State Capitol News—

Hoffa's Name into Hearings

LINCOLN—Observers are keeping a keen eye on a secondary boycott investigation being conducted by a committee of state senators.

The committee, headed by Sen. Ray Simmons of Fremont, is looking into charges that the Teamsters Union used the secondary boycott, threats of violence and other means to try to force unionization of all truckers in Nebraska.

Throughout the hearings the name of James Hoffa, president-elect of the International Teamsters, has appeared.

Simmons and his committee were told by a parade of truckers that the Teamsters clamped on secondary boycotts—contrary to Nebraska law—to try to make them unionize or quit business.

One of the dangers of any investigation — especially of the type now underway in Nebraska—is that punitive legislation might result—not only harming organized labor, but the state as well.

This is the main problem of those concerned with the labor matter in Nebraska since the state is an infant, compared to others in development of organized labor.

The committee was told the Teamsters put on steam in Nebraska and Texas in 1956 to beat down anti-union feeling among truckers. The theory, several truckers told the committee, was to pick out a few "tough" truckers, an dmake them submit to unionization or "break them financially."

Spearheading the drive, said the truckers, were out-of-state Teamsters men, skilled in the ways of organizing a state.

Many of the truckers said they do not oppose unions, and don't object if their men belong, and furthermore would not and could not legally prevent them from joining.

But, they said, they were picketed by union men when there was no strike by employees of their firm, and intimidated to try to make their own men join the Teamsters when they didn't want to do so.

On the secondary boycott matter, many truckers testified union truckers testified union truck lines refuse to handle shipments brought to a terminal by non-union firms.

This caused delays in shipment and many took "unreasonable" lengths of time to arrive at their destination, it was said. Often shipments became "lost" and were found only after extensive search.

In the past Nebraska union leaders have said they do not condone violence in organizing attempts, and emphasized that charges the so-called violence was the work of union men has not been proved.

They also point to the fact that "hot cargo" clauses in union contracts permit a union to refuse to handle goods shi ed by non-union truck lines.

There were charg at the hearing that national abor relations board orders were never obeyed in the matter of secondary boycotts.

But a union attorney told the committee, temporary court injunctions were obeyed. However, attorneys pointed out that orders of the NLRB resuire supplementary court action to bring about enforcement of them, and temporary injunctions cease when a NLRB ruling is made.

But, the truckers told the committee, court action is a long process—especially in federal courts where many had to go because of the interstate nature of their business—and costly.

Tom Coffeey, now state purchasing agent, but a long-time Alma truck line owner, testified how the secondary boycott and prolonged legal maneuvering forced him to sell his line or face bankruptcy.

Many small truck line operattect the small operator.
ors pleaded for legislation to pro-

But others testifying at the hearing cautioned the committee to go slow on suggested legislation so as not to come up with that which would penalize organized labor and the working man.

* * *

Mentally Retarded—

What is the status of Nebraska's mentally retarded release program? This suestion came up when it was reported in Iowa that several persons, classified as mentally retarded and institutionalized for years, were not actually mentally deficient.

The Nebraska board of control vice chairman, Charles W. Leeman, said the state has been working at the problem of screening inmates at Beatrice for the past two years. He praised a program of Supt. M. E. Wyant at the Beatrice state home. Wyant has been systematically going through diagnosis of patients by skilled professional people and has released 13 patients found not mentally retarded. Six more are to be released.

The 13 discharged were between six and 65 years old. In addition, 103 mentally retarded patients now are on parole in homes close to their own families.

Wyant said there are more patients at Beatrice who could and will be released after due processing and testing.

A related program is going on at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute in Omaha, headed by Dr. Cecil Wittson, state mental health director Wittson said about 16 babies and young children, declared mentally retarded were checked and half found not to be in need of institutional care.

This re-testing program is being carried on also in the state mental hospitals.

Emphasis in Nebraska has shifted from institutionalization to that of early diagnosis and treatment of persons suffering from mental disorders.

* * *

Tax Investigation—

Sen. Terry Carpenter's remark that "almost without exception, county assessors are incompetent, and little more than glorified mail clerks" has not gone unchallenged. Carpenter, as chairman of a legislative council tax law violation investigation committee, made the remark after pubic hearings.

Cheyenne County Assessor Roy Gish, president of the Nebraska State Association of County Assessors, said: "Statements like those credited to Senator Carpenter in the press are utterly and completely ridiculous." There are some outstanding assessors in Nebraska, Gish says.

Carpenter has admitted that some are doing a good job, but says more qualified persons are needed to do what is an exacting and technical job.

Meanwhile, Carpenter made a demand for a special sesion of the legislature to rewrite Nebraska tax laws by eliminating a portion of the constitution.

Gov. Victor Anderson said he is studying the request but is not going to make any hasty decision. Further, the governor wanted Carpenter to submit specific ideas he has in mind.

Carpenter says he is not inclined to do so, and without criticizing the governor, feels as chairman of the committee and a senator he has discharged his duty. The rest is up to the governor and other senators, he said.

Regional Deaths

Ray Pallesen

NELIGH—Ray Pallesen, 87, formerly of Neligh died Monday, November 18, at his home in Riverside, Calif., following a heart attack. Funeral services were held Friday at 2 p.m. in the Congregational church in Neligh. Mr. Pallesen had been a resident of Neligh for more than 50 years before moving to California.

John Schaefer

CREIGHTON — Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, November 19, at Hengstler's Chapel at 9:15 and at Immanuel Lutheran church at Plainview at 10 a.m., for John Schaefer, 91, a long time resident of the Creighton community. Mr. Schaefer died at Lundberg Memorial hospital.

Mrs. Harold Humrich and girls called on Mrs. James Mahon and Marchelle Wednesday afternoon, November 13.

