

Text of Statement by Prison Board Trustees

Here is the text of an open letter from the Indiana State Prison Board to Supreme Court Judge Frank Gilkison concerning the Ott Workman case:

Mar. 3, 1949.

Honorable Frank Gilkison
Judge
Supreme Court of the State of
Indiana
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Judge Gilkison:

In the Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1949, issue of The Indianapolis Times in the article, "The Ott Workman Story," Robert Bloem, the writer of the article, quotes you as follows: "The Supreme Court Judge Frank Gilkison, like Mr. Workman, a native of Martin County, insists that fabulous sums of money were paid. Judge Gilkison last week told two Times reporters that the money was paid, that he knew who received it, but did not feel it is his responsibility to name the person at this time."

"He expressed the belief that if certain persons in the state prison administration were removed from their positions, 'Ott Workman, himself, would tell the story in his own good time.'"

In the fifth and final article of "The Ott Workman Story" in the Sunday, Feb. 20, 1949, issue of The Indianapolis Times, Mr. Bloem again quotes you as follows: "Supreme Court Judge Frank Gilkison still believes that politicians were paid upward of \$20,000 to parole Ott Workman or Logue from state prison in 1945."

In a recent interview, Judge Gilkison told Times reporters he was certain the money was paid before Workman was released. He said he knew who got the money, but declined to reveal names on grounds that it was not his responsibility.

The judge said he still believed the story would be told sooner or later by Ott Workman, himself. Workman has remained silent in Judge Gilkison's opinion, "because certain persons within the prison administration have told him to keep still."

These persons, the judge said, apparently have convinced the controversial convict that they still can deliver the parole."

Judge Gilkison expressed a conviction that the sudden decision to spring the trap on Mr. Greenwald was because he didn't split the \$20,000 with anybody."

STATEMENTS NOT DENIED

If the above statements were made by you, as we most sincerely believe they were as you have not denied making them, it is quite evident that your long legal training and experience has been most cleverly applied in wording your statements so as to avoid the possibility of prosecution for libel. However, this has not prevented your double-talk and implications from casting a shadow of distrust, fraud and doubt upon each and every one of us.

CRIMINAL RECORDS LISTED

For your information we have listed the criminal records of the three men confined at this institution in connection with the Ott Workman case.

Geoffrey Brothers

1937: April 3: Indiana State Prison: Michigan City, as Geoffrey Brothers No. 18,693, for Inflicting Injury While Engaged in Attempted Robbery: Life: Sentenced from Dubois County Circuit Court, 4-2-37. Granted Governor's Parole, 9-27-47, Executive.

Girl Clerk Accused as Spy Seized With Russ on Bus

NEW YORK, Mar. 5 (UPI)—A clandestine meeting on a Third Ave. bus led to the arraignment today of a baby-faced government girl and a Russian United Nations employee on a charge of spying for the Soviet Union.

Judith Coplon, 27, saucy, scarcely five feet tall and brilliant, was arraigned before Federal Judge Simon Rifkind with Valentine Gubitchev, 32, a phegmatic Russian engineer, after Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had trailed her here from Washington on one of her regular week-end trips which she said were for the purpose of visiting her sick parents.

The alleged spies, she a highly regarded Department of Justice employee and he a Russian who had planned to go back to Moscow soon, were seized by the G-men while the bus poked along under the Third Avenue elevated between 14th and 15th Streets. They had spent two hours fruitfully maneuvering to shake off detectives.

Envoy Protests

Miss Coplon had in her purse a flat package containing type-written summaries of information abstracted from confidential Department of Justice documents which were alleged to involve security data and restricted information.

Soviet Ambassador Alexander S. Panyushkin immediately called at the State Department in Washington and demanded that the United States order the release of Mr. Gubitchev.

No one would reveal Miss Coplon's title, wages or duties at the Department of Justice, nor the contents of the papers she allegedly stole.

It was indicated, however, that it was unlikely that the information she gave Mr. Gubitchev on poor around Troy, N. Y.

Spring Swing!

