

FAVOR WIDER MOVIE RULES

Commissioners Will Ask More Police Power in Film Regulation, Rumor Says.

(Continued from First Page.)
If there be a censor of movies, there should be a censorship of the press and a censor of the press will be disastrous to the country.

The advocates of censorship, Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, professional reformer, and others claiming to represent the Protestant and Catholic people of Washington, were just as strong in their demands for regulation of the movie as was Mr. Griffith opposed.

Public opinion must speak through government to reach those who will only yield to law," said Mr. Crafts.

"There are always enough who will attend lewd shows to make them profitable, and so a temptation to better exhibitors and better patrons."

Dr. Crafts and other speakers for censorship declared there must be something more than public opinion to prevent lewd shows appearing on the films. They attacked statements of censorship opponents that the American people should be the only ones to judge the motion pictures exhibited.

Frequent interruptions of cheering.

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Inside the Verbal Barrage At Censorship Hearing

By KIRK MILLER.
All questions are two-sided. Some of 'em are three.

Even though one may be the right side and the other the wrong, often both sides are right or wrong as the case may be.

Which prologue brings us to the Dr. Wilbur Blue Loss Crafts controversy which isn't a controversy, but a monologue.

The thing had quite a renovation over at the Municipal Building on yesterday p. m. The Commissioners twiddled their ears and their thumbs through a barrage of testimony that would have won a D. S. C. during the late world unpleasantness.

"D. S. C. is an insignia which applies to the Department of Street Cleaning.

The bone of contention isn't bone; it's all gristle. One side wants censorship. The other faction desires censorship.

David Wark Griffith talked himself into a frenzy which was calculated to bring tears to the eyes of the mahogany owls that keep guard over the records and bootleg testimony which should be in the archives, but ain't.

Griff frothed a little at the mouth, made a pack of gestures in the direction that heaven is rumored to be and then sat down for his second course to cool him off with a fax and a bucket of tears. It was a tough round.

He made a pass at the group which is in favor of censorship, but the blow landed on Captain Headley's arid dome. That didn't bother the Cap, as blows are what made his dome arid. That knob has stopped more blackjacks than the bottom of James Creek Canal. Crafts had a slight edge on Griffith in this round, but Griff was saving his body blow for the last act.

Griffith opened up the third with a rain of rebuttals, which brought into play the scientific pugilism handed down to this generation by Shakespeare, Dickens, Guy de Maupassant and Ernest Seton-Thompson. None of these writers

hissing and laughing prevented the progress of the hearing at times. Short debates made the hearing more lively.

Dr. Lucius C. Clark, secretary of the Federation of Churches, opened the hearing and introduced speakers favoring censorship. He introduced Dr. Crafts, of the International Reform Bureau, who declared he appeared as a resident of Washington; Charles A. McMahon, representing the National Catholic Welfare Council; William McK. Clayton, representing the Federation of Citizens' Association, Mary Wright Johnson, representing the Federation of Women's Clubs and Housekeepers' Alliance, and Mrs. O. Y. Woodley, who declared herself a club woman.

DARR FOR OPPONENTS.
Charles W. Darr represented the exhibitors and others opposed to censorship. He introduced the following speakers: David W. Griffith, Congressman George H. Tinkham, of Massachusetts, F. A. Sebring, chief clerk of the police court, Maurice

Rosenberg, an attorney, A. Brylawski, representing the District Exhibitors' Association, and several others.

The commissioners allotted one hour to each side and then turned the meeting into a free-for-all discussion.

During the entire time the men and women favoring censorship spoke, not one moving picture exhibited in Washington that was objectionable was mentioned. Mr. Clayton alluded to a picture, but did not disclose the name of the picture or where it was shown.

"These men and women come here to favor censorship, to eliminate objectionable films which they say have been shown here," said Darr, "yet, they do not give the commission the name of any objectionable film. They present no concrete evidence."

Only once during the hearing did the commissioners indicate their attitude. It was after Mr. Griffith had concluded his address when Commissioner Kutz said:

"You have admitted there have been some objectionable scenes in films

were handcuffed when they tossed off the masterpieces which have made them famous or infamous, depending whether you are looking through the blue glasses of Dr. Crafts or the incandescent bifocals of David Wark Griffith.

Some of the town's most insignificant notables warbled their approval of a strict senselessness over the galloping cinema. Among the less prominent chitchians who moaned were Robert N. Harper, Fred Haskin, Bruce Brylawski and way stations.

Shakespeare's Hamlet had no less than five murders in it. Count 'em. One! Two! Three! Four! Five! The Elizabethan period was a very intricate regime for a gentle person. The tougher a guy was in those days the fewer his funerals were numbered.

The Constitution assures the freedom of speech and the openness of the press. The press used to be a dignified calling, but now look at it. As for free speech, the Constitution gave man that, but woman came along and crabbled it.

No fury is liken to the wrath of a woman's tongue. Man and woman may have been created alike and equal, but if the dealer didn't give her a tongue with double hinges, then there ain't no such thing as a swinging door.

Patrick Henry said, "Give me censorship or give me death. He got both. They want to manœuvre all the thrill out of the movies and curtail all the sunshine out of the cinema.

