority reports of the Special Committee appointed to investigate reports of laxity in the enforcement of laws in the district, which includes Garland and Montgomery counties, had been referred to the Committee of the Whole after the Judiciary Committee declined to consider them. The Ward motion was seconded by McHaney of Pulaski.

The special committee spent more than four weeks investigating allegations of connivance between law enforcement officers and the "lawless elements of Hot Springs." The majority report of the committee, signed by Chairman W. M. Thompson of Independence, Lee Nichols of Logan and I. T. ("Ike") Murry of Dallas, recommended the impeachment proceedings be voted against Judge Witt. The minority report, signed by Pat Robinson of Lafayette and James Fred Jones of Montgomery, declared evidence was insufficient to impeach.

Charges outlined in the resolution adopted by the House January 14 by a vote of 71 to 21, were that Judge Witt had appeared on the street and on the bench in an intoxicated condition, that he had taken no steps to prevent open gambling at Hot Springs and that he failed to cause an investigation of alleged fraud in last summer's state primary election.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-23-37

### Vote by Which Judge Witt Is Exonerated.

After the Committee of the Whole had voted, 68 to 15, to adopt the Ward motion, the committee was dissolved. Then a record vote was taken on the committee's recommendation.

The vote, follows:

Abington	For Exoneration.	Lancaster
Arbaugh		Launius
Baker		Ledford
Baxter		Macchen
Beck		Maner
Bell		McGraw
Boyers		McHaney
Bradford		McInturff
Brickhouse		Mikle
Brown		Moore
Bryson		Nyberg
Buerkle		Plant
Burris		Price
Campbell		Purvisance
Chapman		Raley
Cheyne		Rice
Chrisp		Roberts
Coffelt		Robinson
Coleman		Sampler
Condrey		Shaw
Cowart		Sikes
Crawford		Smith of Cleveland
Darnell		Smith of Woodruff
Forehand		Tabler
Foster		Tackett
Grider		Thomas
Grisham		Tibbles
Hargrave		Toland
Harris		Toney
Holmes		Walker
Horton of St. Francis		Ward
Houston		Warfield
Hudnall		Wear
Jones		Woodrome
King		Wright
Total 70.		

### Against Exoneration.

Blount	Nichols
Butt	Sherrill
Cleer	Smalley
Combs	Smelser
Creekmore	Smith of Franklin
Cunningham	Thompson
Gooch	Van Dalsem
Graham	Vesey
Murray of Boone	Wilkinson
Murry of Dallas	Wood
Total 20.	

### Absent or not voting:

Anthony	Johnson
Blair	Kendrick
Coates	Perryman
Eddy	Speaker Bransford
Horton of Craighead	Total, nine.

### Nichols Regrets Action As Being Indecisive.

Nichols, one of the sponsors of the investigation and a Baptist minister, said last night that he believed it was "unfortunate both for Judge Witt and Hot Springs that the House voted as it did. We should have gone thoroughly into the charges and either exonerated or voted impeachment against the judge. As the matter now stands, many people in the state probably believe the charges contained in the resolution are true because they have not been refuted."

Members of the committee who signed the majority report, in speaking against the Ward motion, said it was impossible for members to understand the testimony until the transcript had been read. There are 700 pages of testimony already transcribed, and there remains about 100 pages untyped, they said. "All we want you gentlemen to do is to have the transcript read," Thompson said.

Neither of the signers of the minority report spoke on the motion.

Toney of Jefferson, a member of the House in 1903 when impeachment proceedings were filed against a Hot Springs official, was named chairman and presided over the Committee of the Whole.

### Coffelt, Brickhouse Defend Judge Witt.

In speaking for adoption of the Ward motion, Coffelt of Saline said that most members know the contents of the transcript, having read the testimony as reported in newspapers. "About all this thing amounts to is a political fight between two factions over at Hot Springs," he said. "Why, I've got some political opponents down in my county that I'd like to have this House investigate. I thought this matter was deserving of

(Continued on Page 9, 1st col.)

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Forworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Toney .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Cady .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Toney .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Cady .....

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

HC

## HOUSE AGAINST IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE WITT

(Continued from Page 1.)

further consideration, I would not be in favor of the motion."

"This is the most important matter that has come before this legislature," said Brickhouse of Pulaski, a proponent of the motion. "This is the only way you can absolutely vindicate a good name. I wouldn't reflect on Judge Witt by having any kind of hearing in this House if I could prevent it. This committee has done a good job—it has tanned a few hides. We all know conditions in Hot Springs had become intolerable, that the local authorities couldn't cope with it. You've burned up their gambling paraphernalia, which was a good piece of work. But Judge Witt's honor and reputation are at stake, and for no reason. He is dispensing justice to the satisfaction of the people of his district. I don't think there's a judge in Arkansas who ranks higher. This report ought to be kicked out of this House. We should not dignify the charges."

Murry said that he believed the testimony taken by the committee warranted further investigation. He urged defeat of the Ward motion.

### Says Judge Witt Is 'Fine, Upstanding Gentleman.'

"My county is ready for this thing to be hushed up," said Purviance of Union. "I've served on juries in Judge Witt's court, and I know him to be a fine, outstanding gentleman. I think that Hot Springs needs cleaning up, but you know and I know that gambling is going on in El Dorado and in Little Rock, and we even do a little of it in here on a petty basis."

### Considers Judge a 'Victim of Circumstances.'

"I entered this investigation with an open mind," said Nichols. "The committee worked conscientiously and sincerely. The minority report was unfair in that it said further investigation was unwarranted. Some of the testimony in this transcript would amaze you. One witness told us of a civil suit at Hot Springs in which he was interested, and said Judge Witt staggered and stumbled into the court room to receive the jury's report. The jury foreman had read the verdict for the plaintiff and when Judge Witt received it, he read it for the defendant. The witness testified that he heard persons around him say: 'Well, the judge is drunk again.' I really feel sorry for the judge. He is just a victim of circumstances. But the testimony shows Judge Witt agreed with other officials to allow gambling houses to operate in Hot Springs provided they paid monthly fines. I think the city administration will drop him the next time he runs because he is not their kind."

"In the John Dickson case, Judge Witt was urged before Dickson's arrest not to allow him to be placed in the city jail because he was accused of attacking the chief of police. After his arrest Judge Witt was requested to have him transferred from the city to the county jail, but he didn't do anything about it. They wouldn't do anything until Dickson began to die, and instead of taking him to the Levy hospital, where all charity cases are taken, they took him to another and wouldn't let anybody but his doctor and officials see him."

"And nobody can read the transcript without believing that Judge Witt had judicial knowledge of fraud in last summer's election."

### Tells of Acts of Philanthropy By Hot Springs Jurist.

Tackett of Pike, who said that he had borrowed money from Judge Witt to enable him to attend school, and who added that he had practiced law in his court, declared that "any time they tell you that Earl Witt has been on the bench drunk, they're telling you a lie."

"He said also that Lon Warneke, pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, obtained money from Judge Witt to go off and start playing baseball."

### Declares Witt Responsible For Open Gambling.

Thompson, closing the debate against adoption of the Ward motion to exonerate, said that he assumed responsibility for all testimony taken by the committee, and declared that no one was denied the privilege of testifying. It was suggested early in the investigation, Thompson said, to invite Judge Witt to appear before the committee. The invitation was extended, he said, but the judge failed to appear. He denied any unfairness by the committee.

"There are some things in this transcript which would change your minds," he said.

"He declared Judge Witt was responsible for open gambling in Hot Springs, because he knew about it and declined to do anything to stop it. He recalled that Judge Scott Wood, Judge Witt's

predecessor, ordered the destruction of gambling paraphernalia while he was in office. "The record shows that Judge Witt went to one of the gambling houses and asked the manager to whom he was paying his fines. The gambler said he was paying them to Mayor McLaughlin. Judge Witt ordered him to stop paying them to Leo, but later, when the gambler went to see him, the judge said that he wasn't having anything to do with the fines and told him to see McLaughlin."

Thompson said that by voting for the Ward motion, "you would be saying it's too hot to handle; we'll have nothing further to do with it. I've never witnessed abuse by a court as the records reveal Judge Witt has abused his. When courts cease to function, it's time for the state to do something. The rights and lives of the people are insecure. With the eyes of the world on us, we'll just kick this thing out the back door, it's too hot. It was whispered early in the session that the investigation would be just a whitewash."

### Investigation Would Be Too Expensive, Says Ward.

"In making my motion I base it entirely on the report of the majority of the committee," said Ward in closing the argument. Judge Witt has done nothing to justify further probe. I have never heard of a judge trying to run down crime. There is not enough evidence in this transcript to convict." He said that gambling was wide open during Judge Wood's administration, and that horse racing was permitted although it had been outlawed. "It's a serious matter to forever blacken a man's life and honor," he declared. He added that impeachment proceedings would cost \$100,000, and that important bills are pending in the House which should be considered instead of continuing the Hot Springs investigation.

ARKANSAS Democrat  
Little Rock, Ark.  
February 24, 1937.

## Federal Rule For Resort Is Termed 'Silly'

Hot Springs Authorities  
Scoff at Suggestion  
Following Probe.

## Wood in Denial

Ex-Circuit Judge Says  
He Did Not Offer  
Proposal.

Hot Springs authorities scoffed today at the suggestion that federal control of the internationally known health resort may be sought as an aftermath of legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness there.

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood and Mrs. Wood, members of a Hot Springs party who saw the governor yesterday, denied they had offered the idea of extending the Hot Springs National Park boundaries to include the entire city, with federal supervision of police.

The following statement was issued today by Judge Scott Wood of Hot Springs:

"The statement published this morning to the effect that Mrs. Wood and I were in Little Rock yesterday in connection with proposed legislation to cede to the United States criminal jurisdiction over Hot Springs was erroneous. My business in Little Rock was to appear before the Corporation Commission in the trial of a case there. My visit to the governor was on personal business.

"Any proposal to cede jurisdiction to the federal government would involve complicated questions of constitutional law, taxation, etc., and would require careful study both by state and federal authorities. I am unable to give an opinion on this question without a good deal more thought and consideration.

"Mrs. Wood's business in Little Rock yesterday was in connection with school legislation. We did not talk to any legislator concerning any legislation ceding jurisdiction."

Mrs. Wood reiterated her husband's statement.

Col. John R. Fordyce, one of a group that visited Governor Bailey yesterday, told the Democrat by telephone today that he wholeheartedly endorsed the idea of placing Hot Springs under criminal jurisdiction of the Federal government.

"I think it would be a very good thing for Arkansas as well as Hot Springs," Colonel Fordyce said.

Chairman W. M. Thompson said today that the total cost of the inquiry "will not amount to more than \$2,600."

The house contingent expense fund has been exhausted and Thompson said that passage of an appropriation bill would be necessary to make possible the payment of the committee's operating expenses.

### \$1,500 Fee Approved.

He said the committee had tentatively approved a \$1,500 fee for John R. Thompson, assistant city attorney in Little Rock, who aided the probe, but Thompson expressed the opinion that "the house will not agree to pay him that much."

The chairman said he did not know when the appropriation bill would be introduced, as it first had to be taken up by the budget committee.

"I had planned to discuss it today with Lyle Brown, chairman of the budget committee, but he is not here," Thompson said.

Committeemen estimated that about \$300 would be needed to pay the fees and mileage of witnesses who testified before the committee. Other expenses included the employment of a stenographer for five weeks.

Chairman Thompson of the house investigating committee said this morning he had not made the suggestions, but that he "thought the proposal feasible."

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, at Hot Springs, declared he thought the idea "silly and foolish," while Superintendent Donald S. Libbey of the national park remarked that the proposal "is stunning in its magnitude." He added that "a man of my authority would not know if the government would accept such a proposition."

The delegation expected today to confer with Superintendent Libbey at Hot Springs.

Superintendent Libbey said a Hot Springs committee attempted to call upon him last night but a contact was not made.

Hot Springs National Park is the nation's oldest federal reservation. It recently was enlarged under a government act and now covers 1,600 square acres, or slightly more than one and one-half square miles. The park has been under federal jurisdiction for 105 years.

### Governor Is Silent.

Governor Bailey and members of the Hot Springs committee visiting him refused to comment on their conference, but capitol corridors heard that legislation relating to law enforcement in the resort city was discussed.

Wood also conferred with Representative Thompson and other members of the committee. Thompson and two other members unsuccessfully asked impeachment proceedings.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A



Just the bottom has been reached.

## FEDERAL RULE FOR RESORT IS TERMED 'SILLY'

(Continued from Page 1)

ings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt on official misconduct charges.

The majority report also proposed special grand jury inquiry of local authorities at Hot Springs with reference to gambling and alleged general lax law enforcement.

