

## BILLS TO REVISE STATE MINE LAW GIVEN TO SENATE

### Propose Ban of On-Shift Firing of Explosives

BY JOHNSON KANADY  
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Springfield, Ill., June 9—Bills to revamp the state's mining safety laws, including a proposal to outlaw on-shift firing of explosives in mines, were introduced in the senate today. Sen. Merritt M. Little (R., Aurora), chairman of a special committee which for two months investigated the mine explosion which killed 111 men March 25 near Centalla, put forth the bills.

He was joined by senate members of the committee, including Senators Griffin (R., Springfield), Oldfield (R., Centalla), Fribbley (D., Pana), and Barry (D., Chicago). Identical bills will go into the house under sponsorship of the house members of the committee.

The senate bills were advanced toward passage stage without a committee hearing. They, along with another series introduced by Senators Fribbley and Barry, will be up for hearing Tuesday noon by the entire senate. The Barry-Fribbley measures would take the state department of mines and minerals from the supervision of a director and place it under a three man board appointed by the governor and approved by the senate.

#### Would Name Experts

The three members of the directing body would serve staggered terms of 6 years and one would be from the minority party. All would be mine experts.

Barry and Fribbley were among the dissenters in the special committee's report two weeks ago. With the exception of their plan to set up the triumvirate, they agreed to sponsor the program advanced by the majority.

This program is designed to separate mine inspectors from politics, increase the frequency of mine inspections, tighten rules of mine ventilation, strengthen the regulations regarding the firing of shots in a mine, and reduce the possible causes of ignition and propagation of mine explosions.

#### Would Increase Inspections

Regarding mine inspections, Little said the bills would do these things:

1. Increase inspections to a minimum of one every 30 days at each mine. At present the minimum is once every three months.

2. Increase the number of inspection districts from 14 to 22 and the number inspectors in the same way.

3. Prohibit the solicitation of campaign funds by any employee of the department of mines and minerals, including inspectors and set up penalties which would range up to a fine of \$5,000 and a year in prison.

#### List Other Provisions

4. Abolish the present two year tenure of inspectors, and replace it with an indefinite term, with removal to be only because of malfeasance. In addition the state mining board would select inspectors from a list of those qualified, which list would carry those most qualified at the top. Little described the procedure as a modified form of civil service.

In addition to the new inspection districts the bills provide for three additional mine rescue stations, equipped with mobile rescue units, and establishment of field laboratories for testing of mine air.

### Bookbinders Quit Job in Wage Hike Demand

Two hundred members of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, local 182 (AFL) employed by the Harlich Manufacturing company, 1200 N. Homan av., makers of photo albums and scrap books, walked off the job an hour after they reported for work yesterday. A company spokesman said the union has been seeking a 25 cent hourly increase. Four hundred other workers affiliated with other unions continued on the job.

## NORMAN ARMOUR NAMED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, June 9—Norman Armour, career diplomat who has been in retirement since December, 1945, when he resigned as United States ambassador to Spain, today was nominated by President Truman to be an assistant secretary of state.

Armour was named to replace Spruille Braden who resigned last week, but where Braden's sole responsibility concerned political relations with Latin America Armour will be charged with directing United States political relations with the entire world, state department officials told reporters.

While the state department made no formal announcement, it appeared that Secretary Marshall is centering in one post the functions formerly entrusted to Braden and James C. Dunn, now United States ambassador to Italy and formerly an assistant secretary in charge of political relations with Europe, the Far East and the Near East. In his new post Armour apparently will rank immediately behind Marshall and Robert A. Lovett, who will become undersecretary of state July 1.

**CHILD'S AUTO DEATH IS ACCIDENT**  
Caroline Wende, 4, of 5101 Cullum av., who was killed by an auto Sunday when she darted into the street near her home, died accidentally, a coroner's jury decided yesterday.



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## STATE SENATE O.K.'S NEW CURB ON LOVE SUITS

BY GEORGE TAGGE  
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Springfield, Ill., June 9—By a vote of 39 to 1 the senate tonight passed three bills designed to restore in large degree the benefits of a 1935 anti-heart balm law invalidated by the Illinois Supreme court last year. The bills now go to the house.

Purpose of the measures is explained in preambles, which in a telescoped version read:

"It is hereby declared, as a matter of legislative determination, that the remedy heretofore provided by law for the enforcement of the action for breach of promise, alienation of affections, and criminal conversation has been subjected to grave abuses, and has been used as an instrument for blackmail by unscrupulous persons for their unjust enrichment, due to the indefiniteness of the damages recoverable in

such actions and the consequent fear of persons threatened with such actions that exorbitant damages might be assessed against them.

#### Damages Now Limited

"It is also hereby declared that the award of monetary damages in such actions is ineffective as a recompense for genuine mental or emotional distress."

The 1935 law forbade filing of suits for breach of promise, alienation of affections, or criminal conversation (defined as defiling of the marriage bed). But the Supreme court knocked out this law, on grounds that the Constitution guarantees a certain remedy for every wrong.

Hence the key feature of the 1947 anti-heart balm bills is that they limit damages to actual rather than punitive, vindictive, or aggravated damages. In the heyday of gold-digger suits, the plaintiff often placed a value of a million dollars upon her frustrated affections. Many a panicky defendant settled out of court for a huge sum rather than take the chance of a soft-headed or soft-headed jury awarding much larger damages.

