

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

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

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : BULKY BOX 5 PART 1**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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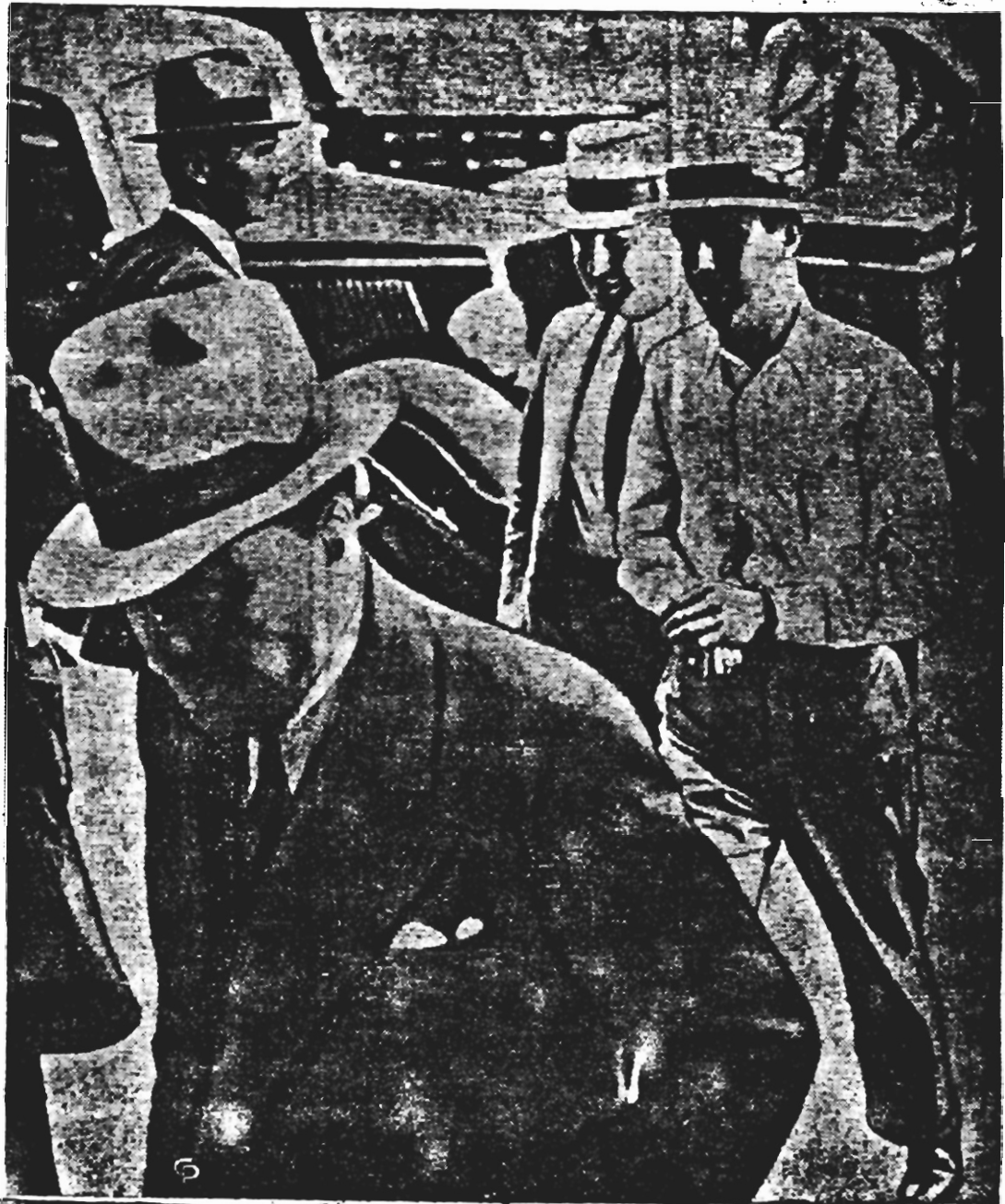


# The Morning Post

CAMPDEN, N. J., MONDAY, MAY 4, 1936

## NAS RIOTS RAZE A

Karpis Returned to Kidnaping Scene



825 Broad St. Nat'l Bldg.  
Trenton, N. J.

Alvin Karpis, ex-Public Enemy No. 1 (in straw hat), preceded by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the "G-men," on arrival at St. Paul to stand trial for abducting William A. Hamm, Jr., wealthy brewer.

## Karpis 'Talks', Admits 2 St. Paul Kidnapings

**Public Enemy Faces Ar-  
raignment Today in  
Hamm Case**

**HOPES TO 'BEAT'  
MURDER CHARGE**

St. Paul, Minn., May 2 (US).—Creaking under 24 hours of merciless grilling at the hands of Federal agents, Alvin Karpis, characterized as America's most desperate public enemy, confessed today the \$200,000 ransom kidnapings of Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul banker, and William Hamm, Jr., St. Paul brewer.

This was learned at the Federal building here, where the desperado has been under almost constant questioning since he was rushed to St. Paul in a plane by J. Edgar Hoover, national chief of the Federal agents, after the outlaw's capture Friday night in New Orleans.

Karpis will be tried first in St. Paul on a charge of kidnaping Hamm, after which he will be surrendered to Missouri if that state wants to try him for murder.

With the word of the confession came the further statement that Karpis offered to plead guilty to either one of the kidnapings if the government would agree to "forget" the other.

### **Hopes to Escape Death**

His willingness to co-operate led also to the speculation that Karpis believed imprisonment for the kid-  
(Continued on Page 2—Column 4)

**Part of Hoover in Ar-  
rest Laid to Death  
Threats**

**TIP FROM WOMAN  
DENIED BY G-MEN**

By WALTER WINCHELL  
(Copyright, 1934, Universal Service, Inc.)  
New York, May 2.—The "inside" on why J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the "G-Men," personally supervised the capture of Alvin Karpis in New Orleans was because "Public Rat No. 1" (as Hoover calls him) had threatened to shoot and kill Hoover on sight.

Then, too, Senator McKellar of Tennessee, at a recent hearing in Washington concerning appropriations for the federal bureau of investigation, heckled Hoover with:

"Tell me, Mr. Hoover—did you ever make an arrest?"

From reliable information this reporter learned that when Karpis was cornered exiting from his apartment in New Orleans, the bank burglar and murderer sarcastically said:

"I see we've met."  
"Yes," said Hoover, "and if my memory serves you were going to kill me."

"I would have," replied Karpis, "if I had the chance."

### **May Get "Break"**

The jailing of Karpis in St. Paul where he will stand trial for the kidnaping of William Hamm, Jr., for \$100,000 ransom may give Karpis "the break." If found guilty Karpis will get a life term at Alcatraz, instead of death in Missouri, where he is charged with murdering a sheriff.  
"Are you glad it is all over?" Hoover asked Karpis in the plane bound for St. Paul.

## Karpis, in Handcuffs, Summer Clothes, Straw Hat, Rushed Into St. Paul



### WHISKED INTO DOWNTOWN

St. Paul from Holman airport under heavy guard, Alvin Karpis, still wearing the light summer clothes he had on when captured in New Orleans Friday night, was rushed into the offices of the bureau of investigation, department of justice, with only a few spectators on hand. Photo shows the arrival of Karpis (handcuffed and wearing a straw hat) at the federal building in St. Paul. Ahead of him, and leading the escort of G men, is J. Edgar Hoover, the nation's No. 1 G man who directed the arrest in New Orleans and flew with the prisoner and seven federal men to St. Paul overnight.



# Gangster Arrives By Plane; Speedy Hearing Planned

**Prisoner Will Be Tried for Bremer and  
Hamm Kidnapings—Capture Effected  
in New Orleans Without a Struggle**

Manacled and guarded by the ace machinegunners of the United States department of justice, Alvin Karpis, the country's No. 1 outlaw, Saturday was brought back a prisoner to St. Paul, the city of his most notorious crimes.

Personally supervised by their chief, J. Edgar Hoover of Washington a squad of the nation's topflight G men brought Karpis to the Twin Cities in a speedy overnight airplane hop from New Orleans, La., where the desperado was captured late yesterday.

Operating with their customary speed and quiet efficiency, the department of justice men brought Karpis into Holman municipal field, St. Paul, transferred him to a big sedan inside an airplane hangar and hurried him to the old St. Paul federal building, with the public getting hardly a glimpse of him.

Karpis was held incommunicado at the department of justice office in St. Paul while federal men questioned him.

## Karpis Once Was Marble Champ

Being a good marble shooter doesn't mean that you'll be a success in later life, Uncle Sam's G men disclosed Saturday with the capture of Al Karpis, public enemy No. 1.

Karpis, they said, was the marble champion of Topeka, Kan., in his youthful days. His companions in boyhood knew him under his true name of Raymond Karpavicz.

Later the underworld knew him as "Old Creepy."

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Karpavicz, are upright, law abiding citizens in Chicago.

Overnight, while he was on his way northward through fog and rain, the prosecuting machinery of the federal government speeded up to put Alvin Karpis behind the high walls of Alcatraz prison, San Francisco bay, forever.

## Sullivan Ready to Act

George F. Sullivan, district attorney, for Minnesota, announced he stood ready to arraign Karpis on four charges, two of conspiracy and two of kidnaping, as soon as Mr. Hoover says he is through questioning the outlaw.

Karpis is under indictment in both the William Hamm and Edward G. Bremer kidnapings. A kidnaping and a conspiracy count have been returned against him in each case.

Descending on a Canal street apartment in New Orleans yesterday, the federal men led by Mr. Hoover arrested Karpis without a struggle. The G man chief, obviously tipped to the outlaw's residence in the southern city, chartered a special plane in Washington yesterday and flew south, arriving in New Orleans only a few hours before the arrest was made.

Karpis was no sooner in custody than the agents started him north to St. Paul.

As the big transport plane, bearing Karpis, Mr. Hoover and other federal agents, sped north through a night of rain, fog and poor flying weather, agents in the Twin City area prepared to meet it on arrival here Saturday.

## Route Is Patrolled

The mile and a half strip from Holman field to the Federal building in the St. Paul loop was patrolled by police squad cars, deputy sheriffs, and federal men, for hours before the arrival of the plane.

At dawn federal men arrived at the field, took complete charge, made arrangements for a private hangar and posted a guard to await the arrival of their companions with the prisoner.

When the big plane zoomed in over the field, all outsiders were kept out and the plane was backed to the hangar. There Karpis was hurriedly transferred to the big sedan car that took him to the federal building.

Mr. Hoover was in charge of everything and under his orders the federal agents moved with the smooth, well-oiled efficiency for which they are now noted the length and breadth of the land.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

## LOW SWEEP PRIZES

Philadelphia Awarde  
\$18,561 as Holder of Ticket  
on Bold Venture

Winners in the American Sweep

free. Mrs. James was clad only in a nightgown, Hope said.  
James stuck Mrs. James' foot in the snake box, according to Hope. He said he heard the snakes move, then heard Mrs. James groan.  
"She's not dead yet, I'll have to drown her," Hope quoted James as having said.

James then took his wife into the bathroom and drowned her.

The next day, James and Hope took the body to the fishpond and laid it face down in six inches of water.

Hope said he received \$18 from James for getting the snakes and otherwise helping in the murder.

James had been married four times. Two of his wives drowned.

## DR. H. L. NORTHPROP DIES; PHILA. HOSPITAL CHIEF

Dr. Herbert L. Northrop, head of the department of surgery, at Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, where he taught for 40 years, died yesterday at hospital from bronchial pneumonia. He was 70.

A son of Dr. Northrop, Paul, drowned at Sea Isle City three years ago.

Born in England, where his parents the late Rev. Henry D. and Sarah Northrop, were living temporarily, he received his early education in Connecticut and Philadelphia. His father was pastor of the North Tenth Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. Dr. Northrop was graduated with honors from Hahnemann in 1888. While anesthetist there he devised a method of producing anesthesia by combining oxygen and chloroform.

In 1931 Dr. Northrop received the degree of master of arts from the medical college at the same time as his sons Drs. David D. and Richard F., received their degrees as doctors of medicine. He was a member of national and Philadelphia medical societies. His home was at Melrose Park.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, 10 a. m., at the Church of the Holy Angel, Seventieth avenue and Old York road, with burial in Holy Cross Cemetery.

## FUNERAL OF REV. BUCK TO BE HELD TOMORROW

Millville, May 2.—Funeral services for Rev. Benjamin F. Buck, 80, retired Methodist minister and Civil War veteran will be held at 3 p. m. Tuesday, at Trinity M. E. Church. Burial will be in Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

Rev. Buck died Friday after an illness of 10 days. He is survived by two sons, George and B. Frank, a former Assemblyman; a daughter, Mrs. Joseph S. Eldridge, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

## FRANK BERGIN FUNERAL WEDNESDAY MORNING

Frank Bergin, 17, of 1629 Cross

St., and two brothers living in Philadelphia.

## MISS SALLIE B. KINSLEY

Funeral services will be held today at 3 p. m. for Miss Sallie B. Kinsley, of Virginia avenue, Audubon, who died Friday in Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia. Miss Kinsley, daughter of the late Charles H. and Sarah H. Kinsley, was 79 years old.

Services will be held in an undertaking establishment at 800 North Sixty-third street, Philadelphia, with burial in Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Miss Kinsley is survived by a brother, Charles, of Philadelphia.

## HENRY L. AUSTIN

Summit, May 2 (UP)—Henry L. Austin, 66, an executive of the United States Steel Corporation, died at his home here yesterday. He is survived by his widow and four children.

## THOMAS E. BURROUGH

Hurffville, May 2.—The funeral of Thomas E. Burrough, 78, clerk of the Washington township board of education who died at his home here Saturday after a short illness from pneumonia will be conducted Tuesday.

Mr. Burrough was a retired blacksmith. He also was a former deputy at the New Jersey State prison and held that position for 30 years. He was an active Republican and was a member of the Hurffville M. E. Church.

His wife, Anna, two daughters, Mrs. Hazel Simpson, of Hurffville, and Mrs. Blanche Moore, of Moorestown, and a son, Oran, of Hurffville, survive.

## MRS. ANNA E. GILMORE

Solemn requiem mass for Mrs. Anna E. Gilmore, 78, wife of Patrick Gilmore, will be celebrated at 9 a. m., tomorrow at St. Mary's R. C. Church, Gloucester. Mrs. Gilmore died Saturday following a short illness. Friends may call at the funeral parlors of Joseph H. Murra, and Son, 408 Cooper street, this evening. Burial will be in New St. Mary's Cemetery.

## FRANK OLSEN

Funeral services for Frank Olsen, 47, who died Saturday, will be held at 1 p. m. today, at 1635 Broadway. Mr. Olsen was the son of the late Bertha and Ole Olsen, and formerly lived at 678 Woodland avenue. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

## MRS. LILLIAN B. READ

Funeral services are to be conducted tomorrow at 2:30 p. m. for Mrs. Lillian Ruth Read, wife of Robert W. Read, who died Saturday at her home, 13 Reeve avenue, Westmont.





MRS. MARY BRUSH JAMES  
ROBERT JAMES

## CAMDEN MEN WIN LOW SWEEP PRIZES

Philadelphian Awarded  
\$18,561 as Holder of Ticket  
on Bold Venture

Winners in the American Sweep

leased today. The man used rattlesnakes to kill his bride of three weeks.

District Attorney Buren Pitts announced the confession was obtained from James after Charles Hope, a former sailor, told police James had plunged his wife's barefoot into a box of writhing rattlesnakes, then put her into a bathtub.

The woman's body was found August 5, face down in a fishpond back of the James home. A coroner's jury found death due to accidental drowning with cellulitis—apparently from strange lumps on her legs—a contributing factor.

### Blames Drinking

James' confession, according to Pitts, was confined to this terse sentence: "I did it because when I am drinking I am insane."

Pitts said he would seek indictments Tuesday. Hope and his wife, Florence, were held as material witnesses.

Piecing together James' confession and the story told by Hope, Pitts said James decided to kill his wife, and hired Hope to go out and get him some rattlesnakes, specifying they must be "sure killers." Hope agreed because James exercised a "hypnotic power" over him, and went to a snake farm near Venice. He told the owner he wanted the snakes for a sideshow. They turned out to be "no good"—meaning they were not killers.

Hope went shopping again, this time to Pasadena, where he interviewed J. S. ("Snake Joe") Mountenbrink, owner of the Anaconda snake farm. He took along a rabbit and a rooster to be sure the snakes were killers, but "Snake Joe" refused to make the test for him.

Hope bought the snakes, anyway. Mountenbrink said Hope was accompanied by a woman, and Hope admitted his wife went with him on the shopping tour for the snakes.

The snakes were taken to the James home.

### Tied Her on Table

Hope said James put adhesive tape over his wife's eyes and mouth and then put her on the table near the snake basket. She was tied to the table with a rope, but one leg was free. Mrs. James was clad only in a nightgown, Hope said.

James stuck Mrs. James' foot in the snake box, according to Hope. He said he heard the snakes move, then heard Mrs. James groan.

"She's not dead yet, I'll have to drown her," Hope quoted James as having said. James then took his wife into the bathroom and

the wife of Charles S. Chambers and he also survived two sons, Charles R. and Harold. The funeral will be held at 3 p. m. tomorrow with burial in Locustwood Memorial Park.

### CHRISTIAN BAKER

The funeral of Christian Baker, 7144 Chandler avenue, Pennsauken, who died Friday, will be held at 3 p. m. tomorrow at 804 North Twenty-seventh street. Burial will be private in Arlington Cemetery. Mr. Baker was janitor of the Greenville School, Pennsauken township. He is survived by his wife, Rose, three sons and a daughter.

### MRS. JAMES W. GARRETT

Mrs. Jeanne E. Garrett, wife of James W. Garrett, of 405 Third avenue, Haddon Heights, died Saturday at her home following a prolonged illness. She was a member of the First M. E. Church of Haddon Heights. Funeral services Wednesday, 2 p. m., at 205 Second avenue, Haddon Heights, will be conducted by Rev. Oliver C. Apper, pastor of the church. Burial will be in Haddon Heights Cemetery.

### MRS. JOSEPH H. BASSETT

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 3 p. m. for Mrs. Lillian R. Bassett, 58, of 429 Penn street who died yesterday.

Mrs. Bassett was the wife of Joseph H. Bassett. Burial will be in Locustwood Memorial Park under direction of Joseph H. Murray and Son.

### WILLIAM M. TILBURN

Funeral services for William M. Tilburn, 51, husband of Margaret N. Punch Tilburn, of Linden avenue, Lindenwold, who died Wednesday, will be held today at 3 p. m. from a funeral establishment at Gibbsboro road and Park Boulevard, Clementon. The services will be in charge of Rev. Raymond H. Miller, Clementon. Burial will be in Fernwood Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Tilburn, who was employed as night watchman of Lindenwold WPA sewing project, had been a resident of Lindenwold six years. In addition to his widow, he is survived by a son, Joseph C.; a daughter, Mary E., and two brothers living in Philadelphia.

### MISS SALLIE B. KINLEY

Funeral services will be held today at 3 p. m. for Miss Sallie B. Kinley, of 1010 Locustwood

and

crosses the frontier into French Somaliland.

At Dire Dawa over toward the coast the railway passes perilously close to the Italian drive in the east.

It is believed that, if Italy tries to set up a puppet government, Britain will lead a movement of league nations to withhold recognition. Manchoukuo, which Japan wrested from China in 1933 never has been recognized by any power except Japan. Little Salvador, the Latin-American republic, is the only other nation that has admitted the Manchoukuo state existence.

Britons expect that it will take the Italians many months to pacify Ethiopia, but organized defense, they believe, has collapsed.—Copyright 1936.

#### Few American in Capital

A little group of Americans—missionaries, businessmen, the United States legation staff and two newspaper correspondents—were in Addis Ababa today, menaced by looting mobs of Ethiopians.

The legation staff are Cornelius H. Engert, first secretary and consul general, and William M. Camp, third secretary and vice consul. The newspaper men are Ben Ames and James Rohrbach, United Press staff correspondents, and American reporters still in the Ethiopian capital.

Four United States navy men also are in Addis Ababa, to keep Washington, 8,000 miles distant, informed by wireless of developments. They are Walter Edgar Tanner, 31, New London, Conn.; John L. Lauthen, 26, of Auburn, Ala.; John Willard Anslow, 33, of Medford, Mass.; Cecil Franklin Cavanaugh, 7, of Philadelphia.

At the outbreak of the war seven months ago, it was estimated that 125 Americans were in Ethiopia, of whom 113 were missionaries chiefly of the Seventh Day Adventists, the Sudan Frontier Mission and the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. This number has been reduced so that today probably not more than 30 Americans remain in the country with most of them in the capital.

#### MUSSOLINI CONFERS WITH NAVY COMMISSION

Copyright 1936 by Associated Press

Rome, May 2.—Premier Mussolini called the Italian supreme naval commission for defense into conference today as his columns in northern Ethiopia prepared for a decisive advance on Addis Ababa.

Il Duce, acting in his official capacity as secretary of the navy, conferred with the principal Italian admirals whom he had summoned to Rome.

While no information was issued officially on the score or direction of the session, it was understood the Mediterranean situation was thoroughly examined.

Fascist officials earlier, on receipt reports the Italian advance had

diverted entire streams from their course.—Copyright 1936.

the last three years, and was captain of the Hamline team last year.

## Karpis Placed in St. Paul Jail After Stormy Plane Journey From New Orleans

Continued from page 1

Department of justice chieftain spoke to his men in the soft, modulated accents of the old South. But the orders were short, clipped and almost military.

Mr. Hoover personally supervised the transfer of the gangster from the plane to the automobile, and then, on arrival, from the car to the Federal building. He declined to discuss the next steps in the case.

Mr. Sullivan, in another part of the federal building, was getting ready for the courtroom work on the case and said he probably would confer with Mr. Hoover later in the day.

Much in evidence was America's chief G man.

One move followed another with dramatic suddenness from the time the case cracked wide open late yesterday.

Mr. Hoover flew into New Orleans to find more than 20 of his crack southern agents awaiting him. Without consulting locally authorities or asking any aid from anyone, the federal agents went directly to the Canal street apartment, took up stations and waited for Karpis. He emerged, walking directly into their trap about an hour later.

#### Last of Big Gangsters

The arrest marked the first personally directed capture for Mr. Hoover—and it also meant the elimination of the last of the country's major gangsters. Only three much wanted fugitives are still at large, but none is in a class with Karpis.

They are Harry Campbell, one of the Karpis gang; William Mahan, wanted for the kidnaping of young George Weyerhaeuser in Tacoma, and Thomas G. Robinson, wanted for the kidnaping of Alice Speed Stoll in Louisville.

Karpis recently was indicted by the Minnesota federal grand jury for the kidnaping of Mr. Hamm. Named with him were Jack Peifer, St. Paul gambler and night club operator now at liberty on \$100,000 bail; Charles "The Greeter" Fitzgerald, former convict, and Edmond C. Bartholmey, former postmaster at Bensenville, Ill.

#### Wears a Straw Hat

It is reported the first hint federal men had as to Karpis' presence in New Orleans came after he attempted to buy an automobile. A car salesman, Clarence Pacheu, talked to his friends about a secre-

the Bremer and Hamm cases to federal agents.

Charles Fitzgerald, known as "Big Fitz" and Edmund Bartholmey, also at the county jail awaiting trial for the Hamm kidnaping had no comment to make.

All three prisoners, however, were found very busy reading the newspapers, telling of the Karpis arrest.

Following their usual formula of fast, secret action, the federal men shipped Karpis out of New Orleans last night. Loaded on to the special charter plane, the nation's No. 1 public enemy was headed north to the Twin Cities, where two federal indictments stand against him, one for the \$100,000 William Hamm, Jr., kidnaping and the other for the Edward G. Bremer abduction for \$200,000.

#### Air-Tight Cases Seem

Federal men believe they have air-tight cases against him here. He could be prosecuted, however, for the murder of a sheriff at West Plains, Mo., for the Kansas City union station massacre or for murder and robbery in Cleveland, Ohio. It is believed the federal men will follow their customary procedure in bringing him into court where they have their strongest case—that is, in St. Paul.

When the word flashed out last night that the nation's most hunted outlaw had at last been run to earth, newspapers immediately posted sentinels at airports along the line from New Orleans to the Twin Cities, almost the entire length of the country.

Hour by hour and town by town the progress of the G men and their captive was traced northward.

The big Douglas transport plane roared into Kansas City shortly after midnight and stayed there until about 5:30 a.m., when it took off again and headed northward. Karpis, manacled and chained, was not allowed to leave the plane. Mr. Hoover and other federal agents ate breakfast in the airport lunchroom.

#### Rigid Censorship

With the arrival of the plane at the Kansas City field a rigid censorship was clamped down on the area. Airport employees said they could tell nothing of the plane, its destination or occupants. They said they were acting on government orders.

Mr. Hoover, it is believed, ordered the ship to proceed to Chicago for directions on the Twin City air route. It was reported that the pilot, from Newark, N. J., was unfamiliar with the northern route to St. Paul.

7-576-A

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(Continued on Page 3—Column 4)

By WALTER WINCHELL

(Copyright, 1935, Universal Service, Inc.)

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Then, too, Senator McKellar of Tennessee, at a recent hearing in Washington concerning appropriations for the federal bureau of investigation, heckled Hoover with:

"Tell me, Mr. Hoover—did you ever make an arrest?"

From reliable information this reporter learned that when Karpis was cornered exiting from his apartment in New Orleans, the bank burglar and murderer sarcastically said:

"I see we've met."  
"Yes," said Hoover, "and if my memory serves you were going to kill me."

"I would have," replied Karpis, "if I had the chance."

## May Get "Break"

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"Are you glad it is all over?" Hoover asked Karpis in the plane bound for St. Paul.

Karpis replied that he intended to  
(Continued on Page 3—Column 5)



7-576-A

## Karpis Returned to Kidnaping Scene



Alvin Karpis, ex-Public Enemy No. 1 (in straw hat), preceded by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the "G-men", arrival at St. Paul to stand trial for abducting William A. Hamm, Jr., wealthy brewer.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Baughman	_____
Chief Clerk	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Edwards	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Foxworth	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Joseph	_____
Mr. Keith	_____
Mr. Lester	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Schilder	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

7 576-A

hands, waiting to find out what the voice meant.

#### Sleeps Under Gun

The smooth-faced, slender Karpis whose appearance belies his reputation as a ruthless killer and daring robber and kidnaper, sat his only rest last night lying on the floor of the Federal building with weapons pointing at him from all sides.

This was after Federal agents worked on him in days, seeking to extract confessions of the Bremer and Hamm kidnappings, the five or more murders that are charged to the old Barker-Karpis gang and a large number of bank and mail hold-ups in which they are alleged to have participated.

Further startling developments with new arrests—possibly of supposedly respectable citizens—were freely predicted by local authorities who pointed out the Karpis and his mob made St. Paul their headquarters for some of their most sensational maraudings.

Lending credence to these predictions was the comment of Hoover, that "the case is not closed."

Of the persons still sought, some are those who helped dispose of the ransom money and those who helped the outlaws find hiding places.

They include doctors, automobile mechanics and operators of several privately-owned planes used by Karpis.

Hunter and the Robinson girl lived "was appointed in extravagant taste," said a "G-man." "It was lucky for passersby that we got Karpis without firing a shot, for the crowd was as thick as the crowds you see at 42d and Fifth avenue during the rush hour. We might have hurt someone by shooting."

When they asked him about the 16 bank burglaries, the four mail robberies, three kidnaps and five murders, of which he stands accused, Karpis was stubborn in answering.

#### "Why Don't You Kill Me?"

"You're going to kill me, anyway," he said, trembling, "so why talk? Why don't you kill me now and get it over with?"

"No one is going to bother you," he was told, "unless you get fresh. We don't kill people unless they start killing first. Besides, you've seen too many 'G-men' movies!"

The government men believe that a plastic surgeon who did a poor job on Karpis' facial renovation was murdered "and thrown into Lake Erie." Not because his surgery didn't click, it was said, but because "he started talking when he was drunk, which was often."

When they were taking Karpis from the New Orleans offices to the airport, the car stopped for the traffic signals at a corner where a newsboy offered a newspaper to Karpis (whom he didn't recognize) and said:

"Paper! Read all about Public Enemy No. 1 being captured!"

#### Other Arrests Due

Karpis turned to Hoover, smiled, and said:

"Would you be so kind as to read it to me? I want to go to sleep."

The arrest of Karpis, it was pointed out, doesn't "end this case." There will be several arrests in various cities of venal politicians (some police executives) who harbored and abetted Karpis and his henchmen.

"A lot of them are sick to their middles," remarked a "G-man," "from worrying, already. Karpis is going to have the pleasure of their company again—very soon."

The Robinson girl was not living with Karpis—she was the companion of Hunter.

Karpis told his captors he had given up "steady girl friends." They were so much excess baggage when "you are in a hurry," he said.

#### Politics Real "Public Enemy"

"Who was the 'Woman in Red' in this case?" a reporter asked Hoover here.

"There was none," Hoover replied.

"Since you have captured Karpis, who is Public Enemy No. 1 now?" he was asked. Hoover laughed.

"Old Man Politics," he replied quickly. "He is now, he was and he always will be Public Enemy No. 1, locally, in the states and nationally. It's only the papers that number the public enemies."

Someone mentioned Hoover's men going in secretly and superceding local police authorities when working on a case.

working when he got the call advising him Karpis had been located. He declined to name the cases, but said his department was doing nothing in the Wendel case in Brooklyn "as it is being handled satisfactorily."

## Karpis Confesses Two Kidnapings

(Continued from Page One)

naping might save him from prosecution on murder charges which carry the death penalty.

Life imprisonment, the maximum for the abductions, since they took place before the amended "Lindbergh Law" became operative.

Despite the confession of the Public Enemy who had boasted he would "never be taken alive," but who meekly surrendered in New Orleans without firing a shot, the government men continued their unrelenting interrogation.

Karpis, it was said, while freely confessing his own part in the "snatching," refused to name accomplices in the actual crime, to give the names of persons who harbored him, or to identify physicians who performed his "face-lifting" operation, and these are the main points the government seeks. Karpis is thoroughly linked with abductions through the statements of Edmund Bartholmey, Bensenville, Ill. postmaster, and Byron Bolton, Chicago gangster.

It was in Bensenville that both Bremer and Hamm were held, pending payment of the ransom for their safety.

#### Arraignment Due Today

According to U. S. Attorney George F. Sullivan, Karpis will be arraigned tomorrow morning for the Hamm kidnapping.

Intimation that a sensational "break" had taken place, came earlier when weary "G-men" emerged from the questioning with almost jubilant expressions. That Karpis was "talking" was indicated when one of the Federal agents revealed: "Karpis said he was glad it was over and that the last two years has been a 'hell on earth' for him. He said he was tired of being constantly on his guard day and night against a possible raid by law officers."

"He told us he ate with a gun on the chair beside him, slept with one under his pillow, carried one in his pocket and kept one or more in his car at all times," the Federal men said.

"The slightest noise at night would wake him and send him into a cold sweat, a sub machine gun in his

825 Broad St. Nat'l Bank  
Trenton, N. J.

## Hoover 'Answered' Karpis Death Threat

(Continued from Page One)

fight the charges because "the longer I fight it, the longer it will be before I go to Alcatraz."

In the car that took Karpis to the federal bureau's offices in New Orleans, he turned to the girl captured with him and said:

"You see! If you listened to me you wouldn't be in this."

Karpis explained to the "G-Men" that he had urged Ruth Robinson, nicknamed "Connie," an Arkansas girl, to "go home" two days before the capture.

#### Explains Reason for Crime

"And Hunter's a dope, too," said Karpis. "I told him to take in the baseball game. If he'd done that you wouldn't have nailed him, either."



G. Men Fair Kapers  
Here After Night Standard  
St. Paul Daily Times  
5/1/31

7-596

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Joseph	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300.



PAUL

# NEWS

and International News Service

day, May 2, 1936

Three Cents

WEEK END  
EDITION

## KARPIS HERE T PLANE DASH

GET INTO SAME PICTURE



No. 1 Enemy  
Brought By  
No. 1 Sleuth

Alvin Returns In Chains  
To Scene Of Alleged  
\$300,000 Kidnaping  
Exploits.

The nation's two "No. 1" men came to St. Paul today.

One was Alvin Karpis, public enemy No. 1, since the steel-jacketed death in Chicago of John Dillinger—straw-hatted, coatless, manacled, a bewildered bellhop in appearance—returning to his "summer playground" to answer to charges of kidnaping William Hamm, Jr., and Edward G. Bremer.

The other was J. Edgar Hoover, G-man No. 1—stern-visaged, jutting-jawed, fierce-haired—a Roman conquering hero of modern times—demonstrating to the world, and to congressional inquisitors in particular, that the division of investigation, United States department of justice, always gets its man.

Has Armed Escort.

Not exactly arm in arm (when they entered the federal courts building after a speedy trip by automobile from the municipal airport Mr. Hoover led the way and Karpis was surrounded by a veritable arsenal of quick-firing small arms



years—ALVIN KARPIS, public enemy No. 1, and J. EDGAR HOOVER, chief of the f. d. p. and under heavy guard, was brought to the federal building from the airport, the photograph taken by a Daily News staff cameraman at the 5th st. entrance of the deep southern tan, which soon will change to a prison pallor, Hoover, serving as

## DE NO. 1.—HOOVER

ded Up Like A Yellow Rat"

Public Enemy No. 1 today, it is d Man Politics."

Karpis may have been coleader the now extinct Barker-Karpis ng, but to Mr. Hoover the fu- ive Harry Campbell is the "man th the brains."

"Karpis reminds me of Dillinger d George (Machine Gun) Kelly. Kelly is serving life at Alcatraz son for the Charles Urschel dnaping.) They talked a lot, but ch had to follow the master mind their respective chief aids," Mr. over said.

"Dillinger had his John Hamil- n, Kelly his Harvey Bailey, and arpis his Campbell. We're still ter Campbell, and eventually we'll t him.

anned Several Days.

"We (the federal agents) were New Orleans for several days be- te the capture, about 5:15 p. m. iday. We executed the plan we ad had for several days, when the pture was made.

"We knew Karpis had been a quent visitor at the home of Fred mter and e woman we now w as Ruth. Our cars and men e would not say how many of er) surrounded the place, and rps had no chance.

The three had just left their ment at 2948 Canal st. and had

entered their car when our car station- in front of the driveway pulled up. Before Karpis could reach for the rifle alongside of him the agents in the car poked their guns at him and without a murmur of protest Karpis and Mr. and Mrs. Hunter stepped out of the car with their hands above their heads.

"Karpis stuttered and stammered. "You are Mr. Hoover. I recog- nize you from a salish picture I saw of you in a Florida paper," Karpis said."

Karpis Congratulates.

Later, on the plane ride to St. Paul, Karpis congratulated him on the fine catch shown in that picture. Also, on the way back, he read with interest at St. Louis a copy of a newspaper carrying the story of his capture and, alongside on the same page, the story of a Detroit bank robbery.

"I know you fellows will be my alibi witnesses on that job," he laughed.

Karpis, Mr. Hoover said, had had his face "lifted" and his fingertips mutilated, "but not enough in either case to make identification impos- sible or even difficult." In the opera- tions, two scars were removed from his ears, and lobes cut in the ears.

"Karpis is wanted for a third kid- napping job," Mr. Hoover said. "When (Continued On Page 2, Col. 4.)

## Zioncheck Arrested For 3d Time In 2 Weeks

SHALLOTTE, N. C., May 2.—(INS)—Rep. Marion A. (Barney Oldfield) Zioncheck, playboy legisla- tor from the state of Washington, was arrested for speeding 70 miles an hour on the coastal highway near here today.

This marks the third time in exactly two weeks that Zioncheck, who married Rubye Nix a few days ago in the capital, has fallen into the toils of the law.

Sheriff Jasper A. Russ nabbed the speeding honeymooners a few mo- ments after hearing via radio that Zioncheck had forfeited \$200 bail, furnished by a bondsman following the congressman's last brush with the authorities in Alexandria, Va. Zioncheck was assessed a small fine and released.

Gen. Hagood Takes Command.

CHICAGO, May 2.—(UP)—Maj. Gen. Johnson Hagood assumed command of the 6th corps area second army today, relieving Maj. Gen. Frank McCoy.

Snow At Duluth.

DULUTH, May 2.—(UP)—Snow- fall here today, added to heavy rains of Friday, to flood scores of basements and several streets.

Heavy Frost Predicted

Cover up those plants in the yard tonight, because there'll be heavy frost, the weatherman warned. It will be fair tonight and Sunday and "somewhat warmer" Sunday, he said.

Friday night. The plane, from 1 a. m. on a small army of federal agents and a large army of newspaper reporters and photographers had waited at the principal airport for their arrival. For some vagrant storm, coming the general state, several flying schedules had been cancelled; and not until 7:30 a. m. was it definitely learned that the plane had left Kansas City at 1:30 a. m. and would arrive in St. Paul "about 8:30."

Takes No Chances.

Travelers on two small transport planes were startled at the reception they received: thronging newsmen, camera-armed; racing automobiles bristling with firetraps; awed airport attendants delaying normal activities until given "clear- ance" by the G-men who had "ta- over" the entire field.

In charge of the force of about 25 federal agents of the St. Paul di- vision, Chief Agent Clinton W. Stein took no chances on an upset of his plans for safe delivery of Karpis to the bureau of investigation offices.

Hour after hour the motors of the waiting high-powered government cars idled and the heads of waiting federal agents nodded sleepily. Toward breakfast time two men were released to "promote" coffee for themselves and the rest.

Guardsmen On Hand.

Finally the huge dual-motored plane for which all were waiting roared over the field. Newsmen scurried to and fro seeking places of vantage and waited nowhere. The huge doors of the hangar at the 100th aero squadron, Minnesota national guard, slid open and a crew of militiamen under command of Maj. Ray S. Miller took charge of the mechanical end of the reception for the two "No. 1" men.

The 14-passenger Douglas "bi- plane" landed smoothly, taxied gracefully to the hangar—and was wheeled in backwards after Mr. Stein had gone to the plane door and had a brief consultation with someone inside. The someone was not visible to spectators. Newsmen jumped to the conclusion it was Mr. Hoover, for immediately following, as the plane was being trundled in, all reporters and photographers were politely but firmly "shooed" out of the build- ing by the federal men. Submachine gun muzzles nudged the slow ones.

National guardsmen lowered the hangar doors after the federal agents' cars had purred inside.

Bar Camera Squad.

"Sorry, boys," said Mr. Stein. "There'll be no pictures for several days. We want to 'talk to him first.'"

The last glimpse had by the ur- wmen of the to-be-famous plane was one of shotguns and tommy guns protruding their noses out of win- dows, of the smiling Transcontinental Western Airways pilot and the cheerily grinning co-pilot who had braved a dozen storms and strange airplanes to bring their notable cargo to the city.

Through unsuspecting crowds on downtown streets the 35-mile-an- hour parade of victors and van- quished sped their way.

Photographers There First.

They were greeted at the federal courts building, 5th st. entrance, by the same army of newsmen—who had traveled 45 miles an hour to get there first.

The first car debouched a group of (Continued On Page 2, Col. 1.)



## WEATHER

Fair tonight and Sunday, heavy frost tonight, somewhat warmer Sunday.

Hour ..... 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2  
Temp'ture | 37 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 |

(Further Weather Details on Page 28.)

# THE ST. PAUL DAILY

Complete Wire Service of United States

Vol. 37, No. 54

Home Edition St. Paul, Minn., Sa

# G-MEN JAIL KARPIS AFTER NIGHT

## Drama Marks Capture And Landing Here

Nation's Leading Mobster Arrives Two Weeks After Feds Break Open Hamm Kidnaping.

Two weeks to the day after Uncle Sam's crack G-men smashed the \$100,000 William Hamm, Jr., kidnaping case wide open and laid it at the door of the Barker-Karpis mob, Alvin Karpis, diminutive coleader of the gang, today faced the battering questions of G-men in the same locked room where two weeks ago he was named as the leader of the snatch mob.

In a quick, dramatic capture in New Orleans, and an equally dramatic and speedy dash northward, Karpis, wanted not only for the Hamm and Edward G. Bremer kidnapings, but for murder and bank robbery, joined the notorious company of underworld captives who have fallen beneath the department of justice's relentless drive on crime.

By Same G-Men.

He was taken by the same G-men who have added to their gallery of captives such names as John Dillinger, Charles (Pretty Boy) Floyd, Kate (Ma) Barker, her sons, Fred and Arthur (Doc) Barker, Alvin

## HOOVER, KARPIS FINALLY





dead, some in prison.  
Karpis, a price of \$7,000 on his head and the most hunted criminal in G-men annals with the exception of Dillinger, was taken in New Orleans Friday night by a corps of G-men headed by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the intrepid corps that has put the underworld on the run. But Mr. Hoover, in an interview here today, declared that the capture of Karpis will not cost the government a cent of the reward.

#### Traced To Apartment

Although G-men stepped in and captured Karpis, the Lindbergh law with its death penalty does not apply in either the Hamm or Bremer kidnappings because both occurred before enactment of the statute.

Through mysterious channels, the G-men learned Thursday that the man they wanted, who had been a phantom to them since Jan. 1, 1935, when he shot his way out of a trap at Atlantic City, was living in an apartment house on Canal st. in New Orleans.

Early Friday, the department of justice chartered a twin-motored Douglas transport plane from the Transcontinental and Western Air at Newark, N. J., airport. Hoover, who was in New York when the information was received, flew in it to Washington, where several of his lieutenants joined him. The plane then proceeded to New Orleans, arriving only a short time before the capture.

#### 30 Agents Assembled

Meanwhile, orders had gone to G-men stationed in cities near New Orleans and when Hoover arrived 30 agents, armed with sawed-off shotguns, revolvers and submachine guns, were assembled in the department of justice offices in the federal building there.

Little time was wasted. Hoover gave each man an assignment. Then all got into several cars and approached the apartment building from several directions. Each agent took up his pre-arranged post, under cover but instantly available.

#### Surrounded And Pinned

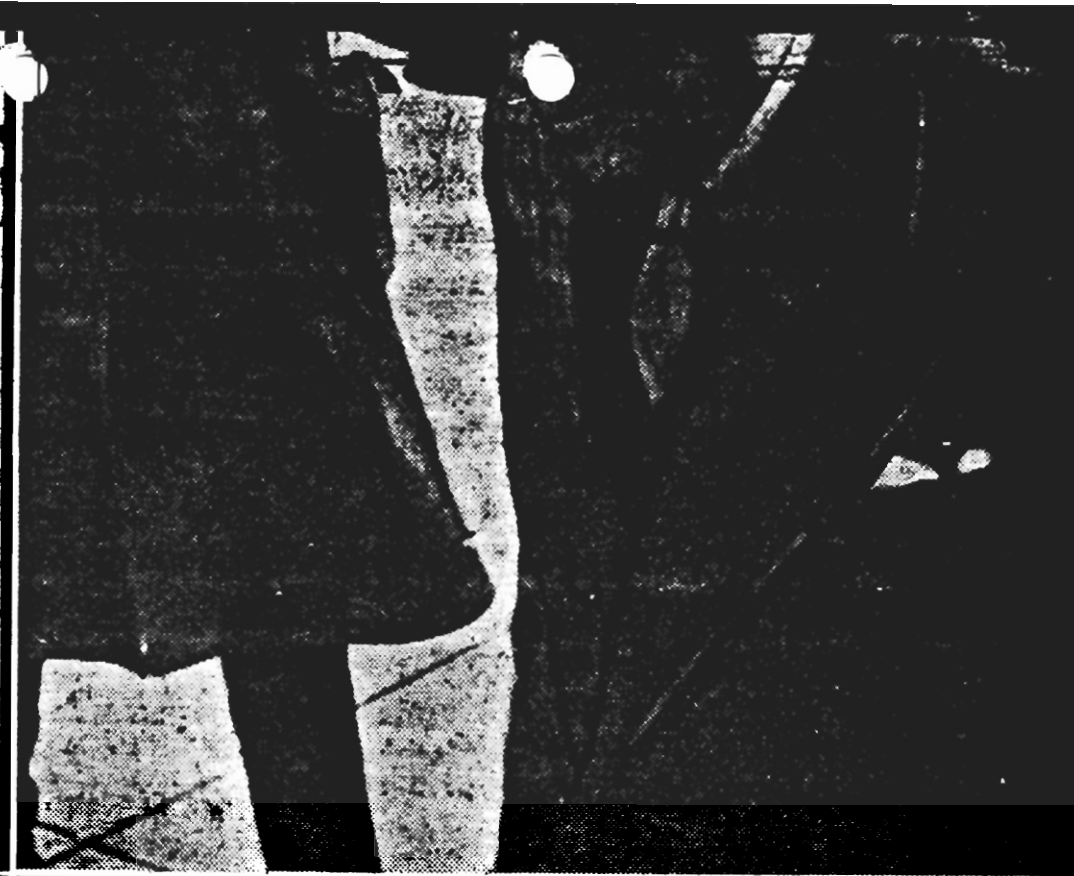
Less than an hour after the trap was set, Karpis came strolling out and crossed the sidewalk to his automobile at the curb. In a flash, G-men surrounded him and had his arms pinned to his side. He couldn't have resisted if he had wanted.

Other agents went to action at once. They went to the Karpis apartment and, after a struggle, arrested a handsome 22-year-old girl, whose identity the agents still are concealing, and Fred Hunter, a suspected bank robber.

Karpis and the girl had lived in the apartment as Mr. and Mrs. Edward O'Hara since April 10, when Karpis is believed to have first come to New Orleans. Karpis had made at least two mysterious automobile trips since then. Returning from one, he was accompanied by Hunter. Federal men believe that he had gone to a distant city, and, with Hunter, participated in a hold-up. Federal agents suspected him of using New Orleans as a base for a number of robberies.

Federal agents, as usual, kept secret the source of the information that led to Karpis' arrest, but it was said authoritatively that a gossip automobile salesman, Clarence Pucheu, known to his clients and

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)



Here's what Uncle Sam's G-men have been wishing they could see for the past nation's G-men in the same picture. It was taken just as Karpis, hands crossed as where he landed at 8:45 a. m. today after his capture Friday night in New Orleans. federal courts building, shows Karpis in the center, straw-hatted, coatless and wearing advance guard to clear the way, is shown in the foreground.

#### Plan To Enlarge Upper End Of Harriet Island

Changes in the harbor line of the Mississippi river on the upstream end of Harriet Island to increase its size as part of a WPA improvement program will be discussed at a public hearing in the council chamber at 2 p. m. May 14. The hearing is called by Maj. Dwight F. Johns, United States army engineer, on the application of the city of St. Paul to the war department for the revision of the harbor line.

#### Public Aid Official On Pension Errand

Miss Jane Hoey, Washington, director of the bureau of public assistance, will arrive Monday for a conference with state old-age pension officials on difficulties the Minnesota pension system is encountering. The situation in Aitkin county, which has declined to participate in pension payments because of lack of funds, will be discussed and delays in investigating and approving pension applications in Hennepin and Ramsey counties considered.

#### Will Urge Suicide

NEW YORK, May 2.—(UP)—The will of Giuseppe Gallo left each of his four children \$500 and requested them to "use same to purchase a piece of rope in the hope that each will strangle himself or herself with said rope."

## 'POLITICS PUBLIC 1

### Chief G-Man Says "Karpis I

Alvin Karpis, two weeks ago branded by the United States government as the nation's most desperate public enemy, "folded up like the yellow rat he is" when captured by G-men.

Not one cent of the \$7,000 in rewards offered by the federal government for information leading to his arrest will be paid because there was no "betrayal" of him by gangsters or other persons.

His statement relative to the non-payment of rewards set at rest rumors that Mrs. John Meyer, who rented Karpis an apartment in New Orleans April 10, and Clarence (Duke) Pucheu, automobile salesman who sold him a car, might have been the "tipsters" who furnished the G-men with information which led to his arrest.

Succeeding Karpis today as "Public Enemy No. 1" is "Old Man Politics."

#### Brief "Yes" and "No"

Wary, but with sparkling dark-brown eyes boring into those of his newspaper questioners, J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the nation's G-men, today shot back a rapid-fire of answers to a barrage of questions concerning the arrest of Karpis, the next step in the government's

program of "cleaning house" on the nation's criminals, and the progress of the warfare on gangland in general.

Seated in a comfortable chair in the St. Paul offices of the division of investigation, United States department of justice, "for the first time in five days," he answered no questions with a brief "yes" or "no" refused pointblank to answer and at times volunteered remarks.

Investigation of the Hamm and Bremer kidnappings, he said, has not ended with the capture of Karpis; nor will it end with the eventual capture of Harry Campbell (still fugitive), and, "indications are that several more individuals will be involved in both snatchings."

#### "Quit Cold"

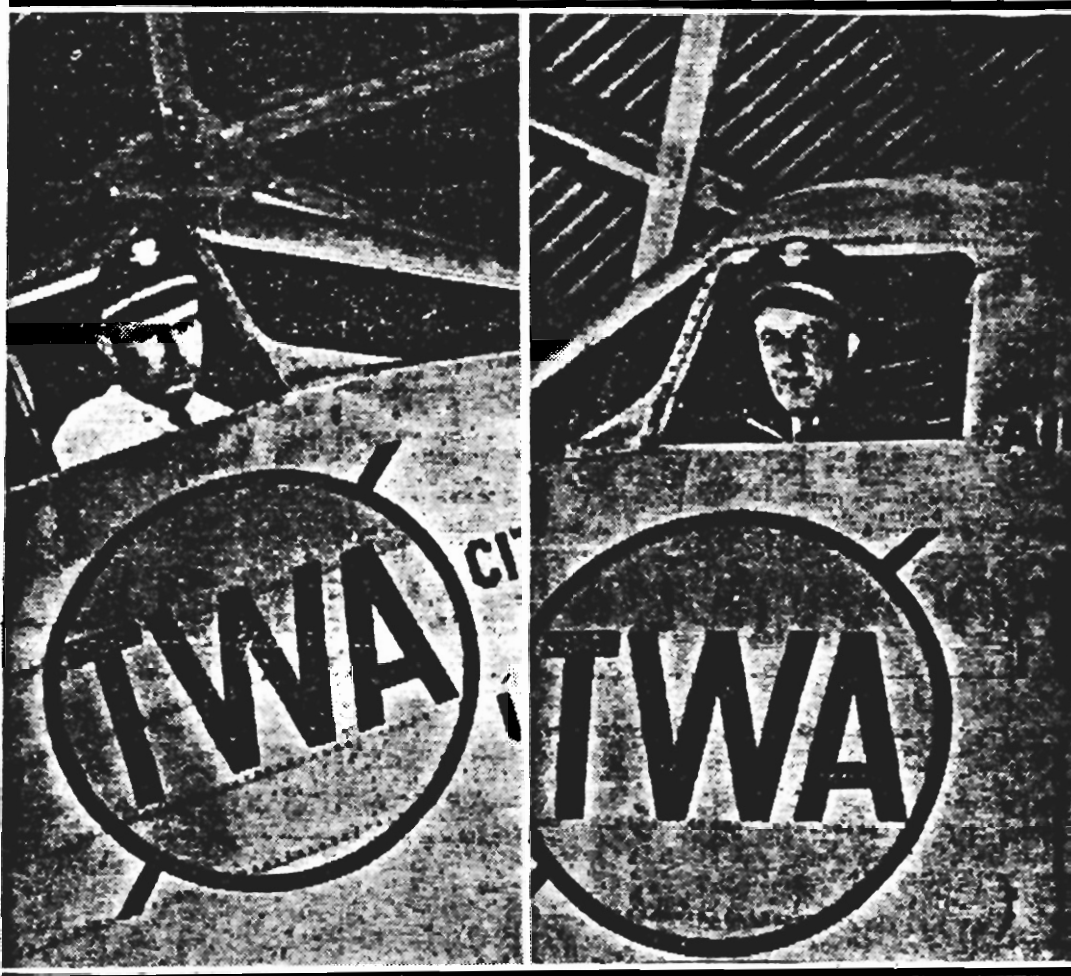
"The man who said he would never be captured alive folded up like the yellow rat he is, and the rest of gangdom is, at heart," Mr. Hoover said.

