

WOLFARTH REGIME COURTS DISASTER

BURDINE'S EXPECTED PROFITS ARE DOWN 60%, EMPLOYEES TOLD



Vol. XXIII, No. 52—Miami, Fla., Saturday, September 10, 1949 Reubin Klein, Editor 10c a Copy in Greater Miami, Elsewhere 15c

'CLOSED' POLICY STAND REVERSED BY M. B. HOTELS

THE Miami Beach hotel men are busily engaged in obtaining signatures from operators and businessmen of Miami Beach—asking, pleading with, begging the city council (and all other controls) to re-establish the Beach's historic "liberal policy" in order to vitalize the sagging Season.

This is an about-face of the position taken when the new council was inaugurated. At that time the hotel owners backed the resolution passed by the council asking that all laws be enforced (meaning the anti-bookmaking law).

Now they see—too late, perhaps—that Miami Beach in abandoning its liberal policy sheds too much of its tourist-appeal glamor. They have suddenly become aware that Miami Beach might suffer the fate of Atlantic City and Saratoga, both of which were ruined by half-baked reform waves, and never again recovered their old-time prestige.

The necessity for a liberal policy in a pleasure resort is high-lighted by the fact that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, of New York, a dyed-in-the-wool conservative—a man who obtained his political power by prosecuting law violators—PERMITS a liberal policy in Saratoga these days!

Gov. Dewey knows that Saratoga ceases to be Saratoga without a liberal policy.

Nay, he does not permit—nor does he condone—but he ADVOCATES a liberal policy there!

Beach moguls have been gambling with our entire state's future . . . for Miami Beach is not just Dade County's main tourist attraction, it's the state's main tourist attraction!

Every advertisement the state broadcasts inadvertently advertises Miami Beach—because it is THE vacation spot of America! . . . the U. S. RIVIERA!

If it is hurt, the entire state suffers!

OUR Prosperity Plan

WE SPEND billions of dollars "priming" business . . . not only our own economy, but that of the world. From all sides come various proposals for creating prosperity.

Now we don't profess to be economists.

We don't know whether or not the country could stand the kind of experiment WE are about to suggest, but we DO know that if the country COULD stand it, unorthodox as it may seem, it would provide full employment and great prosperity.

Here it is:

Instead of raising or lowering income and excess-profit taxes, let's permit every family, every wage-earner, every man who makes money, to exempt ALL the money it takes him to live on.

Encourage him to SPEND money. (Uncle Sam now seems bent on making it impossible for him to spend it.)

Charge up the lost taxes to pump-priming.

Under present conditions, if a man makes \$10,000, from \$2,000 to \$3,000 of it may go

in income taxes. He's only exempt a few hundred dollars for each dependent. Therefore he has to HOARD money in order to have enough to pay income tax.

Yet if this didn't stare him in the face, he would spend the whole \$10,000! . . . he'd hire servants, buy a car, buy more clothes, travel, consume more of everything! . . . (of course, he'd have to prove he spent that money—he must have receipts, etc.) . . . There'd ensue an ORGY of spending the like of which has never before been experienced in the history of the world.

And this would happen:

Everybody would be working.

Everybody would be enjoying the fruits of earning money.

If worse came to worse, a small federal sales tax of only 1 or 2 per cent could be imposed on transactions above \$1. for the sake of transferring the tax from a harmful category into a healthy one.

It would make for a REAL prosperity.

Who can deny it wouldn't?

Enforce ALL Laws? How About Our ANTI-Cigarette Ordinance!

MIAMI'S Anti-Cigarette ordinance, long on the books, is not enforced. There is no cry against its non-enforcement from the preachers, from the civic organizations, women's clubs, Junior Chambers of Commerce, Crime Commission, bar association, and publicity seekers in general, civic-minded leaders and buttinskies, and all others who showily profess to be concerned about the people's welfare.

Yet it has been definitely proved (see the January Reader's Digest for a complete summary of the case against cigarettes) that cigarette smoking is a direct cause of cancer of the lungs. It has been proved that the average smoker's span of life is ten years less than the non-smoker's.

Here's the Miami ordinance on the question:

859.06 SALE OF CIGARETTES AND WRAPPERS TO MINORS

No person shall sell, barter, furnish or give away, directly or indirectly, to any minor, any cigarette, cigarette wrapper or

any substitute for either; or procure for, or persuade, advise, counsel or compel any child under said age to smoke any cigarette. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, for the first offense, upon a conviction thereof, be fined not more than fifty dollars; and for a second and any subsequent offense, upon a conviction thereof, be fined not more than one hundred dollars nor less than ten dollars, and to which may be added imprisonment in the county jail for any period not exceeding sixty days.

