

LEAD

L. J. Sullivan - Wednesday, July 17, 1946

In ~~the~~ Washington, testimony has just been given -- about Congressman May, evidence of a payment of three thousand dollars from the Garsson Munitions Combine, which is under investigation for war profiterring.

The witness was a former secretary of the Garsson's, Mrs. Eleanor Hall. She stated that she had quit the job ^b because her employers were, in the words that she used today -- "A bunch of crooks."


She told about a telephone talk ~~in~~ between Congressman May and an employee of the Munitions Combine named Freeman. "At the end," she testified today, "Congressman May said rather abruptly -- "What about that three thousand dollars? Mr. Freeman told him it would be along in a day or so," she stated.

To this the ~~witness~~ witness added that she thought the telephone conversation had something to do with lumber -- which recalled the fact that Congressman May, head of the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, is said to have acted as head of a lumber company, really a subsidiary of the Munitions Combine.

LEAD - 2

The Combine paid forty-eight thousand dollars to the lumber company -- for lumber that was never delivered, it is said.

The witness today declared that in the Garsson ~~xxxxx~~ organization they had a code name for Congressman May, which they used in talking about him -- and this code name figured, she declared, in another bit of money talk -- about one thousand dollars for Congressman May.

This late testimony followed the story given earlier today by still another former employee of the Garsson's. 

WAR PROFITS

In the war profiteering investigation, there was testimony about telephone calls -- not about what was said on the telephone, ~~it~~ just a matter of who called whom. The witness was Mrs. Jean Bates, a former Secretary of the Garssons. She handled phone calls to and from the offices of Congressmen and Senators. She said today she never listened in on what was said, and could only give an account of who called whom.

This produced a list of half a dozen members of Congress. One, Congressman May. The witness declared that Congressman May called the Garsson office two or three times a week. And that the Garsson office called the Congressman -- "oftener than that", said she. Moreover, the former secretary testified that she often telephoned to Congressional offices, looking for the Garssons -- to get them on the wire. She said she reached them in Congressman May's office four or five times, and three or four times -- in the office of Congressman Sabath.

She stated that Congressman Sabath, the Illinois Legislator, phoned the Garsson Office and was called by

the Garssons -- "Once a week, whenever he was in town," said she. Murray Garsson, one of the two brothers, served at one time as a special investigator for a Congressional Committee headed by Congressman Sabath, a Committee investigating bondholders.

Another legislator on the telephone list today was Congressman Dickstein of New York. The former Secretary said that he called the Garsson office several times. And a Republican Senator Capehart of Indiana called once.

The top name^s on the list was that of

Senator Barkley of Kentucky, the Democratic ^{Senate} Leader, and ~~Congressman~~ ^{Congressman} McCormack of Mass., ^{House} leader.

The former secretary stated that Senator Barkley himself had never called the Garssons, so far as she knew, but his office had, ^{an} employee, a Mrs. Chance. To this was added the statement that the husband of the employee in Senator Barkley's office visited the offices of the Garssons.-- "Dozens of times", said the witness.

Such was the telephone list presented today -- congressional contacts with the Garssons.

O.P.A.

Late news about the battle of the O.P.A. --
the Senate -House conference breaking down this afternoon.
The two bills they are ~~working on are so~~ ^{working on are so} ~~far apart~~ --
the Senate proposing to restrict the revived O.P.A.
severely, the House desiring to revive the price-fixing
agency as it was. So now each side accuses the other of
the failure to make ^{any} ~~any~~ progress today -- the joint
conference breaking up with mutual recriminations.

WHEELER

This afternoon Senator Wheeler conceded defeat in the Montana Primary. The victor is a former Justice with the historic name of Leif Erickson -- recalling the Viking of old. Senator Wheeler, in a formal statement, attributed his defeat to his longtime opposition to official policies of the Democratic Party -- meaning, most of all, his bitter antagonism to the war policy of the late President Roosevelt.

Time was when Burton Wheeler was a number one supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt. But, he went into opposition on the issue of the Supreme Court; he fought the Roosevelt Plan denounced as court packing. Hostility deepened when he campaigned bitterly against getting this country into the war -- he is of Quaker antecedents, opposed to war.

The Roosevelt-Wheeler enmity carried on right down into this year's Montana election -- James Roosevelt going actively against ^{his father is} ~~the~~ arch-opponent, ~~of his father's~~ ~~policy which led to war.~~ On the other hand, the Senator had the endorsement of President Truman, who defended him

against charges of being anti-labor. Powerful labor forces were against Wheeler, a concerted drive by the C.I.O. and the Railroad Brotherhoods.