"Stammering, stuttering, shaking as though he had palsy, the man upon whom you newspapermen bestowed the title of 'Public Enemy No. 1' quit cold, as all the others have."

"Who will replace him as Public Enemy No. 1? We, we don't risk the yellow rats. It is you newspapermen who do that for us."

# KARPIS PILOTS

## Brought Him Here From New Orleans



Pilot and copilot of the TWA transport plane that brought Alvin Karpis, former public enemy No. 1, to St. Paul after his capture in New Orleans Friday night are shown here. Karpis faces indictments in the \$100,000 William Hamm, Jr., and the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer kidnappings.

—Daily News Photos.

a downtown hotel, but expected to leave the city today for New York in the plane which brought him and Karpis here. He said he would stop in Chicago for a few hours, and when he reaches New York will "go to bed and stay there" until he catches up on lost sleep.

### AT A GLANCE

REP. ROY E. DUNN, FELLICAN Rapids, today is Minnesota's

## Mammoth Navy Bill Passes As Enemies Roar

WASHINGTON, May 2.—(UP)—Administration leaders rushed the peace-time record-breaking \$531,068,000 navy bill to the senate today over roars of big armament critics in congress that it marked the road to war. The house without a record vote passed the bill late Friday after leaders had threatened to hold a Saturday session. It took only a day and a half, despite stubborn opposition, to put

## Can Break Tax Strike Through Court Ruling, Says Attorney General

Way was declared open today by Atty. Gen. Harry H. Peterson for the state to go figuratively into the real estate business to break what he termed a tax strike of owners of big office buildings in downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. The attorney general indicated it is possible for taxing officials to attach rents of office buildings and, under the attachments, rent the buildings to third parties and apply the proceeds on delinquent taxes. His suggestion is based on the action of the state supreme court which

## Dems Ask Revision Of State Taxes

### Ryan Faction Renews Bid To F-L. But Denies Any Tendencies Toward Radicalism.

BY DON VOIGT.

A platform leading off with a proposal for complete revision of the state taxation system to raise money on the basis of ability to pay rather than on ownership of property is ready for submission to Moonan-Ryan Democrats at their state convention late today.

The draft of principles follows liberal lines, in keeping with the invitation the faction is extending to the rank and file of the Farmer-Labor party to desert Gov. Olson and join the state Democratic organization, but it specifically declares the Democrats are not radical.

The convention got under way shortly after 1 p. m. in the Minneapolis auditorium to adopt a platform and endorse candidates for state offices and the United States senatorship.

Novak Dark Horse.

Dr. E. V. Novak, New Prague, emerged as a dark-horse candidate for governor. Others mentioned are J. F. Buchelt, St. Paul; Mike Murray, St. Cloud; Linus Glotzbach, New Ulm; Arthur D. Reynolds, Minneapolis; George Williamson, Minneapolis.

Despite opposition on the part of some leaders, there still was probability that a resolution instructing the Ryan-Moonan delegates to the Democratic national convention not to accept any compromise by which they would split votes with the Joseph Wolf delegates, would be before the convention.

Due to illness of his mother, in St. Louis, Sen. Bennett Champ Clark, Missouri, was unable to come but will speak by long-distance.

As the session was about to get under way, leaders said they believed attendance would total more than 6,000, including 1,800 delegates.

Tentative Planks.

Tentative platform planks are: Urging taxation based on ability to pay rather than ownership of property; lifting of the state real estate and revision of Minnesota's "obsolete" tax system.

Recommending for agriculture effective licensing and taxation of dairy substitutes, development of co-operatives, and lower interest rates. Supporting the President's recom-



ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS richer today is Ramon L. Irwin, 218 W. 52nd st., Minneapolis. He won the first prize Friday at the Northern Oratorical contest at Northwestern university, Chicago. The money will aid him to enter the graduate school at Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y., when he completes his University of Minnesota work in June.

**CHARGED WITH BEING** drunk, Edward Anderson, 1215 Randolph st., told Judge John L. Rounds in municipal court that he was waiting for a street-car at 9th and Wabasha sts. Friday night, that two men came along, beat him and robbed him of \$7 and that when he called police "all they did was arrest me." He was given a 10-day or \$10 suspended sentence, and, because he was still shaky, was sent home with a deputy.

**THOMAS O'NEIL, DEFEATED** candidate for the council today, thanked the women's and men's clubs and different church organizations and friends who gave him support in the recent election.

**BECAUSE HE ADMITTED** syphoning gasoline out of five cars to keep his 1925 auto in the running, John Morrison, 18, 1666 Wesley ave., was given a 60-day suspended sentence in municipal court today.

**INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE** of the late William F. Post, 110 Virginia ave., insurance man, was filed with Probate Judge Albin S. Pearson today. It estimates the estate at \$722,294. The will, filed previously, sets up trust funds for his three daughters, two sons, his widow. He died May 2, 1938. The will of Mrs. Harriet G. Tighe who died April 25 also was filed today. She lived at 506 Summit ave. A petition estimates the estate is in excess of \$60,000. Minor bequests and the balance to four children are made in the will.

**HUGH ESLE RANDOLPH,** Davis, Okla., wants to be put on the Minnesota election ballot as "independent candidate for president," he wrote to the "secretary of election board, St. Paul," on a postcard received today. He said if his name isn't so placed Minnesota's election will be contested and the state sued for damages. Clarence Storms, deputy commissioner of registration, to whom the card was turned over, is wondering what to do.

### Tire Branch Head

#### Sees Business Gain

Business increases of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. during 1936 promises to surpass the exceptionally high sales of 1935, J. L. Bain, branch manager, said at a meeting of approximately 200 dealers, salesmen and commercial tire users of St. Paul and vicinity at the Hotel St. Paul Friday night. The meeting here was one of a series of 18 such presentations being made throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota, at which movies will be shown depicting the latest developments in the industry.

It authorizes increasing marine corps strength from 16,000 to 17,000, and augmenting of the navy's strength from 150 to 100,000.

### State Needs New Taxes In Special Levy, Solons Are Told By Desmond

Minnesota must find new tax sources or make a special levy to produce the \$12,000,000 needed to bring the general revenue fund "out of the red," Matthew Desmond, deputy state auditor, told the interim tax committee today.

The state he said has not been on tax basis since 1931 when there was a \$6,000,000 balance in the treasury. Despite contradicting testimony by state tax commission representatives, Mr. Desmond said the new installment plan for payment of delinquent taxes will produce enough revenue by Jan. 1, 1938, to wipe out a \$10,000,000 deficit in the general revenue fund at present.

The committee has under consideration a proposal to vest authority in the administration and finance commission to curtail state departmental expenses in months where tax collections do not meet anticipation.

#### Forecast Big Auto Sales

Expecting to increase their sales of Graham-Paige this season are Ruby Woodham of the Ruby Motor Co., and J. G. Slaby and L. J. Slaby of the Slaby Motor Co., who attended a session of Graham-Paige distributors at Hotel Curtis, Minneapolis, Friday. It was predicted by F. R. Valpey, vice president of Graham-Paige Corp., that 1936 sales would shatter all marks since 1929.

**THE ST. PAUL DAILY NEWS.** Published daily except Sunday at 55 E. 4th st. Entered as 2nd class matter March 15, 1906, at St. Paul, Minn., postoffice under Act of March 3, 1879.

big office buildings which are now virtually escaping taxation."

### Many File Here As Deadline Approaches

With filings for state offices due to close Wednesday, candidates today deluged the office of Secretary of State Mike Holm.

Ole O. Sageng, Dalton, filed for the Republican nomination for representative in congress, from the 9th district; Louis J. Altman, Minneapolis, for the Farmer-Labor nomination for representative in congress from the 3d district; John C. Larson, Minneapolis, for the nomination for attorney general on the Republican ticket; Charles J. Johnson, Round Lake, for the Farmer-Labor nomination for railroad and warehouse commissioner; Rep. Mark Nolan, Gilbert, and Victor H. Gran, Duluth, for judge of the 11th district; Oscar A. Swenson, Nicollet, for state senator from the 15th district, to succeed the late Sen. Claude H. MacKenzie; and Mike Riley and John Howe, both of Foley, for representative in the legislature from the 45th district.

Rep. Joseph H. Masek, St. Paul, filed with County Auditor George J. Reis for re-election from the 39th district, 6th ward. He has served six terms in the legislature.

#### Radio Club Elects

Officers were elected Friday night by the St. Paul Radio club, meeting in Hotel Lowry. Frank E. Young was elected president, Loren E. Thomforde, vice president, and Stanton H. Allison, secretary-treasurer.

#### Benefit Group To Meet

The Gordon & Ferguson Mutual Benefit association will hold its 34th annual meeting at 6:30 p. m. Wednesday at Hotel Lowry. Dancing and cards will follow the business meeting.

Urging a more effective chain-store tax to aid independent merchants, and opposing special concessions and rebates to chains.

#### Removal From Politics

Demanding removal of the conservation department from politics, deploring waste in that department now and urging adequate programs for reforestation and conservation of water resources.

Condemning "conversion of the highway department into a vast political machine, charging it has been wastefully, extravagantly and even fraudulently conducted," and asking a new deal there.

Pledging adequate educational funds, opposing political propaganda in the schools and opposing state printing of textbooks.

Demanding legislation providing for more careful regulation of the sale of liquor and condemning lax enforcement of the present laws.

Favoring state and county civil service system.

Demanding laws to provide party designation of legislative candidates, but condemning party indorsement of judiciary candidates.

### Youth Administration To Spend \$75,000,000

**WASHINGTON, May 2.—(UP)—**The national youth administration will receive \$75,000,000 from the new work-relief program to continue making jobs for needy youth between 16 and 25 years, an authoritative source disclosed today.

**ART**  
2. Commercial Illustrating. 3. Fashion Design. 4. Cartooning. 5. Lettering. 6. Advertising copy writing and layout. 7. Marketing and sales management. Get day or evening training that will hold a job.  
**MILLS ACADEMY**  
6th Floor Met. Theater Bldg., 6th St.

# Extraordinary!

## Watch the Newspapers—

# Gibrecht Tires

## Ethiopians • Looting As Haile Flees

**Italian Forces Expected  
To Occupy Capital City  
Of Addis Ababa By  
Sunday.**

LONDON, May 2.—(UP)—Foreigners in Addis Ababa took refuge behind the barbed wire entanglements of the British legation today, in imminent danger of an attack by warriors enraged at the Italian victory. Emperor Haile Selassie abandoned his capital with his family. Looting and shooting broke out in the city. It is reported he has gone to French Somaliland, en route to Palestine.

Foreigners fled to the fortified British legation compound to the protection of its barbed wire, its five machine guns, and its little company of 200 Sikh infantrymen, pick of the British Indian army, under British officers.

Legation has sufficient food to withstand a siege for three months.

### Radio Messages Cease.

Commercial wireless communication with Addis Ababa was severed without warning this morning soon after the capital's station opened for business.

News of the imminent danger to foreigners was transmitted in a dispatch from Sir Sidney Barton, British minister, to the foreign office, over the legation wireless.

Terse, he told of what appeared to be the most tragic situation in an international community since the Boxer rebellion in China.

The emperor had fled; looting and shooting had started; most foreigners were already behind the walls and barbed wire of the British legation.

### Expect Occupation Sunday.

It was understood that Barton expected the Italians in Addis Ababa Sunday.

Each mile that they have advanced gave fresh fire to the fury of the defeated warriors in the capital are—many thousands, it was known.

They will come, it was indicated, as deliverers of the foreign population from a threat which the Italian conquest of Ethiopia has caused—one against which British authorities have warned for a year.

### Held Up By Landslide.

The exchange telegraph correspondent with the Italian armies reported that the main Italian column had occupied Egera, a village 25 miles north of the capital. A landslide was holding up the main body, he reported, many miles farther back.

Barton wired the foreign office that he would be in the city.

## CAGED! Karpis In No. 1 Captive Role



Manacled and bewildered by the rapid-fire events that turned him from a free man to the nation's No. 1 captive, ALVIN KARPIS, right, wanted here in the \$100,000 William Hamm, Jr., and the \$200,000 Edward G. Bremer kidnaping, reached St. Paul today. He is shown being started from the car at the federal courts building by E. J. CONNELLY, Cincinnati, head of the department of justice's kidnaping squad.

## Drama Marks Capturing Of Boss Mobster

received a telephone call. A voice wanted them to send reporters over for "an announcement." The reporters found Hoover, whom no one had known was in town, sitting at the desk of Chief New Orleans Agent McGee.

Smiling slightly, Hoover said: "Gentlemen, I would like to see you."

justice about his suit procrustinated.

Was this day?

"I had to be a go ahead," he said.

Mrs. Meyer rents living flats in the 3000 st., a middle class district. On April 10 accompanied by a you he said was his wife her apartments.

"He was such a n Meyer said. "So kind can't believe it."

The young man, w a Mr. O'Hara told her buy an automobile. M her son-in-law was a salesman and he want

Pucheu, known as "his elegant dress and loquaciousness, though strange from the minu he said. O'Hara (K standing in front of v talking, paid for his c and took long, mysteri the speedometer of his had been made at bre

"My wife and I ta Pucheu said. "We dec gangster, all right."

Mrs. Meyer, meanwh ing her tenant very w There was a cupboard ment for which she ha and Karpis was deligh the service of prying it day morning Karpis ag his courtesy.

### Two Mysterious Women

Mrs. Meyer knocked of his apartment, said to sell the dining room a part of the furnishing he mind if two pros chasers came in to look

Two women entered Mrs. Meyer. In going t room they had adequate to inspect the entire ap arrangement of rooms, the nature of the per sions of the tenants.

The women looked at room set, said they we wouldn't do, but would over, and left.

Soon thereafter, Hoove a plane in New York a New Orleans by way of V Friday afternoon he and captured Karpis.

## Hunt For Camp

"Hot," G-Men Sa

2 Of Gang Uncaug

CLEVELAND, May 2.—

search for Harry Campbell ed partner of Alvin Karp \$48,000 Garrettsville, O. robbery, is "hot" and his imminent. Postoffice Inspe vester Hettrick announced John Brock, the "myste brought here two days ago charged with participating robbery, was captured in Okla., Campbell's home to v rick said Brock



...before he fled, asked Barton to act as intermediary with the Italians. British Defend Foreigners.

Instead Barton has taken command of the defense of foreigners. The government here took a most grave view of the situation in the capital.

"It is grave and serious," a spokesman said. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden remained at the foreign office until he was assured that everything possible had been done to protect British nationals and any other foreigners who sought the refuge of the legation compound.

There was no word specifically of Cornelius Van H. Engert, American minister, his staff, four American navy wireless experts; missionaries, business men and two newspaper correspondents — Ben Ames and James Rohrbach, United Press staff correspondents. Other American press correspondents are of various nationalities.

## No. 1 G-Man Brings No. 1 Gangster Here

(Continued From Page 1.)

machine gunners and automatic riflemen who, together with the load from a second car, formed an aisle down which guests of honor were to travel, but through which not even the bravest citizen or gangster would dare to force his way.

Then stepped out Mr. Stein. He waved a half-hearted "no" at the wave of photographers. Flashbulbs flared. Out stepped Mr. Hoover, Napoleonic in stature and action. Neither to the right nor left he glanced, but, head down, strode after Mr. Stein. The day was brighter for the photographers, and because of their fast-expanding bulbs for, immediately after Mr. Hoover, followed the piece re resistance—Alvin Karpis, slender, smooth-faced, looking like almost anything else but what Mr. Hoover several weeks ago termed "the nation's most desperate public enemy."

His feet were not shackled, but his hands were manacled. He appeared to shiver as, coatless, without a tie and wearing a straw hat, he glanced up briefly at the cold, leaden Minnesota skies. The temperature was some 30 degrees below that in New Orleans.

"Hello, Alvy!" called someone from the crowd.

Karpis turned his head. He didn't smile. His face remained impassive. Had he not been "the nation's No. 1 public enemy"—desperate, a killer—onlookers might have suspected he seemed somewhat frightened and stunned by the proceedings.

A dozen quick steps and he was in the federal courts building. A short ride on an elevator and he was in the offices of the division of investigation—and headed toward trial for \$300,000 worth of kidnappings which are expected to send him to federal prison (probably grim Alcatraz in foggy San Francisco bay) for the rest of his life.

least confirmation. Soon after Karpis arrived in New Orleans, he went to the automobile age where Pucheu is employed. Pucheu met him at the door.

Flashes Large Roll.

"Let's don't talk here," said Karpis, casting an apprehensive glance at the big plate glass windows looking into the street.

Pucheu took his strange customer to a back room, where Karpis asked the price of a Plymouth sedan. Pucheu told him.

"All right," said Karpis, "I'll buy one."

He began peeling \$100 bills from a large roll.

Pucheu thought that strange. A few days later, his customer had the car serviced for "a trip." Less than a week later, Karpis returned the car for another servicing. Pucheu glanced at the speedometer and saw that Karpis had driven almost 2,000 miles.

"Fastest Worker" in U. S.

"My," he said, "but you're a fast worker."

"I'm the fastest worker in the United States," said Karpis.

Pucheu thought that even more strange. He talked about his customer to his wife. She suggested that maybe he was a gangster. They talked about the better known gangsters, and one or the other suggested that maybe he was Karpis.

They talked about it with their friends and relatives. One night, while out driving, they saw the Plymouth parked in front of the Canal st. apartment house, and they told their friends that the man they believed was Karpis was living on Canal st.

"Why don't you tip off the G-men and get that reward, Duke?" said Mrs. Pucheu.

"I think I will."

Rumors Spread Through City.

But Pucheu procrastinated. Meanwhile, his gossip had resulted in rumors that spread all over New Orleans. As early as Monday, persons strangers to the Pucheu and their circle of friends, had heard that Karpis was in the city.

Thursday the report reached the G-men. Friday afternoon, Karpis was taken into custody.

So fast and secretly did the G-men work that many of Karpis' neighbors in his apartment house hideout knew nothing about it until hours later. A half hour before the capture, a woman living on the ground floor looked out her window and saw a federal agent standing behind a tree, a submachine gun in the crook of his arm.

"Who are you?" she asked, leaning out the window.

"Stick your head back in the house, lady," he said, "or you're likely to get hurt."

Neighbors Indignant.

New Orleans police knew nothing of the trap. Excited neighbors telephoned them when it was sprung. They were indignant that the federal men had invaded their halliwick without even a "by-your-leave."

An hour after Karpis was taken to the department of justice's New Orleans headquarters, newspapers re-

He then handed each reporter a mimeographed sheet containing Karpis' complete criminal history.

He was subject to close questioning, but most of his answers were evasive. He said the federal agents had known "for two months" that Karpis had been "in and out of New Orleans." Hunter, he said, while not as well known as Karpis, was a desperate criminal and had participated, with Karpis, in the Garrettsville, O., mail robbery.

While Hoover said Karpis had not been his department's "public enemy No. 1" he had, nevertheless, been sought with every energy the department could bring to bear for two years.

\$7,000 In Rewards.

The department had offered \$5,000 reward for information leading to his capture, the highest of its two outstanding reward offers. The postoffice department had offered \$2,000. Harry Campbell, Karpis' companion in many crimes and in the Atlantic City coup when they shot themselves out of a trap, had a reward of \$2,500 on his head.

Two other men are wanted badly by the department of justice—the last survivors of what once was a sizeable list of big time criminals. These are Thomas H. Robinson, Jr., kidnaper of Alice Speed Stoll and William Mahan, kidnaper of young George Weyerhaeuser. But there is no reward out for either.

Started As Petty Thief.

Karpis began his career as a petty thief, and was initiated into the big time criminal world in 1931, after his escape from the Kansas state penitentiary at Lansing, by the Barkers, Arthur and Fred. He soon became joint leader of the mob and with it is alleged to have participated in the kidnappings of William Hamm and Edward G. Bremer, wealthy St. Paul brewers.

Arthur Barker and his mother, Kate, were killed by G-men in Florida in January, 1935. Karpis had been in their hideout a few hours before the raid, and fled northward with Campbell to Atlantic City, where the unsuccessful trap was set for them several weeks later.

Fred Barker was captured meanwhile, was convicted with a number of associates of the Bremer kidnapping, and is now serving a life term.

"Such A Nice Boy, I Can't Believe It," Says Karpis' Landlady

NEW ORLEANS, May 2.—(UP)—Mrs. John Meyer, who rented Alvin Karpis an apartment April 10, and Clarence (Duke) Pucheu, the salesman who sold him an automobile, are related by marriage, the United Press learned today in seeking the means whereby federal agents located Karpis' hideout here Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Meyer's daughter is Pucheu's wife. Both she and her son-in-law denied that they had told department of justice agents where they could find the nation's most wanted man.

Mrs. Meyer said today that she could hardly believe her tenant was the notorious criminal. Pucheu said he was not in the least surprised; that, in fact, he had suspected his true identity right along, had intended telling the department of

arrested in Karpis' hideout in New Orleans.

The sixth man charged with robbery, Grover Keady, was arrested in Tulsa several months ago, now is in jail here.

## Karpis' Dad Bars Door Won't Discuss Capture

CHICAGO, May 2.—(INS)—John Karpavicz, a respectable, hard working janitor, barred his basement flat to all callers today. "All I want is to be left alone," he shouted in broken English through the closed door to reporters come to interview him concerning the capture of his infamous son, Alvin Karpis.

"Get away from that door you're going to get hurt," the man barked at one insistent porter.

Through the closed door he could be heard warning his wife, Anna, to stay away from the door.

In the same building lives Mary Emily Newbold, sister of the nation's public enemy No. 1. She, too, refused to see reporters.

From neighbors in the building it was learned Karpis has not been near the home of his parents years.

## Hoover Says Politics Is Enemy No.

(Continued From Page 1.)

Dolores Delaney (St. Paul girl who was Karpis' moll) was going to have her baby. Karpis kidnaped Philadelphia physician to attend her and transported him to New Jersey. That was in January, 1935, a short time before Karpis and Campbell escaped from an Atlantic City apartment hotel leaving the Delaney girl and Wynona Burdette behind.

"As far as we are concerned Karpis is a closed book with the bureau. The district attorney does not have the case."

Mr. Hoover, leaving the investigation division offices, registered

## Notice!

As an added Daily News Want Ad service, Lost and Found ads ordered for 3 consecutive days will appear on the front page of the paper once during the current week.

### LOST AND FOUND

LOST—Medium-sized tawny color collie dog. No collar. Reward. DA. 187.

LOST—Diamond engage. ring, natural gold. Vic. U. M. Campus. Rev. E. 5500.

LOST—Set a. m. nr. Cathedral, med size sandy col. shepherd dog. Tag collar. DA. 8867.

LOST—LADIES' BROWN PURSE. Initial "B. R." Reward. Em. 0422.

LOST—Wrist watch, white gold, same back. Reward. EL. 0447.



## Hot Springs In Financial Plight

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Feb. 1.—Mayor Leo J. McLaughlin put up to the City Council tonight the problem of raising revenue amounting to \$21,000 a year, which, the mayor said, was lost to the city when nine establishments where handbooks were conducted were closed.

### City Faces Financial Plight, Says Mayor.

Mayor McLaughlin's statement to the City Council follows:

"As you know, there is a certain group of citizens in this city who have always been opposed to anything of a liberal nature that might be beneficial to Hot Springs so this city could match the competition of other health and pleasure resorts throughout the country. This group has also been opposed to the operation of the race track. You know who is the leader of the reform element.

"The great majority of the people here have approved a liberal policy for Hot Springs and as a result of this policy the city last year enjoyed its greatest year of prosperity, as evidenced by reports of the various business establishments, bank statements and bath records, but regardless of this era of prosperity the leaders of the reform element brought about legislative investigation of Hot Springs. It is generally known here that the author of the resolution for the investigation of Hot Springs is a resident of this city.

"The activity of the leaders of the reform element in Hot Springs has caused various establishments to cease operations and, of course, the closing of these places vitally effects the finances of the city of Hot Springs. I have had our city collector and treasurer prepare a statement which shows that during the year 1936 the sum of \$21,500 was collected from these places and deposited in the Arkansas National bank to the credit of the city. The statement also shows that the sum of \$1,800 was collected by the city for the month of January, 1937 and this money also placed to the credit of the city in the same bank. This brings to your attention the fact that our income is now decreased \$1,800 per month and something will have to be done to overcome this deficit.

"This creates a financial crisis which gives me much concern, because there are only two ways of overcoming it. One way is to decrease the city pay roll and the other is to increase occupation taxes. Both these solutions are objectionable to me. Everyone on the city pay roll is working under a 20 per cent reduction of salary and any further reduction will make it impossible for a man to provide the necessities of life for himself and

family. It is impossible to efficiently carry on with any less men, especially in the Fire Department, because any changes from the present schedule of operation will cause a decided increase in insurance rates in the city.

"Increasing occupation taxes does not appeal to me because I know the people of Hot Springs are already tax-burdened and the closing of this town at this time has been a severe blow to everyone engaged in any kind of business because they have prepared for the greatest winter season in the history of Hot Springs, but instead these tax-burdened people have seen the future of Hot Springs destroyed by the leaders of the reform element whose object is to rule or ruin.

"The loss of this monthly revenue of \$1,800 must be overcome in some manner and the solution must be reached not later than March 1st. The history of our state shows the enactment of the gasoline tax, the income tax, the tobacco tax, the severance tax and the sales tax; all new forms of taxation since our Constitution was adopted, and the cities have not shared in any of the taxes. On the other hand the state profits solely from these sources of income. The cities of Arkansas have been left by the wayside with the same sources of taxation that we had 30 years ago with the exception of the automobile tax and occupation tax. But we are expected to provide better trained fire and police departments and we are required to keep step with the growing demands of our citizens which create new expenses upon the city. We have not only failed to share in any way the new forms of taxation but at the present time our own purchases are being taxed by the state under our present sales tax.

"The automobile license tax of \$5.00 is the only new tax given to our city in the last 30 years with the exception of the occupation tax, and the occupation tax was adopted for the purpose of creating revenue to take the place of the saloon license which ceased when prohibition was commenced. When the sale of beer and whiskey was again legalized the major part of the revenue was taken by the state government and only a small part left for the cities, not even enough to pay the salaries of policemen who are called upon to control and govern the conduct of places where beer and whiskey are sold.

"I have called these taxes to your attention for the purpose of letting you know that our income has not been

sufficient to pay the running expenses of the city and defray the additional costs of the many increasing demands of the public. Therefore, it was necessary that we take advantage of every opportunity to increase the income of the city, and the system of fines yielded enough revenue to almost make it possible for the city to operate within its income, but we now face a monthly loss of \$1,800. Therefore, some plan must be adopted so we can operate the city within its income without raising taxes or decreasing the personnel and efficiency of our departments. At present I know of no solution or plan."

Members discussed the financial plight of the city but reached no conclusions. Mayor McLaughlin indicated that he might summon the council in special session before March 1.

### Club Belvedere Closed Up by Proprietor.

Doors of the Club Belvedere were locked tonight. In the raid Friday night gaming paraphernalia was taken from the casino. Until tonight the casino had remained open, but it ceased to do business tonight.

The closing of the Club Belvedere threw 42 regular employees out of work, together with an orchestra of 14 pieces.

W. S. Jacobs, proprietor, said he had no idea when the Club Belvedere would reopen.

## RESIGNATION OF M'LAUGHLIN TO BE CALLED FOR

### Business Men Will Meet Today.

By JOE WIRGES.  
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)  
Hot Springs, Feb. 3.—A group of business men of this city is scheduled to meet at 10 tomorrow morning to appoint or select a chairman and committee to call on Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin for his immediate resignation.

This fact was learned today out of the many rumors circulating since Friday night when state revenue officers confiscated three truck loads of gambling paraphernalia here to be destroyed at Little Rock the following day.

"You can say we'll ask him for his resignation," said a spokesman for the group. "The reason? Well, there are plenty of them."

Your correspondent was sent here to investigate a "mysterious" airplane housed at the airport. The plane was found, but it proved to be here on an aerial mapping project.

But he found certain business men fairly furious. It seems they want the resignation of not only Mayor McLaughlin, but of Circuit Judge Earl Witt as well.

**Meeting Arranged.**  
One of the leaders of the movement made numerous telephone calls to other business men today, asking them to attend the meeting. Also he received many inquiries from other merchants. Late in the afternoon he decided to try to hold the meeting tonight, but after he had talked with several sympathizers it was decided to postpone it until tomorrow.

"I'll venture to say that 90 per cent of the business men of Hot Springs will be interested in seeing McLaughlin resign," said the spokesman.

Just where the meeting will be held was not determined, but those interested said that the mayor could attend if he wished.

It is planned to select a spokesman and to have the entire group accompany him to call on the mayor.

**Disapprove of 'Joints.'**  
It also was learned that the business men are anxious to retain the races. The spokesman said that many of them would not object to several exclusive gambling houses where stakes were too high for the average worker. However, he said that they disapproved of "joints" such as existed here before the raid, where bets as low as 50 cents on horse races were accepted.

The former manager of one of the clubs raided last week said that most of the gamblers have left Hot Springs. This included dealers and managers. Most of the minor employees were residents and remained.

The "clean-up" still was the talk of the city. In several restaurants conversations were overheard in which various explanations for the raid were heard. Several were overheard approving the action.

### Hot Springs Divines Want Only 'Honorable Revenue' for City.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Feb. 3.—Taking exception to the recent statement to the City Council by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, in which he deplored loss of \$1,800 monthly revenue derived from fines levied against bookmaking establishments, the Hot Springs Ministers' Association, at its annual meeting at the First Methodist church this afternoon, adopted a resolution declaring that the city should strive only for revenue from "honorable and lawful sources."

The resolution follows:

**Resolved:** That as citizens who believe in the supremacy of law and as ministers who labor for the enthronement of righteousness in our community life, we, the Hot Springs Ministers' Association, do not accept for ourselves the assertion that our city cannot be maintained without a hurtful and humiliating alliance with lawlessness.

As to revenues we feel that our city is only entitled to such revenues as may be had from honorable and lawful sources. We shall not be moved from this high moral position which we take without personal ill will and without fear of the final decision of our citizenship."

Rabbi A. B. Rhine of the Congregation House of Israel, was elected president. The Rev. Robert J. Johnson, pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal (Negro) church, was elected vice president; the Rev. J. H. Washington, Park Place Baptist church, secretary-treasurer, and the Rev. R. C. Woods, Roanoke (Negro) Baptist church, was added to the Executive Committee.

## Hot Springs, New Era 1/26/37 **Testimony Begun in Suit to Block Sale Of KTHS to Barton**

Examination of witnesses in the Chancery court hearing of the original suit of several members of the Chamber of Commerce seeking to enjoin its old board of governors from carrying out a contract for the sale of radio station KTHS to Col. T. H. Barton, of El Dorado, was begun here this morning, but attorneys doubted if a final decision on the case would be reached before tomorrow.

Only two witnesses, Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary-manager of the Chamber, and Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, were examined as attorneys for both sides took up the major portion of the time with preliminary statements and arguments over legal points involved.

Judge Frank Dodge, chancellor at Little Rock, presided over the hearing as the regular chancellor for this district. Judge Sam Garratt, disqualified himself. Judge Garratt was a member of the old board of directors of the Chamber which made the contract for the sale of the station.

In an opening statement Jefferson Davis, Col. Barton's attorney contended that the radio station was never an asset to the Chamber of Commerce, but was turned over to that organization in trust by the Arlington hotel.

Mr. Hotchkiss, the first witness called, was asked to produce certain records and minutes of Chamber of Commerce activities so that they might be placed on the record. These records, Chamber of Commerce attorneys said, purport to show the value of KTHS to this resort and to establish the fact that citizens of Hot Springs in general were opposed to the sale of the station.

Testifying that the people of Hot Springs had no inkling of knowledge of the sale of the radio station here until five or six weeks after the contract was entered into by the board of governors, Mayor McLaughlin declared an atmosphere of secrecy surrounded the sale.

Questioned by Attorneys J. D. Head, of Texarkana, and Judge C. T. Ootham, Hot Springs, who, with the mayor, are representing the Chamber in the hearing, Mayor McLaughlin also testified as to the reception of programs over KTHS in other states. He declared he had received programs over the local station while visiting in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Ohio.

He added that he had talked to numerous visitors who said they had come here directly as a result of contacts made by the radio broadcasts here. Two former clients in Canada wrote that they had received programs over KTHS, he said.

He concluded that KTHS was the most valuable asset of the Chamber and that Hot Springs and practically all other resort towns draw their greatest patronage as a result of radio broadcasts.

Attorney Davis, of El Dorado, cross-examined the mayor briefly, but sought to establish the fact that KTHS had decreased in value because of old equipment which should be replaced.

Col. Barton, himself, was in the courtroom listening attentively to the proceedings and conferring at intervals with his attorneys, Mr. Davis and Charles B. Thweatt, of Little Rock.

The entire Chamber of Commerce, the old board of governors included, is now party plaintiffs in the suit as a result of a membership meeting of the Chamber in which it voted against the contract.

Following the Chamber of Commerce action, Col. Barton filed a counter suit and was granted a restraining order to prevent the C. of C. from withdrawing the application for transfer of the station now pending before the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC hearing on the application has been deferred until Feb. 23, pending settlement of the court suit here.

## KTHS ENGINEER SAYS STATION CAN BE MOVED

Testifies Transmitter  
Can Be Kept Near  
Hot Springs

Testimony of the chief engineer of radio station KTHS, that of the president of the Arlington Hotel Company and of a former chairman of the Chamber's radio committee was heard this morning in the Chancery court suit of the Chamber of Commerce seeking to annul the contract for the sale of KTHS to Col. T. H. Barton, of El Dorado.

Although several more witnesses remained to be examined, attorneys hoped for completion of the trial by late this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

James Moran, chief engineer of the local radio station for the past eight months and who has been connected with the technical operation of KTHS for the past three years, was the final witness questioned by attorneys for the Chamber this morning before they rested their case. Defense attorneys, Jefferson Davis, of El Dorado, and Charles Thweatt, of Little Rock, immediately called W. E. Chester, president and manager of the Arlington hotel, and Tom K. Martin, former chairman of the Chamber's radio committee, to the witness stand for examination before Chancellor Frank Dodge ordered adjournment for lunch.

Moran, formerly connected with a number of other nationally known radio stations, estimated the value of KTHS at around \$400,000 and declared the station should net a profit of around \$50,000 annually if properly operated. He also declared it was his opinion that the station could be relocated within a radius of 30 or 35 miles from Hot Springs and operate efficiently. This relocation and purchase of new equip-

ment would cost approximately \$37,500, he added. These improvements, he said, should enable KTHS to obtain the "primary coverage" of the immediate vicinity of Hot Springs and this section.

Upon cross-examination he admitted that KTHS has not yet complied with orders of the Federal Communications Commission to make certain improvements, but has obtained two or three extensions of time to do so. With the completion of testimony by Mr. Moran the attorneys for the Chamber, James D. Head, of Texarkana; Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin and Judge C. T. Cotnam, of Hot Springs, rested their case.

Mr. Chester, the first witness called to testify by the defense, explained that KTHS, originally owned by the Arlington Hotel Company, was turned over to the Chamber of Commerce for operation when it had become apparent that the station transmitter would have to be moved from the Arlington hotel building. Explaining circumstances leading up to the transfer of the station, he said KTHS was turned over to the Chamber with the provision that they might sell it after operating it for a period of three years. In the event the station was sold, however, the Arlington Hotel Company was to receive the sum of \$25,000, the amount originally put into the installation of KTHS. No formal contract or bill of sale was drawn up, he added.

Called to the witness stand for the fourth time during the proceedings, Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary-manager of the Chamber, said the attempt of the board of governors to sell KTHS was kept secret for fear some other interests might learn of the difficulties of the local station and try to obtain its wave length before the sale was completed. He added that most of the proceedings in the latter were handled by Hartley Wootton, president of the Chamber of Commerce at that time and also attorney for the Chamber and for the Arlington Hotel Company.

Mr. Martin corroborated the testimony of Mr. Chester in the matter of the transfer of KTHS from the Arlington hotel to the Chamber of Commerce and reviewed the troubles of the station for the past few years. He said the National Broadcasting System reduced its rate of payment to KTHS from \$300 to \$120 per hour in 1933 because of the fact that it was operating inefficiently.

At that time plans were made to move the station transmitter to

near Benton, he added, but a detailed survey was reported to have revealed the proposed site as inappropriate. A \$25,000 subscription loan from local citizens to finance the transfer of the transmitter was refunded.

It was then, said Mr. Martin, that the move was started to sell KTHS. He said the matter was kept from the public for fear that public knowledge of the KTHS troubles would hurt the sale price and for fear some other station may obtain the local wave length.

Upon cross-examination he admitted that only two persons, Col. Barton and Col. James Hammon, of Memphis, had actually been contacted regarding the sale despite the fact that other offers had been received.

Three witnesses testified yesterday afternoon that, in their opinion the market value of KTHS at the time it was contracted for sale to Barton on April 11, 1936, was around \$300,000.

The former officers and members of the old board of governors of the chamber agreed with Barton to sell him the station for \$75,000, of which \$25,000 was to be paid in cash and the remainder to be paid in yearly installments of \$10,000 for five years, the sale to be subject to approval of the federal communications commission.

The agreement to sell the station to Barton was made without the knowledge or consent of the membership of the chamber of commerce, and at a meeting of the membership last November 24, the sale was repudiated. The board of governors and officers then resigned and a new board and officers was elected by the membership. By vote of the membership, the chamber was made a party plaintiff in an action which had already been instituted by several members of the chamber to have the Barton contract annulled.

The opening session yesterday



afternoon was taken up largely with the introduction and identification of documentary evidence. Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary-manager of the chamber, and Mrs. Freda Jefferson, bookkeeper for the chamber, testified as to the income from KTHS over a period of years.

It was brought out that funds from KTHS had several times been transferred to the general chamber account to meet obligations of the chamber and had never been repaid. Over \$4,000 was transferred one time, according to the testimony.

James G. Ulmer, operator of radio stations at Tyler, Texas, and Kilgore, Texas, testified that from his knowledge of radio stations generally in this country, particularly in the southwest, the market price of station KTHS at the time it was offered for sale to Barton was around \$300,000. He declared that KTHS has a greater value than its mere physical properties possess; that the business built up by KTHS and its federal license or wave length, were worth much more than its mechanical equipment.

A. Earl Collum, of Dallas, Texas, qualified as a radio engineer, and he too declared that KTHS had a potential value largely in excess of \$75,000. He said he was somewhat familiar with KTHS, having visited the station last summer. He, as well as Mr. Ulmer, declared that radio stations are increasing in value, due to greater coverage because of the increase in receiving sets in every part of the country and the growing popularity of radio programs.

Howard A. Shuman, commercial manager of station KFDM, Beaumont, Texas, testified that he had considerable knowledge of KTHS,

and radio generally; that in his opinion KTHS was worth at the time it was offered for sale to Barton, a price in the neighborhood of from \$250,000 to \$300,000. He testified he had been identified with a station in Little Rock and was familiar with KTHS and radio broadcasting generally in Arkansas and the southwest.

Charles Goslee, general manager of the local daily newspapers; Rev. Claude L. Jones, president of the Hot Springs Ministerial Alliance; Bruce Wallace, manager of the Majestic hotel and chairman of the radio committee of the chamber of commerce, and Guinn Massey, local merchant, and a member of the board of the chamber, testified that, in their opinions, KTHS had been of inestimable value to Hot Springs in publicizing the city and attracting visitors here. Dr. Jones said the station has been of great value to the churches and religious forces of Hot Springs.

Edward C. Appler, announcer at KTHS, testified that he had recently received letters and messages from some 35 states in commendation of a musical program lately broadcast over KTHS. He said he had received over 800 messages.

The plaintiffs contend that the conditional sale of KTHS to Barton by the former officers and board was illegal because the membership had not authorized it, in fact later repudiated it and that the contract price of \$75,000 was grossly inadequate.

## Ledgerwood Orders

### Boys Banned From Resort Pool Rooms

1/28/37

Five boys, between the ages of 14 and 16, were brought before Municipal Judge Ledgerwood yesterday on charges of prowling and stealing automobiles and in referring the youths to juvenile court the judge warned local pool hall operators to "keep boys of that age out of your establishments."

Four of the boys, R. O. Maudlin, 14; Seamore Hoffman, 15; Jimmy Green, 15; and Robert Williamson, 14, were arrested in a Central avenue establishment. They were charged with prowling automobiles.

"Getting together in places like that breeds the gang spirit," Judge Ledgerwood told the operators in ordering them not to let youngsters "hang out" in their establishments.

Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, who arrested the four boys while they were playing pool, said most of the operators favored the idea.

The other youth brought into court was S. Smithline, 16-year-old former Oklahoma youth. He was accused of stealing the automobile of Dr. A. U. Williams, which was recovered. The youth was accompanied in court by his father who said he brought the boy here from Oklahoma to cure what the youth admitted was a "mania for stealing cars."

Charged with grand larceny and forgery, Carl McFarland, 30, who police said was a paroled Iowa convict, was bound over to the grand jury with his bond being set at \$1,000. Detective Chief Akers and Day Captain Watkins said McFarland robbed an acquaintance of several money orders and travelers checks and attempted to cash them at the Pappas Confectionary, 300 Ouachita avenue.

Accused of selling a musical instrument not belonging to him, Tommy Barker, local musician, was bound over to the grand jury on a grand larceny charge. His bond was set at \$500. Allen Rowe, rural youth and owner of the instrument, was the prosecuting witness.

Three negroes, Frank Ramsey, Hazel Grayson and Katie Norman, charged with possessing three gallons of non-tax paid liquor found in a house on Grove street, were each fined \$100. All denied their guilt.

## Chancery Court

### Will Hear Suit Over KTHS Today

1/28/37

Hearing on the original suit of several members of the Chamber of Commerce to enjoin its old board of governors of the Chamber which made the contract with Barton. Chancellor Garratt disqualified himself.

The entire Chamber of Commerce, the old board of governors included, is now party plaintiffs in the suit as a result of a membership meeting of the chamber in which it voted against the contract.

Following the Chamber of Commerce action, Col. Barton filed a counter suit and was granted a restraining order to prevent the C. of C. from withdrawing the application for transfer of the station now pending before the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC hearing on the application has been deferred until Feb. 23, pending settlement of the court suit here.

## KTHS VALUE IN EXCESS OF SALE PRICE TESTIFIED

RADIO EXPERTS SAY  
STATION WORTH MORE  
THAN \$75,000

*Hot Springs Sentinel-Record*  
1/29/37  
HEARING BEGUN HERE

Chamber of Commerce  
Seeks to Block Sale of  
Broadcaster to Col. T. H.  
Barton. — Chancellor  
Dodge Sitting in Case.

Three witnesses—radio operators in Texas and a radio engineer—testified yesterday afternoon in Chancery court in the case of the Chamber of Commerce seeking to cancel the contract for the sale of radio station KTHS to Col. T. H. Barton, of El Dorado, that, in their opinion the market value of KTHS at the time it was contracted for sale to Barton on April 11, 1936, was around \$300,000.

The former officers and members of the old board of governors of the chamber agreed with Barton to sell him the station for \$75,000, of which \$25,000 was to be paid in cash and the remainder to be paid in yearly installments of \$10,000 for five years, the sale to be subject to approval of the federal communications commission.

The agreement to sell the station to Barton was made without the knowledge or consent of the membership of the chamber of commerce, and at a meeting of the membership last November 24, the sale was repudiated. The board of governors and officers then resigned and a new board and officers was elected by the membership. By vote of the membership, the chamber was made a party plaintiff in an action which had already been instituted by several members of the chamber to have the Barton contract annulled.

Former Circuit Judge C. T. Cotnam, a member of the present board of governors of the chamber, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin and Attorney James D. Head of Texarkana, represented the chamber at the hearing yesterday, Attorney Richard M. Ryan, associated with counsel for the chamber, being unable to be present on account of the death of his brother, George Ryan. Colonel Barton was represented by Attorney Jeff Davis of El Dorado, and Charles B. Thweatt of Little Rock.

The opening session yesterday morning was taken up largely with the introduction and identification of documentary evidence. Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary-manager of

the chamber, and Mrs. Freda J. Jenson, bookkeeper for the chamber, testified as to the income from KTHS over a period of years.

It was brought out that funds from KTHS had several times been transferred to the general chamber account to meet obligations of the chamber and had never been repaid. Over \$4,000 was transferred one time, according to the testimony.

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The plaintiffs contend that the conditional sale of KTHS to Barton by the former officers and board was illegal because the membership had not authorized it, in fact later repudiated it and that the contract price of \$75,000 was grossly inadequate.

Hearing of the case will be resumed at 9 o'clock this morning and it is expected to be concluded this afternoon.

Judge Frank Dodge, chancellor at Little Rock, presided over the hearing as the regular chancellor for this district, Judge Sam Garratt, disqualified himself. Judge Garratt was a member of the old board of directors of the Chamber which made the contract for the sale of the station.

In his opening statement Attorney Davis contended that the radio station was never an asset to the chamber of commerce, but was turned over to that organization in trust by the Arlington hotel.

Mr. Hotchkiss, the first witness called, was asked to produce certain records and minutes of Chamber of Commerce activities so that they might be placed on the record. These records, Chamber of Commerce attorneys said, purport to show the value of KTHS to this resort and to establish the fact that citizens of Hot Springs in general

were opposed to the sale of the station.

Testifying that the people of Hot Springs had no inkling of knowledge of the sale of the radio station here until five or six weeks after the contract was entered into by the board of governors, Mayor McLaughlin declared an atmosphere of secrecy surrounded the sale. Mr. McLaughlin also testified as to the reception of programs over KTHS in other states. He declared he had received programs over the local station while visiting in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Ohio.

He added that he had talked to numerous visitors who said they had come here directly as a result of contacts made by the radio broadcasts here. Two former clients in Canada wrote that they had received programs over KTHS, he said.

He concluded that KTHS was the most valuable asset of the Chamber and that Hot Springs and practically all other resort towns draw their greatest patronage as a result of radio broadcasts.

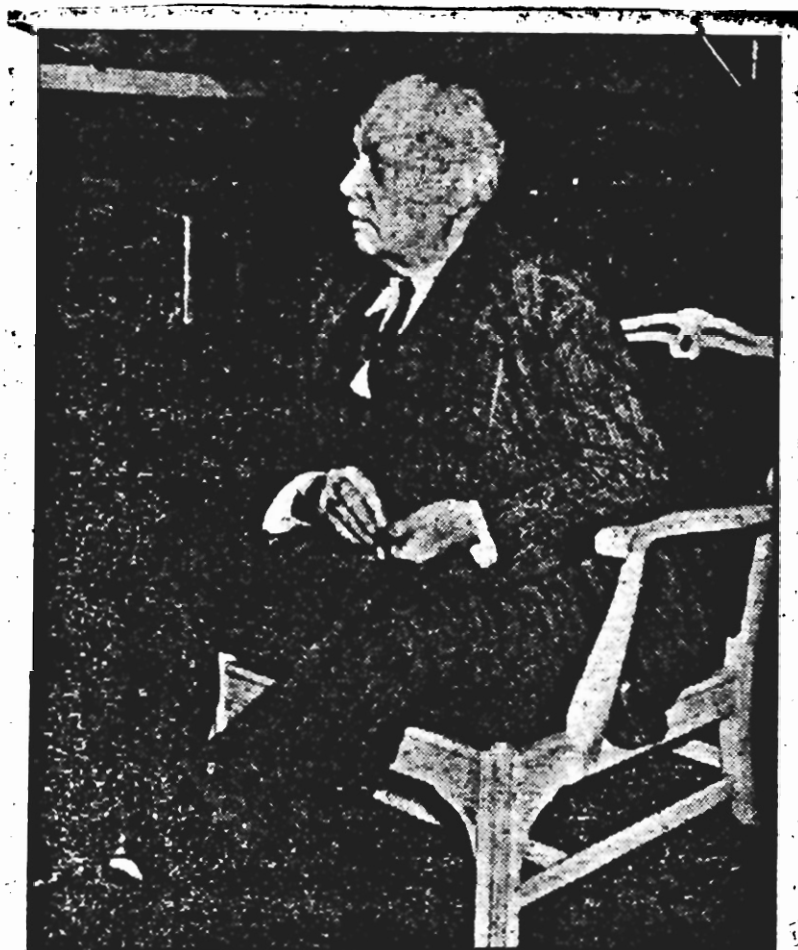
Attorney Davis, of El Dorado, cross-examined the mayor only briefly, but sought to establish the fact that KTHS had decreased in value because of old equipment which should be replaced.

Col. Barton, himself, was in the courtroom listening attentively to the proceedings and conferring at intervals with his attorneys.

The entire Chamber of Commerce, the new board of governors included, is now party plaintiffs in the suit as a result of a membership meeting of the Chamber in which it voted against the contract.

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—Gazette Staff Photos—  
W. S. Jacobs, alleged overlord of gambling in Hot Springs, was waxing sarcastic with officers who were ordering removal of fixtures in the gambling room at Belvedere Club when this photograph was taken. Jacobs was seated in a chair in the center of the long room, his small rat terrier dog behind him. He was declaring that an instrument being removed was not a gambling device and that the officers had no authority to take it.

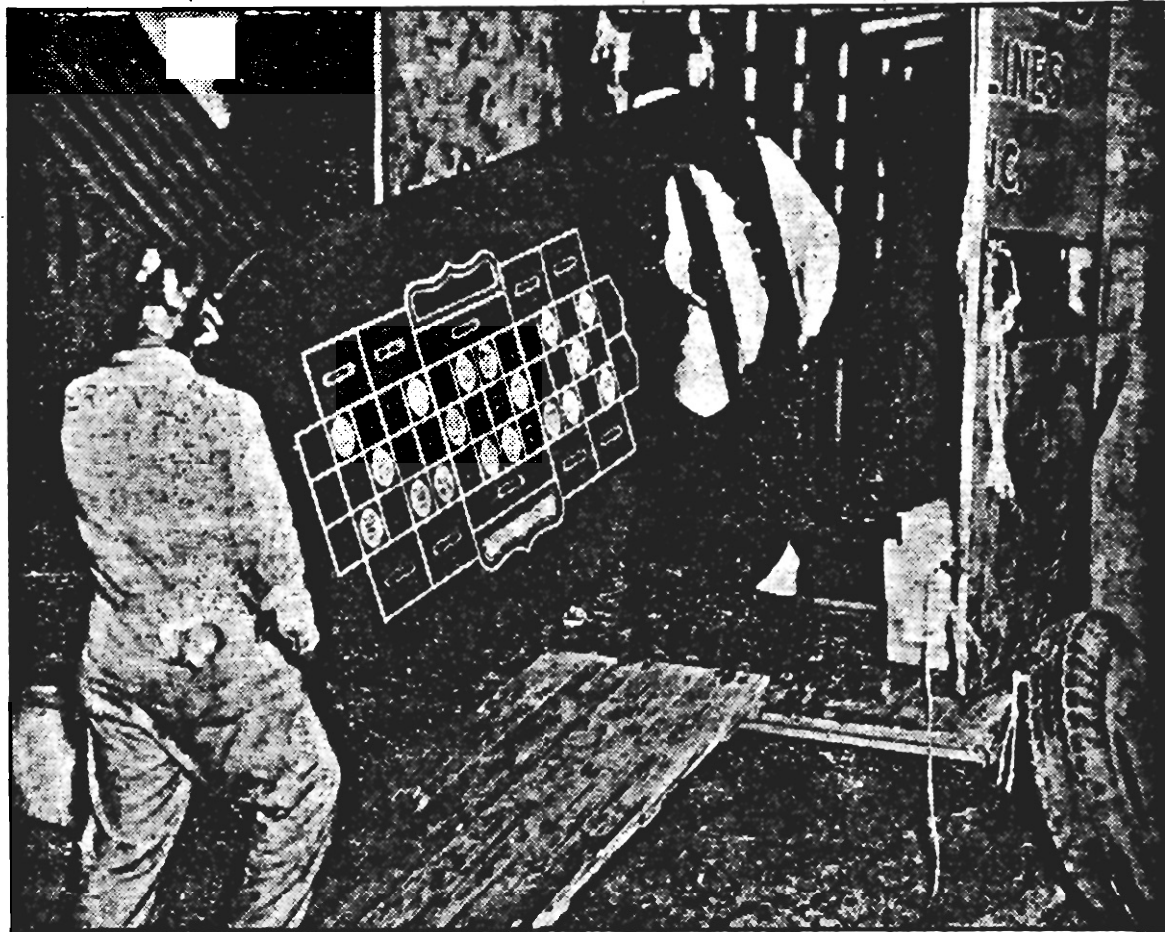
## CURIOSITY AND WRATH AT HOT SPRINGS



Part of the crowd that gathered in front of Miller's sporting establishment on Hot Springs main street last night was caught by the camera as they waited expectantly for removal of gambling devices from the place. A crowd equally as large and equally as curious, stood in front of the Southern Club.