1 So in Fla. Statutes 1941. Probably should read 'persuade'.

859.07 DUTY OF OFFICERS TO ENFORCE S 859.06

Sheriffs, constables, their deputies, or any police officer shall enforce the provisions of S 859.06, and he may summon any minor who may have or had in his possession any cigarettes or cigarette material, and compel him to testify before the county judge or any justice of the peace as to where and from whom he ob-

WE HAVE a crisis—almost before the Mayor Bill Wolfarth administration has found the way to City Hall from Herald Editor Pennekamp's whipping-room.

To pay off his political debts to the Herald & Gang, Mayor Wolfarth MUST:

(1) Increase the water rates, so that many millions in water bonds can be sold (Wall St. wants this done first!);

(2) Perfect Consolidation, at least to the extent of consolidating the offices of county and city tax assessors and tax collectors—through which much of the tax burden will be AUTOMATICALLY shifted (as MIAMI LIFE has warned) from Downtown Business (largely owned by out-of-town interests) to the shoulders of Miami home-owners;

(3) Throw up the usual smokescreens with which these big STEALS have been hidden in the past . . . anti-gambling crusades, Capone-gang scares, graft hints, etc.

But the puny minds that devised this strategy have started something they didn't anticipate.

An accompanying story tells what's happening at Miami's Biggest Store this Christmas—where a SIXTY PER CENT DROP in anticipated profits has affected several hundred employees—and what is happening in other big stores downtown.

Here we are—in a serious business depression—just as the Season gets under way, and a Herald-dominated commission begins trying to squeeze still more blood out of an impoverished citizenry.

Mayor Wolfarth—who began his administration by attempting to "spot" his predecessors (the BEST administration the PEOPLE of Miami EVER had)—is getting the tables turned on him.

He—elected upon his reputation as a good business man—has instituted a policy that is helping RUIN his fellow businessmen!

IN OUR opinion, every commissioner who voted in favor of the two much-publicized resolutions this week declaring that we were going to be hell on every kind of law-violator this winter, held his tongue in his cheek . . . including the honorable mayor himself. Certainly they must realize their resolutions stigmatize the former administration, City Manager Hart, and Police Chief Healey. Why didn't someone point this out?

Oh, well!

You'll find that the same policy that has prevailed in Miami for the last 25 years anent gambling, will continue. Watch and see.

These anti-liberal tirades of the Herald political clique, of which Mayor Wolfarth is now a blood-brother, are only, as we have said, a SMOKESCREEN device. The Crime Commission has been using it for a year or more to keep people's minds off the issues affecting their pocketbooks. But the disgust of the public has become so evident that much of the CC's financial support has now been withdrawn. . . . Our understanding is that the newspapers won't pay off any more. Also that the radio stations have grown cold, only a few of them now carrying the Commission bias, and these at scattered intervals, which, of course, destroys the former effectiveness (?) of a combined, simultaneous broadcast. And by the way, stops some luscious salaries.

MIAMI LIFE warned many weeks ago that these Herald political strategists were courting disaster and that our economy might suffer.

We warned that, after all, tourists don't HAVE to come to Miami—and, in fact, WON'T come here if we make it as dreadfully STRICT and as FOREBODING as our venomous dailies had made it appear throughout the country . . . that we must not REGIMENT our customers—or we'll lose them!

Businessmen on both sides of the bay, comparing figures with years past, must feel by now that our warnings were well-founded.

Some day—perhaps soon—good judgment will prevail and an intelligent effort will be made to recapture some of Miami's LOST LUSTRE.

But remember Atlantic City! Remember Saratoga!

Here were two sterling resorts that Blue-Noses overcame for awhile, and ruined.

The Blue-Noses in both places were later discredited and vanquished—but Atlantic City and Saratoga NEVER "came back" as MAJOR resorts!

Publicity-Mad Niles' Dreams Fade

"TURKEY money" payments by hotel operators in the Greater Miami Area will be fought with bolstered finances and manpower by the Greater Miami Hotel Association during the administration of newly installed President Frank Henry, seeking stronger legislation to outlaw the practice.

Leonard K. Thomson, former Mayor, will head the "legislative committee" of three members of the Greater Miami Hotel Association.

BUT—conspicuous by his absence from the committee is Peter Niles, erstwhile acting chairman of the turkey money committee during the administration of President Carl Meeks.

Niles could count two blasted dreams—one of a city commission seat and the other of heading a "turkey money" fight with a bankroll of \$25,000 to \$30,000 as head of a group successor to a committee formed last June and killed in November.

