

# VICE TERMED AS SABOTAGE

## 40 Disabled in Month, Conference Told

Peoria as a city is guilty of permitting a kind of sabotage when it allows vice to flourish so that in one month alone 40 Camp Ellis soldiers are disabled by venereal diseases traced to the community. It was emphasized Monday afternoon when the vice committee of the Ministerial association and representatives from various civic organizations met in the Friendship room of the Peoples Federal Savings & Loan association.

Men are our most precious asset and certainly are as important to the war effort as machinery and anything that causes loss of man hours is as much sabotage as if Nazi saboteurs wrecked machinery in our war plants. Dr. J. B. Rosemurgy, chairman of the ministerial committee, declared as he pointed out that the ministers were interested in the campaign from this standpoint and not just as another moral crusade.

### Order of Clean-up

The Rev. Howard B. Detweiler, president of the Ministerial association, declared that organized prostitution must go first, and that teen-age delinquency, which city officials had cited as an excuse for present conditions in the recent conference with military authorities when Peoria was warned to clean up or be placed under the May act, could then be cleaned up.

Dr. C. C. Carpenter declared that there should be no shifting of issues in other directions and that the claim that eliminating segregated vice would cause it to spread throughout the city had been refuted by military authorities, law enforcement agencies, and social workers, who have found from experience that clean-ups do not cause vice to spread.

### Citizenry Blamed

While city officials came in for some censure, the citizenry as a whole was blamed by the group for its lack of interest and support when the Junior Chamber of Commerce started a campaign nearly two years ago to clean up the city. The present campaign would not be necessary if this organization had been properly supported, it was pointed out by various speakers. Lack of cooperation between Mayor Woodruff and Dr. Sumner M. Miller, city health commissioner, was deplored.

Representatives attending Monday's conference are to report to their organizations this week for action on the plans outlined and will meet again at 7 p. m. next Monday to coordinate their campaign. Meeting with the ministerial committee were representatives

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Meeting with the ministerial committee were representatives from the Association of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Alton club, Rotary club, Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Bradley college faculty, Kiwanis club, Optimist club, American War Dads, Lions club, the Peoria Women's club, the College Women's club, Council of School clubs, Peoria Advertising and Selling club and Council of Church Women. Dr. Rosemurgy and Harold J. Plack, chairman of the health committee of the Association of Commerce, were co-chairmen of the meeting.