

GOVERNOR FAVORS HOLDING STATE CONVENTION EARLY

Raleigh, Jan. 22.—Governor Hoey, holding his first press conference in almost a month, recommended today that the state Democratic convention be held earlier than usual, so that North Carolina might have "some influential" in the nomination of presidential and vice presidential candidates.

In the past, the state Democratic convention usually has been held only a few days before the national convention, he said, and has "merely rubber-stamped national policies and candidates."

If the state convention meets well before the national session, North Carolina delegates will be able to caucus with delegates from other states and help to draft policies and select candidates, the governor asserted.

May Is Suggested
Hoey suggested that the state meeting be held some time in May—before the North Carolina first primary, May 25.

"By holding the convention in May, we can promote harmony by preventing national issues from getting mixed up in our state primaries," he said.

The executive committee of the state Democratic party will convene here Friday night to fix the date of the convention. The governor, who is recovering from an operation for hernia, said he would not be able to attend, since he will be confined to the mansion for about a week.

Asked whether he thought the unit rule should be invoked by the state convention, Hoey replied: "At the present time, my feeling is that it should not." If the rule were invoked, the state's delegates all would vote for the same man.

He declined to comment when asked whether the delegates should be instructed to cast their first vote "for Olyde R. Hoey." The 1939 general assembly broke precedent by indorsing the governor as a favorite son candidate for President.

The governor said he had been following the North Carolina gubernatorial campaign carefully, from newspaper accounts which he read while he was a patient in Duke hospital.

He still intends, he said, to take no part in the campaign "unless my administration or the record of the party is attacked."

"It has not been and is not my intention to exert the pressure of my office to attempt to select my successor," the governor said.

He declined to comment on a suggestion by Mayor Thomas E. Cooper, of Wilmington, a gubernatorial candidate, that all aspirants speak in public debates, from the same platforms, and that all sign an agreement eliminating a second primary race.

"I have not discussed publicly the suggestions of any candidate," he stated.

Hoey said he intended to appoint, within a week, a successor to Robert L. Thompson, his secretary, who is resigning to become head of the state news bureau, and to the late George McNeill, of Fayetteville, members of the state board of elections.

The governor, who returned to Raleigh from the hospital yesterday, said he felt well, and had lost only five pounds.

Special U.S. Court Session Is Called

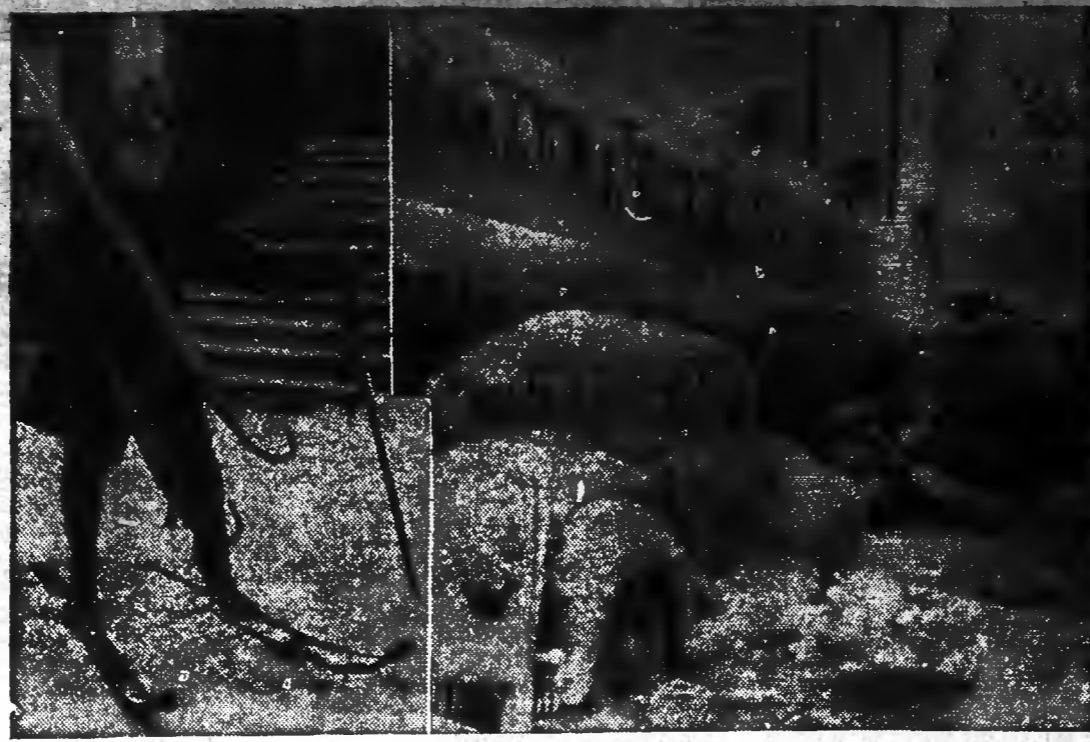
Information to Be Presented By F.B.I. to Grand Jury For Indictments

