

BOULDER DAM POWER PROJECT DEBATE AHEAD

Arizona Senator to Oppose Bill; Shoals Fight in Third Week.

BY RUTH FINNEY

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The Senate started its third week of debate on the Muscle Shoals with the next big power fight of the session just ahead.

The Senate Irrigation Committee is entering its fourth week of debate on the Swing-Johnson Boulder Dam bill with a prospect of sending the measure to the floor for action soon after the Muscle Shoals fight is ended.

It is already apparent that the subject of hydro-electric power will consume more time in this session than any other subject. The Walsh resolution, the center of the first big battle over power, was debated in committee and on the floor for weeks.

The Boulder Dam bill has been before the irrigation committee for hearings and debate almost continuously for two months, with the longest debate of all threatened on the floor, where Arizona Senators will filibuster against its passage unless the Secretary of Interior and Congress consent to pay the State a royalty.

Senator Ashurst, Arizona, laid before the committee today a draft of demands Arizona will make before withdrawing her opposition to construction of Boulder Dam partly in that State. This practically nullifies all progress made by representatives of the States in negotiations carried on continuously since the bill was before the Senate last year.

As a result of Arizona's attitude, reinforced by similar demands from Nevada, the conviction is growing among members of Congress that Federal action must be taken toward development of the Colorado before State differences can be adjusted.

The House irrigation committee will receive formal reports this week from representatives of the States as to the prospect of any agreement. Unless the situation should change in the next few days, these reports will say an agreement is improbable.

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THE "CANARY" MURDER CASE

by S. S. VAN DINE AUTHOR OF THE BENSON MURDER CASE © Charles Scribner's Sons

THE STORY THUS FAR

Skeel's finger prints had been found in the apartment of the murdered Margaret Odell, but Vance believed Skeel had been hiding in a closet while the stranger did his work. The subsequent murder of Skeel, after he had promised to reveal the murderer, bears this theory out. Spotswoode, who had called on the girl, had rushed to her door at the sound of a scream, but had been reassured through the door that nothing was wrong. Vance has Markham invite Cleaver, Mannix and Spotswoode to his apartment for a poker game, promising to name the murderer the next day. And he names Spotswoode!

CHAPTER L

VANCE paused and looked up. "You perhaps recall the circumstances? It was a jack-pot."

"Allen dealt Cleaver a four-straight-flush and gave me three kings. The other hands were so poor that every one else was compelled to drop out."

"I opened, and Cleaver stayed. On the draw, Allen gave me another king, and gave Cleaver the card he needed to complete his straight-flush."

"Twice I bet a small amount, and each time Cleaver raised me. Finally I called him, and, of course, he won. He couldn't help but win, d'ye see."

"He was betting on a sure thing. Since I opened and drew two cards, the highest hand I could possibly have held would have been four of a kind. Cleaver knew this, and having a straight-flush, he also knew before he raised my bet, that he had me beaten. At once I realized that he was not the man I was after."

"By what reasoning?"

"A poker player, Markham, who would bet on a sure thing is one who lacks the egotistical self-confidence of the highly subtle and supremely capable gambler."

"He is not a man who will take hazardous chances and tremendous risks, for he possesses, to some degree, what the psychologists call an inferior complex, and instinctively he grasps at every possible opportunity of protecting and bettering himself."

"In short, he is not the ultimate unadulterated gambler. And the man who killed the Odell girl was a supreme gambler, who would stake everything on a single turn of the wheel, for, in killing her, that is exactly what he did."

"And only a gambler whose paramount self-confidence would make him scorn, through sheer egotism, to bet on a sure thing, could have committed such a crime. Therefore, Cleaver was eliminated as a suspect."

Markham was now listening intently.

"The test to which I put Spotswoode a little later," Vance went on, "had originally been intended for Mannix, but he was out of the game. That didn't matter, however, for had I been able to eliminate both Cleaver and Spotswoode, then Mannix would undoubtedly have been the guilty man."

"Of course I would have planned something else to substantiate the fact; but, as it was, that wasn't necessary."

"The test I applied to Spotswoode was pretty well explained by the gentleman himself. As he said, not one player in a thousand would have wagered the limit against a pat hand, when he himself held nothing. It was tremendous—superb! It was probably the most remarkable bluff ever made in a game of poker."

"I couldn't help admiring him when he calmly shoved forward all his chips, knowing, as I did, that he held nothing."

"He staked everything, d'ye see,

wholly on his conviction that he could follow my reasoning step by step, and, in the last analysis, outwit me. It took courage and daring to do that. And it also took a degree of self-confidence which would never have permitted him to bet on a sure thing."

"The psychological principles involved in that hand were identical with those of the Odell crime."

"I threatened Spotswoode with a powerful hand—a pat hand—just as the girl, no doubt, threatened him, and instead of compromising—instead of calling me or laying down—he outwitted me, and resorted to one supreme coup, though it meant risking everything."

"My word, Markham! Can't you see how the man's character, as revealed in that amazing gesture, dovetails with the psychology of the crime?"

Markham was silent for a while; he appeared to be pondering the matter.

"But you, yourself, Vance, were not satisfied at the time," he submitted at length. "In fact, you looked doubtful and worried."

"True, old dear. I was no end worried. The psychological proof of Spotswoode's guilt came so dashed unexpectedly."

