

GVERNOR PREDICTS CHARTER ADOPTION

Sproul Suggests Constitutional Convention as Cure for Philadelphia Evils

CONTRACT CLAUSE RAPPED Reapportionment by Senatorial Districts Also Urged on Legislature

By a Staff Correspondent Harrisburg, May 1.—Passage of the reform program for Philadelphia, backed by Senator Penrose, after certain amendments, was predicted by Governor Sproul in his first interview since his return from Hot Springs, Va.

Criticism of the police commissioner bill, denunciation of the contract clause in its present shape in the Woodward charter bill and a suggestion that members of the proposed single chamber council be elected on the basis of senatorial districts were the high lights of the Governor's talk.

He explained his objection to the police commissioner bill was due to the fact that it "would be a blow at home rule."

His opposition to the contract clause, which would require the city to do its own street cleaning and garbage collection, except when the members of the proposed council voted to award the work to a private contractor, was due to the belief that it "would be a great mistake," and that the people who favor it now would call it "tyrannical" within a few years.

The Governor added that many of the evils which Philadelphia is now suffering should be cured by a constitutional convention, and expressed hope that such a convention would be held.

He also advocated a reapportionment of the senatorial districts to provide for more proportionate representation, and declared it was "a scandal" that there had not been a reapportionment long ago.

Guest of Sadler The Governor, Senator Penrose and State Senator William E. Crow were guests last night of State Highway Commissioner Sadler at the latter's home in Carlisle. It is believed that they discussed more fully impending legislation of state-wide importance.

"When you met the charter revision committee yesterday did you give it any assurance that its program for reform legislation would be enacted into law?" the Governor was asked.

"What they liked best," he said, "was when I said it looked as though they would get their program through the Legislature." The Governor supplemented his answer with the question: "It does, doesn't it?"

Governor Sproul pointed to a bill now in the General Assembly, calling for a commission to study the needs of a constitutional convention and to make a report back to the 1921 session of the General Assembly.

When asked for an expression of views on the police commissioner bill he said: "I have been preaching home rule for Philadelphia for a long time, and while I think the bill is a splendid one in many particulars, there are some provisions I don't like when I know that there is a call for home rule. This bill would be a blow at home rule and would take power from Philadelphia and put it in Harrisburg."

Police Plan Not Practical "If it were possible to provide for a metropolitan police force which would involve several contiguous counties it might be well to do it, but at the present such a plan does not seem to be feasible. It is for all these reasons that I am not so strong for the police commissioner bill. This bill, along with other things, is devised for a special purpose, and the great trouble

with our legislation is that a great deal of it is passed to accomplish a special purpose. "Discussing the contract clause in the Woodward bill, Governor Sproul said: "It would be a great mistake if laws were passed which would permit Philadelphia to award contracts only by a three-fourths vote of Council and the approval of the Mayor. The people who favor such a law would come back in a couple of years saying that the Legislature is tyrannical. Moreover, it might make a great deal of difference when a contract is to be let and the other side has a majority. The trouble is that part of the bills are devised for temporary purposes and to meet the conditions of the moment. It must be remembered that, if enacted into law, they would last for years to come."

"Are you an advocate of the contract clause in the Woodward bill?" he was asked. "I am not prepared to say whether I favor such a clause or not," he replied, "but I think it would be a mistake to hamper things by requiring a three-fourths vote of Council. It is then toward cleaning things up until we get a constitution of rights rather than restrictions. There is now a bill in the Legislature providing for a commission to study the need for a constitutional convention and I hope the measure will go through."

Favors Reapportionment "Have you committed yourself on the twenty-one-councilmen idea?" the Governor was questioned. "No, I have not," he said. "There has been a suggestion made today that the basis for selecting the proposed smaller Council should be by senatorial districts," he was reminded. "That seems to be a handy instrument to solve the situation," the Governor continued. "After the coming election there will be a reapportionment and it is a scandal that the state has not been reapportioned before this. The senatorial districts differ greatly in population, but after the reapportionment they would be more equal. It is very difficult to reapportion the wards, but the reapportionment of the districts would remove the inequality of population."

The Governor is said to favor twenty-four elective councilmen, with the Mayor sitting as the twenty-fifth. By such an arrangement, three councilmen would be selected from each of the eight senatorial districts of Philadelphia. The Governor was informed that certain large leaders complain that the independents would control Council should the members be selected by senatorial districts.

"I do not see why they should," the Governor said, "they haven't a majority of the senators."