MIAMI LIFE cracked the first dream by exposing Niles' questionable and underhanded tactics in trying to get evidence against taxi drivers through one of their own number, Robert Morningstar, last July and August. Morningstar was a Yellow Cab driver, but MIAMI LIFE'S expose forced him into the shelter of a job at the Patricia where Niles is manager. This unfavorable publicity decided Niles against the political try.

Niles' second dream was broken up by the board of directors of the hotel association and the

NILES, it is reported, took Wolfarth around meeting hotel men prior to election. This lends credence to rumors this week that Wolfarth was planning to slip Niles in as safety director.

president, at a board meeting on November 25 and in a letter from President Henry to the board on December 14, abolishing the "turkey money" committee and creating the legislative committee to be headed by Thomson.

Niles bowed out at the Otto Fischer trial on December 15 and 16, when Fischer was acquitted by Municipal Judge Cecil Curry of a charge of paying "turkey money" to an investigator posing as a taxi driver under Niles' direction.

Niles was given a rough going-over by Abe Aronovitz, attorney for Fischer, during Niles' testimony as a witness for the defense—to bring out the story of recording conversations in connection with the Fischer case—and during Aronovitz's closing argument.

"This man (Niles) should be prosecuted in the State court for conspiracy," Aronovitz told Judge Curry. "Any rat who is low enough to gather his friends together to hear a playback of a conversation involving Fischer's case is lower than the worst turkey money operator and the lowest crook. What he told Sam McCreary is as low and contemptible as can be imagined." (He was referring to an alleged attempt by

no concerted action on the part of officials, churches, civic reformers, newspapers, etc., is this:

The Tobacco Trust CONTROLS our newspapers through huge advertisements. The Trust BUYS the newspapers' silence—though those same newspapers may loudly run some lowly bookmaker to cover and accuse officials of bribery in connection with the bookie's operations!

Yet these journals are guilty of taking a more reprehensible libel, from the Tobacco Trust. That's precisely what it is—a bribe—a bribe that affects the people's welfare and health.

So when you hear the politicians and the newspapers raise Cain over this or that supposed evil, you will always notice it's something involving MONEY and PAYOFFS.

They don't give a hoot for the well-being of the public.

For non-smokers are still in the majority, and you'd think they would demand that the DOCUMENTED evils of tobacco be paraded in front of our school children from the first grade on, so that in another generation or two addicts of "the filthy weed" would lessen rather than double and triple and quadruple.

The mere fact that it is the hardest to break of all habits is in itself incriminating.

Now the reason why there is

Niles to force McCreary to testify in the Fischer case by saying he had a recording of a talk between Niles and McCreary.)

Meanwhile, Attorney R. K. Bell had been employed for a \$500 fee as counsel for the committee on August 12, on motion of Niles, seconded by Mr. Henry. Bell's letter dated August 8, stated that the \$500 would cover past services and explained the legal procedure to be followed in the turkey money cases.

(Bell also represents the association in a fight to declare invalid the law requiring licensed painters to do all work in Dade County except that done by owners of property themselves. This case is now under advisement by Circuit Judge Herin.)

Doug Raff pointed out at this meeting that in the future any committee publicity should clear through the president's office. Sid Pickard seconded the motion, which was adopted after an amendment by Fischer was added providing that all press releases be cleared through the president.

On September 9, Niles was authorized to prosecute one case in Miami Beach and "if there was evidence against a hotel member of the Greater Miami Hotel Association in Miami, to proceed to prosecution, as we want those in our association to be beyond reproach."

At a meeting on October 28, Niles reported that expenses of (Continued on Page 8)

BIG STORE HURT

Last Tuesday Burdines, Miami's largest department store and bellwether of commercial store earnings for South Florida, dropped a financial bombshell among its several hundred employees.

The store notified its employees by bulletin that Christmas bonuses, anticipated by the employees and considered by them as actually a token payment for extra holiday season effort, would be drastically cut.

In making the announcement the store officially, over the signature of John F. Glick, personnel director, asserted that its normal expected profits had been reduced by SIXTY PER CENT.

Officials of other stores when interrogated by MIAMI LIFE reporters, supported the Burdine action, although expressing surprise that the huge store would admit or claim profit reductions as high as 60 per cent.

Some of these stores have customarily given employees of years service small money gifts during the Christmas season.

Few said they would reduce the small amounts given workers.

BURDINE OFFICIALS REFUSE COMMENT

Burdine officials refused to comment on the bonus reduction, saying that "it is the store's business and nobody else's."

