

PEORIA MAYOR VOWS TO PUSH FIGHT ON VICE

Bombing, Threats on Life Defied

Peoria, May 21 [Special]—Mayor Robert D. Morgan of Peoria said today that neither last night's bombing of his home nor telephoned threats against his life will halt his campaign to eradicate vice and gambling in Peoria.

The 42 year old reform mayor, a Republican elected on a nonpartisan basis, has virtually eliminated gambling in this once wide-open city and has conducted a vigorous drive against houses of prostitution by means of frequent police raids and heavy fines.

He attributed the dynamiting last night to "parties connected with gambling or prostitution."

Family Escapes Injury

The blast, apparently caused by three sticks of dynamite, occurred at 10:40 p. m., shortly after Morgan, his wife, Betty, and their two sons, Tom, 12, and Jimmy, 7, had retired.

They escaped injury, but the explosion blew an 18 inch hole in the concrete foundation wall of the house, shattered windows, ripped a gas meter from its moorings, and let gas escape into the basement, and shattered 21 windows in the adjoining home of Dr. Frank A. Christensen.

Morgan disclosed that Mrs. Morgan found a "dud" dynamite bomb against the side of the house last Saturday morning while she was planting flowers. The bomb consisted of three sticks of Gold Medal brand dynamite taped together. The fuse had burned to within 3 inches of the dynamite, then had sputtered out.

Bought in St. Louis

Police Chief Frank M. Evans said the dynamite apparently was purchased in St. Louis, and, that the explosive used last night may have come from the same purchase.

Morgan did not request police protection after the finding of the dud bomb, but Evans said that police had made frequent checks on the mayor's home since then.

"Whoever is responsible thinks they are scaring someone, but they are not," Morgan said.

The mayor further disclosed that Mrs. Morgan had received a threatening telephone call about two weeks ago while he was at a city council meeting. The anonymous caller, a man, warned Mrs. Morgan that she was going to become a widow. Morgan considered it the work of a crank and did not notify police.