

WOMEN SAVE BILL TO BAR FIREWORKS

Committee Hearing, Arranged for Manufacturers, Forced to Recognize Both Sides

APPEALS FOR CHILDREN

Harrisburg, April 13.—Women of Philadelphia and other parts of the State turned out in force yesterday and prevented the State fireworks bill from being quickly and quietly killed in committee.

Headed by Mrs. Frederic Schoff, president of the Philadelphia Child Welfare Association and president of the National Congress of Mothers, they came to the Capitol in large numbers to attend the second hearing on the measure, which would let cities prohibit sale of fireworks.

They were firmly determined to fight for the bill, despite the fact that every effort had been made to have the measure suffer a speedy and noiseless death at the hands of the fireworks makers and their friends.

It was the announced intention of Representative Aaron B. Hess, of Lancaster, chairman of the Committee on Manufactures of the House of Representatives, which has been conducting the hearings, that the floor should be given exclusively to the manufacturers.

But the women demanded that they, too, be heard. At first Mr. Hess protested strenuously. He said the proponents of the measure had had their hearing last Tuesday.

The women made it clear to him that the friends of the bill had not been given a fair chance then, as the time of the hearing had been advanced one hour without notice. They also reminded him of the fact that representatives of the manufacturers had been heard last week. He capitulated, giving half the time to each side.

Following the hearing, which lasted two and a half hours, the committee went into executive session. Later it was learned that it had been decided to have one or two more meetings to consider certain features of the bill.

Bill May Survive
One of the members said: "There is now every chance that the bill will survive. If it does, it is due to the splendid stand made by the women and to the absurd arguments of the manufacturers. Those men are their own worst enemies."

It is understood that if the measure is reported out to the House it will first be amended so as not to go into effect until after July 4 of this year. That step would be taken to protect the interests of the manufacturers by giving them an opportunity to dispose of stocks now on hand.

Besides addresses by women leaders, speeches favoring the bill were also made by Francis F. Burch, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Philadelphia City Council, who represented the body; Fire Marshal Elliott, representing the Philadelphia Public Safety Department; and Senator Dats, sponsor of the bill.

The fireworks men, who had come from New Jersey and Delaware, as well as from all parts of Pennsylvania because, as one of them explained, "lo-

cal option is bound to lead to total prohibition," were headed by Richard J. Baldwin, of Media, formerly member of the Senate and also one-time speaker of the House.

Most of the arguments that were characterized as "absurd" by some members of the committee were advanced by Mr. Baldwin.

Fireworks Men Upheld
Mr. Baldwin told the committee that he was a retired fireworks manufacturer but that he had sold out. He said he now had "no interest whatever in the fireworks business," and had come "just because some of my friends among the manufacturers prevailed upon me to be their spokesman."

Mr. Baldwin did not quote the classic language of O. Schwartzkopf, that "only three children killed as against 15,000,000 packages of sparklers sold is a good average," but he paraphrased it.

"The harmless sparkler," he said, "is, relatively speaking, the most innocent piece of fireworks that could be made. Why, of all the millions of sparklers sold only comparatively few cause the death of any children."

Says Lives Are Saved
Another piece of reasoning presented by Mr. Baldwin which caused much laughter among the women, was that "the fireworks manufacturers do not kill children, but, on the contrary, save children's lives."

"Do not laugh," he exclaimed, somewhat peevishly. "What I say is a fact. If it were not for the harmless sparkler and the other innocent pieces of fireworks now made by the manufacturers, the boys and girls on the Fourth of July would return to the improved playthings that were used when I was a child."

"They would buy a few pennies' worth of gunpowder and take a piece of lead pipe and the poor things would blow their little heads off."

At this point, Mrs. Walter E. Greenwood, of Coatesville, a representative of the Pennsylvania Branch of the National Congress of Mothers, said audibly: "If I were he I should be ashamed to listen to my own voice."

Mrs. Schoff Makes Appeal
The principal speaker for the proponents of the bill was Mrs. Schoff, who made an impassioned plea for favorable action on the measure.

"I don't believe there is a man living," said Mrs. Schoff, turning to the manufacturers, "who wants to make his living by killing children. Gentlemen, I appeal to the best that is in you. What little money you can make by the sale of dangerous fireworks is not worth the lives of the three or four children who die annually in Philadelphia alone as a result of burns they receive from sparklers and other fireworks."

"You have been told the facts repeatedly. Any death hereafter will be on your consciences. The greatest thing in the world today is child welfare. Presi-

dent Harding thinks so and said so. I cannot imagine any man who would not agree with that."

"I do not make an appeal merely as a mother or as a representative of mothers. I appeal to you as fathers. You have little children. How would you feel if a little boy or girl of yours would die in agony after playing with one of your 'harmless sparklers'?"