Glick's bulletin says "The gift this year is not as large as in previous years due to greatly increased expenses and lower volume of sales, and thus profits reduced over 60 per cent."

MIAMI LIFE without comment prints the pertinent paragraph of the Glick bulletin:

1. Employees with continuous service between six months and one year (hiring date between January 1, 1949 and July 31, 1949) will receive \$5.00.

2. Employees with continuous service between one year and two years will receive \$10.

3. Employees with continuous service of more than two years will receive one half a week's pay with a maximum of \$25.00 and a minimum of \$12.50.

The bulletin pointed out that employees whose regular work schedule calls for less than 24 hours per week are not eligible for the "bonuses."

To Drink Or Not Is The Question

Miamians, like people all over the world, like to bend the elbow at bars, in cocktail lounges, in home beer and scotch parties and, in the lower reaches of the city, canned heat is by no means scorned by the dime cadgers, derelicts and bleary-eyed disciples of hopelessness that betimes crowd our jails.

The number of drunks are on the increase as are the persons who have developed alcoholic hungers to the point where it often substitutes over long periods for more substantial rations.

MIAMI LIFE this week interviewed a doctor with pronounced opinions about drinking. To him were propounded a number of questions, answers to which might interest the character who wakes with a hangover and a dull wonder: "Where's this getting me?"

Are there such animals as Take It or Leave it Drinkers?

Yes. There are persons who are social drinkers. They use alcohol in moderation because it affords a reasonable amount of pleasure and can be considered among life's little provisions for fun.

When is a Drunk? Some people can drink more than others. But, all persons are in danger of drinking a lot more than they need to get the "lift" of alcohol.

Moderate drinkers rarely have more than .05 per cent of alcohol in their blood. Above that up to .15 is the dangerous point where faculties and physicality may be impaired.

What Is Alcohol?

Answer: I presume you aren't asking for a chemical description. Alcohol is a depressant and tends to dull inhibitions. The dulling of inhibitions tends to raise a temporary feeling of physical and mental well being; but, it is an anesthetic. It can and does appear to reduce mental and muscular fatigue, but since fatigue is the result of toxicity the fatigue becomes greater when the alcohol wears off.

What Is the Strongest Drink?

Rum is strongest, if by that potency of effect is meant. Gin, scotch, rye and brandy are next in their influence on the body and their personality.

ALCOHOL NOT A SEX STIMULANT

Is it true that alcohol stimulates the sex instinct? Far from it. It releases inhibi-

tory blocs which incite a person toward a more daring idea of sex, but alcohol actually can make a person impotent.

How Can a Person Know When Alcohol Is Damaging?

There are tests. Try, for instance, adding up a column of figures on a day when cold sober. Add another column after a spree. Addition is slow and becomes progressively slower as more alcohol is taken aboard. Errors are more frequent.

Does Alcohol Hurt Nursing Mothers?

In moderation, no. If it interferes with food intake, which is excessive drinking it does, then the child may suffer.

Does Drinking Cut Down Life Years?

Only in the case of heavy drinkers. And heavy drinking has to be defined by the degree of drunkenness experienced, and by the amount consumed. In general, the person who drinks because he feels he has to is a heavy drinker. His chances for long life are cut down.

Should the Old Drink?

Better not to drink at all; but, tests among old people show beneficial results from moderate alcohol intakes. For one thing, alcohol dilates the blood vessels, permitting easier heart action, and it stimulates appetite.

Does It Affect the Kidneys, Heart or Liver?

There is hardly any scientific reason to believe it does. Excessive use of alcohol can and will produce heart flutters, intermittent beats and a sense of cardiac fullness. But, there is little evidence that the heart is impaired in moderate to slightly above moderate drinking. The kidneys will eliminate more frequently under alcoholic stimulus but seemingly does not cause any organic changes.

How About Ulcers?

Alcohol won't cause ulcers, but, depend upon it, it will irritate ulcers already there.

Organically, alcohol, even in large amounts, indicates no marked or alarming organic changes in the body. It's harm and danger is mental, for it does depress brain centers and car lead out, as sociological and court records show, to psychopathic conditions.

Florida ramie is now being used by James Simpson of Eustis, to make superior fishing line which will not rot and is stronger when wet than when dry.

You May Have Social Security Money Coming

ARE you among the thousands of Americans entitled to Social Security payments? If you can't answer that question MIAMI LIFE's Washington correspondent may be helpful.

Sums as high as \$85 per month are waiting for thousands of persons in the United States treasury. Surprisingly less than half of the people entitled to collect have asked for their due.