"I wasn't looking for it, don't you know. After eliminating Cleaver I had a parti pris, so to speak, in regard to Mannix; for all the material evidence in favor of Spotswoode's innocence—that is, the seeming physical impossibility of his having strangled the lady—had, I admit, impressed me."

"I'm not perfect, don't you know. Being unfortunately human, I'm still susceptible to the malicious animal magnetism about facts and appearances which you lawyer chaps are continuously exuding over the earth like some vast asphyxiating effluvia."

"And even when I found that Spotswoode's psychological nature fitted perfectly with all the factors of the crime, I still harbored a doubt in regard to Mannix."

"It was barely possible that he would have played the hand just as Spotswoode played it. That is why, after the game was over, I tackled him on the subject, I wanted to check his psychological reactions."

"Still, he staked everything on one turn of the wheel, as you put it."

"Ah! But not in the same sense that Spotswoode did. Mannix is a cautious and timid gambler as compared with Spotswoode."

"To begin with, he had an equal chance and an even bet, whereas Spotswoode had no chance at all—his hand was worthless."

"And yet Spotswoode wagered the limit on a pure bit of mental calculation. That was gambling in the higher ether."

"On the other hand, Mannix was merely tossing a coin, with an even chance of winning. Furthermore, no calculation of any kind entered into it; there was no planning, no figuring, no daring."

"And, as I have told you from the start, the Odell murder was premeditated and carefully worked out with sardonic calculation and supreme daring."

"And what true gambler would ask an adversary to double a bet on the second flip of the coin, and then accept an offer to redouble on the third flip?"

"I purposely tested Mannix in that way, so as to preclude any possibility of error. Thus I not only eliminated him—I expunged him, eradicated him, wiped him out utterly."

"It cost me a thousand dollars, but it purged my mind of any lingering doubt. I then knew, despite all the contrary material indications, that Spotswoode had done away with the lady."

"You make your case theoretically plausible. But, practically, I'm afraid I can't accept it," Mark-

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ham was more impressed, I felt, than he cared to admit.

"Damn it, man!" he exploded after a moment. "Your conclusion demolishes all the established landmarks of rationality and sane credibility. Just consider the facts."

He had now reached the argumentative stage of his doubt. "You say Spotswoode is going. Yet we know, on irrefutable evidence, that five minutes after he came out of the apartment the girl screamed and called for help."

"He was standing by the switch-board, and, accompanied by Jessup, he went to the door and carried on a brief conversation with her. She was certainly alive then."

"Then he went out the front door, entered a taxicab, and drove away. Fifteen minutes later he was joined by Judge Redfern as he alighted from the taxicab in front of the club here—nearly forty blocks away from the apartment house!"

"It would have been impossible for him to have made the trip in less time; and, moreover, we have the chauffeur's record."

"Spotswoode simply did not have either the opportunity or the time to commit the murder between half-past eleven and ten minutes of twelve when Judge Redfern met him."

"And, remember, he played poker in the club here until three in the morning—hours after the murder took place."

Markham shook his head with emphasis.

"Vance, there's no human way to get around those facts. They're firmly established; and they preclude Spotswoode's guilt as effectively and finally as though he had been at the North Pole that night."

Vance was unmoved. "I admit everything you say," he rejoined. "But as I have stated before, when material facts and psychological facts conflict, the material facts are wrong. In this case, they may not actually be wrong, but they're deceptive."

"Very well, magnus Apollo!" The situation was too much for Markham's exacerbated nerves.

"Show me how Spotswoode would have strangled the girl and ransacked the apartment, and I'll order Heath to arrest him."

"Pon my word, I can't do it," expostulated Vance. "Omniscience was denied me. But—deuce take it!"

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"I think I've done rather well in pointing out the culprit. I never agreed to expound his technic, don't you know?"

"So! Your vaunted penetration amounts only to that, does it? Well, well! Here and now I become a professor of the higher mental sciences, and I pronounce solemnly that Doctor Crippen murdered the Odell girl."

"To be sure, Crippen's dead; but that fact doesn't interfere with my newly adopted psychological means of deduction. Crippen's nature, you see, fits perfectly with all the esoteric and recondite indications of the crime. Tomorrow I'll apply for an order of exhumation."

Vance looked at him with waggish reproachfulness, and sighed.

"Recognition of my transcendent genius, I see, is destined to be posthumous. In the meantime I bear the taunts and jeers of the multitude with a stout heart. My head is bloody, but unbowed."

He looked at his watch, and then seemed to become absorbed with some line of thought.

"Markham," he said, after several minutes, "I've a concert at 3 o'clock, but there's an hour to spare. I want to take another look at that apartment and its various approaches."

"Spotswoode's trick—and I'm convinced it was nothing more than a trick—was enacted there; and if we are ever to find the explanation, we shall have to look for it on the scene."

I had got the impression that Markham, despite his emphatic denial of the possibility of Spotswoode's guilt, was not entirely unconvinced.

Therefore, I was not surprised when, with only a half-hearted pro-

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By United Press

WILDWOOD, N. J., March 13.—Three hotels were destroyed by a \$200,000 fire which menaced the business section here today. Three persons were injured slightly.

The Biltmore Hotel with seventy rooms, the Towers hotel with thirty rooms and the Willows Hotel with twenty-five rooms were razed.

No guests were in any of the hotels, which were closed until April 1. Guests in the Lindhurst Hotel, near the Towers, which is open in the winter, fled in their night clothing.

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ing when the flames spread toward the Lindhurst. It was not touched, however.

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