

PROFITEERING

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Into the affairs of the nation today came the old and honorable game of pinochle. Bridge players may think that contract is more social and snooty. Poker players may hold a stud or draw as more exciting, but it's pinochle that takes the spotlight in the war profiteering investigation -- the inquiry into the business of the seventy-eight million dollar empire of war contracts.

Day before yesterday, we heard about a list of members of Congress who were said to have had telephone contacts with the Garsson Brothers, and today some of the Legislators mentioned appeared before the Committee. One was Senator Barkley of Kentucky, Democratic leader in the House, an employee of whose office was said to have telephoned the Garsson office repeatedly.

Today Senator Barkley related that his office employee, Mrs. Chance, had telephoned the Garsson Office to call her husband, who was to be found there -- and ask him to take her home. The Senator himself never

telephoned the Garssons or received a call from them.

His son Davis had worked for one of the Garsson Companies, but had resigned -- "Because he wasn't satisfied", said the Senator today. He declared that he, ^{himself} didn't even know that such a company existed, until his son went to work for it.

Furthermore, Senator Barkley tonight denied a report that the Garsson Brothers had possession of a key to the Conference Room of the Democrats in the Senate -- and that they, the Garssons, had ~~re~~ frequently used the Conference Room. Senator Barkley stated: "As far as any Garsson, or anybody connected with the Garssons, having a key to that office -- it is not so."

Another witness was -- Congressman McCormack of Massachusetts, Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives. He denied previous testimony placing him on the list of Legislators in telephone contact with the Garssons. He stated today that neither he nor his office had ever phoned or been phoned by the Garsson Office.

Today's legislative witness number three was Congressman Sabath of Illinois -- and in came the jovial game of pinochle. Congressman Sabath admitted that he had repeatedly phoned the Garssons, and explained -- "It was all to arrange pinochle games." He stated that he had known one of the two brothers, Murray Garsson, since Nineteen Thirty-Four when the Congressman hired this Garsson as counsel for a special Congressional Committee investigating bond scandals. He said that Murray Garsson was a fearless investigator, who had a lot of enemies.

And he knew the other Garsson in somewhat similar fashion -- Dr. Henry Garsson once having worked as an ~~analyst~~ analyst for the Congressional Committee headed by Congressman Sabath. Today the Congressman said; "I found him to be a very capable fellow -- oh, he's a wonder". A wonder indeed -- Dr. Henry Garsson being described as the brains of the Munitions Combine that ran a letter head into seventy-eight million dollars worth of war contracts.

However, the main thing today was pinochle -- in the testimony of Congressman Sabath. The legislator, eighty years old, chuckled over his fondness for the game -- the bidding, the melding, the play in the hand. He said he got into pinochle games occasionally with Murray Garsson and with Joseph Freeman, a top official of the Munitions ~~and~~ Combine. That's why he telephoned to the Garsson office.

Committee ~~Members~~ Ferguson of Michigan ~~remarked~~ remarked that previous testimony had indicated that Freeman, of the Munitions Empire, was in the habit ~~of~~ of flashing one thousand dollar bills around Washington. He asked Congressman Sabath if the pinochle games had ever gone that high. "Oh no," exclaimed the Congressman, saying that the most he had ever lost was ten or twenty-five dollars.

And they never switched to poker, "I'm a mighty poor poker player," Congressman Sabath testified. "Oh, I'm ashamed of the game I play." So it was all pinochle.

The witness of the day before yesterday, who testified to the legislative telephone list, was a former secretary of the Garssons, Mrs. Jean Bates. Today the Committee wanted to ask her about a story that the Garssons had tried to tamper with her testimony, advising her to be vague and not have too good a memory -- when she ~~appeared~~ appeared before the Committee. Just forget a few things. Instead of the former secretary, her husband appeared -- saying that she was ill, under a doctor's care because of the strain. To which he added his own testimony about a meeting she had -- a few days before she gave evidence. He said he drove his wife to the house of ~~ix~~ Joseph Freeman, a member of the Munitions Combine, and waited outside while she went in. Soon after she entered the house, he saw Freeman and Dr. Henry Garsson enter. So stated the husband, adding that he thought his wife would soon be ~~well~~ well ~~enough~~ enough to tell what transpired at the meeting.

