

## HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS TO OFFER DEFENSE ON NOV. 12; HEARING POSTPONED WEEK

Removal charges preferred against the three members of the Montana highway commission by Governor Elmer Holt will be aired Thursday, November 12, instead of November 5, it was announced yesterday at the capitol.

Governor Holt informed the highway commissioners of the week's postponement by registered mail. While he gave no reason for the postponement it was thought it was to allow the commissioners ample time to prepare a defense and at the same time present the governor with an extension of time to prepare the supplemental charges he stated he would prefer.

### In Governor's Office

The hearing will be held in the governor's offices at the statehouse at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Those summoned to appear and show cause why they should not be removed are Dr. Harry McGregor of Great Falls, chairman; Rockwood Brown of Billings and L. J. Croonenberghs of Missoula.

In the original charges made by the governor he alleged that each

of the commissioners illegally had collected mileage and per diem expenses. Commissioners McGregor and Brown further were charged with unlawfully authorizing Commissioner Croonenberghs, third member of the board, to act as "traveling representative" on regular salary, plus expenses.

### More Coming.

At the time Governor Holt filed the show cause orders, he announced that an investigation was being conducted into "persistent reports" of other alleged malfeasances in office committed on the part of the commissioners.

These covered, he said, the following: unfairness in the letting of contracts; preference of certain contractors over others; attempts, by over-rigid inspection, to drive certain contractors out of certain highway districts; the skimping of gravel on highways; specifications so drawn as to eliminate competition, and whether any officials or employes had any improper financial interest in huge purchases of oil and road materials.

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