## ROLLING TOWARD LITTLE ROCK



The photograph shows Negro workers of a transportation company removing the top of a roulette table from the fashionable Belvedere Club, near Hot Springs, last night.

—Gazette Staff Photo

## Two Establishments Here Ordered Closed

Municipal Judge Ledgerwood yesterday warned Luke Hignight, operator of a dance hall on South Border street near Hot Springs creek, to close his establishment until further notified by officers.

Declaring the Hignight place, known to him as the "Bucket of Blood," was a continual source of trouble to officers, Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry testified in municipal court that he found 100 persons in two small rooms when he raided it Sunday night.

Another place described by the officers as a "sore spot," the Court House bar, operated by "Doc" Ketchum at 421 Ouachita avenue, was also closed after a raid Sunday night, Night Police Captain Ben Rogers reported.

The case of Roy Peppers, 23, negro, who admits being the driver of a truck which struck and fatally injured Wilma Dodson, 40, negro woman, Saturday night, was continued to permit officers to locate additional witnesses.

A charge of violating the Sunday sales clause of the Thorn liquor law was placed against James Handley, employe of the Keystone bar, 204 Central avenue, by State Revenue Inspector C. B. Lovell, Sr., but upon his arraignment yesterday morning his case was continued until today.

Accused of giving a worthless check in payment for back room rent, Ed Carnes, visitor, received 90-day sentence. Two persons were fined \$75 for driving while drunk while several others received \$25 fines for being drunk.

## GAMBLING PROBE HERE ENDORSED BY CLERGYMEN

### BACK UP ACTION OF BAPTIST DIVINES AT CONVENTION.

Indicating full support of two Hot Springs Baptist ministers who were active last week in having the Arkansas Baptist convention adopt a resolution endorsing the legislative probe of law enforcement here the Hot Springs Ministers' Alliance yesterday issued a statement, declaring that the citizens should encourage the investigation and that all illegal gambling here should be stopped.

Dr. Marion A. Boggs, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and secretary of the Alliance, said the statement was the result of an editorial published in the Hot Springs newspapers, calling on the two ministers to present any information they had to the Grand Jury.

Since publication of the editorial which was addressed in part, to the Rev. Clyde V. Hickerson, pastor of the First Baptist church, and the Rev. W. J. Hirsley, pastor of the Second Baptist church, a number of inquiries have been made as to the position of the alliance, Dr. Boggs said.

The statement authorized by the Ministers' Alliance, which was addressed to C. E. Palmer, publisher of the Hot Springs papers, follows:

"That the Ministers' Alliance feels with you and with other good citizens the necessity of protecting the good name and reputation of Hot Springs, and

"That while we did not initiate the present legislative investigation we feel that the best way in which the good name and reputation of our city can now be safeguarded is for the citizens of this community to encourage and felicitate in every way this effort to obtain the facts. It is our conviction that not only petty gambling, but all gambling that is now being done in violation of the law should be investigated."



# REPORT PROGRESS IN PROBE OF SPA

*Hot Springs Sentinel Record*  
1/24/37  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE EM-  
PHASIZES HARMONY  
IN GROUP.**

## STATEMENT IS ISSUED

**Declare Private and State  
Department of Revenue  
Agents Have Aided in In-  
vestigation of Law En-  
forcement Here.**

Little Rock, Jan. 23 —(P)— The house committee investigating alleged lawlessness at Hot Springs, issued a formal statement today reporting "substantial progress" and emphasizing the "harmony" among its members.

The statement apparently was in reply to reports in circulation among legislators last week that there had been a division in the committee over methods of procedure.

The statement was signed by Chairman W. M. Thompson, Fred Jones, Ike Murry and Pat Robinson with a notation that Secretary Lee Nichols "is out of the state and could not be reached to sign this statement."

The statement follows:

"The committee appointed by the house of representatives to investigate alleged laxity in law enforcement and other illegal and immoral conditions in the city of Hot Springs and the eighteenth judicial district have perfected their organization and have made substantial progress during the week. The committee are a unit in their efforts to get at the facts pertinent to the investigation and their meetings have

at all times, been harmonious and this harmony has enabled us to accumulate substantial facts pertinent to the investigation.

"We have had the help of several agents of the department of revenues who have laid before us many facts which will be followed up, both by these agents and private investigators and we expect to go forward as rapidly as circumstances and our other duties will permit.

"It has been called to our attention many times during the week that important witnesses have expressed fear of giving us facts in their possession, but we desire to assure all witnesses brought before the committee that their testimony will be kept within the confines of the committee itself, and all the protection within the power of the committee will be given them not only before, but after they have testified.

The committee's attorney, Mr.

John R. Thompson, has offices at 411 Wallace building and witnesses desiring further information or to make statements or give testimony will contact Mr. Thompson. The attorney for the committee is under the same oath to keep investigation secret as applies to the committee and all its employees and agents. The committee has proceeded far enough with this investigation to convince us that we have a big task ahead, but we feel that with the cooperation we have had, we have every right to expect in the future that this investigation will bear fruit and that the people of the state of Arkansas will not be disappointed as previously stated.

"By the committee our deliberations have been and will continue to be conducted in private, but the committee reserves the right to

make such statements from time to time as we feel warranted in making.  
"We hope that the public will not pass judgment upon our work until we have completed our labors and made our report to the house of representatives."

SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-23-37

#### PROTECT HOT SPRINGS' REPUTATION

*Hot Springs-Sentinel Record 1/23/37*

There is no question that much of the unfavorable publicity Hot Springs is receiving over the state is traceable to local origin. The rank and file of the people of Hot Springs, we believe, resent a campaign on the part of local interests picturing this resort as a place of viciousness, where life and property are unsafe. We hope the present legislative investigation will go far to correct this situation and lead to a better understanding of Hot Springs, its people, and the value of this resort to the State of Arkansas.

We believe our people form at least an average cross-section of the people of Arkansas and of the nation in intelligence and character. This community has its troubles in law-enforcement as do most communities of this size and larger. There is no question of the undesirability of the common practice here of petty gambling and some "chiseling" upon visitors. Much in the way of correcting this practice could be accomplished by action on the part of our officers and by a painstaking investigation by a grand jury.

In this connection we may say that every community seems to be having its troubles with slot machines, and none has yet so far as known been able to satisfactorily solve the problem. Certainly, however, a determined effort should be made on the part of our local officers to rid Hot Springs of many of these in operation in more or less public places, particularly those places that are accessible to children or where children are permitted to play.

Petty gambling directly affects the legitimate business interests of Hot Springs. The money taken from our visitors of moderate means and local people by this type of gambling is a direct and heavy loss to our merchants and business interests generally.

At the recent state Baptist convention it was charged that conditions here are worse than the newspapers print, or words to that effect. Dr. Hickerson of the First Baptist church backed by his board of deacons, and Dr. Hinsley of the Second Baptist church, were mentioned as having made statements concerning bad moral conditions in Hot Springs. If they have any information relative to such conditions, they are citizens and should present their information to the grand jury. We believe in the integrity and character of these ministers and if they are sure of the correctness of their statements, they should give such information as they have to local enforcement officers and to the grand jury.

The people of Hot Springs want and expect prompt and efficient action by local officers and a thorough grand jury investigation of these charges without undue delay.

## INQUIRY OF SPA IS ENDORSED BY STATE BAPTISTS

### LEGISLATIVE INVESTI- GATORS PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT.

Paragould, Jan. 20. —(P)— The Arkansas Baptist convention adopted today a resolution endorsing the legislative investigation of Hot Springs.

"We pledge the full support of Baptists of the state to the legislative efforts to eliminate political corruption and to improve moral conditions of Hot Springs," said the resolution. "This is not a local matter but a state one requiring immediate attention."

Dr. Clyde V. Hickerson, Hot Springs, presented the proposal on recommendation of the board of deacons of his First Baptist church at the health resort city.

The Rev. W. J. Hinsley, Second Baptist church pastor at Hot Springs, supported the resolution, declaring "the situation is worse than newspaper reports say," and that "the legislature is not trying to make a goat of Hot Springs as some claim."

The convention organized by re-electing Dr. B. V. Ferguson, Fort Smith, president. The Rev. L. M. Sipes, Little Rock, and the Rev. O. C. Harvey, Stuttgart, were named vice presidents, and Dr. Ben L. Bridges, Little Rock, treasurer.

Dr. J. R. Grant, president of Ouachita college, reported the institution was operating on a cash basis and had improved its physical equipment during the year. He said the school had an enrollment of more than 400 including 68 ministerial students.

Dr. J. B. Rodgers reported an enrollment of Central college, Conway, at 151.

Dr. Ferguson in his presidential message to the convention complimented the 135,000 Baptists of Arkansas for their "sacrificial effort to pay off their debts during the recent redemption campaign." Retirement of the convention's million dollar indebtedness is one of the major subjects of the present assembly.

Dr. Bridges in his report as executive secretary said gifts outside of local church needs and the redemption campaign totaled \$90,159.23 for all causes during the past year. He urged with retirement of its debt the convention undertake a "far reaching program of missionary, Christian education and benevolent activities."

The 1937 budget suggested by the convention board calls for \$74,000. This includes \$11,000 for Bottom's Baptist orphanage at Monticello, \$7,000 for missions and evangelism, \$3,000 for Ouachita college, \$2,000 for Central college, \$7,000 on debts, \$20,000 for "Southwide" causes and \$20,000 for administration.

The executive committee recommendations to the convention include:

An organized movement to interest farmers in God's acre plan; organized effort to get 500 churches to contribute regularly to co-operative missions; vigorous evangelist campaign during the summer; rehabilitation of Baptistically neglected communities through efforts of missionaries assisted by nearby pastors; effort to get 500 churches to contribute to the orphanage about Thanksgiving; effort to enlist fourth time churches in contributing to co-operative missions monthly if possible or at least quarterly and all other churches at least once a month; request that all churches increase missions percentages of their budgets; tithes and offerings be emphasized as scriptural method of supporting kingdom work, and completion of the debt retirement program.



SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-21-37

# WOOD INDICATES REFUSAL TO DIRECT TRIALS OF OFFICERS

1/24/37  
**DECLARES "MERE  
CHANGES IN JUDGES  
WILL NOT HELP."**

**ANSWERS WITT LETTER**

**Dickson Probe Attorney  
Foresees Objections to  
His Acting as Special  
Prosecutor—Assails Con-  
duct of Entire Case.**

Scott Wood yesterday addressed a letter to Circuit Judge Earl Witt indicating his refusal of a proposal by the jurist that he direct the prosecution of seven former Hot Springs policemen charged with second degree murder and select any circuit judge in the state to replace Witt in presiding at the trials.

Replying to Judge Witt who volunteered to disqualify himself in the cases of the seven men indicted in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, because of the "unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned with the outcome of these cases," Wood said, "a mere change of judges will not help the situation," and that his acting as a special prosecutor might be objectionable to the defendants.

Wood, who represented James Dickson, father of John, in pressing demands for an investigation of the prisoner's death which the elder Dickson charged resulted from police "third degree" methods, suggested that Judge Witt support a proposed act empowering the governor to exchange circuit judges.

Judge Witt said he did not consider Wood's reply "a response to my letter and I see in it no suggestion that will aid me or the people of this community in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases."

Judge Witt added that he endorsed "wholeheartedly" the legislation to which Wood referred.

Regarding the suggestion that he name a judge to replace Witt in the trials, Wood said "the judge has no authority except to declare the law and rule on objections to the evidence offered" and declared there need be no apprehension of error in the law.

Intimidating, intimidation of witnesses in the Dickson case and claiming one of the indicted officers had said confidentially he did not dare tell the truth for fear of his life, Wood said in his letter that "the difficulty in these cases is to remove the fear from the hearts of the witnesses. He charged the witnesses "believe that the viciousness manifested toward Dickson was merely a reflection of the viciousness of the ruling powers toward all who oppose them."

In reply to Judge Witt's offer to discharge the present panel of the petit jury if the prosecution desired, and that the acting judge designate the method by which the trial jury be selected, Wood said that under the law the selection of another jury would be left entirely to the sheriff.

The action of the sheriff's office in the Dickson case, he said, had not been such as to inspire confidence. He charged that office had failed to serve a bench warrant for Dickson, issued by Judge Witt on Dec. 4, until after Dickson's death although Dickson had been in custody of the police since Dec. 18.

Charging fraud in the democratic primary of last August 11, Wood said "the remedy lies in the

restoration of the franchise to the people."

Judge Wood's statement follows:  
Hot Springs, Arkansas  
January 20, 1937

Honorable Earl Witt  
Circuit Judge  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

My Dear Judge Witt:

Your letter of January 18, concerning the cases against police officers charged with murdering John Dickson, was delivered to me last night by Deputy Sheriff Erney.

I note your offer to change circuits for the trial of these cases with any circuit judge whom I may name. A mere change of judges will not help the situation. The judge has no authority except to declare the law and rule on objections to the evidence offered. The law is so well established and so simple that there need be no apprehension of error in the law.

The difficulty in these cases is to remove the fear from the hearts of the witnesses. The witnesses, as well as the general public, believe that the viciousness manifested toward Dickson by the policeman who had him in custody was merely a reflection of the viciousness of the ruling powers toward all who oppose them. One important wit-

ness has already left town through fear of the police department. Some of the others are afraid to tell the truth. One witness disclosed the truth confidentially on our pledge that his evidence would not be revealed until he could be satisfied that he would be properly protected. A minister of one of our churches pleaded with one of the officers who is under indictment for the murder of Dickson to tell the truth. This man answered that if he told the truth, he would not live to see his family again. One witness, when we tried to make assurance of protection, replied that the sheriff's force are merely "messenger boys" for the mayor's office in matters which concern the administration.

"Witnesses tell me that some of the indicted policemen whose dismissal from the police force was announced are still to be seen around the city jail—one of them engaged in his regular work of taking finger prints. A United States deputy marshal also reports that this man is still taking finger prints. Others of these officers have secured employment as guards and bouncers at gambling houses, and they are still carrying their guns.

"In my opinion, the cause of justice would not suffer, but would be advanced by a short delay in the trial of these cases. The indictments do not seem to be interfering with their ability to earn a livelihood, some of them already having secured employment, and doubtless the others can be placed as soon as the season gets in full swing. The experience they had as policemen at the city jail should fit them admirably for jobs as bouncers. I understand that the pay is better and this work is lighter than their former police jobs.

"Your suggestion that the present panel of the jury might be discharged and that the judge on exchange of circuits might designate the method by which the trial jury is selected, could not be followed, under the law, when the regular jury is discharged, the only way to secure a jury is for the sheriff to summon whomever he may choose to serve on the jury.

"The action of the sheriff's office in the Dickson case, as you know, has not been such as to inspire confidence. You issued your bench warrant on December 4, commanding the sheriff to arrest him and place him in the county jail and safely keep him there. On December 14, he was placed in the city

jail, where they had no right to place him. The city jail is the very place he should have been kept away from if the officials had had proper consideration for his safety, since he was accused of having assaulted the chief of police, and was also accused of burglary committed on the property of W. S. Jacobs, who was the employer of several of the police officers. He was kept in the city jail until December 18, when he was transferred to the hospital. On December 29, the sheriff made this return on your bench warrant:

"I have duly served this warrant by finding the said John Dickson deceased."

"When his father, J. L. Dickson, and his aunt, Mrs. W. L. Haynes, tried to locate him, the mayor, city physician and municipal judge refused to give them any information, and Mrs. Haynes appealed to the present sheriff in vain for assistance in finding her nephew.

"In order to hold these trials in surroundings which would inspire the witnesses with a feeling of confidence and security, I suggest that we secure the passage of an act by the legislature permitting one of the other circuit judges to be sent here on exchange of circuits, and authorizing him to appoint jury commissioners to select his juries, also authorizing him to designate a special officer to wait on his said court and serve process, and authorizing the governor to send state officers to assist this special officer. By doing this, the whole truth in the Dickson case, and other cases of sudden death after confinement in the city jail, may be cleared up. Designation of a circuit judge by disinterested authority would be much more appropriate than having me as special prosecutor to make the selection, as the latter course might be objectionable to the defendants.

"It is also rumored that Robert DeMarr, who was indicted with John Dickson for the attempted robbery of the Ohio club gambling house, was brutally beaten and tortured, and was forced to make a confession implicating others, and he was held in the city jail approximately sixty-five days before he received a sentence of five years in the penitentiary.

"In the opinion of many people, the Dickson case is merely a symptom of the disease which now afflicts us. The root of the disease is in the general viciousness of the ruling powers which prompt them to oppress all who refuse to surrender to them."

The remedy lies in the restoration of the franchise to the people. The act I have mentioned should, therefore, go further and authorize the judge on exchange of circuits to investigate all election frauds. As you know, a suit was filed in the circuit court charging that practically every law on the statute books enacted for the protection of the ballot was openly and ruthlessly disregarded in the last election. The law requires the circuit judge to give a special charge to his grand jury upon violation of election laws and to see that all such offenses are prosecuted, but since you have taken no action in these matters, and since your brother, Gibson Witt, Jr., as a candidate for prosecuting attorney, is charged with participating in and profiting by these election frauds, it is only fair to you that another circuit judge be designated to inquire into these offenses and try any indictments which may follow.

"It is my belief that the people would approve your action if you would cooperate in securing the passage of an act by the legislature such as is suggested in this letter.

"Yours very truly,

"SCOTT WOOD."

Judge Witt's statement follows:

"I do not think that such a reply is a response to my letter and I see in it no suggestion that will aid me or the people of this community in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases.

"I have given the bill by Rep. Roberts of Faulkner (the measure introduced yesterday in the House, which would empower the governor to transfer circuit judges to districts other than those in which they were elected and to which Wood referred in his communication) the best consideration of which I am capable and there are so many reasons in favor of the bill that I endorse it wholeheartedly, and hope such a bill will pass this session of the legislature.

"I believe Mr. Roberts has sounded the keynote of a movement which will eventually place circuit judges in this state on the same plane as federal judges."

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin last night took strong exception to Judge Wood's reference to the discharged policemen.

"None of these men has been engaged in any work for the city since I discharged them," he said. "Their commissions were cancelled and none has any authority from the city to carry a gun. Any statement to the contrary is false."

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Raspberry who has been in charge of the department since the suspension of Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, concurred in the mayor's remarks.

"On the day these men were indicted I saw Mayor McLaughlin order them to turn in their badges and guns," the acting chief said. "He told them they would have no further need of them. None has been connected with the department since. We have employed outside men several times to do fingerprinting for us."

One of the indicted officers, Lieut. Cecil Brock, former fingerprint expert of the department, said that two weeks ago he had made some prints for Deputy United States Marshal Henri Julian and J. L. Egan following the arrest of two narcotic ring suspects here.

The federal officers had brought the men to the city jail to have them finger-printed before removing them to Little Rock," Brock

said. "I was sitting on the wall in front of the police station when they drove up. They said 'come on in Cecil, and fingerprint these men for us.' I did this and made the prints on Federal Bureau of investigation cards. The records were not even kept for the local police department files. Those government men will back me up in my statement. I have never helped the city force in any way since my suspension."



# WITT READY TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF IN POLICE TRIALS

**OFFERS SCOTT WOOD  
FULL CONTROL OF  
PROSECUTION**

**PROPOSES NEW JURY**

**Volunteers To Invite Any  
Circuit Judge in State To  
Preside in Cases of Form-  
er Officers Indicted in  
John Dickson Death.**

Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night offered to disqualify himself in the trials of seven former members of the Hot Springs police department under indictment for second degree murder in connection with the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, and to permit attorneys retained by Dickson's father to direct the prosecution.

The offer was made in a letter to former circuit judge Scott Wood, who pressed the demands of James Dickson, father of John, for an investigation into the death of his son who, the elder Dickson charged, died as the result of mistreatment while in custody of the Hot Springs police.

Reached at his Lake Hamilton home last night, Judge Wood said:

"The letter from Judge Witt was delivered to me by Roy Erney (chief deputy sheriff). I read it but have no comment to make at this time."

Declaring in his letter that "it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing," Judge Witt offered Wood the privilege of suggesting "the name of any circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases, and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases."

Judge Witt, who has been mentioned as the target of possible impeachment proceedings as a result of the legislative investigation of alleged lax law enforcement in Hot Springs, informed Wood that he would have the permission of himself and his brother, Prosecuting Attorney Gibson Witt, Jr., "to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire." He further declared he would discharge the present panel of the petit jury, or any member of the panel, if the prosecution so desired, and that the presiding judge could designate the method by which the trial jury is selected.

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine," the letter said. "But I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Gar-land county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage."

Judge Witt's letter in full follows:  
Hon. Scott Wood, Attorney  
Hot Springs, Ark.

"Dear Sir:

"On Dec. 29th, last, you advised me by letter of your employment on behalf of the state in the Dickson case, requesting an investigation by the grand jury. Prior to the receipt of your letter and before I had been provided with a copy of the report of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the body of John Dickson, I had called the grand jury for the primary purpose of investigating this case.

"As you know, the grand jury returned indictments against seven policemen of Hot Springs, charging them with murder in the second degree in connection with Dickson's death. I believe a trial should be had as early as possible, in consideration of a sense of fairness and justice to all parties concerned.

"Due to the fact it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing, I have the following suggestions with reference to them: First,

I believe a trial of these cases should be had as early as possible, giving due and proper consideration to all parties concerned.

"Because of the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases, please let me make the following suggestions: You may suggest the name of any Circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases, and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases. Our statute makes provision for such procedure.

"If there are any objections to the present panel of the petit jury, or any member thereof, then I shall discharge the panel or such juror, and the judge who presides over the trial of these cases may designate the method by which the trial jury is selected.

"Of course, you know that my brother, Gibson Witt, Jr., lately elected prosecuting attorney of this district, is confined as a patient in the Army-Navy Hospital, and has been for three or four months. Let me assure you of what I believe will be his conscientious desire, to co-operate with you in the prosecution of these cases. You shall certainly have not only my permission but that of my brother to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire.

"Let me assure you that my purpose in addressing you this letter is to do the best I can to provide a fair and speedy trial of any of everyone responsible under the law for Dickson's death.

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine. But I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Garland county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage. It would be too unjust and unfair. The point I am trying to convey to you is this: I want to do what is right about these cases, and I want you to help me if you will, and I believe you will. And I believe the good people of this community will honestly and conscientiously respond to every duty enjoined upon them.

Respectfully,

"EARL WITT,

"Circuit Judge."

The former officers under indictment are L. A. Cooper, R. L. Moore, Cecil Brock, Glynn Buchanan, Press Griffin, Andy Irwin and Joe Scott. The trials have not been set.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin announced after the grand jury action that all were "permanently" discharged from the department and said it was doubtful whether Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, who had been suspended prior to the Grand Jury investigation, would again serve.

Dickson who was charged with robbery and assault with intent to kill in connection with an attack on Chief Wakelin, died in a hospital here December 24, from what the official death certificate said was pneumonia. An autopsy revealed injuries which physicians said had "most certainly" contributed to Dickson's death.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-27-37

## OPERATORS OF POOL ROOMS WARNED TO PUT BAN ON MINORS

*Hot Springs New Era 1/27/37*

Operators of pool rooms in Hot Springs were halled before Municipal Judge V. S. Ledgerwood this morning and ordered to keep all minors of school age out of their places following the arrest last night of four youths on charges of prowling automobiles. The youngsters, none over 15 years of age, were arrested shooting pool in a Central avenue establishment.

"Pool rooms are no place for boys of that age," Judge Ledgerwood declared in ordering the operators to stop permitting young boys to "hang out" there. "Getting together in places like that arouse the gang instinct in youths and they invariably get into trouble."

Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, who arrested the boys, said most of the pool room operators were in sympathy with the order themselves.

The youths, R. O. Maudlin, 14; Seamore Hoffman, 15; Jimmy Green, 15; and Robert Williamson, 14. Officers said three of the boys had police records. They were turned



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
1-25, 1937.

## MINISTERS' GROUP PLEDGES SUPPORT IN PROBE OF SPA

The Hot Springs Ministers' Alliance, in a statement issued over the week-end, declared that every citizen should encourage the legislative probe into conditions in the resort and that all illegal gambling here should be stopped.

The statement indicated full support of the two Hot Springs ministers who were active last week in having the Arkansas Baptist convention adopt a resolution endorsing the investigation by the state legislature.

Dr. Marion A. Boggs, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and secretary of the Alliance, said the statement was the result of an editorial published in the Hot Springs newspapers, calling on the two ministers to present any information they had to the Grand Jury.

Since publication of the editorial which was addressed in part, to the Rev. Clyde V. Hickerson, pastor of the First Baptist church, and the Rev. W. J. Hirsley, pastor of the Second Baptist church, a number of inquiries have been made as to the position of the alliance, Dr. Boggs said.

The statement authorized by the Ministers' Alliance, which was addressed to C. E. Palmer, publisher of the Hot Springs papers, follows:

"That the Ministers' Alliance feels with you and with other good citizens the necessity of protecting the good name and reputation of Hot Springs, and

"That while we did not initiate the present legislative investigation, we feel that the best way in which the good name and reputation of our city can now be safeguarded is for the citizens of this community to encourage and felicitate in every way this effort to obtain the facts. It is our conviction that not only petty gambling, but all gambling that is now being done in violation of the law should be investigated."

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
1-25, 1937.

### Minimum Bet Raised By Spa Book-makers

Horse racing speculators in Hot Springs who wish to place a little wager on their favorite nags from now on will be forced to put up at least one dollar in comparison with the old minimum of fifty cents, a check of local establishments revealed.

The purpose of raising the minimum bet to one dollar it appeared, was to eliminate some of the small scale bettors who can ill afford to risk a half dollar on such uncertain investments as a horse race.

The loud calling of racing results also was toned down. Detailed running accounts were eliminated altogether in some places.

The pin ball machine industry also took a slump, the devices being removed from all establishments within proximity to public schools.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-22-37

#### PROTECT HOT SPRINGS' REPUTATION

*Editorial: Front Page - Hot Springs New Era 1/22/37*

There is no question that much of the unfavorable publicity Hot Springs is receiving over the state is traceable to local origin. The rank and file of the people of Hot Springs, we believe, resent a campaign on the part of local interests picturing this resort as a place of viciousness, where life and property are unsafe. We hope the present legislative investigation will go far to correct this situation and lead to a better understanding of Hot Springs, its people, and the value of this resort to the State of Arkansas.

We believe our people form at least an average cross-section of the people of Arkansas and of the nation in intelligence and character. This community has its troubles in law-enforcement as do most communities of this size and larger. There is no question of the undesirability of the common practice here of petty gambling and some "chiseling" upon visitors. Much in the way of correcting this practice could be accomplished by action on the part of our officers and by a painstaking investigation by a grand jury.

In this connection we may say that every community seems to be having its troubles with slot machines, and none has yet so far as known been able to satisfactorily solve the problem. Certainly, however, a determined effort should be made on the part of our local officers to rid Hot Springs of many of these in operation in more or less public places, particularly those places that are accessible to children or where children are permitted to play.

Petty gambling directly affects the legitimate business interests of Hot Springs. The money taken from our visitors of moderate means and local people by this type of gambling is a direct and heavy loss to our merchants and business interests generally.

At the recent state Baptist convention it was charged that conditions here are worse than the newspapers print, of words to that effect. Dr. Hickerson of the First Baptist church backed by his board of deacons, and Dr. Hinsley of the Second Baptist church, were mentioned as having made statements concerning bad moral conditions in Hot Springs. If they have any information relative to such conditions, they are citizens and should present their information to the grand jury. We believe in the integrity and character of these ministers and if they are sure of the correctness of their statements, they should give such information as they have to local enforcement officers and to the grand jury.

The people of Hot Springs want and expect prompt and efficient action by local officers and a thorough grand jury investigation of these charges without undue delay.



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-21-37

## WOOD OPPOSES SUGGESTION OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

*Hot Springs News*  
1/21/37  
Will Not Direct Prosecution of Police Trials

## GIVES REASONS

Plan Would Not Remedy Situation, He Declares

Attorney Scott Wood opposed today a suggestion that he direct the prosecution of seven policemen charged with second degree murder in the death of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner.

He wrote Circuit Judge Earl Witt his action as a special prosecutor might be objectionable to the defendants and asked the jurist to support a bill introduced in the legislature empowering the governor to exchange circuit judges.

Judge Witt made the suggestion and offered to disqualify himself in the cases of the officers because of what he said was the "unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned with the outcome of these cases."

He said he saw in Wood's letter "no suggestion" that will aid "in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases" and added he endorsed "wholeheartedly" the legislation to which Wood referred.

Wood, a former 18th district circuit judge, represented James Dickson, father of John, in demanding an investigation of the prisoner's death, charging it resulted from mistreatment while in custody.

Wood assailed the conduct of the police and the sheriff's office in the Dickson case in general. He limited the discharged policemen were still close to the department, a statement which brought

rebuttal from Mayor T. P. McLaughlin. He said the sheriff's office had delayed serving a bench warrant for Dickson's arrest, issued by Judge Witt on Dec. 4, until after the prisoner's death, claiming Dickson should never have been in custody of the police from the time of his capture.

He also hinted at intimidation of witnesses and claimed one of the indicted officers had said confidentially that if he ever told the truth in the Dickson case he would not live to see his family again.

Charging corrupt elections, he termed the Dickson case as "a symptom of the disease which now afflicts us," and said "the remedy lies in the restoration of the franchise to the people."

Judge Wood's statement follows:

Hot Springs, Arkansas  
January 20, 1937

"Honorable Earl Witt  
Circuit Judge  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

"My Dear Judge Witt:

"Your letter of January 19, concerning the cases against police officers charged with murdering John Dickson, was delivered to me last night by Deputy Sheriff Erney.

"I note your offer to change circuits for the trial of these cases with any circuit judge whom I may name. A mere change of judges will not help the situation. The judge has no authority except to declare the law and rule on objections to the evidence offered. The law is so well established and so simple that there need be no apprehension of error in the law.

"The difficulty in these cases is to remove the fear from the hearts of the witnesses. The witnesses, as well as the general public, believe that the viciousness manifested toward Dickson by the policemen who had him in custody was merely a reflection of the viciousness of the ruling powers toward all who oppose them. One important witness has already left town through fear of the police department. Some of the others are afraid to tell the truth. One witness disclosed the truth confidentially on our pledge that his evidence would not be revealed until he could be satisfied

that he would be properly protected.

A minister of one of our churches pleaded with one of the officers who is under indictment for the murder of Dickson to tell the truth. The minister answered that if he told the truth, he would not live to see his family again. One witness, when we tried to make assurance of protection, replied that the sheriff's force are merely "messenger boys" for the mayor's office in matters which concern the administration.

"Witnesses tell me that some of the indicted policemen whose dismissal from the police force was announced are still to be seen around the city jail—one of them engaged in his regular work of taking finger prints. A United States deputy marshal also reports that this man is still taking finger prints. Others of these officers have secured employment as guards and bouncers at gambling houses, and they are still carrying their guns.

"In my opinion, the cause of justice would not suffer, but would be advanced by a short delay in the trial of these cases. The indictments do not seem to be interfering with their ability to earn a livelihood, some of them already having secured employment, and doubtless the others can be placed as soon as the season gets in full swing. The experience they had as policemen at the city jail should fit them admirably for jobs as bouncers. I understand that the pay is better and this work is lighter than their former police jobs.

"Your suggestion that the present panel of the jury might be discharged and that the judge on exchange of circuits might designate the method by which the trial jury is selected, could not be followed, under the law, when the regular jury is discharged, the only way to secure a jury is for the sheriff to summon whomever he may choose to serve on the jury.

"The action of the sheriff's office in the Dickson case, as you know, has not been such as to inspire confidence. You issued your bench warrant on December 4, commanding

ing the sheriff to arrest him and place him in the county jail and safely keep him there. On December 14, he was placed in the city jail, where they had no right to place him. The city jail is the very place he should have been kept away from if the officials had had proper consideration for his safety, since he was accused of having assaulted the chief of police, and was also accused of burglary committed on the property of W. S. Jacobs, who was the employer of several of the police officers. He was kept in the city jail until December 18, when he was transferred to the hospital. On December 20, the sheriff made this return on your bench warrant:

"I have duly served this warrant by finding the said John Dickson deceased."

"When his father, J. L. Dickson, and his aunt, Mrs. W. L. Haynes, tried to locate him, the mayor, city physician and municipal judge refused to give them any information, and Mrs. Haynes appealed to the present sheriff in vain for assistance in finding her nephew."

"In order to hold these trials in surroundings which would inspire the witnesses with a feeling of confidence and security, I suggest that we secure the passage of an act by the legislature permitting one of the other circuit judges to be sent here on exchange of circuits, and authorizing him to appoint jury commissioners to select his juries, also authorizing him to designate a special officer to wait on his said court and serve process, and authorizing the governor to send state officers to assist this special officer. By doing this, the whole truth in the Dickson case, and other cases of sudden death after confinement in the city jail, may be cleared up. Designation of a circuit judge by disinterested authority would be much more appropriate than having me as special prosecutor to make the selection, as the latter course might be objectionable to the defendants."

"It is also rumored that Robert DeMarr, who was indicted with John Dickson for the attempted robbery of the Ohio club gambling house, was brutally beaten and tortured, and was forced to make a confession implicating others, and he was held in the city jail approximately sixty-five days before he received a sentence of five years in the penitentiary."

"In the opinion of many people, the Dickson case is merely a symptom of the disease which now afflicts us. The root of the disease is in the general viciousness of the ruling powers which prompts them to oppress all who refuse to surrender to them."

"The remedy lies in the restoration of the franchise to the people. The act I have mentioned should, therefore, go further and authorize the judge on exchange of circuits to investigate all election frauds. As you know, a suit was filed in the circuit court charging that practically every law on the statute books enacted for the protection of the ballot was openly and ruthlessly disregarded in the last election. The law requires the circuit judge to give a special charge to his grand jury upon violation of election laws and to see that all such offenses are prosecuted, but since you have taken no action in these matters, and since your brother, Gibson Witt, Jr., as a candidate for prosecuting attorney, is charged with participating in and profiting by these election frauds, it is only fair to you that another circuit judge be designated to inquire into these offenses and try any indictments which may follow."

"It is my belief that the people would approve your action if you would cooperate in securing the passage of an act by the legislature such as is suggested in this letter."

"Yours very truly,

"SCOTT WOOD."

Judge Witt's statement follows:

"I do not think that such a reply is a response to my letter and I see in it no suggestion that will aid me or the people of this community in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases."

"I have given the bill by Rep. Roberts of Faulkner (the measure introduced yesterday in the House, which would empower the governor to transfer circuit judges to districts other than those in which they were elected and to which Wood referred in his communication) the best consideration of which I am capable and there are so many reasons in favor of the bill that I endorse it wholeheartedly, and hope such a bill will pass this session of the legislature."

"I believe Mr. Roberts has sounded the keynote of a movement which will eventually place circuit judges in this state on the same"

With reference to Judge Wood's statement regarding the status of the discharged policeman, Mayor McLaughlin said:

"None of these men has been engaged in any work for the city since I discharged them," he said.

"Their commissions were cancelled and none has any authority to carry the city to carry a gun. Any statement to the contrary is false."

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry who has been in charge of the department since the suspension of Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, concurred in the mayor's remarks.

"On the day these men were indicted I saw Mayor McLaughlin order them to turn in their badges and guns," the acting chief said. "He told them they would have no further need of them. None has been connected with the department since. We have employed outside men several times to do fingerprinting for us."

One of the indicted officers, Lieut. Cecil Brock, former fingerprint expert of the department, said that two weeks ago he had made some prints for Deputy United States Marshal Henri Julian and J. L. Burnett following the arrest of two narcotic ring suspects here.

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NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
1-20, 1937.

## BAPTISTS BACK LEGISLATURE'S PROBE OF SPA

Paragould, Jan. 20.—(AP)—  
The Arkansas Baptist Convention adopted a resolution this afternoon pledging "the full support of Baptists of the state to legislative efforts to eliminate political corruption and to improve moral conditions at Hot Springs."

"This is not a local matter," the resolution said, "but a state one, requiring immediate attention."

Dr. Clyde V. Hickerson of Hot Springs introduced the resolution.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-21-37

## WOOD OPPOSES SUGGESTION OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

*Hot Springs News*  
1/21/37  
**Will Not Direct Prosecution of Police Trials**

## GIVES REASONS

**Plan Would Not Remedy Situation, He Declares**

Attorney Scott Wood opposed today a suggestion that he direct the prosecution of seven policemen charged with second degree murder in the death of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner.

He wrote Circuit Judge Earl Witt his action as a special prosecutor might be objectionable to the defendants and asked the jurist to support a bill introduced in the legislature empowering the governor to exchange circuit judges.

Judge Witt made the suggestion and offered to disqualify himself in the cases of the officers because of what he said was the "unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned with the outcome of these cases."

He said he saw in Wood's letter "no suggestion" that will aid "in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases" and added he endorsed "wholeheartedly" the legislation to which Wood referred.

Wood, a former 18th district circuit judge, represented James Dickson, father of John, in demanding an investigation of the prisoner's death, charging it resulted from mistreatment while in custody.

Wood assailed the conduct of the police and the sheriff's office in the Dickson case in general. He stated the discharged policemen were still close to the department.

Letter from Mayor L. B. McLaughlin. He said the sheriff's office had delayed serving a bench warrant for Dickson's arrest, issued by Judge Witt on Dec. 4, until after the prisoner's death, claiming Dickson should never have been in custody of the police from the time of his capture.

He also hinted at intimidation of witnesses and claimed one of the indicted officers had said confidentially that if he ever told the truth in the Dickson case he would not live to see his family again.

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Hot Springs, Arkansas  
January 20, 1937

"Honorable Earl Witt

"Circuit Judge

"Hot Springs, Arkansas

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"The difficulty in these cases is to remove the fear from the hearts of the witnesses. The witnesses, as well as the general public, believe that the viciousness manifested toward Dickson by the policemen who had him in custody was merely a reflection of the viciousness of the ruling powers toward all who oppose them. One important witness has already left town through fear of the police department. Some of the others are afraid to tell the truth. One witness disclosed the truth confidentially on our pledge that his evidence would not be revealed until he could be satisfied

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"Your suggestion that the present panel of the jury might be discharged and that the judge on exchange of circuits might designate the method by which the trial jury is selected, could not be followed under the law, when the regular jury is discharged, the only way to secure a jury is for the sheriff to summon whomever he may choose to serve on the jury.

"The action of the sheriff's office in the Dickson case, as you know, has not been such as to inspire confidence. You issued your bench warrant on December 4, commanding



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-22-37

## WOOD'S REPLY IS AWAITED BY CIRCUIT JUDGE

Witt Offers To Leave  
Bench In Police  
Trials  
*Hot Springs New Era*  
1/22/37  
RESENTS RUMORS

Has No Personal In-  
terest In Cases,  
Says Jurist

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood had before him today a proposal by Circuit Judge Earl Witt to give him full control of the prosecution of seven former Hot Springs policemen charged with second degree murder in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner.

In a letter to his predecessor, Judge Witt last night offered to step down from the bench and allow Wood to name any circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over trial of the cases. He also said he would discharge the petit jury panel if there was any objection to it.

Judge Wood, who represented James Dickson, father of John, in the investigation which followed charges that the 32-year-old prisoner had died as a result of alleged "third degree" methods used by the police, had made no reply today to Judge Witt's letter.

Judge Wood said last night he had received the communication, but had no comment to make at this time.

Judge Witt said today he hoped for an early reply.

In offering to disqualify himself in the trials of the men under indictment, Judge Witt said his action resulted from "the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases."

Judge Witt assured Wood that his brother, Prosecuting Attorney Gibson Witt, Jr., would cooperate with him in the prosecution of the cases.

"You shall certainly have not only my permission but that of my brother to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire," his letter said.

Judge Witt's letter follows:

"Hon. Scott Wood, Attorney,  
Hot Springs, Ark.

"Dear Sir:

"On Dec. 29th, last, you advised me by letter of your employment on behalf of the state in the Dickson case, requesting an investigation by the grand jury. Prior to the receipt

of your letter and before I had been provided with a copy of the report of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the body of John Dickson, I had called the grand jury for the primary purpose of investigating this case.

"As you know, the grand jury returned indictments against seven policemen of Hot Springs, charging them with murder in the second degree in connection with Dickson's death. I believe a trial should be had as early as possible, in consideration of a sense of fairness and justice to all parties concerned.

"Due to the fact it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing, I have the following suggestions with reference to them: First, I believe a trial of these cases should be had as early as possible, giving due and proper consideration to all parties concerned.

"Because of the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases, please let me make the following suggestions: You may suggest the name of any Circuit Judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases, and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases. Our statute makes provision for such procedure.

"If there are any objections to the present panel of the petit jury, or any member thereof, then I shall discharge the panel or such juror, and the judge who presides over the trial of these cases may designate the method by which the trial jury is selected."

"Of course, you know that my brother, Gibson Witt, Jr., elected prosecuting attorney of this district, is confined as a patient in the Army-Navy Hospital, and has been for three or four months. I can assure you of what I believe will be his conscientious desire to co-operate with you in the prosecution of these cases. You shall certainly have not only my permission but that of my brother to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire.

"Let me assure you that my purpose in addressing you this letter is to do the best I can to provide a fair and speedy trial of any and everyone responsible under the law for Dickson's death.

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine. I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Garland county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage. It would be too unjust and unfair. The point I am trying to convey to you is this: I want to do what is right about these cases, and I want you to help me if you will, and I believe you will. And I believe the good people of this community will honestly and conscientiously respond to every duty enjoined upon them.

Respectfully,

"EARL WITT,

"Circuit Judge.

The former officers under indictment are L. A. Cooper, R. L. Moore, Cecil Brock, Glynn Buchanan, Press Griffin, Andy Irwin and Joe Scott. The trials have not been set.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin announced after the grand jury action that all were "permanently" discharged from the department and said it was doubtful whether Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, who had been suspended prior to the Grand Jury investigation, would again serve.

Dickson who was charged with robbery and assault with intent to kill in connection with an attack on Chief Wakelin, died in a hospital here December 24, from what the official death certificate said was pneumonia. An autopsy revealed injuries which physicians said had "most certainly" contributed to Dickson's death.

9

**New Bill Aimed at Sp.**  
Little Rock, Jan. 20. — (AP) — Charges of lax law enforcement at Hot Springs inspired today a bill by Rep. Russell C. Roberts, Conway, to empower the governor to transfer circuit judges to districts other than those in which they are elected.

He said the proposal would be offered in the House where a resolution was adopted last week for a sweeping investigation of alleged lawlessness in the 18th district including Hot Springs. Circuit Judge Earl Witt presides over the district.

"Regardless of the outcome of the present investigation into reported lawless conditions in the city of Hot Springs," said Roberts, "I believe passage of this bill will provide an efficient remedy to conditions there which, from reports I have received, are deplorable."

He said the bill was not an administration measure "but Gov. Bailey is aware of its contents and I am sure it meets with his approval in that it will make for better law enforcement in cities and districts which may be unable to obtain just and impartial enforcement under their present officials."

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 1-20-37

#### WHY ALL THE SECRECY?

Under the above heading an editorial writer in the El Dorado Daily News is prompted to ask that question after two days of more or less preliminary sessions by a House committee to investigate alleged vice and gambling conditions in Garland and Montgomery counties. The writer goes on to say:

"News dispatches from Little Rock Sunday told of newsmen being kept in the rear of the room during the opening session Saturday. The news writers were unable to hear the testimony that was offered.

"Yesterday morning's news dispatches stated that the probe committee would hold a secret session at an unannounced location. We wonder if the committee is going to continue in such a secretive manner as a matter of general policy. Is this to be an investigation by and solely for the benefit of the members of the probe body?

"If the purpose of the inquiry is to 'turn on the light' on conditions, and there is sufficient reason why the house should go to the trouble and expense of making such an investigation, then we can see no reason for secrecy.

"It is not enough to tell the people of Arkansas that an investigation is to be made of conditions in certain communities and then let it go at that. The inquiry is being made by a committee of the house of representatives which represents the people of Arkansas, and the people are entitled to all the facts in connection with the investigation.

"The Daily News feels that capital city newsmen and writers who are there representing this and other newspapers over the state are entitled to hear all of the testimony that is presented. The probe is being made as part of the work of the legislature and everything connected with the session should be out in the open for people to see and read about.

"There is no room for secrecy in public matters."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

DATE: 1-15-37

"This newspaper has confidence in the integrity and character of the people of the community. We believe we are at least an average Arkansas and American community, and that the investigation will substantiate this. At the same time it is to be regretted that Hot Springs and this judicial district were singled out for this attention—it should be applied to all communities of 10,000 population and over the state—Little Rock, Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Pine Bluff, El Dorado, etc. They all have their troubles with law enforcement. That would have been the fair and square thing to do. "Citizens of Hot Springs have faith and pride in their community, and resent untruthful charges and unfounded slander."



## Circuit Judge Will Welcome House Inquiry

**Earl Witt Says Charges Emanate "From Local Source, With Motive." Committee Called Public Hearings Scheduled for Monday in Little Rock.**

As a special house investigating committee of five members today made plans to begin investigation into the law enforcement practices in Garland and Montgomery counties with emphasis to be placed in charges that officers in Hot Springs are protecting criminals, Circuit Judge Earl Witt, who has served the Eighteenth Judicial District for 14 years asserted that he welcomed the investigation authorized yesterday by the lower branch of the Arkansas legislature.

Chairman William T. Thompson announced today that a committee named by the house of representatives to investigate alleged irregularities in law enforcement at Hot Springs would open hearings here at 9 a. m. Monday.

The house by resolution asked the inquiry yesterday, instructing the investigating committee to report its findings before the general assembly adjourns in mid-March.

"Most of the hearings will be public," the committee chairman said. "The place for the hearings here has not yet been selected. We will subpoena witnesses from Hot Springs and other parts of the state. Later we will go to Hot Springs to question witnesses."

Thompson said it was impossible to estimate the number of witnesses to be called or the length of time the inquiry would take.

Others on the committee were James R. Campbell, of Montgomery, Nichols of Logan, Murry of Dallas, and Robinson of Lafayette.

The house resolution, introduced by Thompson, charged that open gambling "existed at Hot Springs, that a 'political machine' dominated elections through violations of the election laws and that peace officers and the judiciary were in an alliance with the criminal element."

Judge Witt expressed the belief that the people of the two counties will welcome the investigation of the charges which were hurled freely on the house floor yesterday when Rep. Thompson with others sought and secured adoption of a resolution which sets up a committee to determine if impeachment proceedings shall be recommended to the house members.

The Hot Springs Sentinel Record in an editorial asserted that the investigation is welcomed.

The committee which will make the investigation is composed of Chairman Thompson, James of Montgomery, who will serve as vice chairman; Nichols of Logan, Murry of Dallas and Robinson of Lafayette.

Thompson asked the inquiry "to determine whether articles of impeachment should be filed against the circuit judge and others."

He accused Judge Witt of active participation in behalf of "machine" candidates in last August's Democratic primary, alleged vote frauds in the election and charged professional gamblers were named polling officials.

The representative also declared wide open gambling was conducted in Hot Springs "in a manner that is open and notorious that the cry of the dealers may be heard up and down the streets of the city."

Vigorously opposing the investigation, approved by the house 72-21, Rep. James R. Campbell, Hot Springs, declared the charges were "frivolous, unfounded, unjustified, and inspired by our political enemies."

Rep. Ernest Maner, Hot Springs, came to the defense of 53-year-old Judge Witt.

"To know him is to know his real worth," said the representative. "Never in all these years has his integrity been attacked by the people he serves. They won't attack it now. I regret that those who do not know him see fit to question him."

**Witt Issues Statement.**  
Hot Springs — The legislative investigation of Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial District, ordered by the Arkansas House of Representatives, last night drew from Circuit Judge Earl Witt the statement that he had "no objection into any full and fair investigation the legislature might want to make of the eighteenth judicial district."

Judge Witt, serving his fourth term as circuit judge, further said "I know the people of Garland and Montgomery counties (the eighteenth judicial district) will fully understand the local source from which this request has come and the motive that prompted it."

Judge Witt did not further amplify the statement.

At the same time the Hot Springs Sentinel Record said "the people of Hot Springs welcome the forthcoming investigation of Hot Springs and the eighteenth judicial district," further adding that "in this we believe they will be joined by Circuit Judge Earl Witt."

Judge Witt's statement follows: "I certainly have no objection to any full and fair investigation the legislature might wish to make of the eighteenth judicial district. I have no apprehension as to the outcome of such investigation, and I know the people of Garland and Montgomery counties will fully understand the local source from which this request has come and the motive that has prompted it."

The Sentinel Record in a front page editorial said:

**Newspaper for Inquiry.**  
"The people of Hot Springs welcome the forthcoming investigation of Hot Springs and the eighteenth judicial district, ordered by the Arkansas house of representatives yesterday."

"In this we believe they will be joined by Circuit Judge Earl Witt. Judge Witt has served the people of this county and district for many years, and our people have confidence in his integrity and ability. We believe that had Judge Witt known that his character and integrity were being challenged he would have been first in commanding an investigation."

"Rumors were rife on the street last night that the resolution authorizing the investigation was sponsored and prepared by a long-time resident of Hot Springs. This seems incredible and we all know the old adage about the bird that defouls its own nest. It is a fact, however, that some of our own people are largely responsible for much gossip in the state reflecting upon our people and our officials. Too frequently defeated candidates and some of their supporters, instead of accepting the verdict of the polls, make charges of corruption and speak disparagingly of the very voters whose support they have been soliciting."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
DATE: 1-16-37

## HOT SPRINGS INVESTIGATORS



—Gazette Staff  
To this group of legislators has been assigned the investigation of alleged lawless conditions in Hot Springs, as provided in a resolution adopted by the House. From left to right, they are: I. T. ("Ike") Murry of Dallas county, Lee Nichols of Logan county, J. F. Jones of Montgomery county and W. M. Thompson of Independence county. The fifth member of the committee, Pat Robinson of Lafayette county was

ARKANSAS GAZETTE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

DATE: 1-16-37

Gordon Henderson, Blue Ribbon Club manager.

Ben Harrison, Citizens Southern Club manager.

Houston Emory, former prosecuting attorney.

