

QUEENS CO. GAS OFFICIAL REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO QUIZ

Public Service Commission Hearing Adjourned When Secretary Holds Books.

William A. Raynor, secretary of the New York and Queens Gas Company, today refused to-day to obey the orders of the Public Service Commission to answer questions at the hearing held in the commission rooms. Because of his refusal the hearing was adjourned until Monday and the question of punishment for contempt referred by Chairman Prendergast to Leyard Hale, counsel of the commission.

Records subpoenaed by the commission were not furnished, and the company absolutely refused to permit representatives of the city to examine those that were furnished. On advice of counsel, Mr. Raynor refused to allow the records to remain with the commission and carried them away with him.

The contention of the company has been that the city has no right to ask it any questions or examine its records. The subpoena issued and returnable to-day directed that all records be brought to the hearing. When the hearing was opened Chairman Prendergast asked Mr. Raynor was present.

"He is," said Judge Ransom, counsel for the company.

"Has he brought the books demanded by the subpoena?" asked the chairman.

"He has brought some of them," was the reply, and Mr. Raynor came forward with general ledger No. 4 and

two journals for the current year. The city is endeavoring to force the company to produce its operating and cost records. None of these nor the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings were supplied. Mr. Fertig of the Corporation Counsel's office, asked Mr. Raynor what were his duties as secretary.

"Objected to as immaterial, so far as the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York is concerned," said Judge Ransom. "He has no right to question the witness and it is beyond the power, right or authority of the commission to order or to permit the witness to be interrogated by the Corporation Counsel."

This brought the right of the city to take part in a hearing before the commission where rates affecting the public are concerned directly to an issue. The chairman ruled the witness must answer the question and cited that the subpoena was issued at the request of the city.

"I refuse to answer on the ground stated by counsel," said the witness while Robert A. Carter, Vice President of the Consolidated Gas Company, of which the Queens Company is a subsidiary, nodded in approval. Mr. Carter had been nodding in approval as Judge Ransom made his objection.

The same answer was repeated to other questions. Mr. Fertig then desired to look at the books and this was objected to.

"Does that mean the company on adjournment will take these books from this room?" asked the chairman. Judge Ransom said it did.

"I rule that the witness leave the

books here for a reasonable time to let the city examine them on the table," said Chairman Prendergast. But Mr. Raynor wrapped them up and carried them away.

Some excitement was caused when John Cook, of College Point, representing a taxpayers' association, wanted to know whether it was a hearing or a farce. (The chairman ordered the remarks stricken from the record).

Following the statement that the question of punishment for contempt would be referred to counsel, the

hearing adjourned until Monday, when the gross examination of Miles R. Mattie, the city's expert on appraisal, will be taken up.

AMERICAN KILLED IN BOLIVIA.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The killing of an American citizen named Hartman at Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Nov. 23, was reported to the State Department to-day from La Paz. The message stated that nothing was known concerning the man other than his name and that he was an American.

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