

HIGHWAY GROUP FACES CHARGES

(Continued From Page 1.)

of Helena, in Lewis and Clark county, state of Montana, then and there to show cause why you should not be removed from office as a member of the state highway commission of the state of Montana. . . .

The introduction was followed by a list of verified claims against the state which the governor said were paid "because of your alleged performance of official acts and duties at the times and places below indicated, when in fact there were no meetings of said commission held on such dates or at such places and for the said claims."

The claims were for per diem, mileage, costs of meals and lodging, and miscellaneous expenses. Under state law money for per diem, mileage and expenses may be collected only when a regular session of the commission is held.

Chairman McGrover was charged with presenting 129 claims for \$10 a day per diem and expenses when there were no meetings of the commission.

Commissioner Brown was accused of collecting on 78 claims of the same kind.

The claims McGrover presented, the governor said, were for trips taken to many Montana points and to Waterloo, LaSoo park, Glacier park, Twin Falls, Idaho; Reno, Nev.; San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Los Vegas, Nev.; Salt Lake City, Miami, Jacksonville, Fla.; Spokane, Wash.; Washington, D. C.; and Lethbridge, Canada.

In the joint charge against Chairman McGrover and Commissioner Brown that they approved Commissioner Crossenbergh's claims when they knew they were illegal, Governor Holt said:

"You intended to put Commissioner Crossenbergh in a position where he could appear to legally receive services to the state of Montana, as the traveling representative of the state highway commission, and for which you knew he would seek to charge the state of Montana for such services, and that this conduct in this regard would meet with the approval of yourself (and the other commissioners), and upon his filing claims against the state of Montana for such alleged services the highway commission approved said claims, thereby intending to represent that the said claims were legal and proper charges against the state of Montana, when, in fact, you knew that they were illegal and thereby you, acting (with the other commissioners), aided and abetted the said Commissioner Crossenbergh to claim and receive from the state of Montana, in excess of \$5,000, to no part of which was he legally entitled, as you well know."

The governor charged that the commissioners "sought to invest the said Crossenbergh with an authority and power which you knew could not be conferred upon him as such member, thereby purportedly authorizing the said Crossenbergh to render and perform official services, as such representative of the commission, at times and places when and where the said highway commission was not legally in session. . . ."

After listing 13 typewritten pages of claims purportedly filed by Commissioner Crossenbergh as "trav-

GETS MONEY'S WORTH.

Phelps, Colo., Oct. 28.—(P)—Jackie Lee Hill, 2, got a 175-mile ride from the Springfield, Colo., home here all for a nickel. He swapped the sum, and his parents rushed him to a Phelps hospital, where it was removed with the assistance of a bronchoscopic.

ing representative" of the commission. Governor Holt charged that by filing the said verified claims about referred to, and receiving from the state of Montana, the total of the respective sums of the said claims, you thereby claimed and received from the state of Montana, as such member of the state highway commission, sums of money aggregating in excess of \$5,000, to no part of which were you legally entitled, as you well knew at the time of filing each of said claims and at the time of receiving the said sums of money claimed by you therein, respectively.

Contacted for comment, Dr. McGrover, chairman, said the governor's action was:

Just another case of pre-election outrage.

Commissioner Crossenbergh was not available for comment.

Commissioner Brown said of the charges:

"This most recent political attack of Governor Holt following his charges against the merchants and business men of the state reminds me of a Montana horseowner who gets hyped up with smoking marijuana or Indian hemp. At a certain stage of his intoxication his imagination goes loose and he pulls out a knife and starts slashing everyone in reach.

"As a member of the highway commission for 18 months I have been charged with the responsibility of spending nearly a million dollars per month, or a total of 18 million dollars. The highway commission spends more in one year than all the other departments of the state put together. For this the members of the commission receive \$10 per day. My own per diem claims for the 18 months I have served amount to an average of \$437 per month.

"The governor, who holds his present position by an act of God will soon be relegated to private life and obscurity by the voice of the people of the state. This is still a democracy and I hold that every individual has a right to express his political opinions without being censored and having his character blemished.

"The governor was fairly defeated in the primaries and then after forming his own liberty league took a walk into the camp of his Republican opponent.

"Governor Holt is using his high office to try and punish state officials who did not support him in the primaries and the statements and charges made by him are absolutely false.

"They will be determined in the proper tribunal and not in the newspapers."

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Thu, Apr 2, 2020