



BUTLER CLASHES WITH ZIMMAN IN HOT COUNCIL ROW

"Pie-Biter" One Yells; "Resign," Demands Other, as Allied Candidates Break in Action Over Paving.

The city council chamber was the scene of a stormy session Friday morning when the asphalt plant and crosswalk and sidewalk repairing were transferred from the street department to the public improvements department, at the instigation of Commissioner Towl and against the opposition of Commissioner Butler.

The verbal thrusts and counter-thrusts brought out a new lineup of Butler, Falconer and Mayor Smith as against Commissioners Towl, Ringer, Zimman and Ure. The break between the mayor and his four "allied candidates" of the council was one of the diversifications of the morning.

The principal business of the session was in the form of an amended ordinance, reducing Butler's responsibilities in favor of Towl.

Butler Takes Initiative.
Butler announced at the close of the meeting that he will circulate referendum petitions and call for a special election to prevent this ordinance going into effect.

The trouble was started when Towl proposed that the maintenance and repair of improved streets be transferred to his department. He declared that in his best judgment it would be a matter of economy and efficiency to co-ordinate the repair work with the city engineering department. He disavowed any greed for authority.

Then the commissioners proceeded to burn up a few shavings and say just what was on their mind.

"The engineering department, as now constituted, is rotten; sewers have not been properly tamped and the department has allowed pavements to be laid over untamped ground," Butler began by way of an opener.

Zimman Raises "Holler."

Butler made some reference to an attempt to build up a political machine in the city hall and then Zimman threw a few grenades. He said:

"The charge of building up a political machine is not well taken. We are desirous of building up Omaha and we are going to eliminate certain political leaders and pie-eaters. This ordinance was designed in the interest of economy and efficiency."

"If you are so anxious for economy, I will tell you what I will do: I will resign if you will agree to transfer the fire department to the police department and then resign. The city could get along with five commissioners instead of seven."

Zimman—"If you are tired of public service, Mr. Butler, why don't you resign? I will vote for your resignation."

Butler—"You was a pie biter for a long time, Zimman."

Mayor Demands Order.

Mayor Smith brought his gavel down as hard as he could and announced that unless the commissioners cut out the personalities he would adjourn the meeting.

Ure got into the scrimmage by uttering a Latin legal phrase, "quantum meruit," and several commissioners looked at Ure as if he had been calling someone a name.

Falconer stood up and shook a blotter in Ure's face during a colloquy, while Butler and Zimman were cooling off in their corners. Ringer and the mayor, both lawyers, exchanged a few words over the legal phase of this transfer. Ringer insisted that a policy of economy and efficiency transcended a strict adherence to the letter of the law, while the mayor held an opposite view and expressed surprise at the expression by Ringer.

Friends Break Bonds.

"You can't adopt the policy of what is the constitution between friends," was Mayor Smith's chastisement of Ringer. This twain had been friends all through the recent campaign and up to Friday morning.

"You are trying to pass the buck," was another verbal uppercut the mayor handed across the table. The chief executive of the city had his fighting clothes with him and he did not care who knew it.

Commissioner Towl came back with a rebuttal that the present city council should not hold him responsible for any sins of the former public improvements department. "The trouble has been on account of a political regime not based on efficiency." He estimated that in time the transfer of street repair department to his jurisdiction would mean a difference of \$10,000 a year.

Butler Grows Noisy.

"What do you mean: a saving of \$10,000 a year or an increase of \$10,000 a year?" asked the mayor, acridly. Towl explained that he meant \$10,000 saved a year.

"This street repair department has been turned over to me and I am going to run it. You can't legally take it away from me and if you attempt to do it, I will invoke a referendum and submit the proposition to the people," Butler announced in loud tones.

The ordinance providing for the transfer will go into effect in 15 days unless held up by a referendum petition. Butler said he will fight the case to "the bitter end."

"Lonesome" Club Romance

Ends in Divorce Court

Clarence T. Hurd, manager of the DeBrown Auto Sales company, was granted a divorce decree from Ida Mae Hurd by Judge A. C. Troup in district court Wednesday on grounds of cruelty. The couple entered the lime light at the time of their marriage through their affiliation with the "Lonesome club," at a meeting of which their friendship was said to have been fostered.

