

### Speculation Probe Recalls Scandal Of Windowshade Code

By HAL BOYLE  
WASHINGTON — (AP) — The present Senate inquiry into grain speculation recalls the famous "case of the jiggled windowshade," an historic scandal in the Department of Agriculture.

The federal employee who jiggled the windowshade was reported to have made more than that year by this one act than the president of the United States received in salary—\$50,000.

It was back in 1905. The man had just seen a secret crop report. By adjusting the windowshade he signalled to a conspirator outside whether the crop would be larger or smaller than expected.

What difference would that news make?

Well, the prices on a commodity market rise in normal times if a small crop is forecast and fall if a huge crop is in sight. A trader who finds out this information in advance can thus buy or sell before the price changes and reap a profit. When he is dealing in hundreds of thousands of bushels, even a slight price change can make him big money.

**Safeguard Results**  
The outcry over the jiggled windowshade led the Department of Agriculture to put in a fool-proof system to assure that no news of its crop estimates would leak out until they were to be made public.

To do this the newly created crop reporting board devised "the lock-up." This is a block-long corridor in the agriculture building which is sealed off the morning monthly estimates of important national crops such as corn and wheat are to be issued.

Guards are posted outside locked doors at each end of the corridor, all windowblinds are locked down, and the telephones are disconnected. The statisticians then go to work assembling the data. No one is permitted to leave the "lock-up" until the report has been completed and issued simultaneously to news reporters waiting in a guarded room.

**Only One Exception**  
Unaware of the restriction, the late Arthur M. Hyde, then Secretary of Agriculture, tried to leave after signing his first departmental crop report. He had to wait, too. So another time did a man who had an urgent appointment with the president.

A worker did get out once when word came his wife had been suddenly stricken ill. But an armed guard accompanied him to the hospital room.

"Since 1905 there has been no leak of any kind," said Jasper E. Pallesen, secretary of the crop control board.

**Culprit Made Torture**  
I asked him whatever happened to the man with the windowshade, and he referred me to an information specialist who is making a study of the case.

"The best I have been able to learn," the information specialist said, "is that he was fined \$5,000 after a long trial. But oldtimers in the department said he probably had made \$70,000 out of one deal he pulled. He is dead now, but nobody is sure whether he died in disgrace or a millionaire."

How many windowshades he toyed with before he was caught is unknown, but he pulled at least one other fast trick. Department records show that in June, 1905, he changed the official forecast of a 14.9 per cent decrease in the cotton crop to 11.4 per cent.

This apparently suited his speculative purposes better.

"The odd thing was that the final figure at the end of the year showed the actual decrease was nearer 11 than 14 per cent," said the information specialist.

The fellow must have made a deal with the weather, too.

### Society

By LOTUS KNIGHT PORTER

#### GARDEN VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB TO MEET THURSDAY

The Garden Valley Women's Club will meet Thursday afternoon at two o'clock at the clubhouse. All members are most cordially invited to be present.

#### WOMEN OF COUNTRY CLUB TO MEET THURSDAY

The women of the Roseburg Country Club will meet Thursday at the clubhouse at nine-thirty o'clock in the morning for the weekly contract bridge play, followed by a twelve-thirty o'clock potluck luncheon and golfing at one-thirty o'clock.

All members are urged to be present as plans will be completed for the potluck dinner and social evening of cards for all members of the club Saturday night, January 24. The potluck dinner will be served at six



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thirty o'clock. Both men and women members of the club are invited.

#### ROSEBURG CIRCLE MEETING IS HELD

The Roseburg Circle met last week at the home of Mrs. Frank E. Johnson. Reports on the year's work were read and officers for the new year were elected, followed by the appointment of committee chairmen.

Mrs. Johnson served delicious refreshments at the tea hour to members and friends attending.

The February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Walter Samuelson with Mrs. Ed Westberg as hostess. Any new people in the Roseburg community who are members or friends of any of the cooperating churches within the American Lutheran Conference, are invited to attend the meetings of this group. Visitors are always welcome.

#### TRIANGLE CLUB HAS INTERESTING MEETING

The Triangle Club met at the home of Mrs. Dale Bolsinger Wednesday evening. In the absence of so many members, due to illness, no business meeting was held. Sewing and visiting were enjoyed during the evening.

Later delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Bolsinger to Golda Nickel, Mrs. South, Gladys Frenette, Lila Kuykendall, Jean Mollette and Jennie Jorey.

#### BENEFIT CARD PARTY DATED FOR FRIDAY

The Wilbur Community Club will sponsor a benefit card party Friday night, January 23rd, at eight o'clock, at the Wilbur schoolhouse. Prizes will be awarded winners in pinocle and five-hundred. Door prizes will be given and refreshments will be served. The public is cordially invited.

#### Advisors of Salvation Army to Discuss Plans

Jack Ferris, chairman of the local advisory board, and Capt. Claude Bowden, corps officer, have announced the annual meeting of the Salvation Army Advisory Board for Wednesday noon in the dining room of the Umpqua Hotel.

A report of the work done locally by the Salvation Army will be given and plans will be discussed for the Army's work in the coming year.

Members of the board, in addition to Ferris, include Roy O. Young, vice chairman; W. F. Harris, treasurer; Dr. E. J. Wainscott, Dr. B. R. Shoemaker, County Judge D. N. Busenbark, Dr. Clair K. Allen, V. V. Harpham, Paul Geddes, Loen McClintock, Tom Parkinson, and Dr. E. G. Finlay.

Some of the new members will be added to the board at this meeting. All members are urged to attend.

### Methodists Give Millions to Aid All Church Causes

CHICAGO—Prominent in the tabulation contained in the statistical report of The Methodist Church for 1947, is the total of \$164,138,457 given by Methodists of the nation for all Church causes. Of this amount, \$1,976,049 was given for World Service missionary and educational work and other benevolences. These and other figures released by the Rev. Albert C. Hoover, chief statistician, indicate a general trend toward greater interest in religious matters.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service, which has a national membership of 1,508,924, contributed \$14,793,689 for local church work and missionary projects.

Membership of The Methodist Church within the United States totals 8,567,742. There are 24,019 active, retired and super-numerary Methodist ministers, and 40-

321 preaching places which are divided among 21,605 pastoral charges. In addition there are also 10,623 local preachers.

Last year Methodists paid more than six million dollars on the principal of indebtedness. Total indebtedness on churches, parsonages and equipment at the close of the one-year period amounts to more than 18 million dollars. Church buildings, equipment and properties are estimated to value about 950 million dollars. Of the more than 123 million dollars expended by local churches, more than 34 million dollars was spent on church building and improvement.

Methodist Church schools, which have been showing a steady increase in enrollment and attendance within the last three years, total 37,458. Enrollment is recorded as 5,343,446, and average attendance numbers 2,770,237. There were 660,979 Methodist pupils enrolled in Vacation Church Schools during the past year, and 194,860 in Weekly Schools of Religion.

There are an estimated half million active cases of human tuberculosis in the United States.

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