A new climax of the investigation came today, when the committee, headed by Senator Mead, issued a

subpoena to enforce the appearance of Congressman May of Kentucky. Congressman May, after appearing before the Committee in private, refused to give public testimony under oath -- unless he were permitted to question witnesses. This condition, without precedent, was rejected by the Committee -- so ~~wik~~ today Senator Mead resorted to a subpoena to compel Congressman May to answer charges that he, as head of the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, brought pressure to bear in behalf of the war contracts of the Garssons -- and to explain just how he figured in the Lumber Company that got forty-eight thousand dollars from the Garssons for lumber which was never delivered.

MERGER

The matter of unified command, the merger of the Army and the Navy, will go over to the next session of Congress. This has been recommended by President Truman, who has informed the legislators that they might as well forget about it at the present session. He is still for unification, but he won't press for action until next year.

O.P.A.

Another deadlock in the attempt to frame a compromise bill to revive the O.P.A. once again today, Senators and Congressmen on the Joint Committee failed to reach any kind of agreement. The word around Congress is that if the Joint Committee fails to reach a compromise soon, they'll have to give it up and refer the O.P.A. revival back to the Senate and Lower House.

Meanwhile, the price of livestock keeps on declining. ~~Yester~~ Yesterday's drop of prices at the Mid-Western stockyards continued today. ~~The reason given is the same - people refusing to pay the high prices for meat.~~

Chicago reports that the wholesale price of steers went down as much as a dollar per hundred weight today. And hogs were down -- from twenty-five to fifty cents less than yesterday's average.

Moreover, the decline of live-stock prices is scheduled to continue -- apparently. Farmers are shipping cattle in record-breaking numbers, and a back log is piling up. This is expected to force wholesale prices down still farther.

UNRRA

Congress today okayed the restriction on UnRRA, the one forbidding American relief supplies to countries that won't let American newsmen ~~to~~ **in to** report on the ~~XXXXXX~~ distribution of food - Soviet Russia, for example. The House of Representatives passed an appropriation of four-hundred and sixty-five million dollars for UnRRA - none of this to be spent to help countries that won't permit freedom of news about UNRRA food.

PALESTINE

Word from London is increasingly optimistic about Palestine -- good prospects for the sending of a hundred thousand Jewish immigrants into the Jewish homeland. The joint British and American Committee is meeting, and the word is that the British may not insist on the sending of American Troops into Palestine to suppress Arab resistance, if a hundred thousand Zionists are permitted to enter.

In Moscow, the official Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, prints a series of declarations about Palestine. Made by a well know Communist lecturer, named Lutzky, These presumably represent an official Soviet view. So what is the view?

The arguments printed by Izvestia call for Palestine to be an independent Arab Country, with full citizen rights for Jewish Zionists. Izvestia publishes the following: "The overwhelming majority of the population of Palestine considers it an Arab country. But looks upon the Jews already settled there as full and equal citizens of an Arab independent

Palestine."

The thesis in Izvestia denounces what it calls both British and Zionist Imperialism and states: "Zionism is imperialism.

This Soviet pronouncement on Palestine may be significant in trying to reckon the attitude of the Moscow Government toward the problem of the Holy Land.

GERMANY

American Military Authorities in Berlin have uncovered a racket connected with penicillin. It would appear that to the Germans the new drug is truly magical -- the universal remedy, the absolute cure-all. So there is a lively black market, ^{with} ~~and~~ penicillin ~~is~~ ~~being~~ smuggled in from the United States. Today's news tells of the ~~seizure~~ seizure of fifty thousand units of contraband penicillin.