Officers conducting the investigation were Gray Albright, superintendent of State Rangers; Robert T. La Follette, assistant superintendent; C. T. Atkinson, Earl Scroggin, Lindsey Hatchett and Neil Shannon, State Rangers and Robert Faust, Frank Witte and Dick Davis, state Revenue Department officers.

**Committee Says That Witnesses Will Be Protected.**

Declaring that pressure is being used to deter the investigation of alleged general disregard for law in Hot Springs and that in some instances prospective witnesses and members of the House are being intimidated, the House Committee authorized to conduct the investigation announced yesterday that arrangements will be made to protect witnesses who desire to give information and that "no kind of pressure, political or otherwise, will deter the committee from doing its full duty."

Representative W. M. Thompson of Independence county, chairman of the committee, said it will meet Monday to begin its work, but that hearings will be secret.

The committee issued the following statement at the conclusion of an organization meeting yesterday:

"The Investigating Committee appointed to make certain investigations with reference to conditions in Hot Springs is now organized, and will meet again Monday, January 18. It is the desire of the committee to obtain only the facts pertinent to this investigation and to hold expenses to a minimum, and for these and other reasons, most of its labors will be secret, and no information will be given out except by vote of the committee.

"Arrangements are being perfected to carry on this investigation in this manner, and any person who has in his or her possession, facts pertinent to the matter under investigation and is willing to come before the committee and give testimony in the matter will be given that opportunity, but rumors and mere suspicions will not be considered.

"Persons desiring to give testimony, or who have leads worthy of consideration by the committee are invited to advise the chairman of the nature of their information, and if competent as testimony, it will be laid before the entire committee where it will be determined whether or not such witnesses will be heard.

"The committee is advised that high pressure is being used to deter and in some instances intimidate witnesses, interested parties, and members of the House, and for that reason arrangements will be made to protect any witness who desires to give information, and to that end, any information given members of the committee will be kept strictly confidential, and we are prepared to protect all witnesses who desire to give testimony that is worthy of the consideration of the committee.

"We are informed that the rumor is being spread that the work of the committee will be valueless, and that no real investigation is contemplated. On behalf of the committee, the chairman desires to state that Hot Springs will be given a square deal, but no kind of pressure, political or otherwise will deter the committee from doing its full duty. To these ends, we desire the co-operation of all persons interested in any way in seeing a fair and impartial investigation of the matters involved.

DATE: 1-16-37

## STATE OFFICERS CALL ON CLUBS AT HOT SPRINGS

### Take Photographs, Call Witnesses.

By WILLIAM A. WILSON.

(Staff Correspondent to the Gazette.)

Hot Springs, Jan. 15.—Acting on authority of the House committee appointed to investigate charges of lawlessness in Hot Springs and Garland and Montgomery counties, officers of the state Department of Revenue and State Rangers tonight paid what had all the remarks of "friendly calls" on several gambling houses in and near Hot Springs. At every place visited they found gambling in progress.

The manager, proprietor or operator of each place was served with a subpoena to "report forthwith" to the capitol with records of various kinds for use of the committee.

"Forthwith" means between 8 a. m. and noon tomorrow. The House committee will be in session at the time and will receive the records and order them impounded. Persons subpoenaed also may be questioned by the committee.

#### Photographer Causes Sensation At Hoity-Toity Belvedere.

Belvedere Club, about two miles from Hot Springs on the Little Rock highway, was the first stop made by the officers whom your correspondent accompanied. Two officers entered the club, served the subpoenas on Otis McGraw, the manager, and then a photographer was put to work making pictures of the elaborately furnished club.

The first picture, of a group around a dice table, "caught" the boys in action. Apparently, they were surprised that anything of the sort could take place at the Belvedere. However, after one or two "flashes" were made, the guests started scrambling, evidently under the impression that their pictures might appear in some newspaper.

A dozen or more photographs of gambling paraphernalia were made. One picture was made on the "other side" of the club, where many guests were dining or dancing.

#### Nice Gentleman Gives Correspondent Some Advice.

Completing their job at the Belvedere, the officers next stopped at the Southern Club and Grill. It was there that your correspondent got the thrill of his life, if you could call it a thrill. The three officers in the party and the photographer were about 30 feet ahead of your reporter, who paused for a moment to assist the photographer by carrying part of his picture-making paraphernalia.

Then, as we started to enter the building, a gentleman brushed against us and suggested: "If I were you, Buddy, I wouldn't go in there."

"How come?" we inquired politely. "I wouldn't go in there, Buddy," the gentleman repeated.

Again your puzzled correspondent asked why. Really, he could see no reason for not going in when he had seen others in there.

#### Emphasizes His Remarks by Display of Artillery.

But when the aforesaid gentleman sort of glanced downward, and your correspondent's glance followed his, your correspondent also believed as the gentleman himself believed.

For your reporter saw a big gun pointing toward his very innards.

"O. K.," said your correspondent. We were not interested further in entering the Southern Club.

Retreating to the curb, we waited, believing that maybe one of the officers might miss us and come back out. Shaking at the knees considerably, we saw a Hot Springs police officer whom we knew.

"Hey, aren't you So-and-So?" we asked.

"Sure," he replied.

We introduced ourselves and told him of our dilemma, and pointed out the gentleman who had almost panicked us.

"Oh, him. He's just a guard," the police officer said.

About that time, Robert Faust, a state Revenue Department officer, came up, and we told him of our plight and pointed out the gentleman who objected to our entrance into the Southern Club.

Bob took immediate action.

"How come you wouldn't let us in here?" he asked. "Oh, I just said I wouldn't go in there, the gentleman said, and sort of smiled as if to say that he was just kidding.

Then your correspondent entered, with Bob close by, but with considerable uneasiness.

However, with the gentleman quieted, we experienced no further trouble.

All the officers wanted was pictures of gambling paraphernalia, and they got plenty. The managers or proprietors of the places were as courteous though we had been honest-to-goodness guests. One member of the party committed the faux pas of suggesting that a drink would be acceptable, since I had gotten sort of chilled riding over from Little Rock.

He was politely refused. "Brother, there's not a drop in this house," he was told.

#### Men in Charge of Places Given Subpoenas.

The places visited were the Club Belvedere, the Southern Club, the Southern Grill and Miller's Sporting Club. At Club Belvedere Manager Otis Graham was subpoenaed; at the Southern Club S. Jacobs, owner of the club and Club Belvedere, was subpoenaed, also with Roscoe Johnson, manager of the

(Continued on Page 14, Second Col.)

## STATE OFFICERS CALL ON CLUBS AT HOT SPRINGS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Southern Club; at the Southern Grill Jim Phillips was subpoenaed.

#### Long List of Hot Springs Notables Summoned.

Visits to other gambling places, of which were running wide open, officers said, resulted in nothing toward. Proprietors and managers apparently having been told that would be subpoenaed, submitted men. Those called to report to the House Committee tomorrow, other than those mentioned, were:

Earl Witt, circuit judge, whose peachment is one of the objects of House resolution.

Herbert ("Dutch") Akers, Hot Springs police chief of detectives.

Leo P. McLaughlin, mayor of Hot Springs and reputed leader of the Garland county political machine.

Marion Anderson, Garland county sheriff.

Matt Picchi, White Front cigar proprietor.

Tink Young, Ohio Club proprietor.

R. L. Millsaps, news stand proprietor.

Ed Chase, manager of Millsaps news stand.

Ed Spears, Tango Parlor proprietor.

Norwood Phillips, Chicago Club manager.

Lewis Larsen, Blue Ribbon Club proprietor.



## Records Demanded In Gaming Probe

Questioning of witnesses in the legislative investigation of reputed lawlessness in Garland and Montgomery counties, which comprise the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, was begun yesterday at the capitol when a score of Hot Springs and Garland county officials and gambling house operators appeared before the committee.

Representative Lee Nichols of Logan county, secretary, was the only committeeman present. The other four were out of the city seeking information relative to charges contained in the House resolution authorizing the investigation. The other members are Jones of Montgomery county, Murry of Dallas, Thompson of Independence and Robinson of Lafayette.

Little evidence was taken during the hearing, which was semi-executive, newspapermen and spectators being required to remain out of earshot. All witnesses appearing had been subpoenaed at Hot Springs Friday night by State Rangers and state Revenue Department agents, who visited a half-dozen gambling houses in and near Hot Springs, and went to the homes of other operators to seize the papers.

**Program Reported**  
Nichols said last night that "definite program" had been made. He announced that witnesses had been requested to appear for further questioning at the statehouse at 9 a. m. tomorrow. They also were requested to bring with them records and files pertaining to their income and expenditures, tax receipts, bank statements, state and federal income tax reports and receipts, copies of financial reports to Dun & Bradstreet's, lists of personal and real property, all unpaid "hot checks" in their possession, and "any and all other documents or papers or records which will show your personal worth." The gambling house operators also were notified to submit their pay rolls.

The committee secretary emphasized that the documents would be impounded and not subjected to public gaze.

Although the subpoenas served Friday night instructed the principals to bring records with them, only one complied. Others said that it was impossible to collect the material on such short notice. However, Nichols warned that those who failed to comply tomorrow would be subject to contempt charges.

### Officials Appear

Among officials appearing for questioning yesterday were Circuit Judge Earl Witt, Sheriff Marion Anderson and Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin. Houston Emory, retiring prosecuting attorney, also answered the summons. W. S. Jacobs, said to be proprietor of the Belvedere and Southern clubs, was another witness.

Before excusing the witnesses, Nichols made it plain that the committee expected them to "tell the truth." "Some of you have been fair and honest and some of you have tried to cut corners," he told them. "We are hunting the truth and we are going to get it."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
DATE: JAN. 16, 1937

**HOT SPRINGS AND THE STATE**

Hot Springs, as a resort city, has sought and received special privileges from the state and enjoys a certain tolerance. But Hot Springs has now brought on itself a legislative investigation which a different course of conduct might have completely avoided. The serious thing about this investigation is the earnestness and sincerity of the House members who ordered it by the overwhelming vote of 72 to 21.

Hot Springs offended the state with the Luciano case.

Hot Springs offended and horrified the state when John Dickson suffered frightfully brutal and inhuman injuries while a prisoner in the custody of the Hot Springs police.

Hot Springs put itself on the spot when for last August's primary Garland county, eleventh among the seventy-five counties in population, had the second largest certified voting list in Arkansas. It was charged and never refuted that this list contained names of thousands of persons who were not actual citizens or residents.

Nobody has any right to complain at the result of an election in Garland county if the election is straight and fair. In spite of the charges made about the primary we are convinced that the last thing Governor Bailey and his administration would do would be to let their official action be determined or influenced by Garland county's vote in that election. But an election in Garland county obviously concerns the whole state. The vote of Garland county might name the governor of Arkansas or name a United States senator.

Any privileges granted to Hot Springs or any things tolerated must not be suffered to produce conditions that offend or discredit the state and penetrate and color the whole civic structure of the state.

The most valuable result of this legislative investigation would not be any action that might be taken against individuals, although any action that the investigation might indicate should be taken with unsparing hand. The best result would be the realization and acceptance by Hot Springs leaders, business and political, that their city is a part of Arkansas and that it must not tolerate conditions or actions prejudicial to the state as a whole.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
2-2 1937.

The Following Is Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin's Statement  
Which Was Delivered to the City Council, February 1st:

2-2-37  
*Hot Springs (Ark.) New Era.*  
To the Members of the City Council:

"As you know, there is a certain group of citizens in this city who have always been opposed to anything of a liberal nature that might be beneficial to Hot Springs so this city could match the competition of other health and pleasure resorts throughout the country. This group has also been opposed to the operation of the race track. You know who is the leader of the reform element.

"The great majority of the people here have approved a liberal policy for Hot Springs and as a result of this policy the city last year enjoyed its greatest year of prosperity, as evidenced by reports of the various business establishments, bank statements and bath records, but regardless of this era of prosperity the leaders of the reform element brought about legislative investigation of Hot Springs. It is generally known here that the author of the resolution for the investigation of Hot Springs is a resident of this city.

"The activity of the leaders of the reform element in Hot Springs has caused various establishments to cease operations and, of course, the closing of these places vitally effects the finances of the City of Hot Springs. I have had our city collector and treasurer prepare a statement which shows that during the year 1936 the sum of \$21,500 was collected from these places and deposited in the Arkansas National Bank to the credit of the city; the statement also shows that the sum of \$1,800 was collected by the city for the month of January, 1937, and this money also placed to the credit of the City in the same bank. This brings to your attention the fact that our income is now decreased \$1,800 per month and something

one engaged in any kind of business because they have prepared for the greatest winter season in the history of Hot Springs, but instead these tax burdened people have seen the future of Hot Springs destroyed by the leaders of the reform element whose object is, to rule or ruin.

"The loss of this monthly revenue of \$1,800 must be overcome in some manner and the solution must be reached not later than March 1st. The history of our state shows the enactment of the gasoline tax, the income tax, the tobacco tax, the severance tax, and the sales tax; all new forms of taxation since our constitution was adopted, and the cities have not shared in any of the taxes. On the other hand the State of Arkansas profits solely from these sources of income. The cities of Arkansas have been left by the wayside with the same source of taxation that we had thirty years ago, with the exception of the automobile tax and occupation tax. But we are expected to provide better trained fire and police departments and we are required to keep step with the growing demands of our citizens which creates new expenses upon the city with no additional income. We have not only failed to share in any way the new forms of taxation but at the present time our own purchases are being taxed by the state under our present sales tax.

"As I have stated, the automobile license tax of \$5.00 is the only new tax given to our city in the last thirty years with the exception of the occupation tax, and the occupation tax was adopted for the purpose of creating revenue to take the place of the saloon license which ceased when prohibition was commenced. And when the sale of beer and whiskey was again legal,

will have to be done to overcome this deficit.

"This creates a financial crisis which gives me much concern because there are only two ways of overcoming it. One way is to decrease the city pay roll and the other is to increase occupation taxes, both of these solutions are objectionable to me. Everyone on the city pay roll is working under a twenty per cent reduction of salary and any further reduction will make it impossible for a man to provide the necessities of life for himself and family. And it is impossible to efficiently carry on with any less men, especially in the fire department, because any changes from the present schedule of operation will cause a decided increase in insurance rates in the city of Hot Springs.

"The question of increasing occupation taxes does not appeal to me because I know the people of Hot Springs are already tax burdened and the closing of this town at this time has been a severe blow to every

ized the major part of the revenue was taken by the state government and only a small part left for the cities, not even enough to pay the salaries of policemen who are called upon to control and govern the conduct of places where beer and whiskey are sold.

"I have called these facts to your attention for the purpose of letting you know that our income has not been sufficient to pay the running expenses of the city and defray the additional costs of the many increasing demands of the public, therefore, it was necessary that we take advantage of every opportunity to increase the income of the city, and the system of fines yielded enough revenue to almost make it possible for the city to operate within its income, but we now face a monthly loss of \$1,800. Therefore, some plan must be adopted so we can operate the city within its income without raising taxes or decreasing the personnel and efficiency of our departments. At present I know of no solution or plan.

LEO P. McLAUGHLIN,  
Mayor."



## BUSINESS MEN APPROVE TALK, MAYOR CLAIMS

Explanation of Financial Crisis Is  
Commended

WARNS COUNCIL

Says Revenues from  
"Bookies" Must  
be Replaced

Mayor McLaughlin said that up until noon today he had received 80 telephone calls by actual count from persons commending him for his statement to the city council last night, in which he condemned the "reform element" for trying to "rule or ruin" Hot Springs, and declared other sources of revenue must be found to offset the loss of fines paid by the bookmakers whose places were closed Friday night by state revenue officers.

"The calls came from little and big business men of the city," the mayor said. "There were both men and women and not one had any criticism."

The mayor said he was busy on the telephone most of the morning and that many other calls could not get through. He said there were several commendatory calls from residents of Little Rock who had read his statement in newspapers there.

The city faces a financial crisis in the loss of revenue derived from the "bookie" fines which totalled \$21,500 last year and amounted to \$1,800 for January of this year. Mayor McLaughlin told the council last night.

The executive said he was opposed to either an additional cut in the salaries of city employees or a hike in occupation taxes, but admitted that these appeared to be the only possible solutions.

He charged the state in the past 10 years had absorbed all sources of tax revenue, leaving the city

high and dry. Automobile licenses and occupation taxes are the only new forms of municipal taxes to be enacted in that time, he said. He pointed out that with the return of legalized liquor, the state had also virtually monopolized that revenue which went to cities before the prohibition era.

The mayor's statement was discussed by the council members informally, but no action was taken. A statement by City Clerk Emmett Jackson that some of the larger chain stores in the city were paying less occupation taxes, based on inventories, than some home-owned stores, brought a suggestion that the upper brackets of the occupation tax be revised. Mayor McLaughlin ordered a council committee to investigate.

Mayor McLaughlin said it is likely a special meeting of the council will be called during the month to consider the financial problem.

The mayor's formal statement to the council follows:

"To the Members of the City Council:

"As you know, there is a certain group of citizens in this city who have always been opposed to any—  
PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 2.

thing of a liberal nature that might be beneficial to Hot Springs so this city could match the competition of other health and pleasure resorts throughout the country. This group has also been opposed to the operation of the race track. You know who is the leader of the reform element.

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deposited in the Arkansas National Bank to the credit of the city. My statement also shows that the sum of \$1,800 was collected by the city for the month of January, 1937, and this money also placed to the credit of the City in the same bank. This brings to your attention the fact that our income is now decreased \$1,800 per month and something will have to be done to overcome this deficit.

"This creates a financial crisis which gives me much concern because there are only two ways of overcoming it. One way is to decrease the city pay roll and the other is to increase occupation taxes, both of these solutions are objectionable to me. Everyone on the city pay roll is working under a twenty per cent reduction of salary and any further reduction will make it impossible for a man to provide the necessities of life for himself and family. And it is impossible to efficiently carry on with any less men, especially in the fire department, because any changes from the present schedule of operation will cause a decided increase in insurance rates in the city of Hot Springs.

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"The loss of this monthly revenue of \$1,800 must be overcome in some manner and the solution must be reached not later than March 1st. The history of our state shows the enactment of the gasoline tax, the income tax, the tobacco tax, the severance tax, and the sales tax; all

new forms of taxation since our constitution was adopted, and the cities have not shared in any of the taxes. On the other hand the State of Arkansas profits solely from these sources of income. The cities of Arkansas have been left by the wayside with the same source of taxation that we had thirty years ago, with the exception of the automobile tax and occupation tax. But we are expected to provide better trained fire and police departments and we are required to keep step with the growing demands of our citizens which creates new expenses upon the city with no additional income. We have not only failed to share in any way the new forms of taxation but at the present time our own purchases are being taxed by the state under our present sales tax.

"As I have stated, the automobile license tax of \$5.00 is the only new tax given to our city in the last thirty years with the exception of the occupation tax, and the occupation tax was adopted for the purpose of creating revenue to take the place of the saloon license which ceased when prohibition was commenced. And when the sale of beer and whiskey was again legalized the major part of the revenue was taken by the state government and only a small part left for the cities, not even enough to pay the salaries of policemen who are called upon to control and govern the conduct of places where beer and whiskey are sold.

"I have called these facts to your attention for the purpose of letting you know that our income has not been sufficient to pay the running expenses of the city and defray the additional costs of the many increasing demands of the public, therefore, it was necessary that we take advantage of every opportunity to increase the income of the city, and the system of fines yielded enough revenue to almost make it possible for the city to operate within its income, but we now face a monthly loss of \$1,800. Therefore, some plan must be adopted so we can operate the city within its income without raising taxes or decreasing the personnel and efficiency of our departments. At present I know of no solution or plan.

Aside from the mayor's statement, the council session was devoted to minor routine business.

Action was withheld on a request by H. S. Moreland, county engineer, and Frank Ellsworth, project engineer for the Works Progress Administration, for the city to pay part of the utilities bills for the WPA sewing room at 429 Quashite

avenue, where 100 women are employed.

In a communication to the council the two engineers said it had been necessary for the WPA to cancel its utilities contracts. Unless the utilities are supplied the sewing room will be forced to close, throwing the 100 needy women out of work, the communication said. It was stated that County Judge Elza Housley had agreed for the county to pay one-half of the utility bills which amount to approximately \$20 monthly.

The Rev. John Bendelow appeared before the council, asking remuneration for his services as chaplain of the city and county jails—a capacity in which he has served for 10 years. No action was taken.

Petitions for lights in front of the Park Place Baptist church, at Park Place, and in front of the Church of God on Fourth street, and at Fourth and Greenwood avenue, were referred to committee.

LEO P. McLAUGHLIN.

## RACING ACT WILL NOT BE REPEALED, CAMPBELL DECLARES

There is little likelihood of the Arkansas General Assembly repealing the 1935 horse racing legalization act, in the opinion of Representative James R. Campbell of Garland county, who spent the week-end in Hot Springs.

"I find many business men here greatly concerned over the introduction in the house last week by

Rep. John K. Butt, of Carroll county, of a bill to repeal the racing act," Rep. Campbell said. "I want to say for their benefit that I am confident a racing repeal measure will not be passed. Even if one should be passed by the House—and I do not believe this is likely—it would be killed in the Senate. I do not believe Hot Springs has any cause to worry over legalized racing."

Rep. Campbell returned to Little Rock this morning. His colleague Rep. Ernest Maner, also spent the week-end in Hot Springs.

## PUBLIC HEARING SUGGESTED IN PROBE OF SPA

### House Committee Indicates Hearing in Near Future

Little Rock, Feb. 1—(AP)—A House of Representatives committee indicated today it would public hearings before concluding an investigation of alleged lawlessness at Hot Springs.

Over the week-end state revenue officers burned \$15,000 worth of gambling apparatus they had seized in raids to Hot Springs night spots.

"We expect to make a report at an early date," the committee said in a statement.

The committee added that executive sessions would continue. But that "if at the proper time it seems fair and just to the committee and all parties concerned that we hold public hearings, the public will certainly be notified of it in advance."

Two squads of Garland county officers seized and burned at Hot Springs an unannounced number of slot machines and punch boards.

## Spa Resorts Quiet After Two Bonfires

Bonfires were quite the fad in Little Rock and Hot Springs Saturday as gambling paraphernalia confiscated in raids here went up in smoke.

While state revenue officers were preparing to burn equipment taken in raids on eight clubs and book-making establishments here Friday night under orders of Chief Justice Griffin Smith of the Arkansas Supreme court, Garland officers, under orders of Circuit Judge Earl Witt, were raiding every other suspected gambling establishment in the Spa and environs.

State Revenue officers applied the torch to \$15,000 worth of equipment at Fair Park Saturday night. The county officers, under the direction of Sheriff Marion Anderson, did their burning back of the courthouse late in the afternoon.

At a result of the combined activities of the state and county officers, Hot Springs was closed tighter today than the proverbial clam. Where bookmakers formerly barked betting odds and called off running accounts of races at every

track in the country, and where the rattle of dice and the staccato whirr of roulette wheels were heard a few days ago, there was only silence and a dense, impenetrable gloom.

The racing wire service which brings results, entries, and running accounts to Hot Springs had been suspended, but it was understood on good authority that the rights to the service had not been abandoned, indicating that the "bookie" interests, while down, are not without hope.

As a show, Little Rock's big bonfire at the expense of Hot Springs club owners was a grand flop. A downpour of rain delayed the performance and held the crowd down to several hundred.

The gambling paraphernalia was hauled to Fair Park in three large vans from the Terminal warehouse where it had been stored Friday night. It was unloaded at a point near where President Roosevelt spoke during his visit to Arkansas last June.

Husky revenuers wielded axes and

sledge hammers against metal equipment to be sure that nothing could be used after the fire had done its work. The debris was tossed into a huge pile together with other paraphernalia, some of which was mahogany, and 30 gallons of kerosene was poured on the mound.

Some one called for the Rev. Lee Nichols, Baptist minister and Logan county representative who is secretary of the legislative committee investigating conditions in Hot Springs, to apply the torch, but Nichols was not present. This distinction went to Rep. John R. Thompson of Independence county, chairman of the probe committee and author of the resolution which created it. The flames leaped high into the air and the show was all over. The crowd, its curiosity satisfied, quickly dispersed. Some of the officers remained on the scene until the mound was reduced to a little pile of ashes and twisted metal.

Revenue Commissioner Dave L. Ford said no representatives of the Hot Springs clubs appeared to protest the destruction of any of the articles. Louis Tarlowski, attorney for W. S. Jacobs, operator of several establishments, told Ford earlier he had been advised that some of the equipment seized could not be classified as gambling paraphernalia.

Ford agreed to hold until Monday any articles which the owners contended were not used for gambling, his ultimate decision to be guided by advance of the revenue department attorney, J. Hugh Wharton.

It developed Saturday that the seizure of gambling paraphernalia was ordered by Chief Justice Smith under a 100-year-old statute. The justice declined to divulge who requested him to issue the

The court

county officers launched the series of raids Saturday afternoon with a suddenness that took the newspapers, the public and the gambling places by surprise. The raiders did not use search warrants and the burning was begun as soon as the articles were seized and transported to the courthouse.

There were two raiding parties, one led by Sheriff Anderson and the other by Chief Deputy Roy Erney. Negro establishments on Malvern avenue, were first to feel the blow, but after sweeping that section, the two squads began a "mopping up" movement of white establishments in and near the city, even visiting cigar stores operating in conjunction with booking establishments raided by the state officers Friday night.

The negro establishments yielded chuckaluck games, bird cages, dice boards, blackjack and poker tables, chips and cards, unch boards and slot machines. Paraphernalia taken from other places consisted largely of slot machines and punch boards. The stuff was gathered up by a large van.

Sheriff Anderson would not estimate the number of places visited. He said the raids were carried out under secret orders, but that the proprietors of some places apparently expecting trouble, were believed to have moved equipment following the Friday night raids.

The bonfire at the Courthouse attracted little attention, fewer than 25 persons watching the procedure.



## McLAUGHLIN TO BE REQUESTED TO QUIT, SAID

### COMMITTEE TO CALL ON MAYOR TODAY, IS REPORT

Little Rock, Feb. 3.—(AP)—The Arkansas Gazette, in a special story from Hot Springs, said tonight a group of business men tomorrow would appoint a committee to call on Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin for his immediate resignation.

Simultaneously, the Hot Springs Ministers' Alliance went on record as opposing the collection of revenues for the city from "other than honorable and lawful sources."

State revenue officers last Friday confiscated three truck loads of gambling equipment at the famous resort town. It was destroyed at Little Rock the next day.

Only yesterday Mayor McLaughlin denounced the "ultra reform" element of Hot Springs, which he charged was determined to "rule or ruin," in a prepared statement read to the city council.

He said the city faced a financial crisis in the loss of revenues resulting from the closing of book-making establishments. The mayor added that handbooks which were operated under a system of fines until suspended last Saturday following a series of raids on gambling establishments, had netted the city treasury \$21,500 in 1936, and \$1,800 for January of 1937.

The Gazette tonight quoted a Hot Springs business man, whose name was not divulged, as saying:

"You can say we'll ask for his (Mayor McLaughlin's) resignation. The reason. Well, there are plenty of them."

The paper said it was planned for the ousting force to select a spokesman and have the entire group accompany him to the mayor's office.

Mayor McLaughlin said early this (Thursday) morning the report that a businessmen's committee would call on him today seeking his resignation was "ridiculous." The mayor said he had heard no rumor of such an action and that he believed it "unfounded."

## PASTORS OPPOSE REVENUES FROM GAMING SOURCE

### RABBI RHINE NEW HEAD OF MINISTERS' AS- SOCIATION

The Hot Springs Ministers' association went on record yesterday as opposing the collection of revenues for the city from other than "honorable and lawful sources."

Although a resolution adopted by the group, which is inter-racial, made no reference to gambling, it was apparently inspired by Mayor McLaughlin's recent statement to the city council deploring the loss of more than \$20,000 in revenue the city had collected annually in fines assessed against bookmakers.

The "bookie" establishments were closed Saturday following a series of raids here by state revenue department officers.

The resolution adopted by Ministers' association, follows:

"Resolved, that as citizens who believe in the supremacy of law, and as ministers who labor for the enthronement of righteousness in our community life, we, the Hot Springs Ministers' association, do not accept for ourselves the assertion that our city cannot be maintained without a hurtful and humiliating alliance with lawlessness. As to revenues we feel that our city is only entitled to such revenues as may be had from honorable and lawful sources. We shall not be moved from this high moral position which we take without personal ill will and without fear of the final decision of our citizenship."

Rabbi A. B. Rhine of the Congregation, House of Israel, was elected president of the association.

which met at the First Methodist church. He will succeed the Rev. Marion A. Boggs of the First Presbyterian church. The Rev. Robert J. Johnson, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal church (negro) was elected vice-president. The Rev. J. M. Washington of the Park Place Baptist church, was nominated secretary-treasurer, but election was deferred because of Dr. Washington being ill.

Dr. R. C. Woods of the Roanoke Baptist church (negro) was elected member of the executive committee.

## Resort Officials Commended For Attack on House Inquiry

Many Hot Springs Citizens See Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin  
and Rep. Ernest Maner as Champions in Their Claims  
That House Committee Is Persecuting Hot Springs.

A majority of Hot Springs' business men and citizens yesterday commended as champions two local officials who condemned recent investigations into alleged lawless conditions here as persecution upon this resort.

From both local and Little Rock sources came complimentary messages to Mayor McLaughlin, who Monday night flayed the "reform element" for trying to "rule or ruin" Hot Springs, and to Rep. Ernest Maner who on the same day announced on the floor of the house of representatives that, "Hot Springs is being persecuted . . . while open gambling in Little Rock is being ignored."

Mayor McLaughlin said by actual count he received 89 local telephone calls up until shortly after noon when he left his office. His secretary, Miss Hazel Marsh, said the calls continued through the afternoon. Long distance telephone calls and telegrams were also received at the mayor's office.

Making his charge to the city council, Mayor McLaughlin announced that the city faced a fi-

nancial crisis in that the action of the state revenue department in confiscating gambling paraphernalia had resulted in the closing of local establishments, cutting off revenue which netted the city \$31,500 in 1936, and \$1,800 in January of this year.

Arising on a point of personal privilege, Representative Maner told the house, "I cannot let a persecution of a people I represent go unanswered. If you (the house investigation committee) were going to clean up the entire state, I wouldn't be up here speaking."

"The visitors at Hot Springs—those who haven't left the state by trainloads since this thing started—have called over here to Little Rock bookies to place bets."

In describing his objections to increasing taxes here, Mayor McLaughlin also hit on the point of businessmen suffering with his statement that "Hot Springs is already tax burdened and the closing of the town at this time has been a severe blow to everyone . . . because they have prepared for the greatest winter season in the history of the resort."

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#### WHY NOT STATEWIDE CLEANUP?

Sudden seizure at Hot Springs last Friday of gambling equipment at a number of places in and near this city points the way for Arkansas to stamp out gambling on a state-wide scale, says the El Dorado Daily News in a front page editorial. The writer goes on to say:

"The Daily News feels that the drive should be extended for a 'cleanup' of the entire state, and that it should be a double-barreled attack against slot machines and race horse 'bookies.'

"Revenue agents acted at Hot Springs under the authority of a supreme court writ. Under the same authority the elaborate paraphernalia was burned in a big bonfire at Little Rock, apparently after owners made a fruitless search for a legal method to block destruction of the equipment.

"The high court has held that slot machines are gambling devices and as such are subject to confiscation and destruction. Many machines have been seized from time to time but few have been destroyed. The supreme court writ proved a powerful weapon at Hot Springs. It could be used to equal advantage all over the state and we feel that members of the court are opposed to gambling in every part of the state.

"The 'war' on the slot machines could be handled through local authorities in the various cities and towns, or revenue agents could be put to work as in the case of Hot Springs. In either case the seized machines should be destroyed as that is the only sure method of taking them out of operation.

"Slot machines take money from persons who can little afford to 'throw it away.' Those now in operation should be seized and destroyed and at the same time steps should be taken to prevent an influx of such devices. Other states are taking action against these 'mechanical robbery' machines, and unless Arkansas acts the operators may move into this state. Texas is reported taking steps to remove 400 such machines from that state.

"The supreme court writ appears as the weapon to use against the machines. It's another story in the case of the 'bookies' who can move from place to place, but operations of such betting establishments could be halted through injunctions. It is our opinion that supreme court justices would be as ready to act against such practices as against other forms of gambling.

"Arkansas has no need of gambling in any form and apparently has the necessary law for a thorough-going state campaign. Removal of the slot machines and the 'bookie' shops would be a major step toward an Arkansas 'cleanup.'



# FINANCIAL CRISIS IS FACED BY CITY

LOSS OF "BOOKIE" REV-  
ENUE CRITICAL, MAY-  
OR TELLS COUNCIL.

SOLUTION IS URGENT

McLaughlin Assails "Re-  
form Element" as Aiming  
to "Rule or Ruin" Hot  
Springs—Cites 1936 Pros-  
perity—Says 1937 Ruined

Denouncing the ultra reform element which he said is determined to "rule or ruin" Hot Springs, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin read a prepared statement to the city council at the regular monthly meeting last night, declaring the city faces a financial crisis in the loss of revenues resulting from the closing of bookmaking establishments.

Mayor McLaughlin said the handbooks which were operated under a system of fines until suspended Saturday following a series of raids on gambling establishments here Friday night by state revenue officers, had netted the city treasury \$21,500 in 1936, and \$1,800 for January of this year.

A decrease in the city payroll or an increase in occupation taxes were described by Mayor McLaughlin as the only apparent solutions.

"Both of these solutions are objectionable to me," he added.

The mayor urged the necessity of taking some action before March 1.

Mayor McLaughlin pointed out that all city employees are working under a 20 per cent reduction in salary, and said any further reduction would make it impossible for the employees to provide the necessities of life for their families.

Voicing his objection to an increase in occupation taxes, Mayor McLaughlin said "the people of Hot Springs are already tax burdened and the closing of this town at this time has been a severe blow to every one engaged in any kind of business." He declared the city had prepared for the greatest winter season in the history of the resort only to see "the future of Hot Springs destroyed by the leaders of the reform element."

Declaring that automobile licenses and occupation taxes were the only new forms of taxation enacted by the city in the last thirty years, Mayor McLaughlin said the cities of Arkansas had "been left by the wayside" in the matter of taxes with the state monopolizing all other sources of revenue. This has made it necessary for the city to take advantage of every opportunity to increase its income, he said.

Mayor McLaughlin mentioned no names in referring to the "reform element" which, he charged, had brought about the legislative investigation of Hot Springs which resulted in the Friday night raids.

He declared "the great majority of the people here have approved a liberal policy" and cited 1936 bank statements, bath records and reports of various business establishments as evidence of the city's prosperity.

The mayor's statement was discussed by the council members informally, but no action was taken. A statement by City Clerk Emmett Jackson that some of the larger chain stores in the city were paying less occupation taxes, based on inventories, than some home-owned stores, brought a suggestion that the upper brackets of the occupation tax be revised. Mayor McLaughlin ordered a council committee to investigate.

Mayor McLaughlin said it is likely a special meeting of the council will be called during the month to consider the financial problem.

The mayor's formal statement to the council follows:  
To the Members of the City Council:

"As you know, there is a certain group of citizens in this city who have always been opposed to anything of a liberal nature that might be beneficial to Hot Springs so this city could match the competition of other health and pleasure resorts throughout the country. This group has also been opposed to the operation of the race track. You know who is the leader of the reform element."

"The great majority of the people here have approved a liberal policy for Hot Springs and as a result of this policy the city last year enjoyed its greatest year of prosperity, as evidenced by reports of the various business establishments, bank statements and bath records, but regardless of this era of prosperity the leaders of the reform element brought about legislative investigation of Hot Springs. It is generally

known here that the author of the resolution for the investigation of Hot Springs is a resident of this city."

"The activity of the leaders of the reform element in Hot Springs has caused various establishments to cease operations and, of course, the closing of these places vitally effects the finances of the City of Hot Springs. I have had our city collector and treasurer prepare a statement which shows that during the year 1936 the sum of \$21,500 was collected from these places and deposited in the Arkansas National Bank to the credit of the city; the statement also shows that the sum of \$1,800 was collected by the city for the month of January, 1937, and this money also placed to the credit of the City in the same bank. This brings to your attention the fact that our income is now decreased \$1,800 per month and something will have to be done to overcome this deficit."

"This creates a financial crisis which gives me much concern because there are only two ways of overcoming it. One way is to decrease the city pay roll and the other is to increase occupation taxes, both of these solutions are objectionable to me. Everyone on the city pay roll is working under a twenty per cent reduction of salary and any further reduction will make it impossible for a man to provide the necessities of life for himself and family. And it is impossible to efficiently carry on with any less men, especially in the fire department, because any changes from the present schedule of operation will cause a decided increase in insurance rates in the city of Hot Springs.

"The question of increasing occupation taxes does not appeal to me because I know the people of Hot Springs are already tax burdened and the closing of this town at this time has been a severe blow to every one engaged in any kind of business because they have prepared for the greatest winter season in the history of Hot Springs, but instead these tax burdened people have seen the future of Hot Springs destroyed by the leaders of the reform element whose object is, to rule or ruin.

"The loss of this monthly revenue of \$1,800 must be overcome in some manner and the solution must be reached not later than March 1st. The history of our state shows the enactment of the gasoline tax, the income tax, the tobacco tax, the severance tax, and the sales tax; all new forms of taxation since our constitution was adopted, and the cities have not shared in any of the taxes. On the other hand the State of Arkansas profits solely from these sources of income. The cities of Arkansas have been left by the wayside with the same source of taxation that we had thirty years ago, with the exception of the automobile tax and occupation tax. But we are expected to provide better trained fire and police departments

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Petitions for lights in front of the Park Place Baptist church at Park Place, and in front of the Church of God on Fourth street, and at Fourth and Greenwood avenue, were referred to committee.

## Police Hail Over 50 Into Municipal Court

Over 50 persons appeared in Municipal court Monday as a result of a strenuous drive by city police over the week-end. The docket was the heaviest in several months. The charges ranged from drunkenness to possessing untax-paid liquor.

Garner McFarlane, transient negro, promised to leave town immediately when advised he could either do that or serve a jail sentence. He was charged with selling perfume without a license. Chief of Detectives Akers declared the youth had criminal records in New Orleans, Texarkana, Oklahoma City and other places.

J. R. Bell and T. F. Mounds,

charged with gaming, were fined \$10 each.

"Doc" Ketchum, proprietor of the Courthouse Bar, raided for the second time in two weeks Saturday by Police Chief Rasberry, was dismissed from a contempt of court charge. He was instructed to keep his establishment within bounds of the law.

Almost a score of those to appear before Judge V. S. Ledgerwood were charged with traffic violations. Most of them were dismissed with warnings, but old offenders were fined.

Claude Ross, local Negro, received a \$100 fine for the possession of untax-paid liquor, as a result of his arrest by Captain Ben Rogers.

## CLUB BELVEDERE IS CLOSED FOR INDEFINITE TIME

### CLOSING ATTRIBUTED TO RAID—CAPRARO BAND TO LEAVE.

Its widely-known gambling casino darkened Friday night when state revenue department raiders stripped the place of costly paraphernalia. Club Belvedere, reputed to be one of the south's most luxurious night clubs, closed its doors yesterday for what W. S. Jacobs, the owner, was said to have described as an indefinite period.

Mr. Jacobs could not be located for a statement last night, but he was quoted as saying following the raids Friday night that Belvedere, with its large overhead expense, could not be operated on a restricted basis which excluded gambling.

The closing threw 56 regular employees out of work. The 14-piece Joe Capraro orchestra, featured at the club continuously since January, 1935, will leave immediately. The orchestra came here from New Orleans which is the home of most of the members.

The Belvedere dairy, operated in conjunction with the club, will continue business.

The Southern Grill on upper Central avenue, also owned by Mr. Jacobs, will also continue.

## Solons Will Not Stop Racing, Campbell Says

There is little likelihood of the Arkansas General Assembly repealing the 1935 horse racing legalization act, in the opinion of Representative James E. Campbell of Garland county, who spent the week-end in Hot Springs.

"I find many business men here greatly concerned over the introduction in the house last week by Rep. John K. Butt, of Carroll county, of a bill to repeal the racing act," Rep. Campbell said. "I want to say for their benefit that I am confident a racing repeal measure will not be passed. Even if one should be passed by the House—and I do not believe this is likely—it would be killed in the Senate. I do not believe Hot Springs has any cause to worry over legalized racing."

Rep. Campbell returned to Little Rock Monday. His colleague, Rep. Ernest Maner, also spent the week-end in Hot Springs.

## BAILEY'S AIDES IN HOUSE ARE GIVEN SETBACK

### NO RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR ADMINISTRATION MEASURES.

Little Rock, Feb. 1.—(P)—Twenty-nine budget measures appropriating for biennial maintenance of state departments received the endorsement of the house today with a minimum of debate and few dissenting votes.

Chairman Lyle Brown of the house budget committee said appropriations measures approved by the committee and the assembly "represent a decrease from the 1935 appropriations of five or six million dollars."

Among major appropriation bills approved were those allocating \$6,000,000 for operation of the highway department and \$1,639,668 for the state hospital. Coffelt of Saline, who announced several weeks ago he would fight for an increase in the hospital appropriation, told the house today the allocation was "satisfactory."

The house handed administration floor leaders a resounding setback shortly after convening, rejecting a resolution which proposed that measures sponsored by Governor Carl E. Bailey be given right-of-way.

Crisp, Wilkinson and Toney contended administration measures should be made subject to call "as a courtesy to the governor."

Thompson of Independence and Blount of White, leading the fight against the resolution, charged that its adoption would constitute "gag rule." Thompson warned that adoption would "set a precedent which you will regret sooner or later."

Rejection came in a voice vote, a loud chorus of "noes" rolling across the chamber.

An authoritative source disclosed that 12 house members, meeting last night at Hotel Marion, organized a bloc to oppose giving Bailey bills preferred status and to fight many of them on the floor. Refusing to suspend the rules to

permit consideration Wednesday of a bill by Vesey of Hempstead to repeal the Thorn liquor legalization act, the representatives apparently assured a delay of several weeks in the prohibition battle. Some member high up on the roll call must yield to Vesey if consideration is obtained this week.

Acting to correct an "error" of the 1935 legislature, the representatives passed a bill by Abington of White to earmark for old age pensions the 35 per cent of sales tax moneys which has accrued in the general revenue fund for the past 18 months.

A bill by Anthony of Jefferson to permit counties and municipalities to send their prisoners to other counties to work out sentences passed, 57 to 11.

Harris of Jefferson introduced a bill to require the highway commission to take over and control all bridges on the state highway system and pay the bonds of road improvement districts. He said passage of the bill would remove tolls from bridges operated by districts but would not affect tolls on state owned bridges.

Burris of Pope offered a measure which provided that ex-soldiers sailors, marines and their widows should be given preference in civil service examinations for employment by the state.

Murry of Dallas proposed a privilege tax on dance halls, the funds to go to the old age pension fund.

A bill by Butt of Carroll asked repeal of a 1935 act legalizing greyhound racing. Butt introduced a bill Friday to repeal legalized horse racing.

Butt and Vesey lost a fight to amend the bill appropriating for the state insurance department. They sought to reduce the travel expense allocation of the state fire marshal from \$3,000 to \$1,500. The 1935 appropriation was \$500. Butt's amendment met defeat, 36 to 80.

Proponents of the higher travel allocation contended it would enable the state to make arrests for incendiarism and reduce insurance rates.

"It's time to stop pitching away the money of the people of Arkansas,"



## PERSECUTION IS CHARGED IN SPA GAMBLING RAIDS

REP. MANER ASSAILS  
LEGISLATIVE INVESTI-  
GATING BODY.

## RAPS CAPITAL GAMING

Garland Solon Charges  
Open Gambling Ignored  
in Little Rock—More Wit-  
nesses Questioned by  
Probers.

Little Rock, Feb. 1—(P)—Rep. Ernest Maner of Garland county charged from the house floor today that Hot Springs was being persecuted by a house investigating committee and open gambling was ignored in Little Rock.

A five-man committee named three weeks ago by the house now is investigating charges that official corruption existed at Hot Springs. Its activity resulted in raids Friday night on eight clubs at the Spa, revenue officers seizing and burning \$15,000 worth of gambling equipment.

The committee questioned five witnesses tonight in an executive session at the offices of its attorney, John R. Thompson. Members said the witnesses did not include any Hot Springs or Garland county official.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman W. M. Thompson said the committee had no statement. He declined to name the witnesses questioned.

Arising up a point of personal privilege, Maner held the attention of the house for ten minutes and was applauded when he concluded, "I can't let a persecution of the people I represent go unanswered."

members of the body saw it as adopt a resolution to investigate a condition reported existing at Hot Springs.

"I don't believe you intended to place in one man or any group the power to persecute any of the people of Arkansas. You wanted your committee to investigate and report its findings to you."

"I'm not telling you that gambling is right but I don't think it is fair to put the lid on one city while right here in Little Rock there are eight or ten places of the same kind."

Discussing the Garland county political situation, Maner said that "over there in Garland it's the people against a few worn out politicians."

"I'd like to see the people of Arkansas interest themselves in something like the Warm Springs Foundation for unfortunate children at Hot Springs instead of this persecution," he continued.

"If you are going to clean up the whole state, I wouldn't be up here speaking. The visitors at Hot

Spings—those who haven't left by trainloads since this thing started—have called over here to Little Rock bookies today to place bets on horse races.

"The business of Hot Springs is its visitors. There are 300,000 of them a year. I don't know where the authority has come from to do what has been done. All I'm asking is justice for my people."

## CLUB BELVEDERE IS CLOSED FOR INDEFINITE TIME

CLOSING ATTRIBUTED  
TO RAID—CAPRARO  
BAND TO LEAVE

Its widely-known gambling casino darkened Friday night when state revenue department raiders stripped the place of costly paraphernalia. Club Belvedere, reputed to be one of the south's most luxurious night clubs, closed its doors yesterday for what W. S. Jacobs, the owner, was said to have described as an indefinite period.

Mr. Jacobs could not be located for a statement last night, but he was quoted as saying following the raids Friday night that Belvedere, with its large overhead expense, could not be operated on a restricted basis which excluded gambling.

The closing threw 56 regular employees out of work. The 14-piece Joe Capraro orchestra, featured at the club continuously since January, 1935, will leave immediately. The orchestra came here from New Orleans which is the home of most of the members.

The Belvedere dairy, operated in conjunction with the club, will continue business.

The Southern Grill on upper Central avenue, also owned by Mr. Jacobs, will also continue.

# Discord Marks Probe Sessions

**Much Strife in Ranks of  
Delegation of Repre-  
sentatives Investigating  
Hot Springs.**

## Secrecy Charged

**Reports Say Impeach-  
ment Charges to be  
"Handed Committee"  
May Finish This Week.**

Internal strife was reported near the breaking point within the legislative committee investigating laxity of law enforcement at Hot Springs last night.

Reports were current that articles of impeachment already had been drawn, without the consent or knowledge of a majority of the committee, and that the draft would be presented to the five-man body for approval within a week.

It was learned on high authority that until Friday night's open hearing conducted by the committee, a majority of the body had been unaware of developments or progress in the investigation.

Shortly before Friday night's meeting got under way, one member of the committee attempted to gain entrance to a room where Chairman W. M. Thompson was talking to several witnesses. Repeated raps on the door for admission were ignored, even though the committee member identified himself.

Another committee member standing nearby urged his colleague to "kick in the door."

### May Finish This Week

Meanwhile, Chairman Thompson announced that another hearing similar to that held Friday night is scheduled for Monday or Tuesday night. He indicated that it is hoped to complete all investigation by the end of the week.

The committee has been functioning for three weeks now under orders of a House resolution adopted early in the session.

A statement issued following Friday night's committee meeting said: "The testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable."

The statement, however, was signed only by Rep. Lee Nichols of Booneville.

It was learned from unquestionable sources that at least two other members of the committee refused to sign the statement, expressing the opinion that it would pledge them as believing impeachment proceedings were in order.

It was learned that at least one member of the committee had expressed the opinion that "if the present testimony is sufficient to impeach anyone in the Eighteenth Judicial circuit, it is sufficient to impeach any official in the state."

### Not "In" on Raids

It was also learned last night on high authority, that two raids apparently under sponsorship of the committee, were organized and carried out without the knowledge of a majority of the committee. At least three members of the five-man group were unaware that the first raid at Hot Springs in which a number of persons were subpoenaed to appear before the committee, was to be conducted, it was reported.

A majority of the members of the committee also were unaware of plans for the raid at Hot Springs one week ago Friday night, when gambling paraphernalia valued at \$15,000 was seized.

Two members of the body were acquainted with facts of the raid as they stood in the lobby of the Hotel Marion more than an hour after the equipment had been seized. Expressing doubt that the raids had been staged, they called the office of a news service to verify the report.

It was said that proposals carried out at the meeting here Friday night were the first which have received sanction of a majority of the committee.

### Near Fist Fight Reported

Reports that two members of the committee came near to blows at a recent meeting were verified last night by news sources.

It was reported that during the course of a discussion, Rep. Pat Robinson, member of the committee, invited Rep. Nichols to "step outside and we'll see who is the best man."

Actual blows were averted by efforts of friends, it was said.

The question of where funds will be found to finance the inquiry also arose yesterday, when it was revealed that approximately only \$300 remains in the House of Representatives contingent fund, from which expenses of the probe were to be paid.

A voucher for \$60 to pay the salary of a stenographer-secretary for the committee up until Feb. 2, was paid the past week. Several vouchers for witnesses' fees have been issued.

It was learned that no voucher has been issued for payment of John R. Thompson, attorney for the committee, and it was reported that no agreement had been reached by the committee on the amount of salary to be paid Mr. Thompson, who is assistant city attorney for the City of Little Rock.

A court reporter employed by the committee to record statements of witnesses also has not been paid.

A House committee conducting an investigation of loan companies already has approved a claim of \$250 for legal services for Carroll Hollensworth, House parliamentarian, and this claim must be paid from the House contingent fund. This would leave approximately only \$50 to care for expenses of the Hot Springs investigating committee.

The opinion was expressed in several places yesterday that Gov. Carl E. Bailey might make an allotment from the governor's emergency fund to carry on the Hot Springs investigation.

### To Disqualify Self

Hot Springs—Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night announced he would disqualify himself in the trials of seven former policemen charged with second degree murder in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, and said he had invited Circuit Judge A. P. Steele, of Ashdown, to preside in his place.

"In view of recent developments, I think it best to have another judge preside over these cases," Judge Witt said. "Also, these men have been under indictment for several weeks and I think there should be some effort to set their trials."

"I will set these cases to suit your convenience," Judge Witt advised Judge Steele in urging him to "let me know the earliest date you could come to Hot Springs for this purpose."

pose."

A reply from Judge Steele had not been received last night. Judge Witt's action in the Dickson case came on the heels of an open hearing of the house legislative investigation committee in which charges were made by three inmates of the state farm for women that they had suffered mistreatment at the hands of Hot Springs police.

The seven officers under indictment are accused of the alleged "third degree" death of Dickson, who was charged with being a member of a local safe robbery ring as well as being a principal in a brutal attack on former Chief of Police Joe Wakelin.

Confined to the jail here for almost a month, an autopsy on his body by four prominent Hot Springs physicians revealed he had suffered many brutal injuries before death. However, physicians said his death was caused by pneumonia but that the injuries "were a contributing factor without a doubt."

The indictments against the officers followed. Those indicted and suspended from duty were Day Capt. L. A. Cooper, Night Capt. R. L. Moore, Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock, Detective Glynn Buchanan and Officers Joe Scott, Andy Irwin and Pres Griffin.

An editorial in the New Era, Hot Springs newspaper, yesterday asked that the charges made by the state farm inmates be investigated by the Garland grand jury.