The Social Security system started in 1937 to provide wage earner benefits to start when a person is 65 years old. Since then employers and employees have been in to the SS fund. Most occupations are within the SS benefit blanket, but there are exceptions, namely, self employed persons, domestic work, government service and agricultural pursuits. These are the main exemptions from benefits at age 65.

Here is how SS works. Study it and see where you fit in.

The Social Security administration credits to individual accounts, each bearing an SS number, the amount of wages a person has earned and the taxes deducted for SS purposes for every three-month period. Individuals are insured for twice the time actually worked.

Thus, for every three-month period you have worked and earned a minimum of \$50 SSA insures you for that period plus three months more.

A wage earner dies. If he has earned \$50 in half or more of the quarters for three years before his death his family has some money coming from SSA. Minor children automatically become entitled to monthly checks until 18 years of age. In many cases the widow gets a check until all the children have reached 18. Widow payments may stop when children have reached 18, but may be picked up again when she reaches 65. The widow payments are paid, when paid, so long as she does not marry again or as long as she is not in an insured job.

FORMULA FOR KNOWING HOW MUCH YOU CAN GET

Benefits vary, of course, depending upon the wage earner's age, how long he or she has worked and where and in what occupations. A rough formula, however, goes like this:

Taking Jan. 1, 1937, or the period in the year when you became 21, put down the years in three month periods to the period in which you became 65 years of age.

Make a square for every year and divide this square into four parts. These parts each represent a three months period. If you earned at least \$50 in any of these periods place a check mark in it.

Now add up the check marks. If half or more of the three-month squares are checked by age 65 then you and your family are sure of some money every month for the rest of your lives.

The amount you get will depend on what you have earned in each of the check marked periods.

Social Security insurance is not charity by any means. You, as a taxpayer, have set aside certain amounts every few months through employer deductions or, as it is better known, the withholding tax. It is your money to be used at a time when it will

come in handy. The SSA advises every working American to learn what social security means. To find out exactly where you stand the SSA drop a postcard to SSA in Baltimore, Md., giving your social security number. The SSA will report back to you just how your account with the future stands and what you can expect. A report should be asked for at least once every four years. If you are nearing 65 you should ask for status clarification right away, for there are inevitable red tape delays.

MIAMI LIFE cautions against waiting for the government to automatically inform you of benefits due. The SSA cannot keep track of everybody. It is up to you to find out where you stand.

MUSIC DIRECTOR REVIEWS CRITICS, LIFE IS PRAISED

MIAMI LIFE had hardly hit the streets Saturday or been delivered to the homes before our telephone rang. The caller was no less than the distinguished Modeste Alloo, director of the University of Miami Symphony Orchestra. We began having a tremolo as we expected he would start using the baton on our head because of the somewhat facetious account we had given the premier rendition of the Klaus Egge symphony No. 1, Opus No. 17.

Instead he made our right ear burn nicely by singing the praises of such honest and readable reviews which speak out with the opinions of an ordinary guy in the audience. In fact, he didn't hesitate to say that these LIFE reviews were better than the high brow criticisms in the daily newspapers written by the experts, and which, at times, keep people away from the concerts by giving out with what seems to be learned knocks against performances that others might enjoy.

Mr. Alloo, whose first name is quite properly Modeste (modest) explained that during the summer he goes over old and new scores as selections for the coming season, and he believed his aggregation (one of the finest in America) should branch out occasionally on the untraveled paths and take up the less known modern works. People used to walk away from the Bach and Beethoven compositions in their early days, because they were displeased—they were too modern or something, he said.

The Egge symphony (as we wrote) was typical of the Norwegian cold and likewise of our rumble and roar of today's civilization. It deserved to be played and many were enthusiastic about it, while others revolted, he said. It was expressive art of now and he questioned the right of music critics to denounce it.

By going into these new studies and laboratory work, the orchestra is more rounded out and this has helped make it one of the truly great aggregations in the United States. He was glad to know that we recognized it as such, whereas the daily critics go wild over the visiting paid stars, who naturally ought to be fairly good. To us the orchestra is always the feature. Thanks for calling, Mr. Alloo!

LET'S FACE SEX FOR WHAT IT IS

By MARK WELL

IN a recent editorial MIAMI LIFE suggested that a sane way to cut down the number of revolting sex crimes here and elsewhere in the nation would be to permit and supervise prostitution.

I have had occasion to scan MIAMI LIFE readers' letters pro and con on the subject. Surprisingly, many of the letters favoring controlled prostitution came from ministers and persons who signed themselves "church-goer."

In the main, those who blasted MIAMI LIFE for taking its stand, disclosed an astonishing ignorance of sex as a problem. The writers are mentally living in medieval times of chastity belts, no intercourse without babies, SEX-IS-FILTHY, SEX-IS-VULGAR attitudes.