It isn't certain what now will happen in Montana. Some surmise is that Senator Wheeler, beaten for the Democratic nomination, may run in the election as an independent. The anger and acrimony of the Primary Campaign lends plausibility to that. Or there is a possibility that, with Wheeler staying out, his resentful followers may strengthen the Republicans.

as heroes of patriotic resistance to the Axis. Then they were accused of treason and pro-Axis collaboration. The real guilt of Mikhalovitch was that of having fought against the Communists, as well as the Nazis, against Hitler - in a bitter triangular fight of Catholics, Nazis and Reds.

The execution of General Mikhalovitch, together with eight other prominent Yugoslavs, was accompanied there by a huge demonstration in Belgrade in front of the American, British and French Embassies.

MIKHAILOVITCH

The bitterest personal drama of the war came to its tragic end today - with the execution of General Mikhailovitch. This was a foregone conclusion. His trial at Belgrade was merely another of those totalitarian parodies of law and justice. The regime of communist Marshal Tito had stated in advance ^{that} the famed leader of the Chetniks would be condemned and executed.

The time was when Mikhailovitch and his Chetniks were applauded and acclaimed, world-wide, as heroes of patriotic resistance to the Nazi. Then they were accused of treason and pro-Nazi collaboration. The real guilt of Mikhailovitch was that of having fought against the Communists, as well as the Nazis, ^{against} Tito as well as Hitler - in a bitter triangular feud of Chetniks, Nazis and Reds.

The execution of General Mikhailovitch, together with eight other prominent Jugo-slavs, was accompanied today by a huge demonstration in Belgrade in front of the American, British and ~~French~~ French

embassies. Fifty thousand Yugoslavs, with communist flags, gave the communist salute of clenched fists, and denounced the western democracies with yells of "down with reactionaries, down with imperialism".

lots of Americans are probably thinking, asking themselves the same question that is in my mind tonight. What chance would an American have if he was on trial in a court then maybe it isn't good representation to bring that up.

REDIN

And, by way of contrast: —

^ In Seattle, Soviet Lieutenant Nicolai Redin was found not guilty today. He was acquitted of charges of espionage. It was a question of his veracity against that of an American engineer who accused the Soviet ~~Marx~~ Naval Lieutenant of trying to buy military secrets. The evidence consisted in large part of telephone transcriptions that turned out to be unintelligible or insignificant. Upon being found not guilty, Lieutenant Redin went to the Jury Box and shook hands. "Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury," he said, "I want to thank you for the fair trial I have received here in America."

Lots of Americans are probably thinking — asking themselves the same question that's in my mind tonight: — what chance would an American have if he was on trial in — but then maybe it isn't good sportsmanship to bring that up.

TRIESTE

We don't know whether angry American soldiers in Trieste succeeded in their hunt today. Six hundred G.I.'s in full battle equipment, searched the countryside for assassins who last night ambuscaded an American jeep, killing the driver and wounding two other American soldiers -- the jeep, out of control, crashing into a hill. The enraged Americans concentrated on a section of swamp near a camp of two thousand Yugoslav Partisans of Communist Marshall Tito -- the belief being that the killers might be in that area.

Frankfurt by air passed along a Soviet denial that the two American officers were being held prisoner by the Russians. An American army spokesman stated: "Russian officials have sworn on their honor"

Then, later, a high American official in Berlin stated that the Lieutenant and Captain were being held at Red Army headquarters, Potsdam, and Soviet officials now said they would make an investigation of the possible whereabouts of the missing jeep -- this after that was swearing ^{their} honor that they didn't know them.

The rather absurd set of Russian admissions

BERLIN

The news from Germany today brought a series of contradictions in the case of the two American officers who have disappeared in the Soviet zone of occupation in Berlin - Lieutenant George Wyatt of Oklahoma City and Captain Harold Cobin of Newark, New Jersey.

The first dispatch this morning, stated the two officers were being held ~~by~~ ^{at} Red Army headquarters, ~~in~~ Potsdam. Then that was killed, contradicted by a dispatch from Frankfurt which passed along a Soviet denial that the two American officers were being held prisoner by the Russians. An American army spokesman stating: "Russian officials have sworn on their honor".

4
Then, later, a high American official in Berlin stated that the Lieutenant and Captain were being held at Red Army headquarters, Potsdam. And Soviet officials now said they would make an investigation of the possible whereabouts of the missing Americans - this after that ~~xxx~~ swearing on ^{their} honor *that they didn't have them.*

The rather absurd set of ~~xxxxxx~~ admissions

and contradictions might perhaps be explained on the assumption that some Soviet officials don't know what other Soviet officials are doing - one department not being informed about the actions of some other department, bureau versus bureau, which is often the way of bureaucrats.

nothing unusual about it - there always being a certain number of cases of A. S. D. I.

