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STARLET Marie Wilson is in great shape to greet the New Year. Film actress greets 1949 in her New Year Babe role.

## PASS FEPC, ADLAI WILL ASK AT INAUGURATION

By Bernie Asbel

Adlai Stevenson, Illinois' new Democratic governor, will ask the legislature for a Fair Employment Practices Act in his inaugural address January 10, The Illinois Standard has learned exclusively.

This will be one of few policy commitments made by the incoming governor in a speech regarded as the opener of a four-year campaign for the Presidency of the United States.

As Illinois waited with keen interest for its "reform" governor's inaugural address, attention was also focused on the opening of the state legislature next Wednesday, Jan. 5.

Housing, education, labor and other civic groups were planning to carry on more activity in connection with the 1949 Assembly session than they have in more than 20 years. The Progressive Party will have a full-time legislative director paying special attention to issues before the Assembly.

Sources close to the La Salle Street spokesman reveal that Stevenson is playing the "take-it-easy-but-take-it" game of standing four-square behind a question mark on issues, while using special caution to surround himself with clean, "civic minded" men, untarnished by political machine pasts.

**MAY NOT PUSH FEPC**  
While Stevenson has been convinced that a call for FEPC in Illinois will enhance his stature with progressive elements still doubtful about him, he has not yet decided to press for

passage in the legislature if the going gets rough, it was learned.

The governor is prepared to use FEPC as a trading point, if it will help him get a constitutional convention or help him

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achieve his tax program—still unannounced publicly.

A real drive for FEPC will remain "iffy" in the gubernatorial plan, the reports said, unless demands from about six downstate counties are added to the Chicago FEPC adherents who have won Stevenson's ear.

### SILENT ON KEY ISSUES

Chief preoccupation at the governor's Dearborn Street headquarters has been the slow, cautious selection of key assistants, as Stevenson remained silent on these burning issues: (1) housing, (2) taxes and (3) state aid to schools.

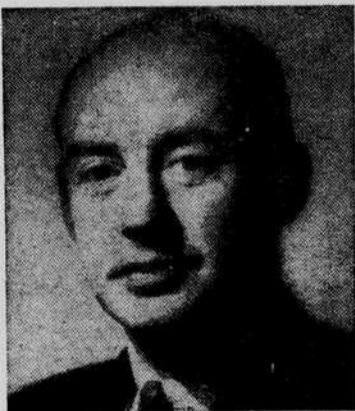
Forward-looking elements in  
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### Tenants losers; evictions for '48 set new records

Chicago landlords ring in the new year by wringing out their old tenants.

Municipal Judge Joseph H. McGarry reports that 1948 saw the biggest tenant eviction rush since the depression.

Up to Dec. 3, he said, 24,975 eviction suits were filed, beating the 1947 record for the same period of 23,000.



Adlai Stevenson

## Shogren tries whitewash; submerges rent hike facts

Norman B. Shogren bent over backwards for tenants this week—and fell on his face.

The Chicago area rent director, somewhat disturbed over recent publication in *The Standard* of facts exposing his wholesale accommodation of landlords by way of rent increases, issued figures to show that he's nice to tenants, too.

### The figures don't stack up.

The rent chief announced that in November his office arranged 202 voluntary refunds by landlords after tenants complained to the government. What's more he said, for the first 11 months of the year, 1,793 refunds were made. Money which changed hands in these refunds amounted to about \$14,500 for November, and about \$96,000 for the 11-month period.

To compare with the 202 tenants in November 1,423 landlords got the government seal of approval on rent increases. As against the 1,793 refunds in the near-year period, 21,015 landlords were authorized boosts in take-home rent.

The official report shows that three out of every four landlords who asked for increases

got them. Some observers showed surprise that Shogren made no comparison on tenants' complaints as against requests granted. Called by *The Standard* on this, Shogren's office said the information was unavailable.

These sources expressed belief that refunds on overcharges were the only appreciable protection tenants have received since passage of the 1948 rent act, as the rent office did not make known its record on other protections. Instead the Shogren statement declares, without statistical support:

### CLAIMS HELP FOR TENANTS

"In addition to overcharge refunds, rent office help to tenants has brought about orders to decrease rent where decreases in services, space and equipment caused tenant complaints, or restoration of such services, etc., when possible."

Tenant groups cited numerous cases of landlord reprisal against tenants making inquiries at the rent office. It has become a common practice, it was said, when a tenant complains of an overcharge, for an accompanying complaint of "hardship" by the landlord, with the result of an increased approved rent.

### SHOGRIN GIVES "ADVICE"

In a letter to landlords, Shogren last month advised them how best to use the hardship provisions of the law to legalize rent boosts, instead of overcharging under the table.

In the absence of official figures on tenant complaints to the rent office, *The Standard* obtained an unofficial estimate that 1,000 tenants per week seek adjustments from the agency. If even a fraction of the resulting 50,000 per year were asking refunds on overcharges, it was pointed out, landlords would still be way ahead of tenants in getting satisfaction. This is aside from rent office accomplishment for rent cutbacks, which, it was held, is practically non-existent.

## Phone rate hike would be illegal; city cites law

Illinois Commerce Commission was told last week that not only would an increase in phone rates violate the law, but that the rate-hike petition itself presented taxpayers with an unfair burden.

J. J. Danaher, assistant corporation counsel for Chicago, cited the state law which prohibits utility rate hikes more often than once in two years.

Illinois Bell Telephone was granted an increase in December 1947.

Danaher called upon the commission, during hearings in Springfield, to "consider the ser-

iousness of the constant merry-go-round of rate cases. Neither Chicago nor downstate cities can afford the expense of similar hearings every six months or a year."

Arguments had been scheduled on a phone company request for temporary boosts of 16 percent, pending hearings on the permanent boost of the same amount.

Instead, the week's activity centered around a motion by Danaher to dismiss the original petition on the basis of the two-year law.

## FE union gathers names in drive to fire Denham

Upwards of 10,000 signatures have already been gathered in the CIO Farm Equipment Workers' petition campaign demanding that Congress abolish the Taft-Hartley act quickly, according to Milton Burns, organization director.

More than half the signatures were from the Lake (Chicago) District, but filled petitions are arriving in increasingly quantities daily from other FE districts.

In addition to asking Taft-Hartley repeal, the petitions call upon President Truman to dismiss Robert Denham as NLRB General Counsel immediately.



CIO EDICT ordering the United Farm Equipment & Metal Workers to dissolve and turn over its membership to the United Auto Workers draws flood of protest from union locals. Pres. Grant Oakes (seated) and Sec.-Treas. John Shaffer read score of messages demanding members' right to decide on the CIO executive board order at FE convention in March.