One physician wrote, praising this newspaper:

"Mental hygiene is inextricably bound up with sex thinking and sex habits. Sex is primarily an instinct, the provision for the satisfaction of which seems obvious enough in the existence of two sexes, anatomically designed to complement each other."

The doctor in saying in restrained language what the less learned but none-the-less articulate of us might summarize in less elegant words.

PROSTITUTION ONLY PART OF ANSWER

Most normal adults contrive to arrange for the expression of a fundamental instinct, as one minister pointed out. These are the people for whom sex is accepted as a part of day to day life, in marriage and out of it. Outside this large group are those for whom sexual expression is a besetting problem.

These are the persons who molest, rape and murder innocent youngsters. They are the ones in whom, partly because no socially regulated means of relief exist, psychopathic tendencies develop as they fight against the mentally disturbing pressure of sex unrequited.

Most of these, it seems reasonable to assume, would have dangerous tendencies checked, were places available for relief. A great number of others, of course, are to be considered medical cases.

As Miami Police Chief Headley has pointed out in a recent case institutionalized care is needed and when that is not available long confinement should be given, if only to take such persons out of circulation.

Controlled prostitution probably would not take care of such people; but, MIAMI LIFE believes, it would divert from lives of psychopathic sex crimes many who are now on the verge of such lives.

The Florida Experiment station states that either citrus or blackstrap molasses can make large savings in livestock feeding costs if the product is supplemented with protein and fed properly.

HANSON H. HATHAWAY

WASHINGTON—Encouraged by increasing public sentiment for emphasis on governmental spending to relieve the increasingly tough plight of American middle-class millions, organized labor is determined to win control of the next congress. Labor leaders will capitalize on the definite swing toward the Welfare State. Although they don't necessarily believe in Welfare Statism, they do sense the political importance of such sentiments.

As it now stands a gain of 15 seats in the House and five labor-elected senators will bring congressional control. Certain to be run out of office are Senators Capehart of Indiana, Connell of Missouri, Gurney of South Dakota, Hickenlooper of Iowa, Millikin of Colorado, Reed of Kansas, Taft of Ohio, Wiley of Wisconsin, and Young of North Dakota.

The above are all Republicans. The defeat of five of them would assure a labor senate. In line with this strategy labor leaders are sure that Mr. Truman will add administration weight to labor's political hopes. And, this is sensible, because what labor wants is substantially what the Fair Deal is after.

By the same token that forces labor to try and end the political careers of the senators name, labor will try to reseat Hill of Alabama, Johnston of South Carolina, McMahon of Connecticut, Lucas of Illinois, Myers of Pennsylvania, Pepper of Florida, Taylor of Idaho, and Thomas of Utah.

In Florida labor expects to have no trouble in retaining Senator Pepper. Smathers, who has yet to candidly state his position, is, to labor, unimportant. Leaders believe Smathers is tied too closely to Florida big business interests to be a factor and that he is, in the main, ignorant of the basic issues that affect the lives of the state's millions.

Signs point to a further reduction in the Republican strength in the next congress. From the north Atlantic states sentiment is definitely pro-Democrat, and pro-labor and pro-administration. A fight will be made among the Seaboard, but labor is confident that it will be victorious in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania where sharp dipping recession is threatening idleness for hundreds of thousands. It is equally confident, from a House control point-of-view, that Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and, in the Far West, California be safe for them.

These states voted against labor on the Taft-Hartley but the sentiment now is that a mistake was made, and the farmer and the conservative labor group. The farmer for price supports, and labor, smarting under industrial assaults on past social gains, are ready to revolt. The 108 votes these states cast for Taft-Hartley nearly wiped out in the new alignments forced by economic and the need to hold what has been gained under Truman.

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CHURCHES MAY SEEK CHANGES IN MUNICIPAL LIQUOR LAWS

MIAMI churches and religious groups may be stirred to action by the recent decision of Circuit Judge Stanley Milledge in reversing the conviction of a Miami bar operator for selling liquor during prohibited Sunday hours. Defense Attorney Louis M. Jepe way said he believed the opinion "blows up" the existing city ordinances on such regulations, and the prosecution is inclined to agree.

In consequence the interested religious associations, together with the Crime Commission, may seek a revision of municipal ordinances on liquor and gambling so they may be clarified, simplified and co-ordinated.

There is too much confusion now in legal interpretations, declared Robert B. Giffen, executive secretary of the Greater Miami Council of Churches, with the result that the police, prosecutor, and courts confront difficult procedure in law enforcement, with legal technicalities offering frequent loopholes whereby the accused can escape.

