

Bilbo Probe Turns To Charge of Bribe To Help Drug Addict

Doctors, Gambler Face Quiz in \$1000 Gift; Push Hearing to Beat Congress Deadline

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The investigation of Senator Theodore G. Bilbo (D. Miss.) turned today from war contractor gifts to a charge that he accepted payment for helping a drug addict get morphine.

Senate war investigating committee hearings on charges that Senator Bilbo took gifts from war contractors whom he befriended closed last night. The senator vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

But the door was left open to explore last minute charges that he also got \$1000 or more, in crisp \$100 bills, for helping an alleged drug addict get a daily ration of two grains of morphine.

Senator Bilbo denied the bribery suggestion and welcomed the prospect of further investigation.

Senator Homer Ferguson (R. Mich.) proposed that the issue be settled within the next 10 days. He asked that the alleged addict and two Mississippi doctors named in the case be called for examination Dec. 30.

Mr. Ferguson's proposed timetable was significant for its possible bearing on the political future of the 69-year-old Mississippi senator.

Republicans Watch Closely
Senate Republicans have been observing the proceedings closely for possible grounds on which to challenge Senator Bilbo's fitness for a senate seat when congress convenes Jan. 3.

Mr. Ferguson insisted that before the Bilbo record is closed the committee should hear from:

Dr. A. J. Podesta, Vicksburg, Miss., who is alleged to have given Mr. Bilbo ten \$100 bills for his help in getting the narcotics bureau in Washington to authorize the morphine prescription.

Dr. James Logan, Natchez, Miss., joined Dr. Podesta in certifying that the morphine was needed by an aged and infirm former drug addict to relieve the pain of spinal arthritis.

John E. Carr, Natchez, Miss., the alleged addict, who was described in committee evidence as a cafe operator and gambler.

The committee had volumes of conflicting testimony on the subject at the close of a seven-day hearing on the war contract charges.

Senator Bilbo couldn't remember ever getting any large sums from Dr. Podesta.

Investigators for the committee on the internal revenue bureau reported receiving contradictory statements from the principals they interviewed as to the amount of money paid, the time it was paid, and the purpose of the payment.

There was general agreement, however, that Carr gave Dr. Podesta some money to be given to Senator Bilbo out of gratitude for the senator's aid in getting a narcotics prescription.

The investigators reports quoted Dr. Podesta as saying Carr sent Senator Bilbo, through him, a \$1000 contribution for the Juniper Grove Baptist church project that the senator promoted as a family memorial.

Other Charges Overshadowed
Mr. Ferguson said bank records failed to show any such deposit in the special church account, held by Senator Bilbo, to reflect the contribution.

The drug charge, injected in the final two days by Senator Bilbo's former secretary, Edward P. Terry, overshadowed the original charges that the Mississippi senator received thousands of dollars worth of gifts and services from Mississippi contractors he helped get wartime construction jobs.

Senator Bilbo, in day-long testimony, entered a categorical denial of any wrongdoing. He admitted that he tried to help his constituents.

But, he said, the only gifts he got from them were a Cadillac car—in keeping with an old southern custom—and a few pieces of fur-

niture for his dream house No. 2. They were Christmas presents, he said.

Senator Bilbo insisted that he intends to repay the friends from whom he received loans or services. But he didn't know when he would get around to paying all of the debts he owes. He estimated that they exceed \$30,000.

And, he added, they don't include \$30,000 received from two war contractors, F. T. Newton and B. L. Knost, as contributions for the 1943 senatorial campaign of former Senator Wall Doxey (D. Miss.).

Britain Promises To Free Burma

Attlee Pledge Brings Angry Churchill Reply

LONDON, Dec. 20 (U. P.).—Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced today that Britain was ready to give Burma her independence.

The announcement drew an angry blast by Winston Churchill against carving any such slice out of the British empire.

Mr. Churchill's oratory was at its best. He charged that the Labor government "has in fact shorn Burma from the British crown" in the "process of the decline and fall of the British empire."

Mr. Attlee told commons that the first step toward giving Burma independence "within or without the commonwealth" would be taken soon.

Churchill Charges Undue Haste
Burmese leaders will be invited to London to discuss self-government for the colonial realm flanking India, Mr. Attlee said.

Red-faced and irate, Mr. Churchill lashed back at the Labor government.

He assailed the government's "extraordinary haste" to get out of Burma so soon after the enormous sacrifices of British and Indian blood to liberate Burma from the Japanese.

Want No "Unwilling Peoples"
Mr. Attlee said it was the government's desire that the Burmese people "attain their self-government by the quickest and most convenient path possible."

"We do not desire to retain within the commonwealth and empire any unwilling peoples," he said.

Independence of Burma "within" the British Commonwealth of Nations would give it a status similar to that of Canada, Australia, or the Union of South Africa.

Forgets Purse, Loses \$13,250

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Dec. 20 (U. P.).—Elderly Mr. and Mrs. George Morley sold their Richfield Park, N. J., home and pocketed \$13,250 to buy another home in this resort city. They stopped in a cafeteria for lunch.

Five minutes after they left the restaurant Mrs. Morley remembered leaving her handbag in a chair. But when they got there the handbag containing all the cash was gone.

Holdup With Bottle Nets \$4000, Capture

MIDDLETON, Tenn., Dec. 20 (U. P.).—A man identified as Roy McDuffey of Wilnot, Ark., was in police custody today after a daring bank holdup with a bottle Police recovered more than \$4000.

Lester Simpson, bank cashier, said that the man covered three employees with "something concealed in his pocket."

A posse trapped McDuffey in a school building attic. He surrendered a whisky bottle, but no gun.

Senator Asks Older Occupation Troops

LONDON, Dec. 19 (U. P.).—Senator Wayne Morse (R. Ore.) decried the youth of American occupation troops in Germany today.

He announced that he would demand in the senate that the army send mature, better trained soldiers and so maintain American prestige.

Senator Morse has just completed a six weeks' tour of Europe.

He said in an interview he "also would press congress to increase appropriations for American military governments in Europe, which he declared could not function effectively because their funds and manpower had been cut."

The impaired efficiency of military government units has cost American taxpayers millions of dollars through pilferage and theft, Senator Morse said.

Be Nice to In-Laws, Veterans Are Told
WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (U. P.).—Allen Solada, national director of Amvets, today expressed his feeling about the administration's new housing program with this advice to married veterans:

"Treat your mother-in-law well this Christmas, because you're going to be living with her for a long time."



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