Penrose Insists on Speed Senator Penrose said today that he would permit no further delay of action on the Woodward bill and kindred legislation for his home city, and he predicted that the mass of bills would be ready for the Governor's signature within three weeks. His statement on the Philadelphia situation was as follows: "I confidently expect the so-called Brady registration bills and the Wood-

ward charter bills to pass the Senate next week. No reasonable excuse can be maintained any longer for further delay on these measures, either by the absence or the illness of any one. The hope is to bring about the final adjournment of the Legislature either May 29 or, at the latest, June 5. These bills and all the other legislation of state concern can easily be passed in the time allotted. But, of course, further delay might endanger any one of these measures."

"It is absurd to think that important legislation can be throttled by subterfuge and delay. The Legislature cannot reasonably be expected to evade its responsibilities. The Philadelphia measures and all the other important measures will have to be considered and voted upon before the Legislature adjourns. There is no reason why the Philadelphia measures cannot be passed by both branches of the Legislature by the third week in May."

RESEARCH BUREAU RAPS POLICE BILL

Bulletin Warns of Shifting Power of City to State

A bulletin issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research says, by all means, let's take the police out of politics.

"First, take them out of city politics only to put them into state politics. Second, further eliminate home rule of home affairs. Third, risk further abuse of the mandamus writ. Fourth, decrease interest of citizens in municipal affairs by decreasing the importance of municipal affairs. Dissatisfaction with the Police Department is neither a new phenomenon nor is it local to Philadelphia. It is the result of this experiment: Has it worked? Will it work?"

In reply to the first question it will interest Philadelphians to know that at some time or other since the Civil War New York, Chicago, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Boston, Cleveland, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Detroit—as well as a number of smaller cities—had their local control of police taken away and state control substituted. In all but three of the nine large cities mentioned above, the local control was restored by the respective legislatures after periods of varying lengths. In only one case of the nine (Boston) the plan of state control generally regarded as successful, and in that case every one but the merest tyro knows that the fact that Boston is the state capital as well as the metropolis makes the whole situation entirely different.

"Philadelphians are asked to acquiesce in a plan to turn over to the state the control of our police. There is no doubt that many of those who favor this plan honestly believe that it is the best, if not the only way to take the force out of politics, but these citizens have failed to examine the proposal critically. Will some future governor of the objectionable political type (and it is rumored that there have been such in Pennsylvania) make for our city a less partisan appointment as police head than an equally 'political' mayor?"

LEWIS RAPS SEDITION BILL AS DANGEROUS

Proposed Measure Would Quickly Jail Legislators, Says Lawyer

SEES BOLSHEVISM AIDED

William Draper Lewis, former dean of the University of Pennsylvania law school, says in a statement issued today that "there is not a member of the Legislature who would not become a felon every day in the year" if the proposed "sedition bill" is enacted into law.

Dr. Lewis adds that "reactionary bourgeois can go no further" than in the bill, which he believes would operate rather to promote than to prevent the spread of Bolshevism.

Dr. Lewis's statement follows in full: "I want to direct attention to House bill No. 1175, known as the sedition bill, which is now before the House of Representatives at Harrisburg.

"The bill is one of the most extraordinary I have ever seen. When I first read it I was inclined to look at it as a joke, and I cannot yet believe that any one seriously advocates its adoption. Take, for instance, the first sentence: 'Any writing, publication, print, cut, cartoon, utterance or conduct' which tends to incite or arouse discontent against the government of this state or of the United States" is made by this section a felony, punishable by a fine of \$10,000 and by imprisonment for twenty years.

"Who, there is not a member of the Legislature who would not become a felon every day in the year under the proposed wording. Nine-tenths of the political stock in trade of the outs is the creation of discontent with the conduct of the gentlemen who are in office—in other words, with the government."

"I give the author the credit of being thoroughly nonpartisan. We Republicans would go to jail for criticizing the national Democratic administration, but we could get even with our Democratic friends (if there are any members of the Democratic party left in Pennsylvania) because we would be able to place them in jail for tending to create discontent with the state government."

Bill Called Absurd

"Of course, placing the members of the House and Senate in jail was not the object of the author. I suppose that he had in mind the suppression of Bolshevism. A Bolshevik, as I understand, is a gentleman or lady who wants to stir up a minority of the people to overthrow existing governments by violence. His idea is to govern by force of the minority and his business is the promotion of violent revolution. If I have correctly defined a Bolshevik, I have every sympathy with a desire to land him or her in jail. You cannot do it too soon to please me. But for that laudable purpose we do not need this absurd bill. The person who incites others to violence or who organizes for the ultimate purpose of overthrowing our government by violence commits a common-law crime. To protect ourselves against him requires no new statute; it requires the ability to catch the criminal and to prosecute him.

