

L.H. - P.H. Tuesday, March 20, 1951.

The Senate Crime Investigation <sup>seems not to have</sup> ~~was not as~~  
<sup>been quite as</sup> exciting today as ~~it was~~ yesterday. -- ~~when it produced~~  
~~just about the biggest television show thus far:~~

Ambassador to Mexico William O'Dwyer, formerly mayor of New York, gave testimony again. Once more he engaged in sharp exchanges with the committee and its counsel, in the course of which O'Dwyer made this important statement - that Frank Costello, alleged underworld boss is the dominant and sinister influence in Tammany Hall. The dialogue went like this:

"Do you believe" demanded Committee Counsel Rudolph Halley, "that during all your years as Mayor Costello was the dominant influence in Tammany?"

"How could I believe otherwise, after the Aurelio case?" replied O'Dwyer -- referring to the story that, in Nineteen Forty-three, Thomas Aurelio was nominated for Justice of the New York State Supreme Court through Costello's influence in Tammany Hall.

Then the Committee Counsel pressed the question,

"Is Costello mainly the answer to the sinister influence in Tammany?"

"Yes" responded O'Dwyer, "but you can't take out of the picture - the venal people." He kept emphasizing -- the "venal people" meaning other elements of corruption in Tammany.

O'Dwyer insisted that he had always fought Tammany and the Costello influence, but Committee Counsel asked about friends of Costello whom O'Dwyer, as Mayor, had appointed to office. ~~O'Dwyer said he didn't know of their connection with the alleged underworld boss, but admitted that a couple of his friends were also friends of big racketeers.~~

The dialogue got around to the fact that O'Dwyer, by his own admission, called on Costello. ~~Which the former Mayor explained by saying it was in war time, when he was an Army officer, and saw Costello in connection with charges of underworld influence in army contracts for uniforms.~~ At Costello's home he found some top men of Tammany Hall. So today Committee

Counsel Halley asked: "Why did you not make a public statement condemning Tammany Hall, and say you found Tammany leaders at Costello's?"

"You mean," O'Dwyer retorted, "come out of Costello's and rush to the newspapers, when I ~~was~~ was serving in the Army?"

All along there was fencing back and forward, ~~as~~ as when O'Dwyer was asked about the connection between gamblers and the police when he was Mayor of New York.

"You couldn't have bookmaking without a police pay off," suggested the Committee Counsel.

The former Mayor replied: "I was worried about it for four years. I knew I was sitting on a powder ~~keg~~ <sup>)</sup> keg. I know anyone in City Hall is sitting on a powder keg in present conditions."

His view was, as long as people insist on gambling there is danger of political corruption - gamblers bribing cops.

CRIME INVESTIGATION CONTINUED

( Later Costello made another appearance on the witness stand.) But, again there were no fireworks like those of yesterday. The reputed slot machine king refused to talk. He was asked what rates was the Sixty-Four Dollar question in this case: "How much are you worth?" The Committee is much interested in the financial status of the man it calls - the head of a giant New York-Miami gambling syndicate.

Costello replied: "I refuse to answer. I stand on my constitutional rights." This in spite of the fact that the committee has been threatening him with charges of contempt of Congress - for refusing to answer just this question.

## FOLLOW CRIME INVESTIGATION

All through the committee proceedings, there has run frequent reference to -- Murder Incorporated. The atrocious underworld syndicate that Ambassador <sup>W<sup>M</sup></sup> O'Dwyer himself prosecuted when he was Brooklyn District Attorney -- and sent a number of the arch murderers to the electric chair.

But mystery still persists about -- Abe Reles, a key witness in the prosecution of other killers. He was eliminated, when he came to his death, in a mysterious way. So now, today, the news wire brings an inside story about this Abe Reles - a story not without elements of sinister humor.

Testimony in the Senate Crime Investigation has disclosed that Murder Incorporated ran a sort of underworld law enforcement - with kangaroo courts, which handed down sentences against gangsters who had violated the law of the mob. Death sentences, often -- which were carried out by gunman executioners. Or, a hoodlum under charges might be acquitted by the Kangaroo Court, -- which had legal procedures, even to

Counsel Halley asked: "Why did you not make a public statement condemning Tammany Hall, and say you found Tammany leaders at Costello's?"

"You mean," O'Dwyer retorted, "come out of Costello's and rush to the newspapers, when I ~~was~~ was serving in the Army?"