Winston-Salem, Jan. 22.—Attorneys of the anti-trust division of the department of justice moved into Winston-Salem today in what appeared to be the last lap of an extensive investigation into alleged monopolistic practices of the fertilizer industry.

The main work facing the F. B. I. operatives here is believed to be the preparing of evidence to be placed before the grand jury.

A special term of U. S. district court has been called by Judge Johnson J. Hayes at the request of District Attorney Carlisle Higgins, to convene February 12. A grand jury is to be chosen and is expected to stay in session six months or longer.

Snow, Cold Weather Handicap Windy City Firemen



Subzero weather in Chicago proved a dangerous handicap to Windy City fire fighters recently. Heavy snow and freezing temperatures called for drastic measures. Firemen John Donovan, left, equipped with axes and carrying a ladder, hastens to a fire just outside the city's Loop. Right: A parked automobile sealed with a heavy coating of ice from water sprayed by firehose. After each blase firemen were forced to chop their hoses free from ice-covered streets.

The federal probe which has just centered here was caused by "continuous complaints of monopolistic practices in commercial fertilizer" from (1) farmers' co-operatives, (2) individual farmers and farm groups, (3) unorganized farm groups, (4) dealers and (5) mixers, according to a department of justice statement issued today.

Production and distribution of fertilizer is of paramount importance to the entire eastern half of the United States and to the Pacific coast, said the statement, which spoke of proper fertilizer as a matter comparable in importance to soil erosion in the arid sections of the west.

It has been necessary to send federal agents over a wide territory to investigate present trade practices in the \$200,000,000-a-year fertilizer industry, the department of justice said.

"These complaints come from sources so reliable that they cannot be ignored," continued the

statement. "It appears that the prices of various grades of fertilizers have been maintained with such uniformity as to constitute corroboration of these complaints and to compel this investigation. It is difficult to believe that such prices are the result of a series of coincidences."

Censorship Unable To Delude Russians

Increasing uneasiness in Moscow over home repercussions of Red army reverses in Finland is evident, despite the close Russian censorship.

Just how serious the internal become is a matter of speculation. situation in Russia is or might be. But another major victory for the Finns north of Lake Ladoga, further aggravating Russia's problems, seems impending.

Finnish reports of wholesale Russian bombardment of Mannerheim line positions on the Karelian isthmus attract attention because they might imply another desperate Red army attempt to break through there at any cost.

General Stern, shifted from the Far East by command of Stalin to take over direction of the campaign in Finland, has had a month or more to prepare. If his attack is now to bog down as badly as did that of his predecessor, not only his reputation but that of Stalin, who hand-picked him for the task, will suffer. One escape from that dilemma for both would be a break-through on the main sector of the Mannerheim line, whatever the cost in blood.

Press Changes Tone
That could explain the sudden change in tone of the expressions in the controlled Moscow press as to the objective of Russia. Heretofore, the Moscow papers and periodicals have explained for Russian consumption that Russia was springing to the aid of downtrodden workers in Finland, bleeding under the heel of capitalistic oppression.

Most of the Russian units definitely identified in the Finnish campaign have been from the Moscow area. Advice reaching Washington have indicated that the war in Finland, an exceptionally hard winter in all Europe, and the disruption of Russian transportation as a result of both the war and attempts to fill German orders, has caused suffering in the Moscow region particularly.

Whatever the aggregate of Russian losses in Finland, it seems probable that there are more stricken families in the Moscow vicinity than elsewhere. Add to that the food shortages, high prices, and other unhappy circumstances due to the war, and the cumulative effect politically for the Moscow regime could become serious.

Berlin Troubled
It is also increasingly obvious that the Russian Masco in Finland has seriously troubled Berlin in its own battle with the Franco-British allies. The tense situation in Rumania as a result of diplomatic pressure battle over oil, is an evidence of that. It indicates that the confusion in Russia has diminished German hopes of an assured flow of Russian oil and other commodities.

