

# FRAME LAW TO BAR PREST-O-LITE PLANT

**President of Council and City Attorney Draft Ordinance to Be Presented Tonight.**

**WILL HOLD SPECIAL MEETING**

**Councilmen, Stirred by Frequent Explosions, May Take Action Against Gas Company.**

W. J. Neukom, president of the City Council, and Crate Bowen, city attorney, have drafted an ordinance to compel the Prest-O-Lite plant to build outside the city limits, which will be presented to the City Council at the special meeting called for tonight for this especial purpose. By suspension of the rules, the ordinance can be introduced and placed upon its passage at this meeting. Because of the repeated explosions of the Prest-o-Lite plant public sentiment seems to favor its immediate enactment, though the Prest-o-Lite Company is making no effort at present to make gas, or charge tanks.

The city jurisdiction extends one mile beyond the city limits. President Neukom said yesterday that it was a question in his mind whether the ordinance should not compel the removal of the plant to a point outside the city's jurisdiction. "I shall see the city attorney in the morning," said Neukom yesterday, "and get his draft for the ordinance. If he deems it advisable from a legal point

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action. "I shall see the city attorney in the morning," said Neukom yesterday, "and get his draft for the ordinance. If he deems it advisable from a legal point of view I think I shall have him compel the location of all such plants outside the city's jurisdiction."

"The Prest-o-Lite Company, in charging tanks at the South street plant, was in open violation of the law. The ordinance passed in April, which was drafted to permit the location of the plant upon the river bank site, where the company now has a new plant about completed, clearly stipulated that the business must be operated under restrictions which did not exist at South street. There was an agreement that the charging of tanks at the South street plant was to stop at once. However, the law has been in effect only since about the first of the month."

"We are, of course, perfectly willing to abide by whatever action the City Council may take in this matter," said Carl G. Fisher of the Prest-o-Lite Company yesterday, "but hope that we shall at least be given time to build outside the city limits before an ordinance compelling us to do so is passed. We have the plant upon the river bank and Missouri street, near the Van Camp Packing Company, about completed. It can be put in operation in ten days. The public will probably think the statement absurd, but we have profited by our experience in explosions, in that we believe we have in the plant on the river bank eliminated all possibility of accident. In any event we are so situated that no property but our own can be damaged."

"The trouble before has been in the charging pipes, the pumping engine, or, as in the last explosion, in the storage drums. We never regarded the storage drums as dangerous, and I believe that in the present instance if it had not been for the back pressure gas rushing upon the engine when the cylinder head was blown out the storage drums would not have exploded. However, in the new plant we have done away with the storage tanks, which were about eighteen inches in diameter by ten feet long, and are charging direct to the small cylinders of the size carried upon the auto. With the doing away of the storage drums the

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"The small auto tanks will be stored in three different rooms, all separated by

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## Frame Law to Bar Prest-o-Lite Plant

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heavy concrete walls. We know from experience in other explosions that these tanks do not throw more than sixty feet and where the walls are heavy, the only way they can do any damage will be to blow out through a window. I expect to visit Franklin Van Camp of the Van Camp Packing Company tomorrow, and if he requires it we will wall up the windows on the side of our plant nearest his, though personally I am confident the distance is all the protection needed.

"We recognize our liability in this explosion, and expect to settle all claims against us on an equitable basis. I am only sorry that is the nearest we can come to making matters right. It will be a great hardship upon us, and a great business loss, if we are compelled to get out of the city limits. We will not only lose the new plant now about completed, but will lose our customers during the interval which must elapse before we can buy and build in a new location."

**FIRE AT OTHERS FIFTY  
TIMES, THEN KILLS**

Dr. Joseph Pospisil Committee  
After Keeping the Washing  
Police at Bay.

WASHINGTON, June 7.—Arresting the police at bay for slaying Dr. Joseph Pospisiel, an employment pension officer, shot himself through the brain this morning while insane. He was under the delusion that an attempt was being made to murder him and he ran into the homes of his neighbors and into the homes of the police. He reloaded his pistol and fired upon the police, preventing their near approach to his house. Altogether he fired about 15 shots, none of which, however, were fatal. Pospisiel came to Washington from Wisconsin about eighteen years ago.

## TESTS MOTOR CAR.

Bernard Layman, 2107 North I street, was arrested yesterday a on Central avenue for violation motor speed law. Layman, with ehnic, was testing a ear which been repaired, and, according to Gibney, it ran at a speed of two miles.