

## HEARINGS DUE NEXT WEEK IN VOLPE MISHAP

### Commission To Act As In- spector's Complete Work

### 3 MEN IN HOSPITAL

The commission named recently by Gov. George H. Earle to investigate thoroughly the disaster which brought death to ten and injuries to six in the Butler slope, Volpe Coal Company, Pittston Township, on June 2, will likely begin holding hearings next week, it was announced this morning by Joseph J. Walsh, deputy secretary of mines.

"The four state mine inspectors who have been investigating the cause of the explosion have practically completed their work and it is expected that the special commission named by Gov. Earle will now set the date and place for the opening of hearings," he said. Mr. Walsh says he does not know whether the hearings will be open to the press and public or not, stating this is a question which must be determined by the commission.

The report of the inspectors, now about complete, will be placed in the hands of the commission shortly and further steps in the investigation will be for this body to take," the deputy secretary said. The commission comprises: Sen. Leo C. Mundy, Attorney General Guy J. Bard and M. J. Hartneady, secretary of mines. The commission was authorized by the governor to make a comprehensive investigation of the Butler disaster and also make a thorough study of all safety regulations in the entire anthracite mining area "in order to bring assurance to the people of our region that every human precaution is being taken to prevent a recurrence of so terrible a disaster as that of the Butler slope."

President M. J. Kosik of the United Mine Workers of America, ordered by international officers two weeks ago to make a probe of the disaster has announced several times in the last two weeks that the union will participate in the investigation "after the mine inspectors have completed their investigation." It is understood that the miners' leader has made a private investigation and that he will have some pertinent questions to ask during the hearings. "I am not talking as to what I have learned about the disaster until it is time to talk before the commission," he says.

Attorney John R. Reap, deputy attorney general, said this morning at his office in Pittston, that the delay in the start of the commission's investigation is due to three of the injured men yet being confined in the Pittston Hospital.

"Those men will likely be called first to testify as they were eye witnesses of occurrences in the explosion area and until they are discharged from the hospital, the commission can not start hearings," he said. Mr. Reap says he expects the hearings to be open to the public.