"I am well aware that there is more than one Bolshevik in this country, and yet I do not believe that we are in any real danger of a Bolshevik revolution unless we resist in legislation of which this sedition bill is an example. The real danger of such a bill is that some enthusiastic district attorney will attempt to magnify his office by prosecuting some one who does not believe in violent revolution, but who does dare to criticize in a way which every free man has a right to criticize what he regards as wrong in our state and national laws, and that a jury will be found to convict. At once you will have a martyr, and if you want to have Bolshevism become a real menace all you have to do is to make a few martyrs under the provisions of such an act as the one now proposed.

Menaces Republican Party "Finally, I am a Roosevelt Republican, and would like to see the Republican party stay on the political map. If any one believes that a party responsible for sedition laws such as the one embodied in this bill can long continue to exist in a free country, just let him read in McMaster's 'History of the People of the United States' the account of the sedition law passed by the Federalists in Adams' administration. That sedition law, whose passage and enforcement principally contributed to sweep the Federalists from power forever, was worded so as to make criminal false, scandalous and malicious writings against the government of the United States or Congress."

"The bill under consideration at Harrisburg goes infinitely further than this ill-starred sedition act of Congress. It makes criminal any act or writing, whether true or false, which tends to arouse discontent with the state or national government. Reactionary bourgeois can go no further."

Motor Bandits Busy Again Motor bandits have resumed their operations in West Philadelphia. Two armed men, wearing fur coats, leaped from an auto at Farragut terrace and Chestnut street, and after covering L. R. Baker, of 5732 Walnut street, with their revolvers, relieved him of \$2 in money and a watch and chain, valued at \$25. Warning their victim not to make an outcry, the bandits drove off in their machine.

DELEGATIONS TO URGE MINIMUM WAGE BILL

Various Civic Organization Delegates Will Personally Appeal to Legislators

Delegates will go to Harrisburg May 6 from the Consumers' League of Eastern Pennsylvania and allied organizations to urge the passage of the Craig Minimum Wage Bill.

The judiciary special committee, which has the bill in charge, has appointed that day for a hearing. With the Consumers' League will go representatives of these organizations: State Federation of Women's Clubs, State Federation of Labor, Consumers' League of Western Pennsylvania, Women's Trade Union League, Joint Legislative Committee, Young Women's Christian Association, Civic Club, Labor Committee, Settlement Association, Big Sisters' Association and several other groups.

The Rev. John A. Ryan, formerly of the Oregon Minimum Wage Commission, and now of the Washington, D. C., Commission, and Mrs. Frances Ax-tell, formerly of the Washington Minimum Wage Commission, will come up from Washington to explain the workings of existing minimum wage laws.

The Craig bill was introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate at the request of the Consumers' League of Eastern Pennsylvania. It is modeled on the best of the existing minimum wage laws here and abroad.

The Craig bill calls for a commission of three, one of whom must be a woman, to make a study of wages paid in this state to women and minors. Whenever this commission finds that a wage insufficient to support the worker in health and decency is being paid in a trade, it shall appoint a special wage

board of nine members, representing equally the employers and employees and public. This special board will investigate conditions in the trade and report back to the commission, recommending a minimum wage for the trade.

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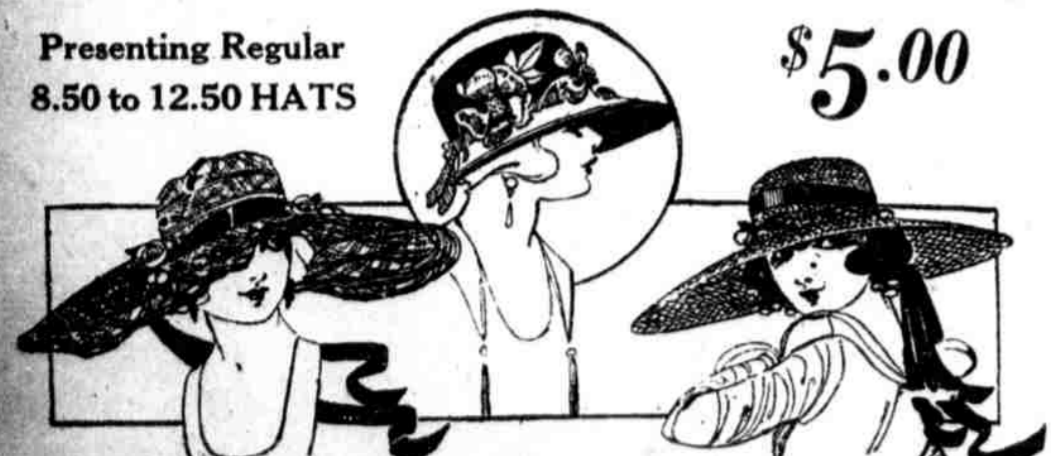
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