**Wealth Banned as Consideration**  
Furthermore, the bills relating to

alienation of affections and criminal conversation declare:

"In determining the damages to be allowed in any action for alienation of affections none of the following elements shall be considered: The wealth or position of defendant or the defendant's prospects of wealth or position; mental anguish suffered by plaintiff; any injury to plaintiff's feelings; shame, humiliation, sorrow, or mortification suffered by plaintiff; defamation or injury to the good name or character of plaintiff. . . ."

The breach of promise bill requires notice of intention to sue within three months of the alleged breach, including all pertinent particulars.

### Rep. O'Konski Accepts Bid to Visit Argentina

Washington, June 9 (AP)—Rep. O'Konski (R., Wis.), a critic of retiring assistant state secretary Spruille Braden, has accepted an invitation to spend about two weeks in Argentina early next month. Informants said O'Konski will be an official guest of the Argentine government, toward which Braden advocated a tough policy. O'Konski is scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires soon after July 1.

## PURCHASE URGED OF CONGRESS ST. HIGHWAY TRACTS

A city council subcommittee recommended yesterday that the council approve purchase of 88 parcels of property between Rockwell and Wood sts. on the route of the proposed Congress st. superhighway at prices negotiated by the department of subways and superhighways. The subcommittee, headed by Ald. Lancaster (37th), inspected the parcels yesterday. In each case the price was less than \$15,000. The subcommittee deferred action on 13 other parcels where prices tentatively agreed upon exceeded \$15,000.

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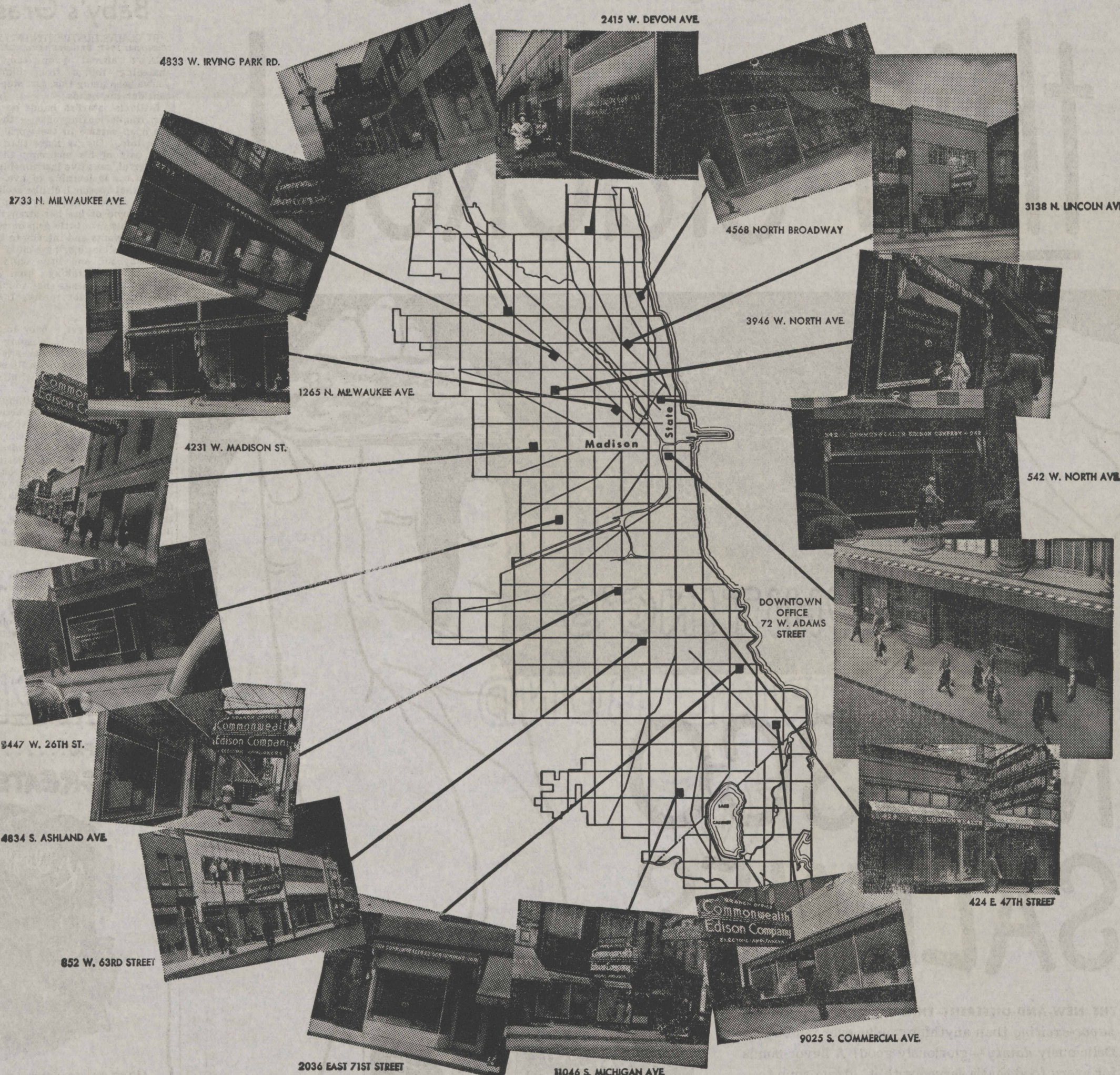
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