

## HOLT REOPENS HIGHWAY GROUP OUSTER MATTER

Commissioners Present 'Good Faith' Defense to Charges in Collection of Fees.

Helena, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Voluminous and detailed testimony in the Montana highway commission "good faith" defense of Gov. Elmer Holt's ouster charges extended into an after-dark session in the governor's brilliantly-lighted reception room at the capitol Thursday night.

On November 13, after a two-day hearing, the governor ousted the commissioners—Dr. H. J. McGregor of Great Falls, Rockwood Brown of Billings and L. J. Croonenberghs of Missoula—for collection of alleged illegal mileage, per diem and expenses from the state.

The commissioners went into the Lewis and Clark district court with the issue but the supreme court took over the case and ordered the governor to reopen the hearing to give the commissioners an opportunity to complete their defense and testify as to their "good faith" in collecting the claims.

Commissioner Brown was on the stand at the reopened hearing all day Thursday and far into the night as the session continued under the glaring chandeliers in the east wing of the statehouse.

Brown testified as to the service he gave the state in return for the money he collected on 16 claims the governor declared were illegal.

In the case of each he detailed all features of the claim and then gave an estimate of what he considered was a fair return to the state for the services.

His estimates of personal service on the trips for which the per diem claims were entered ranged from \$50 to \$500.

At one point in his testimony he commented that "all claims I have presented have been with the idea of

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## Brown Defends Expenses at Resumed Hearing

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