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**Preston Tucker, Automobile Promoter, 6 Co-Defendants Deny U. S. Charges Of Fraud**

CHICAGO, June 24. — (AP) — Preston T. Tucker, his business suit matching the gray of his personal rear-engine car, pleaded innocent yesterday to a federal indictment charging mail fraud, conspiracy and SEC violations.

Six of his seven co-defendants in a 31-count indictment also pleaded innocent before Judge Philip L. Sullivan.

The only defendant absent and unrepresented by counsel was Harold Karsten, alias Abe Karatz, of Los Angeles. U. S. Attorney Otto Kerper, Jr., said he would not oppose a suggestion that the filing of Karsten's plea be deferred until a trial date is fixed.

The indictment charges that a total of \$28,000,000 was spent by the defendants on the promotion and building of the car. The sources of the money were sales of dealer franchises, sale of Class A stock and accessories for cars sold before delivery of the automobiles.

The defendants are accused of taking advantage of the unusual postwar consumer demand for cars and spreading "false and fraudulent statements and representations relating to a proposed completely new automobile . . . which was represented to possess and combine features of advanced construction and design not heretofore contained in any mass production automobile."

**Financial Juggling Charged**

The indictment charges that the defendants "caused to be diverted to their own use and benefit funds realized from the sale of dealer and distributor franchises, sale of class A stock, and accessory groups."

The Tucker finances dropped, the grand jury reported, from a high of \$28,000,000 to a cash balance of \$130,000 on Dec. 31, 1948.

In addition to the \$17,000,000 from the stock sale, the defendants got \$8,000,000 from the sale of dealer and distributor franchises, and more than \$3,000,000

for sale of accessories for the unproduced car.

In this period of about two years, the indictment went on, more than \$28,000,000 was spent and 25 hand-made automobiles were turned out, none of which had the engineering features which Tucker contended would go into his automobile.

U. S. District Attorney Otto Kerper, Jr., described Karsten as a disbarred attorney, who in 1938 was sentenced to serve one to five years in the Illinois state penitentiary on a charge of fraud and conspiracy. The charge resulted from defrauding the Amalgamated Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago by Karsten and others. He served three years.

**Oregon Pharmacists Quit National Retail Druggists**

PORTLAND, June 24. — (AP) — The Oregon State Pharmaceutical Association yesterday withdrew from the National Association of Retail Druggists after hearing a series of charges against the national group.

L. L. Riggs, president of the Oregon group representing some 400 druggists, assailed John W. Dargavel, Chicago, national secretary, for what he said was refusal to release audit reports and for establishing "a virtual oligarchy" under which "members of his 'Executive Committee yield to his dictates."

He said that at the 1947 national convention, Dargavel instituted "gag rules" against delegates from New York, Iowa and Oregon and on occasion sought to "purge" state secretaries.

Oregon Association members at their state convention yesterday discussed affiliation with the American Pharmaceutical Association but took no formal action.

**Huge Fraud Charged In California Jobless Pay**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 24 (AP) — Was California's unemployment fund "cheated out of something upwards of \$30,000,000 in 1948?"

This question was raised in the Legislature Thursday in a report by the Senate Interim Committee on employment stabilization.

Says the report: "From the available evidence, this Committee believes a conservative, informed guess would be that not less than 20 percent of the total unemployment insurance benefits paid in 1948 (over \$146,000,000) were obtained by fraud."

The committee declared that unemployment insurance benefit payments in the first quarter of 1949 were \$69,000,000, or more than twice as large as for the same quarter of 1948.

As against \$146,000,000 payments for the entire year 1948 the report charges benefits are being drawn at the rate of \$276,000,000 a year now.

To curtail fraud the committee recommends creation of a more effective detection staff; better training of local office examiners and interviewers; reinterviews of those who draw benefits for long periods.

**House Members Given Additional Funds For Clerk Hire, Messages**

WASHINGTON, June 24. — (AP) — President Truman yesterday signed a bill giving House members an additional \$3,000 each for clerk hire and \$500 a year for telephone and telegraph messages.

In doing so he repeated that the salaries of top government officials should be raised.

The president said in a message to congress that he signed the increased allowances measure willingly because he believes it is in the interest of the government and the people to provide for the efficient conduct of the public business.

But he indirectly chided the legislators for taking care of themselves while ignoring officials in the executive departments and agencies who have not had a raise in years.

"Important as it is for members of the Congress to have adequate clerical assistance," he said, "it is at least of equal importance to have men of ability in the key executive positions of

the government. The best laws can be ruined by poor administration."

President Truman also signed yesterday an \$862,563,000 appropriation bill supplying money for thousands of temporarily payless federal employees. It also makes \$5,400,000 available for rebuilding or repairing the White House.

The bill is what is known as a deficiency measure. It supplies money for agencies which already have exhausted their regular appropriations for the present fiscal year which closes with the end of this month.

