

HEARST AGENT IS LINKED WITH FORGED 'DOCUMENTS'

ERRORS FOUND IN LETTER ARE LAID TO AVILA

'Code' Messages Are Called 'Gibberish' by Expert Before Senators.

COMMA IS MISPLACED

Same Mistake Appears in State Papers 'Exposed' by Publisher.

By PAUL W. MALLON
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Evidence which may link Miguel Avila with the alleged forgery of Hearst Mexican documents was presented to the Senate-Mexican committee today.

Avila, Hearst agent, committed in a statement typewritten for the Senate investigating committee the same unusual grammatical errors in Spanish that appear in the forged Mexican documents, Commander Carlos V. Cusachs United States Navy, retired, and a Spanish scholar, told the committee.

Cusachs said Avila wrote the Spanish word "ud" (meaning you), with a comma behind it whereas it should have a period behind it just like the word Mr. in English.

Seven Called Spurious

The Spanish scholar said that to his knowledge no similar grammatical error had come to his attention before except in the Mexican "document" published in Hearst newspapers.

Seven of the "documents" purported to be Mexican government code messages are spurious, Commander A. D. Struble, United States naval code expert, testified.

He said he spent ten days studying the seven messages, some of which were supposed to have been exchanged between President Calles of Mexico, and Arturo Elias, Mexican consul general in New York.

"It is my belief they are not actual code messages, but appear to be fakes," said Struble.

The expert said the "code" appeared to be "typewritten gibberish" struck off at random by someone.

Struble said the seven "translations" of the messages as published by newspapers of William Randolph Hearst did not fit the "code messages" in any way.

"In my opinion no inter-relation exists between the apparently coded messages and the so-called translations, and in my opinion the so-called coded messages are not actually either coded or ciphered dispatches," the witness added.

As an experiment Struble said he had several men in his office attempt to fake coded messages on a typewriter, and it was discovered that all of them used letters in one section of the typewriter keyboard. The seven "fakes" used only eight different letters, Struble said.

Lane Takes Stand

Struble said he was acquainted with all kinds of code and had charge of the code and signal department.

Arthur Bliss Lane, head of the Mexican division of the State Department and former secretary to the American Embassy in Mexico City, testified that Miguel Avila, Hearst agent, had once tried to sell him a "Mexican document."

John Page, Hearst's Mexico City correspondent, once called with Avila at the embassy and produced a copy of a document attacking the then American Ambassador to Mexico, James R. Shefield. Avila offered to get the original copy from the Mexican government files for 100 or 200 pesos, Lane said.

"I told Avila the embassy was not in the market for such documents," Lane testified.

Grammatical Errors Similar
Again in August, 1926, Page (who procured the documents for Hearst newspapers) called at the embassy with a forged paper, Lane said. This document was written on embassy note paper and purposed to relate that whatever should be taken up by Shefield with Secretary Kellogg on the ambassador's American visit could be learned for a price.

Lane said the papers allegedly obtained by Avila and Page in Mexico City and in New York and from President Calles' office and various other Mexican government offices, all were guilty of the same grammatical errors. He said the Spanish word "u d" was erroneously followed by a comma instead of a period, an error as bad as using a comma after the English "Mr."

RATE REDUCTION ASKED

Fertilizer Association Claims Freight Charges Are Discriminatory.

Petition for rate hearing and reduction was filed with the public service commission today against twenty-two railroads operating in Indiana by the National Fertilizer Association, Washington.

It alleges that the present freight rate on 30,000 pounds of fertilizer is sufficient for 40,000 pounds and that rates are "preferential and discriminatory."

FOUR CITY FLATS SOLD

Two four-apartment flats, one duplex and one single dwelling were included in the purchase of \$30,000 worth of property in the 900 block on N. Capitol Ave. made Thursday by Charles B. and Caroline Hawk.

The properties were bought from William H. and Emma Smith, the deal being made through the Fieber & Reilly real estate firm.

The properties will be held for improvement, it was announced. The frontage is 911-13 and 15 N. Capitol Ave. and 930 to 940 Muskingum St.

How Sweet!

By Times Special
MARION, Ind., Jan. 6.—Frank Jefferson was arrested here after his wife said he had a case of inebriated haitosis. She informed police even his best friends could have told him, as he had been drinking perfume.

EMPLOYERS TO MEET

Studebaker Official Will Speak at Dinner.

Dr. Charles A. Lippincott, South Bend, manager of the personnel and cooperative relations department of the Studebaker Corporation, will be the principal speaker at the twenty-fourth annual meeting and dinner of the Associated Employers of Indianapolis, Jan. 31, at the Columbia Club.

Andrew J. Allen, secretary of the association, will present a "Quarter Century Indianapolis Labor Review."

President Howard T. Griffith and other officers will give annual reports.

Moving pictures from the American Plan Association will be shown. Members of the Indianapolis Farmers' Club will be guests.

Eight new directors will be elected for three-year terms.

JOB TO DEMOCRATS

City Hall Custodian and Street Chief Named.

The board of works today announced appointment of two more Democrats to succeed two Republicans to city jobs.