"For my actions," said Thompson, "I have no apology, and shall keep this issue before the people of the state until it can be disposed of as all such conditions as exist in Hot Springs are disposed of when the people know the facts."

### Libbey Makes Statement.

Hot Springs — A citizens committee conferred here today with Donald S. Libbey, superintendent of Hot Springs National Park, following published reports of a movement to obtain Federal control of the city of Hot Springs, adjoining the park.

Law enforcement conditions here were investigated recently by a legislative committee, which issued conflicting reports on its findings. A majority asked impeachment proceedings against the circuit judge. The minority said it found no basis for such action. The house voted last Monday to drop the matter without action.

Confirming today's conference, Libbey declined to identify his interviewers or disclose what was discussed, but said in a statement:

"In the event the state of Arkansas makes formal application for the Federal government to take jurisdiction over the city of Hot Springs and contiguous to Hot Springs National Park, such request will be transmitted to the director of this service for such consideration and action as they see fit."

Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney, said he had been advised that Rep. John L. McClellan, of this district, had introduced a bill in congress relating to an extension of the national park area, but he was not familiar with the proposed effect of the bill.

Scott Wood, former circuit judge, and frequent critic of the present Hot Springs political regime, issued a formal statement in which he said that published reports "that Mrs. Wood and I were in Little Rock yesterday with the connection with proposed legislation to cede to the United States criminal jurisdiction were erroneous."

# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

FEBRUARY 24, 1937.

## SCOTT WOOD DISCLAIMS ANY MOVE FOR FEDERAL JURISDICTION OVER CITY

Gazette's Statement  
"Erroneous," Says  
Former Judge

LIBBEY VISITED

Unidentified Group  
Confers With  
Park Head

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood said today that a news story in this morning's Arkansas Gazette to the effect that he and Mrs. Wood were in Little Rock yesterday in connection with a movement to obtain federal control for the City of Hot Springs, was erroneous.

His visit to Governor Bailey, on which the Gazette apparently based its story, was described by Judge Wood as "personal."

Mrs. Wood made a similar statement.

Meanwhile an unidentified group of citizens conferred today with Donald S. Libbey, superintendent of Hot Springs National Park, but Mr. Libbey declined to name those who had called on him to divulge what was discussed.

Mr. Libbey said he made the following statement to the group:

"In the event the state of Arkansas makes formal application for the federal government to take jurisdiction over the city of Hot Springs National Park, such request will be transmitted to the director of this service for such consideration and action as they see fit."

Judge Wood said he was not a member of the group visiting Mr. Libbey.

Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney, said he had been advised that Rep. John L. McClellan, of this district, had introduced a bill in congress relating to an extension of the national park area, but he was not familiar with the proposed effect of the bill.

Judge Wood, a frequent outspoken critic of the present Hot Springs political regime, issued the following formal statement:

"The statement in this morning's Gazette to the effect that Mrs. Wood and I were in Little Rock yesterday with the connection with proposed legislation to cede to the United States, criminal jurisdiction over Hot Springs, was erroneous. My business in Little Rock was, to appear before the corporation commission in a trial of a case there. My visit to the governor was on personal business.

"Any proposal to cede jurisdiction to the Federal Government, would involve complicated questions of Constitutional law, taxation, etc., and would require careful study both by the state and federal authorities. I am unable to give an opinion on this question without a good deal more thought and deliberation.

"Mrs. Wood's business in Little Rock was in connection with school legislation. We did not talk to any legislator concerning any legislation for ceding jurisdiction.

Mrs. Wood informed a local newspaperman this morning that she was surprised when she read in the paper that she and her husband had been to Little Rock in an effort to cede the City of Hot Springs to the federal government. She stated most emphatically that such had not been her mission there and that she did not talk to any one on that subject. She said she gave no information to any newspaper man and was at a loss to understand how such a story could have been published.

"My business in Little Rock was for an entirely different purpose, and had nothing whatever to do with the ceding of Hot Springs to the federal government."

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 2

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
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Mr. Dawsey .....  
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Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

*Stymie*

Re: Brekid.

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the federal government," Mrs. Wood said.

The Gazette said Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Col. John R. Fordyce and a half dozen others were in the group calling on the governor.

The bill introduced by Congressman McClellan provides for acceptance of Act 166 of the 1933 Arkansas General Assembly, which gives to the United States government "exclusive jurisdiction over all lands now or hereafter included in Hot Springs National Park."

Hot Springs authorities scoffed today at reports federal control of the city may be sought as an aftermath of the legislative investigation.

The Gazette said the legislature may be asked to extend the boundaries of Hot Springs National Park to include all of the city of Hot Springs and to turn over to the federal government jurisdiction to police the entire area.

"Under the proposed plan," reported the newspaper, "the state would relinquish to the federal government police powers in the national park area and presumably law enforcement would be turned over to the United States Department of Justice."

This development followed a visit of a delegation of Hot Springs citizens to Gov. Carl E. Bailey's office after the house of representatives discarded a Hot Springs law enforcement investigation.

"The thought is silly and foolish," Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs commented on extension of the park boundaries to include the city of more than 20,200 population. He would not discuss the matter further.

Superintendent Libbey declared last night the plan is "stunning in its magnitude," adding he had no knowledge of what the attitude of the government would be.

"I have no authority to commit the United States government on such a proposition," he said.

He reported a Hot Springs committee attempted to call upon him last night but said no contact was made.

Hot Springs National Park is the nation's oldest federal reservation. It recently was enlarged under a government act and now covers 2,009 square acres or slightly more than one and a half square miles. The park has been under federal jurisdiction for 105 years.

Gov. Bailey and members of the Hot Springs committee visiting him refused yesterday to comment on their conference.

The Gazette said Wood also conferred with Rep. W. M. Thompson who headed the Hot Springs investigation and other members of the committee. Thompson and two other members unsuccessfully asked impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Wilt on official misconduct charges.

The majority report also proposed special grand jury inquiry of local authorities at Hot Springs with reference to gambling and alleged general lax law enforcement.

"For my actions," said Thompson, "I have no apology, and shall keep this issue before the people of the state until it can be disposed of as all such conditions as exist in Hot Springs are disposed of when the people know the facts."

## PROBE OF SPA TO COST STATE SOME \$2,000

### Appropriation Bill Is Necessary to Pay Expenses

Little Rock, Feb. 24.—(P)—Chairman W. M. Thompson of the special committee which investigated law enforcement conditions at Hot Springs said today the total cost of the inquiry "will not amount to more than \$2,000."

The house contingent expense fund has been exhausted and Thompson said that passage of an appropriation bill would be necessary to make possible the payment of the committee's operating expenses.

He said the committee had tentatively approved a \$1,500 fee for John R. Thompson, assistant city attorney in Little Rock, who aided the probers, but Thompson expressed the opinion that "the house will not agree to pay him that much."

The chairman said he did not know when the appropriation bill would be introduced, as it first had to be taken up by the budget committee.

"I had planned to discuss it today with Lyle Brown, chairman of the budget committee, but he is not here," Thompson said.

Committeemen estimated that about \$300 would be needed to pay the fees and mileage of witnesses who testified before the committee. Other expenses included the employment of a stenographer for five weeks.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-24-37

## FEDERAL REGIME AT HOT SPRINGS MAY BE SOUGHT

### Delegation Talks To Governor.

A proposal to extend the boundaries of Hot Springs National Park to include the entire city of Hot Springs and to turn over to the federal government jurisdiction to police the entire area, including the city, may be submitted to the General Assembly, it was learned yesterday following a visit of a delegation of Hot Springs citizens to Governor Bailey's office.

Representative W. M. Thompson of Independence county, chairman of the House Committee that investigated charges that law enforcement in Hot Springs had broken down, said yesterday that he would "keep the issue before the people" until it is disposed of properly. His statement followed action of the House Monday in voting against impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the Garland-Montgomery circuit.

Governor Bailey declined to discuss the conference, but it was said by a member of the delegation proposed legislation relating to law enforcement in Hot Springs was discussed.

Under the proposed plan, the state would relinquish to the federal government police powers in the National Park area and presumably law enforcement would be turned over to the United States Department of Justice.

Hot Springs visitors at the governor's office included former Circuit Judge Scott Wood, outspoken critic of the present political regime in Hot Springs; Mrs. Scott Wood, clubwoman and civic leader; Col. John R. Fordyce, and a half dozen others.

Mr. Wood conferred with Representative Thompson and Representative Lee V. Nichols of Logan county, secretary of the Investigating Committee. The subject of their conference was not revealed.

Mr. Nichols said he had no comment on the outcome of the investigation, except that he believes the House acted unwisely in dismissing the matter before all members had had an opportunity to read all the testimony taken at the committee hearings.

#### Will Keep Hot Springs Conditions Before the State.

Mr. Thompson's statement follows: "The House of Representatives having acted upon the reports of the Investigating Committee appointed to investigate alleged laxity of law enforcement in the Eighteenth Judicial District and the City of Hot Springs, I accept the result as gracefully as I always accept the result of a political or legislative contest.

"My high regard for some of the immediate relatives of Judge Witt made my task a hard one from the first, but I faced my responsibility in the matter, and did what I conceived to be my duty. If any permanent results have been accomplished, I shall accept that as my reward for the strenuous efforts I gave to the discharge of my duty. The proceedings of the committee as well as the testimony before us is now the property of the House and speak for themselves.

"Those who voted to abelve the whole matter, in most instances did so because they felt that Judge Witt was the least culpable of all those whose names figured in the investigation, and because they felt that to proceed further in the matter would hinder the General Assembly in disposing of the many bills now pending.

"Since we were not able to deal directly with those most responsible for the deplorable conditions existing in Hot Springs, they were unwilling to let Judge Witt on the records of the committee, although they had little knowledge of what that record contained.

"They should not be censured and I do not censure them for their action. For my own actions I have no apology, and shall keep this issue before the people of the state until it can be disposed of as all such conditions as exist in Hot Springs are disposed of when the people know the facts."

#### Delegation Will See National Park Superintendent Today.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 23 (P).—Donald S. Libbey, national park superintendent, tonight termed the proposal that Hot Springs national park boundaries be extended so that the whole city would be under authority of the federal government as "stunning in its magnitude."

"A man of my authority would not know if the government would accept such a proposition," he said.

Superintendent Libbey said a local committee attempted to call on him tonight but a contact was not made. "I will probably see them in the morning," said the head of the nation's oldest federal reservation.

Hot Springs National Park, recently enlarged under a government act, now covers 1,009 square acres, which is slightly more than one and a half square miles. The park has been under the jurisdiction of the government for 105 years.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Cuddy	.....

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

Est  
mk Chipman

#### HOT SPRINGS AND THE STATE.

The impeachment proceedings which the House has dropped were merely incidental to broad questions in which the public outside Garland county has an interest transcending all matters of personalities and individuals. What brought legislative investigation of civic and political conditions in Hot Springs was a series of incidents last year that were bound to cause the people of Arkansas profound concern.

The Luciano case was offensive and disturbing. The brutal injuries suffered by John Dickson while a prisoner in the custody of the Hot Springs police was frightful and shocking. Above all, however, Hot Springs put itself on the spot when for the state Democratic primary in August Garland county had the second largest certified voting list among the 75 counties, though it ranks only eleventh in population.

It was charged and never refuted that this abnormally large list included names of thousands of persons who were not actual residents or citizens. In a close election the vote of Garland county might be decisive in naming a governor for Arkansas or a United States senator. If that vote were straight and fair nobody could complain. If it were the outcome of machine control or manipulation of the elective machinery, political conditions in Hot Springs might usurp the will of the people of the whole state.

Hot Springs, as a resort city, has claimed and enjoyed certain privileges and tolerances. But Hot Springs leaders, business and political, must understand that their city is a part of Arkansas. Practices prejudicial to the state as a whole can not be tolerated there any more than in other places. A grave mistake will be made if anybody in Hot Springs is moved by the outcome of the House investigation to assume that Hot Springs has been in any sense vindicated so far as conditions disturbing to public sentiment in other parts of the state or inimical to the general welfare of Arkansas and its people are concerned.

# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

COMPLETE DAILY UNIT

FEBRUARY 25, 1937.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Dawsey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Nichols	WMA
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	S
Mr. Tamm	S
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

Chipman

## FEDERAL CONTROL MOVE FOR CITY LOOMS; U.S. OFFICIAL IS SKEPTIC

Measure Expected To  
Be Introduced in  
Assembly

ORIGINATED HERE

Assistant Park Head  
Can't "Conceive"  
Acceptance

Proposed federal policing of Hot Springs had developed today in the wake of a legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness, but a high official of the National Park Service in Washington, declared the plan inconceivable.

