

PALMER DENIES CHARGE BROUGHT BY BONNIWELL

By Hudson Hawley
United News Staff Correspondent

Washington, June 3.—The spectacle of the attorney general of the United States personally taking the stand to combat charges as to the conduct of his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination survived to no small degree Wednesday's session of the senate subcommittee investigating campaign expenditures. Attorney General Palmer is the second presidential candidate to appear before the committee personally, the first being Senator Joseph Francis of Maryland.

JUDGE LODGES CHARGE
The charges against Palmer, brought forward at the morning session by Judge Eugene Bonniwell of the municipal court of Philadelphia, were to the effect that the attorney general had sent the word out through district attorneys and other appointees of the department of justice that they could "go easy" on the enforcement of the Volstead act and allow brewers, distillers and retail liquor dealers to do practically as they pleased.

Bonniwell declared he could have carried Pennsylvania for McAdoo, whose name he asked his supporters to write in on their ballots, and won the endorsement for Democratic national committeeman for himself, "if it had not been for this sudden unloading of liquor."

CHANCE FOR VICTORY
Whiskey, according to Bonniwell, was released from bond in such large quantities following the alleged passing of the "all clear" signal that the pre-primary price of \$1600 a barrel came down to \$900 a barrel when the campaign was well under way.

"If you don't look out you fellows will elect Palmer president for lowering the price of whiskey," put in Senator Reed of Missouri.

Bonniwell charged that scandalous conditions existed in regard to liquor in Scranton. The brewers make "considerable better" than one-half of 1 per cent beer and the saloons are running wide open, selling whiskey and 3 and 4 per cent beer, he said. He named among others the district enforcement officer, Leon Crosson, Joseph O'Brien, Crosson's brother-in-law; a Democratic leader, and Charles A. Fagan, a delegate to the national convention, pledged to Palmer, as constant and consulting at the law's violation.

PALMER ON STAND
"Are you yourself a Prohibitionist?" asked Senator Reed.

"I am an old fashioned Democrat," the judge replied, amid laughter, "and I believe each state has the right to settle its own domestic affairs. I am an avowedly 'wet' candidate, and opposed to the eighteenth amendment; but at the same time I don't think that a self-respecting citizen can countenance violation of a law, no matter how much he may be opposed to it."

Palmer, in reply, "affirmed" in

Quaker fashion, instead of being sworn, and said that ordinarily he would not dignify the witness by a public appearance to refute him.

JUDGE NOT BELIEVED

"If these charges were made in Pennsylvania I would not answer them," he declared, "because in Pennsylvania Judge Bonniwell's word is not evidence of fact."

He declined to question Bonniwell, but went on:

"All of Judge Bonniwell's talk was spread broadcast throughout Pennsylvania before the campaign. The Democrats of the state knew the whole story, and yet it didn't elect a single delegate for his side. The official count is not

in, but I know that 74 out of the 76 delegates on the Palmer ticket were elected. The reason is plain—the state knew, as you gentlemen have sensed, that these charges were based not on fact but on animosity."

Homestead Rights Of Ex-Service Men Object of Inquiry

Washington, June 3.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL)—The question of affording relief to for-

mer service men who are homesteaders and in danger of losing their rights because of injury or ill health has been taken up by Congressman Sinnott, who has asked the commissioner of the general land office for his views as to whether legislation should be enacted. Congress passed a law to preserve the rights of soldier homesteaders while they were in the service and gave them seven months after a discharge in which to resume their residence once more on their claims. It is now stated that in numerous instances the leeway allowed has been exhausted, and rights are about to be lost because of injury or ill health growing out of military service.

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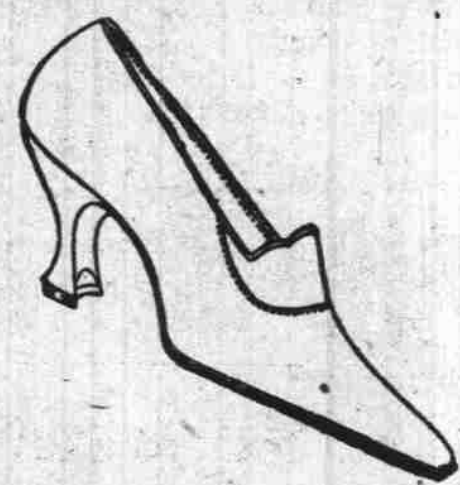
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