

HIGHWAY GROUP FORMS DEFENSE

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expense claims made by the commissioners were not illegal, and asking that the proceedings be dismissed.

After the three defense attorneys had presented arguments on the demurrers, lasting about an hour, the governor overruled them. The chief contentions of defense counsel in arguing the demurrers were those given in the answers the counsel filed after Governor Holt overruled them.

The hearing was held Thursday in the governor's reception room. About 25 or 30 onlookers were present, in addition to newspapermen and witnesses. Also present were two other counsel—John G. Brown, who said he represented an indemnity company, and T. J. Collins, who said he was present "for myself." Neither took any part in the hearing.

Enor K. Matson, attorney general, sat next to the governor and announced he was present "by virtue of being a state official and to act as advisor to the governor." Matson interrogated the defense counsel on several points during their arguments.

Governor Holt, stern-faced throughout the nearly two-hour proceedings, paid studious attention to the legal arguments advanced by counsel. Grouped around him during the hearing were the attorneys and Highway Commissioner Brown. Commissioners McGregor and Croonenberghs sat close by.

The witnesses who did not take part in Thursday's hearing were asked by the governor to report at 9:30 Friday and it was expected they would take the stand during the day.

Highway Group Formulates Defense (continued)

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Fri, Apr 3, 2020