A delegation of citizens offered a plan to enlarge the 105-year-old Hot Springs National Park to include the city and cede criminal jurisdiction to the federal government.

Statehouse sources at Little Rock disclosed a bill to carry out the proposal probably would be introduced in the current legislature many lawmakers confirmed discussions of such a measure but declined to comment publicly.

At Washington, A. E. Demaray, associate director of the National Park Service, said he could "not conceive of congress authorizing federal policing of the city."

Donald S. Libbey, Hot Springs National Park superintendent, declared the proposal "stunning in its magnitude." Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin added "the thought is silly and foolish."

Rep. John L. McClellan of the Hot Springs district reported at Washington he was preparing to introduce a bill to extend boundaries of the Hot Springs area but that the city of Hot Springs would not be included. The bill, he asserted, has nothing to do with "any political controversy" over governmental conditions here.

McClellan proposes in a bill now before the house acceptance by the federal government of a 1933 act of the Arkansas legislature ceding jurisdiction of the National Park area and its future additions to the federal government.

The National Park service maintains a small force of park rangers here for police purposes. They patrol the park and enforce national park regulations but do not make arrests outside the government reservation.

A member of a citizens committee which conferred with Libbey yesterday said a federal policing plan proposed at the conference contemplated no change in civil jurisdiction.

Libbey declined to divulge what was discussed. He said he told the group any "formal application" by the state for the federal government take over jurisdiction of the city would be transmitted to the director of the National Park service.

The committee member, refusing use of his name, said proposed federal jurisdiction would extend only to the corporate city limits and would not affect Oaklawn race track or clubs outside the city limits.

He said the federal police would enforce all municipal and state criminal statutes within the city proper but that the plan would not interfere with any other functions of the municipal government.

There would be no ceding of private or public property to the federal government, reported the informant, and property owners would continue to pay taxes to the city and state as at present.

"As things now stand," he added "the federal government invited the visitors to Hot Springs but does

little to protect him after he gets here.

"This plan, if it could be put into effect, would assure protection for residents and visitors alike and once and for all would end the turmoil and excitement that is frequently disrupts the community."

"It is not aimed at any individual or group. It is intended for the good of all. The man who originated the idea believes it would result in greatly increased property value and a rapid growth in the city's population."

The federal policing plan follows closely on the heels of the legislature's refusal to vote impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt following a five weeks' investigation into charges of law enforcement here.

Re: BRE Aid.

7-576-A

**McClellan Bill Non-Political**  
Washington, Feb. 24. (AP)—Representative John L. McClellan of Malvern, Ark., said yesterday he was preparing to introduce a bill to extend the boundaries of the Hot Springs national park area, but the city of Hot Springs would not be included.

The bill, McClellan said, had nothing whatever to do with "any political controversy" over governmental conditions at Hot Springs. "I am working out a plan in conjunction with the director of national parks," McClellan said, "to greatly enlarge the national park area, to make the Hot Springs park compare favorably with other great national parks. The bill would merely authorize extensions, and the city of Hot Springs would not be included."

In a bill now before the House, McClellan proposed acceptance by the federal government of a 1913 act of the Arkansas legislature ceding jurisdiction of the national park area and its future additions to the federal government.

**Campbell Assures Solons**  
Little Rock, Feb. 25. (AP)—Rep. James R. Campbell of Garland, told the House today that planned re-opening of some of Hot Springs well known resorts this weekend would be limited to resumption of dining and dancing features only. Referring specifically to an announcement from Hot Springs, that Club Belvedere, fashionable night club, would reopen Saturday, Campbell said that press reports of the announcement "may be a little misleading to some of you who are planning to go over to Hot Springs for entertainment."

"They have called me this morning and want it understood that the club will open Saturday night for dining and dancing only," he said.

Belvedere was among the resorts from which gambling equipment was seized and burned during the recent Hot Springs investigation.

## BELVEDERE CLUB- TO RE-OPEN HERE SATURDAY NIGHT

Re-opening Saturday night, the Club Belvedere will feature an outstanding floor show as an added attraction. The club will open for dining and dancing, W. S. Jacobs, proprietor, said last night.

One of the best known and most elaborately furnished night clubs in the South, Club Belvedere was

closed three weeks ago when officers from the State Revenue Department swooped down on Hot Springs and confiscated gaming paraphernalia at eight establishments.

The club management said there had been many inquiries from all over the state, and also from many parts of the country, asking if the popular night rendezvous would be reopened during the spring race meeting. And the answer of the management is that Club Belvedere will again play a merry and important part in the social and night life of this noted resort.

## BLUE RIBBON CLUB CLOSED BY ORDER OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

The Blue Ribbon club, 732 Central avenue, was padlocked today by Sheriff Marion Anderson, who acted under a writ issued by Circuit Judge Earl Witt.

The padlocking action followed the dismissal in municipal court of gaming charges against Louie Larson, George Pakis and Gordon Henderson, all associated with the club. Deputy Sheriff Sol Godwin arrested the trio yesterday on suspicion that they were accepting bets on horse races. The cases were dismissed in municipal court when Godwin admitted that he had seen no money change hands.

A short time later, Judge Witt, who instructed officers several weeks ago to suppress all gambling, issued the writ closing the place.

Judge Witt could not be located today and other officials were reticent to discuss the incident.

The Blue Ribbon was one of the establishments visited by state revenue agents during the wholesale gambling raids in Hot Springs, three weeks ago.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: Feb. 25, 1937.

## Hot Springs Group Wants U. S. Police

Bill Providing Federal  
Jurisdiction Expected  
in Assembly.

Hot Springs (P)—Proposed federal policing of this resort city developed today in the wake of a legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness.

A delegation of citizens offered a plan to enlarge the 105-year-old Hot Springs National Park to include the city and cede criminal jurisdiction to the federal government.

Statehouse sources at Little Rock disclosed a bill to carry out the proposal probably would be introduced in the current legislature. Many lawmakers confirmed discussions of such a measure but declined to comment publicly.

At Washington, A. E. DeMarsy, associate director of the National Park Service, said he could not "conceive of Congress authorizing" federal policing of the city.

Donald S. Libbey, Hot Springs National Park superintendent, declared the proposal "stunning in its magnitude." Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin added, "the thought is silly and foolish."

Rep. John L. McClellan of the Hot Springs district reported at Washington he was preparing to introduce a bill to extend boundaries of the Hot Springs park area, but that the city of Hot Springs would not be included. The bill, he asserted, has nothing to do with "any political controversy" over governmental conditions at the resort city.

**Bill New Before House.**  
McClellan proposes in a bill now before the House, acceptance by the federal government of a 1933 act of the Arkansas legislature ceding jurisdiction of the National Park area and its future additions to the federal government.

With a census population of over 20,000 and an additional estimated floating population of nearly 15,000 visitors, Hot Springs lies at the foot of the present federal reservation covering the mountainous area of government-controlled Hot Springs.

The National Park Service maintains a small force of Park Rangers here for police purposes. They patrol the park and enforce national park regulations but do not make arrests outside the government reservation.

A member of a citizens' committee which conferred with Libbey yesterday said a federal policing plan proposed at the conference contemplated no change in civil jurisdiction.

Libbey declined to divulge what was discussed. He said he told the group any "formal application" by the state for the federal government to take over jurisdiction of the city would be transmitted to the director of the National Park Service.

**City Limit Area Proposed.**

The committee member, refusing use of his name, said the proposed federal jurisdiction would extend only to the corporate city limits and would not affect Oaklawn race track or clubs outside the city limits.

He said the federal police would enforce all municipal and state criminal statutes within the city proper, but that the plan would not interfere with any other functions of the municipal government.

There would be no ceding of private or public property to the federal government, reported the informant, and property owners would continue to pay taxes to the city and state as at present.

"As things now stand," he added, "the federal government invites the visitor to Hot Springs but does little or nothing to protect him after he gets here."

"This plan, if it could be put into effect, would assure protection for residents and visitors alike, and once and for all would end the turmoil and excitement that so frequently disrupts the community."

**Believe Plan Beneficial.**  
"It is not aimed at any individual or group. It is intended for the good of all. The man who originated the idea believes it would result in greatly increased property value and a rapid growth in the city's population."

The federal policing plan follows closely on the heels of the legislature's refusal to vote impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt, following a five weeks' investigation into charges of law enforcement here.

Revenue agents during the inquiry raided palatial Hot Springs night clubs and stripped them of \$25,000 in gambling equipment. All were closed shortly afterward. W. S. Jacobs announced today he would reopen his swanky Belvedere club Saturday night.

Mr. Nathan ✓  
Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Baughman ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Dawsey ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Foxworth ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Harbo ✓  
Mr. Joseph ✓  
Mr. Lester ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Quinn ✓  
Mr. Schilder ✓  
Mr. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

## Resort Spots To Open for Dining Only

Rep. James R. Campbell of Garland told the House today that planned reopening of some of Hot Springs well-known resorts this week-end would be limited to resumption of dining and dancing features only.

Referring specifically to an announcement from Hot Springs that Club Belvedere, fashionable night club, would reopen Saturday, Campbell said that press reports of the announcement "may be a little misleading to some of you who are planning to go over to Hot Springs for entertainment."

"They have called me this morning and want it understood that the club will open Saturday night for dining and dancing only," he said.

Belvedere was among the resorts from which gambling equipment was seized during the recent Hot Springs investigation.

Re: Brekid.

7-576-10

Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Ark.  
Feb. 25, 1937.

# THE TEST THAT WILL COME IN GARLAND COUNTY.

Last year Arkansas as a whole had roughly one certified voter for every six residents. But Garland county had one certified voter for every three residents. Eleventh county in the state in population, it had on the eve of the August primary the second largest certified voting list in Arkansas. Where White county, standing next above it in population, had 5,116 certified voters, Garland county, with 2,200 fewer residents, had 11,871.

It was charged and never disproved that the Garland county voting list for 1936 contained names of thousands of persons who were not citizens or actual residents. The Hot Springs postoffice was unable to locate many persons, whose names were on the poll tax list, to whom letters had been mailed.

If this situation should be repeated in 1938, when another state election will be held, it will be demonstrated that the 1936 legislature failed in its duty with its Hot Springs investigation. On the other hand, if Garland county should have a certified voting list reasonably proportionate to its population, a valuable reform will have been accomplished by the publicity and the legislative investigation that Hot Springs and Garland county brought on themselves.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

AP



Arkansas Gazette  
Little Rock, Ark.  
Feb. 25, 1937.

## FEDERAL POLICE AT HOT SPRINGS TO BE SOUGHT

### Committee Would Protect Visitors.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 24 (P).—A Citizens Committee which conferred with Donald S. Libbey, Hot Springs National Park superintendent today, proposed a plan for the federal government to take over police jurisdiction of the city. Recently seven members of the Hot Springs Police Department were indicted on charges of second degree murder.

A member of the committee who would not permit use of his name said the plan contemplated no change in civil jurisdiction.

Superintendent Libbey said he told the group that any "formal application" by the state for the federal government to take over jurisdiction of Hot Springs would be transmitted to the director of the National Park Service.

It was said that the proposed federal police jurisdiction would extend only to the city limits and would not affect Oaklawn race track or "clubs" outside the city limits. Under the proposal the federal police would enforce all municipal and state criminal statutes within the city proper.

#### Protection Sought.

A member of the committee said that the proposed plan would not interfere with any other functions of the municipal government. There would be no ceding of private or public property to the federal government, he said, and property owners would continue to pay taxes to the city and state as at present.

"As things now stand, the federal government invites the visitor to Hot Springs, but does little or nothing to protect him after he gets here," said the informant.

"This plan, if it could be put into effect, would assure protection for residents and visitors alike and once and for all would end the turmoil and excitement that so frequently disrupts the community.

"It is not aimed at any individual or group. It is intended for the good of all. The man who originated the idea believes it would result in greatly increased property value and a rapid growth in the city's population."

The source declined to name others in the group which consulted with Libbey, but said there was "quite a number."

The National Park Service maintains a small force of park rangers in Hot Springs for police purposes. They patrol the park and enforce national park regulations but do not make arrests outside the government reservation.

#### Belvedere to Reopen.

W. J. Jacobs announced he would reopen his Club Belvedere Saturday night. The place was closed several weeks ago after revenue agents stripped it of gambling equipment. Seven other raided gambling houses remain closed.

### McClellan Will File Bill To Enlarge Hot Springs Park.

Washington, Feb. 24 (P).—Representative John L. McClellan of Malvern, Ark., said tonight he was preparing to introduce a bill to extend boundaries of the Hot Springs National Park area, but the city of Hot Springs would not be included. The bill, McClellan said, had nothing whatever to do with "any political controversy" over governmental conditions at Hot Springs.