Why don't they start censoring the street car schedule? Why don't they turn the assure masada on the telephone service? How about applying the scalpel to the landlord influenza?

They've already censored the jangle away from the ice in the highball glass. Now they'd amputate the song of the canary. Prune the ring of the woodman's axe. Clip the hum of the sewing machine, and slice the gurgle of the babbling brook.

Oh Woodman, spare that tree!

that have been made. The commission proposes to eliminate these objectionable scenes by making regulations which will prevent their appearance on the screen. The commissioners do not believe the present regulations are sufficient to allow us to make the eliminations we believe necessary. Do you not then favor the commission's proposed action?"

Mr. Griffith answered that he was opposed to any censorship of moving pictures prior to their showing in theaters. He declared he wanted good and clean pictures; said every other exhibitor of high standing wanted clean movies, but he emphatically declared himself opposed to "advanced censorship."

Commissioner Kutz made it clear that not only moving pictures, but legitimate stage shows were to be involved in any regulations.

Mr. Darr contended that the present police regulations were sufficient to give the Commissioners proper supervision over the films. He declared the exhibitors were ready and willing to aid the Commissioners in getting clean movies, but declared he was unutterably opposed to any regulations which would pre-empt moving pictures.

Not only was the hearing full of deep interest, but at times a laugh was injected. Charges that the hearing was "cut and dried" were made several times.

Among those who took part in the free discussion were Capt. Julius Peyster, an attorney; Thomas J. Donovan, president of the Central Citizens' Association, and a representative of Sydney S. Cohen, president of the Motion Picture Theater Owners, all of whom opposed censorship.

Col. John Temple Graves, author, spoke in favor of censorship. His speech was interrupted with questions and caused quite an uproar.

Dr. Clark and Mr. McMahon, who were representing the Protestants and Catholics, proposed to the Commissioners that the movie men be put on a three-months' trial, during which time the exhibitors be given a chance to "clean the house."

"They asked for better regulations if the proposed trial did not result in better movies for Washington.

The Rev. Charles J. Hennessy, of Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown, suggested that citizens of the District organize an association, the purpose of this association being to aid the police in determining after the movies were on the screen and the police were in doubt whether pictures were fit to be shown. This proposal was greeted with applause by those favoring and opposing censorship.

Representatives of many organizations attempted to speak, but were unsuccessful, the Commissioners closing the hearing. However, Col. Robert N. Harper introduced into the record a resolution opposing censorship by the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Among the organizations with representatives on hand to oppose censorship were Ride In, Industrial, and Conduit road, Citizens' Associations, American Federation of Labor, Central Labor Union, City Employees' Union, American Legion, Washington Lodge No. 15 of the Elks, Carroll's Council of the Knights of Columbus, and the League of American Penwomen.

The Mid-City Citizens' Association last night discussed censorship and a committee of five was appointed to make an investigation and report at the association's next meeting.

Labor Chief's Daughter in Bank
Miss Agnes Hart Wilson, daughter of Secretary of Labor Wilson, has accepted a position with the First National Bank and Los Angeles Trust and Savings Company, of Los Angeles, it was announced today. Miss Wilson will take up her new duties on April 1. She has been connected with her father in his work in the Department of Labor.

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Senator Willis Says People Won't Permit Cancellation. Wants Territory Ceded.

The American people will not tolerate the cancelling of our European debt, Senator Frank B. Willis of Ohio, successor to President-elect Harding told the members of the Southern Commercial Congress at the opening session of their convention at the New Willard Hotel today.

WANTS LANDS CEDED.
If the nations of Europe who owe the United States billions of dollars are not able to pay the debt, Senator Willis said, they should cede to the United States their West Indies territory, which geographically belongs to the United States rather than to European countries.

Senator Duncan U. Fletcher of Florida made a strong plea for an American merchant marine, and attacked the policy of selling the ships to foreign governments. Foreign governments have made a success of the ownership and operation of ships, he said, as they have also made a success of the ownership and operation of telephones, telegraph, radio, cables and railroads.

NO EXCUSE FOR WASTE.
"I contend there is no necessity for waste, extravagance, inefficiency or failure on the part of the Government in operating ships," he said. "If private enterprise takes the proper interest, shows the proper spirit, and gets in position to take over all operations in a manner that will serve the public needs and interest, then the Government, and to that extent, may well relinquish that responsibility, and pledge its help and stimulation, besides."

Thomas H. Preston, president of the congress, denounced the action of Congress in granting great powers to the executive branch of the Government and said the country was drifting away from individualism.

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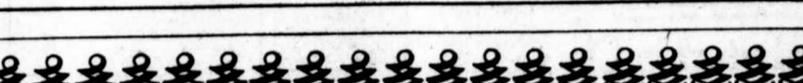
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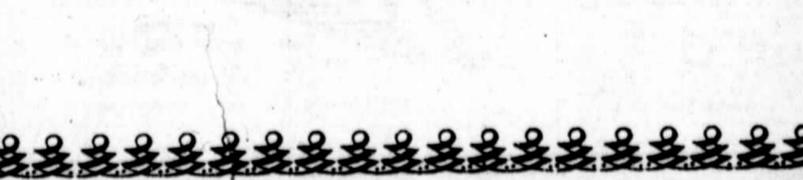
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