Several agencies are in that fix and have been unable to pay

**Oregon AFL Warned To Keep Morse, Angell On Job**

EUGENE, Ore., June 24. — (AP) — The 400 delegates to the state AF of L convention here cheered wildly when the director of their League for Political Education declared, "you have two friends in Washington and you had better get started right now to see that you keep them there—Senator Wayne Morse and Congressman Homer Angell."

Joseph Keenan, who flew out from Texas after addressing that state's Federation of Labor earlier in the week, said that labor has fallen down on the job of electing its friends and defeating its enemies.

In past elections, he said, men were defeated by just a handful of votes, where more effort could have kept them in Congress where they had been friends of

employees. One reason is that congress voted a pay raise for government workers after making an appropriation based on the old pay.

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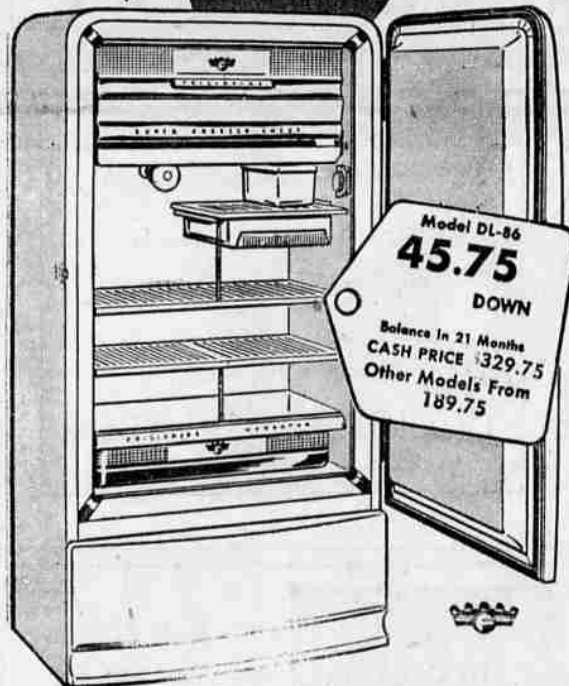
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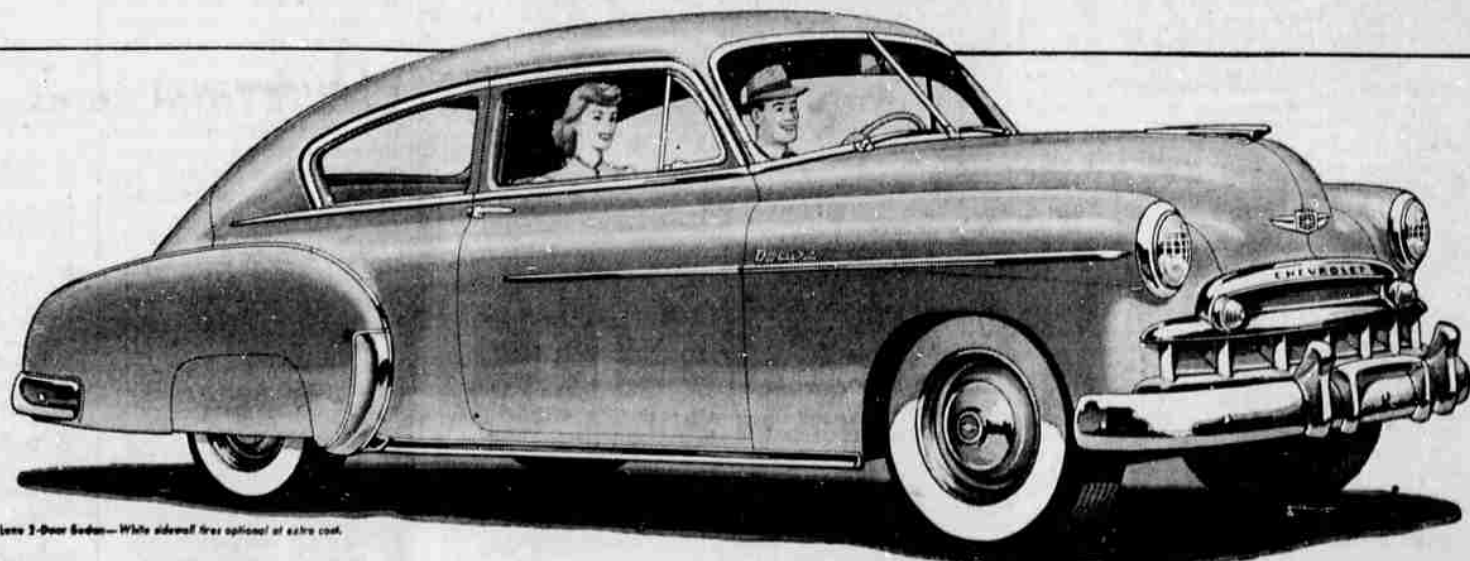
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