"I am working out a plan, in conjunction with the director of national parks," McClellan said, "to enlarge greatly the national park area, to make the Hot Springs park compare favorably with other great national parks. The bill would merely authorize extensions, and the city of Hot Springs would not be included."

In a bill now before the House, McClellan proposed acceptance by the federal government of a 1933 act of the Arkansas legislature ceding jurisdiction of the national park area and its future additions to the federal government.

### Effort to Be Made to Secure Federal Protection for Resort.

Several members of the legislature, who said they were not ready to talk for publication, confirmed reports yesterday that a bill probably will be introduced soon to enlarge the Hot Springs National Park area and to cede criminal jurisdiction in the area to the federal government.

An act was passed in 1933 to cede exclusive jurisdiction of all lands "now or hereafter included in Hot Springs National Park" to the federal government.

The act provided that this grant of jurisdiction should not prevent the execution of any civil or criminal state process on any person within the park area. It reserved the right for the state to tax all structures and other property in private ownership within the National Park area.

Ceding criminal jurisdiction to the federal government would not interfere with the other operations and functions of the municipal government of Hot Springs, a legislator said. The Municipal Court still would have jurisdiction over civil matters, but violation of criminal laws would be handled before the United States commissioner, or in federal court, it was said.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

Re: Brekid.

7-576-18  
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**The**  
**Sentinel-Record**

BREKID

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1937.

**WASHINGTON FROWNS  
ON PROPOSAL  
TO POLICE SPA**

**PARK SERVICE  
OFFICIAL SEES  
LITTLE CHANCE**

**AUTHORIZATION BY  
CONGRESS DISCOUNT-  
ED BY DEMARAY.**

**SPLONS DISCUSS PLAN**

**Authoritative Sources Dis-  
close Bill to Cede Crim-  
inal Jurisdiction to Gov-  
ernment Probably to Be  
Introduced in Legislature.**

Washington, Feb. 24.—(AP)—A. E. Demaray, associate director of the National Park Service, said tonight he could not "conceive of congress authorizing" federal policing of the city of Hot Springs, Ark.  
Arkansas state legislators were reported considering legislation to include the city in a national park area and place criminal jurisdiction under the federal government.

**Bill Is Looming**

Little Rock, Feb. 24.—(AP)—Authoritative state house sources disclosed today that a bill to enlarge the Hot Springs National Park area to include the city of Hot Springs and cede criminal jurisdiction of the city to the federal government probably would be introduced in the current legislature.  
Confirmation that such a bill was being discussed came from a number of legislators, most of whom said they were not ready to comment publicly on it.  
Rep. Ike Murry of Dallas, who last week signed a majority report from a special investigating committee which asked impeachment proceedings against the Hot Springs circuit judge and special grand jury investigation of local officials on charges of laxity in law enforcement, said he had heard of the discussions and commented.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Dawsey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

Re: Brekid.

7-576-A

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"Such a proposition would need most careful study and consideration."

Rep. Pat Robinson of LaFayette who signed the committee's minority report asserting no evidence was found to support impeachment proceedings in the Hot Springs area, said he had no statement on the prospective bill.

The house voted to drop the investigation.

In Hot Springs today, a citizens' committee whose membership was not made public conferred with Superintendent Donald S. Libbey of the National Park. Libbey declined to discuss the conference but said in a statement:

"In the event the State of Arkansas makes formal application for the federal government to take jurisdiction over the City of Hot Springs and contiguous to Hot Springs National Park, such request will be transmitted to the director of this service for such consideration and action as they see fit."

Rep. John L. McClellan of the Hot Springs district said in Washington he had introduced a bill in congress to permit acceptance by the federal government of "all lands now or hereafter included within the Hot Springs National Park."

He said it would take care of a 1933 cession of lands to the government by the Arkansas legislature and denied his bill would create government supervision of the city, asserting he had no intention of interfering in city politics there.

Hot Springs, with a census population of more than 20,000 and an additional estimated floating population of nearly 15,000 visitors, lies at the foot of the present federal reservation, which covers the mountainous area of Hot Water springs, all government-controlled.

Gov. Carl E. Bailey declined any comment for publication on the situation.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin described proposed federal jurisdiction over the city as "silly and foolish."

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood issued a statement at Hot Springs specifically denying that a trip to Little Rock yesterday had any connection "with proposed legislation to cede to the United States criminal jurisdiction."

"My business in Little Rock was to appear before the corporation commission in a trial of a case there," said Wood.

"Any proposal to cede jurisdiction to the federal government would involve complicated questions of constitutional law, taxation, etc., and would require careful study both by state and federal authorities. I am unable to give an opinion on this question without a good

deal more thought and deliberation.

Mr. Wood's business in Little Rock was in connection with school legislation. We did not talk to any legislator concerning any legislation for ceding jurisdiction."

Chairman William M. Thompson of the house Hot Springs investigating committee, estimated today that the cost of the investigation will not amount to more than \$2,000.

He said the committee had approved tentatively a fee of \$1,500 for John R. Thompson, assistant city attorney for Little Rock, who was named committee attorney and examined witnesses. He said the house might not agree to that fee, however.

Other expenses included \$300 for per diems and mileage of witnesses and employment of a stenographer for five weeks.

Depletion of the house contingent expense fund will make a special appropriation necessary, Thompson said.

## CITIZENS GROUP BACKS MOVE FOR U. S. AUTHORITY

DELEGATION CONFERS WITH NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT.

## GAZETTE WRONG AGAIN

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood Repudiates Newspaper's Story Linking Him With Proposal to Cede Police Jurisdiction.

The Sentinel-Record learned from an authoritative source that a citizens committee which conferred Wednesday morning with Donald S. Libbey, superintendent of Hot Springs National Park, had proposed a plan for the federal government to take over police jurisdiction in the city of Hot Springs.

A member of the committee who would not permit the use of his name, said the plan contemplated no change in civil jurisdiction.

Mr. Libbey, who declined to name those who conferred with him or to divulge what was discussed, said he had told the group that any "formal application" by the state of Arkansas for the federal government to take jurisdiction over Hot Springs would be transmitted to the director of the National Park Service.

It was learned that the author of the plan is a prominent citizen and professional man.

The informant said the proposed federal police jurisdiction would extend only to the corporate city limits and would not affect Oaklawn race track or clubs outside the city limits. He said the federal police would enforce all municipal and state criminal statutes within the city proper.

The informant said the proposed plan would not interfere with any other functions of the municipal government. There would be no ceding of private or public property to the federal government, he said, and property owners would continue to pay taxes to the city and state as at present.

"As things now stand the federal government invites the visitor to Hot Springs, but does little to protect him after he gets here," said the informant. "This plan, if it could be put into effect, would assure protection for residents and visitors alike and once and for all would end the turmoil and excitement that so frequently disrupts the community. It is not aimed at any individual or group. It is intended for the good of all. The man who originated the idea believes it would result in greatly increased property values and a rapid growth in the city's population."

The source declined to name others in the group which consulted Mr. Libbey, but said there was "quite a number."

The National Park Service maintains a small force of Park Rangers in Hot Springs for police purposes. They patrol the park and enforce National Park regulations, but do not make arrests outside of the government reservation.

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood said yesterday that a news story in the Wednesday edition of the Arkansas Gazette linking him and Mr. Wood with the movement to obtain federal control over the City of Hot Springs, was "erroneous."

Judge Wood said he was not a member of the group visiting Mr. Libbey.

RE: BREAK

THE SENTINEL-RECORD, HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS

Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney, said he had been advised that Rep. John L. McClellan, of this district, had introduced a bill in congress relating to an extension of the national park area, but he was not familiar with the proposed effect of the bill.

Judge Wood, a frequent outspoken critic of the present Hot Springs political regime, issued the following formal statement:

"The statement in this morning's Gazette to the effect that Mrs. Wood and I were in Little Rock yesterday with the connection with proposed legislation to cede to the United States, criminal jurisdiction over Hot Springs, was erroneous. My business in Little Rock was to appear before the corporation commission in a trial of a case there. My visit to the governor was on personal business.

"Any proposal to cede jurisdiction to the Federal Government, would involve complicated questions of Constitutional law, taxation, etc.,

and would require careful study both by the state and federal authorities. I am unable to give an opinion on this question without a good deal more thought and deliberation.

"Mrs. Wood's business in Little Rock was in connection with school legislation. We did not talk to any legislator concerning any legislation for ceding jurisdiction.

Mrs. Wood informed a local newspaperman yesterday that she was surprised when she read in the paper that she and her husband had been to Little Rock in an effort to cede the City of Hot Springs to the federal government. She stated most emphatically that such had not been her mission there and that she did not talk to any one on that subject. She said she gave no information to any newspaper man and was at a loss to understand how such a story could have been published.

"My business in Little Rock was for an entirely different purpose, and had nothing whatever to do with the ceding of Hot Springs to the federal government," Mrs. Wood said.

The Gazette said Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Col. John R. Fordyce and a half dozen others were in the group calling on the governor. Col. Fordyce could not be contacted yesterday.

The bill introduced by Congressman McClellan provides for acceptance of Act 166 of the 1933 Arkansas General Assembly, which gives to the United States government exclusive jurisdiction over all land now or hereafter included in Hot Springs National Park."

## HOT SPRINGS AND THE LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION.

The House of Representatives of the Arkansas Legislature has fully exonerated Circuit Judge Earl Witt, and at the same time has brought to an end its investigation of conditions in Hot Springs.

The people of Hot Springs from the beginning have believed that Judge Witt was innocent of any wrongdoing; that no evidence of official corruption involving him could or would be revealed by the legislative investigation. Judge Witt's exoneration was state-wide, in that legislators from every part of Arkansas voted against impeachment proceedings and in support of his honor and integrity.

Public sentiment apparently is for a liberal policy here, in keeping with a resort city that depends upon visiting patronage for its support. Apparently high-class clubs that cater as a form of entertainment to the visitors of means draw no objection from the business interests of Hot Springs. Petty gambling, however, such as slot machines, book-making places where small bets are taken; also forms of card games that prey upon the salaried class of local residents and the visitor of small means should not and must not be tolerated.

The New Era and The Sentinel-Record have consistently defended the citizenship of Hot Springs, maintaining that it was unfair and unjust that it alone among the cities of Arkansas should be attacked. These attacks, so far as the legislature is concerned, apparently are ended. Now, it is up to all our citizenship to work together for the best interests of the city and to correct some local conditions which these newspapers have frequently attacked in the past, and which should never have been countenanced.

## CLUB BELVEDERE CAFE TO REOPEN SATURDAY NIGHT

DINING AND DANCING ONLY, THE MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCES.

The cafe of Club Belvedere will reopen Saturday night for dining and dancing only, W. S. Jacobs, the proprietor, announced last night. A big floor show will be one of the features of the opening night, Mr. Jacobs said.

One of the best known and most elaborately furnished night clubs in the South, Club Belvedere was closed three weeks ago when officers from the State Revenue Department swooped down on Hot Springs and confiscated gambling paraphernalia at eight establishments.

The club management said there

had been many inquiries from all over the state, and also from many parts of the country, asking if the popular night rendezvous would be reopened during the spring race meeting. And the answer of the management is that Club Belvedere will again play a merry and important part in the social and night life of this noted resort.

RE: BREKID

***Announcing - - -***

The Re-Opening of Beautiful

**BELVEDERE**

**SATURDAY NIGHT**

**Dining and Dancing  
Only!**

DANCE TO THE TUNES OF

**Ike Ragon and His Orchestra**

Featuring

**Fred Irwing and Porter Bailey Vocalists**

**Gala Floor Show**

Saturday Night—11 and 1 O'clock

**Chicken and Steak  
Dinners**

***No Cover or Minimum Charge At Any Time!***

**PHONE 2485 FOR RESERVATIONS**

# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

COMPLETE DAILY UP

FEBRUARY 26, 1937.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

*Ed*  
*Phil Chapman*

## RAGON ORCHESTRA FEATURES OPENING OF BELVEDERE CLUB

Ike Ragon and his orchestra will be featured Saturday night at the opening of beautiful Club Belvedere, four miles west of here on the Little Rock highway.

The club will be opened for dancing and dining only. Otho Phillips, manager, said "the club activities are being resumed for the benefit of the racing crowd."

In addition to the orchestra, other features will be Fred Irwing and Porter Bailey, vocalists, and a new floor show.

*Re: Brekid.*

*7-576-H*

*fc*

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
*Chapman*

Mr. Nichols  
 Mr. Quinn  
 Mr. Baker  
 Mr. Tamm  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Eddy  
 Mr. Chipman

Re: Brekid.

7-576-1A

# The Sentinel-Record

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS,

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1937.

