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Special Session of Legislature Called to Consider Legislation Relating to
**Occupational Diseases, Health, Comfort and
Safety and Changes in Blower Act**

GOVERNOR HORNER has called a Third Special Session of the Illinois General Assembly which began Wednesday, February 6. This session will run concurrently with the first and second special sessions which now have been in progress for several weeks.

Items to be considered in this Third Special Session which are of importance to industry relate to bills providing for remedies in occupational disease situation; legislation relating to health, comfort and safety; and measures making certain changes in the Illinois Blower Act. A digest of the principal provisions of these several bills is subjoined. Copies of any or all of these measures will be sent to members upon request to our Chicago or Springfield offices. It has not been feasible for the Association to send copies of these measures to members at an earlier date because the bills were not in form for submission to the Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau at Springfield until late Tuesday evening, February 4th. As a matter of fact, it is probable that some changes will still be made by the Legislative Reference Bureau before the bills are finally submitted to the legislature. However, as indicated above, copies of the bills as submitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau will be sent to our members upon request.

These measures are the result of extended consideration of this entire subject matter by the Occupational Diseases Committee of the Association under the chairmanship of O. E. Mount. This committee was appointed by the President of the Association early in 1933 to study the occupational diseases problem with a view to determining what remedial legislation was necessary in the state to bring about an equitable and practical system governing the rights, duties and liabilities of employers, employees and insurance carriers with respect to such diseases. At the time the committee was appointed, employers in the state were being flooded with damage suits, most of which were predicated on silicosis, asbestosis, and a variety of real and

fancied lung afflictions. Some of these suits were meritorious, but to a large extent they were stirred up and solicited by ambulance chasers for unethical lawyers who, with the aid of doctors of like ilk, developed what for a time

Legislative Situation at Springfield

There are now three special sessions of the Illinois General Assembly running concurrently. The first special session covers the subjects of old age pensions, unemployment insurance, etc. The second session relates to unemployment relief, and the third, which has just been called by the Governor, covers the subject of occupational disease legislation, and several other items which are not of direct importance to industry.

The status of the unemployment insurance legislation remains unchanged. An unsuccessful effort was made to pass this measure in the State Senate on January 7th. Insufficient votes were secured. Senator Lee, sponsor of the bill in the Senate, secured the consent of the Senate to postpone consideration of the bill. Therefore, he is in position where he can call the bill up at any time for reconsideration. A companion bill is on second reading in the House of Representatives. It is in position where it could be advanced at any time. The Association is carefully watching this legislation and will promptly advise its members in event any further efforts to enact the measures into law are made.

The subject of occupational disease legislation is treated elsewhere in this issue.

The Association is represented at Springfield at all sessions of the legislature by Allan T. Gordon, Director of our Legislative Bureau, and other members of our staff. Detailed information regarding any measures pending at Springfield can be secured by communicating with our Chicago or Springfield offices.

was a flourishing racket. The unethical lawyers and doctors, and not the employees themselves, profited from these suits.

The committee has devoted its activities exclusively to the development of adequate and comprehensive occupational disease legislation for the state, and it has actively and conscientiously continued its efforts to this desirable end during the past year. It has had the whole-hearted cooperation of member companies of the Association, which companies have placed at the disposal of the committee the services of legal, medical, engineering and lay members of their organizations. It has also received the cooperation and assistance of a number of the most outstanding legal, medical and lay authorities on the subject of occupational diseases in this country.

Measures Carefully Studied

Careful study and consideration has been given to occupational diseases acts which have been enacted by various states in this country and by foreign countries; and in our study of these various acts especial efforts have been made to determine what has proven satisfactory in actual operation from the standpoint of both employers and employees.

As soon as the first draft of a proposed act was approved by the committee, a copy of such measure was delivered to the representatives of labor for their consideration. We hoped that an agreed bill might be developed and introduced at the 1935 regular session of the Illinois General Assembly. The representatives of labor, however, introduced their own bill, which action placed us under the necessity of introducing our bill. Both bills were referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and by that committee in turn to a special sub-committee. The sub-committee conducted many hearings. Shortly before the end of the regular session, the Illinois Director of Labor requested representatives of employers and labor to confer in an effort to develop an agreed bill. The widely divergent views of the two groups ren-

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