#### Editorial Quoted.

The editorial follows:  
"When charges were made that John Dickson had been beaten severely while a prisoner in the city jail, the Garland county grand jury immediately went into session, investigated the Dickson case on the advice of Circuit Judge Earl Witt, and returned indictments against seven persons.

"Serious charges were made last night by several girls against local police officials. These charges were made at a meeting of the legislative investigating committee to which newspaper men were admitted and the charges made by the girls were printed all over the state. These charges should not go unheeded by local authorities.

"Despite the character of the witnesses, they should be permitted to give their testimony before the Garland county grand jury and consideration should be given their evidence. They have made serious charges which should be investigated. The grand jury should be called into session at once."

Weldon Raspberry, named in the place of former Chief Wakelin, who was suspended but not indicted, Saturday night said he invited and welcomed "an investigation by the grand jury or any other body into conditions at the jail since January 2, when I took office."

"The charges made by Iva Lee Johnson, who with Billy Blair and Roxie Parker made those statements, was arrested after I took office. I welcome an investigation into any charges made by her."

Former Detective Lieutenant Brock also denied the woman's charge that he "switched" her. "I never beat a woman jail prisoner," Brock said, adding, "she was not arrested until after I was suspended from the force on January 2."

Other officers denying statements of the women were Jailors F. H. Tucker and Owen Corrington, and Officer T. G. (Curley) Evans.

Officer Evans said he had a statement from a federal prisoner who admitted he was responsible for the bruises on the Johnson girl.

## Impeachment Action May Follow Probe

### Hot Springs Committee Closes 'Open' Hearing to Newspapersmen.

A legislative committee investigating charges of a breakdown in law enforcement in Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial district said today it believed impeachment proceedings against officials in the Hot Springs area "are inevitable."

The statement was issued over the signature of Rep. Lee Nichols of Booneville, committee secretary, last night after an "open hearing" at the office of John R. Thompson, committee attorney, in the Wallace building.

Newspaper men who had been invited to attend the "open hearing" were permitted to hear testimony of three inmates of the State Farm for Women at Alexander; a Hot Springs hotel engineer who was fired for "talking to people I had no business talking to" and a committee investigator.

They were excluded from the room when six Hot Springs business men were called, individually, to present testimony.

The committee decided to close the "open hearing" when the six business men objected to testifying in the presence of newspaper men. A member of the committee said the business men told him it wouldn't be safe for them to testify at a hearing at which newspaper men were present.

Lawmaker "Explains."  
A member of the committee later explained the exclusion of reporters from the room with the question:

"You wouldn't want to be responsible for the death of some man, would you?"

The three inmates of the State Farm for Women charged under oath that immoral conditions existed in the Hot Springs city jail, and that women arrested there had been whipped and otherwise abused by officers.

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

She alleged that Circuit Judge Earl Witt, in sentencing her, promised to aid her in obtaining a re-

lease after serving a part of her time.

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

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

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

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

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

Since the house committee started its inquiry, state revenue department agents, apparently working in close co-operation with the investigators, raided night clubs at Hot Springs, seized and burned several thousand dollars worth of gambling equipment.

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

Women Inmate Testifies.  
The other women's reformatory inmates appearing before the legislative group gave their names as Roxie Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20.

Roxie Parker said she didn't know why she had been sent to the reformatory. She explained that she previously had been arrested and released in connection with a fatal shooting at Hot Springs.

"That time, they took me to jail and a police officer said he would whip me unless I talked, and he did. He took me where a dead man was and made me put my hand of the dead man while he questioned me. They put me under the hot lights and bent my fingers almost double

and shoved their thumbs behind my ear."

That was last June. It was in connection with the killing of Harvey Cook, but I didn't know anything about it."

Iva Lee Johnson said she had been sentenced from Judge Verne Ledgerwood's municipal court for drunkenness and had been at the prison farm just a week.

Mrs. Helen D. McDonald, superintendent of the state women's farm, told the committee the Parker girl was an "ideal inmate" but that both the Blair and Johnson girls had been treated in the state hospital for nervous disease, while serving time at the reformatory.

Excepting newspapermen, John T. Williams of the local district attorney's office, and Representative James R. Campbell of Hot Springs were the only outsiders permitted to attend the session.

Ex-Hotel Employee Heard.

Fred L. Pennington, describing himself as until recently a maintenance engineer at the Majestic hotel, said he "was let out of my job at the hotel yesterday because I talked to Mr. Witte (a committee investigator)—at least it looks that way."

"The chief engineer fired me because he said I was talking to people I had no business talking to," he continued. "He said my work was satisfactory."

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

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

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

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



Representative Campbell said that the man identified by Witte as "Charles Sellers," was removed from the resort police force recently when he was indicted in connection with robbery of a club at Hot Springs. Campbell said he was appointed by the court to defend Sellers.

Witte said Sellers told him the 39 poll tax receipts were part of 125 he was given to distribute to persons named on a list given him.

"He told me the 39 were for people he didn't get around to seeing," Witte said.

Pennington told the committee that he was "thrown out" of a polling place in Hot Springs, the night of the August 11 primary, after he had been commissioned by Carl E. Bailey to watch the counting of ballots. He said his father-in-law was arrested the day of the primary and placed in jail for 24 hours, after which he was released. His father had been carrying Bailey voters to the polls, Pennington said.

Mrs. M. C. Hickman, a registered nurse, called to appear before the committee, declined to answer a question concerning the nature of an illness of Judge Witt during which time she attended him.

Mrs. Hickman said she did not know the exact illness of Judge Witt and that she merely carried out the treatment prescribed by the attending physician.

"Have you ever attended patients suffering from alcoholism?" a committee member asked.

Mrs. Hickman replied that she had. "Would you say that the symptoms of Judge Witt's illness were the same as those of a patient suffering from alcoholism?" she was asked.

Mrs. Hickman refused to answer the question, declaring that it would be a violation of professional ethics.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-5-37

## Sensations in Hot Springs Probe Hinted

**News Men Are Invited to  
Attend Committee Ses-  
sion Tonight.**

Promising sensational developments, the House committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and the 18th Judicial District, today invited newsmen to attend a session of the committee to be held here tonight.

It was emphasized that the session would not be a public hearing, as outsiders would be limited to news reporters.

All previous sessions of the committee have been private. The nature of tonight's proceedings was not disclosed in advance.

Interest in the Hot Springs probe during the past few days has centered about Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin and a reported move on the part of Hot Springs business men to oust him. The mayor said he has no intention of resigning.

Referring to a published story quoting him as spokesman for the "rebellious" group of Hot Springs business men, W. R. Downen, former sheriff and postmaster in Garland county, today said the statement as published was incorrect.

Mr. Downen said "there were not more than a dozen men who even discussed this thing. Their discussion did not take place in my place of business."

Six or eight witnesses will be questioned tonight by the special legislative committee making an investigation of reported laxity in law enforcement, it was announced by Rep. W. M. Thompson of Batesville.

Chairman Thompson said that the committee headquarters in the Wallace building are not sufficiently large to open the meeting to the general public.

For the past two weeks the only official announcements from the committee have been in the form of written statements to the effect that progress has been made with the investigation launched under authority of a House resolution by Thompson and others calling attention to what was termed "laxity in law enforcement in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district, and suggesting a thorough investigation."

Since the committee was appointed by Speaker John M. Bradford of the House, subpoenas have been issued for the appearance of several Hot Springs citizens, some of whom hold public office, to appear before the committee.

## McLaughlin's Alleged Foes Fail to Show

No Demand for Resignation  
Is Made Upon Hot  
Springs Executive.

## Will Run Again

Declares Majority of  
Business Men Favor  
Administration.

Hot Springs—Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs, in his office by 7 a. m. today, waited in vain for someone to demand his resignation.

A published story Thursday morning said that a committee of Hot Springs business men had been called to meet this morning, appoint a spokesman for the group and instruct the spokesman to call upon the mayor and Circuit Judge Earl Witt and demand their resignations as a result of the recent raids and investigation of the charges of lawlessness in the resort city by a committee appointed by the Arkansas House of Representatives.

Circuit Judge Witt has been out of the city more than a week and Mrs. Witt said she did not know where he could be located. Efforts of news men to find him were not successful.

However, the mayor issued a statement after waiting in his office until noon. In it he said he "would be silly to resign" from the mayor's office at this time, and announced that the people of Hot Springs will have an opportunity "to take it from me if they desire in the April election," since he will be a candidate for re-election.

The statement by the mayor follows:

**The Mayor's Statement.**  
I read the story on the first page of a Little Rock paper this morning and whoever the business man was who talked to him, must have been an enemy of the administration, because the local newspapers have checked nearly all of the prominent business people and find that they not only failed to have any knowledge of the so-called meeting of business men, but on the other hand, expressed themselves as being supporters of the administration.

"It would be silly indeed for me to attempt to carry on a controversy with the Arkansas Gazette, but I am astonished that a newspaper of its size would print a story as vicious, based on such information, and I can only say it is very unfair.

"However, when a man holds a public office, he must make up his mind not to fight with a newspaper, but simply grin and bear it.

"I arrived at my office early this morning, waiting for the so-called committee. It is now 12 o'clock and no such committee has appeared. On the other hand, my office has been thronged with business men all morning, who have stated that the people of Hot Springs are over-

whelmingly for the administration.

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

"The people of Hot Springs elected me to the mayor's office and the people of Hot Springs will have an opportunity to take it from me in the April election if they desire. It is ridiculous to think I would be weak enough to resign from the mayor's office.

"Those who desire to remove me from the mayor's office will have an opportunity in April when I will be a candidate for re-election."

(Signed) LEO P. McLAUGHLIN.

### Alliance Head in Statement.

Hot Springs—Rabbi A. B. Rhine, head of the Hot Springs Ministers' Alliance, this morning said he had nothing to do with and would assume no responsibility for the resolution yesterday of the Alliance that said the ministers did not want any revenue from "other than honorable and lawful sources."

Rabbi Rhine was elected president of the Alliance yesterday but did not attend the meeting, and said he knew nothing of the resolution.

# RUN OF The NEWS

Swanky Belvedere is closed, Mayor McLaughlin is melancholy, the gambling clubs are gloomy, the Spa is not the same.

The wheel no longer spins, the chips no longer clink; the dice no longer roll, the ponies no longer run. The legislature has clamped down the lid and the night spot boys and girls are finding what the sun looks like again.

The money has stopped, the hotels have canceled their entertainments; the people who love the games of chance are forlorn; the city fathers wonder how to fill the coffers—in short Hot Springs is in dire straits.

But don't cry, little city. Though there is a loss of familiar things just now, all of this has happened before and probably will again, for this gambling business is like that fabled bird, the "phoenix," which was believed to rise from the ashes where it was burned. This letter reminds us so:

"Dear Sir:  
"Do you remember 'Way Back When' Gov. Jeff Davis, during his third term, I believe, sent the state militia to Hot Springs to chase the gamblers out of town? Thirty years or so ago?"

G. G.

Little Rock.

No, we do not remember, but a perusal of the files of 1900 and 1901 recalls Hot Springs' early trials and tribulations.

On the afternoon of March 27, 1901, Governor Davis, who a few months previously had won the election after a hard fight in Garland county, signed the Wilson anti-gambling bill, which was aimed chiefly at the Spa.

That was at 2:30 p. m. By 3 o'clock word of the disaster had reached Central avenue and at 6 o'clock—for the first time in many years—the avenue's clubrooms were dark. The files say: "People congregated on sidewalks in the early evening, discussing with sad faces and ominous forebodings outcome of the gambling ban."

Further—we find: "The sporting men of the city, who have thousands invested in their clubrooms, are 'much' disgruntled." The citizenship, however, seems to have taken that early catastrophe calmer, viz: "They are taking the attitude that while the immediate effect will be to lower rents and property values a city can not build on vice and immorality."

The gamblers had not lost their paraphernalia (as in the present instance), but they couldn't use it. At the Springs the ban did not include pool halls, and horse betting continued, but that did not lift the gloom.

Gamblers packed their equipment; left by the dozens. The sports from Chicago, New York, Cincinnati, left for Memphis, New Orleans, Louisville. Much of their trade followed them; those who didn't left for home. All that remained we are told, was the hot water.

In Little Rock, which was no Sunday school town then, either, Police Chief McMahon "informed" the boys their day was over. The files tell how well they listened: "Without protest they all closed at once (this was 45 minutes after Governor Davis signed the bill) and to one who knew where their places were located, Main street presented a curious appearance after 6 o'clock with its dark windows in the second stories."

Twenty gambling houses closed in Little Rock and 100 gamblers left town—"as soon as they could pack their grips."

At the same time old Clinton race track, located at the foot of East Ninth street, was running wide open. That year it broke all records in attendance.

The gambling ban was felt elsewhere in Arkansas, we read. Houses closed quickly in Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, Texarkana.

The state quieted down for the next few years and then Hot Springs began to revive. Governor Davis at the time was running for the United States Senate and found the Spa still unruly. That was when he dispatched the militia to clamp the lid "down tight" in Hot Springs.

After that, old timers say it was 10 years before the lights burned bright again. When they did, they continued through the war; afterward, through depression; and until the bonfire last week-end.

So, don't cry, Hot Springs. They have broken up your playthings, taken away the glitter of the bright lights, but, after all, the real things which make you a queen city of Arkansas, you still have.

visitors to Jackson were taken to "Niggerhead Corner," a cross-roads community between Newport and Augusta on the old road connecting the two towns. Before repeal the community, with its rows of houses lining the two roads which intersect there, was known far and wide as "Bootleggers Row." After repeal when legalized sale of liquor knocked the bootlegging business into a cocked hat, traffic to the cross-roads dwindled away. Then some nocturnal wood-carver got busy and the tops of fence posts along the intersection began to turn into heads of darkies. The mysterious artist cut lips, eyes, nose, ears and even kinky hair on nine of the posts and blackened the tops to make the busts realistic. Now when the moon is shining bright, folks often take their city visitors down to see the heads from which the little community gets its name.

Do You Remember Way Back When: Motorists bragged about being able to climb the Seventh street hill in high—From L. H. Little Rock. After a hard rain most of the wooden paving blocks on the streets of Little Rock would "rare up"—Homer, Little Rock. Every house had a hitching post at the curb so visitors could tie their horses up? Help! Help! Do you know a "Way Back When?" Send it to "Run of the News." Help! Help!

To "Run of the News": "One of our popular news commentators invariably pronounces the word 'communiqué' as 'communikay.' Quite 'unikay,' isn't it?" Col. Cotton C. Doyle's Cousin. Little Rock.

M. S.



# GAMING PROFITS AT HOT SPRINGS WIDELY DIVIDED

## Notables Said to Have Shared.

The House committee investigating charges of terrorism and lawlessness at Hot Springs was told last night that many notables of Hot Springs shared in the gambling profits from the Club Belvedere and the Southern Grill at the resort city.

The information was furnished by Sam Watt, part owner of the two establishments.

He estimated that profits of the two establishments in 1936 at between "\$80,000 and \$100,000."

Among those named by Watt as sharing in the gambling profits were:

Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood. He was said to have a 25 per cent interest in the profits.

L. D. Cooper, former president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Douglas Hotchkiss, manager of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Among the employees of the Club Belvedere were listed:

P. O. Witt, uncle of Circuit Judge Earl Witt.

Buddy Wakelin, son of Joe Wakelin, until recently chief of police.

Tex Rutherford, city fireman.

Bob Moore, former captain of police.

Curley Evans, former member of the police force.

Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of the chief of detectives.

The committee repeatedly asked questions of Watt designed to show that the two places operated under the protection of the city officials.

Watt replied that he had no personal knowledge of any protection payments.

He estimated profits from the two places in 1936 at "between \$80,000 and \$100,000," advising the committee that the books which the committee recently obtained would "show the exact figures."

After evidence and testimony had been introduced to show that relatives of Hot Springs officials and peace officers were carried on the clubs' pay rolls in various capacities, Committee Chairman William M. Thompson asked:

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-9-37

"Is it true that you employed these relatives of officers to keep the officers off your places?"

"I guess the officers asked they be placed," Watt replied.

### Says He Saw Judge Witt Drunk Several Times.

George Gower, Hot Springs furniture man, was called and asked by the committee attorney if he "ever saw Judge Witt drunk."

"Several times," Gower testified. In answer to another question, he said:

"I never saw him drunk in court."

### Hot Springs Notables Share in Gambling Profits.

Watt, dignified, slow-spoken and past middle age, told the committee he had lived in Hot Springs for 60 years and had been "in the gambling and club-room business for quite a while—since 1904, I believe."

"At times, I have also invested in real estate and the oil business," he said.

He said he was "interested in the bank roll at Fountain Lake for eight years," and was associated there with a partner from near Saratoga Springs, N. Y. and another from New Orleans.

"How did you operate there without being arrested?" he was asked by Attorney Thompson.

"Brother, I don't know," he smiled. "Mr. Nolan (identified as one of the partners) was a good outside man and he made arrangements."

He said officers came out to raid several times "and we closed up."

"You mean you knew they were coming and closed?"

"That's a hard question to answer," he said.

Asked if anyone beside the partners shared in the profits, he said:

"I don't think so. If they did, Nolan took care of that."

He testified he subsequently "became interested in Belvedere."

"Who was interested with you?"

"Must I answer?"

"Yes."

"Mr. W. S. Jacobs and Mr. Cleveland Young, and some others had minor interests."

"Who?"

"Well, Mr. L. D. Cooper—"

"Who else?"

"Some of these people were let in probably because they had influence. Mr. Cooper has a lot of influence. I think he was president of the Chamber of Commerce."

"Who else?"

"Douglas Hotchkiss" (manager of the

Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce).

"Did they all pay for an interest?"

"Some did not pay for an interest."

"Who else?"

"Harry Strong, Roscoe Johnson."

"Because of their influence?"

"I don't know."

"Who else?"

"Archie Ledgerwood."

"What was Ledgerwood's interest?"

"Twenty-five per cent."

"How did he get it?"

"It was given to him by Mr. Jacobs, I believe."

"Why did you consent?"

"It was from Mr. Jacobs' interest. I thought it would be beneficial."

"Does Ledgerwood have relatives in official positions?"

"Judge Verne Ledgerwood is his brother."

"Judge Ledgerwood is the municipal judge?"

"Yes."

"Is that all that were in the club?"

"Since then five per cent interest has been given to Otis McGraw. I had and kept my 15 per cent interest. Captain William Smith had three and a half per cent, I believe."

### Both Officers and Relatives On Club's Pay Roll.

Chairman Thompson then started calling off names of club employees from a list previously supplied by Belvedere.

"I find the name of P. O. Witt," he said. "What relation to the judge?"

"Uncle, I think."

"There's a Buddy Wakelin on the list. What's his relationship to the former chief of police?"

"Son."

"Tex Rutherford, on the list here, is a city fireman, isn't he?"

"Yes."

"And also a watchman at the club," said Thompson.

Asked if "some of these men on this list aren't bodyguards for Mayor McLaughlin," Watt replied: "I don't know."

"Who is Bob Moore on this pay roll?"

"He was a captain of police," I find Curley Evans on the roll," said Thompson. "I believe he was on the force, too. And I see he has made an affidavit in Hot Springs saying he is a Holiness preacher."

"He is a pretty busy boy," replied Watt.

Chairman Thompson said that he found the name of "Mrs. Herbert Akers" and said she was "the wife of the chief of detectives."

Asked about the continuity of gambling in Hot Springs, Watt testified that "we did not have any gambling when Scott Wood was circuit judge."

### Archie Ledgerwood Tells Of Gambling at Hot Springs.

Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood, followed Watt into the chamber.

He said that he entered the employe of Jacobs in 1931 and the following year was offered a fourth-interest in Belvedere Club and Jacobs' other interests. The price was \$12,500. Ledgerwood said he borrowed the money from Ed Ballard, who with another man was found shot to death in a Hot Springs hotel last fall. The witness said he gave Ballard his note, promised 10 per cent interest and 25 per cent of his profits. The note, he said, was not due until 1936.

Asked if his brother knew of his gambling connections, the witness replied in the affirmative and added:

"If you'll pardon the expression, he gave me hell for it."

"Why didn't the officers of the district enforce the gambling laws?" Ledgerwood was asked.

"Back 30 years ago when Hot Springs was overrun with gambling houses, the city attracted hundreds of people with money," he replied. "The houses were closed and a short time later every other building in the business district was closed and hotels also suffered. I guess the officers, realizing that visitors are our only source of revenue have been a little liberal," he said.

Asked if any notables had returned since the gambling houses were reopened, Ledgerwood said almost every big politician in Chicago has come to Hot Springs for his vacation spot.

A committee member asked him if he knew Frank Nash, Alvin Karpis or Dick Galatas, notorious gangsters. He admitted having seen two of them.

Ledgerwood said he saw one of the "big" Chicagoans pocket \$27,000 as his winnings at the dice table at Belvedere in one single night.

He told the committee that the house has a percentage of one and 40-100 over the customers with the dice and that any one "staying with the dice against

the house would ultimately lose. He said he had seen but one pair of "crooked" dice in his life and that they were "caught" on a table at Belvedere, put there by a customer.

Ledgerwood denied that he had ever seen Judge Witt drunk or in any of the gambling houses.

Ledgerwood said he owned no property and that he did not patronize banks as he had lost in three failures.

### Says He Merely Entrusted \$20,000 to the Judge.

He was asked about a gift of "love and affection" of \$20,000 to his brother in 1935. He explained that he merely gave Judge Ledgerwood the money to keep for him so he would have it to meet the note due Ballard. He said that the money was placed in a safety deposit box and last year he obtained the money and paid Ballard a total of \$20,500 which included interest.

"Unfortunately," Ledgerwood said, "Ballard was killed a short time after I paid him."

Asked if he had the cancelled note, Ledgerwood said he had destroyed it as it was of no value. He also said he received no receipt from his brother when he gave him the money. Ledgerwood said Ballard was a sportsman nationally known and was worth about \$30,000,000. He made a practice of furnishing "bankrolls" to gamblers over the country.

Ledgerwood was asked if he knew of any business connections between Mayor McLaughlin and Jacobs, or if Jacobs had given expensive diamonds to Mrs. McLaughlin. He replied in the negative.

### Ex-Sheriff Says He Saw Judge Witt Drink.

Sid Haupt, former sheriff of Garland county and up until three years ago a "bouncer" at the Belvedere club, testified he had seen Judge Witt drunk at the club on numerous occasions and also saw him participate in dice games there. He said he voted for the "wrong man" and was fired.

### Tells of McLaughlin's Political Activities.

Billy Mann, grocer and unsuccessful candidate for constable in the August primary, told of having attended what he called a "private pressure meeting" of the McLaughlin political organization about 60 days before the state primary of last August. He had received an invitation and was among several hundred to meet in Judge Ledgerwood's courtroom one morning. He said that Judge Ledgerwood opened the meeting and was followed by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin who explained that everything must be in readiness for the election.

"We must concrete it," Mayor McLaughlin was quoted as saying. "If one cog slips then the whole wheel is wrecked."

Mann said that most of the city firemen and policemen were in attendance. They were told that each should account for at least 10 poll tax receipts and if they found anyone unable to buy one, to send them to the mayor's office where one would be provided.

"You can vote as you please," Mann said the mayor told his listeners, "but if you don't vote right there'll be someone to take your place right after the election when we'll know how you voted."

Mann said the mayor also said all business men who did not vote for the machine would be boycotted and that any of their employes voting for the opposition would be fired.

Mann said he and the Rev. P. L. ("Roy") Hurst, a Holiness minister, called on Judge Witt and reported the happenings at the meeting and urged that he stop the movement. He said the judge told them to take their grievances to Mayor McLaughlin. He said Judge Witt told them he could not do anything. Mann said he "was allowed only 640 votes out of 5,500."

Mann also said he had seen Judge Witt drunk in front of his office at Central avenue and Market street about eight months ago.

### Declares Hot Springs People Are Kept in Terror.

The Rev. Mr. Hurst said he has been a preacher for 21 years. He corroborated Mann's testimony and added that the "general opinion of people in Hot Springs of Judge Witt is that he is a drunkard."

Representative Campbell was permitted to ask the minister a few questions, one being if it wasn't just a rumor in Hot Springs that Mayor McLaughlin dominates all elections to which Hurst replied:

"It's a known fact. What the people of Garland county need is a New Deal. The people have been afraid to talk or try and remedy the condition, fearing reprisals."

Campbell asked Hurst if it wasn't true that Witt's popularity in the district was such that he could be elected without any assistance. The minister was of the opinion that Witt could not be elected to any office now.

### Year's Gambling Profits Reported to Total \$330,200.

Earl Screeton, auditor in the income tax division of the state Revenue Department, told of his examination of the records seized. His figures indicated that the Belvedere and Southern Club had a bankroll of \$89,000 during

1936 and that salaries and bonuses paid amounted to \$128,365.14. A net profit of about \$77,000 was shown in these two clubs, even after absorbing a loss of \$36,636.54 from the Kentucky Club.

The net earnings of the gambling houses in Hot Springs during the year totaled \$330,200, he said.

His examination of the records also revealed that Jacobs owned the principal shares in several other clubs.

The Ohio Club showed a profit of \$27,000; the Blue Ribbon Club, a profit of \$15,261; Miller's cigar store, a profit of \$44,500; the B. F. Harrison cigar store, \$31,297; the White Front cigar store, \$850 profit on a bridge game, and the Chicago Club, a profit of \$1,940. The latter figure represented only one month's operation, Screeton said.

Screeton was asked if any of the records showed that "fines" had been paid to the city. He said the Blue Ribbon Club records alone showed the city was paid \$132.50 semi-monthly. The expenditure was listed as "fine."

The auditor said he also examined bank accounts of both Judge Witt and Houston Emory, prosecuting attorney, but these reflected only their salaries.

#### Investigators Report That Witness Has Disappeared.

Frank Witt and Bob Faust, state Revenue Department investigators informed the committee that one of their witnesses has disappeared. They said they had obtained a statement from a young woman friend of Jacobs last Wednesday and added that she indicated she would testify willingly. She was to testify as to the "pay-off." They returned Thursday with a subpoena, but they could find no trace of her. Their search continued through yesterday without results. The two

were instructed to continue the search.

#### Aunt Charges John Dickson Was Beaten to Death.

The committee heard Mrs. W. L. Haynes, aunt of John Dickson, review charges which her family has made that Dickson, Hot Springs jail prisoner, died there last Christmas Eve as a result of being beaten by Hot Springs officers.

#### Representative Campbell Sponsors Protesting Delegation.

A resident of Hot Springs telephoned the committee yesterday afternoon that political followers of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin were trying to organize a large party to come to Little Rock in the hope of making an impression on the investigators. He said that all who would make the trip were being offered free transportation.

When the committee assembled, Representative James R. Campbell of Hot Springs, one of McLaughlin's political lieutenants, told the committee that "200 prominent business men of Hot Springs wanted to be heard."

Campbell was surrounded by about 40 men, said to be residents of the resort city. They were not admitted but the committee received from Jess B. Murphy, who said that he was the "village blacksmith," the following statement:

"I have been selected as the spokesman for this delegation of business men, who represent the best business interests of Hot Springs, and who have accompanied me unsolicited and voluntarily to Little Rock to present to you the sentiment of the people of Hot Springs.

"I am 66 years old and I have been in business in Hot Springs for 49 years and, of course, have had an opportunity to know the conditions existing in Hot Springs over this period of years. We who have come here tonight, representing the people of Hot Springs, are sorry over the fact that Hot Springs has gained much unfavorable publicity since your investigation started because of the fact your investigation was inspired by a certain political group in Hot Springs commonly known in politics as the "outs," and in order to cast as many reflections as possible on the group which is in authority the most extreme and unjust accusations have been made.

"The people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy.

"It has been repeatedly said in the press that you are investigating Judge Earl Witt, our circuit judge, and let us say now that he has been our circuit judge for 15 years and the people of Hot Springs have confidence in his honesty, integrity and ability. Judge Witt bears the reputation in our judicial district of being extremely fair and impartial in the trial of all cases and matters that come before him. He is learned in law and is eminently qualified for the position he occupies. An audit of the Circuit Court expenses made by the firm of Chase and Gaunt, Public Accountants, shows that during the first 10 years of the tenure of office of Judge Earl Witt there was a saving to the taxpayers of more than \$30,000 as compared with the last 10 years of his predecessors.

"We take this opportunity of expressing to your committee our faith

and confidence in Judge Witt as our circuit judge and as a citizen of our district. We further state to you that our people living directly under the jurisdiction of Judge Witt's court are satisfied with the conduct of that court and beg of you to not permit politicians or politics to cause you to do anything that will reflect upon Judge Witt or the people of the Eighteenth Judicial District."

#### Campbell Charges Unfairness To Judge Witt.

Chairman Thompson suggested adjournment and asked for a meeting date. At this point Representative Campbell again was extended the privilege of the floor. He said the best business men of Hot Springs, if subpoenaed, would testify that Judge Witt was not a drunkard. He explained that Judge Witt had been suffering with bronchial trouble for years and when ill, would remain in bed. This caused rumors of his being intoxicated to be circulated.

"In all fairness to Judge Witt, why don't you call friends of the administration to appear before you? You always manage to get opponents of Judge Witt to come here and tell you things," he said.

John R. Thompson, committee attorney, took exceptions to Campbell's remarks and insisted that he had entered the investigation with an open mind and has been doing his utmost to be fair to both sides. He objected to the insinuation that the witnesses had been hand-picked and added that he did not believe the witnesses who had appeared had falsified.

"Besides, Judge Witt was bound to know all about the gambling houses in his district," he said.

Robinson interrupted the argument and a motion for adjournment was adopted.

The committee decided to meet again Wednesday night and to admit the press and to complete its investigation this week.

The committee also decided to hear Judge Witt at any meeting which he attends. He was reported ill at his home and unable to appear last night. Several thought it would be best to hear him after all the testimony had been submitted, but the decision was to hear him at his convenience.

#### Akers Says Two Women Told Him of Bribe Offer.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 3 (AP).—Detective Chief Herbert Akers charged tonight that two women had been offered money to testify against him before a legislative committee investigating alleged lawlessness in Hot Springs.

He said he had depositions from the two women declaring they had been offered money by a man representing himself as an investigator for the committee.

## Hot Springs Probers Meet Tomorrow

The House Committee of the legislature, investigating charges of terrorism and lawlessness in Hot Springs, announced yesterday that another meeting will be held tomorrow night and that members of the press would be admitted. Another meeting may be held later in the week, it was said by John R. Thompson, attorney for the committee.

The committee has been conducting its investigations behind closed doors until Friday night when newspapermen were invited. Mr. Thompson said a list of witnesses had been prepared, but the subpoenas had not been served as yet.

The committee plans to make its report soon. In a statement released Friday night they said enough evidence already was at hand that "impeachment of certain officials seemed inevitable."

## Hot Springs Police Officers Deny All Charges.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Feb. 6.—Members of the Hot Springs Police Department accused in testimony given the committee of the legislature investigating alleged terrorism in this city today made affidavits denying statements the committee received from Billy Blair, 34, Route Parker, 20, and Iva Lee Johnson, 20, of this city.

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

### Hotel Manager in Denial.

Bruce Wallace, manager of the Majestic hotel, issued a statement denying that he had discharged Fred Pennington, until recently employed by the Engineers Department at the hotel because Pennington had aided Frank Witte of the state Revenue Department in the investigation here.

In a letter addressed to the editor of a newspaper here, Wallace wrote:

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

the strike, unless the corporation meets union demands.



# BUSINESS MEN OF HOT SPRINGS HEARD SECRETLY

## Fear to Testify In Public.

Six Hot Springs business men, subpoenaed by the House Committee investigating charges that law enforcement has broken down in the resort city, told the committee members last night that "it wouldn't be safe for them to testify" at a hearing to which newspaper men had been admitted.

They also objected to testifying in the presence of Representative James R. Campbell of Hot Springs, a political follower of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin.

Hence the committee, meeting in the office of its attorney, John R. Thompson, in the Wallace building, heard the business men behind closed doors while the reporters and Campbell waited in an anteroom.

### Committee Denounces Hot Springs Newspaper.

After having heard the business men in secret, the committee issued a statement saying that satisfactory progress had been made and that we feel that "impeachment proceedings are inevitable."

The statement follows:

"Our attention has been called to a report published in the Hot Springs paper that the investigation in which we have been engaged for the past three weeks is about to result in failure, and that members of the committee had frankly admitted to their friends that they regret having started it.

"We desire to say that our progress so far has been quite satisfactory to every member of the committee and that we expect to continue our investigation until the matters set out in the resolution by which we were created have been thoroughly investigated. The testimony already before us is enough that we feel that impeachment proceedings are inevitable and the statements which have been made in the papers reflecting upon the committee are without foundation and are being used only for the purpose of suppressing information by intimidation and otherwise."

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-6-37

### Refuses to Reveal Nature Of Judge Witt's Illness.

In addition to the business men, the committee heard seven other witnesses. All testified in the presence of the press, except Mrs. M. C. Hickman, a registered nurse of Hot Springs who recently attended Circuit Judge Earl Witt.

Mrs. Hickman answered a few questions, but when she was asked as to the nature of the judge's illness, she declined to answer, holding that her profession protected her from giving evidence. She had said she did not know the nature of Judge Witt's illness, and refused to answer when asked if he appeared to be recovering from alcoholism.

### Says He Was Discharged For Aiding in Investigation.

Fred L. Pennington, who until Thursday morning was engineer at the Majestic hotel at Hot Springs, testified that he was fired by the chief engineer for "having talked too much politics with certain ones."

He said he was told his work had been satisfactory.

He told the committee that he believed that his talks with Frank Witte, state revenue officer detailed to the investigation, had caused his dismissal.

### Tells of Threat Because Of Work for Carl E. Bailey.

Pennington also testified that during the primary last August he had been commissioned by Carl E. Bailey, now governor, to watch the vote count at the City hall precinct. He said he arrived at the precinct at 7 at night and remained until 3:15 in the morning when an ex-city fireman whom he knew only as Lovett told him to "get out or be thrown out." He left without being thrown out.

The witness also said his father-in-law, a Mr. McMullen, engaged in driving an automobile for Bailey voters on election day, was arrested and held in jail without bond. He was released the following day without hearing.

This testimony was admitted because of the fact that the committee is investigating, among other things, the top-heavy majorities purported to have been given by Hot Springs to Ed F. McDonald, candidate for governor, and other candidates supported by the McLaughlin administration.

### Investigator Delivers 39 Poll Tax Receipts.

Witte, one of the investigators aiding the committee, occupied the witness chair for a half-hour during which time he delivered to the committee 39 poll-tax receipts and a list of 125 names of persons who he said were given

poll-tax receipts shortly before the election. He testified that the list and tax receipts were given to him by a former city fireman, Charles Sellers. He quoted Sellers as having said that he had delivered 86 of the receipts but had been unable to locate the 39 persons for whom the others were intended.

Witte was not asked if Sellers had told him who had given him the receipts to deliver.

The officer told of the two raids made on gambling houses by revenue officers during the past two weeks.

### Secret Session Follows Officer's Testimony.

It was after Witte's testimony that the committee learned the business men did not wish to testify publicly. A mo-

tion that the committee go into executive session was made by Murry of Dallas county. Nichols of Logan county seconded the motion and the newsmen and Campbell left the room. Other members of the committee present were Chairman Thompson of Independence county, Jones of Montgomery and Robinson of Lafayette.

### Three From Reformatory Accuse Hot Springs Police.

Mrs. Helen D. McDonald, superintendent of the State Reformatory for Women near Alexander, appeared with three inmates, all former Hot Springs girls.

The first, Billy Blair, 24, accused several members of the Hot Springs Police Department of having mistreated her, and said that another policeman urged her to get a certain railroad man drunk and rob him of \$475 he had in his pockets. The woman said the police had promised her immunity. After the robbery she said she was taken to headquarters where the police demanded the money. She said she had hidden it in the lining of her coat, but told them she had destroyed it. She declared six officers were present at the time. A police matron was unable to find the money after a search. She said two of the men then held her down while another whipped her with a strap until her body was a mass of bruises. She finally gave up the money.

The following day, she said, she was promised protection if she would tell the Grand Jury that she had destroyed the money. This she did, she testified, but the officers did not come to her rescue and Judge Witt sentenced her to a year on the farm.

She also said that several of the policemen had promised to "get her out of the mess" if she would submit to them.

She said that a young high school girl, arrested for grand larceny, received the same offer and accepted.

The woman said this girl was sentenced, but never went to the reformatory.

Roxy Parker, 20, the next witness, said she was sentenced to the reformatory several weeks ago for six months, but never was told the nature of the charge. Like Billy Blair, Roxy Parker had been arrested previously and on both occasions, she said, she was subjected to third degree methods.

About a year ago she was arrested in connection with the killing of Harry Cook, she said. She said that officers sought certain information from her, and when she was unable to furnish it, she said that a member of the department threatened her for three days with a beating unless she talked.

When she finally was led to a room where lay the body of a man who had just died. She said she was forced to place her hands on the cold body, while an officer pressed his thumbs behind her ears, causing excruciating pain.

Taken to another room, she said that she was placed in a chair and two electric lights were placed near her head, one on each side. The heat caused her great pain. At the same time, she said, she was slapped twice and her fingers were bent backward. A rag saturated with some foul-smelling liquid was held over her nose, she said. Later, she was released.

On the occasion of her last arrest, she said, officer sought information, and when she refused to talk she was ordered to bend over a table. She refused, she said. An officer then struck her twice with a heavy strap.

Iva Lee Johnson, 20, the third of the women, serving six months for drunkenness, told of indignities she suffered after her arrest at Hot Springs. She said she was whipped with switches until her back and legs were black and blue. She said her mother saw the bruises. On another occasion when she was arrested for being drunk, she said, officers struck her with a black-jack, twisted her arm, breaking her wrist watch and knocked her down several times.

She admitted having wrecked plumbing in the jail, flooding the cells.

This witness, who has been on the farm a little more than a week, showed the committee a bruise on an arm that she said was caused by rough treatment from the officers.

Mrs. McDonald was questioned as to the records of the girls and it was learned that all three had been arrested on many occasions and had been on the farm several times. Billy Blair and Iva Lee Johnson both have received treatment at the State hospital.

Several of the girls gave the committee members the names of other Hot Springs women whom they said had been mistreated by the police.

## M'LAUGHLIN'S FOES AWAITING PROBE RESULT

### Told Mayor Won't Resign Office.

W. P. Downen, Hot Springs furniture dealer and a former sheriff of Garland county, told the Gazette over long-distance telephone yesterday that more than 25 business men of the resort city met there at 10 yesterday morning and decided that no good would be accomplished by asking Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin to resign.

Mr. Downen said that he was one of about a dozen men in a Hot Springs barber shop when Mayor McLaughlin entered the place about 9 a. m. He said that the mayor, addressing him, said that he could tell the committee of business men who were scheduled to meet at 10 that he had no intention of resigning and that he intended to run for re-election in the April city election. Mr. Downen said that he supposed he was honored by the mayor's attention because he is well known as an opponent of the McLaughlin regime.

In view of the fact that Mayor McLaughlin had given the committee its answer in advance, Mr. Downen said that the meeting, held later, could see no use in asking the mayor to resign. Also he said that those present at the meeting expressed belief that the House committee, headed by Representative Thompson of Independence county, which is investigating conditions in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Garland county and Hot Springs, is making a sincere effort to get at the truth of conditions. It was the consensus of opinion of those present that the investigating committee will make an earnest effort to bring about an improvement of conditions here. It was believed that any action by the business men of the city might only handicap and embarrass the investigators.

"I presume that the mayor will try to explain my opposition to him by charging that I have political aims,"

said Mr. Downen. "Just to get the record straight, I'd like to say that I'm all through with politics. Governor Bailey couldn't offer me a single thing that I'd accept."

McLaughlin Denounces the Gazette.

At Hot Springs yesterday, Mayor McLaughlin issued a statement denouncing the Gazette for having published an article saying that some business men of the city were planning to ask him to resign.

The mayor's statement follows:

"I read the story on the first page of a Little Rock paper this morning and whoever the business man was who talked to him, must have been an enemy of the administration, because the local newspapers have checked nearly all of the prominent business people and find that they not only failed to have any knowledge of the so-called meeting of business men, but on the other hand, expressed themselves as being supporters of the administration. "It would be silly indeed for me to attempt to carry on a controversy with the Arkansas Gazette, but I am astonished that a newspaper of its size would print a story as vicious, based on such information, and I can only say it is very unfair.

However, when a man holds a public office, he must make up his mind not to fight with a newspaper, but simply grin and bear it.

"I arrived at my office early this morning, waiting for the so-called committee. It is now 12 o'clock and no such committee has appeared. On the other hand, my office has been thronged with business men all morning, who have stated that the people of Hot Springs are overwhelmingly for the administration.

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

"The people of Hot Springs elected me to the mayor's office and the people of Hot Springs will have an opportunity to take it from me in the April election if they desire. It is ridiculous to think I would be weak enough to resign from the mayor's office.

"Those who desire to remove me from the mayor's office will have an opportunity in April when I will be a candidate for re-election.

(Signed) "Leo P. McLaughlin."

### Rabbi Disclaims Responsibility For Association's Action.

Special to the Gazette.  
Hot Springs, Feb. 4.—Rabbi A. Rhine, elected president yesterday to the Hot Springs Ministers Association, said today that he was astonished at the statement that organization issued regarding revenue for the city, and that he not only was not present at the meeting when the statement was issued,

he could not assume any personal responsibility for what the association adopted.

The statement the association issued said that the city should not collect revenue from any but "honorable and lawful sources."

The Hot Spring Ministers Association is non-sectarian and inter-racial, and Rabbi Rhine said he missed attending because of a misunderstanding as to the meeting place. Regarding the statement by the association, which was directed at Mayor McLaughlin, Rabbi Rhine today issued the following:

"I did not know of the resolution adopted or of my election as president of the association until I read it in the Sentinel-Record. In view of my absence from the meeting and my inability therefore to take part in the discussion that led to adoption of the resolution, I cannot assume any responsibility whatever for the action of the Hot Springs Ministers Association at the meeting held yesterday."

Although the resolution adopted by the group made no reference to gambling, apparently it was inspired by Mayor Leo McLaughlin's recent statement to the City Council in which he declared more than \$30,000 in revenue was collected annually in fines assessed against book-makers.

# SEVEN OF HOT SPRINGS POLICE FACE CHARGES

## Accused of Second Degree Murder.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Jan. 6.—Seven members of the Hot Springs Police Department were indicted today on charges of second degree murder in connection with the death of John Dickson, 32, a prisoner, two weeks ago. Those indicted were:

Day Capt. Arch Cooper, Lieut. Cecil Brock, head of the Identification Bureau; Night Capt. Robert Moore, Detective R. G. ("Glenn") Buchanan, Patrolman Press Griffin, Officer Joe Scott, in charge of the street patrol safety car, and Patrolman Andy Irwin.

The indictments followed three days of continuous investigation into the death of Dickson, who died in the New Park hospital Christmas Eve, following his removal from the city jail. Dickson, a former Oklahoma convict and resident of Perry county, had been sought since September 28 when he and his cousin, Alfred ("Pug") Dickson, assaulted Chief of Police Joe Wakelin. The chief had led a delegation of officers from Hot Springs and other county seats into Perry county, seeking arrest of the Dicksons and their companions. They were wanted for questioning in connection with theft of automobiles and saw blowing in Hot Springs.

The death certificate said that Dickson died from pneumonia. Dr. Euclid Smith and Dr. J. S. Stell performed an autopsy at the request of Dickson's father, Jim Dickson, of Hollis, Perry county. The physicians reported that they found evidence that indicated Dickson had been handled roughly while a prisoner in the city jail. The physicians said that the injuries were sufficient to have caused Dickson's death.

The report said that no evidence was presented to involve Chief of Police Joe Wakelin with mistreatment of Dickson or other prisoners. However, the Grand Jury censured Chief Wakelin for not maintaining better control over his subordinates.

### Chief Wakelin Criticized, But Not Indicted.

The Grand Jury's report follows:

"We have been in session three days investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of one John Dickson. We have heard 38 witnesses and have endeavored to develop every particle of evidence that would have any bearing upon the death of John Dickson, a prisoner in the city jail recently.

"We have called upon every person who might have any testimony, or who might know of any one who might have some information that would tend to throw light on the investigation.

"We have returned true bills in cases of seven defendants whom we believe, under the testimony developed during our investigation, should face trial in connection with the death of Dickson.

"During our investigation we found no evidence to connect Chief of Police Joe Wakelin with the actual mistreatment of any prisoner, but the evidence revealed by our investigation leads us to believe that had Chief Wakelin exercised a more dominant control over the officers under him, such circumstances as those revealed in the Dickson case, and other cases of alleged mistreatment of prisoners, would not have existed.

"We, the members of the Grand Jury, strongly condemn any type of brutal, so-called third-degree methods used upon prisoners. Such practices tend to destroy the creditability of the evidence of officers in criminal trials, aside from being inhuman, and which no civilized community should tolerate.

"We deeply appreciate the helpful cooperation of the mayor, the sheriff's office, the municipal judge and the circuit judge in our investigation of the Dickson case."

The report was signed by Charles Goslee, foreman; I. C. Bean, clerk; E. Emmett Carson, Henry T. Schrader, J. B. Wheatley, Leon Dimick, W. W. Erney, Harold J. Coomer, Andy Jett, A. R. Puckett, J. W. Page, Roy Taylor, G. L. Merritt, F. L. Thompson, Reed Farmer and Gil H. Wootton.

Before he dismissed the Grand Jury, Judge Witt said:

"I believe that every member of the Grand Jury sincerely wanted to get all the evidence possible in this case. You have made an honest investigation and I thank you."

### Defendants Released On Bonds of \$1,500.

Night Captain Moore was in court when the Grand Jury reported.

Immediately after the indictments had been handed in, Circuit Judge Earl Witt held a brief conference with Sheriff Maydon Anderson and Curtis Ridgeway, assistant prosecuting attorney, who conducted the investigation. Bail was fixed at \$1,500 in each case. The three officials agreed that this would be adequate. It was pointed out that practically all those indicted own their own homes, are married and have families and that they would welcome immediate trial.

### All Seven Discharged Permanently, Says Mayor.

When he learned of the action of the Grand Jury, Mayor McLaughlin issued the following statement:

"As I previously stated, my policy has always been, since I have been mayor of the city, that a person in custody of officers should not be mistreated, so in order to carry out this policy I desire to state that the seven officers who have been indicted are permanently discharged, and will not again be connected with the city administration.

"It is doubtful at this time whether



Joe Wakelin will again serve as chief of police.

"The Police Department is now under command of Weldon Rasbury. I am highly pleased with his leadership, and I do not intend a change at this time."

#### Successors Appointed For Two of Ousted Officers.

It was announced that Officer Jerry Watkins would succeed Arch Cooper as day captain, and Officer Ben Rogers would succeed Robert Moore as night captain.

Later in the evening Mayor McLaughlin visited the city jail "to see how many of my Police Department I have left," he said. He found Captain Moore, Lieutenant Brock, Detective Buchanan and Officers Scott and Griffin.

"I want you men to take off your badges and your artillery," the mayor said. "You won't have any use for those things now."

Mayor McLaughlin then held a conference with Chief of Police Rasbury and Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers and made a few minor changes affecting the night police detail. He told Chief Rasbury he would confer with him again in the morning regarding other probable changes.

#### Four Have Been Under Suspension Since Saturday.

Captain Cooper, Lieutenant Brock, Detective Buchanan and Chief of Police Wakelin, have been suspended since Saturday. They were relieved of all official authority and taken from the city pay roll by Mayor McLaughlin.

Chief Wakelin has been confined to his bed since Sunday. When informed of the result of the investigation he said he had no statement to make. Chief Wakelin never has recovered from

the blow on the neck he suffered when "Pug" Dickson struck him with the barrel of the chief's gun. It missed breaking a vertebrae by a narrow margin, doctors said.

Captain Cooper has been connected with the department eight years, Lieutenant Brock seven, Detective Buchanan three, Officer Scott 12, Griffin eight, Thwin three and Captain Moore three.

#### Some of Indicted Officers Betray Their Surprise.

There was a note of irony in the closing events today. Detective Buchanan had bought an expensive gold badge, on which his name and title of his office had been engraved. It arrived in the evening mail, just a few minutes before he called up the sheriff's office to ask if the Grand Jury had reported. Detective Buchanan was told that he was among the seven indicted and replied that he would report immediately, which he did. All those indicted voluntarily appeared at the office of Sheriff Anderson, accompanied by their bondsmen, and were released after making bond.

That the indictments were a severe blow and surprise to some of the officers was evident from the "off the record" conversation heard in the jail. Individually and collectively they said they had no statement to make, but all expressed hope that they would be given speedy trials.

While he was at the jail the mayor was asked by Jailer Frank H. Tucker for instructions regarding permission for persons to "sit around" in his office.

"That's easy," quickly replied the mayor. "My orders are that no one not an officer or connected with the city administration is to be allowed in here unless on business. This is not a loafing place, so keep that class out."

"And that's all I want to know," replied Jailer Tucker.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,

JANUARY 6TH, 1937.

## To Conclude Dickson Death Probe Today

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Jan. 5.—The Garland County Grand Jury, which began an investigation into the death of John Dickson yesterday, is expected to end its work on that case tomorrow, a member of the body told the Gazette correspondent this afternoon. It may be late in the day when the jury reports to Judge Witt.

Charles Goslee, foreman, said the Grand Jury was making every effort to hear every one who had any information bearing on the case. He said that he hopes that everyone who has any information about the case will report to the Grand Jury tomorrow whether or not they have been served with subpoenas.

Today's session was featured by the presence of Capt. Arch Cooper, Lieut. Cecil Brock and Detective Glenn Buchanan, three officers who, with Police Chief Joe Wakelin, were suspended by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin Saturday on the eve of the investigation. All the officers volunteered statements, it was said.

### Police Chief Ill.

Chief Wakelin has been confined to bed since Sunday. He never has recovered from the effects of the attack that he suffered when he led a posse of officials of this and other counties into Perry county in search of Alfred and John Dickson. John Dickson was reported to have said after his arrest that "Pug" Dickson attacked the chief.

Two revolvers taken from Chief Wakelin when he was knocked unconscious were recovered. One, together with a high-power rifle, was taken from John Dickson when he was arrested in Hempstead county. The chief's other revolver was found in "Pug" Dickson's possession when he was arrested in Little Rock.

Chief Wakelin notified the Grand Jury he would appear this afternoon, but was told to wait until tomorrow in the hope that his condition would be improved.

A summons was issued this afternoon for Mayor McLaughlin. Dr. J. F. Merritt, city health officer, who is said to have attended Dickson when he was transferred from the city jail to the New Park hospital, where he died Christmas Eve, also, it was said, would testify tomorrow.

### Report Likely Today.

"We are not going to take up any other case until we have concluded our investigation of Dickson's death," said a member of the Grand Jury. "Several other witnesses will testify, and we probably will be able to report to the court tomorrow afternoon."

Dickson's death certificate gave pneumonia as the cause of his death. That was concurred in by Doctors Eudell Smith and J. S. Steel, who performed an autopsy on Dickson's body and who also gave a written report that set forth detailed evidence that Dickson had been mistreated.

BUREAU

# Grand Jury Indicts Seven Spa Officers

## Charged With Second-Degree Murder in John Dickson Death.

Hot Springs — Second degree murder indictments, returned by a grand jury condemning "third degree" methods, charged seven Hot Springs policemen today with "striking, kicking and beating" to death a city jail prisoner.

Garland county authorities arrested in rapid-fire order last night the officers accused of "assaulting and murdering" John Dickson, 32, whose death certificate showed he succumbed from pneumonia on Christmas Eve.

Those taken into custody were Captain Bob Moore, Patrolmen Andy Irvin, Pat Griffin and Joe Scott and Captain Arch Cooper, Detective Glenn Buchanan, Lieutenant Cecil Brock. Each won release on \$1,500 bond.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin said the seven "are permanently discharged and will not again be connected with the city administration." He previously suspended Cooper, Buchanan and Brock, pending outcome of the inquiry.