## Belvedere Club Plans Elaborate Opening Program

Ike Ragon and his orchestra will be featured Saturday night at the opening of beautiful Club Belvedere, four miles west of here on the Little Rock highway.

The club will be opened for dancing and dining only. Otho Phillips, manager, said "the club activities are being resumed for the benefit of the racing crowd."

In addition to the orchestra, other features will be Fred Irwing and Porter Bailey, vocalists, and a new floor show.

## Blue Ribbon Club Closed by Sheriff Gaming Is Charged

The Blue Ribbon club here was padlocked yesterday on order of Circuit Judge Earl Witt who said Sheriff Marion Anderson had furnished him with information that bets on races were being accepted.

The padlocking followed the dismissal in municipal court of gaming charges against Louie Larson, Geo. Pakis and Gordon Henderson, all of whom admitted being associated with the club. Deputy Sheriff

Sol Godwin arrested the trio Wednesday and Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood dismissed the cases when the officer admitted he saw no money change hands in the club.

State Revenue agents visited the

Blue Ribbon club during the wholesale gambling raids here, three weeks ago.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Re: Brekid.*

7-576-A



ST. PAUL DISPATCH

FEB 27 1937

## TOM BROWN'S DISMISSAL IS UPHELD BY JUDGE O'BRIEN IN POLICE CASE PLEA

Former Chief Given 30 Days to Carry Kidnap Plot Defense to State Supreme Court If He Wishes.

### KINKEAD PLANS NO CRIMINAL CHARGES

A decision sustaining the dismissal of Thomas A. Brown, former police chief, from the St. Paul force was handed down today by Judge R. D. O'Brien in Ramsey County District court.



Brown was fired on grounds that he was a conspirator in the \$100,000 kidnaping of William Hamm, St. Paul brewer, and the \$200,000 abduction of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

M. F. Kinkead, Ramsey county attorney, asserted that no criminal action is contemplated against Brown. He said it would be difficult to prove the charges in a trial, adding that many of the grounds probably are now outlawed by the statute of limitations.

Judge O'Brien's decision was given in Brown's appeal to his court from the verdict of the civil service referees who heard arguments in the dismissal case. The judge granted a 30-day stay to permit the erstwhile detective and chief to carry his appeal to the Minnesota Supreme court, if he so desires.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Dawsey	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Joseph	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

*Chipman*

### Ex-Police Chief's Ouster Confirmed

ST. PAUL, Feb. 27.—(AP)—District Judge R. D. O'Brien upheld today dismissal from the police department of former Chief Thomas A. Brown for supplying information to the kidnapers of William Hamm and Edward G. Bremer. Brown was dismissed after a civil service hearing several months ago. He had appealed to the District Court.

7-576-A

CHICAGO HERALD & EXAMINER

*Am*

# PARKING METER PLAN FAVORED BY MERCHANTS

Only Slight Opposi-  
tion Expressed  
To Move

General favoritism towards the installation of parking meters along central avenue was expressed today by business and professional men in Hot Springs, although some opposition to the plan was voiced. Bath house managers were generally opposed to the meters.

An ordinance contracting for the installation of the meters was drawn up yesterday by City Attorney A. T. Davies and a city council committee and Mayor McLaughlin has announced that an open session of the council will be called within a short time during which merchants of the city will be heard regarding the plan. To obtain a for-sight of what the merchants' opin-ion might be, the New Era and Sentinel-Record conducted a tele-phone poll of a number of leading business and professional men in the city.

Few expressed opposition to the installation of the parking meters from Como Square to the Medical Arts building on Central avenue. Two hundred nickel meters would be installed with a parking time limit of 30 to 45 minutes, the limit to be set by the council. The gen-eral cross-section of the opinion was that the present traffic situa-tion in Hot Springs is very bad and that something must be done.

Officials have expressed the hope that the meters, after six months trial, would solve the traffic prob-lem and at the same time bring the city some much-needed reve-nue.

Opinions of some of the business and professional men of the city follow:

W. E. Chester, hotel man: "I don't know, but I think the plan ought to be tried out. That's the only way to find out if it is work-able."

Martin Eisele, drug store pro-rietor: "I'm in favor of it. Some solution must come right away. The traffic congestion is terrible now and is getting worse. The home people and taxicabs are largely re-sponsible. Something must be done."

I. Moscovitz, merchant: "I think it is a very good thing for the busi-ness men."

Dr. O. J. MacLaughlin, phys-ician: "Well worth a trial."

Marshal Purvis, attorney: "An acute problem exists, and perhaps this is the solution. Time will tell."

Dr. James A. Chesnut, physician: "I haven't put thought to the ques-tion, but I'm really not in favor of it."

Sidney Taylor, attorney: "The merchants park their cars out there all day. This should not be done. I think the meters are a good idea."

Miles Kinkad, real estate man: "Offhand, I've always thought it was a good idea."

G. E. Hogaboom, bath house man-ager: "I'm not in favor of it. In another town it would be different, but we depend on the visitors here. If they went to take a thermal bath their parking time would be up be-fore they got out of the bath house. I'm in favor of making the business men and their employes keep their cars off of Central avenue. In fact, I believe we should put a time limit on the local cars and let the visitors stay longer."

Attempts to contact other bath-house men failed, but it was under-stood most of them held the same viewpoint as Mr. Hogaboom.

Two prominent local women con-tacted spoke favorably of the plan.

Miss Regina Kaplan, hospital superintendent: "It will be a good idea. With the parking meters in-stalled maybe we can get a park-ing place without circling the block five or six times. It's the cars that stay down there all day that take up most of the parking space, any-way."

Miss Eleanor Harris, business wo-man: "It's a very good idea. We certainly need some way for our customers to park."

"Our parking problem needs a great deal of thought," Postmaster S. A. Kemp, who is also president of the Chamber of Commerce, said.

The C. of C. executive suggested officials ask business men to leave their cars at home. "That would be one way to aid the situation im-measurably."

"Parking meters are too grave a problem not to be considered from the angles of all concerned. I have the utmost confidence in those men who have this question to deal with. I believe they will not act too hastily."

"Visitors driving into the city are our guests and we must be careful what we charge them for."

Re- Brekid  
Hot Springs  
New Era  
March 5, 1937

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Jernick .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schuch .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

b. Chapman

AD

7-576-A

# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 1, 1937.

## CLEAR SKIES GREET CROWD AT OAKLAWN OPENING

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Baughman .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Dawsey .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schilder .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....

to

7-576-A

6 chambers

## FIVE HORSES SCRATCHED IN FEATURED HANDICAP; BILL DONOGHUE FAVORED

With a bright southern sun beaming down to provide a perfect setting for the inaugural of the 30-day race meet at Oaklawn Park this afternoon, track officials were predicting a near record first-day crowd this afternoon. A proclamation by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin declaring a half-holiday added to the crowd which began the trek towards Oaklawn as early as 1 o'clock.

Interest centered about the featured \$1,000 Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin handicap, the fifth race in which the speedy Bill Donoghue ruled a favorite. Five horses, three of them entries, were scratched this morning, leaving a field of 14 to go to the post.

Those scratched were Wise Anne, one of the W. C. Weant entry; Patchpocket, one of the D. L. Ogle entry; Cristate, of the Mrs. J. Chesney entry, and Raymond and Jinnec.

As the first race was called to the post at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon the track surface had dried out to such an extent that the chart makers were calling it good, and with increasing sunshine and further harrowing the course should be fast by the later races.

Seven races were slated for the inaugural program, headed by the McLaughlin handicap to be run over the short three-quarters distance which is called the Oaklawn Course. The fifth race was to be called at 4:30 o'clock.

Most entries have raced at other southern points, Miami, Fla., and New Orleans providing several names for the big race today.

G. H. Marlman had been given the post of honor with his good Miami sprinter Bill Donoghue getting the top weight position. With 114 lbs., this recent winner would have to be at his best to beat such good ones as Ogle's Infidox, a winner at New Orleans the past month. At the turnstiles as the first race went to the post it was said that approximately 6,000 had passed through to the grandstand. The stand as in previous years, is one of the few in the country to be steam-heated, and this factor is likely to be welcomed by the race-goers during the 30 days of racing.

Among the riders who form the colony at Oaklawn Park are old-timers like T. P. Martin, J. Frederick and G. Watson while the younger boys include the recent New Orleans sensation R. Eccard who does the booting for his employer D. Ogle. Trainer R. T. Watts has another youngster whom he expects to be a comer in the pigskin ranks. This lad, P. Ryan, has already ridden his share of winners, and has been riding since last fall. The daily double, was, as usual sold on the first and third races. Street car service right into the enclosure at the Central avenue plant was pressed to capacity right up to the running of the second race, while parking space for four blocks near the Oaklawn track had its share of business.

At post time this afternoon, license tags from thirteen states were counted at or near the track, and all in all, it began to appear that Hot Springs was about to enter a bright period for the tourist visitor.

*Re-Breaked*

# **"PUG" DICKSON ON TRIAL FOR SALINE CRIME**

**To Be Returned Here  
Later For  
Trial**

Alfred "Pug" Dickson, arrested by local and state officers in connection with the activities of an alleged auto theft and safe-cracking ring operating in this vicinity, was on trial in Benton today for the theft of a small truck from a Saline county resident last October. Chief Deputy Sheriff Roy E. Erney said Dickson was to be returned here later to go on trial in the Garland circuit court in connection with the robbery of the Blue Ribbon club safe more than a year ago and a more recent attack upon Chief of Police Joe Wakelin.

Chief Deputy Erney said an agreement had been reached between Circuit Judge Earl Witt and Saline county officials whereby Dickson could be returned here after his trial in Benton.

A nephew and companion of John Dickson, whose ill-fated death while a city jail prisoner resulted in the indictment of seven local officers, "Pug" is charged with stealing a truck from Joseph W. Cox whose home is in the Walnut Bottoms section of Saline county.

Only three of the state's witnesses were heard yesterday. Ben Cox, son of the late J. W. Cox, told of the truck's disappearance and said that footprints of three persons were found in the vicinity of the place where the truck had been parked.

Sheriff V. A. Rucker, of Saline county, recovered the vehicle in Hempstead county and returned it to Cox December 16. In the meantime it had been driven about 1,200 miles.

Leo Bates, who lives 20 miles north of Russellville, testified that about two weeks before the opening of the deer season in November, 1936 John Dickson and his nephew, "Pug," came to his house at 2 a. m. and asked to spend the night. They drove a truck described as similar to the Cox vehicle to a place near the house and unloaded bedding which they spread on the floor for a bed. The next morning both Dicksons took Bates in the truck to get squirrel dog that Bates had bought. Bates said he had never seen "Pug" Dickson before, but his identification in the courtroom was positive.

Testimony along a line of inquiry by prosecuting Attorney William H. Glover of Malvern that tended to bring out that the Dicksons had shotguns, rifles and pistols, and that they wore guns as they slept without undressing, was overruled by the court.

A. J. Ross, Bates' father-in-law, told of having seen the Dicksons at the Bates home.

Dickson was brought to court from the Garland county jail at Hot Springs by Sheriff Rucker.

## **Case Goes to Jury.**

Benton, Mar. 4.—(AP)—Testimony and arguments were completed here today in the trial of Alfred Dickson, charged with theft of a truck, shortly after the case was called before a jury in circuit court.

The defendant is a nephew of John Dickson Hot Springs city jail prisoners who died in Hot Springs Christmas Eve precipitating investigation which resulted in dismissal of several members of the police force and indictment of seven officers who were charged with fatally beating him.

Alfred Dickson denied the charge tried here today that he stole a truck from Joseph W. Cox of the Walnut Bottom community last October. Cox has since died and his son Ben Cox was the principal state witness. The truck was recovered in Hempstead county.

Dickson who has been in custody at Hot Springs presented witnesses to establish he was in Little Rock when the truck was stolen.

RE: BREKID

Hot Springs Ark  
"New Era"

March 4-1937

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

7-576-A

## DICKSON GIVEN YEAR IN SALINE CAR THEFT CASE

PROSECUTOR TO DECIDE  
WHETHER TO BE RE-  
TURNED HERE

Benton, March 4.—(AP)—A circuit court jury of nine men and three women convicted Alfred "Pug" Dickson, 28, of grand larceny today and fixed his punishment at a year in prison.

Judge H. B. Means overruled a motion for new trial. Prosecutor William H. Glover said he would decide tomorrow whether Dickson would be returned to Hot Springs, where he faces indictment, or be sent directly to prison.

The grand larceny charge involved the theft of a truck last October from Joe W. Cox of Walnut Bottom. Dickson took the stand to deny the charge and presented witnesses to establish he was in Little Rock when the truck was stolen. He has been in custody at Hot Springs.