Carnival skating party, Thanksgiving nite, Neligh Rink. 31p30

Riverside News

Rev. and Mrs. William Ross were Friday afternoon callers at the Dale Napier and. George Montgomery homes.

Steve Miller was an overnight guest of Jackie Fry Wednesday, November 20.

Mrs. John Napier and Tommy were in O'Neill Saturday and were dinner guests at the Edward Cuddy home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bennett and Barbara visited Friday evening at the John Napier home.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Reckte visited a few days at the Bill Fry home before leaving for California. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fry took them to Columbus Sunday where they left by train.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink left last Thursday for Denver, Colo., to visit relatives and friends for a few days enroute to California to visit at the Harold and Dale Fink homes. Edna Lofquist is staying at the farm while they are gone.

Mrs. Henry Emsick of Omaha visited Friday at the Bill Fry home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Switzer attended a Foxbilt Feed banquet held at Clearwater last Thursday evening.

Rev. C. P. Turner was at Bethany the past week helping with revival meeting at that place. Mrs. Turner and Wayne attended Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Switzer, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller and Danny and Jay Butler helped Ellen Miller celebrate her birthday anniversaries Thursday evening, November 21.

Mrs. Gerald Wetlaufer and Gary of O'Neill were overnight guests Saturday at the Will Shrader home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Pollock ate Sunday dinner at the Art Busshardt home in Neligh.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Schlotman called Monday evening, November 18, at the Alfred Conner home.

Eddy and Willie Shrader have each bought new chevrolets.

Dennis Napier visited a few days last week at the Rol Hord home.

Mrs. George Montgomery was a Neligh visitor Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Jensen, Janis and Jerry of Newman Grove called last Thursday evening at the Richard Napier home. Dale and Betty Napier were callers.

Lucille and Valonda Biddlecome assisted in serving supper for teachers and their families of Inman school at Inman Wednesday, November 20.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shrader and family ate supper Tuesday, November 9, at Lynn Fry home.

Mrs. Earl Pierson was in Neligh Thursday, November 21. She also visited her mother, Mrs. McClanahan in Brunswick.

Alice and Sharon Schmidt called on Lucille Biddlecome Thursday afternoon, November 21.

Society Meets at Napier Home—

RIVERSIDE — Women's missionary society met last Thursday afternoon with Norma Napier. Lucille Biddlecome reviewed the lesson on "The Truth About Race." Mrs. Butterfield became a member of the society.

Martha Gunter assisted the hostess in serving lunch. Members are to bring cookies and candy to the December meeting

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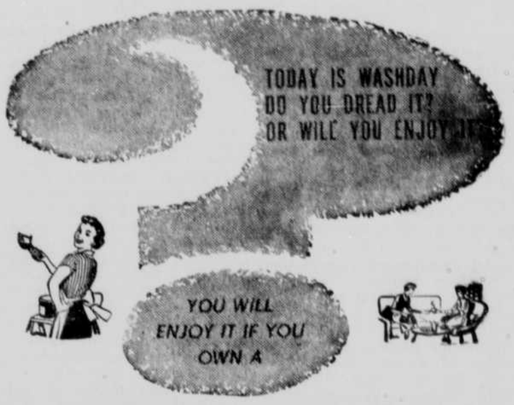

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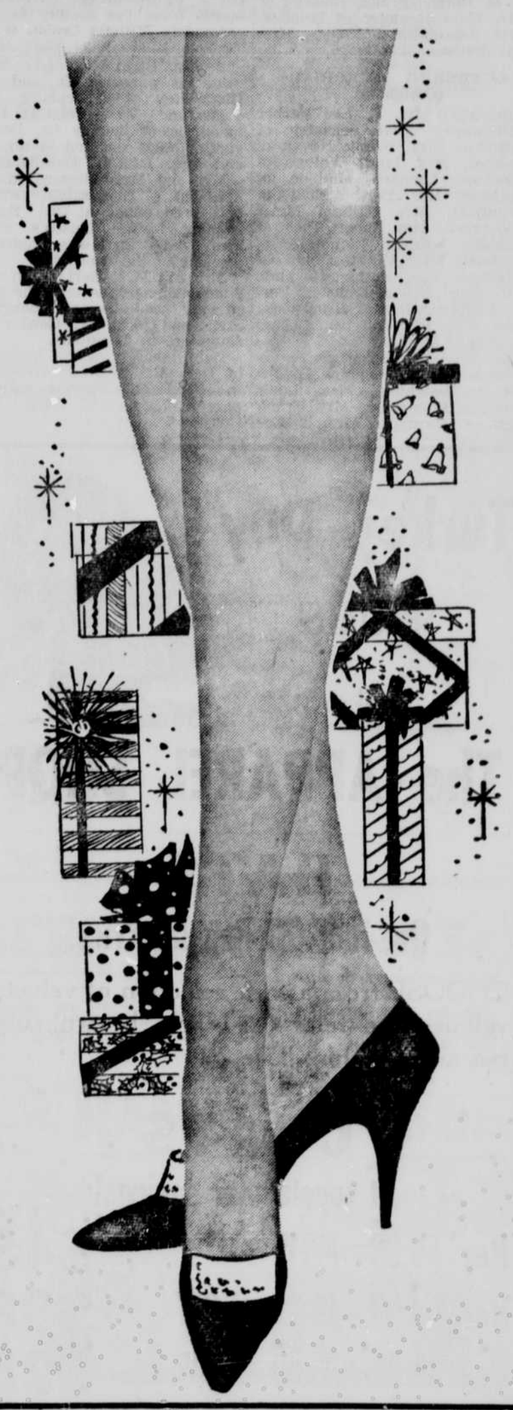
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