The Berlin response was to turn the diplomatic heat on Rumania to step up Rumanian oil deliveries. An allied counter-move in the form of a warning against any requisitioning of oil for Germany from British or French owned wells in Rumania has put King Carol and his government in a grave position.

There is a factor about that Rumanian oil situation of serious concern to Berlin, which arises from the present diplomatic tur-

moil. It is the frequently repeated report that British, French and perhaps American oil interests in Rumania have long been prepared to destroy the wells if either Russia or Germany attempts to seize them.

That would be a terrible blow to Germany. The threat of such action may be King Carol's main hope of reaching a solution of his difficulties and averting disaster for his rich but almost defenseless country.

George W. Kizer Dies Suddenly At Lincolnton Home

George W. Kizer, father of Vernon Kizer, of this city, was found dead in bed at his home in Lincolnton, Tuesday morning. Death was attributed to an apopleptic stroke.

He was 80 years of age and throughout his entire life he had never been seriously ill. He was engaged in the plumbing trade and had worked constantly even in his advanced age. He worked all day Monday and retired for the night apparently in good health.

Surviving are five sons: T. L. Kizer, of Granite Falls; Alex H. Kizer, of Brevard; Vernon Kizer, a linotype operator at The Journal-Patriot office in this city; Fred Kizer and George W. Kizer, Jr., both of Lincolnton.

He was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal church in Lincolnton, where funeral service was held Wednesday afternoon, two o'clock. Rev. B. M. Lackey, of Lenoir, a life-long friend of the family, conducted the service and burial was in the church cemetery.

Yearbooks For Home Clubs Are Available

At the February meeting of the Home Demonstration Clubs the yearbooks for 1940 will be available. The yearbooks have been edited by the Home Agent and approved by the County Council. Each book will contain an outline of the programs and demonstrations for each month, calendar of club meetings, officers of County Council and local clubs, recipes and other special information.

This book is based upon the program of work in Wilkes county and will be of special interest to every club woman. The books will sell for 4c each or three books for 10c. Every club woman is urged to have one of these yearbooks so that she will be able to follow the program of work for the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Christy Tedder, of Brushy Mountain township, were North Wilkesboro visitors yesterday. Mrs. Tedder is the new postmaster at Gilreath and the office is now centrally located at the site of the old Brushy Mountain postoffice.

Chas. P. Farmer, Wilson Man Reputedly Rich, Found Dead

Wilson, Jan. 22.—Charles P. Farmer, 77-year-old Wilson man, reported to be worth somewhere between \$150,000 and \$250,000, was found dead in his home here early this morning amid unusual or-like surroundings with dozens of bank statements strewn around the room as the only evidence of his wealth.

He was said to have been ill for several days.

Russell Home Is Destroyed

Firemen Are Handicapped By Zero Weather, Frozen Hydrants

Elkin's first major fire of the year late Saturday night raged unchecked to completely destroy the home of the J. S. Russell family on Gwyn Avenue. Zero weather and frozen fire hydrants combined to hamper firemen in their efforts to control the blaze, forcing them to confine their efforts to protecting adjoining residences which were in imminent danger of burning.

The large, two story, 10-room frame structure burst into flame between 10:30 and 11:00 p. m., and had gained a strong foothold when firemen arrived, and a few minutes later was a seething mass of flame. So rapidly did the blaze spread that only a few articles of furniture could be saved. The home of Mrs. Anna Graham, located nearby, caught fire and was damaged by the flames, smoke and water.

Clearance Sale At Belk's Continues

Belk's department store in this city today announces the continuation of its big January Clearance Sale into February.

Much desirable winter merchandise remained on hand at the end of January and the store management decided to continue the big sales event with a greater reduction in prices on many types of merchandise throughout the store.

Some of the many values are listed in an advertisement which appears elsewhere in this newspaper.

who runs a filling station next door, found the body early today when he went to the house after he failed to see Mr. Farmer come out in the morning as he always did. He was lying on a sofa in a back room with a quilt over him. He lived alone.

An extensive landowner, Mr. Farmer was at one time known as one of the "bears" of the section and dressed always in the height of fashion. In recent years his clothes were almost always in tatters despite his reputed wealth. Fifteen cents in cash was found on the sofa where he died.

In his youth he was an employe of the once famed Branch Time Merchants here and later went into the employe of the United States postoffice here and at one time was assistant postmaster.

In a safe in the home that was wide open a number of papers and cardboard envelopes were found and placed in the custody of the clerk of the court. It was thought that there might be some bonds in these envelopes but they were not opened today.

Friends said today he was one of the "best informed" men of the section.

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