Cox has since died, and his son, Ben Cox, was the principal state witness. The truck was recovered in Hempstead county.

Dickson is a nephew of John Dickson, Hot Springs city jail prisoner, who died Christmas eve. Seven officers were charged with fatally beating him.

The death was mentioned repeatedly during Alfred Dickson's trial. Floyd Huff, Hot Springs, defending him, charged John Dickson "was killed because he had committed the unpardonable crime of robbing a Hot Springs gambling joint." Glover rejoined that "third degree" methods never had been and never would be tolerated in the Seventh judicial circuit.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt said last night the procedure likely to be taken in the case of Alfred "Pug" Dickson, convicted of grand larceny by a circuit court jury at Benton yesterday, would be for Dickson to be sent directly to prison for his one-year term and at its expiration be returned to Hot Springs, where he is under indictment.

Judge Witt said Dickson was turned over to Saline county authorities, as the truck theft case was docketed there and circuit court ready to place him on trial. Dickson had been in the custody of Garland officers.

Dickson is under indictment here in connection with the activities of an alleged auto theft ring and the safe robbery of the Blue Ribbon club more than a year ago.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

THE SENTINEL-RECORD.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1937

7-576-A



# **'PUG' DICKSON TO BE RETURNED HERE AFTER 'PEN' TERM**

The sheriff's office today revealed that Alfred "Pug" Dickson, convicted of grand larceny by a circuit court jury at Benton yesterday, would be allowed to serve his one-year term before being brought back to Hot Springs to be tried in connection with the Blue Ribbon club robbery a year ago.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night admitted that Dickson would probably be sent directly to prison and would be brought here at the expiration of his term.

Dickson was convicted at Benton for the theft of a truck last October from Joe W. Cox of Walnut Bottom. A jury of nine men and three women adjudged his guilt and fixed his punishment at a year in prison.

Dickson took the stand to deny the charge and presented witnesses to establish he was in Little Rock when the truck was stolen.

Cox has since died and his son, Ben Cox, was the principal state witness. The truck was recovered in Hempstead county.

Dickson is a nephew of John Dickson, Hot Springs city jail prisoner, who died Christmas eve. Seven officers were charged with beating him.

Mr. Nathan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Baughman .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Dawsey .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schilder .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

*W. H. Chapman*

*Re: BREKID*

*Hot Springs Ark  
"New Era"*

*March 5, 1937.*

*7-576-A*

Saturday Morning, March 6, 1937

## DICKSON STARTS SERVING YEAR ON LARCENY CHARGE

NO EFFORT TO BE MADE  
TO RETURN HIM TO  
HOT SPRINGS.

Malvern, March 5.—(P)—Prosecutor William H. Glover said today he had ordered Alfred (Pug) Dickson, 28, removed to the Cummins prison farm to begin serving a one-year term for grand larceny.

A circuit court jury convicted him of the charge yesterday at Benton. He also faces indictment at Hot Springs in connection with a robbery of the Ohio Club there.

Glover said Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Curtis Ridgeway at Hot Springs advised him that authorities there would make no move "at present" to return Dickson to Hot Springs.

The grand larceny charge on which Dickson was convicted involved the theft of a truck from Joe W. Cox of Walnut Bottom last October.

Dickson is a nephew of John Dickson, Hot Springs city jail prisoner who died Christmas Eve. Seven officers are charged with fatally beating him.

Prosecutor Glover volunteered that "This talk that Dickson is afraid to go back to Hot Springs is all bunk."

"I asked him during the trial yesterday if he had been mistreated while he was in the Hot Springs jail," Glover declared, "and he testified he had not been touched."

### To Be Returned Later

Garland officers said they will be waiting at the prison gates when they open a year hence for Alfred "Pug" Dickson, 33, under indictment here in connection with an alleged car theft and safe cracking ring.

The prosecuting attorney's office announced that would be the procedure after having been notified Dickson was given a one-year sentence at Benton for the theft of a truck.

Dickson is under one indictment here for grand larceny in the \$1,800 Blue Ribbon club safe robbery two years ago. His uncle, John Dickson, indicted in the same robbery, died Christmas eve while in custody here and seven city policemen were indicted on second-degree murder charges in the death.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Re. Brekid.

7-576-A

ST. PAUL DAILY NEWS  
MAR 8 1937

## Harry Sawyer And McDonald Lose Appeals

Harry Sawyer will remain in the federal prison at Alcatraz and Cassius McDonald will serve his 15 years at Leavenworth for participation in the Bremer kidnaping.

This was assured today as the circuit court of appeals affirmed the decision of the district court made by Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye.

### Sullivan Wins Argument.

Argued Dec. 7, 1936, by U. S. Atty. George F. Sullivan before the circuit court sitting in St. Louis, the decision was announced here today.

McDonald based his appeal on the claim that he was not a part of the original conspiracy and that he had not become a member of the kidnap gang until after the conspiracy had been hatched.

In arguing the case Mr. Sullivan brought evidence to show that Mr. McDonald had cashed \$97,000 of Bremer money in Cuba and that the conspiracy did not end until the money had been disposed of.

The federal court upheld the reasoning of Mr. Sullivan who has successfully prosecuted both the Hamm and the Bremer kidnap gangs.

### Evidence Found Sufficient.

The higher court held that in Sawyer's case there was sufficient evidence to convict him as the "finger man" in the case and that his life sentence at Alcatraz was warranted.

Mr. Sullivan today termed the decision of the circuit court as the final chapter in the Bremer case.

Because of his work in the two sensational kidnap cases and the fact that his arguments have been upheld by both district and circuit courts, Mr. Sullivan is being prominently mentioned as a candidate for the district court bench vacated by the

Mr. Nathan	_____
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Baughman	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Dawsey	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Foxworth	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Joseph	_____
Mr. Lester	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Schilder	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

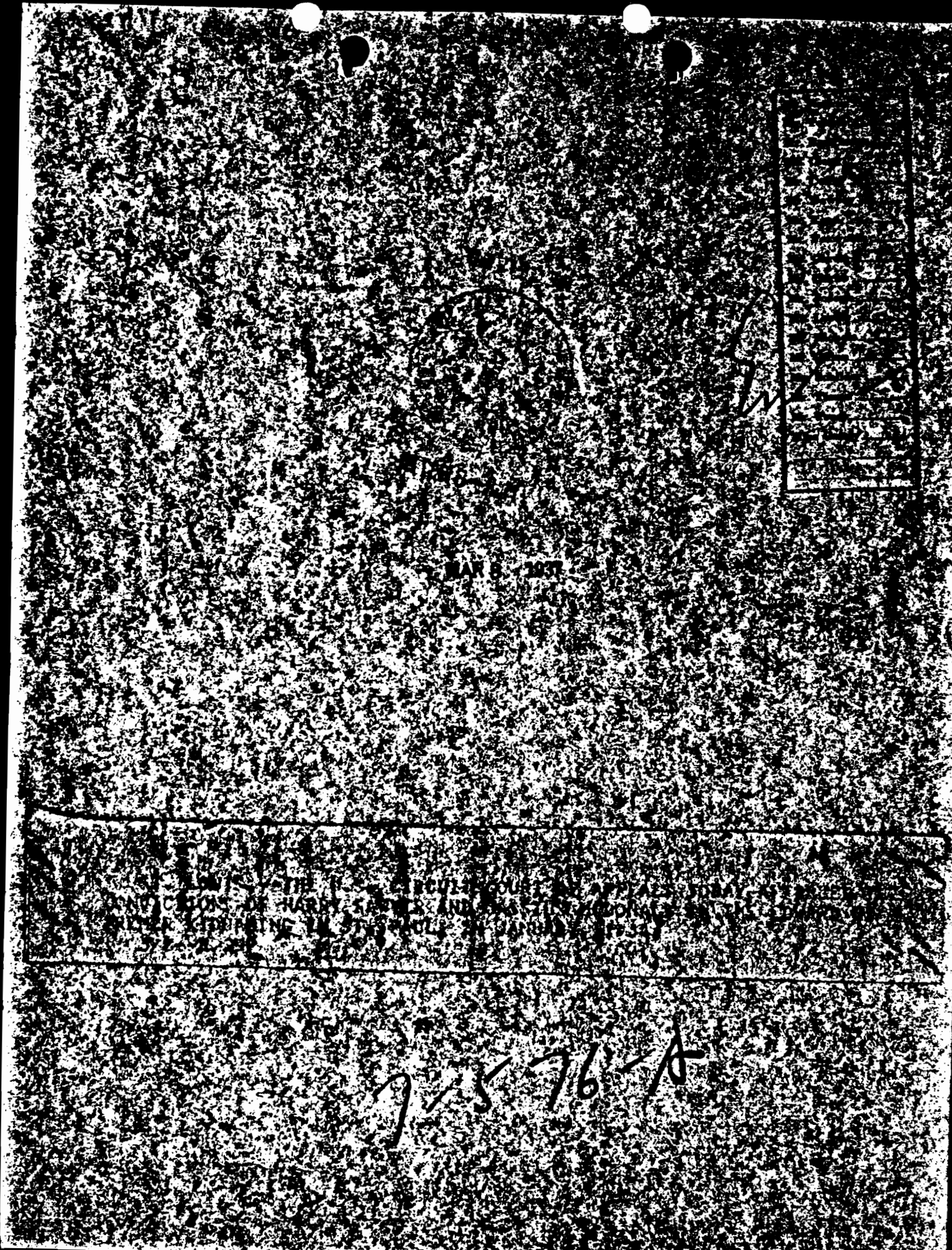
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 8 1937
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTED TO



RECEIVED  
JUN 10 1957  
FBI - NEW YORK

MAY 10 1957

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE  
AND CLERK OF HARRY CAMPBELL AND MARTIN CAMPBELL  
WILLIAM CAMPBELL IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

77876-A



Re. Brekis

## M'LAUGHLIN TO BE OPPOSED BY ELMER TACKETT

### Mayor Draws Only Opposition For City Election

Seeking his sixth consecutive term, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin will be the only candidate to have opposition for the general city election April 6. The ticket closed Saturday night.

Elmer Tackett, lawyer, former school teacher and state representative will seek the office of mayor against McLaughlin. Tackett, who was a member of the Arkansas house in 1931 and 1933 sought unsuccessfully the office of prosecuting attorney in the last general election.

Municipal Judge Verne S. Ledgerwood, City Treasurer Milton P. Moore and eight aldermen are those unopposed in the election. Judge Ledgerwood is serving his twenty-fourth year on the bench. He has been municipal judge since the office was created by an act of the general assembly in 1917 and was for six years prior to that time, city police judge.

Mayor McLaughlin said he did not wish to make a statement at this time.

Tackett issued the following statement:

"I have been drafted by a cross-section of the business, professional and laboring men of Hot Springs to make the race for mayor.

"From all indications, the mass of people apparently feel that the future welfare of Hot Springs depends upon a change in the mayor's office, at this time.

"I will make a definite statement as to my platform later."

Aldermen who qualified for the election are:

First ward—Sam C. Butler.  
Second ward—Frank Grant.  
Third ward—Robert Cartney.  
Fourth ward—John C. Wolfe.  
Fifth ward—Eddie Coburn.  
Sixth ward—J. M. Goslee.  
Seventh ward—M. Edwards.  
Eighth ward—James Hickman.

All of the aldermen are incumbents with the exception of J. M. Goslee, former alderman, who will succeed his brother, Charles M. Goslee, in the sixth ward.

Mayor McLaughlin and Judge Ledgerwood have held their respective posts longer than any other men who held similar offices in the history of Hot Springs.

McLaughlin served in the state legislature and was city attorney here before he was elected as mayor in 1926. He is a graduate in law from the University of Arkansas.

Judge Ledgerwood has been on the bench almost constantly since his graduation from the University of Arkansas.

## HOUSE VOTES BAN ON RADIO WHISKEY ADS

### Measure Would Also Prevent Window Displays

### FIGHT NOT OVER

### Unconstitutional, Say Foes Seeking Re- consideration

Little Rock, Mar. 8.—(AP)—The house passed today 67 to 13 the Nichols bill to prohibit liquor advertising by radio, billboards or window display and to relax provisions for calling local option elections.

The clincher motion was adopted but Ward of Lee who voted "aye" on the bill gave notice he would ask for reconsideration of the vote tomorrow. He said he questioned the constitutionality of the bill on the contention that it was "class legislation."

This motion prevented passage of the measure to the senate today.

Nichols, a Booneville Baptist minister, and Sikes of Little Rock spoke for the bill. None spoke against it during debate.