Mr. Burch told the committee that the City Council, the Mayor, the City Solicitor and the Director of Public Safety of Philadelphia were solidly and wholeheartedly in favor of the bill.

ROW OVER RIGHTS BILL
Advocate at Hearing Denies Negroes Seek Social Equality
Harrisburg, April 13.—An exciting public hearing took place in the Senate chamber yesterday, when proponents and opponents of the Asbury Equal-Rights Bill met and argued their case under the tension of avoiding racial issues that often threatened to crop out. The chamber was densely crowded and there were constant outbreaks of applause and condemnation, the latter frequently taking the form of hissing.

Senator Barr, of Allegheny County, took the lead in opposing the measure among the committee members. Toward the end of the speech of Representative Asbury, sponsor of the bill, Senator Barr took him to task for some of his utterances. He characterized the measure as a "forever" bill.

In defending the bill Representative Asbury said the legal objections raised against the bill were non-existent and cited a decision of the Supreme Court of New York to prove it. "The proposed law," he said, "was a copy of the New York law. He denied, as did E. L. Vann, of Pittsburgh, a succeeding speaker, that the Negroes wanted social equality."

"We only want our rights," he said. "We might have got them if we had picketed the White House during the war or insulted the President. And now that the war is over those who embarrassed the Government say us picketers a decision of the Supreme Court of New York to prove it. From now on we vote for ourselves. Thank God, we have found a leader and from now on the Negroes of Pennsylvania stand united to a man."

John P. Connelly, formerly City Solicitor of Philadelphia, appeared in opposition, representing the hotelmen. He said the bill had grave defects from a legal aspect and that it could not be enforced. He attacked the "assumption of guilt" feature of Section 2 and the feature of Section 4 which, he said, would allow a person in Allegheny to bring a hotelman of Philadelphia across the State to face prosecution.

50 BILLS APPROVED BY N. J. GOVERNOR

Rejects Measure Fixing Standards for Manufacture of Ice Cream

ROAD PROPOSAL IS VETOED

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger
Trenton, April 13.—Continuance of the present tax of one mill on each dollar for valuation for road purposes as authorized under a House bill signed last night by Governor Edwards.

He also signed Assemblywoman Laird's bill granting women equal privileges in holding state offices or employment.

Bills to add approximately 500 miles to the present highway system were disapproved. The governor also refused to sign Senator Runyon's bill fixing standards for the manufacture of ice cream and condensed milk.

Other measures to meet executive disapproval were those increasing the salaries of judges of the Court of Errors and Appeals from \$20 to \$30 daily; establishing a procedure for recounts in congressional districts and permitting judges to appoint interpreters in counties of the first class; providing for arbitrators to settle disputes as to contracts between any state commission or body and any firm; authorizing United States to condemn lands at Camp Harrington; shortening the term of office of water works; repealing all acts inconsistent with Van Ness prohibition laws; police equipment and firemen prohibited from soliciting money while in uniform.

Among fifty bills approved were: Ceding to federal government jurisdiction acquired near Metuchen by the ordinance department; increasing salary of steward of Burlington county poorhouse; increasing county auditor's salary in Burlington; requiring industrial establishments within watershed of potable streams to obtain permit from health department; counties to outline

advance program for highway improvement for approval by State Highway Commission; regulating appointments to institutional boards; appropriating \$10,000 for closing Turtle Gut inlet; fixing salaries of county tax boards; permitting women to vote at school elections; free disability for soldier bonus claims; appointment of a building commission where no building codes are in effect; appointment of additional fish and game wardens; school children to use armories; State Highway Commission to enter into agreements with owners of toll roads and bridges before taking them over; pension of \$300 to widow of Assemblyman-elect John D. Rosser, of Hoboken; State House Commission to have power to condemn land.

MRS. PULITZER ROBBED

Widow of Publisher Lost Gold Clock on Cannes to Paris Train
Paris, April 13.—By A. P.—Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer, widow of the American publisher, and her companion, Miss Maud Alice Macnrow, were victims of a robbery on a train on its way from Cannes to Paris last night, says the continental edition of the Daily Mail. Miss Macnrow awoke during the night and saw a man fumbling at her baggage. He fled, dropping a jewel case, but carrying with him a very valuable gold clock.

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IRISH ATTACK CORK PRISON

Assault Repulsed by Machine Guns, Guards Not Injured
London, April 13.—By A. P.—Armed men attacked the eastern wing of the prison in the city of Cork last night, and were repulsed only after bitter fighting, says a Central News dispatch from that city.

When the attack was launched the military guard sent up very bright lights to illuminate the vicinity, and soldiers on the ramparts used machine guns upon the assailants of the prison. The firing lasted for ten minutes, after which the attacking party disappeared. One of the civilians was believed to be wounded, but there were no casualties among the prison guards.

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