All along there was fencing back and forward, ~~as~~ as when O'Dwyer was asked about the connection between gamblers and the police when he was Mayor of New York.

"You couldn't have bookmaking without a police pay off," suggested the Committee Counsel.

The former Mayor replied: "I was worried about it for four years. I knew I was sitting on a powder ~~keg~~ keg. I know anyone in City Hall is sitting on a powder keg in present conditions."

His view was, as long as people insist on gambling there is danger of political corruption - gamblers bribing cops.

CRIME INVESTIGATION CONTINUED

( Later Costello made another appearance on the witness stand.) But, again there were no fireworks like those of yesterday. The reputed slot machine king refused to talk. He was asked what rates was the Sixty-Four Dollar question in this case: "How much are you worth?" The Committee is much interested in the financial status of the man it calls - the head of a giant New York-Miami gambling syndicate.

Costello replied: "I refuse to answer. I stand on my constitutional rights." This in spite of the fact that the committee has been threatening him with charges of contempt of Congress - for refusing to answer just this question.

FOLLOW CRIME INVESTIGATION

All through the committee proceedings, there has run frequent reference to -- Murder, Incorporated. The atrocious underworld syndicate that Ambassador *W<sup>m</sup>* O'Dwyer himself prosecuted when he was Brooklyn District Attorney -- and sent a number of the arch murderers to the electric chair.

But mystery still persists about -- Abe Reles, a key witness in the prosecution of other killers. He was eliminated, when he came to his death, in a mysterious way. So now, today, the news wire brings an inside story about this Abe Reles - a story not without elements of sinister humor.

Testimony in the Senate Crime Investigation has disclosed that Murder Incorporated ran a sort of underworld law enforcement - with kangaroo courts, which handed down sentences against gangsters who had violated the law of the mob. Death sentences, often -- which were carried out by gunman executioners. Or, a hoodlum under charges might be acquitted by the Kangaroo Court, -- which had legal procedures, even to



the extent of defense lawyers.

That was where Abe Reles came in. He sometimes acted as an underworld attorney for the defense. He was loud and loquacious, proud of his oratory - and that got him into trouble.

According to the story on the wire today, there was a gangster called "Pretty Levine." - ~~He~~ must have had a baby face. Anyway, "Pretty Levine" got married, and wedded bliss made him weaken. He grew weary of murder and the dangers of life in the ~~mob~~, mob, and wanted to retire to a more peaceable domestic life. But it was one of the laws of the gang that no member of Murder Incorporated could ever resign, and get out.

So, "Pretty Levine" was put on trial, and Abe Reles was his lawyer. As Attorney for the defense, he presented his argument, and it was good -- too good. Vain of his gift of gab, Reles pleaded so eloquently in favor of "Pretty Levine", that the bosses of Murder

Incorporated thought he displayed too much enthusiasm. They decided that both the new bridegroom and his lawyer should be wiped out.

"Pretty Levine" was murdered in due course, but Reles got wind of what was in store for him, he fled to the police. Soon was talking his head off - telling all he knew about Murder Incorporated.

He was the star witness - and then he was killed by a fall from the window of a hotel room, where he was being guarded by ~~the~~ policemen. The official verdict was that he fell to his death, trying to escape out of the window -- but that has always been a subject for doubt<sup>t</sup> and suspicion.

So now the Senate Crime Investigation is haunted by the shade of the underworld lawyer, whose oratory as Attorney for the Defense was much too eloquent.

## UNDERWORLD INCOME TAX

The latest in a dispatch from Washington saying that the Bureau of Internal Revenue is making an investigation of the tax returns of some seventeen hundred underworld characters. Including Frank Costello and Joe Adonis. The tax collector says he means business, <sup>and</sup> describes the inquiry as "full scale investigation".

CRIME INVESTIGATION - TELEVISION

Congress appears to be a bit jelous of the sensation the crime hearings in New York have been making on television and radio. At least, Legislator Javits of New York is envious -- and today suggested that Congress, itself, could be as big a television radio hit as Frank Costello.

In a formal address, he urged that the House of Representatives permit its own sessions to be televised. And argued -- that the Committee hearings in New York prove what the Congressman calls "The deep interest of the people in seeing and hearing what goes on in public affairs".

