

# MISSING UNIONIST IN INQUIRY DEAD

## Geiger, 44, Is Heart Victim —Had Been Sought for Senate Labor Study

One of the missing witnesses in the Senate inquiry into teamster union activities died here yesterday.

He was Leonard R. Geiger of 58-28 211th Street, Bayside, Queens, president of Local 804 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. He died in Horace Harding Hospital from a coronary thrombosis, at the age of 44.

Mr. Geiger was one of four local union officers sought in the last six weeks by the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field. In a rackets inquiry the committee has been questioning Dave Beck, retiring president of the teamsters, and his possible successor, James R. Hoffa.

Mr. Geiger's whereabouts were unknown in that period. Spokesmen for the family said that because of a heart ailment he had gone to the country about five weeks ago to rest. He entered the hospital eight days ago, they said.

Running on a slate headed by John J. O'Rourke, which was unopposed, Mr. Geiger earlier this year became vice president of Joint Council 16 of the teamsters' union. Mr. O'Rourke is considered an ally of Mr. Hoffa.

Mr. Geiger, starting as a driver and helper in the delivery department of R. H. Macy & Co., began his union career in 1933. He later became business manager of Local 1 of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees Union, C. I. O.

In 1946 Mr. Geiger led a ten-day strike against Macy's after the department store turned over its delivery system to the United Parcel Service. He then became an organizer for Local 804, then in the American Federation of Labor, and two years later led Macy's warehouse employes in voting that teamsters' union as their representative.

Mr. Geiger became president of the local in 1949 after leading rank-and-file members in a fight against the executive board. At the beginning of this year he was chief negotiator for employes of the United Parcel Service in setting up a new pension program in contracts between the service and four teamsters' locals.

Surviving are his wife Alfreda, two sons, Leonard R. Jr. and John J., and three sisters, Mrs. Mattie Somas, Mrs. Christine Herrlitz and Mrs. Mae Hynes.

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