

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 R. 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 an 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 investigator's 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 contracts.

Senator Bilbo, in day-long testimony, entered a categorical denial of any wrong-doing. 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.



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