Judge Milledge was critical of the law which permitted large restaurants and hotels to serve wine and beer with food and forbidding such service by small bars. Such legislation, said the court is "designed to promote the economic interests of such businesses. It has nothing whatever to do with promoting the public interest."

This ruling was particularly upsetting to the crime groups which looked upon Judge Milledge as a leader in court efforts for a better enforcement of the law against the offenders about whom the daily newspapers shout the loudest. This decision may throw out various local municipal laws governing bars, night clubs, hours, sales of liquor and even phases of gambling.

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MASON at MIDNIGHT

Lee Mason is heard nightly in his own program, Mason At Midnight, from 11 p. m. to 2 a. m. through Radio Station WINZ, 940 K.C., 304 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach.

By LEE MASON

It will be a merry Christmas— for more clubs are open than ever before, and the entertainers' names are some of the best known in the country. No one person could make all the openings—and I doubt whether two could have accomplished it very

successfully. Tommy Lyman, whose name is almost legend in the cafe business—after many years—has finally opened at the Club 23 on Twenty-third Street in the Grand Hotel, and, inasmuch as we have been hearing about Tommy coming down here every season for many years, this was another



case where you believe it until the whispering

voice was actually heard—but he is there alright. Sally Rand opened for 10 days at the Sky Club backing Sheila the Peeler across the street at The Gables. Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis opened (date and date) with Kay Thompson and Teddy Powell and his orchestra at the Club Boheme and the Lind Brothers, those terrific singers, apparently have left the banner of Casey and Schuyler as they open at Copia City, while Jackie Miles at the Five O'Clock Club is joined by Lenny Kent and Danny Leis. The Kay Thompson bit at the Club Boheme is entirely new as the Williams Brothers are no longer in the act—a trio of Jack

Cole dancers now doing the bits which were theirs. And—I love George Bourke but I think if anybody gets the files of this column they will find that months ago I said that Barry Gray would return to the Copa Lounge—just what happens after he gets there I don't know. But he is in there now. On Highway One Minsky's at the Colonial Inn is again hangin' them from the rafters—the new Valallah across the railroad tracks in Hollywood is going with their show and in addition there must be some twenty-five or thirty smaller places that are bidding for

business. So let's say Merry Christmas to everybody and especially these optimists, and to hope sincerely that the results will justify the investment they have made in some of the best entertainment shows we have had. How many of you people remember Pete Herman, the fighter, the champ—the boy who was always called one of the gamest kids that was ever in the ring? Well, here's a story about Pete—as he is today. If you remember your ring history, Pete's eyes went bad the last year he was fighting. Rosin, the doctors said,

Pete went to all the specialists from coast to coast to no avail. His sight grew worse. Finally, the day came when he was totally blind—and helpless. No one will ever be able to describe the feeling of helplessness, the mental panic, that came over him as day after day went by, and Pete knew only darkness. And then, one day, Pete talked to Pete. He told himself that the dark was only another opponent to battle—another fight to win. From that day on, Pete fought. He taught himself to walk as though he could see—and he developed tricks in meeting people so that it would seem that he had sight. He went into business—and in

New Orleans, where he had won his spurs as a fighter, Pete opened a night club. And he ran it—so well that today it is one of the most popular places in New Orleans. And that brings us to Part II of our story. About four years ago, a girl graduated from one of the high schools in New Orleans. She wanted show business and would think of no other career. A friend of a friend knew Pete Herman, and brought her to him. She was a tall, brown-haired kid, with a fair voice and a very charming manner. Pete sent her to dancing school, to modeling school, and gave her a course in dramatics—and a job in his show. Night after night he would stand as she went on, straining his ears to get the audience reaction. Night after night he would talk to her, telling her the things that he thought she should do to improve the act. He gave her a name—and arranged a trip to New York so that she could see the opera from whence came the name—and Pete built a legend around her, so that people came to New Orleans, went to Pete Herman's—and went away talking about Pete's star.

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So never let them tell you that there is no sentiment a business. Or perhaps you would like to check this story for yourself—to know the characters in person. The local man is Lou Zissen—the spot, the Bowery at 17th and North Miami Avenue—and the girl, Sherazade, the featured dancer.

