

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1970

New Legislators Take Oath, May Have to Take It Again

By DON F. WASSON
Advertiser Staff Writer

Newly elected Alabama legislators were having themselves sworn into office all over the state the past few days but the attorney general's office said Friday they "may not take their oath of office until their election has been certified according to law."

And "according to law" means, under Title 17, Section 205, after the election returns have been certified to the secretary of state and the governor has proclaimed the results.

But on Wednesday after the election, the oath-taking began. Montgomery House members Fred R. Jones and Jim Straiton took their oaths Wednesday. Newly elected Rep. Robert T. "Bobby Tom" Crowe of Jasper drove to Montgomery to have his oath administered by Supreme Court Judge James Bloodworth, who turned the request down.

In Birmingham Thursday, the 29 elected House members and seven Senate members were invited to a mass swearing-in at the county courthouse.

The eagerness to take the oath springs from the change in the pay for legislators which was enacted in the organizational session of the legislature which expired with the Nov. 3 election.

For the first time, legislators began drawing a regular monthly stipend. It wasn't "pay," because the Constitution bars them from raising their pay while in office. Instead, the stipend is a \$300 per month expense allowance.

Before that action was taken, legislators got only \$30 a day (\$10 in salary and \$20 in expenses) and only on the days the legislature was in session.

Realizing that the newly elected legislators are entitled to be paid beginning the day after the election, House Clerk John Pemberton wrote all of them suggesting that they take the oath of office and either send it or bring it to the three-day orientation conference which begins Tuesday.

This action was prompted by an attorney general's opinion, written Dec. 3, 1968 by assistant attorney general James L. Screws, which said that a legislator does not hold office until the required oath is taken. Pemberton had asked the opinion in connection with the '68 election of a legislator to fill an unexpired term.

Secretary of State Mabel Amos became alarmed when the newly elected legislators began showing up in her office asking that they be certified, or telling her that they had come to Montgomery to take the oath of office.

She knew that she could not

certify them until the election results were official.

The law requires that county officials canvass their returns on the Friday after the election and gives them 15 days to get them to the Secretary of State. This is a holdover from the days when it sometimes took 15 days for mail to reach Montgomery.

Mrs. Amos said Friday that she had contacted all probate judges to ask that they get their official canvasses to her by Monday. She will make the statewide canvass with a

representative of the governor's office and a representative of the attorney general's office.

Her office has already started the paper work of preparing certificates of election for the 106 House members and 35 Senate members elected Tuesday. The official canvass will take all day Monday and part of the night.

This hurry up was put in motion by Mrs. Amos so that all the new members could take their oaths as a part of the orientation session.

Nearly everyone at the Capitol agreed that the legislators can be paid retroactive to Nov. 4, which is the day their terms started, oath or no oath.

Attorney Fred Gray of Tuskegee and Montgomery, elected Tuesday as one of the first Negroes to serve in the legislature since Reconstruction, took his oath on the Capitol steps Friday.

He said he is not disturbed by the separate opinions — "I won't mind taking the oath again if it's necessary," he said.

Gray said he anticipates no trouble at all in being one of the first two Negroes to serve in so many years. Also elected was Tuskegee businessman Thomas Reed, who will serve with Gray as one of the two members from House District 31—Macon, Bullock and Barbour counties.

Montgomery Circuit Judge Richard Emmet administered the oath at Gray's request.

"He has practiced law before me for a number of years and I have always found him to be a gentleman and a credit to the legal profession. I feel honored that he asked me to perform this service," Emmet said.

Gray's wife accompanied him to the Capitol for the brief ceremony in which he pledged to uphold the Alabama and United States Constitutions.

Guerrillas Bomb Heart Of Tel Aviv

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of leaving Israel in control of the territories it occupied in the six-day war of 1967.

Jordan's new premier, Wasfi Tell, said in an interview he believes a peaceful settlement with Israel is impossible and another Arab-Israeli war is inevitable.

In an interview with the Beirut magazine al-Hawades, Tell indicated, however, he would go along with the commitment of the previous government to seek a peaceful settlement.

Tell claimed the United States was influencing press attacks on him because he had repeatedly declared his opposition to the U.S. peace plan before he became premier 10 days ago. The 90-day cease-fire was part of the peace plan.

Premier Gold Meir of Israel Premier Golda Meir of Israel three-week visit to the United States, Canada and Britain and took another rap at the U.N. General Assembly resolution on the Middle East.

In addition to calling for an extension of the cease-fire, the resolution asked Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab land.

While she had welcomed an extension of the cease-fire, she said no one would place any value on the request for a withdrawal from Arab lands.

Hair White Overnight

LONDON (AP) — Dr. J. L. Burton, a dermatologist from Newcastle University, said steel-gray hair can easily turn white almost overnight, or appear to. He said the gray effect comes from a few black hairs scattered among the white and the color change occurs when they fall out.



Rock Bug

Looking over a wood from Elm Normandale Sh here Friday on water, left, and both of Montgo

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"This World or No of the annual r Alabama-Mississippi ciation. It started Saturday.

Human ecology is the 1970 conference sociologists from bo Exposition of the by Dr. Harold F. of sociology and i of the Social Sci at Mississippi State Dr. Edward C.

Terrorist Dragn

organization kidnaped British Trade Commissioner James Richard Cross and Quebec Labor Minister Pierre Laporte. The next day Laporte was found slain.

The 39 persons were arraigned Thursday in various parts of Quebec Province. Five of 24 persons arraigned in Montreal threw the courtroom into an uproar with shouted obscenities, revolutionary slogans and clenched fists.

Five well known French Canadian men and five youths are charged with conspiracy to

known whether the was Cross'. The paper said the picture "looks alert."

Police said they knew about the photo or a the Gazette said acc

In Ottawa, the H Commons approved in a bill to replace Measures Act with a le set of emergency laws Prime Minister Pier Trudeau said Thura that he feels "we're worst" in Quebec.