Huns Hurl Forty Divisions Into Aisne Battle

London, May 31.—Forty German divisions are engaged in the Aisne battle and 40 more divisions are in reserve, says a dispatch from Reuters' correspondent at French headquarters.

It is possible, the dispatch adds, that the enemy may strike another blow for Amiens or Dunkirk, but for the moment he appears to be throwing his entire strength into the conflict on the Aisne.

Fierce street fighting, it is added, attended the capture of Soissons by the Germans. The city is reported to have been in flames Wednesday evening.

HOME GUARDS GO TO RESCUE OF 2 U. S. PRISONERS

Plainview Angry Citizens Threaten Men Charged With Draft Evasion and Violation of Espionage Act.

Prompt action by the home guards of Plainview, Neb., saved Fred Harlow, 24, draft evader, and Frank Hackbrath, 54 years old, accused of violation of the espionage act, from mob violence, according to J. W. Blezek, chairman of the Plainview Council of Defense. Blezek telegraphed to federal officials in Omaha Wednesday that he was sending the men to Omaha under guard to save their lives from an angry mob at Plainview, which had set out to capture the men Tuesday night. The home guards rallied and by promising that the men would be taken to Omaha the next day the angry citizens were pacified.

Alleged Alien Held.

Harlow is charged with evading registration under the draft law for almost a year. He asserted at Plainview that he was only 19 years old.

Suspecting he was within draft age, members of the Council of Defense secured affidavits from Wakefield testifying Harlow gave his age as 20 in 1914. He admitted to federal officials here that he is 24 years old.

Frank Hackbrath is an American citizen, although born in Bremen, Germany. He has spent 40 years in the United States. He recently went to Plainview from Kansas. He is accused of boasting that he had not contributed a penny to the Red Cross or the Young Men's Christian association and of saying he hoped all American soldiers would be torpedeed before they crossed the Atlantic.

Harlow and Hackbrath arrived in Omaha in custody of H. C. Brees and F. G. Tepner, Plainview.

GENERAL TREAT IS ORDERED TO ITALIAN FRONT

Washington, May 31.—Orders detailing Brigadier General Charles J. Treat to duty in Italy were issued by the War department today.

It was said the orders might be revoked, as they are contingent to some extent on the final assignment of Major General Leonard Wood, who, though assigned to command the western department, probably will be transferred at his own request to a divisional camp.

General Treat is now in command of the western department with headquarters at San Francisco.

Young Bluffs Officer is Killed in Auto Accident

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Benton, 809 Fourth avenue, Council Bluffs, of the death of their son, Lieutenant Charles E. Benton, who was killed in an automobile accident at Gettysburg, Pa.

The young officer was 22 years old. He was a graduate of the Council Bluffs High school and was a junior at the Iowa State university when he enlisted in the service.

He was transferred from Camp Cody, N. M., to the third officers' training camp, where he received his commission. He was later assigned to the tank corps of the army.

No More Rubber Matting is Order of U. S. Rail Board

The United States railroad administration has promulgated a rule that is to send rubber matting and step treads to the discard, so far as future use in connection with railroading is concerned.

The order that has reached the passenger offices of the railroads states that rubber is one of the essentials that will enter into helping win the war. As a result, no more rubber is to be used, in or around sleeping and passenger trains.

Omaha C. of C. Votes to Aid in "Sane" Celebration July 4

The Chamber of Commerce voted to give its assistance to a really "sane" celebration of the Fourth of July.

"We will do all we can to make this a really patriotic Fourth instead of a day for people to blow their heads off with firecrackers," said R. H. Manley.

No detailed arrangements have been made.

Horse Trader Found Guilty Of Shooting With Intent to Kill

Charles Daniels, horse trader, was found guilty by a jury in district court Wednesday of shooting, with intent to kill, Joseph McCool on March 13, following an altercation. He was remanded back to jail and his bonds fixed at \$1,500, pending motion for a new trial.

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