There are others—lots of them, believe me. The other day I was approached by some people who are planning a swell thing—a party next Thursday afternoon for the over 400 patients in the Vets hospital in Coral Gables, with a gift for every one. The papers have carried stories telling that Walter Winchell was in town, and the kids in the wards asked if anyone thought that Winchell could come out to see them. I wonder if you have any idea of how little time a man like Winchell has—how every minute is crowded. But, you see, I know Walter. So when the tale was told to me, I reached for the phone, called him, and relayed the request. There wasn't a moment's hesitation. "Sure, Lee," Winchell said. "You tell them that I'll be there—and that I'll be happy to come. And, Lee—please thank them for asking me." Those last words, to me, are the real quality of Winchell's greatness—and the explanation of why he has been so far on top for so long.

Have you caught the picture "Pinky"—Mill Ross at Mother Kelly's—the Jackie Miles-Lind Brothers show at the Five O'Clock—Billie La Velle at the Life Bar—Freddie Stewart with Allan Gale at the Celebrity Club—the show at the Chez Paro—Kaye Gale at Pop Brown's Rendezvous—those wonderful Virginia Foes—Rainbow—Har-



TOO MUCH PERFECTION

Military Regulations Disrupt Home; He Spied On Her; Turned On Radio to Drown Out Her Friends; Wouldn't Take Bath.

PERFECTION may be sought in martial life but it may cause disruption in marital affairs. It is too difficult. That is the complaint of Abigail H. Villaret against her officer husband, Eugene Villaret of Washington, D. C., where they were married July 17, 1920. He went overseas in 1944 and they have not cohabited since.

As an officer in the armed forces by profession, and in his devotion to military duties, it was right for him to strive for human approach to perfection, but when he applied the same principles to the plaintiff and married life it was anything but perfection. She was subject to censure when she did not come up to his standards, and his actions toward her in the presence of the family and friends was humiliating. He made a cold appraisal of her and subordinated her interests to his work.

Villaret remained in Europe until 1947 and would not let her join him, and would not come here to be with her in difficulties. One son was placed in an institution because of a disorder. Another son was dismissed from college because he eloped and married, which was heart-rending. She and the youngest son were involved in a near fatal accident and were hospitalized for months. When Eugene did return from Europe, she went overseas and stayed until 1949. When she got back, Abigail says that he resumed his old attitude, made no effort to resume displays of affection. He killed her love. The attorney is Frank H. Strahan.

UNLIKE the officer, when this man returned home from service he was jealous, according to the suit of Myrteena Audrey Gates of Miami Beach against Harold Edward Gates of Windsor, Can. They were wed August 29, 1936, at Ferris, North Bay, Canada. Back from fighting abroad, he demanded that she give up her position in the merchandising field. If she returned home late, Harold would accuse her of being with other men. He spied on her from behind curtains. He nagged. When the telephone rang and she answered to find it was the wrong number, he would charge that the caller must have been her boy friend.

Myrteena claims Harold struck her, locked her in the house. The solicitor is Jack A. Abbott of Miami Beach.

It made a difference whose friends called at their house, reports Ruth Edna Kitchin, seeking liberty from Roy Elmer Kitchin, Jr., of Maryland.

an affair with the milk man. Ruth asserts that Roy would go for weeks without a bath and never brushed his teeth. The plaintiff is clean and sensitive, while she charges the defendant was filthy and unsanitary. On

the farm he would lay out the work for her to do.

Ruth alleges that he threatened to kill her, and spent his money on guns and movies, and would not provide enough for the children's clothing. Joseph A.

Boyd, Jr., of Hialeah, is the barrister.

THIS plaintiff, too, had to work, and so Lucy Pearl Kowaleski would like to cut off her dependent, Theodore

J. Kowaleski, both of Miami where they were married Jan. 25, 1948, and parted the first of this month. Lucy contends that Theodore would argue and nag; then he would be sullen and pout, falling to speak for weeks. He showed no love and was ugly, and yet he was jealous, complained about her work; remain away nights.

Each had a son by a previous marriage and resided at 601 S. W. 60th court. He was

unemployed. Lucy was expected to sort all of them, including her mother. She asks for support. J. Malcolm, Jr., is her lawyer.

ONE man decided he is washed and is willing to give the freedom. William R. Pough comes to the party ways with Mary Poorba to whom he was married in Folkston, Ga., Aug. 6, 1948. They were

happy for a few months when the defendant embarked upon a course of conduct to make him a nervous wreck.

A year ago when he returned home from work Mary informed him that she had fallen in love with another man; that she had never loved the plaintiff and only married him to get away from her family.

She said she wanted to marry a man with brains,

and this annoyed him because he is manager of an auto concern and provided her with every comfort.

William still loved Mary and he relented to her tearful pleas to forgive her for what she had said. But a month later she repeated her assertions that she was in love with another man. She was subject to temperamental outbursts. Robert K. High of Ferguson & Parker is the attorney.

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