Well, maybe so, Congressman, I have no doubt the people are interested in ~~the~~ public affairs -- especially when the show features Bill o'Dwyer with his "Irish up'" and when the star is so notorious a figure as the alleged boss of the underworld, <sup>and an underworld moll!</sup> ~~But~~

Anyway, according to the New York lawmaker, ~~the~~ Congress is as good as Costello.

## CONFERENCE

Soviet Russia proposes -- disarmament under international supervision. At various times before this, Moscow has called for a reduction of armed forces, but has never before suggested that it be done under supervision.

Today's proposal was made in Paris at the meeting of the Deputy Foreign Ministers, who are trying to arrange for a full scale fall conference of the Big Four. Soviet representative Gromyko got up and stated that a top level meeting of the Foreign Ministers, if one can be arranged, should take up the matter of disarmament -- each of the big Four powers to reduce military strength, under international supervision.

U N

The next meeting of the General Assembly of the U N will be in Paris. That was decided tonight by a narrow vote. At Lake Success, New York, the figures showed twenty-four to seventeen <sup>for</sup> ~~in~~ Paris, with twelve nations abstaining. There was a long debate before ~~gk~~ the offer by the French government was accepted.

## EISENHOWER

(General Eisenhower has named a Deputy Supreme Commander of the Army of the Atlantic Pact, and the choice is -- Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Great Britain.) Which renews an old association, Montgomery having served under Eisenhower in the Second World War. Now they are together again as number one and number two in defense of the West -- General Ike, and Monte of El Alamein.

At the same time, a whole series of lesser commanders are named. For the central European area, which would be the quick target of Soviet attack, if war should come -- a French soldier gets the post. General Alphonse <sup>J</sup>~~Q~~uin, who was prominent in the North African campaign. For northern Europe with its complicated waters, the job goes to a British sailor -- Admiral Sir Patrick Brind, now commander-in-Chief of British Naval Forces in the Far East. For the Mediterranean Area, a commander is still to be named. But, it is understood that he will be an Italian.

In the sky, a Britisher is put in charge

of all air operations -- Sir Hugh Saunders of the R A F. Which emphasizes British prominence in the new appointments, and thus may do something to soothe British feelings -- irked because an American Admiral has top ranking command on the sea, with authority over the British Navy.



## KOREA

The war news features the sector north of Seoul, where the U N forces have run into vigorous opposition. This is attributed to the entrance of a new Chinese army, sent in to bolster the broken and retreating forces of the Reds.

Actually, it isn't a new army but one that has been reorganized, after some previous tough experience in the Korean war. The Third Army of Red China was the one that battled the First Division of U.S. Marines -- at the time of that famous breakthrough from the Chosin Reservoir, when the Leathernecks cut their way out of encirclement, driving <sup>some</sup> fifty miles. This was then followed by the evacuation from the Hungnam Beach-head -- and the Chinese Third Army was in all of that fighting. So badly battered - that it was sent back to Manchuria to be patched up and turned into an effective military force again. That is the outfit reported to have entered the battle, bolstering the sagging defenses of the Communists north of Seoul.

Another hot spot is Chungchon, where the enemy has rallied, and is putting up something of a fight. However, American officers are still not sure whether this means an all out stand - or merely a rear guard action. Elsewhere in Korea, the Communists are continuing their withdrawal toward the Thirty-Eighth Parallel.

## ATOMIC

The Atomic Energy Commission makes a formal announcement of new bomb tests at ~~Eniwetok~~ Eniwetok - that island in the Far Pacific, which was the scene of previous atomic trials. This time the purpose will be to find out what kind of structure will stand up best against the "A" bomb -- buildings best adapted to withstand the blast and radiation. The experiment will seek what the Commission calls -- "data for the development of design criteria needed by architects."

So they will put up all sorts of structures made out of all sorts of materials, and blast them with an atomic explosion. The information thus gained will be passed along to civil defense authorities, -  
It would be useful, for example, in the construction of atom bomb shelters.

Previous tests were made to determine the destructive power of atomic weapons. Now they'll experiment for -- defense.

Here is one to add to the legend of jet planes -- a legend in the making. At Anchorage, Alaska Captain George Kammerer came in for a landing, when something went wrong with the wheels of his plane. They were retracted, he couldn't get the wheels down. So he had to make a belly landing. Jet planes are speedy as you know, and that one went skidding on its belly for six thousand feet -- a good deal more than a mile.

Now Nelson, your Jet propelled closing remarks.