

Hat Maker Admits He Was Able To Guarantee Change In Specification Approval

By G. MILTON KELLY
WASHINGTON — Chicago hat maker Harry Lev acknowledged Thursday he was able to "guarantee" in advance that government procurement officers with whom he was friendly would approve a change in specifications for a big Air Force cap contract. But he insisted there was nothing wrong or strange about that. His testimony followed punitive action by the government against

two of the procurement officials who have been linked with his activities. The testimony came at a public hearing before the Senate investigations subcommittee at which Lev, trying desperately for laughs to lighten the grim atmosphere, invited one of the senators to "be my guest" for a meal of green turtle steak. He claimed peculiar virtues for the food but did not go into detail. Lev extended the invitation to Sen. Bender (R-Ohio), who has been one of Lev's bitterest critics.

The exchange got so hilarious that Bender himself laughed until he had to wipe away the tears. It interrupted some pointed questioning by Bender in which Lev conceded that he had made "more than a million" from his profits on government contracts, and could afford turtle steak feasts in Puerto Rico. Sen. McClellan (D-Ark), the subcommittee chairman, confronted Lev with a telegram in which Lev assured the Philadelphia Uniform Co. of Conshohocken, Pa., that he could guarantee that armed serv-

ices procurement officials would stand for a change in specifications for the manufacture of some grommets for Air Force uniform caps. Lev holds the patent on the grommets, which Air Force specifications require in all uniform caps. The Conshohocken firm was buying the grommets from him. The telegram to the Conshohocken company, dated May 10, 1954, said: "Advised you as contractor must request deviations from contracting officer. We will guarantee approval."

Lev said there was nothing wrong with that, because he had checked with George Page, in the Quartermaster Corps research and development unit at Philadelphia, and been assured that Page "couldn't see why" the requested color change could not be allowed. Lev testified Wednesday that Page was one of 38 procurement officials to whom he had distributed gifts of more than \$2,600 worth of smoked sturgeons—30 pounds of it to Page. He also testified he often had protracted long distance telephone chats with Page, one of them an hour and 31 minutes long. He said Thursday the calls were "in the government interest" and concerned the perfection of uniform caps. The grommet is a foam rubber ring that fits into the crown of a cap to help it hold its shape. Lev testified he has released the patent to the government free,

but he said Thursday he does profit—it didn't say how much—on each such grommet made for commercial sale. Robert F. Kennedy, subcommittee counsel, asked Lev about a sudden change in terms of a bid for the manufacture of some blue uniform caps which Kennedy said "cost the government \$50,000." Lev said the change was necessary because there had been a mistake in his bid's language which would have given the government a discount of nearly 10 per cent for prompt payment. The contracting officers let him change the discount figure to one half of one per cent. And although he had bid for 250,000 hats, the contract awarded him called for 277,000.

Glide English Teacher To Operate Ranger Sta.

By Mrs. ARTHUR SELBY
Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius McAuliffe and son, Mathew, moved to Big Camas Forest Ranger Station for the summer months. McAuliffe, English instructor at Glide High School, will work in the office of the Forest Service under District Ranger Gordon Sanford. Mrs. McAuliffe is eighth grade teacher at Glide Elementary School.

Lloyd Cox of Idlewild Park, entered Douglas Community Hospital Tuesday for medical treatment of pneumonia. Cox is an employee of Douglas County Lumber Co. at Rock Creek. House guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Patterson, are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bryant, big game guides at Anahem Lake. The Bryants conducted the Pattersons on a hunting trip last September in Canada, resulting in two moose, a caribou and a wild mountain goat for the Pattersons.

Accepts Position
Donald Brand, business instructor at Glide High School, will spend his vacation as accountant and clerk in the Roseburg office of the Interstate Tractor Co. Funderburk Construction Co. moved two of its employees from Mapleton to Idlewild Park. Jim Wagner and Bob Allen, will drive two new caterpillar tractors purchased by Funderburk on road construction at Green Creek adjoining Five Rivers. Mrs. Mildred Young, owner of Rocky Point Lodge, at Polson, Mont., left Saturday after a 3-day visit at her Circle H ranch on the North Umpqua to check improvements on the cabins to be ready for summer guests.

LOW BID ON ARMORY
SALEM — Wiley & Co., Astoria, submitted a \$401,500 low bid Wednesday for construction of a memorial armory at Medford, the Oregon National Guard announced. Since the bid was higher than estimated, new bids might be asked. The armory will be of reinforced concrete, measuring 157 by 190 feet. It will house two National Guard companies, and seat 4,000 persons at athletic events and conventions. It will be located at the Jackson County fairgrounds south of Medford.

SCREWDRIVER

(Vodka in orange juice)

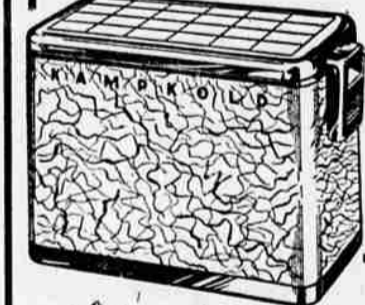


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 - CHARCOAL 20 pound bag 2.65
 - CHARCOAL 10 pound bag 1.45
 - CHARCOAL BRIQUETS 10-lb. bag 1.45 25-lb. bag 2.85
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