Meanwhile, the three Soviet spies caught in the American zone, two of whom were officers in civilian clothes, were scheduled to be handed back to the Russians today.

It was disclosed in Berlin today that a total of twenty-six Americans are missing, listed as what the news dispatch calls - "permanently absent from Berlin without leave". American army officials stated that there was no indication that the twenty-six missing Americans were in the Russian zone. They said, there is nothing unusual about it - there always being a certain number of cases of A.W. O. L.

Meanwhile, the three Soviet spies caught in the American zone, two of them ^{Red} Army officers in civilian clothes, were scheduled to be handed back to the Russians today.

ZONES

In Germany, the Americans and British are preparing to merge their zones of occupation -- for economic purposes. Conferences for the merger will start in a few days -- and it looks as if the French would join in the unification designed to put an end to the economic blockade between zones.

What about the Russians? They seem to be out of it -- won't have anything to do with the merger. The United States issued the invitations to work out a unification pattern -- but no reply was received from the Russians.

The Americans want to get economic matters working in such fashion that the Germans can become self-supporting -- at least in part. ~~As it stands~~ ~~right now this~~
~~now, it's~~ ~~costing~~ ~~it's~~ costing American taxpayers two hundred million dollars a year ^{to run our part of Germany.} Which would seem a fine result of total victory, the conqueror having to support the conquered -- we having to shell out millions upon millions to pay the bill for the Germans in our occupation zone. If such are the fruits of victory, the reward of the victor might turn

out to be -- bankruptcy.

American officials over there want to put a stop to the drain on the pocket of the American taxpayer, ^{that} two hundredmillion ~~dollars~~ a year; and the only way to do it is to form an economic merger of ~~SEVERAL~~ occupation zones. ^{Which we are doing} ~~we're doing it~~ with the British, and probably ^{with} the French. It would help if the Soviets would cooperate, but apparently they won't. ~~Even~~ so, however, the partial merger now going on will enable the ~~SEVERAL~~ Germans to produce and export quantities of goods -- and thereby pay for some of the food they're getting.

ZHUKOV

Here's one of those news items that can stand a lot of interpretation. The Moscow wire flashes a report that Marshal Zhukov has been named Commander of the Odessa Military District. And that could mean a lot of things, says the Foreign News Editor of the United Press, Harrison Salisbury, who was recently the top U.P. Correspondent in Moscow.

Marshal Zhukov came out of the war with the top reputation among the Soviet Military Leaders. For a while he commanded in conquered Germany, as the opposite number to our own General Eisenhower. Then he was put at the head of the ground forces of the Red Army. Also -- he was made a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

All of which was the highest kind of promotion for Marshal Zhukov. So what about the new post to which he has been transferred? Harrison Salisbury remarks that the shifting of Zhukov to Odessa would be about the same as transferring Chief of Staff General Eisenhower to the Command of an army post at New Orleans.

On the surface, it would look as if Russia's Number One War Commander had fallen out of favor at the Kremlin. It might mean an eclipse of Marshal Zhukov's ~~brink~~ bright and rising star. And that could have an important bearing on the question of what's going to happen in Soviet Russia -- after Stalin. Who will take power?

~~But there's another angle with none of an international slant.~~ ^{But} Is the Military District of Odessa really so ~~unimportant?~~ -- ~~like a mere Army Post at~~ ~~Odessa?~~ The Odessa district is near the Balkans, and the historic Port of Odessa is on the Black Sea -- thereby related to Turkey, the Dardanelles. Soviet ambitions in that direction are notorious, ~~the Soviets having made demands on Turkey, demands connected with the control of the Dardanelles.~~ Is Moscow cooking up some new scheme in that direction? If so, the post at Odessa might be of number one importance, ~~and might call for a number one Commander like Zhukov.~~

~~Such are the possible interpretations placed~~

~~on~~ The transfer of Marshal Zhukov ^{may} ~~which, on the surface,~~
~~looks like shifting Eisenhower to New Orleans. It might~~
be a sign and portent of new developments to come in the
direction of the Balkans, **T**urkey, the Dardanelles.

*But now maybe High has a
surprise for us. It's a bit late.*

GIRL

This being a news program, it's appropriate to pass along the astonishing news about the Hinds family of Tilton, New Hampshire. ~~The~~ family surprise! -- It's a girl! ^π It's common enough for girls to be born, as one can see by taking a look around. But in the Hinds family of New Hampshire there hadn't been a girl for ninety-five years. There were plenty of children -- but, generation after generation, they all were boys. The last time a daughter was born was in eighteen fifty-one. So it's news all right to relate that Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hinds of Tilton, New Hampshire, have a baby girl.

And now maybe Hugh has a surprise for us. Let's ask him.