**Wakelin Not Indicted.**  
Concluding a three-day investigation of the case, a grand jury reported yesterday to Circuit Judge Earl Witt that "we found no evidence to connect Chief of Police Joe Wakelin with the actual mistreatment of any prisoner."

Mayor McLaughlin said it was "doubtful" if Wakelin "will again serve as chief of police." He also was under suspension.

It was for an attack upon Wakelin and a series of robberies that officers arrested Dickson, accusing him of assault to kill and grand larceny. Following his death in a hospital, his father, James Dickson, charged his son succumbed from mistreatment while in custody. He retained an attorney and demanded a full investigation.

His counsel announced a post-mortem investigation showed Dickson died of "numerous injuries."

City officers denied the mistreatment charge and asserted the prisoner came into custody in a weakened condition as the result of sleeping out of doors.

**May Have Early Trial.**  
Circuit Judge Earl Witt said dates for trials of seven city police officers indicted in the John Dickson case would "depend largely on the wishes of the arrested parties."

The officers face trials on second degree murder charges in connection with the ill timed death of Dickson, their prisoner, whose death was followed by charges of "brutality and torture."

"We usually have a setting of Circuit court docket the second week of February before the beginning of the March term of court. If the interested parties want trials earlier than that time or later, I would consider the request in either instance."

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, who permanently suspended the seven officers upon being informed of the indictments, said today there would be no more replacements on the police force.

"The Quorum court cut our health department appropriation \$500 and I will have to make it up in this manner," the mayor said this morning. Previously Mayor McLaughlin had made three new additions, which included the naming of Weldon Raspberry, lieutenant in the fire department, as chief of police.

Meanwhile, unofficially, the accused officers expressed hopes for an immediate trial. Most of the officers said they felt they would have little hope for other employment while the case was "hanging fire."

Its blanket indictment against the seven officers accused them of "striking, kicking and beating Dickson on the back and other parts of the body with a blunt instrument."

**"Third Degree" Denounced.**  
The jury reported that "the evidence revealed by our investigation leads us to believe that had Chief Wakelin exercised more dominant control over officers under him such circumstances as those revealed in the Dickson case and other cases of alleged mistreatment would not have occurred."

"We members of the grand jury strongly condemn any kind of brutal, so-called third degree methods used upon prisoners. Such practices tend to destroy the credibility of the evidence of officers in criminal trials, aside from being inhuman and which no civilized community should tolerate," the report went on.

"We deeply appreciate the helpful co-operation of the mayor, the sheriff's office, the municipal judge and the circuit judge in our investigation of the Dickson case."

Mayor McLaughlin said "My policy has always been since I have been mayor of this city that a person in custody of officers should not be mistreated."

Since the suspension of Wakelin, the police department has been in charge of Lieutenant Weldon Raspberry of the Hot Springs Fire Department.

"I am highly pleased with his

(Raspberry's) leadership and I do not intend to change at this time," McLaughlin said.

Cooper had been connected with the department eight years; Brock, seven; Buchanan, three; Scott, Griffin, eight; Irvin, three, and Moore, three.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,

JANUARY 7TH, 1937.

#### THE HOT SPRINGS POLICE CASE.

When doctors who had performed an autopsy on the body of a prisoner who had died after being removed from the city jail at Hot Springs to a hospital, declared there was evidence that the man had been beaten, there was a statewide demand for an investigation. That was as it should have been.

Hot Springs newspapers denounced the police administration, declaring that none should be spared in an effort to determine whether the prisoner had died as the result of ill treatment, or pneumonia, as stated in the death certificate. That was to have been expected for the Hot Springs newspapers have not failed in their duty to their community.

Then came a howl that Hot Springs city administrations violated the law at will, therefore, the legislature should pass a law empowering the State to enforce the law when local officers failed. In short, it was proposed that the right of governing their own city should be taken from the people of Hot Springs. Naturally, some of the protestants predicted that nothing would be done about the death of the prisoner.

The grand jury has answered by indicting seven members of the Hot Springs police department on charges of second-degree murder. Mayor McLaughlin has discharged all of the accused permanently, announcing that it has always been his policy that a person in custody of officers should not be mistreated.

While Chief Joe Wakelin was not found guilty of taking part in the actual mistreatment of the prisoner, he, too, has been discharged, his successor named and Mayor McLaughlin says he has no intention of making a change at this time.

Certainly, no good citizen condones beating of prisoners by police. It is far less common than it once was but still practiced in many cities. Whether the accused policemen are guilty is for a jury to determine. But to the credit of the law-abiding citizens of Hot Springs let it be said that they have done as much to uphold the dignity of the law as could the citizens of any other county.

BUREAU



ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
JANUARY 4TH, 1937.

## Dickson Death Inquiry To Begin Today

Hot Springs, Ark., Jan. 3 (AP).—Fourteen persons, including physicians, police officers and newspapermen, were under subpoena today to appear at tomorrow's Grand Jury investigation into the death of John Dickson, 32, while a city jail prisoner.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Roy E. Erney issued the subpoenas last night after Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin suspended Police Chief Joe Wakelin and three aides pending the probe.

BUREAU

# CONCERNED OVER DICKSON DEATH, ASSERTS BAILEY

## To Do What He Can as Governor.

Declaring that he had observed with "grave concern" developments following the death of John Dickson at Hot Springs, Gov.-elect Carl E. Bailey said yesterday that he will do whatever he can under existing laws and laws that may be passed by the 1937 legislature to assure a thorough investigation of the case.

Governor-elect Bailey's statement follows:

"I observe with grave concern developments following the death of John Dickson at Hot Springs. Repeatedly I have been asked to express my attitude.

"After I become governor I shall do whatever I can under existing laws and under acts which may be passed by the 1937 legislature to assure a thorough investigation with justice as the sole objective, wherever circumstances are such as to indicate strongly that local officers cannot or will not do their duty."

### Luciano Case Recalled.

It was recalled that, as attorney general, Mr. Bailey invoked use of State Rangers when he did not approve the course of officials at Hot Springs.

The unprecedented use of State Rangers resulted in the transfer of Charles ("Lucky") Luciano from the Garland county jail to the Pulaski county jail, from where eventually he was removed to New York city for trial and conviction as a vice racketeer.

Following his indictment as a vice racketeer in New York, Luciano was taken to Hot Springs, submitted to arrest, and appeared anxious to remain in jail.

Although the city of Hot Springs, the Garland county sheriff and Luciano all had the same lawyer, the prisoner was taken from jail in Garland county and brought to Little Rock.

Attorney General Bailey, dissatisfied with the way things were going in the Luciano extradition effort so long as the prisoner was in Hot Springs, obtained from Judge McGehee of First Division Circuit Court an order directing transfer of Luciano to the Pulaski county jail.

This court order was disregarded, and the attorney general, anticipating that Luciano, if permitted to remain in Hot Springs, would be freed on a bond which the prisoner would not mind forfeiting, called on the State Rangers. Eight Rangers and several Pulaski county deputy sheriffs went to Hot Springs and, over the protest of Garland county officers, took charge of Luciano.

The prisoner was taken to the Pulaski county jail immediately and henceforth found himself helpless to prevent extradition.

## Hot Springs Paper in Demand For 'Full Investigation.'

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Dec. 30.—A two-column editorial on the first page of the Hot Springs New Era this afternoon said that the death of John Dickson, while a prisoner of Hot Springs police, must receive "immediate and full investigation."

The editorial was printed at the order of C. E. Palmer, publisher of both the Hot Springs newspapers, who was reported to have come here expressly because of the Dickson case scandal. He arrived this morning.

Charles Goslee, who is general manager of the Palmer newspapers here, also is foreman of the present Grand Jury. The editorial said:

"Charges that mistreatment while he was in custody of Hot Springs police contributed to the death of John Dickson are of such a serious nature as to demand the fullest investigation by the Garland county Grand Jury at the earliest possible moment. Street rumors mention barbarous and revolting injuries which are almost inconceivable in this enlightened and humane age, but which must be proved or disproved that the truth may be known. Officers deny that they mistreated Dickson, and should not only welcome, but join in the demand for official investigation."

"That John Dickson had a criminal record and was accused of a brutal attack on Chief of Police Joe Wabnitz has no bearing on the case. Dickson was entitled to the same treatment as any other prisoner, and if he was not accorded such treatment those responsible are amenable to the law, which should be fairly and equitably enforced."

"It is stated that two Hot Springs physicians performed an autopsy and reported that Dickson had suffered frightful injuries and apparently had been tortured, and this report and their testimony are doubtless immediately available to the Grand Jury."

"There should be no delay in this investigation. The good sense of Hot Springs demands it, and the people of Hot Springs, Garland county and the state of Arkansas expect it. Delay is inexcusable and immediate action is expected of the Grand Jury."

Witt Calls Grand Jury.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt announced tonight that he had called a session of the Grand Jury. He made no mention of the Dickson case but said that several cases are ready for consideration of the Grand Jury.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,

DECEMBER 30TH, 1936.

**WHAT ARE THE FACTS IN THE  
JOHN DICKSON CASE?**

The facts must be established in the John Dickson case at Hot Springs and if action is dictated by the facts that action must be prompt and unspairing.

No matter what Dickson was or what he had done those in authority have an inescapable duty to do everything in their power to go to the end of the matter that concerns not alone Hot Springs and Garland county but the entire state.

Dickson, accused of a murderous attack on Police Chief Joe Wakelin of Hot Springs, was a prisoner of the Hot Springs police in the city jail, from which he was removed to a hospital where he died. Pneumonia, as given in the death certificate, is really said to have been the actual cause of death. But an autopsy performed by two physicians in the presence of three other doctors, the prosecuting attorney and the assistant prosecutor, showed that the man had suffered frightful injuries while in the custody of the Hot Springs police. His left lung was ruptured, his left kidney torn, and he had four broken ribs on the left side, one of them fractured in two places. There were besides physical signs that he had been tortured.

The Garland county coroner said the autopsy was performed without notifying him and that those who started the investigation should finish it. He is not going to hold an inquest but he believes the case will undoubtedly be referred to the Grand Jury, now in session subject to call. Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory said he would demand a thorough investigation if Circuit Judge Earl Witt called the Grand Jury together. But Mr. Emory has only two more days in office before his successor, Gibson Witt Jr., is installed.

Hot Springs has sought and received special privileges from the state. Its business leaders and spokesmen insist that its prosperity and general welfare largely depend on enjoyment of these special privileges. Hot Springs has an obligation not alone to itself but to the state. If local authorities do not go the whole length for law and for humanity in this Dickson case the people of Arkansas will demand that action be taken by the legislature and the governor.

BUREAU

# EFFORT TO PROBE DEATH OF DIXON SEEMS BLOCKED

## Legislature May Be Asked to Act.

The political machine that rules Hot Springs and Garland county apparently has succeeded in averting any real investigation of the death of John Dixon while he was a prisoner of the Hot Springs police. It was said here yesterday by a well known resident of Hot Springs, who is opposed to the county political machine.

Two Hot Springs physicians, who conducted an autopsy on Dixon's body Saturday, reported they found indications that Dixon had been badly man-handled. The physicians' report said that the left lung had been ruptured, the left kidney torn and four ribs broken. In addition to other evidence that the man had been tortured.

Coroner J. P. Randolph announced at Hot Springs Sunday that he would not conduct an inquest as he had been asked to do. Attorneys versed in the criminal law have expressed belief that the coroner had no legal right to refuse an inquest under the circumstances. Coroner Randolph was said to have expressed belief that an inquest would be unnecessary because Circuit Judge Earl Witt undoubtedly would refer the matter to the Grand Jury in any event.

### Indictment Unlikely.

However, the Hot Springs resident who discussed the matter here yesterday said that it was hopeless to expect that a Grand Jury in Hot Springs would return indictments in connection with the death. He pointed out that votes of 12 of the 16 members of a Grand Jury are necessary to return an indictment and that thus five grand jurors can prevent an indictment from being returned.

The Gazette's informant expressed belief that Police Chief Joe Wakelin of Hot Springs had shown poor judgment in having Dixon confined in the city jail in view of the fact that Dixon had been accused of having made a murderous attack on Wakelin. He said that Dixon should have been placed in the county jail, that there was no reason for keeping him in the city jail and that Chief Wakelin should have realized that his subordinate officers would feel none too kindly toward a prisoner accused of having attempted to kill their chief.

The Gazette's informant could see no merit in the suggestion that the State Rangers might take over the investigation. He believed that the Rangers would have no authority in the case.

He expressed belief that the only hope of securing action is that the legislature might pass a law that would give state officials some authority in case of this kind.

### Autopsy Report Not Received By Hot Springs Judge.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Dec. 28.—Circuit Judge Earl Witt said today that he had not received the report on the autopsy performed on John Dixon, former Oklahoma convict, from lawyers representing James Dixon, his father.

As Coroner J. P. Randolph declined to hold an inquest, the investigation, it was said, would be referred to the Grand Jury.

C. Floyd Huff Jr., associated with Scott Wood, former circuit judge, announced that no effort would be made to remove Alfred ("Pug") Dixon, cousin of John, from the city jail to the county prison.

"City officials informed me I could see Dixon any time, which I did," Huff said, "and we have no intention of taking him from the city jail. It is more than likely that there may be a pause in this investigation. We probably will wait until after the first of the year and then turn the subject over to the Arkansas State Rangers and ask that body to make an investigation."



## Prisoner Said To Have Been Badly Injured

Attorney Tells of Autopsy—to Ask Inquest in Dickson Case.

Hot Springs—Scott Wood, attorney employed by James Dickson of Hollis, father of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner who died Thursday night of an autopsy which he ordered on the younger Dickson's body to determine the cause of death reported as pneumonia.

The autopsy was performed by five Hot Springs physicians and witnessed by Wood, Attorney C. Floyd Huff Jr., also representing Dickson, and Houston Emory and Curtis Ridgeway, prosecuting attorney and assistant prosecutor of Garland county.

Attorney Wood, describing the condition of the body as he said was reported to him by physicians, announced that Dickson had four broken ribs, one of which had been cracked in two places, a torn and punctured left lung, a torn left kidney, bruises on the body from a point six to eight inches below the hips, clots of blood under the scalp, and other injuries.

The physicians said, immediately after the autopsy, that their notes had not been transcribed. Assistant Prosecutor Ridgeway would make no statement, and Prosecutor Emory could not be located.

Habeas corpus proceedings to obtain the removal of Alfred ("Pug") Dickson, cousin of John Dickson, and accused in the same safe robbery and car theft, in connection with which John Dickson was arrested, from the city jail to the county jail will be filed Monday, Attorney Wood said. Alfred Dickson was arrested in Little Rock, several hours before Dickson died here.

The attorney for Dickson said he would also go before Conner J. P. Randolph and demand an inquest into the death.

Attorney Wood said he did not question the fact that John Dickson died of pneumonia, adding that "Dickson contracted the disease before his arrest and was even brought here in a weakened condition."

Shortly before the inquest photographs of the body were taken and Wood said he ordered them preserved as "lasting proof of the bruised condition of the body."

The arrest in Little Rock of "Pug" Dickson concluded what officers termed a "gang roundup on which we have spent considerable time in the past three months." Two alleged members are now serving penitentiary terms in connection with the \$1,800 Blue Ribbon Club safe robbery, one of the outstanding crimes for which the gang is accused.

Other crimes include the attempted robbery of the Ohio Club safe and the recent attack on Chief of Police Joe Wakelin. Shortly before his death John Dickson confessed participation in the latter episode.

John Dickson was under indictment in the three crimes, but after his arrest proved he was in the Oklahoma penitentiary when the Blue Ribbon safe was robbed. Alfred Dickson is also accused in all three cases.

Robert DeMarr, 35, and John ("Shorty") Price, 45, both ex-convicts from Oklahoma, pleaded guilty to the \$1,800 job and were sentenced to five and two-year terms, respectively. Charles Sellers, 55, former city policeman here, has been indicted in the same robbery and is now under bond.

The men accused of harboring the Dicksons, H. T. and Uri Flesher, brothers, were bound to the Garland grand jury Saturday on charges of accessory to the fact to robbery. Their bonds were set at \$2,000 each. The Flesher brothers were arrested in a Hempstead county raid 13 days ago, with Dickson.

Funeral services for John Dickson have not been announced. His body is being held at the Gross mortuary, where the inquest was conducted Saturday.

Scott Wood is a former Garland Circuit court judge. Physicians who performed the autopsy were Drs. J. S. Stell, Euclid Smith, D. C. Lee, H. King Wade and Fred J. Burgess.

BUREAU

## Dixon Badly Manhandled, Says Report

Special to the Gazette.  
Hot Springs, Dec. 26.—Scott Wood, former circuit judge, made public here tonight a summary of a report by two physicians, which said that John Dixon, prisoner of the Hot Springs police, had been barbarously treated before he died in the New Park Hospital here late Thursday night.

The report was made by Dr. Euclid Smith and Dr. J. B. Stell, who performed an autopsy on Dixon's body at the Gross mortuary here today. Other physicians present were Doctors Fred J. Burgess, D. C. Lee and King Wade.

Judge Wood said that the autopsy showed that Dixon had suffered a contusion of the skull, a ruptured left lung, a torn left kidney, four ribs on the left side broken, one in two places; and the scrotum badly bruised as though the prisoner had been tortured.

Dixon's death certificate showed that pneumonia was responsible. The physicians who performed the autopsy told Judge Wood that Dixon apparently was suffering from pneumonia before he received the injuries.

Would Remove Alfred Dixon.

Judge Wood said that he would ask for a coroner's inquest. Also he said that on Monday he would ask for a writ of habeas corpus to remove Alfred ("Pug") Dixon, cousin of the dead man, from the city jail to the county jail. It is charged that John and Alfred Dixon among other offenses, participated in a murderous attack on Chief of Police Joe Wakelin of Hot Springs, during a night raid on a farm house in Perry county where the Dixons were hiding.

Alfred Dixon was arrested in Little Rock Thursday morning and brought here the same afternoon. Police here said that they have questioned him only briefly but that he volunteered the information that he and his cousin had suffered many hardships while they were hiding from the officers and that frequently they slept in the open woods.

Held



ALFRED ("PUG") DIXON.

John Dixon was arrested at a farm house in Hempstead county about two weeks ago. Officers had been hunting the cousins ever since the night of Sept. 28 when Chief Wakelin was assaulted.

Believes Further Probe Justified.

Curtis Ridgeway, deputy prosecuting attorney, who also attended the autopsy, said tonight that he believed that the evidence justified a more thorough investigation. He said that Doctors Stell and Smith had dictated a report to him but that he had taken it down in shorthand and had not been able to transcribe it as yet. He said that he would do this tomorrow and at once give the report to Circuit Judge Earl Witt who has said that he will order an investigation if facts presented to him justify such action.

Information Withheld, Says Father.

Jim Dixon, father of the dead man, said that he learned several days ago from a friend in Perry county that his son was reported to have been mistreated. He said that he was unable to learn the name of the hospital where his son had been taken.

Another chapter was written in the Dixon case today when Municipal Judge Ledgerwood held to the Grand Jury, H. T. and Ural Felsner of Hempstead county, in \$2,000 bond, charged with harboring Dixon.

The search for John Dixon and his cousin, "Pug" also resulted in the arrest of two men, who now are serving terms in the Arkansas penitentiary. They are Robert Demarr, 33, and John ("Shorty") Price, 45. They admitted having participated in the robbery of the Blue Ribbon safe, which netted them \$1,600 and also implicated Charles Sellers, former member of the Hot Springs night police force. Demarr, Price and John Dixon had served terms in the Oklahoma penitentiary. John had been out of prison but a few months when officers got information that he, Demarr, Price and "Pug" Dixon had been implicated in car thefts and robberies in Hot Springs.

Police say that John Dixon told them when he was brought to Hot Springs that he and "Pug" Dixon "got the drop" on Chief Wakelin. It was said that John named his cousin as the man who knocked Chief Wakelin unconscious. The Hot Springs officer was discovered later by fellow officers. They were assisting Chief Wakelin to a nearby farmhouse when they were fired upon. Police said that John Dixon told them that he and "Pug" tried to kill Wakelin and those helping him and fired eight times using Chief Wakelin's high-power rifle.

John Dixon's funeral will be held Monday afternoon in the chapel of the Gross mortuary.

## Prisoner's Death Will Be Investigated

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Dec. 25.—Circuit Judge Earl Witt said today that if the facts justify it, he will order a thorough investigation of the death of John Dixon, prisoner of the Hot Springs police, in a hospital here late last night.

Dixon's death was officially certified as having been caused by pneumonia. However, the prisoner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Dixon, who came here today, are investigating reports that their son had been roughly handled by the police and that this might have contributed to his death.

Police officials today denied that Dixon had been ill-treated. They said that he was removed from jail to the hospital as soon as it became apparent that he was sick. They said that he had received the best of care at the hospital.

It was reported that Mr. and Mrs. Dixon secured the services of Dr. Fred J. Burgess to make an examination of their son's body. It also was reported that they had engaged Attorney W. D. Swain to represent them in an investigation and that the reports of the physician and the attorney would be placed before Judge Witt.

### Prisoner In Poor Condition.

Police said that Dixon was in poor physical condition when he was arrested 10 days ago. It was said that he and his uncle Alfred ("Pug") Dixon had been hiding and often sleeping out of doors ever since September 28 when it was charged that they murderously assaulted Chief of Police Joe Wakelin of Hot Springs.

Detective Chief Herbert Akers briefly questioned today "Pug" Dixon, who was arrested in Little Rock yesterday morning and brought here.

## Dies After Arrest



JOHN DIXON.

Akers said that "Pug" told him that on several occasions officers were very close to him and John as they hid in the woods.

"We could have killed you on more than one occasion," Akers quoted the prisoner as saying. Akers also said that Dixon told him that he and John seldom slept in a house after they learned that they were being hunted by the officers. The officers said that "Pug" told him: "Mostly we slept in the woods and it was pretty cold out there, too."

### Funeral Services Monday.

Funeral services for John Dixon will be held at the Gross mortuary Monday afternoon.

In addition to his parents he is survived by a son, Elton Lewis Dixon, aged eight, three brothers, Ed of Alpine, Walker of Hollis and Tom of Jessieville; also by three sisters, Mrs. Sally Kelley of Hot Springs, Mrs. Mary Humphreys of Alpine and Mrs. Alice Bythe of Ajo, Ariz.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE,

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,

DECEMBER 25TH, 1936.

## Hot Springs— Prisoner Dies, Probe Likely

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Dec. 25 (Friday).—It was considered certain here this morning that an investigation would follow the death late last night of John Dixon, 38, prisoner of the Hot Springs police and accused of several burglaries and thefts here and also of a murderous attack on Chief of Police Joe Wakelin.

John Dixon died in the New Park hospital a few hours after the arrest of his nephew Alfred Monroe ("Pug") Dixon in Little Rock. "Pug" is accused of having aided his uncle in both the robberies and the attack on Chief Wakelin.

The death certificate, signed by Dr. F. J. Merritt, city health officer, gave pneumonia as the cause of death. Hospital attendants confirmed this and said that the man was suffering from pneumonia when he was brought to the institution.

However, rumors were circulated that Dixon had been roughly handled by the police and that this was a contributing cause to his fatal illness.

### Arrested Two Weeks Ago.

John Dixon was arrested about two weeks ago at a farmhouse in Nevada county. The house was owned by H. E. Felscher and the latter was arrested on harboring and other charges.

Officers had become convinced that both the Dixons were members of a gang that had been burglarizing business establishments and stealing cars here. Receiving a tip that the uncle and nephew were hiding in Perry county, a large posse, led by Chief Wakelin, went in search. They surrounded the cabin where the brothers were reported to be hiding. In the darkness, Chief Wakelin was attacked from the rear by several men. He was felled by a stunning blow on the head. When he regained consciousness, he was being

dragged into a ditch and his captors were debating as to whether they should kill him. They finally decided that they would not commit murder but took the chief's revolver and high-powered rifle. Several shots from this rifle were fired at other members of the party later.

It was said that both the Dixons had guns belonging to Chief Wakelin when they were arrested.

Wakelin has said that he is certain that the Dixons were members of the party that attacked him.

### 'Pug' Dixon Arrested While At Apartment in Little Rock.

Alfred Monroe ("Pug") Dixon, 33, wanted at Hot Springs on several charges and also in Perry county for the slugging last summer of Chief of Police Joe Wakelin of Hot Springs, was arrested at 1301 1-2 West Capitol avenue at 4 a. m. yesterday by a squad of seven officers led by Supt. Gray Albright of the Rangers.

Although two pistols were found in Dixon's room, he made no resistance. He was in bed when the officers entered. One of the pistols was identified by Wakelin as a weapon taken from him when he was struck down. Dixon was turned over to Hot Springs officers who assisted in the raid and was taken to that city.

Those in the raid with Albright were Assistant Supt. Bob LaFollette and Captain Atkinson of the Rangers, Chief Wakelin and Capt. Bob Moore of Hot Springs and Lieut. E. J. Kerr and Patrolman Huie of the Little Rock department.

Bureau



DECEMBER 15, 1936.

# Mach-Sought Fugitive In Custody

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Dec. 14.—A search of two months for John and Alfred ("Pug") Dixon, accused of auto thefts and burglaries in Hot Springs, resulted in the arrest of John Dixon, 32, and H. T. Felsher and his brother, Ural, 23, 16 miles east of Prescott early today.

The Dixon brothers also are accused of having assaulted Joe Wakelin, Hot Springs police chief, in Perry county, September 26. It is charged that they were hidden in a shack, got the drop on the officer, clubbed him on the head, rendering him unconscious, and took his revolver and rifle. It was said that John Dixon had Chief Wakelin's revolver when arrested today, and that the chief's rifle was found inside the door of the Felsher home.

Officers do not believe that the Felshers were implicated in the Hot Springs robberies. However, they will face a charge of harboring John Dixon in Hempstead county.

## Many Officers in Party.

Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, who had started to Texarkana on another case, stopped in Prescott to check information that Chief Wakelin had received. He telephoned asking Chief Wakelin and other officers to come to Prescott. Night Lieut. Andy Irwin, Chief Wakelin, Capt. Arch Cooper, Lieut. Cecil Brock, Patrolmen Ben Rogers, Charles Sellers, William Abbott and the chief's son, "Buddie" Wakelin, were in the party. In Prescott they were joined by Detectives Akers and Glenn Buchanan, Sheriff Berden and son of Hope; Sheriff Virgil Rucker of Saline county, and Supt. Gray Albright and a delegation of State Rangers.

They went to a highway on which Dixon was scheduled to appear. When he did not show up, they left their automobiles about a mile from the Felsher home and approached it. As they neared the home they saw John Dixon trying to start a truck. Neither he nor the Felshers resisted arrest.

Sheriff Virgil Rucker of Saline county identified the truck Dixon was working on as one stolen in Benton two months ago. It had an Arkansas license tag then, but there was a California tag on the truck when Dixon was arrested.

BUREAU

## Innocent, He Declares.

Questioned at police headquarters here, Dixon said he knew nothing about any burglaries in Hot Springs. He denied also that he had stolen any car. He said that he had bought the truck from a man whose name he did not remember. He added that the coupe stolen here and recovered in Perry county had been driven to Perryville by other persons and that he did not know the car had been stolen.

"I just got out of McAlester last August," Dixon said, "and have been attending to my own business."

Chief of Detectives Akers recalled that Dixon had received a sentence of 15 years for car theft, that the sentence was reduced to five years and that he served a year and six months.

## Another Tip Falls.

Late today Chief Wakelin received word that Alfred ("Pug") Dixon was at the home of Alfred Felsher in Perry county. The latter is a brother of Ural and T. H. Felsher arrested early this morning with Dixon in Hempstead county. Accompanied by Lieut. Cecil Brock and Detectives Glenn Buchanan and Garnet Moore, Chief Wakelin drove to Felsher's home and arrested him. The officers said Felsher had just come from a still he was operating about a half mile from his home. He was armed, and was brought to Hot Springs for questioning. Officers said a charge of harboring the Dixon brothers would be placed against him. "Pug" Dixon was not found.

News of the arrest of John Dixon was relayed to all county officers who had assisted in previous Perry county raids for the Dixon brothers, DeMarr and Price. They came to Hot Springs tonight. Sheriff Rucker and Prosecuting Attorney William Glover of Benton wished to question John Dixon about the truck that was found in his possession. Sheriff Baylor House and state Revenue Officer P. O. Harmon and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Tucker of Perryville also were here.

## Two Have Pleaded Guilty.

During the first raid in Perry county the latter part of September officers arrested Robert DeMarr, also an Oklahoma ex-convict. He had been a companion of the Dixon brothers but was not present when the Dixons assaulted Chief of Police Wakelin. DeMarr was indicted for burglarizing the safe in the Blue Ribbon handbook, from which \$1,800 was taken, pleaded guilty and now is serving five years in the penitentiary.

A few days ago Oklahoma officers arrested Arthur ("Shorty") Price, who, like Dixon and DeMarr, is a former Oklahoma convict. Price was with DeMarr in the Blue Ribbon robbery. He pleaded guilty and received a sentence of three years.

Both DeMarr and Price implicated the Dixon brothers in the attempt to blow the safe in the Ohio Club. Too much explosive was used and the explosion was heard throughout upper Central avenue.

The Grand Jury recently returned indictments against the Dixon brothers. They also are alleged to have planned the robbery of the Blue Ribbon safe.

## Prisoner to Texas.

F. J. Freeman, chief of police of El Paso, Tex., accompanied by Officer I. S. Knox, arrived tonight to return Frank Phillips, 26, wanted on charges of forgery. Phillips was visiting his mother near here when arrested. He previously had waived extradition.

# SECOND DEGREE MURDER CHARGES ARE FILED AS POLICE PROBE IS ENDED

The Garland County Grand Jury late today returned seven indictments, each charging second degree murder, in connection with its investigation of mistreatment charges in the death of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner.

Six of those indicted, all members of the Hot Springs police department, surrendered at the sheriff's office within an hour after the Grand Jury reported and were released under bond.

They were:

Captain L. A. (Arch) Cooper,  
Captain R. L. (Bob) Moore,  
Lieutenant Cecil Brock,  
Detective Glynn Buchanan,  
Patrolman Press Griffin,  
Patrolman Joe Scott.

Name of the seventh was withheld pending arrest.

Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, who, with Cooper, Lieut. Brock and Buchanan, was suspended by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin before the Grand Jury investigation got under way, was vindicated by the inquisitorial body of actual participation in the alleged manhandling of Dickson, but was criticized for failing to exercise a more dominant control over the officers under him.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt set bond in each case at \$1,500.

None of the indicted officers would make a statement.

The grand jury commended Mayor McLaughlin for his co-operation in the investigation.

In a signed report to Judge Witt, the grand jurors said they had called upon every person who might have some information on the Dickson case, and went strongly on record as condemning "any type of brutal, so-called 'third degree' methods used upon prisoners."

The grand jury reported at 8:35 p. m.

The body had been in session three days and had examined 38 witnesses, including doctors who performed the autopsy on Dickson's body, which led to the investigation; nurses at the hospital where the prisoner died, newspaper reporters, city officials and city jail prisoners.

Dickson died in a hospital here Christmas Eve from what his death certificate said was pneumonia. He had been removed to the hospital four days earlier from the city jail where he had been a prisoner.

Lieut. Weldon Raspberry, of the Hot Springs Fire department, has been in charge of the police department as acting chief since the suspension of Wakelin.

"My policy has always been that a man in custody should not be mistreated and the city administration is desirous of having complete and fair investigation of the Dickson case," said Mayor McLaughlin in announcing the suspensions.

Wakelin has been head of the police department for almost 19 years.

In previous statements, authorities had denied the mistreatment charges. They said Dickson was in a weakened physical condition when taken in custody from sleeping out-of-doors.

The grand jury's report following Report of the Grand Jury To Honorable Earl Witt, Circuit Judge:

We have been in session three days investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of one John Dickson. We have heard 38 witnesses, and have endeavored to develop every particle of evidence that would have any bearing upon the death of John Dickson.

have called upon every person who might have any testimony in this case. We have heard 38 witnesses, and have endeavored to develop every particle of evidence that would have any bearing upon the death of John Dickson.

We have returned from this session of seven indictments which believe under the testimony developed during our investigation should face trial in connection with the death of Dickson.

During our investigation we found no evidence to connect Chief of Police Joe Wakelin with actual mistreatment of any prisoner, but the evidence revealed by our investigation leads us to believe that should Chief Wakelin have exercised a more dominant control over the officers under him such circumstances as those revealed in the Dickson case and other cases of alleged mistreatment of prisoners would not have existed.

We, the members of the grand jury, strongly condemn any

of brutal, so-called "third degree" methods used upon prisoners. Such practices tend to destroy the credibility of the evidence of officers in criminal trials, aside from being inhuman and which no civilized community should tolerate.

We deeply appreciate the helpful co-operation of the mayor, the sheriff's office, the municipal judge and the circuit judge in our investigation of the Dickson case.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Charles Goslee, foreman; I. C. Beam, clerk; W. W. Ermer, Harold J. Coomber, Andy J. Jett, F. L. Thompson, A. R. Puckett, (negro), J. M. Page (negro), Ray Taylor, Reed Farmer, Gil H. Wooten, C. Emmett Karston, J. Wheatley, Hendry T. Schraeder, Leon Dinkelspiel, G. L. Merritt.

Hot Springs New Era,  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
January 6, 1937.

# LEGISLATOR TO SEEK PROBE OF CONDITIONS HERE

UNNAMED SOLON TO  
MAKE REQUEST OF  
NEXT ASSEMBLY.

Jan. 7, 1937

Little Rock, Jan. 6. —(AP)—The Arkansas Gazette will say tomorrow that a member of the Arkansas house who declined use of his name said he would introduce in the next legislature a resolution providing for a committee to investigate conditions in Hot Springs, Garland county and the eighteenth judicial circuit.

The representative said he would propose the committee consist of five representatives to be appointed by the speaker. The committee would be given an appropriation to enable it to secure the services of an attorney and a stenographer.

He reported the investigation would be to ascertain whether conditions justify the impeachment by the house of any city, county, or judicial circuit officials.

The Gazette reported the representative said the committee would pay particular attention to "the John Dickson case, the Luciane case and the recent democratic state primary in which Garland county gave top heavy favorites to state, district and county candidates who had the endorsement of the Hot Springs city administration."

Sentinel Record,  
Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
January 7, 1937.

## WOOD FOR NEW DEAL AT TRIALS OF EX-OFFICERS

### Rejects Proposal Of Judge Witt.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Jan. 20.—Scott Wood, former circuit judge, sent a letter to Circuit Judge Earl Witt tonight, defining the judge's proposal that Mr. Wood take charge of the prosecution of seven ex-officers of the Police Department who are under indictment on charges of second degree murder in connection with the death of John Dickson, while a prisoner of the police. Two Hot Springs surgeons, who performed an autopsy on Dickson's body, filed a report saying that Dickson had been terribly injured and that they found evidence that he had been tortured.

Judge Witt, in a letter sent to Mr. Wood yesterday, offered to disqualify himself in the trials of the former policemen and to permit Mr. Wood to take charge of the prosecution, replacing the prosecuting attorney, Gibson Witt Jr., who is a brother of the circuit judge.

#### Mr. Wood Proposes New Set-Up for Trials.

Setting forth various objections to Judge Witt's proposal, Mr. Wood wrote: "In order to hold these trials in surroundings which would inspire the witnesses with a feeling of confidence and security, I suggest that we secure the passage of an act by the legislature permitting one of the other circuit judges to be sent here on exchange of circuits, and authorizing him to appoint jury commissioners to select his juries, also authorizing him to designate a special officer to wait on his court and serve process, and authorizing the governor to send state officers to assist this special officer. By doing this, the whole truth in the Dickson case, and other cases, may be cleared up. Designation of a circuit judge by disinterested authority would be much more appropriate than having me as special prosecutor to make the selection, as the latter course is objectionable to the defendants."

"Your suggestion that the present panel of the jury might be discharged and that the judge on exchange of circuits might designate the method by which the trial jury is selected, could not be followed. Under the law, when the regular jury is discharged, the only way to secure a jury is for the sheriff to summon whomever he may choose to serve on the jury."

"You issued your bench warrant on December 4, commanding the sheriff to arrest Dickson and place him in the county jail and safely keep him there. On December 14, he was placed in the city jail where they had no right to place him. The city jail is the very place he should have been kept away from if the officials had had proper consideration for his safety, since he was accused of having assaulted the chief of police, and was also accused of burglary committed on the property of W. S. Jacobs, who was the employer of several of the police officers. He was kept in the city jail until December 18 when he was transferred to the hospital. On December 23, the sheriff made this return on your bench warrant:

"I have duly served this warrant by finding the said John Dickson deceased."

"When his father, J. L. Dickson, and his aunt, Mrs. W. I. Haynes, tried to locate him, the mayor, city physician, and municipal judge refused to give them any information, and Mrs. Haynes appealed to the present sheriff in vain for assistance in finding her nephew."

#### Says Mere Change of Judges Would Not Help Situation.

Mr. Wood opened his letter by saying: "My dear Judge Witt:

"Your letter of January 19, concerning the cases against police officers charged with murdering John Dickson, was delivered to me last night by Deputy Sheriff Ermy."

"I note you offer to change circuits for the trial of these cases with any circuit judge whom I may name. A mere change of judges will not help the situation. The judge has no authority except to declare the law and rule on objections to the evidence offered. The

law is so well established and so simple that there need be no apprehension of error in the law."

#### Charges Witnesses Against Ex-Officers Are Afraid.

Saying that one important witness against the ex-patrolmen had left the city, Mr. Wood said: "The difficulty in these cases is to remove the fear from the hearts of the witnesses."

He said that a Hot Springs minister had pleaded with one of the indicted men to tell the truth and that the man replied that if he did, he never would live to see his family again.

Mr. Wood said that witnesses have shown a lack of confidence in the sheriff's office, charging that that it is completely dominated by the city administration.

#### Some Ex-Officers Said To Be Employed as 'Bouncers.'

The letter continued: "Witnesses tell me that some of the indicted policemen whose dismissal from the police force was announced, are still to be seen around the city jail, one of them engaged in his regular work taking fingerprints. A United States deputy marshal also reports that the



man is still taking fingerprints. Others of these officers have secured employment as guards and bouncers at gambling houses, and they are still carrying their guns.

In my opinion, the cause of justice would not suffer, but would be advanced by a short delay in the trial of these cases. The indictments do not seem to be interfering with their ability to earn a livelihood, some of them already having secured employment, and doubtless the others can be placed as soon as the season gets in full swing. The experience they had as policemen at the city jail should fit them admirably for jobs as bouncers. I understand that the pay is better and the work lighter than their former police jobs."

#### Judge Witt Favors Bill To Permit Transfer of Judges.

Judge Witt, in a statement issued after he had received Judge Wood's communication, said he did not consider it a reply to his letter and that it would not aid him in "doing what is right," regarding the trial of the seven indicted officers.

Judge Witt also said that he heartily endorses the bill introduced by Representative Roberts of Faulkner which would give the governor authority to transfer circuit judges.

Judge Witt's statement follows:

"I do not think that such a reply is a response to my letter and I see in it no suggestion that will aid me or the people of this community in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases.

"I have given the bill by Representative Roberts of Faulkner (the measure introduced yesterday in the House, which would empower the governor to transfer circuit judges to districts other than those in which they were elected and to which Mr. Wood referred in his communication) the best consideration of which I am capable and there are so many reasons in favor of the bill that I endorse it whole-heartedly, and hope such a bill will pass this session of the legislature.

"I believe Mr. Roberts has sounded the keynote of a movement which will eventually place circuit judges in this state on the same plane as federal judges."

#### Mayor Denies That Brock Has Been Restored to Duty.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin indicated tonight that he had learned the contents of Mr. Wood's reply to Judge Witt, and took emphatic exception to that portion wherein Mr. Wood charged the officer who had charge of the Identification Bureau was still taking fingerprints.

"I want to state that such a statement is a damn lie, and I want it stated in just that language," he said.

Acting Chief of Police Weldon Raspberry also entered a strong denial that the incident referred to by Mr. Wood was true. Chief Raspberry said:

"Cecil Brock, who had charge of the Fingerprint Department, was asked by Chief Deputy Marshal Henri Julian and Deputy J. L. McBurnett to take fingerprints of two men who had been arrested for violation of the Harrison narcotic act, and who were to be taken to Little Rock. It was a request from federal officials and pertained to work in which the Hot Springs Police Department did not have any part. Mr. Brock complied with the request of

those federal officers and for them and the federal government, fingerprinted the two men. Mr. Brock then was engaged to act as guard and made the trip with the federal officers to the Faulkner county jail at Little Rock. Mr. Brock has not done any work for the Hot Springs Police Department since he was relieved of duty by Mayor McLaughlin, and any statement that he has is false."

## Wood Declines Suggestion He Select Judge

Tells Judge Witt Wit-  
nesses in Dickson  
Case Intimidated.

Hot Springs—A "mere change of judges will not help the situation," Attorney Scott Wood told Circuit Judge Earl Witt yesterday in a letter in which he indicated his refusal to act as prosecutor and name a judge to replace Witt at the trials of seven former Hot Springs policemen charged with second degree murder.

Replying to Judge Witt's offer to disqualify himself and have his brother, Prosecutor Gibson Witt, appoint Wood as special prosecutor, the attorney announced "this might be objectionable to the defendants."

Wood has been retained to seek an investigation into the death December 24 of John Dickson, city jail prisoner whose death was followed by charges of "third degree" treatment. Dickson's father, James Dickson of Hollis, named Wood to seek the inquiry and the indictment of the seven officers followed.

In replying to Judge Witt's offer to disqualify himself because of the "unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally interested in the outcome of these cases," Wood suggested that the Garland circuit judge support a proposed act empowering the governor to exchange circuit judges.

Referring to Wood's response, Judge Witt said he could see in it "no suggestion that will aid me or the people of this community in doing what is right with respect to the trial of these cases." Judge Witt said he did not consider it a reply. He added that he endorsed "wholeheartedly the legislation to which Wood refers."

In regard to the suggestion that he name a judge to replace Witt in the trials, Wood said, "The judge has no authority except to declare the law and rule on objections to the evidence offered. There need be no apprehension of error in the law."

Suggesting intimidation of witnesses in the Dickson case, and claiming one of the indicted officers had said confidentially that he did not dare tell the truth for fear of his life, Wood said in his letter that "the difficulty in these cases is to remove the fear from the hearts of the witnesses."

He charged the witnesses with believe the viciousness manifested toward Dickson . . . was merely a reflection of the viciousness of the ruling powers toward all who oppose them."

In reply to Judge Witt's offer to discharge the present panel of the petit jury if the prosecution desired, and that the acting judge designate the method by which the trial be selected, Wood said that under the law the selection of another jury would be left entirely to the sheriff.

Action of the sheriff's office in the Dickson case, Wood said, had not been such as to inspire confidence. He charged that officers had failed to serve a bench warrant for Dickson, issued by Judge Witt December 4, until after Dickson's death, although Dickson had been in custody since December 14.

Wood also charged fraud in Democratic primary last August 11.

and announced "the remedy lies in the restoration of the franchise to the people."

A statement by Wood that one of the former officers had done fingerprint work at the city jail since his indictment brought immediate answers from Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, Acting Chief of Police Weldon Rasberry and Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock, who before his indictment was fingerprint expert of the department.

Mayor McLaughlin termed it a falsehood and Rasberry made a quick denial.

Brock denied doing any work for the city but said he fingerprinted one case for federal agents. "I fingerprinted the men on Federal Bureau of Identification cards and the records were not even kept for the local police department files. Chief Deputy United States Henri Julian will back me up in this," Brock said.

## WOOD'S REPLY IS AWAITED BY CIRCUIT JUDGE

Witt Offers To Leave  
Bench In Police  
Trials

*NEW ERA*

RESENTS RUMORS

*11-01-37*

Has No Personal In-  
terest In Cases,  
Says Jurist

Former Circuit Judge Scott Wood had before him today a proposal by Circuit Judge Earl Witt to give him full control of the prosecution of seven former Hot Springs policemen charged with second degree murder in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner.

In a letter to his predecessor, Judge Witt last night offered to step down from the bench and allow Wood to name any circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over trial of the cases. He also said he would discharge the petit jury panel if there was any objection to it.

Judge Wood, who represented James Dickson, father of John, in the investigation which followed charges that the 32-year-old prisoner had died as a result of alleged "third degree" methods used by the police, had made no reply today to Judge Witt's letter.

Judge Wood said last night he had received the communication, but had no comment to make at this time.

Judge Witt said today he hoped for an early reply.

In offering to disqualify himself in the trials of the men under indictment, Judge Witt said his action resulted from "the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases."

Judge Witt assured Wood that his brother, Prosecuting Attorney Gibson Witt, Jr., would cooperate with him in the prosecution of the cases.

"You shall certainly have not only my permission but that of my brother to direct or control the prosecution of these cases if you desire," his letter said.

Judge Witt's letter follows:  
"Hon. Scott Wood, Attorney,  
Hot Springs, Ark.

"Dear Sir:  
"On Dec. 29th, last, you advised me by letter of your employment on behalf of the state in the Dickson case, requesting an investigation by the grand jury. Prior to the receipt  
PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10

*New ERA  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
1-20-37.*

## WOOD'S REPLY

(Continued from page two)

of your letter and before I had been provided with a copy of the report of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the body of John Dickson, I had called the grand jury for the primary purpose of investigating this case.

"As you know, the grand jury returned indictments against seven policemen of Hot Springs, charging them with murder in the second degree in connection with Dickson's death. I believe a trial should be had as early as possible, in consideration of a sense of fairness and justice to all parties concerned.

"Due to the fact it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing, I have the following suggestions with reference to them: First, I believe a trial of these cases should be had as early as possible, giving due and proper consideration to all parties concerned.

"Because of the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases, please let me make the following suggestions: You may suggest the name of any circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases, and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases. Our statute makes provision for such procedure.

"If there are any objections to the present panel of the petit jury, or any member thereof, then I shall discharge the panel or such juror, and the judge who presides over the trial of these cases may designate the method by which the trial jury is selected.

"Of course, you know that my brother, Gibson Witt, Jr., lately elected prosecuting attorney of this district, is confined as a patient in the Army-Navy Hospital, and has been for three or four months. Let me assure you of what I believe will be his conscientious desire, to co-operate with you in the prosecution of these cases. You shall certainly have not only my permission but that of my brother to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire.

"Let me assure you that my purpose in addressing you this letter is to do the best I can to provide a fair and speedy trial of any or everyone responsible under the law for Dickson's death.

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine. But I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Garland county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage. It would be too unjust and unfair. The point I am trying to convey to you is this: I want to do what is right about these cases, and I want you to help me if you will, and I believe you will. And I believe the good people of this community will honestly and conscientiously respond to every duty enjoined upon them.

Respectfully,

"EARL WITT,  
"Circuit Judge."

The former officers under indictment are L. A. Cooper, R. L. Moore, Cecil Brock, Glynn Buchanan, Press Griffin, Andy Irwin and Joe Scott. The trials have not been set.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin announced after the grand jury action that all were "permanently" discharged from the department and said it was doubtful whether Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, who had been suspended prior to the Grand Jury investigation, would again serve.

Dickson who was charged with robbery and assault with intent to kill in connection with an attack on Chief Wakelin, died in a hospital here December 24, from what the official death certificate said was pneumonia. An autopsy revealed injuries which physicians said had "most certainly" contributed to Dickson's death.

#### New Bill Aimed at Spa.

Little Rock, Jan. 20. — (AP) Charges of lax law enforcement at Hot Springs inspired today a bill by Rep. Russell C. Roberts, Conway, to empower the governor to transfer circuit judges to districts other than those in which they are elected.

He said the proposal would be offered in the House where a resolution was adopted last week for a sweeping investigation of alleged lawlessness in the 18th district including Hot Springs. Circuit Judge Earl Witt presides over the district.

"Regardless of the outcome of the present investigation into reported lawless conditions in the city of Hot Springs," said Roberts, "I believe passage of this bill will provide an efficient remedy to conditions there which, from reports I have received, are deplorable."

He said the bill was not an administration measure "but Gov. Bailey is aware of its contents and I am sure it meets with his approval in that it will make for better law enforcement in cities and districts which may be unable to obtain just and impartial enforcement under their present officials."

New-ERA  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
1-20-37  
(continued)



# WITT READY TO DISQUALIFY HIMSELF IN POLICE TRIALS

Judge Witt, who has been intimated as the target of possible impeachment proceedings as a result of the legislative investigation of alleged lax law enforcement in Hot Springs, informed Wood that he would have the permission of himself and his brother, Prosecuting Attorney Gibson Witt, Jr., "to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire." He further declared he would discharge the present panel of the petit jury, or any member of the panel, if the prosecution so desired, and that the

(Continued on Page Seven)

OFFERS SCOTT WOOD  
FULL CONTROL OF  
PROSECUTION  
SENTINEL-REPUBLIC  
1/20/37  
PROPOSES NEW JURY

Volunteers To Invite Any  
Circuit Judge in State To  
Preside in Cases of Former  
Officers Indicted in  
John Dickson Death.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt last night offered to disqualify himself in the trials of seven former members of the Hot Springs police department under indictment for second degree murder in connection with the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, and to permit attorneys retained by Dickson's father to direct the prosecution.

The offer was made in a letter to former circuit judge Scott Wood, who pressed the demands of James Dickson, father of John, for an investigation into the death of his son who, the elder Dickson charged, died as the result of mistreatment while in custody of the Hot Springs police.

Reached at his Lake Hamilton home last night, Judge Wood said: "The letter from Judge Witt was delivered to me by Roy Ermer (chief deputy sheriff). I read it but have no comment to make at this time."

Declaring in his letter that "it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing," Judge Witt offered Wood the privilege of suggesting the name of any circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases, and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases.

## Witt Ready To Disqualify Himself In Police Trials

(Continued from page one.)

presiding judge could designate the method by which the trial jury is selected.

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine," the letter said. "But I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Garland county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage."

Judge Witt's letter in full follows:  
"Hon. Scott Wood, Attorney,  
Hot Springs, Ark.

"Dear Sir:

"On Dec. 29th, last, you advised me by letter of your employment on behalf of the state in the Dickson case, requesting an investigation by the grand jury. Prior to the receipt of your letter and before I had been provided with a copy of the report of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the body of John Dickson, I had called the grand jury for the primary purpose of investigating this case."

"As you know, the grand jury returned indictments against seven policemen of Hot Springs, charging them with murder in the second degree in connection with Dickson's death. I believe a trial should be had as early as possible, in consideration of a sense of fairness and justice to all parties concerned."

"Due to the fact it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing, I have the following suggestions with reference to them: First,

I believe a trial of these cases should be had as early as possible, giving due and proper consideration to all parties concerned."

"Because of the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases, please let me make the following suggestions: You may suggest the name of any Circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases, and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases. Our statute makes provision for such procedure."

"If there are any objections to the present panel of the petit jury, or any member thereof, then I shall discharge the panel or such juror, and the judge who presides over the trial of these cases may designate the method by which the trial jury is selected."

"Of course, you know that my brother, Gibson Witt, Jr., lately elected prosecuting attorney of this district, is confined as a patient in the Army-Navy Hospital, and has been for three or four months. Let me assure you of what I believe will be his conscientious desire, to co-operate with you in the prosecution of these cases. You shall certainly have not only my permission but that of my brother to direct or control the prosecution of these cases, if you desire."

"Let me assure you that my purpose in addressing you this letter is to do the best I can to provide a fair and speedy trial of any or everyone responsible under the law for Dickson's death."

