

Monitors Said Opposed To Organizing Police

NEW YORK (AP)—The court-appointed monitors of the Teamsters Union are reported opposed to President James R. Hoffa's efforts to organize this city's police force.

The drive also drew heated opposition Wednesday from Mayor Robert F. Wagner.

"I want to make it clear to the people of New York that we will not countenance any attempt at unionization by the Teamsters or any one else," the mayor said.

The New York Times, quoting authoritative sources, said two of the monitors agreed that the attempted unionization is "shocking." They are Martin F. O'Donoghue of Washington and Godfrey L. Schmidt of New York.

The third monitor, L. N. D. Wells of Detroit, who sits on the panel as the Teamsters' own representative, was reported as indicating privately he considered the attempted unionization "poor judgment."

U. S. Dist. Judge F. Dickinson Letts has warned that disregard of recommendations by the monitors could result in the removal of Hoffa and his entire executive board.

He named the monitors to eradicate gangster influence and establish democratic practices within the much-investigated union. It has been expelled from the AFL-CIO on corruption charges.

Hoffa, himself, seemed to be toning down the unionization drive. He said in a statement the union would take in policemen

"only if they come to us." In a letter to O'Donoghue, who acts as chairman of the monitors, Schmidt said he considered the attempted unionization a "piece of unmitigated gall."

Hoffa has announced a nationwide campaign to bring all policemen, firemen and other state, county and municipal workers into the union.

Henry Feinstein, a New York City employee, is leading the organization drive.

Wagner told newsmen he intends to see if disciplinary action is in order for Feinstein. He said Feinstein's efforts to organize the city's 24,000-man police force were "a disgrace" and "dastardly."

Feinstein is supervisor of transportation at \$8,500 a year in the office of the Manhattan Borough president.

Nels Rockefeller Assumes Office

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Nelson A. Rockefeller, the big Republican winner in a Democratic election year, took office today as governor of the nation's most populous state.

The 50-year-old millionaire new comer to politics was sworn in late Wednesday night as successor to Democrat Averell Harriman in a private ceremony in the executive mansion.

Governors-elect of New York customarily are sworn in the night before their inauguration.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



"GEE WHIZ, DAD! ALL I DID WAS DROP THE CAP ON THE TOOTHPASTE!"

Current Road Speed Law Faces Revise By Solons

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—The new year may see the California Legislature vote to raise the state speed limit, abolish cross-filing, and set up a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

But it is not likely to declare a moratorium on capital punishment or repeal the death penalty entirely. Nor is it likely to abolish loyalty oaths or permit the Bible to be read in public schools.

Those were some of the trends to be found in results of a United Press International poll of the 120 members of the Assembly and Senate made a few days before the 1959 general session starts on Jan. 5.

The Legislature will have a new look next year, with Democrats firmly in control of both houses and guided by a Democratic governor, Edmund G. Brown.

As such, it is probable legislation dealing with civil rights, particularly FEPC, will be high on the priority list. So will be a proposal to repeal cross-filing which Democrats long have favored and most Republicans opposed.

The UPI asked the legislators if they favored establishment of an FEPC and, if they did, if they would give the commission enforcement powers and make it a misdemeanor to violate an order forbidding discrimination because of race, creed or color.

Almost 50 of the legislators who replied to the poll said they favored an FEPC and would vote it enforcement powers. Fifteen members said they will not vote for FEPC and 10 were undecided. Most of the opposition came from the Senate.

On a proposal to abolish cross-filing, an election procedure whereby a Democrat can file for office on both Republican and Democratic primary ballots and vice versa, returns showed 35 Democrats and 10 Republicans in favor of repeal while 15 Republicans and only 2 Democrats were against abolition.

More than 50 of the 70 legislators who replied to the poll said the present 55-mile an hour prima facie speed limit should be increased. Most said they favored a flat 65 mile an hour limit. Some said it should be as high as 75 on the freeways but held to 55 on two or three-lane roads.

By a better than 2-1 margin, the legislators said they are against any proposal to make a jail sentence mandatory on conviction for the first time of drunk driving.

A moratorium on the death penalty, approved by the Assembly in 1957 but voted down in the Senate, likely will suffer the same fate in 1959. By a 35-25 margin.

Death Claims Oldest MD

FORT WORTH, Tex. (AP)—Dr. John B. Cummins, who at 100 was the nation's oldest practicing physician, died here Wednesday night.

Dr. Cummins kept regular office hours and made house calls day or night until Sunday when he fractured a hip and ribs in a fall. Death was attributed to the fall and old age.

A native of Tennessee, Dr. Cummins worked his way through college and did not start practicing medicine until he was 38. He held degrees from Britt College, Spencer, Tenn., and Bowling Green Normal in Kentucky. He later received medical degrees from the University of Nashville, now Vanderbilt University and the University of the South (Sewanee).

He began his practice in 1897 in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. He had practiced in Fort Worth for 55 years.

He was a member of the Tarrant County Medical Society. The state group named him "general practitioner of the year" in 1950.

CONTROL REQUESTED

WASHINGTON (AP) — Control of two Oregon radio stations was requested in separate applications filed with the Federal Communications Commission Wednesday.

John A. Carroll filed for acquisition of control of station KUBE in Pendleton, and an application was filed for the transfer of control of station KRMW at The Dalles to Inland Broadcast Co.

Series Of Fires, Blasts Claim Lives Of Eleven

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A series of fires and explosions across the United States took the lives of 11 persons, including six small children, Wednesday night and today.

Six persons, including a family of four, perished in a fire that swept a three-story building in the northside of Rochester, N.Y. Five others escaped. The dead included two five-month-old infants and a girl, 2.

Three children, the oldest 7 and the youngest 4, burned to death when fire roared explosively through a one-story frame house in Quilcene, Wash., a small community about 30 miles northwest of Seattle.

An explosion in a missile propellant plant at Indian Head, Md., killed two workmen a half hour before the new year started.

Two other workmen suffered third degree burns and other injuries. The four were the only ones in the building.

The explosion and subsequent fire virtually destroyed the Navy Propellant Plant 30 miles south of Washington.

At Baltimore, fire swept through a storage building at a state mental hospital, but was checked before it could spread to patients' quarters.

A spokesman for the institution, Spring Grove State Hospital, said 35 patients were moved out of the building three weeks ago because the structure was considered a firetrap. Two members of a volunteer fire department were injured.

A Japanese freighter collided

with a string of oil barges in the Mississippi River south of New Orleans. Explosions rocked the area and the freighter and two barges were set afire.

The fire was swiftly checked by firefighting tugs. Two men aboard the freighter were injured. Thousands fled and scores of homes went up in flames in two devastating brush fires in the hills ringing Los Angeles.

One fire, in a terrifying surge to the sea, laid waste to a nine-mile stretch of Topanga Canyon, destroying 80 homes.

The other raged through the Hollywood hills to the outskirts of the rich residential community of Beverly Hills.

About 2,000 men battled the blazes, both believed to have been touched off in the tinder-dry brush by a firebug.

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