"Side Swept"
SANDAL
\$5.99

NAVY SUEDE
GRAY SUEDE

Three Sisters
17 N. ILLINOIS ST.

Order No. 19,195. Released on parole, 10-21-47.

Ott Workman
1938: July 1: Indiana State Prison: Michigan City, as Ott Workman No. 19,549, for Attempted Robbery; Use of Dangerous Weapons; and Inflicting Physical Injury: Life: Sentenced from DeBois County Circuit Court, 9-10-45. Released on parole, 9-10-45. Returned for parole violation, 10-6-45. Governor's parole revoked, 10-5-45, by Executive Order No. 18,337.

Frank Soudreike
1939: April 19: Indiana State Prison: Michigan City, as Frank Soudreike No. 18,566, for Inflicting Physical Injury with a Firearm While Attempting to Commit a Robbery: Life: Sentenced from Dubois County Circuit Court, 1-15-37.

Mr. Brothers was released on parole on Oct. 21, 1947. You did not recommend or oppose his parole. Mr. Workman was paroled on Sept. 10, 1945, and his parole was revoked on October 6, 1945. His parole was vigorously opposed by you. On the last occasion when Mr. Soudreike's petition for clemency was considered by the Clemency Commission and ultimately rejected, you recommended his parole by a letter. In the Sunday, Feb. 29, 1949, issue of The Indianapolis Times, Mr. Bloem quotes you as follows: "Judge Gilkison today is frank to say that he believes Ott Workman would be a dangerous parole risk."

ASKS PUBLIC STATEMENT

According to your opinion, Ott Workman, who had no previous record, is a dangerous man—but Frank Soudreike, the trigger man who wounded Mr. Basch and who previously had been convicted of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and of burglary, should be granted a parole. Is this consistent or is this evidence of your ulterior purposes?

Will you kindly state publicly whether you at any time contributed financially, morally, or in any other manner whatsoever to the hiring of any attorney or any other person or persons to assist in the prosecution of Mr. Workman at the time of his trial. Also briefly inform the public exactly why you were interested in his conviction.

According to Mr. Bloem's article you have stated that an upward of \$50,000 was paid to politicians for the Workman parole; that you know who received it but do not feel it is your responsibility to name the persons at this time. We would like to remind you that you were elected to the Supreme Court of the State of Indiana, not alone by the citizens of Martin County, but by the citizens of the State of Indiana at large; that when you accepted this office and took the oath of office you solemnly pledged to uphold the law and the constitution of the State of Indiana.

Have you forgotten that oath? Not only as a citizen but as a public office holder holding a most sacred position of trust and impartiality you are morally bound and obligated to release any and all information which you state you have to the proper officials of this State so that the guilty person or persons may be properly punished. How can you so nonchalantly state that it is not your responsibility to reveal the names of those persons?

EVIDENCE DEMANDED

If you have in your possession any pertinent information and can submit substantial evidence that public officials accepted a bribe in the amount you state, we demand that you submit this evidence to the Indiana State Police and the prosecutor's office

The Justice Department said that as an analyst she was just a minor employee, but she was important enough to have her own office, with her name on the door, in the departmental section where registrations of foreign agents are kept.

Miss Coplon is the daughter of Samuel N. Coplon, a retired toy maker who for 25 years was known as the "Santa Claus of the Adirondacks" because of his annual distribution of toys to the poor around Troy, N. Y.

The case, which the judge said involved a "conspiracy with an agent of a foreign government involving defense materials," was first revealed in Washington when Attorney General Tom C. Clark, Miss Coplon's boss, announced their arrests.

Mr. Gubitchev, who is married and has a 13-year-old daughter, sat stoically throughout the whole proceeding and talked to no one but the judge. Miss Coplon held one brief, animated conversation with her brother, Bertram, who held her hand and appeared to be consoling her.

Judge Rifkind set bail for Mr. Gubitchev at \$100,000, an unusually high figure, and the square-jawed Russian protested vehemently. Miss Coplon's bail was set at \$20,000.

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