Declaring the bill was "a compromise on the liquor question," Sikes said:

"The philosophy of my bill is to discourage the consumption of liquor. I do not think these window displays should be permitted. They lure people into stores who are not addicts, strong drink and eventually drunkards out of them."

Sikes described the measure as "one of the most constructive of legislation from a temperance standpoint of any that has been before this or other legislatures."

Among the provisions of the bill is a prohibition against sale of liquor except in first and second class cities and incorporated towns; and a provision that beer of more than four per cent alcohol by weight might be sold only in liquor stores.

The house last month passed a bill by Vesey of Hempstead to return Arkansas to outright prohibition but its opponents tied the measure up in a parliamentary tangle over failure of its emergency clause and have since prevented its transmission to the senate.

Immediately after the vote was cast, Vesey moved to table the Deb. 17th motion by Nyberg of Phillips to amend the emergency clause of the Vesey bone dry bill. Vesey's motion was defeated 36 to 40.

The Nyberg motion has prevented the bill from going to the senate.

Campbell of Garland moved to make the Vesey bill's emergency clause a special order of business for Thursday morning at 10 a.m., two hours before the session is scheduled to end.

Thompson of Independence objected, declaring "Mr. Campbell knows this would take up time from other matters because it would be impossible to get any action on the Vesey bill in two hours."

Campbell withdrew his motion.

The house refused to concur in a senate amendment to the county welfare board bill which representatives charged might result in "stacking" of the boards.

The bill passed by the house provided that each of the five county constitutional officers should send in three names and the state welfare commission should select one county board member from each list.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Dawsey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

Hot Springs Ark. - "New Era" - March 8-1937

The senate amended the measure to permit the state commission to select two names from any one list. Sikes of Little River charges the amendment might give control of the boards to two county officials and discriminate against the other three.

"When the five officials sent in their lists this state commission could select two of the county judge's nominees and two of the sheriff's," he said. "This would give them four of the five members. The assessor, county clerk and circuit clerk's representation as a result would consist only of the fifth board member."

The house voted down a motion by Cunningham of Hot Spring seeking to have a bill by Toney of Jefferson to appropriate \$2,000 to buy stamps for members made a special order of business for this afternoon.

When Ward of Lee shouted "we don't need any more stamps, the session is about over," Cunningham replied: "The people of Hot Spring county are willing for me to have \$50 worth of stamps if I need them."

In the first week of the session, each representative was given \$7.50 worth of stamps from the house contingent fund.

The house shortly before noon took up as a special order the Nichols bill to prohibit liquor advertising by radio, billboard or window display, to require that beer of more than 4 per cent be sold in liquor stores only, and to relax requirements for calling local option elections.

The Thorn act provided that such elections could be called only upon petition of 35 per cent of the qualified electors in any political subdivision. The Nichols bill would lower this to 15 per cent.

## SENATE PASSES BILL TO TAX RACE BET BREAKAGE

### Appropriation For Bond Funding Also Approved

Little Rock, Mar. 8.—(AP)—The senate passed 25 to 7, today a bill by Thompson of Eureka Springs which would tax the total breakage on bets at horse and dog races for the maintenance of the proposed state publicity commission.

Under the present racing laws, breakage—the difference between the amounts paid winning bettors and the actual fractional of their winnings—is kept by track operators.

The Thompson bill would take the entire breakage under a provision which says: "The surplus break in each and every pari-mutual contract or bet placed and in which the pari-mutual operators are required to pay the person placing the bet the portion of the pay-off known as surplus break is hereby declared to be an additional tax levied for the operation of said racing."

The bill added that the general assembly "ascertained and determined that under the present method of paying off debts by pari-mutual operators, the operators get the surplus breaks on all pay-offs and that the said sum in each of said payoffs rightfully belongs to the state as a part of the tax that should be paid by the operators."

Thompson estimated the proposed tax would yield about \$28,000 a year.

The publicity commission bill has passed the senate and is awaiting house action.

The emergency clause on the tax bill failed by two votes. Several senators announced they did not wish to disturb the present setup during the races, now under way at Hot Springs.

The house made a special order for 7 o'clock tonight a bill by Wright of Clark to increase the tax for the operation of race tracks. It would provide that track operators must pay a \$1,000 daily license fee instead of \$500, as at present. It would also increase the state tax on pari-mutual betting from five to eight per cent.

A bill by Wilkes of Helena making the Crowley Ridge Park road in West Helena a part of the state highway system, passed 22-0.

The senate passed and sent to the house for consideration of amendments the Cowart bill, proposing to set up county boards to supervise distribution of free texts.

The senate passed 26 to 8 the \$150,000,000 appropriation bill to carry out the administration's proposed refinancing of the state's out-

standing highway, toll bridge, and road improvement district refunding bonds.

Lieut.-Gov. Bob Bailey ruled that only 18 votes were necessary for passage because the bill provided an appropriation to meet a "just debt of the state."

Senators voting against the bill were: Dillon, Hardy, Holland, Livingston, Milum, Norrell, Schrimshire and Willson.

Milum and Norrell waged an unsuccessful fight to have the bill placed back on second reading for amendments. They raised three objections, chief of which was that, as they interpreted the measure, it would abolish the present bond refunding board.

Barney, Thompson and other administration leaders denied this.

Ellis of Bentonville charged the attempt to amend the bill was "an outright attempt to kill the bill."

Barney, describing the opposition as a "tempest in a teapot" said it was due either to a misunderstanding of the bill's purposes or a misapprehension of its affect and purport.

"Mr. Earl Page (state treasurer) is apprehensive that this bill will deprive him of certain patronage down in his office," Barney said.

"I want to say to Mr. Page, who is present in this chamber, that is not a fact. This bill will not deprive him of anything. This bill will not affect Mr. Page, nor will it affect the refunding board for this agency must continue to function and will continue to function if the refinancing is consummated."

Milum charged that a section of the bill providing for transfer of a cash balance in the present bond refunding account to the proposed refinancing account would "automatically end the present refunding board's operations by taking all its expense money."

He said the cash balance in the refunding board fund was \$382,985.25, which would go to the refinancing account under the bill.

Barney insisted the bill would not have this effect because it would only take from the bond refunding fund that portion allocated to payment of contractors' claims. He said the time limit fixed by the refunding law for presentation of such claims had expired and the money was not now needed for that purpose.

Later, he said that due to strong opposition from bondholders he believed the governor would veto the Harris-Boyers bridge bill, the Fagin-Dillon bill to relieve unredeemed road improvement districts, the Kimzey-Smith bill to reduce auto license fees, and the Milum bill to reduce the gasoline tax.

"If this refinancing program is carried through," Barney said, "we can convince the bondholders that they will be protected, come back here in special session and take care of these propositions."

Norrell raised the issue that the refinancing bill would be held unconstitutional if challenged in court because it did not itemize the salaries and expenses to be paid in carrying out the program.

"We don't know how much the expense of exchanging bonds is going to be," replied Thompson. "I think I can bring assurance from the governor and the board of finance that the comptroller will be the disbursing agent and will not be paid a separate salary for that work. Let us not presume that those



EXCERPT FROM THE DETROIT NEWS MARCH 8, 1937

Re: BREKID

### Cassius McDonald Sentence Upheld

ST. LOUIS, March 8.—(AP)—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals today affirmed the 15-year sentence given Cassius McDonald, of Detroit, after his conviction of conspiracy in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in January, 1934.

Sentence was passed Jan. 24, 1936.

The court, in its opinion, said the evidence was sufficient to show about \$80,000 exchanged by McDonald through two Havana, Cuba, banks, was known by him to be "hot money," representing part of the \$200,000 ransom paid for Bremer's release. The banker was held captive 23 days.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
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Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
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Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Gandy	.....

*Handwritten signature: J. Edgar Hoover*

## Sentence Upheld in Bremer Case

ST. LOUIS, March 8. (AP)—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals today affirmed the fifteen-year sentence given Cassius McDonald of Detroit after his conviction of conspiracy in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, in January, 1934.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES  
MAR 9 - 1937

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HOT SPRINGS, (ARK.) NEW ERA

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 12, 1937.

## U.S. Police for Spa— Seems a Dead Issue

Adjournment of the Arkansas legislature yesterday virtually ended talk of a plan for proposed federal policing of Hot Springs. Legislation under consideration to carry out the proposal of the citizens committee to cede criminal jurisdiction to the federal government died with the adjournment, ending lawmaking activities for another two years.

A House investigating committee returned conflicting reports on its inquiry into law enforcement conditions here. A majority urged impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt. The minority found no basis for such action. The House voted to drop the matter, clearing Witt on charges of misconduct contained in the majority report.

The Senate refused to pass a bill appropriating \$1,829 to pay the cost of the inquiry, opponents asserting the investigation was "a house af-

fair upon which the Senate was not consulted." It referred the matter to the claims committee for further consideration.

A Hot Springs committee appearing before the investigators said people of the resort city favored a liberal policy to compete with other health and pleasure resorts "and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy."

Revenue agents during the inquiry raided palatial Hot Springs night clubs and stripped them of \$25,000 in gambling equipment which was burned. The clubs closed shortly afterwards and reopened only recently, hanging out a sign "for dining and dancing only."

The winter season ends here around April 15. Officials report an increase in visitors is evidenced by attendance at Oaklawn race track where the week-day record for pari-mutuels was broken twice the past week.

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By PAT  
(United Press Sta

Little Rock, Ark.

spite the closing legislative session this week appears in the selection of

Judge to fill the place of the late Judge John Ellis Martineau, than they were in the new laws enacted by the legislators.

Attorneys from all sections of the state campaigning for one of the 12 men who have been mentioned for the place flocked to the capital to pull wires for their favorite.

In the meantime the leading contenders for the appointment A. Hamilton Moses and Governor Carl E. Bailey maintained their silence.

Moses a former law partner of Senator Joe T. Robinson was pushed into the picture by the action of lawyers all over the state who endorsed him in hastily called county and district bar association meetings.

Bailey was endorsed in a resolution passed by both the house and the senate. The only dissenting vote cast against the resolution was the one by Representative Kenneth Coffelt of Saline county. Coffelt refused to enlarge on his "no" vote against the resolution.

Quick trading was credited late Wednesday with saving Governor Carl E. Bailey's publicity commission bill which was voted down in the house during the morning hours.

The bill offered under the guise that it was necessary to publicize the state in the coming New York City's world fair when in reality according to observers it creates a publicity office to aid the governor in future political campaigns.

Representative Sam Cunningham of Hot Spring made his final speech of the legislative session late Wednesday afternoon from atop his desk when acting speaker J. Wesley Sampier, Benton county refused to recognize him. Cunningham from his desk criticized the acting speaker as well as other members of the house who in the past while in the chair refused to recognize him. His speech was cut short by a sergeant at arms who escorted Cunningham to a cloak room.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Dattoy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Sch  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

RE: Brekid

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## ARKANSAS MUST SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS

With much interest people of this state and adjoining states have watched the proceedings of the probe of Hot Springs, the resultant "whitewashing," and now the new proposal for federal control over the resort city, Hot Springs, is no worse or no better than other resort cities; but that to single it out for a special probe and make it the victim of an attempt to punish political enemies through the legislature was all wrong. Perhaps some Hot Springs municipal leader and politicians "bit off a bigger chunk" than they could digest in trying to dictate state affairs, says the Camden News. Those men erred there and the News believes they realize it now. They have been made to suffer with some mighty "nasty" publicity and some airing of dirty linen at state expense. Total cost of that probe will run into several thousand dollars. The result has been good in that sense but no other good was accomplished. Now the probe is over and pushed into the archives of the state house to gather dust over the years. But a ludicrous proposal has come forward, that of federalizing Hot Springs.

Let it be understood that the Camden News is opposed to such a move for various reasons, one of which will suffice right now as we want to publish the viewpoint of two other editors. Arkansans have to live down much bad publicity from year to year. It is distasteful to all of us but lots of it is justified as you know. Now then, if we advocate another such step just think what the elite east and the sarcastic midwest along with the climate boosting west have to say about our state. We will be admitting to the world that we cannot govern our own affairs and must have a G-man rule in one of our leading cities.

"New Era"  
Hot Springs Ark  
March 11-1937

## G-MEN FOR HOT SPRINGS

Reports yesterday from Little Rock said that the Arkansas legislature may be asked to extend the boundaries of Hot Springs national park to include all of the city of Hot Springs and give the federal government jurisdiction to police the entire area.

"Under the proposed plan," says the Little Rock Gazette, "the state would relinquish to the federal government police powers in the national park area and presumably law enforcement would be turned over to the United States department of justice."

"The proposal is the aftermath of a legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness at Hot Springs."

"It is difficult to believe that the Arkansas legislature would contemplate such a transfer of police authority. To surrender police powers in Hot Springs would be a confession of weakness on the part of the people of Arkansas, an admission of inability to govern themselves."