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine. But I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Garland county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage. It would be too unjust and unfair. The point I am trying to convey to you is this: I want to do what is right about these cases, and I want you to help me if you will, and I believe you will. And I believe the good people of this community will honestly and conscientiously respond to every duty enjoined upon them."

Respectfully,

"EARL WITT,

Circuit Judge."

New Era  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
1-19-37  
(Continued)

The former officers under indictment are L. A. Cooper, R. L. Moore, Cecil Brock, Glynn Buchanan, Press Griffin, Andy Irwin and Joe Scott. The trials have not been set.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin announced after the grand jury action that all were "permanently" discharged from the department and said it was doubtful whether Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, who had

been suspended prior to the Grand Jury investigation, would again serve.

Dickson who was charged with robbery and assault with intent to kill in connection with an attack on Chief Wakelin, died in a hospital here December 24, from what the official death certificate said was pneumonia. An autopsy revealed injuries which physicians said had "most certainly" contributed to Dickson's death.

## WITT OFFERS TO LEAVE BENCH IN MURDER TRIALS

### Ex-Judge Wood Can Prosecute.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Jan. 19.—Circuit Judge Earl Witt addressed a letter to former Judge Scott Wood tonight offering to disqualify himself in the trials of the seven Hot Springs police officers indicted on charges of having murdered John Dickson, a prisoner of the police.

He offered to place the responsibility of prosecuting the seven ex-officers in Judge Wood's hands.

Judge Wood had been asked by Jim Dickson, father of John, to assist in prosecuting the ousted officers. They have been indicted on charges of second degree murder. It was charged that they were responsible for injuries suffered by Dickson while he was in custody.

Judge Witt said that he was addressing Judge Wood "because of the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases."

#### Offers to Let Wood Name Presiding Judge.

Judge Witt's letter follows:

"Hon. Scott Wood, attorney,

"Dear Sir: On December 29th last, you advised me by letter of your employment on behalf of the state in the Dickson case, requesting an investigation by the Grand Jury prior to the receipt of your letter and before I had been provided with a copy of the report of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the body of John Dickson. I had called the Grand Jury for the primary purpose of investigating the

"As you know, the Grand Jury returned indictments against seven members of Hot Springs charging them with murder in the second degree in connection with Dickson's death.

"I believe a trial should be had as early as possible in consideration of a sense of fairness and justice to all parties concerned.

"Due to the fact it has been charged that these cases might not be given a fair and impartial hearing, I have the following suggestions with reference to them:

"First, I believe a trial of these cases should be had as early as possible, giving due and proper consideration to all parties concerned.

"Because of the unwarranted accusation that I am in any manner personally concerned as to the outcome of these cases, please let me make the following suggestions:

"You may suggest the name of any circuit judge in Arkansas to preside over the trial of these cases and it shall be my pleasure to request this judge to come to Hot Springs and preside in the trial of any or all of the cases. Our statute makes provisions for such procedure.

"If there are any objections to the present panel of the petit jury, or any member thereof, then I shall discharge the panel or such juror, and the judge who presides over the trial of these cases may designate the method by which the trial jury is selected.

"Of course, you know that my brother, Gibson Witt Jr., lately elected prosecuting attorney of this district, is confined as a patient in the Army-Navy hospital, and has been for three or four months. Let me assure you that what I believe will be his conscientious desire to co-operate with you in the prosecution of these cases. You shall certainly have not only my permission, but that of my brother, to direct or control the prosecution of these cases if you desire."

"Let me assure you that my purpose in addressing you this letter is to do the best I can to provide a fair and speedy trial of any or everyone responsible under the law for Dickson's death.

"There is no desire on my part to evade any duty of mine. But I am aware of the unwarranted accusation that I may be obligated in some manner to some political organization in Garland county. I could not under any circumstances preside as judge over the trial of any case for the sake of political advantage. It would be too unjust and unfair.

"The point I am trying to convey to you is this: I want to do what is right about these cases and I want you to help me if you will, and I believe you will. And I believe the good people of this community will honestly and conscientiously respond to every duty imposed upon them."

Respectfully,

Earl Witt

Circuit Judge

#### Dickson Case Believed Responsible for Investigation.

When Jim Dickson charged that he had been told his son had been abused, Judge Witt immediately issued a statement saying that if there was evidence to that effect he would convene the Grand Jury and demand a thorough investigation. Later an autopsy was performed by Dr. Euclid Smith and Dr. B. Stell, which showed that while Dickson had died of pneumonia, as stated by Dr. J. F. Merritt, city physician, he also had been subjected to mistreatment and injuries.

A special charge was read to the Grand Jury by Judge Witt, who asked for indictment of any persons responsible. The jurors spent three days investigating the case. They returned indictments against Day Capt. Arch Cooper, Night Capt. Bob Moore, Lieut Cecil Brock, Detective Glenn Buchanan, Patrolmen Press Griffin, Andy Irvin and Officer Joe Scott, the latter driver of the Police Department's safety car. All the officers immediately made

bond. It is anticipated that their case will be called during the March term of Criminal Court.

It is the general belief here that the Dickson case had much to do with the adoption by the House of a resolution, which called for the appointment of a special committee to investigate charges of lawlessness in Hot Springs and to make a general investigation of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, consisting of Garland and Montgomery counties, over which Judge Witt presides.

#### Mr. Wood Refuses Comment After Reading Letter.

Seen at his home tonight Attorney Wood issued the following statement:

"The letter from Circuit Judge Witt was delivered to me by Roy Erney, chief deputy sheriff. I read it, but have no comment to make at this time."

#### Investigating Committee Will Meet in Secret Hereafter.

Carrying out their policy of secrecy, except when they desire to issue statements concerning developments, members of the House Committee named to investigate charges of lawlessness in Garland and Montgomery counties, had little to say yesterday.

The only information available was that they had voted the day before to keep to themselves the information they received during their investigation. They issued the following statement:

"The committee appointed to investigate conditions at Hot Springs, at an executive session held Monday afternoon, voted unanimously that all meetings of the committee will hereafter be secret, and that no statements will be given, either publicly or privately, except by vote of the committee, and if and when statements are issued, they will be signed by at least a majority of the members of the committee."

"The committee will be represented by Attorney Hon. John R. Thompson of Little Rock, who will be under the same rule as to secrecy, as the committee itself."

Members of the committee are Thompson of Independence, chairman; Nichols of Logan, secretary; Murry of Dallas, Robinson of Lafayette and Jones of Montgomery.



## Hot Springs Investigators Won't Talk

Persons eager to follow developments in the investigation of alleged lawlessness in Hot Springs and Garland and Montgomery counties by a House committee are doomed to disappointment unless the committee changes its attitude toward publicity.

The committee, of which W. M. Thompson of Independence is chairman, and Lee Nichols of Logan is secretary, declined to discuss yesterday's findings. Even the lawyer employed by the committee—whose personnel includes four lawyers and a minister—declared he was not at liberty to talk for publication.

Some suggested that perhaps one or two of the investigators were jealous of publicity received by others, and that they might have prevailed upon the committee to hold star chamber sessions and "just issue statements." It was announced that a statement probably would be issued today.

State Rangers and Revenue Department patrolmen assigned to assist the committee were as much in the dark last night as newspapermen. The committee's lawyer, John R. Thompson, deputy city attorney, told a reporter that he "just can't talk."

**Meeting Today.**  
From another source, it was learned that a meeting would be held this morning in the Wallace building, but the purpose of the meeting was not divulged. A three-hour executive session was held yesterday, during which several witnesses from Hot Springs were questioned. Operators of gambling houses and several Hot Springs and Garland county officials submitted financial reports and other data requested by the committee. There will be no examination of witnesses today, it was said.

Among those appearing before the investigators yesterday were W. S. Jacobs, proprietor of Club Belvedere and the Southern Grill; Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, Chief of Detectives Herbert ("Dutch") Akers, Sheriff Marion Anderson and former Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory. Circuit Judge Earl Witt, who answered a subpoena last Saturday, sent records requested by the committee.

Besides Thompson and Nichols, other members of the committee are Murry of Dallas county, Jones of Montgomery and Robinson of Lafayette.

### Loan Rate Inquiry Committee Organized.

Another House committee, appointed last week by Speaker Bransford to investigate reported exorbitant interest rates charged by loan companies and finance agencies, organized yesterday. Carneal Warfield of Chicot county, author of the resolution authorizing the inquiry, was chosen chairman. Robert W. Chrisp of Pulaski was named secretary, C. C. Hollensworth of Warren, House parliamentarian, was selected as attorney. Other members are A. B. Chapman of Ashley, R. H. Grider of Bradley and Jack Machen of Columbia.

The committee will meet this afternoon to formulate plans and issue subpoenas for witnesses, it was announced.

New ERA  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
1-19-37.

## COMMITTEE TO KEEP GAMBLING PROBE SECRET

NEW-ERA

### House Hears Rumor of Dissension Among Probers

1/19/37

Little Rock, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The House committee charged with investigating alleged gambling and laxity of law enforcement at Hot Springs said in a formal statement today that all future proceedings of the committee would be in secret and that no statements about procedure would be given out for publication except over the majority signature of the investigators.

Committee members declined to comment on reports in the legislature that the group had differed sharply over the preliminaries opening the inquiry, which included the service of subpoenas by state rangers on officials and club operators at Hot Springs, verbal examination of the witnesses by Secretary Lee Nichols of the committee and a statement by Nichols that the committee had obtained and impounded "reports of gambling hall receipts for the year 1936 and statements listing all those interested in ownership of the gambling halls."

House members heard that the "secret procedure" resolution of the committee had a four to one vote, but the resolution providing for secrecy, when made public today, carried the signatures of all five members, including Chairman Thompson of Independence, Secretary Nichols of Logan, Murray of Dallas, Jones of Montgomery and Robinson of Lafayette.

The resolution, which announced that John R. Thompson of Little Rock had been retained as committee attorney, read:

"The committee appointed to investigate conditions at Hot Springs, at an executive session held Monday afternoon, voted unanimously that all meetings of the committee will hereafter be secret, and that no statements will be given, either publicly or privately, except by vote of the committee, and if and when statements are issued they will be signed by at least a majority of the members of the committee."

"The committee will be represented by Attorney John R. Thompson of Little Rock who will be under the same rule as to secrecy as the committee itself."

Another House investigation committee organized today to carry out an inquiry authorized by the lower chamber into interest rates of loan and finance companies in the state. Carneal Warfield, Chicago, is chairman and Robert Chrisp, Pulaski, secretary of the committee.

## Majority to Give Out News About Inquiry

Announcements to Be  
Made Only Over Signa-  
tures of Spa Probers.

Official news of the House investigation of Hot Springs' alleged lawlessness, lax law enforcement and gambling will be issued in the future only over the signatures of a majority of the committee of five charged with the investigation. This decision was revealed in a signed statement issued today over the signatures of all five members.

Committee members declined to comment on reports in the legislature that the groups had differed sharply over the preliminaries opening the inquiry, which included the service of subpoenas by state rangers on officials and club operators at Hot Springs, verbal examination of the witnesses by Secretary Lee Nichols of the committee and a statement by Nichols that the committee had obtained and impounded reports of gambling hall receipts for the year 1936 and statements listing all those interested in ownership of the gambling halls.

According to rumbles in legislative circles, there has been considerable irritation within the ranks of the investigating committee.

Some of the members, it was understood, knew nothing of the plans of one or two of the committeemen, to stage the so-called "raids" at Hot Springs last Friday night, and the Saturday one-man quiz session at the capitol also was "news" to some. Some members, it was said, knew nothing of the two episodes except what they read in the newspapers. This may have occasioned the semi-censorship announced by the committee today.

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Dallas, Jones of Montgomery, and Robinson of Lafayette.

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SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
JANUARY 3RD, 1937.

# FOUR OFFICERS SUSPENDED AS DICKSON INQUIRY NEARS

**CHIEF WAKELIN, THREE  
OTHERS REMOVED  
BY MAYOR**

## AUTOPSY REPORT FILED

**Wounds "Were Certainly  
Contributing Factors in  
Death," Doctors Find.—  
Weldon Rasberry Named  
Acting Police Chief.**

The Hot Springs police department is under new command today while four suspended officers, including Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, head of the department for the last 10 years, awaited outcome of a grand jury investigation of the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner.

Wakelin, together with Captain L. A. (Arch) Cooper, Lieutenant Cecil Brock and Detective Glenn Buchanan, was suspended yesterday by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin who appointed Lieut. Weldon Rasberry, veteran officer of the Fire Department, as acting chief of police.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Curtis Ridgeway compiled a list of witnesses who are being subpoenaed to appear before the Garland county grand jury Monday, and physicians who performed the autopsy on Dickson's body completed a formal report on their findings.

The report, signed by Drs. E. L. Smith and J. S. Stell and turned over to Scott Wood, attorney for James Dickson, father of John Dickson, said the wounds "were certainly contributing factors in the death of this man," but that it was "impossible to say if he would have recovered from pneumonia had he not suffered the wounds."

The report listed the following ailments: superficial abrasions (probable burns), contusions and lacerations; fractures of the fifth and seventh ribs, with the separation of the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh costochondral junctions with extravasation of blood into the surrounding tissue; rupture of the left kidney; bronchial pneumonia involving left lung and upper lobe of right lung.

The report stated that it was impossible to say just which condition caused the death of Dickson, but declared the wound in the left lung was "certainly of such a nature that it would cause death from hemorrhage." It added the superficial wounds of the body and fractured ribs were not severe enough to be fatal.

Pneumonia preceded the wounds by several days, the physicians declared, and added that the pneumonia itself could have caused the man's death.

Other injuries listed included a wound on the head "which appeared to have been made with a blunt instrument;" discolored area the size of the palm of a man's hand on the left chest, and burns about the thighs.

In conclusion the report said the following persons witnessed the autopsy: Dr. D. C. Lee, Dr. H. King Wade, Dr. F. J. Burgess, Scott Wood, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Curtis Ridgeway, former Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory and R. J. Glover.

Mayor McLaughlin, in announcing the suspensions, said he acted so that the officers "will not be clothed in any official capacity during the investigation."

Circuit Judge Earl Witt called the grand jury to meet on Monday.

At his death, Dickson was held on theft and assault charges, the latter based on an alleged attack on Chief Wakelin, who was slugged while leading a hunt last month for Dickson and others in connection with local robberies.

Dickson died Christmas eve. He had been removed to a hospital from the city jail four days before.

Dickson's death certificate said he succumbed to pneumonia but his father, James Dickson, charged he had been mistreated in the Hot Springs city jail and retained attorneys demanding full investigation.

BUREAU



None of the suspended officers had any statement regarding the suspension order. Department heads had previously denied that Dickson was mistreated.

Cooper had been with the department nine years; Brock eight years, and Buchanan, a year and a half.

The text of Mayor McLaughlin's formal statement follows:

"My policy has always been, as mayor of this city, that a man in custody should not be mistreated. In order to carry out this policy of my administration, I am suspending from the police department and from the city pay roll, Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, Captain Arch Cooper, Lieutenant Cecil Brock and Glenn Buchanan in order that they will not be clothed in any official capacity during the investigation of the Dickson case by the Garland county Grand Jury.

"The city administration is desirous of having complete and fair investigation of the Dickson case."

"I have placed Weldon Rasberry in full control of the Police Department. I thought it best to put some person in charge who is not now a member of the Police Department. Mr. Rasberry is a lieutenant in the Fire Department and I have full confidence in his ability to command the police department."

Acting Chief of Police Rasberry is a veteran of 17 years service with the fire department. He is married and has one child. The family resides at 519 Pullman avenue.

Rasberry's place in the fire department was taken by Dan Thomas who was appointed acting lieutenant of Company 2. Thomas has been with the department 10 years.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Monroe Young, former night police captain and Jerry Watkins, also a former officer, to places in the police department pending outcome of the investigation. Young served four years before resigning eight months ago to enter the sheriff's race. Watkins served a year and a half before resigning two years ago.

## GRAND JURY TO PROBE DICKSON DEATH MONDAY

Circuit Judge Witt  
Calls Meeting  
Of Group

### BAILEY SPEAKS

Gov.-Elect Threatens  
New Action by  
Legislature  
12/31/36

Garland county's grand jury will take up the investigation of the ill-timed death of John Dickson, 38-year-old city jail prisoner, at a special meeting next Monday morning at 9 o'clock at the courthouse. Circuit Judge Earl Witt issued the call for the jury meeting last night.

Arrested early this month on theft and assault charges, Dickson died of pneumonia in the New Park hospital here last week. His father, Jim Dickson, charged that he had been mistreated after being taken into custody.

In calling the special session of the grand jury, Judge Witt indicated that the meeting was not called purely for the purpose of investigating the Dickson case, but also would probe a number of other cases. He said, however, the grand jury would "go into the case thoroughly."

Attorney Scott Wood and C. Floy Huff, representing Dickson's father, demanded the investigation into Dickson's death following an autopsy which Wood said revealed a number of injuries on the accused man's body.

Meanwhile, physicians who performed the autopsy were completing their report today and expected to turn the report over to Attorney

Wood and Huff and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Curtis Ridgeway either this afternoon or tomorrow. This report is expected to show whether or not any of the injuries suffered by Dickson were either directly or indirectly responsible for his death.

Gibson Witt, Jr., brother of Circuit Judge Earl Witt, will take over the office of prosecuting attorney tomorrow, succeeding Houston Emory. Witt, however, is at present convalescing at the Army and Navy hospital after an illness and will in all probability be unable to attend the investigation. He has indicated that he will retain Ridgeway as deputy prosecutor.

Members of the grand jury which will investigate the case follow: Charles Goslee, foreman; I. C. Beam, H. J. Coomber, H. T. Schrader, Gil H. Wootton, M. O. Clark, J. E. Collins, J. B. Wheatley, Jack Bayles, Roy Taylor, G. L. Merritt, A. J. Jett, Will Page, negro; E. I. Puckett, negro; and Reed Farmer. Alternate grand jurors include: Abner Russell, Emmett Karston, Jeff Adams, Floyd Thompson, Leon Dinkelspiel and A. I. Moyes.

In a formal statement at Little Rock yesterday Governor-elect Carl Bailey said he had "observed with grave concern" developments in the local case.

"I observe with grave concern developments following the death of John Dickson at Hot Springs," Bailey said in Little Rock yesterday. "Repeatedly I have been asked to express my attitude. After I become governor I shall do whatever I can under existing laws and under acts which may be passed by the 1937 legislature to assure a thorough investigation with justice as the sole objective, wherever circumstances are such as to indicate strongly that local officers cannot or will not do their duty."

John Dickson had been indicted for the attempted burglary several months ago of the Ohio club and was a cousin of Alfred "Fug" Dickson, 33, arrested in Little Rock last week on similar charges and returned to the city jail here.

Local police officials have denied Dickson was mistreated in any way while in custody here.

SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DECEMBER 28TH, 1936.

**NO INQUEST TO  
BE CALLED IN  
DICKSON DEATH**

**CORONER WILL LEAVE  
MATTER TO THE  
GRAND JURY**

An inquest will not be held in the death of John Dickson, Dr. J. P. Randolph, coroner, said last night. Any action in the matter will be left to the grand jury, he indicated.

Scott Wood, attorney retained by James Dickson, father of the city jail prisoner, demanded an inquest after receiving the report of an autopsy performed to determine if any mistreatment was contributory to the death.

Dickson died Thursday night in the New Park hospital where he had been removed from the city jail four days before. He was arrested in Hempstead county two weeks ago. He was the victim of pneumonia, contracted probably before his arrest, but also suffered numerous serious injuries, Attorney Wood said the autopsy revealed.

Attorney Wood and C. Floyd Huff, Jr., co-counsel for James Dickson, announced Saturday they would file habeas corpus proceedings to obtain transfer of Alfred ("Pug") Dickson, cousin of John, from the city jail to the county jail.

The men were arrested in the roundup of an alleged robber band. They were also accused of attacking Chief of Police Joe Watkins.

Funeral arrangements for John Dickson have not been completed.

BUREAU

SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DECEMBER 27TH, 1936.

## ATTORNEY WILL ASK INQUEST IN DICKSON DEATH.

AUTOPSY REVEALS IN-  
JURIES TO PRISONER,  
WOOD REPORTS

## ILLNESS IS ADMITTED

Suspect Brought To Jail In  
Weakened Condition, He  
Claim—Habeas Corpus To  
Seek Removal of "Pug"  
Dickson.

Scott Wood, attorney and former circuit judge, said last night he would demand an inquest in the death of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner, on the basis of an autopsy performed yesterday afternoon at the Gross Mortuary.

Dickson died Thursday night at the New Park hospital from what the official death certificate ascribed to pneumonia. He had been in the hospital four days.

His father, James Dickson of Hollis, charged death resulted from mistreatment of Dickson while held in the city jail since his capture two weeks ago in Hempstead county. The father Dickson retained Wood and Attorney C. Floyd Huff, Jr., to seek an investigation.

Physicians and prosecuting authorities declined to discuss their findings in the autopsy although Wood said a report given him showed numerous injuries including four broken ribs, one of which was cracked in two places; a torn and punctured left lung, torn left kidney, blood clots under the skin, and bruises about the entire body.

Judge Wood said he did not know the fact that Dickson died from pneumonia, adding that he had contracted the malady before his arrest and that he was brought here in a weakened condition. Jail officials have denied the mistreatment charges.

Dickson was accused of participating in a safe robbery here in addition to car theft and assault to kill in an attack upon Chief of Police Joe Wakelin during a Peary county raid last September. Police said Dickson was in possession of two guns belonging to Chief Wakelin at the time of his capture.

Alfred "Pug" Dickson, arrested this week in Little Rock, is held in the city jail here on similar charges. He was a cousin of John Dickson.

Judge Wood said he would file habeas corpus proceedings Monday to obtain removal of Alfred Dickson from the city to the county jail.

Shortly before the autopsy opened photographs of the body were taken and Judge Wood said he would offer them as "lasting proof of the bruised condition of the body."

The autopsy was performed by Drs. Euclid Smith and J. A. Stahl in the presence of Drs. D. C. Lee, H. King Wade and Fred Burgess. Others present were Wood, Huff, Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Curtis Ridgway.

Ridgway said he had taken his notes in shorthand and had not attempted to transcribe them. He said he would submit the report tomorrow to Circuit Judge Earl Whit who had previously stated he would order an investigation if facts warranted such a course.

Prosecutor Emory could not be located last night.

Arrest of "Pug" Dickson concluded the roundup of what police termed a safe robbery and automobile theft gang.

Two alleged members are now serving penitentiary terms in connection with the \$1,800 Blue Ribbon safe robbery, one of the outstanding crimes of which the gang is accused. Other crimes include the attempted robbery of the Peary club safe and the attack on Chief

of Police Wakelin. Shortly after his death John Dickson admitted participation in the latter episode, police said.

John Dickson was under indictment in the three crimes, but after his arrest proved he was in the Oklahoma penitentiary when the Blue Ribbon safe was robbed. Alfred Dickson is also accused in all three cases.

Robert DeMarr, 25, and (Shorty) Price, 45, both ex-convicts from Oklahoma, pleaded guilty to the \$1,800 job and were sentenced to five and two year terms, respectively.

Two men accused of harboring the Dicksons, H. T. and Earl Flesher, brothers, were held to the Garland grand jury yesterday on charges of accessory after the fact to robbery. Their bonds were set at \$2,000 each. The Flesher brothers were arrested in Hempstead county the same day John Dickson was captured.

Funeral services for John Dickson have not been announced. His body is being held at the Gross mortuary where the inquest was conducted today.

BUREAU



## INVESTIGATION IS DEMANDED IN DICKSON'S DEATH

FAMILY CLAIMS PRISONER  
MISTREATED  
IN JAIL HERE

### FATHER ASKS INQUEST

Circuit Judge Witt Promises  
Full Inquiry Into John  
Dickson's Death From  
What Officials Described  
as Pneumonia.

Parents of John W. Dickson, 32-year-old city jail prisoner, demanded yesterday an investigation into his sudden death from what officials described as pneumonia.

A posse of 19 officers arrested Dickson 11 days ago in a farm house raid near Prescott. He was accused of burglary, auto theft and assault to kill.

Four days ago he was removed to a hospital where he died last night. His father, Jim Dickson, charged death resulted from mistreatment while held in jail.

He asked an inquest to be attended by three physicians of his own choosing. Circuit Judge Earl Witt promised a full investigation of the charges.

John Dickson was from Perry county. He was charged in an indictment here with the attempted burglary three months ago of the Ohio club.

He also was accused of attempting to kill in an attack upon Police Chief Joe Wakelin of Hot Springs during a raid on a shack in Yell county last September.

His nephew, Alfred, 33, was arrested yesterday at Little Rock on similar charges. Officers said weapons taken from Wakelin in the attack were found on the Dicksons.

"I don't believe John died of natural pneumonia," declared his father, visibly broken by the news of his son's death.

"They knew the treatment they were going to get in jail here. That's why they didn't want to be taken alive," he added, apparently referring to the prolonged hunt for the brothers and others accused in the burglaries.

"He was my baby son," Mr. Dickson continued. "Whatever he may have done, he did not deserve this treatment."

Jail officials denied the mistreatment charges, declaring Dickson was in a weakened condition when brought here from sleeping in the open before his capture.

Dr. J. F. Burgess, appointed to examine the body by Jim Dickson, last night had not made an announcement as to his findings. Prominent local attorneys had also been appointed.

Funeral services will be held from the Gross Mortuary chapel Monday. Other arrangements have not been announced.

In addition to his father, Dickson is survived by a son, Elton Lewis Dickson, aged eight; three brothers, Ed, Apin, Ark., Walker, Hollis, and Tom Dickson, Jessleville; three sisters, Mrs. Sallie Kelley, Hot Springs; Mrs. Mary Humphrey, Apin, and Mrs. Alice Blythe, Ajo, Ariz.

## JOHN DICKSON, SAFE ROBBERY SUSPECT, DIES

### DEATH FOLLOWS ARREST HERE.—ASCRIBED TO PNEUMONIA

Arrested less than two weeks ago as a suspected member of a notorious gang of local safe robbers, John Dickson, 32, of Yell county, died last night in the New Park hospital. Physicians described his death as due to pneumonia.

Dickson died after contracting the disease, physicians said, shortly after his arrest. He had been in the hospital four days.

Dickson's nephew, Alfred (Pug) Dickson, was arrested yesterday in a raid in Little Rock. Alfred Dickson was in the city jail here this morning, but had not been notified of his uncle's death.

The accused man, as well as two others, was arrested in a raid in Hempstead county, near Prescott, Monday, Dec. 14. They were taken into custody by a posse of 19 officers, headed by Chief of Police Joe Wakelin and Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, both of Hot Springs; Chief Arkansas Ranger Gray Albright, and Sheriff Bearden of Hempstead county.

Dickson was also accused of the recent attack on Chief Wakelin, which occurred in a recent raid in Yell county. Dickson, shortly after his arrest, admitted participating in the attack and also implicated (Pug) Dickson, who was arrested yesterday.

John Dickson maintained he thought he was attacking Sheriff T. H. Tucker, of Yell county. He said when he saw that it was Chief Wakelin that he advised his nephew to "not kill him."

Dickson and H. T. Fleisher, 25, and Ural Fleisher, 22, brothers, when brought to the city two weeks ago told about the Wakein attack, but denied any implication in either the \$1,800 Blue Ribbon club robbery and the attempt on the safe of the Ohio club, for which Dickson was accused.

Shortly after his arrest John Dickson proved he was in the Oklahoma penitentiary when the Blue Ribbon club robbery occurred. He denied he was connected with the Ohio club attempt. The Fleishers

with a third brother, Alfred, 28, who was also arrested, will not be charged with the gang activities, but may be held for harboring the Dicksons, Chief Wakelin said.

Police last night said John Dickson became ill shortly after his arrest and was removed to the hospital. Although he was known to be seriously ill, his condition did not worry officials until shortly before his death.

The body was removed to the Cross Mortuary last night. Arrangements have not been announced.

# Mystery of Stolen Car Solved; Youth Held to Grand Jury

11-2-37

The solution of the sinister mystery of the blood-smeared, twice-stolen automobile today was proved no more than a simple case of car theft, but the aftermath of the situation took on a humorous aspect.

Jimmy Melton, aged 17, said to be a four-time inmate of the state reformatory, admitted before Municipal Judge V. S. Ledgerwood that he took the car from its owner, Joe McRae, on both occasions. He was arrested last night by Detectives Glynn Buchanan and Gar-nett Moore.

Judge Ledgerwood ordered the youth held to the Garland grand jury under \$2,000 bond.

The car was first stolen Wednesday of last week and was found next day in front of a local hospital. It was smeared with blood and

contained a blood-soaked towel, facts which gave rise to the theory that violence had been committed.

Returned to its owner, the machine again disappeared from its garage Thursday night. Amateur sleuths declared the perpetrator of some dark crime had stolen it to destroy the evidence. But police, working on a tip, discovered the much-stolen auto last night in an alley just off Ouchita avenue and at the same time arrested Melton, said to have been attempting to remove the license tags when officers grabbed him.

The blood on the towels and over the seats and running board of the car was explained by the youth as his own. He said he cut himself with the car's crank in trying to

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE SIX)

## Mystery of Stolen

(Continued from page one.)

start the motor after the battery went down. He said the crank flew out of his hands and struck him over the eye, causing him to lose a great deal of blood.

Owner McRae added the touch of humor to the plot when he disclosed he had procured theft insurance upon the machine immediately after it was discovered the first time.

"The car wasn't hurt much that time," he said, "but one lesson was enough for me—so I had it insured."

When the car disappeared that night and was again discovered yesterday it was in bad shape. One of the fenders was smashed, the running board on one side crushed, the motor badly damaged, two tires ruined and parts of the body dented.

In court today, Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers said Melton was implicated in a number of prowlings and petty robberies here during the past several months. He was sentenced some time ago for the theft of a car belonging to a local minister.

When taken into custody Melton had the back of the car loaded with clothing, an oil can and rubber hose and several other articles believed stolen from garages of people in Hot Springs.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
JANUARY 2ND, 1937.

# WAKELIN, THREE OTHERS SUSPENDED BY MAYOR

## POLICE OUSTED IN INQUIRY OF DICKSON DEATH

Captain Cooper, Buchanan and Brock  
Removed

## JURY WILL ACT

Weldon Rasberry Is  
Appointed Acting  
Police Head

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin today suspended from office Chief of Police Joe Wakelin and three other police officers pending completion of the investigation into the death last week of John Dickson, city jail prisoner. Suspended with Wakelin were Captain L. A. (Arch) Cooper, Lieutenant Cecil Brock and Detective Glenn Buchanan.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Lieutenant Weldon Rasberry of the Hot Springs Fire Department as acting chief of police. Rasberry assumed charge immediately.

In suspending the officers, Mayor McLaughlin issued a statement declaring "My policy has always been, as mayor of this city, that a man in custody should not be mistreated," and that "the city administration is desirous of having complete and fair investigation of the Dickson case."

BUREAU



Chief Wakelin had headed the local department under Mayor McLaughlin for almost 10 years.

The suspended chief said today he had no statement. The other suspended officers likewise were non-committal. Cooper had been with the department nine years; Brock, eight years, and Buchanan, a year and a half.

The text of Mayor McLaughlin's formal statement follows:

"My policy has always been, as mayor of this city, that a man in custody should not be mistreated. In order to carry out this policy of my administration, I am suspending from the police department and from the city pay roll, Chief of Police Joe Wakelin, Captain Arch Cooper, Lieutenant Cecil Brock and Glenn Buchanan in order that they will not be clothed in any official capacity during the investigation of the Dickson case by the Garland county Grand Jury.

"The city administration is desirous of having complete and fair investigation of the Dickson case.

"I have placed Weldon Rasberry in full control of the Police Department. I thought it best to put some person in charge who is not now a member of the Police Department. Mr. Rasberry is a lieutenant in the Fire Department and I have full confidence in his ability to command the police department."

The Garland County Grand Jury has been called to meet Monday to inquire into the death of Dickson, who died of pneumonia at a local hospital on Christmas Eve. Dickson, arrested early last month, became ill in city jail, where he was held on theft and assault charges. He

was accused in connection with an assault on Chief Wakelin, who was slugged in Perry county while leading a hunt for Dickson and others, sought for local robberies.

Following his death and the filing of a certificate giving pneumonia as the cause of death, James Dickson, his father, retained attorneys and charged that his son had been mistreated in jail and that post-mortem examination by private physicians showed he had suffered physical injuries before death.

Scott Wood, former circuit judge retained to represent Dickson, announced he would press for a full investigation into the prisoner's death.

The grand jury was called into session by Circuit Judge Earl Witt.

Acting Chief of Police Rasberry is a veteran of 17 years service with the fire department. He is married and has one child. The family resides at 519 Pullman avenue.

Rasberry's place in the fire department was taken by Dan Thomas who was appointed acting lieutenant of Company 2. Thomas has been with the department 10 years.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Monroe Young, former night police captain and Jerry Watkins, also a former officer, to places in the police department pending outcome of the investigation. Young served four years before resigning eight months ago to enter the sheriff's race. Watkins served a year and a half before resigning two years ago.

Charles Goslee, foreman of the grand jury which meets Monday, last night called upon any persons having any evidence bearing upon the case to appear before the meeting of that inquisitorial body.

At the same time Judge Witt declared that he expected the grand jury to investigate fully and completely the Dickson death. He instructed his grand jury foreman, Mr. Goslee, to ask anyone possessing any information to come before the grand jury and testify.

## Blood-Smeared Car Again Disappears

The mystery of the stolen, blood-splattered automobile — discovered yesterday in front of the St. Joseph's Infirmary — was deepened today when it was revealed that the same machine was again stolen from its owner, Joe McRae, No. 24 Hagen street, last night.

McRae, after taking possession of the stolen machine, took it home and placed it in his garage. This morning he called police and notified them the auto was again missing. Officers hurried to the scene and began an investigation.

Although no violence has been reported, it is feared that the machine may have been utilized in the perpetration of some crime. The second disappearance of the auto, many believe, may have been initiated to remove evidences of some crime not yet come to light.

The car was stolen the first time Wednesday morning from McRae's home. The thief rolled the car down a hill on Hagen street to Central avenue before starting the motor. A night watchman in the vicinity noticed the car as it turned into Central avenue.

When found near the hospital, the auto, a 1935-model Ford V-8, showed many evidences of violence.

The running board was splattered with blood. A blood-saturated towel was lying on the back seat. More blood was found on the side of the car near the door handle.

To add to the gruesomeness of the situation several magazines, one containing a story entitled, "The Death Kiss," were found in the machine. On the back seat lay a pillow with the imprint of a person's head still upon it. On the floor a large steamer blanket was crumpled.

The speedometer of the car disclosed that the machine had been driven over 500 miles since it was stolen. The gasoline tank was empty and the battery was low.

It was also reported that five or six names were found written on a piece of paper in the car. One of the names was said to have been that of a Little Rock man. Police are investigating this angle today.

None of the local hospitals reported any emergency cases and officers would express no opinion as to how the blood came to be upon the car.

Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers requested anyone having information pertaining to the case to communicate with local police at once.

## NEW GARLAND COUNTY SHERIFF



MARION ANDERSON

1/1/37

Marion Anderson, associated with the Garland county sheriff's office for nearly 12 years, today takes over the office of sheriff. Only 35 years old, Anderson is generally regarded as the youngest sheriff in the state of Arkansas. Previous to his connection with the sheriff's office, Mr. Anderson served on the city police force. He was also connected with the state highway department for some time in the capacity of highway patrolman.

The new sheriff succeeds Jim Floyd, who served three consecutive terms to the office. Sheriff Floyd, who did not seek re-election, threw his support to Anderson during the election.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
JANUARY 1ST, 1937.

## Garland Officials Quietly "Sworn In"

1/1/37

The formal "swearing in" today of Garland county and 18th Judicial District officials, elected during the November election, was accomplished with slight ceremony.

County Clerk Roy C. Raef and Circuit Clerk John E. Jones with Circuit Judge Earl Witt handled the inauguration procedure.

New members to the official family sworn in were: Gibson Witt, Jr., prosecuting attorney; Marion Anderson, Garland county sheriff; Roy Gillenwater, county assessor, and Henry Murphy, county treasurer. Anderson and Gillenwater were formerly deputies in the office to which they were elected, but Witt and Murphy are beginning their first terms as public officials.

Those re-elected to their offices and who were also sworn in included: Circuit Clerk Jones, County Clerk Raef, County Collector Mack Wilson, County Judge Eliza Housley, Coroner J. P. Randolph and Constable John Young.

Present deputies of all those re-named to serve another term will be retained, the officials announced. Deputies under Circuit Clerk Jones are Miss Lucille Baldwin, Earl Howard and D. W. "Watty" Parker.

County Clerk Raef, beginning his second term, will retain Harry Lewis and Allen Hotchkiss as deputies, while Collector Mack Wilson, elected to a third term, will retain Deputies Warren Banks, J. W. Elliott and J. M. Lowrey.

In the case of County Assessor-elect Roy Gillenwater, it was merely a case of switching jobs. Gillenwater was elected assessor to succeed Frank Rowles, under whom he formerly served as deputy. Rowles did not run for re-election, but courthouse officials indicated Gillenwater would name him as deputy.

The new county treasurer, Henry Murphy, elected to succeed James C. Williams who did not seek re-election, will have no deputy. Mr. Williams is at present engaged in business at the Purity Ice and Ice Cream company.

Sheriff Anderson, generally recognized as the youngest sheriff in Arkansas, will retain Chief Deputy Roy Erney and Deputies Will Lowe, Sol Godwin, John Erney and Pete Gross. Anderson was a deputy under Sheriff Jim Floyd for a number of years. Floyd, stricken by illness last year, did not seek re-election and threw his support to Anderson.

Jim Floyd, who served 16 years in the sheriff's office, six as sheriff and six as chief deputy, was reported as being improved at his home on Ouachita avenue last night. He has given no indication as to what business, if any, he intends to enter.

Circuit Clerk John E. Jones had to make a trip to the Army and Navy General hospital to administer the oath of office to the new prosecuting attorney, Gibson Witt, Jr. Witt has been confined to the hospital for the past several weeks by an illness. Curtis Ridgeway, present deputy prosecutor, will be retained by Witt as deputy. Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory, who did not seek re-election, is interested in a South Arkansas oil concern and other enterprises.

Although Coroner J. P. Randolph could not be contacted. He is expected to name Dr. E. L. Thompson as his deputy. Dr. Thompson is the present deputy. Constable John Young will also name his son, Arthur Young, as his deputy. Both Dr. Randolph and Constable Young are veterans in their respective offices.

Neither Judge Witt nor Chancellor Sam Garratt were up for re-election last fall. Judge Witt's present term expires in 1938, while Judge Garratt's term does not expire until 1940. Elected for six years, Judge Garratt is serving on his first regular term. Appointed in 1932 to fill out the unexpired term of Chancellor Duffie, deceased, Judge Garratt was elected to the chancellorship in a special election in the fall of the same year. He was elected to his first regular term in 1934.

### New Sheriff Is Presented With Expensive Badge

1/1/37

The new sheriff of Garland county, Marion Anderson, after receiving his oath of office this morning at the county court house was the recipient of another honor—but this time from his friends and admirers.

Chief of Police Herbert Akers, delegated as spokesman, presented Arkansas' youngest sheriff with an expensive gold badge, symbolic of his office. A one carat diamond was set in the center of the badge, which also contains an imprint of the state seal. On the back of the badge is inscribed:

"Marion Anderson, Sheriff of Garland County."

The badge was procured with funds raised by the new sheriff's friends in Hot Springs and the county. It was presented immediately after he was sworn into his office.



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DECEMBER 31ST, 1936.

# GRAND JURY HERE CALLED; TO PROBE DICKSON DEATH; BAILEY INDICATES ACTION

## WATCHES DEVELOP- OPMENTS IN WAKE OF DICKSON'S DEATH.

### IS GRAVELY CONCERNED

**Governor-elect Assures Full  
Investigation Under Ex-  
isting Laws and Under  
Acts Which May Be  
Passed by Legislature.**

Little Rock, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Gov-  
ernor-elect Carl E. Bailey said in a  
formal statement late today that he  
had observed "with grave concern"  
developments in the case of John  
Dickson, Hot Springs city jail pris-  
oner who died of pneumonia in a  
hospital there last week.

Dickson was arrested early this  
month on theft and assault charges  
and was awaiting trial. After his  
death, his father charged he had  
been mistreated following his ar-  
rest, and retained an attorney who  
said he would seek full investiga-  
tion.

Two physicians who perform-  
ed an autopsy on Dickson's  
body signed a statement saying the  
prisoner had suffered physical in-  
juries prior to death.

Bailey's statement read:  
"I observe with grave concern de-  
velopments following the death of  
John Dickson at Hot Springs. Re-  
peatedly I have been asked to ex-  
press my attitude. After I become  
governor, I shall do whatever I can  
under existing laws and under acts  
which may be passed by the 1937  
legislature to assure a thorough in-  
vestigation with justice as the sole  
objective, wherever circumstances  
are such as to indicate strongly  
that local officers cannot or will  
not do their duty."

Dickson was arrested in connec-  
tion with an alleged attack on Chief  
of Police Joe Wakelin when Wake-  
lin was leading a search for him  
and others in Perry county, north-  
west of Hot Springs. He was also  
charged in connection with a Hot  
Springs robbery.

Hot Springs jail officials denied  
there was any mistreatment of  
Dickson, declaring he was brought  
there in a weakened condition from  
sleeping in the open before his ar-  
rest.

## CIRCUIT JUDGE WITT PROMISES THOROUGH PROBE OF CASE.

### BODY TO MEET MONDAY

**Investigation of City Prison-  
er's Death Demanded Fol-  
lowing Autopsy on Body  
—New Prosecutor to Be  
in Office.**

Circuit Judge Earl Witt yesterday  
issued a call for the Garland coun-  
ty grand jury to meet at 9 a. m.  
Monday, and said the body would  
investigate the John Dickson death  
among other cases.

While indicating that the grand  
jury was not called especially as  
the result of charges that mis-  
treatment by officers was contrib-  
utory to the death of Dickson, a  
city jail prisoner, Judge Witt said  
the jury would go thoroughly into  
that matter.

BUREAU

"That (the Dickson case) and number of other cases will be got into," Judge Witt said.

An investigation of Dickson's death was demanded by Scott Wood and C. Floyd Huff, Jr., following an autopsy which, Wood claimed, revealed that Dickson had suffered frightful injuries.

One of the two physicians who made the autopsy said a full report on their findings would be completed today. This is expected to show whether any of the injuries reported to have been suffered by Dickson could have contributed to his death which was officially ascribed to pneumonia.

The next grand jury session will find a new prosecuting attorney in office as Gibson Witt, Jr., brother of the circuit judge, is due to be

sworn in Friday to succeed Houston Henry who is concluding his third term.

Mr. Witt is convalescing at the Army and Navy hospital after illness. It probably will be necessary for Circuit Clerk John E. Jones to visit the hospital to administer the oath of office, but Mr. Witt is expected to be discharged within few days.

Curtis Ridgeway, assistant to the present prosecutor, will continue in that capacity under Mr. Witt.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DECEMBER 30TH, 1936.

**DICKSON DEATH DEMANDS AND MUST RECEIVE  
IMMEDIATE AND FULL INVESTIGATION**

**12/30/36**

(AN EDITORIAL)

Charges that mistreatment while he was in custody of Hot Springs police contributed to the death of John Dickson are of such a serious nature as to demand the fullest investigation by the Garland county grand jury at the earliest possible moment. Street rumors mention barbarous and revolting injuries which are almost inconceivable in this enlightened and humane age, but which must be proved or disproved that the truth may be known. Officers deny that they mistreated Dickson, and should not only welcome, but join in the demand for official investigation.

That John Dickson had a police record and was accused of a brutal attack on Chief of Police Joe Wakelin has no bearing on the case. Dickson was entitled to the same treatment as any other prisoner, and if he was not accorded such treatment those responsible are amenable to the law, which should be fairly and equitably enforced.

It is stated that two Hot Springs physicians performed an autopsy and reported that Dickson had suffered terrible injuries and apparently had been tortured, and this report and their testimony are doubtless immediately available to the grand jury.

There should be no delay in this investigation. The good name of Hot Springs demands it, and the people of Hot Springs, Garland county and the state of Arkansas expect it. Delay is inexcusable and immediate action is expected of the grand jury.

BUREAU

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DECEMBER 29TH, 1936.

## SPA RESIDENT IS SOUGHT IN \$1,200 HOLDUP

Farmer Jefferson Is  
Blamed in Chicago  
Club Robbery  
12/29/36

KNOWN BY VICTIM

Enters Establishment  
Unmasked Police  
Puzzled

Police today continued a search for Farmer Jefferson, 45, who, unmasked and alone, late yesterday afternoon staged an armed raid on the Chicago club, book making establishment where he is well known, and escaped with about \$1,200.

Police were puzzled by Jefferson's action and just as preplexed was Fred Nickels, operator of the sporting club, who, with two employees, was forced at gun point to allow himself to be locked in a wash room so that Jefferson might make a safe getaway.

Nickels told police that Jefferson had spent "the entire afternoon" making bets at his club which is located at 738 Central avenue.

"When the last race closed at New Orleans, Jefferson left with the rest of the customers and I began checking up," the proprietor said.

"Deacon Seyl (H. J. Seyl, an employee) was helping me count the day's receipts and a Negro porter was cleaning up when Jefferson returned," Nickels said.

"He talked with us about 10 minutes I believe before he made any unusual move.

"Then he drew a .45 caliber pistol and told Seyl, who was sitting at the counter, 'No stand up.'

"Seyl was astonished and exclaimed 'What's the idea; do you mean that?'

"Jefferson replied, 'Hell yes, I mean it; Stand up.'

"Seyl stood up and the three of us were marched back to the wash room and locked up. All of the receipts were left in a black money box on the counter."

It was about 10 minutes later when Lonnie Hardin, who works for the Howlett Linen company, came in to change towels in the place. Noting the room deserted Hardin walked back to the wash room and found the door braced close with a chair.

Nickels and the others were released and they found the money box gone. Police were notified immediately. It was 5:45 p. m. The city was combed all night as were roads leading out of town.

Onias Sellers, employed downstairs in the Chicago bar, also told of Jefferson's activities.

Sellers said the man came downstairs when the club closed and talked for about 10 minutes. He made a second trip upstairs and returned immediately. On the third trip up to the club Jefferson was gone about five minutes, Sellers said, and came downstairs and left the building saying "Well, I'm gone now."

Police said Jefferson made the trips upstairs so as to judge properly the time when Nickels would get all the money together.

Nickels said his loss was not insured and that the amount would "not be far above \$1,200."

Immediate relatives of Jefferson, who has a wife and family here, at loss to explain how he could have had no car, they said.

Family lives in Combs addition.

Their only explanation of his peculiar behavior was that "he must have been drinking."

Detective Lieut. Cecil Brock said the man had a police record. He had resided here about eight years and was well known, especially in downtown sporting clubs.

## DODGE CONTINUES FINAL ACTION ON M'LAUGHLIN SUIT

12/29/36

Little Rock, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Chancellor Frank H. Dodge continued today until a later date final hearing on a suit for divorce brought by Mrs. Florence McLaughlin against Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs.

The hearing scheduled for tomorrow, was postponed at request of attorneys for Mrs. McLaughlin. Judge Dodge said a new date will be set later.

Last week, Judge Dodge enjoined McLaughlin from proceeding further with a suit for divorce brought by the Spa mayor in Garland chancery court at Hot Springs without the chancellor's permission.

This action followed issuance of an injunction by Chancellor Sam Garratt of Hot Springs against Mrs. McLaughlin and her attorney to restrain them from continuing the divorce suit in Little Rock.



ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
DATE: JAN. 18, 1937

## Continue Hot Springs Inquiry



—Shrader Photo.  
Here is the special committee named in the House to conduct an investigation of gambling conditions in Hot Springs. Seated, left to right, are: W. M. Thompson of Batesville, chairman, and James Fred Jones of Mt. Ida, vice chairman; standing, left to right: Pat Robinson of Lewisville, Lee Nichols of Booneville and Ike Murry of Fordyce. The first act of the committee was to send Arkansas Rangers to Hot Springs Friday night to subpoena witnesses for the formal hearings which began Saturday.

DATE: JAN. 18, 1937

## Operators of Clubs Submit Their Records

### Hot Springs Group Com- plies With Request of House Committee.

More than a dozen officials and club operators of Hot Springs appeared at the statehouse today with business records in response to subpoenas issued by the House committee investigating alleged laxity in law enforcement in the Eighteenth judicial district.

Many of the group had previously appeared before the committee on Saturday, when Secretary Lee Nichols instructed them to come back today with full records of their business transactions, including income tax statements and telegraphic correspondence.

The witnesses were received today in a small committee room just off the House chamber by Nichols and Rep. William M. Thompson, committee chairman, who asked for the investigation, charging "wide open gambling" in Hot Springs and official negligence.

#### Records Are Presented.

Today's witnesses appeared with stacks of account books and papers, for which they received receipts after turning them over to the committeemen.

It was announced from the committee room that all witnesses before noon had submitted the data and records requested of them, and that contempt charges, threatened Saturday by Rep. Nichols for anyone who failed to bring them in, will not be necessary.

Bob Faust of the State Revenue Department was made custodian of the records, which will be held until the committee completes its investigation.

Chairman Thompson said a meeting of the committee probably will be held some time this afternoon, but no witnesses will be questioned. He said the session will be executive.

Nichols told newsmen:

"The data presented today includes reports of gambling hall receipts for the year 1936 and statements of all those interested in ownership of the gambling halls."

First to be called into the committee room was W. S. Jacobs, proprietor of Club Belvedere and Southern Grill, two of Hot Springs showplaces of amusement.

The committee checked off records for these two establishments and for the Kentucky Club and Miller's Club.

Officials present in response to committee summons included Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, Sheriff Marion Anderson, Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, all of Hot Springs, and former Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory of the Eighteenth district.

McLaughlin said that Circuit Judge Earl Witt, who testified Saturday, "sent requested records by Sheriff Anderson," and "would not have to reappear today."

New ERA  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
1-18-37

## SPA CLUB PROPRIETORS GO BEFORE COMMITTEE WITH BUSINESS RECORDS

NEW ERA

Officials Also Called  
Again in Gaming  
Probe

1/18/37

WITT IS ABSENT

Sends Requested Pa-  
pers in Care of  
Sheriff

Little Rock, Jan. 18.—  
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officials and club operators  
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Houston Emory of the 18th district.

McLaughlin said that Circuit  
Judge Earl Witt, who testified Sat-  
urday, "sent requested records by  
Sheriff Anderson" and would not  
have to re-appear today.

Returning to Little Rock last night  
Nichols said 12 additional sub-  
poenas had been issued, all naming  
Hot Springs residents. He declined  
to disclose the identity of those sum-  
moned declaring the writs could not  
be served legally until tomorrow.

Nichols added that between 30 and  
40 more subpoenas would be issued  
today. Nichols asserted that one  
member of the investigating com-  
mittee had pursued "a hot lead"  
over the week-end. He would give  
no details. The secretary said he  
had not been to Hot Springs since  
the investigation was ordered.

# BOOKS EXAMINED IN PROBE OF SPA

*Sentinel-Record  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
1-18-37.*

**SENTINEL-RECORD**  
**CLUB OPERATORS, OFFI-  
CIALS HAND OVER  
BOOKS.**

1/18/37

**STATEMENT EXPECTED**

**Investigators Indicate Some  
Comment Upon Progress  
Will Be Made Today —  
Judge Witt Is Absent  
From Hearing**

Little Rock, Jan. 18. (AP)—A legislative committee investigating charges of a breakdown in law-enforcement in the city of Hot Springs delved today into records showing ownership of clubs in the resort which committeemen described as "gambling halls."