Charles A. Grossart, 5148 N. Meridian St., former county commissioner, was named street commissioner, succeeding George Woodward.

Christ Hoffman, 1226 King Ave., was named city hall custodian, succeeding Charles L. Clark, former grand jury foreman.

It is expected the board of safety will give two more Democrats jobs at its meeting Tuesday. Howard E. Robertson, 5050 E. New York St., is slated to succeed Claude E. McCoy as safety board secretary.

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BLAMES ROUGH WEATHER IN SUB LOSS OF LIVES

Divers Could Have Kept Men in Sunken Craft Alive, Court Is Told.

By United Press
CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD, BOSTON, Jan. 6.—Only continued unfavorable weather prevented the rescue of the six men trapped in the torpedo room when the S-4 sank, the naval court of inquiry was told today.

Lieutenant Commander Edward Ellsberg, retired salvage expert, testified that if the weather had permitted diving while the men were still alive and able to operate the tubes, the salvagers could have provided them with food, air and clothing sufficient to last for weeks if necessary.

He expressed the opinion that although only six men were known to have been alive on the S-4 after the submarine was rammed by the coast guard destroyer Paulding, perhaps thirty other members of the crew were unconscious in the after part of the sunken craft.

Ellsberg said he believed everything possible was done toward rescuing those imprisoned in the sunken hull of the S-4.

Speedy Rescue Efforts

"In my judgment," he said, "very speedy action was taken to send all equipment that was of benefit and a great deal that was of no benefit to the scene of the accident."

Under questioning by Commander Leslie E. Bratton, judge advocate, the salvage expert reiterated that the navy was the only organization equipped for deep sea diving and that most good deep sea divers were navy trained.

Divers at the scene of the S-4 disaster were the best divers obtainable, he thought.

Ellsberg described the early attempts at rescue. At first, he said, it was decided to try to raise the S-4, something which might be accomplished by blowing water out of the ballast tanks. This was at 3 p.m., Dec. 18, less than twenty-four hours after the accident.

"It was believed that we might be able to rescue not only the six men forward, but perhaps thirty unconscious men aft," he said.

Send Down Air Hose

The witness described how a diver was sent down to attach hose to the air compartments.

The blowing process was started, and for about an hour, it appeared that the submarine would be raised. Then air bubbles showed and increased until it seemed no air was getting into the submersible, Ellsberg testified.

"The only thing then was to abandon hope for the men aft and try to save the men forward," he said.

Ellsberg said Diver L. S. Michaels went down in bad weather for the star board salvage line which is a pipe lead with external valve leading

State Will Honor Singer

JELlico, Tenn., Jan. 6.—A trainload of Tennesseans will go to New York next month when Grace Moore, former Jellico girl, makes her debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company in "La Bohème." Governor Henry Horton, members of his staff, members of the Moore family and prominent Tennesseans will hear the native daughter "make good in the big city."

Miss Moore started her singing career in the choir of the Baptist church here.

Hearing on a request of William Bosson, local attorney, to have county commissioners set a date for receiving petitions for payment of horizontal tax refund claims will be held by the commission next Friday.

Bosson, who represents several petitioners, attempted to have the matter brought before commissioners today, but officials and attorneys of the Indiana Taxpayers' Association asked for postponement.

The horizontal tax rates levied in 1919, 1920 and 1921 were held illegal by the Indiana Supreme Court last year and county officials were ordered to refund. County Attorney Clinton C. Glynn and county officials will follow the court's order.

An amended complaint has been filed in Federal Court in the case brought by E. C. Atkins Company against county officials for an injunction to prevent the Indiana Taxpayers' Association from collecting horizontal tax.

Plaintiff's attorneys are contemplating taking the case to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago if this is done.

County Auditor Harry Dunn recently gave taxpayers six months in which to file additional rebate claims, setting out, however, that such action will be taken by them because the county is without funds to aid.

EVANSVILLE GETS AID

Coast Guard Cutter to Help Fight River Ice.

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The coast guard has been called on to assist ice-bound farmers along Green River in Kentucky. After an appeal from Evansville, Ind., the Mississippi River coast guard cutter Kankakee was ordered to assist the steamer Evansville, caught in the Ohio River between the mouth of Green River and Evansville.

The Evansville is loaded with provisions needed by Green River valley farmers. The Kankakee will either take the provisions from the Evansville and distribute them along the river settlements or break a passage-way through the ice for the steamer.

He had been ill three years. A native of Germany, Mr. Wuster came to Indianapolis thirty years ago and worked at his trade of cabinet maker until his retirement.

Surviving are three sons, Ernest, Adolph and Robert, all of Indianapolis, and four daughters, Mrs. Vogt, Mrs. Paulina Wolia, and Mrs. Albert Janert, all of Indianapolis, and Mrs. William Neerer, of Buffalo, N. Y.

DATE SET FOR TAXES HEARING

Horizontal Refund Requests May Be Received.

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CABINET MAKER BURIED

Service Conducted for Fred Wuster, Native of Germany

Fred Wuster, 88, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Leonard Vogt, 1818 S. East St., Wednesday, was buried this afternoon at Crown Hill cemetery, beside the grave of his wife, who died three weeks ago.

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