"This weakness does not exist. For the state itself has the authority or should have the authority under Arkansas law, to step in and correct any undesirable conditions which may be attributed to laxity on the part of officials in Hot Springs itself."

"It is a state problem to be solved by the state if no local solution in Hot Springs is possible. We hope that our neighbors to the north will reject the idea of federal intervention, without delay."—Shreveport Times.

## FEDERALIZING HOT SPRINGS

"The political row—for it is that and nothing more—over conditions in Hot Springs has reached the point where a 'citizens committee' has conferred with the Hot Springs national park superintendent on a plan to have the federal government take over police jurisdiction of the city. It is said that the plan contemplates no change of civil jurisdiction."

"An Associated Press dispatch

from Hot Springs, quoted a formant' says:

"As things now stand, the federal government invites to Hot Springs, but does nothing to protect him here. It is not aimed at individual or group. It is for the good of all. It originated the idea itself, result in greatly increased value and a rapid growth of the city's population."

"We are further told that the plan would assure protection for residents and visitors alike 'and once and for all end the turmoil and excitement that so frequently disrupts the community.'"

"Certainly, the Democrat is making no apologies for any individuals or group in Hot Springs, but what puzzles us, as well as the average person, is why, after all these years, it has suddenly become necessary to have the federal government police a comparatively small city because 'turmoil and excitement' disrupts the community."

"Extend the boundaries of the national park area—yes. We have long contended that should be done. The Hot Springs park is the oldest in the nation. To extend it would mean much to Arkansas. But to discuss seriously a proposal that the federal government should be given criminal supervision over the city of Hot Springs is to admit to the world that we can't do the ordinary policing job and must call on Uncle Sam to do it for us."

"When the proposal was first suggested Hot Springs officials declared it 'silly.' It is exactly that. Despite the assurance that ceding criminal jurisdiction to the federal government would not interfere with other operations of the municipal government, it cannot be denied that the newspaper reading public in other states would reason about like this: 'Well, I see the government has had to take over Hot Springs.'"

"That is not as far-fetched as it seems for the reason that the average reader would not know the real reason why such a proposal was made."

"Away with the talk of having the federal government make of Hot Springs another District of Columbia, with variations!"—Arkansas Democrat.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Dawsey  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

7-57670

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Saturday Morning, March 13, 1937.

## CITY TO INSTALL PARKING METERS

Re  
Decid

### COUNCIL APPROVES SIX MONTHS TRIAL PERIOD FOR DEVICES.

### ZONE IS ESTABLISHED

Proposal Adopted by Unanimous Vote — Signers of Petition Opposing Plan Again Fail to Appear — Business Men Back Plan

Hot Springs will give parking meters a chance to solve its traffic problems.

The city council last night, at a special meeting unanimously adopted an ordinance providing for the installation of 200 parking meters and authorized the Board of Public Affairs to enter into a contract with a company manufacturing the parking devices on a six months' trial basis.

The parking meter zone will embrace the area along the West side of Central avenue from the intersection of Fountain street to the corner of the main thoroughfare and Ouachita avenue and the area along Ouachita avenue from the intersection of Ouachita avenue and Central avenue to the corner of Market street.

Other salient provisions of the parking meter ordinance include: 40-minute parking time limit. Five cents for each 40 minute period.

That the meters shall be so arranged that upon expiration of the 40-minute limit that it will indicate by mechanical operation that the lawful parking time has expired.

That the parking meters shall be so placed as to show or display a signal that the parking space is or is not in use.

That upon deposit of a five cent coin the meter shall clearly display a signal showing legal parking and continue to display the same until expiration of 40 minutes.

If a vehicle shall remain in parking space beyond 40-minute time fixed by ordinance, the violator shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$25.

Other provisions make it unlawful for the use of slugs in the meter and any defacing of the devices.

Under the provisions of another ordinance adopted last night the Board of Public Affairs is authorized to enter into the contract with George Partain, representative of the meter company for a six months period. The cost of each meter to the city was set at \$58, to be paid at the rate of \$5 per month for each meter, or 60 per cent of the receipts for each meter over this period.

If the city decides to purchase the meters all of the money paid in will apply on the total purchase price. They would be removed at the end of the trial period if found unsatisfactory.

Councilmen estimated that the city would derive approximately \$2,000 monthly in revenue from the devices, although it was stressed that the meters were being installed as a means of solving the traffic problem rather than from the point of revenue.

The Board of Public Affairs was expected to meet with Mr. Partain to conclude the negotiations some time today. Definite time for the installation of the meters has not been set. Partain said it would take about 10 days time to make the installation of the machines.

Final decision on the ordinance came after three special meetings of the council held for the purpose of discussing the controversial question. For the second straight session a delegation of 56 persons which had signed a petition opposing the installation of the parking meters failed to put in their appearance and present their views.

The aldermen had previously gone on record as favoring the installation of the five cent parking devices to cope with an ever-increasing traffic situation in Hot Springs multiplied by heavy tourist travel and additionally complicated by several diametrically opposed lines of business on Central avenue.

Following a brief discussion of the plan in which several prominent business men endorsed the proposal, the ordinance was placed on second and third readings and passed with-

(Continued on Page Three)

7-5767

ed without a dissenting vote from the ~~16~~ <sup>15</sup> ~~aldermen~~ <sup>present</sup>.

Aldermen voting aye were: Sam Smith, Frank Moody, Carl Wilson, Frank Grant, Dr. H. H. Blahut, John C. Wolfe, Dave Dodd, Eddie Coburn, Charles Goslee, Edgar Mowery, M. Edwards, Ed Vance, James C. Highman and S. J. Erickson.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin said it was his purpose and that of the council in taking action on the parking meters to "serve the best interests of the majority of the people" and that every opportunity had been afforded those opposing the meters to make their views known.

Martin A. Eisele, veteran business man, told the council: "I am very much in favor of this ordinance, for this reason. We have reached a crisis in the traffic problem in Hot Springs."

Mr. Eisele, former superintendent of Hot Springs National park, further said: "I am not afraid of the ordinance," despite that numbers of my friends are in opposition to the plan. We've got to get away from village rules and regulations." We have what is known in government traffic regulations as a "bottle neck" which ordinary methods have failed to solve."

He concluded by heartily endorsing a six months' trial of the meters.

Guinn Massey, Ouachita avenue department store owner, appeared before the council for the second time relative to the parking meter plan.

Mr. Massey, chairman of the retail merchants committee of the Chamber of Commerce, said he had personally contacted practically all the business men along Central avenue to sound out their sentiment on the proposal and found only two of the group in favor of the meters.

However, said Mr. Massey, "the business interests opposing the plan have been given every opportunity to come here and present their views and they have not done so. Therefore I recommend passage of the ordinance and ask that the parking meters be placed in front of my store."

The parking meter zone was extended to the Ouachita avenue area on Mr. Massey's recommendation.

Sol Alexander, Central avenue merchant, said he believed the meters were worth a trial.

Former Prosecuting Attorney W. G. Bouls was another to appear and speak in favor of the devices. He stressed the necessity of remedying the present traffic situation and said, "I believe, after a six months' trial they (the parking meters) will be more in favor than ever."

One of the most vexing of Hot Springs' traffic problems—taxicabs'—

#### ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

An Ordinance providing for installation of parking meters for the regulation and supervision of traffic in the City of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS:

Section I. That Central Avenue, from the intersection of Fountain Street to the intersection of Market Street, Ouachita Avenue from Central Avenue to Market Street, be, and the same is hereby established as a parking meter zone.

Section II. That the Board of Public Affairs is hereby authorized and directed to install or cause to be installed, parking meters in said zone as set forth in this ordinance.

Section III. Within the zone above mentioned, parking meters shall be placed upon the curb along side of or next to individual parking spaces to be designated as hereinafter provided. Each parking meter shall be placed so as to show or display a signal that the parking space is or is not in use. Each meter upon the deposit of a five cent coin of the United States shall by its device clearly display a signal showing legal parking and continue to display the same from the time of depositing such coin until the expiration of forty (40) minutes. Each of said meters shall also be so arranged that, upon the expiration of said parking time, it will indicate by mechanical operation and the displaying of a proper signal that the lawful parking time has expired.

Section IV. That when any vehicle shall be parked in any of said parking meter spaces, the owner, operator or driver of said vehicle shall immediately deposit a five cent coin of the United States in the parking meter of said parking space, which space may then be used by such vehicle during the parking time provided by this ordinance. If said vehicle shall remain in any such parking space

beyond the parking time limit fixed by this ordinance, any amendments thereto, the same shall be a violation of this ordinance and be deemed a misdemeanor, and any person, firm or corporation, upon conviction, shall be punished as hereinafter provided.

Section V. The Chief of Police of the City of Hot Springs shall place lines or marks on the curb or on the street along side of each parking meter to designate the parking space for which said meter is to be used. Any vehicle placed in any such parking space shall be parked within the lines marked on the street for such parking space, and it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle across any such line or mark or to park such vehicle in such a way as the same shall not be in the area designated by such lines or markings.

Section VI. It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit or cause to be deposited any slug, device or metallic substitute for a five cent coin of the United States in any parking meter.

Section VII. It shall be unlawful for any person to deface, injure or tamper with any parking meter installed under the terms of this ordinance.

Section VIII. The five cent coins required to be deposited herein are levied as inspection fees and police regulation charges.

Section IX. Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

Section X. This ordinance being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and it shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

FRANK GRANT,  
Alderman 2nd Ward.  
Approved:  
LEO P. McLAUGHLIN,  
Mayor.

Passed: 3-12-37.

Attest:

EMMETT JACKSON, City Clerk.



Sunday Morning, March 14, 1937.

## HANDBOOKS SHUT DOWN; WARNED BY STATE OFFICIALS

"BOOKIE" OPERATIONS  
DECREASE REVENUE  
FROM TRACK

### OPEN ONLY SHORT TIME

Bookmakers Lose No Time  
in Suspending Activities  
After "Word Passed  
Down the Line."—Four  
Operators Had Re-opened.

Little Rock, March 13.—(AP)—The Arkansas Gazette said tonight that handbook operators at Hot Springs, who resumed business soon after the legislature adjourned Thursday, discontinued operations again today after state officials served notice that they would be raided if they did not close immediately.

Officials reported a check of revenue receipts at the Oaklawn track made daily by accountants from the state comptroller's office showed material decreases for the two days the bookies were operating in Hot Springs.

Following a conference of state officials, State Police Chief Gray Albright was sent to Hot Springs to warn handbook operators that legal steps would be taken to prevent their operation if they did not discontinue voluntarily.

Hot Springs officials assured Albright that the bookmaking places would be closed immediately and that they would remain closed, said the Gazette.

Gambling operations at Hot Springs were halted several weeks ago after revenue agents seized and burned \$25,000 in gambling equipment during a legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness at the resort city.

Handbook operators lost no time in closing down yesterday after word came and was passed down the line that they would be raided unless their operations were discontinued immediately.

Within a few minutes after having received warning, the four bookmaking establishments which had resumed operations within the past several days had completely "folded" and the rooms emptied of their patrons.

Hurriedly the entry sheets adorning the walls were torn down and other betting adjuncts closed to the handbook players. All activity was suspended in the middle of the afternoon operations.

The establishments closed were the Blue Ribbon Club, Citizens Club, Ohio Club and Southern Club.

Small groups of handbook employees and players were gathered in some of the places but they were non-committal. They did not appear to be particularly dejected.

No officers as far as could be learned appeared at the different places. Other bookmaking places along the main thoroughfare other than the four had not been opened for business.

## Pari-Mutuel Play Is \$377,169 Over 1936

Ed Farris, secretary of the Arkansas Racing Commission, last night, reported an increase of \$377,169 in pari-mutuel betting at Oaklawn Park over the first 12 days of racing last year. The state's coffers have been enriched by \$58,418 since the fourth Oaklawn season opened March 1. This was derived from pari-mutuel betting of fans who "laid down" \$1,175,623 on the ponies, Secretary Farris revealed.

In the first 12 days of 1936 a total of \$789,454 passed through the mutuel windows. The state received \$42,616 of that amount.

The state's share of the profits do not include the jockey fees, which have already risen to more than \$2,000, or \$300 more than last year. Also, the paid admissions include only the patrons who pay the tax.

The mutuels handle yesterday in spite of rain and threatening weather was \$126,000. On the featured fifth race \$17,000 was bet. Approximately 6,500 were in attendance.

Secretary Farris said if the weather had been favorable last Saturday's all-time record mutuel handle of \$154,444 might have been realized. Approximately 10,000 attended last week to set the new figure.

RE: Brekid.

7-573-10