Records obtained by subpoena served by state rangers were brought to the state house by the club operators and handed over to the committee, which had threatened contempt proceedings unless his records were produced today. The operators were verbally examined on Saturday and directed to present financial statements of their establishments including income tax returns.

These were studied tonight by the house investigators at a three-hour executive session. Members declined comment upon completion of the session. They said a statement would be issued tomorrow.

The data presented today includes reports of gambling hall receipts for the year 1936 and statements listing all those interested in ownership of the gambling halls, said Rep. Lee Nichols, minister secretary of the investigating group. Among those appearing before the committee with records today was W. S. Jacobs, proprietor of Club Belvedere and Southern Grill, two of the Spa's best known show places.

In the city, and at the disposal of the committee for further examination were Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs, Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, Sheriff Marion Anderson, and former Prosecuting Attorney Houston Emory of the 18th Judicial District in which the resort is located.

McLaughlin said Circuit Judge Earl Witt, who with the other officials was examined by the committee last Saturday, had "sent requested records by Sheriff Anderson."

Rep. William M. Thompson, Independence, who proposed the inquiry, charged "wide open" gambling in Hot Springs, an alliance between peace officers and "the criminal classes" and asked the house to investigate "to determine whether articles of impeachment should be filed against the circuit judge and others."



ARKANSAS GAZETTE  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
DATE: JAN. 18, 1937

## Hot Springs Inquiry Will Be Secret

In secret session at an unannounced meeting place, the House Investigating Committee, named to probe reputed lawlessness in Garland and Montgomery counties, which comprise the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, will resume its work at 9 this morning.

Subpoenas for 12 additional witnesses for the investigation were issued last night, and 30 or 40 more will be issued today, the Rev. Lee Nichols, representative from Logan county, secretary of the committee, said last night.

The subpoenas named Hot Springs residents, but the Rev. Mr. Nichols declined to reveal their identity explaining that the writs could not be served legally until today. He said that "a member of the investigating committee had pursued a 'hot lead' in the investigation over the week-end. He would give no further details. Nichols said he had not been at Hot Springs since the investigation began.

### Inquiry Started Saturday.

Other committee members are Jones of Montgomery county, Murry of Dallas, Thompson of Independence and Robinson of Lafayette. Questioning of witnesses in the investigation began Saturday, when a score of Hot Springs and Garland county officials and reputed gambling house operators appeared before the Rev. Mr. Nichols in the House chamber.

The witnesses were subpoenaed at Hot Springs Friday night by State Rangers and state Revenue Department agents. They were requested to bring with them papers and records pertaining to their incomes and expenditures. The Rev. Mr. Nichols held on their appearance here that they had not answered the writs because they failed to produce the records requested by the committee. Failure of those summoned to produce their records will result in filing of contempt proceedings in the House, Nichols said. Among those questioned Saturday were: Circuit Judge Earl White, Mayor Lee P. McLaughlin and W. A. Jacobs, reputed owner of Club Belvedere and the Southern Club.

SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE 2-16-37

## Garland Citizens File Answer to Attacks on Witt

Little Rock, Feb. 15.—(P)—Rep. James R. Campbell of Garland county announced today he was filing with the Hot Springs investigating committee in the house two statements signed by Garland citizens and officials replying to criticisms of Circuit Judge Earl Witt brought out in recent testimony before the committee.

One statement, over the signatures of Sheriff Marion Anderson, Circuit Clerk John E. Jones, County Clerk Roy C. Raef, Assessor Roy Gillenwater, Treasurer Henry Murphy, Tax Collector Mack Wilson, and County Judge E. T. Housley, read:

"If Circuit Judge Earl Witt ever appeared in court in an intoxicated condition, it must have been on some very rare occasion for Judge Witt has at all times been strictly attentive to his duties and sober."

Another statement, signed by Jay M. Rowland, Hot Springs said:

"In 1934, I was the opponent of Circuit Judge Earl Witt in the primary election. At that time, my friends and supporters had complete control of the election machinery of Garland county. . . .

"I think he (Judge Witt) won his race fairly and squarely on his record."

NEW IDEA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
2-16-37, 1937.

## TRACK COURTESIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER NEW SYSTEM

Distribution of courtesies by the Oaklawn race track will be conducted in a different manner this year than in former years, Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce, said today, but the work of distribution will be largely enhanced by the co-operation of Ed Farris, secretary of the Arkansas Racing Commission.

Farris has agreed to take charge of the distribution to members of the Arkansas state legislature, to all state officials in the capitol building and to officials in the federal building at Little Rock.

Local distribution will be handled through an office in the Chamber of Commerce building, this plan having been approved by S. A. Kemp, president of the Chamber.

Mail requests from all over the state will naturally continue to come in to Mr. Hotchkiss and will be attended to as far as possible from the local office. There will be the usual distribution of daily badges which are good for any one day from the Chamber of Commerce office to the Bath houses, to the hotels, and to other agencies that are accustomed to issuing these courtesies to their patrons.

In so far as is possible Mr. Hotchkiss will try to cover the requests that come in, but he has been advised by the Oaklawn Jockey club that the courtesies this year were not ordered in the numbers usually ordered because there was pending legislation resulting in the Oaklawn interests not placing their local order, waiting to see the result of that bill.

Further details of the distribution and what may be expected by the public in this line will be stated from time to time by Mr. Hotchkiss. Mr. Hotchkiss will be assisted in this work by George Leatherman and Frank Moody.

## ASSEMBLY GIRDS FOR FLOOR FIGHT OVER BOND BILL

Little Rock, Feb. 16.—(AP)—Arkansas legislators girded today for a finish floor battle over Governor Bailey's bond refinancing program.

He personally appeared before the lawmakers yesterday to plead for enactment without alteration of administration bills giving the chief executive authority to direct the \$88,000,000 funding operation.

A few hours later the House committee on banks and banking voted to amend the plan to give the refunding board power to execute the financial maneuver. It recommended passage as amended.

The Senate's committee on revenue and taxation recommended passage without alteration. Identical bills to carry out the program were introduced in the House and Senate to expedite action.

As the House made ready for a fight Wednesday over the issue, Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey, outspoken critic of the Bailey proposal, reported Senate members were signing a bill to provide that the refunding

board carry out the refinancing move.

He reported 17 signatures obtained and announced the measure would be introduced when 18, a majority necessary for passage, or more pledged support. Signers and details were withheld pending a decision on whether the bill would be introduced.

Rep. John K. Butt of Carroll, offered the amendment adopted by the House committee, five to four. The four voting together gave notice they would file a minority report recommending passage of the bill as drafted.

Rep. I. N. Moore, Desha, made a futile effort to return the measure without recommendation "as a courtesy to the governor," Butt replying:

"I don't care a cuss about courtesy to the governor when \$88,000,000 of the people's money is involved. There is so much heat and steam turned on the House that I doubt that we can obtain action on these amendments unless it is done here in committee."

He charged it was "highly dangerous and inexpedient to vest all this authority in one man even if he is the governor."

The Senate committee gave its endorsement by a three-two vote. Chairman Joe Steele Hall and Fletcher Majors voting against the recommendation and announcing they would bring in a minority report. Hall said the bill "is seeking too much power for Carl Bailey" and criticized what he described as an effort of the governor to force passage.

Hendrix Powell, sponsoring the measure in the upper house, said a provision in the bill requiring signatures of both the secretary of state and state treasurer on all bonds provided ample check on the governor's operations.

Bailey is seeking to float a general refunding bond issue bearing three or three and a half per cent interest, using the revenues to call in outstanding obligations bearing four and a fourth and five per cent interest.

He told the legislature that it would "insure the failure" of his proposal by subjecting administration of the plan to the "political intrigues" of a board or commission. He also asked enactment of 14 other measures necessary to carry out the administration's broad social and political reform program.

Lieutenant Governor Bailey replied quickly, reiterating his opposition to the governor's refunding proposal. He charged Bailey with "putting the entire transaction into the category of personalities," adding:

"It is a known trait of human nature that with any request for dictatorial powers goes the statement impugning the motives of anyone who dares to oppose such power.

The governor said developments of the past had placed the legislators "in a position where you will act upon the advice of the lieutenant governor or upon the advice of the governor."

"Give the governor the opportunity to carry out this program and you have performed your duty notably," said Bailey. "If he fails, his—not yours—will be the penalty to pay."

Replying to the proposal that the program be placed in charge of a board, Bailey said that an 11-man board, the state highway note board, "sold Arkansas into bondage in the first instance."

"Every selfish interest which saw an opportunity to profit at the state's expense because of the state's financial misery had a hand in shaping the provisions of the refunding act," said Bailey in assailing previous steps in Arkansas highway financing as administered by boards and commissions.

George S. Neal, president of the Arkansas Bankers Association, added his endorsement to Bailey's program, asserting "it is imperative to the people of this state that we move forward, not backward."

State Comptroller J. O. Goff issued a report showing Arkansas' total bonded debt at the end of 1936 was \$163,379,861.83, of which 90.2 per cent was obligations chargeable against State Highway Revenue.



ARKANSAS CAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-18-37

## Report On Hot Springs Due This Week

The House committee appointed early in the session to investigate reports of connivance between officials of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, which includes Hot Springs, and operators of gambling houses and other illegal business, is expected to submit its report the latter part of this week, it was said yesterday.

There are five members of the investigating body, but no vote has been taken on the report to be submitted, contrary to published reports, it was said. Reports that the body was divided are mere guesswork, a member of the committee said.

If charges are substantiated, in the opinion of the committee, it was reported that impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt may be sought. Ouster of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs also would be asked, it was said. Impeachment proceedings would be taken up by the House, while ouster of a mayor is left to the City Council.

### Officials Defend Judge Witt

James R. Campbell, one of the two Garland county representatives, filed with the Investigating Committee yesterday two statements signed by residents of Hot Springs. They were in answer to charges against Judge Witt.

One of them, signed by Sheriff Marion Anderson, Circuit Clerk John E. Jones, County Clerk Roy C. Raef, Tax Assessor Roy Gillinwater, Treasurer Henry Murphy, Tax Collector Mack Wilson and County Judge E. T. Housley, said:

"If Circuit Judge Earl Witt ever appeared in court in an intoxicated condition, it did not come to our notice. If, in fact, it ever did happen, it must have been on some very rare occasion, for Judge Witt has at all times been strictly attentive to his duties and sober."

The other statement, signed by J. W. Rowland of Hot Springs, said: "In 1928, I was the opponent of Circuit Judge Earl Witt in the primary election. At that time, my friends and supporters had complete control of the election machinery of Garland county. I think he won his race fairly and honestly."

NEW KRA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
2-15-37, 1937.

## Garland Officials And Citizens Reply To Attacks on Witt

Little Rock, Feb. 15.—(P)—Rep. James R. Campbell of Garland county announced today he was filing with the Hot Springs investigating committee in the house two statements signed by Garland citizens and officials replying to criticisms of Circuit Judge Earl Witt brought out in recent testimony before the committee.

One statement, over the signatures of Sheriff Marion Anderson, Circuit Clerk John E. Jones, County Clerk Roy C. Raef, Assessor Roy Gillenwater, Treasurer Henry Murphy, Tax Collector Mack Wilson, and County Judge E. T. Housley, read:

"If Circuit Judge Earl Witt ever appeared in court in an intoxicated condition, it must have been on some very rare occasion for Judge Witt has at all times been strictly attentive to his duties and sober."

Another statement, signed by Jay M. Rowland, Hot Springs said:

"In 1934, I was the opponent of Circuit Judge Earl Witt in the primary election. At that time, my friends and supporters had complete control of the election machinery of Garland county. . . ."

"I think he (Judge Witt) won his race fairly and squarely on his record."

NEW ERA  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-12-37

## COMMITTEE AT WORK ON SPA PROBE REPORT

Will Be Submitted  
To Lower House  
Next Week

### END HEARINGS

Anti - Administration  
Group In Visit  
To Probers

Little Rock, Feb. 12.—(AP)—A delegation of citizens reported today improved business conditions at Hot Springs as a result of a legislative investigation into alleged lawlessness at the national park health resort.

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

Ray Smith, spokesman for the group, said the Hot Springs delegation represented 34 professions and traveled to Little Rock in 29 automobiles to tell the investigators they were "looking to the legislature for relief from the present conditions of disfranchisement and official oppression."

"Hot Springs needs a new deal," said the statement. "Hot Springs is entitled to better election machinery and better law enforcement." It charged 33 judges and clerks serving in the democratic

primary last August were connected with the operation of gambling houses.

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

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

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

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

Yudin said he had learned "only recently that the money was split up in Hot Springs" and that a relative of an official "was mixed up in it."

He said he had learned "only recently that the money was split up in Hot Springs" and that a relative of an official "was mixed up in it."

Rep. James Campbell of Garland asked permission of the committee to press for details and asked the witness to go into details about the alleged "split."

"You know who splits the money over there," Yudin retorted. Swinging on the witness and speaking heatedly, Robinson interrupted:

"If you know names, tell them." "I was told—" began the witness. "What you have heard doesn't amount to anything," said Robinson. "You don't know of your own knowledge about this split?"

"I wasn't there when it was split." "Do you know yourself, of your own knowledge, that there was a division of your money over there?" When the witness did not give a direct reply, Robinson cried:

"Why take up the time of this committee with hearsay?"

The line of questioning was changed at once.

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said he went to Washington and saw J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, and was referred to the postoffice department, obtaining an investigation there, resulting in the federal grand jury action.

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

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

Pulaski County Prosecutor Fred A. Donham examined Yudin privately after his appearance before the committee, but said today he had no statement to make on his separate inquiry into Yudin's testimony.

Circuit Judge Witt said in a letter to Rep. Campbell which was made a part of the record:

"I am sorry I am physically unable to attend the meeting of the investigating committee this evening. I am enclosing a short statement under oath."

"If it shall be necessary later, I shall meet and answer any charge that is made against me, respecting either my private or public life."

Witt's affidavit to the committee said:

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

"I have never at any time in my life either dined or danced in Belvidere club."

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

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

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

Chairman Thompson brought out that 1935 was a municipal election year, however.

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

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

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

"Was he drunk?"

"No, I wouldn't say that."

Dr. M. O. Evans, Hot Springs chiropractor, next on the stand, identified himself under questions by Campbell of Garland as the defeated senatorial candidate in last August's primary who unsuccessfully challenged the seating of Senator Walter Wheatley of Garland, the winner.

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

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

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

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

"He gave that appearance."

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

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

In answer to another question, Evans said he had been arrested another time "for being drunk."

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

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

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

"Yet you just said you smelted whiskey on him," said Committeeman Jones.

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

John Thompson, living near Hot Springs, testified he was arrested seven years ago in connection with a deer theft of which he said he was innocent.

He said he was questioned and beaten in the Hot Springs jail by police and that "I finally told them I was in with the stealing of the deer, although I hadn't done it. The grand jury threw it out."

After reading his statement, Smith underwent examination by Committee Chairman Thompson to identify a certified list of judges and clerks who served in the August 11 primary election in Hot Springs.

He identified a number of names called as those of employees at resort clubs. Some, he said, operated "bookies" in Hot Springs.

Ormand Shaw, Little Rock, former assistant attorney general and now superintendent in the income tax department, testified to income

tax returns filed by Mayor Leo McLaughlin and Archie Ledgerwood of Hot Springs.

To a question of the committee, he replied Municipal Judge Ledgerwood had not filed an income tax return since 1931.

McLaughlin, according to Shaw, filed an income tax report on \$6,693.36 for the year 1935 and paid tax on \$3,068.86 after exemptions.

Shaw introduced income tax returns of Archie Ledgerwood for 1932 and 1935, showing that Ledgerwood in 1934 received a salary of \$21,200 and in 1935 a salary of \$22,500. Shaw said beside the figures was recorded the name of "W. S. Jacobs."

Shaw was asked by the committee if Ledgerwood's reports for either year showed exemptions for "gifts" or "donations." He replied: "No."

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



SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-12-37

# INVESTIGATORS OF SPA END EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES

REPORT OF FINDINGS TO  
BE MADE TO HOUSE  
NEXT WEEK

## HEAR MORE TESTIMONY

Committeeman Protests In-  
troduction Of "Hearsay"  
Testimony At Final Hear-  
ing—Judge Witt, Ill, Is  
Unable To Appear.

Little Rock, Feb. 11—(AP)—Rep. Pat Robinson of Lafayette county, member of the house committee investigating alleged laxity in law enforcement at Hot Springs, tonight entered a protest against the introduction of "hearsay" testimony as the investigators concluded examination of witnesses and prepared to make a report to the house.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt, who has been under fire in the investigation, and who is ill at his home in Hot Springs, had sent word that he desired to be heard before the open sessions were concluded, but was unable to appear.

Little Rock, Feb. 11—(AP)—The senate judiciary committee recommended tonight against passage of a bill by Gathings of West Memphis which would give the governor power to order an exchange of circuits among judges as he may deem advisable. There was no discussion of this bill and the vote against it, on motion of Barney of Texarkana, was unanimous. The bill was described by members of the senate as an administration measure.

Through Rep. James R. Campbell of Garland county, he submitted an affidavit in which he said he had never been in a gambling house and alleged "exaggeration" in testimony relating to his use of "strong drink."

Robinson protested the "hearsay" evidence after the committee heard Samuel M. Yudin of Tucson, Ariz., and Hot Springs, testify he had been a victim of a confidence game two years ago in Hot Springs in which he lost \$21,000.

He said he had learned "only recently that the money was split up in Hot Springs" and that a relative of an official "was mixed up in it."

Campbell asked permission of the committee to press for details and asked the witness to go into details about the alleged "split."

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

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"If you know names, tell them." "I was told—" began the witness. "What you have heard doesn't amount to anything," said Robinson. "You don't know of your own knowledge about this split?" "I wasn't there when it was split." "Do you know yourself, of your own knowledge, that there was a division of your money over there?" When the witness did not give a direct reply, Robinson cried: "Why take up the time of this committee with hearsay?"

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(Continued on Page Twelve)

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

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

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

Another Hot Springs citizen group appeared at the downtown office building where the committee sat and the committee which previously had admitted only newsmen and a few representatives opened the door to permit a score of the large delegation to hear what was going on.

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

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Ray S. Smith, Hot Springs real estate man and former secretary of the Democratic Central committee, acted as spokesman for the group of Garland county citizens who crowded into the committee room to hear testimony.

He presented a statement which said "Hot Springs needs a new deal. Hot Springs is entitled to better election machinery and better law enforcement."

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

Shaw was the last witness to be heard by the committee. The committee agreed to meet tomorrow night in executive session to consider the vast amount of testimony gathered during the several weeks of its investigation.

Chairman Thompson said that while tonight's hearing ended the acceptance of testimony, should any develop that the committee considered valuable to the investigation it would be heard before a report is made to the house.

The report is not expected to be available before the middle of next week, he said. It is to be read before the house in executive session and is

not to be made public prior to that time. It will carry the committee's recommendation concerning whether or not impeachment proceedings should be preferred.

Last week, a formal statement was issued saying "We believe evidence is sufficient that impeachment proceedings are inevitable."

The Hot Springs citizens' statement said in part:

"Business conditions have improved since the date of the appointment of the investigating committee, although the serious flood in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys has caused many of our visitors to stay at their homes.

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

The delegation said it was looking to the legislature for relief from the present conditions of disfranchisement and official oppression.

The committee said it had received much "fan mail" since opening

its inquiry from citizens commenting on the investigation.

NEWSPAPER RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-11-37

# INQUIRY INTO SPA MAY BE ENDED AT SESSION TONIGHT

CHAIRMAN THOMPSON  
INDICATES CLOSE OF  
PROBE NEAR

## HEAR MORE TESTIMONY

Five More Hot Springs Wit-  
nesses Questioned by  
Committee. — Woman  
Witness Refuses to Testify  
At Open Hearing.

Little Rock, Feb. 10.—(P)—J. D. Cooper, one-time president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Garland county grand jury last year, told the Hot Springs investigating committee tonight that he had been receiving annual dividend checks from W. S. Jacobs, principal owner of Club Belvedere, "for the last three or four years."

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

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

Late tonight, Chairman William M. Thompson said the committee hoped to close its investigation tomorrow night "if we get the witnesses we want them."

Martin E. Eisele, 33-year-old Hot Springs drug store operator, told the committee he believed that "Hot Springs rests on the value of its healing waters, not on gambling or racing, but as a resort some latitude should be allowed to provide pleasure for the visitors within the bounds of decency."

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

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

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

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

Cooper told the committee he had been president of the chamber of commerce several years ago and served on the grand jury in Hot Springs last year.

"You own an interest in Belvedere?" Committee Attorney John R. Thompson asked.

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

Asked to describe the favor, he said he had lent Jacobs "a few hundred dollars years ago when he came to Hot Springs and tried to go into the motion picture business."

"How long have you received the Belvedere check?"

"Three or four years."

"How big were the checks?"

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

"How much was the check in 1936?"

"I can't say exactly."

"Approximately?"

"I cannot say. If Mr. Jacobs has filled any papers with you about this matter, they are correct. I think it was about one thousand dollars."

"Were you on the grand jury?"

"Yes, about six months ago."

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

"I have no interest in Southern Club. The interest in Belvedere was about 3 per cent I believe."

"Did you know there was gambling there?"

"Everyone knows of the gambling."

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

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

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

"Have you served on the grand jury since August?"

"I believe so."

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

"I can't remember."

"Can you remember anything he charged you with?"

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

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

A delegation of citizens from Montgomery county, which is in Judge Witt's judicial district with Garland county, came to Little Rock tonight accompanied by Lon Warneke, the major league hurler who lives at Mt. Ida, and presented a statement to the committee asserting confidence in Judge Witt. Warneke was not in the spokesman-group admitted to the committee room.

As in previous hearings, the committee admitted only newsmen and 18th district members of the legislature.

It was disclosed tonight, when committee attaches passed out warrants to those subpoenaed in an ante-room, that Hot Springs witnesses heard by the investigators were receiving \$1.50 per day, plus \$5.50 mileage expense.

Elsie, who told the committee he had lived in Hot Springs for 60 years and that he was a former superintendent of the National Park and present vice-president of the Arkansas National bank there, was questioned about "intimidation" of employees in his drug stores.

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

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

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

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

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

"Good gracious, no," said the witness.

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

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

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

"I don't think so."

B. K. Vernon testified he had worked at Southern club and once ran a race horse book for himself in 1931, on Broadway street, Hot Springs.

The reply was "no" when he was asked if he had "any arrangements to run openly."

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

"When we entered a plea of guilt, the fine was \$100 and costs. The sheriff or constable then collected the money."

"Who told you this fine at intervals would be demanded?"

"I don't know."

Vernon testified that "the mayor" told him he could open on Malvern street when he made inquiries about a location, but that other officials objected. He said he was told that "Judge Witt said there was a gentlemen's agreement against any gambling establishment on Malvern."

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

"Did you pay anyone else?"

"No sir."

He then explained that it was "hearsay" that the race news cost \$200 per city and that all 12 books took it, paying \$75 weekly.

He said "the saying was" that the difference went to a political "clique" in Hot Springs.

O. B. Lovell, Sr., druggist, said he had talked to L. D. Cooper when the latter was on the grand jury and he had asked why gambling was not investigated.

He said he had no instructions to investigate," said Lovell. "I said the instructions were to follow what the authorities said."

Lovell said he was chairman of a "Bailey for governor" group before the last primary.

Walter Ebel, newspaperman representing a number of papers and two national news agencies as Hot Springs correspondent, was asked if he had "ever worked for Jacobs," and replied that he had "four or five years ago."

He was asked if he had any present "business dealings with Jacobs."

"He is on an automobile note at mine," said Ebel and I would like to make this further statement: Mr. Jacobs pays me a salary for what publicity I can give the city. He has never asked me to boost any of his interests."

"How much is the salary?"

"\$25 a week."

"Have you ever suppressed any story?"

"No."

Campbell, of Garland, asked: "Did you ever see Judge Witt drunk?"

"No, I never saw him take a drink," was the reply.

Mrs. Gladys Wilson, Hot Springs, on being called into the committee room, announced that "I'm not going to talk before newspapermen."

"Why?" asked the committee attorney.

"Because I don't care to."

After saying she was in the loan business and formerly edited a Hot Springs paper known as "Public Opinion," she refused to proceed, asserting committee agents had promised an executive session.

Committeeman Robinson, of Dallas, said:

"If her testimony is of any value, she will have to appear before the house if anything is done about this investigation. So she might as well talk now."

The committee agreed, however, to hear her in a private session.

L. V. Freeman, Hot Springs, secretary of the Garland county democratic committee, presented in answer to subpoena the minutes of his committee for 1936 and the list of August primary officials.

Asked about Judge Witt's reputation, he said:

"He is mighty well thought of. I have heard he would take a drink."

"You are a member of Witt's faction?"

"No."  
"Then you are against him?"  
"No. I just don't take any part. I am a business man."

O. D. Taylor, 63, of Jack Mountain, Ark., Montgomery county, appeared before the committee, but his testimony was stricken from the records on motion that it varied from the purpose of the investigation. He introduced an affidavit, which the committee admitted into evidence without making public its contents.

J. L. Pinkerton, lumberman and president of the Norman, Ark., school board and J. B. Hughes, former county judge, appeared before the committee as spokesmen for the Montgomery county delegation.

Pinkerton said "we in Montgomery county have been embarrassed by stories in the press which reflect upon the people of our community as being law violators."

"We have come here in behalf of Judge Witt and we feel there is no question in our county as to his fitness and character. We trust that he will receive the just consideration from the legislature that is due him."

Hughes told the committee his group had noted criticism of Judge Witt and said: "He is a man of the highest type and the people of Montgomery county are for him."

"We have no grudge against this committee. We have had some undue reflection from the press—and that is not a reflection upon the reporters."

A half-dozen members of the delegation appeared in the committee room, but Pinkerton and Hughes told the investigators that a group of 20 had come to Little Rock.

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## PROPOSERS OF SPA INQUIRY TO PRESENT VIEWS

### Will Tell Committee Investigation Is Needed

A committee of Hot Springs citizens favoring the legislative probe of alleged lawless conditions in Garland and Montgomery counties tonight will go to Little Rock to call upon the House investigating committee in the third of a series of informal visits by local and Montgomery county groups. Two previous parties from Garland and Montgomery counties had protested the investigation.

Ray S. Smith, said to be the spokesman for the group, revealed that more than 100 persons had promised at noon today to join the party and added that he expected the number to mount to 200 by the time for departure.

"We are going to tell the committee that Hot Springs does need the investigation," Mr. Smith declared, "and that the citizenship is entitled to better consideration in elections and in the handling of political and business affairs."

He added that the committee will also be told "Hot Springs has received much undue publicity from some of the known visiting gangsters and that this publicity has not been favorable to the city."

The group is expected to leave late this afternoon by automobile for the capital city.

NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
2-11-37, 1937.

## WITT ILL; NOT TO TESTIFY AT PROBE TONIGHT

Physician Advises A-  
gainst Trip To  
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CITIZENS HEARD

L. D. Cooper, Martin  
Eisele Appear Be-  
fore Group

Circuit Judge Earl Witt, confined at his home by illness, said today he would be unable to appear to-night before the legislative committee which is investigating law enforcement in Hot Springs.

Judge Witt said his physician had advised him against making the trip to Little Rock. The committee would be so notified by Rep. Fred Jones of Montgomery county, he said.

"I am very sorry that I cannot go to Little Rock tonight," Judge Witt said. "I have wanted very much to be heard by the committee."

The investigators had not subpoenaed Judge Witt, but had announced he would be welcome to testify at any time.

In a recent letter to Rep. W. M. Thompson, chairman of the committee, Judge Witt expressed a desire to be heard by the group, but said it was doubtful if he could make the trip to Little Rock. He invited the committee to his home, offering to pay expenses of the trip, but Chairman Thompson said this would be impossible.

May End Probe Tonight.

Little Rock, Feb. 11.—(P)—Members of a legislative committee investigating charges of lax law enforcement at Hot Springs, said today they expected Circuit Judge Earl Witt, under fire in the inquiry, to appear before them at a hearing tonight.

Chairman W. M. Thompson  
PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 7

ported the committee hoped to close its investigation tonight "if we get the witnesses we want then." Judge Witt has not been subpoenaed but the investigators agreed to hear him if he desired to appear.

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

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

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

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

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"Why?" asked the committee attorney.

## PROBE COMMITTEE TOLD SPA FAVORS A LIBERAL POLICY

The House committee investigating alleged lawless conditions here was advised last night by a delegation of about 200 Hot Springs business men that "the people of the resort city favor a liberal policy."

J. B. Murphy, of the Murphy Brothers garage here and former county treasurer, was spokesman for the group and in a formal statement announced Hot Springs residents favor that policy in order to compete with other resort cities.

Through Murphy the delegation asserted the "people are confident in Circuit Judge Earl Witt both as our circuit judge and as a citizen of Hot Springs." Murphy held that the people living directly under Judge Witt are satisfied with the conduct of that court.

This prepared statement, which he read to the committee follows:

"I have been selected as the spokesman for this delegation of business men, who represent the best business interests of Hot Springs, and who have accompanied me unsolicited and voluntarily to Little Rock to present to you the sentiment of the people of Hot Springs.

"I am 66 years old and I have lived in Hot Springs for 46 years and, of course, have had an opportunity to know the conditions existing in Hot Springs over this period of years. We who have come here tonight, representing the people of Hot Springs, are sorry over the fact that Hot Springs has gained much unfavorable publicity since your investigation started because of the fact your investigation was inspired by a certain political group in Hot Springs commonly known in politics as the "outs," and in order to cast as many reflections as possible on the group which is in authority the most extreme and unjust accusations have been made.

"The people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy.

It has been repeatedly said in the press that you are investigating Judge Earl Witt, our circuit judge, and let us say now that he has been our circuit judge for 15 years and the people of Hot Springs have confidence in his honesty, integrity and ability. Judge Witt bears the reputation in our judicial district of being extremely fair and impartial in the trial of all cases and matters that come before him. He is learned in law and is eminently qualified for the position he occupies. An audit of the circuit court expenses made by the firm of Chase & Gaunt, public accountants, shows that during the first 10 years of the tenure of office of Judge Earl Witt there was a saving to the taxpayers of more than \$80,000 as compared with the last 10 years of his predecessors.

"We take this opportunity of expressing to your committee our faith and confidence in Judge Witt both as our circuit judge and as a citizen of our district. We further state to you that our people living directly under the jurisdiction of Judge Witt's court are satisfied with the conduct of that court and beg of you to not permit politicians or politics to cause you to do anything that will reflect upon Judge Witt or the people of the 18th Judicial District."

## JUDGE STEELE TO DECIDE ON JURIES IN DICKSON CASE

Circuit Judge Earl Witt said today that juries for the trials of seven former officers charged with manslaughter in the death of John Dickson, city jail prisoner, would probably be selected from the extra venire.

"The method of selecting the jury will be decided by Judge Steele," Witt said. Judge A. P. Steele, Ashdown, is coming here next Monday to preside over the cases, Judge Witt having disqualified himself.

Judge Witt announced that none of the 100 names of the extra venire had been drawn previously. "Or Judge Steele may appoint a special man to select the jury," he said. "It will be at his pleasure."

## REUBEN WHITE TO SUCCEED HAMILTON AT OAKLAWN TRACK

William (Bill) Hamilton, veteran local racing starter who was recently named a steward for the State Racing Commission, last night announced Reuben W. White, his assistant for 14 years, would succeed him as starter at Oaklawn Park.

White has served under Hamilton at many different tracks. Three years ago he officiated as starter at Oaklawn for a week and previous to that he worked at Coney Island, Mo.

"Hamilton's appointment as a steward has done more for racing in Hot Springs than any other one thing," Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce, secretary of the Business Men's Racing Association and a former member of the racing commission, said last night. "It has put the racing game on a much higher plane than heretofore."

"Naming of Bill Hamilton, a man in whom everybody connected with racing in the country has confidence, has practically perpetuated racing for Hot Springs," said Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, attorney for the track. He said this was also the sentiment of Mr. Cella.

"The present racing commission has succeeded where we failed," Hotchkiss declared in praising the action of the past week when three officials were named to represent the commission at the track and provisions were made for saliva tests of horses to prevent any possible "doping."

Hotchkiss also denounced so-called "loose talk" which went the rounds of the track last year in regards to crooked races, "hot" horses, etc.

"With a man of Hamilton's calibre in the officials' stand there can be no basis for such criticism this spring. Everyone who knows Hamilton, and his acquaintances are legion, know this to be true. A man who never bets on a race horse himself, he stands for all that true sportsmanship stand for. The commission is to be congratulated."

"The fact that Mr. Hamilton has been a resident of Hot Springs for 21 years, in the racing game for 35 years, and official starter for the Kentucky Derby classic for 15 years should be proof enough of his capabilities."

Hotchkiss added that in his opinion the action of the commission would create a better feeling generally over the state towards racing. "I do not deny that there was some basis for criticism last year," he concluded.

## WOMAN CHARGES BRIBE OFFERED FOR TESTIMONY

Charges that a man claiming to be an investigator for the House committee probing local conditions had sought testimony against him by offering a local woman money were made last night by Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers.

Akers said the woman was Mrs. Jessie Sims, Jr., 18, and that she was offered "from \$50 to \$100 for the testimony." The detective offered sworn statements of Mrs. Sims and her mother, Mrs. Dixie Williams, 51, as proof.

Mrs. Sims said she was approached yesterday by the man who represented himself as an investigator for the house committee and asked if she had ever been arrested by Akers. The woman said in her statement that she told the man she had never been arrested by Akers, but that she had been arrested one time by other officers. She said he then asked her if she had ever had any experience with Akers when she was younger and that she replied she had not.

"He seemed to doubt that I was telling him the truth," the statement said, "and when I started to walk away, he said: 'If you change your mind and want to tell something I will pay you from \$50 to \$100'."

Mrs. Williams said three men accompanied by a Hot Springs woman, Betty Johnson, came to her home before noon yesterday and asked for her daughter who was not there. She said they left word for Mrs. Sims to meet them at the Townsend hotel at 1 o'clock and that if she did not come, they would come after her. Mrs. Williams said she was told there would be "some money" in it for her daughter. Mrs. Williams said that shortly after noon, the Johnson woman and the man representing himself as an investigator, came to the house again and conversed with her daughter.

Akers was one of the officers mentioned in the testimony of three women inmates of Jacksonville State Farm for Women, who appeared before the committee Friday night.

Akers also said yesterday that for the past week a man representing himself as an investigator out of the detective chief's office had been visiting various persons in Hot Springs.

"If anyone other than a regular member of this police department approaches anyone and represents himself as an investigator out of my office, then something is wrong and I request any person so contacted to telephone police headquarters at once," Akers said.

The statements of the two women follow:

I, Mrs. Jessie Sims, Jr., do hereby state that I am 18 years old and that I have been married for the past two years; that about 2 o'clock p. m., February 8th, 1937, a man representing himself to be an investigator for the Legislative Investigating Committee, investigating Hot Springs, talked to me and asked if I had ever been arrested by Herbert Akers. I told him I had never been arrested by Herbert Akers but that I had been arrested one time by other officers; that he then asked me if I had ever had any experience with Herbert Akers while I was younger and I told him I had not. He seemed to doubt that I was telling him the truth and when I started to walk away he said: "If you change your mind and want to tell something I will pay you from fifty to one hundred dollars." He also asked who had taken me to court from the jail at the time I was arrested and I told him that Mrs. Warrington had taken me from the jail to the court.

I solemnly swear the facts set forth in this statement are true.

MRS. JESSE SIMS, JR.  
State of Arkansas, County of Garland, ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 8th day of February, 1937.

C. T. BATES, Notary Public.  
My commission expires March 18, 1938.

I, Mrs. Dixie Williams, do hereby state that I have lived in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for eight years, and I am 51 years old and the mother of Mrs. Jessie Sims, Jr. That on the morning of February 8th, 1937, about 11 o'clock, three men and a woman whose name is Betty Johnson came to my house looking for my daughter and I told them

she was not there; they said they wanted me to tell her to meet them in the lobby of the Townsend Hotel at 1 o'clock. This woman, Betty Johnson, said that if my daughter would meet them in the lobby of the Townsend Hotel there would be some money in it, possibly thirty or forty dollars, and if my daughter did not come that they were coming after her and make her come. Later, shortly after noon, this woman, Betty Johnson, and one of the men came back and this is the one that told my daughter he was an investigator for the Legislative Investigating Committee.

I solemnly swear that the facts set forth in this statement are true.

DIXIE WILLIAMS.  
State of Arkansas, County of Garland, ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 8th day of February, 1937.

C. T. BATES, Notary Public.  
My commission expires March 18, 1938.



NEW ERA,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
2-9-37, 1937.

## SPA PROBE TO BE CONTINUED ON WEDNESDAY

Committee Hopes to  
Complete Inquiry  
By Saturday

### PAYROLLS AIRED

Relatives of Officials  
Linked with Club  
Belvedere

Little Rock, Feb. 9. —(P)— Hot Springs citizens replied to a legislative investigation into alleged laxity in law enforcement in the resort city today by asserting that competition with other resorts dictated a "liberal policy."

Testifying before the investigators who sought data on fashionable gambling casinos, Archie Ledgerwood, part owner of Club Belvedere and Southern Grill, was asked "why didn't Hot Springs officers enforce the gambling laws?"

"Hot Springs is a resort and people come there for health and pleasure," he testified. "Resorts there were closed up once before and the people went to Florida."

Ledgerwood said he was a brother of Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood, and commented: "He gave me plenty of hell for being in the gambling business. I told him that was all I could find to do on account of my health."

Sam Watt, another partner in the two clubs, told the house investiga-

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10

tion in answer to repeated questions that he had no personal knowledge of any protection payments to Hot Springs authorities.

He replied affirmatively when questioned about employment of relatives of officers.

"Isn't it so that you employed these relatives of officers to keep the officers off your places?" the committee attorney asked.

"I guess the officers asked them to be placed," he said.

"The people of Hot Springs have favored a liberal policy in order to compete with other health and pleasure resorts and the officials of the community must not be blamed for this policy," said a statement presented by Jess B. Murphy, spokesman for several score business men from Hot Springs, who asked a hearing before the investigators.

The group specially expressed "faith and confidence" in Circuit Judge Earl Witt, who was criticized in the resolution authorizing the inquiry.

Billy Mann, Hot Springs grocer 15 years, told the committee the August primary was conducted "under pressure."

"I attended what is commonly known as a pressure meeting, held in police court," he testified. "Judge Ledgerwood and McLaughlin talked."

"They told the firemen they expected each of them to account for ten poll tax receipts and if you can't get them, we can arrange it." (Leo P. McLaughlin is mayor of Hot Springs).

Mann said he was a former policeman and was a candidate for constable in the election but that his name was "scratched off" the administration ticket and he was defeated.

L. G. Stanley, Mt. Ida, told of presence of gambling machines "running openly" in Montgomery county, a part of the 18th district presided over by Judge Witt. He reported they disappeared after the present investigation started.

Mrs. W. L. Haynes, aunt of John Dickson, reviewed charges which her family has made that Dickson, Hot Springs jail prisoner, died last Christmas eve as a result of being beaten by officers.

Seven policemen were indicted in the death and are slated for trial Monday. Judge Witt disqualified himself for the trial. Circuit Judge A. P. Steel, Ashdown, accepted an invitation to preside.

The investigating committee will hold another session Wednesday night. Members said they hoped to complete the inquiry by Saturday night.

While the investigators were in session last night, Detective Chief Herbert Akers charged at Hot Springs that two women had been offered money to testify against him before the probers.

He reported possession of depositions from two women declaring they had been offered money by a man representing himself as an investigator for the committee.

George Gower, Hot Springs furniture man, was called and asked by the committee attorney if he "ever saw Judge Witt drunk."

"Several times," Gower testified.

In answer to another question, he said:

"I never saw him drunk in court."

Sam Watt, dignified, slow-spoken and past middle age, told the committee he had lived in Hot Springs for 60 years and had been "in the gambling and clubroom business for quite awhile—since 1904, I believe."

"At times, I have also invested in real estate and the oil business," he said.

Watt estimated profits from Belvedere and the Southern in 1936 at "between 80 and 100 thousand dollars," advising the committee that the books recently obtained would "show the exact figures."

He said he was "interested in the bank roll at Fountain Lake for eight years," and was associated there with a partner from near Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and another from New Orleans.



"How did you operate there without being arrested?" he was asked by Attorney Thompson.

"Brother, I don't know," he smiled. "Mr. Nolan (identified as one of the partners) was a good outside man and he made arrangements."

He said officers came out to raid several times "and we closed up."

"You mean you knew they were coming and closed?"

"That's a hard question to answer," he said.

Asked if anyone beside the partners shared in the profits, he said:

"I don't think so. If they did, Nolan took care of that."

He testified he subsequently "became interested in Belvedere."

The interrogation continued:

"Who was interested with you?"

"Must I answer?"

"Yes."

"Mr. W. S. Jacobs and Mr. Cleveland Young, and some others had minor interests."

"Who?"

"Well, Mr. L. D. Cooper—"

"Who else?"

"Some of these people were let in probably because they had influence. Mr. Cooper has a lot of influence. I think he was president of the Chamber of Commerce."

"Who else?"

"Douglas Hotchkiss."

"Did they all pay for an interest?"

"Some did not pay for an interest."

"Who else?"

"Harry Strong, Roscoe Johnson."

"Because of their influence?"

"I don't know."

"Who else?"

"Archie Ledgerwood."

"What was Ledgerwood's interest?"

"Twenty-five per cent."

"How did he get it?"

"It was given to him by Mr. Jacobs, I believe."

"Why did you consent?"

"It was from Mr. Jacobs' interest. I thought it would be beneficial."

"Does Ledgerwood have relatives in official positions?"

"Judge Verne Ledgerwood is his brother."

"Judge Ledgerwood is the municipal judge?"

"Yes."

"Is that all that were in the club?"

"Since then five per cent interest has been given to Otis McGraw. I had and kept my 15 per cent interest. Captain William Smith had three and a half per cent, I believe."

Watt departed from the questions to comment:

"The games were always straight. A straight game is the only way to get business. If you run any other kind, it follows you around and ruins you."

One committeeman asked "Why does the house always operate profitably?"

"The banking end of any game has a percentage," said Watt. "It only takes time for the percentage to show up."

He said that Belvedere records were kept in triplicate, for himself, for Jacobs and for Ledgerwood. In answer to a question he replied that "the same parties are interested in Southern Club."

Watt explained that it was the custom at Belvedere to pay its employees "in advance, each day," and that no recorded payroll was necessary. He said many dealers drew \$10 to \$15 a day.

"We knew all these employees by sight," he explained, "and paid them as they came on duty."

"Did you ever pay anyone beside the help," asked the attorney.

"I came on late. If it was done, it was done in the daytime," said Watt.

He supplied the information that "we financed the Kentucky Club's book, but had no part in the management of that place."

"Do you know if the Garland county officers knew you were running?"

"I couldn't say. Everyone knew it."

"Did you ever see any officials in the gambling rooms?"

"No."

"Why didn't the officers raid or make arrests at Belvedere?"

"I don't know."

"Was there any arrangement about that?"

"I can't say. You are asking me to tell you what I know. I only heard talk."

"Did you hear the other owners say anything about that?"

"I don't know."

"Do you know what it means to pay off officers?"

"Yes."

"Do you have any information about that?"

"I might have but such information would not be reliable."

"You know you were never arrested?"

"Yes."

Chairman Thompson then started calling off names of club employees from a list previously supplied by Belvedere.

"I find the name of P. O. Watt," he said. "What relation to the judge?"

"Uncle, I think."

"There's a Buddy Wakelin on the list. What's his relationship to the chief of police?"

"Son."

"Tex Rutherford, on the list here, is a city fireman, isn't he?"

"Yes."

"And also a watchman at the club," said Thompson. "Asked if 'some of these men on the list aren't bodyguards for Mayor McLaughlin,' Watt replied: 'I don't know.'"

"Who is Bob Moore on this payroll?"

"He was a captain of police."

"I find Curley Evans on the roll," said Thompson. "I believe he was on the force, too. And I see he has made an affidavit in Hot Springs saying he is a Holiness preacher."

"He is a pretty busy boy," replied Watt.

Chairman Thompson asserted that he found the name of "Mrs. Herbert Akers" and said she was "the wife of the chief of detectives."

Asked about the continuity of gambling in Hot Springs, Watt testified that "we did not have any gambling when Scott Wood was circuit judge."

Archie Ledgerwood testified that he was one of the partners at Belvedere and Southern Grill. He said he started as an employee but was told by Jacobs in 1932 that since he had learned the business he could acquire an interest if he raised \$12,500.

He said he borrowed the money from Ed Ballard, former circus man, who met death in a shooting in a Hot Springs hotel room last year. Ledgerwood said he had settled the debt shortly before Ballard's death.

Asked about his relationship to Municipal Judge Ledgerwood, the witness testified:

"He gave me plenty of hell for being in the gambling business. I told him that was all I could find to do on account of my health."

"Why didn't the Hot Springs officers enforce the gambling laws?" he was asked.

"Hot Springs is a resort and people come there for health and pleasure. Resorts there were closed

up once before and the people went to Florida."

"That is why I believe the officers were a little liberal."

"You said big names came to Hot Springs. Who?"

"Lots of big people from Chicago, including practically every big politician."

"Ever heard of Al Karpis and his being around the gambling halls?"

"Yes."

"Nash?"

"Yes."

"Galatas?"

"Yes."

"Did the visitors ever win?"

"Yes, the club paid one man \$27,000 in one night."

"Did you ever pay off any officers?" Ledgerwood was asked.

"No," he said.

"Fines?"

"No."

"What business connection did Jacobs and McLaughlin have?"

"They were only friends."

Ed Haupt, Hot Springs, called next, said he worked at Belvedere seven years but had not been there for the last three years. He said he was formerly a sheriff in Garland county.

"Did you ever see Judge Witt at Belvedere?" asked the committee attorney.

"Yes."

Roy Hurst, a minister, of Hot Springs, corroborated Mann's testimony about the pre-primary political meeting.

Asked if any laws were "overrun in Hot Springs," he said:

"Yes, the gambling and election laws."

He said he had asked city and circuit officials to stop gambling.

He said he protested the "pressure meeting" in a letter to Governor Carl Bailey.

Carl Sreeton, auditor for the income tax division of the state revenue department, testified he had examined books and gambling records turned over by the committee.

He presented data from 1936 records of various resorts in Hot Springs and Chairman Thompson asked for the total.

Sreeton said he did not have the total with him but Thompson asked:

"Don't you believe the net earnings would total around \$332,300?"

"Yes, I believe it would be something like that."

He introduced a 13-page audit in the record.

Frank Witt and Bob Faust, state Revenue Department investigators informed the committee that one of their witnesses has disappeared. They said they had obtained a statement from a young woman friend of Jacobs last Wednesday and added that she indicated she would testify willingly. She was to testify as to the "pay-off." They returned Thursday with a subpoena, but they could find no trace of her. Their search continued through yesterday without results. The two were instructed to continue the search.

Representative Campbell told the committee the best business men of Hot Springs, if subpoenaed would testify that Judge Witt was not a drunkard. He explained that Judge Witt had been suffering with bronchial trouble for years and when ill, would remain in bed. This caused rumors of his being intoxicated to be circulated.

"In all fairness to Judge Witt, why don't you call friends of the administration to appear before you? You always manage to get opponents of Judge Witt to come here and tell you things," he said.

John R. Thompson, committee attorney, took exceptions to Campbell's remarks and insisted that he had entered the investigation with an open mind and has been doing his utmost to be fair to both sides. He objected to the insinuation that the witnesses had been hand-picked and added that he did not believe the witnesses who had appeared had falsified.

"Besides, Judge Witt was bound to know all about the gambling houses in his district," he said.

The committee also decided to hear Judge Witt at any meeting which he attends. He was reported ill at his home and unable to appear last night. Several thought it would be best to hear him after all the testimony had been submitted, but the decision was to hear him at his convenience.

SENTINEL RECORD,  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-3-37

# M'LAUGHLIN STILL AT HELM OF CITY

LONG VIGIL AWAITING  
VISIT OF OUSTER  
COMMITTEE FUTILE

## SCOFFS AT RUMORS

Mayor Indicates He Would  
Not Have Stepped Out if  
Resignation Demand Had  
Materialized.—Announc-  
es for Re-election.

Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin stood a long vigil at his office yesterday, awaiting a demand for his resignation which the venerable Arkansas Gazette had predicted would be visited upon him.

Learning Wednesday night of the Gazette's prognostication, which was made by a staff writer who came over to feel the city's pulse, Mayor McLaughlin arrived at his office at 7 a. m. and remained on the scene until 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Little Rock, Feb. 4.—(P)—Usually informed legislative sources said the house committee named to investigate law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and its judicial district held a further secret meeting tonight and the first public hearing on connection with the investigation may be tomorrow night.

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

The Gazette had said a committee of business men would at 10 a. m. yesterday, elect a chairman and spokesman, and call on the mayor to ask his immediate resignation.

Scoffing at the Gazette story which he described as "vicious" and said he believed to be without foundation, Mayor McLaughlin indicated he would not have stepped out even if the demand for his resignation had materialized. He announced as a candidate for re-election, however, and said if the citizens of Hot Springs want his "resignation," they can say so at the ballot box in April.

The Gazette story was written by Joe Wirges, veteran photographer and reporter. The article quoted an unnamed leader in the ouster move as saying that the business men would also like for Circuit Judge Earl Witt to resign. Judge Witt was out of the city yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

On the mayor's desk yesterday was a mound of letters, notes and telegrams which he said came from Hot Springs citizens asking him not to resign. He received numerous telephone calls on the same subject while reporters were in his office.

Efforts by reporters to check up on the reported movement to demand the mayor's resignation, proved fruitless. Business leaders interviewed, asked information instead of giving it.

Scott Wood, former circuit judge and leader of the anti-administration forces, said he knew nothing about the resignation movement.

Meanwhile, there was another development in the many-sided Hot Springs situation when Rabbi A. B. Rhine of the Congregation, House of Israel, disclaimed any responsibility for a resolution adopted Wednesday by the Hot Springs Ministers' Association, voicing op-

(Continued from Page Eight)

...of the ...  
...the ...  
...in view of my ...  
...of taking part in ...  
...I cannot ...  
...the Hot Springs ...  
...day ...  
...in

adopted or of my election as president of the association until I read it in The Sentinel-Record," he said. "In view of my absence from the meeting and my inability therefore of taking part in the discussion that led to adoption of the resolution, I cannot assume any responsibility whatever for the action of the Hot Springs Ministers' Association at the meeting held yesterday."

During the day Mayor McLaughlin issued a statement declaring that "the people of Hot Springs are overwhelmingly for the administration" and that the legislative investigation now going on in Little Rock had failed to produce any evidence against any of the officials, "except whispering political enemies behind closed doors."

The mayor's statement follows:

"I read the story of Mr. Wirges on the front page of the Gazette this morning and whoever the business man was who talked with him must have been an enemy of administration, because the local newspapers have closely checked nearly all of the prominent business people and find that they not only failed to have any knowledge of the so-called meeting of business men, but on the other hand expressed themselves as being supporters of the city administration."

"It would be silly indeed for me to attempt to carry on a controversy with the Arkansas Gazette, but I am astonished that a newspaper of its size and importance would print a story as vicious based on such information, and I can only say that it is very unfair. However, when a man holds public office he must make up his mind not to fight with a newspaper, but to simply grin and bear it."

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

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

"The people of Hot Springs elected me to the mayor's office and the people of Hot Springs will have an opportunity to take it from me in the April election if they desire. It is ridiculous to think that I would be weak enough to resign from the Mayor's office."

"Those who desire to remove me from the Mayor's office will have an opportunity in the coming April election at which time I will be a candidate for re-election."