Three Americans are accused -- two former G.I.'s and a doctor ^{now} ~~is~~ employed in a civilian capacity in Berlin. And all three, says the story, had powerful motives for getting into the racket, and garnering the crooked money.

The two former G.I.'s are said to be in love with Frauleins, and plan to marry them -- after getting divorces from wives back in the United States. It is forbidden for American^s, either soldier or civilian, to marry German women. So the two former G.I.'s and their Frauleins figured they would have to wait until the regulation was changed. Meanwhile, the two ~~fix~~

ex-G.I.'s went into the penicillin racket for money to give to their Frauleins, enough to tide them over until marriage.

The motive of the doctor was equally intense, though different -- he had a passion for fine cameras. You know how deeply addicted a camera fan can become -- and the Germans ^{as we all know} are noted for fine cameras. The doctor was out to gather a collection of the best -- magnificent lenses, elaborate shutters and mountings.

While the two ex-G.I.'s loved their Frauleins, the Doc loved his cameras. -- Oh you beautiful lens! And they all got into the same kind of trouble with penicillin. So the question may be asked, why is a Fraulein like a camera? A penicillin for your thoughts.

MISSING AMERICANS

The case of the two American Officers missing in Berlin takes on an air of mystery. Today, a high member of the Provost Marshal's office stated he was convinced that the Russians are holding Captain Cobin and Lieutenant Wyatt. This in spite of Russian denials -- "On their honor." The American spokesman, who is connected with the investigation, added that he thought the two officers would be released only if an appeal to the Russians were made by what he called, "An extremely high American". One wonders -- did he mean the President of the United States?

New details are now disclosed. For example, Captain Cobin ~~is~~ had been doing highly confidential work -- investigating top secret Nazi records captured by the Americans.

Lieutenant Wyatt was a member of the two hundred and fifty-second battalion of Engineers -- which ties in with a curious fact. This goes back to the American Warrant Officer and his wife who were held prisoner by the Russians and were put through an

inquisition. They say that Red Army officers questioned them about the two hundred and fifty-second battalion of Engineers, Lieutenant Wyatt's outfit. Why? We don't know. We are only aware that an element of mystery is developing in the disappearance of the two ~~officers~~ officers.

The latest is a statement made by a German - that four American Officers are being held by the Russians as spies.

ODDITIES

Here are a couple of bits of news to provide food for thought, substance for pondering. One concerns the well know fact that the most dangerous place for accidents can be the home.-- ~~thing that~~
~~often like to point out.~~ My favorite sport happens to be skiing, and time and again somebody points out to me the great number of skiers who annually incur ^{sprains and some} broken bones, ~~shattered legs and fractured arms~~. To this I invariably point out that the place where more injuries are incurred than any other is the family bathtub.

The reply that I got from one rude fellow was nothing short of impolite. He said that, while it was not necessary for anyone to go skiing, it was more or less necessary for one to take a bath, at times.

I x won't try to reply to anything like that, but will just go on to a bit of news today -- another example of perils of the household. At Rushville, Indiana, Mrs. Thomas Creek, aged seventy-two, is in the hospital tonight -- with a broken collarbone, a broken rib and a bad cut on her head. What happened to

Mrs. Creek? Why, her rocking chair slipped off the front porch. So beware of the deadly dangers of the rocking chair.

Tonight's other bit of instructive news concerns the kind of peril that nobody will ~~dispute~~ dispute -- the hazards of matrimony. No need to dialate upon that. In a Chicago Court today Mrs. Louise Schoeffler brought a complaint against her husband Otto. What had Otto done? Here's what wifie testified:

"He attempted," says she, "To push and shove a small puppy dog down my throat." TP Lucky it wasn't a

large puppy dog -- something like a young St. Bernard.

^{Just} ~~But~~ It was a small pup. TP ~~all~~ we can say is that -- while

some people may have had to eat crow, Otto tried to make his wife eat dog.

And that Hugh brings us to you.