

STATE MINE EXPLOSION CAUSE IS DETERMINED

Charleston (UP)—A broken light bulb or a defective socket touched off an explosion that killed four miners in the Olga No. 2 mine of the Olga Coal Co., acting state mine chief Joseph Bierer said today.

Bierer said he was considering a United Mine Workers' request for further hearings into the circumstances of the disaster which occurred Thursday night, but probably would not grant it.

"The only reason for a hearing is to get information we don't have," Bierer said. "I don't know that it will be necessary in this case."

E. L. Cratfield, department inspector-at large, gave the first report of the cause of the gas pocket explosion after a preliminary investigation.

The blast occurred in a ventilating shaft of the large mine, which employs about 1,000 men, while a five-man crew was installing concrete forms in the shaft about 300 feet from the surface.

Mine officials said workers on the surface had lowered an electric light to the men when the bulb burst, touching off the explosion.

1952 Olga Mine No. 2 Explosion



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