

Doubt Cast on Housing Probe Perjury Cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Banking Committee, which sent to the Justice Department a transcript of what it said was conflicting secret testimony by two New Jersey builders, found Tuesday night the witnesses may not have been sworn.

Committee counsel William Simon, questioned by newsmen, conceded that "you have no perjury case if the witness was not under oath."

The witnesses, heard in secret session June 22, were Sidney Sarner, of Tenafly, N. J., and Ralph J. Solow of Englewood, N. J. They were partners in construction of the Linwood Park, Inc., apartment project at Fort Lee, N. J., financed through an FHA-insured loan.

Sarner, appearing in public session Monday, refused to answer any questions, claiming protection of the Fifth Amendment against self incrimination.

The transcript of the June 22 testimony released Tuesday night quoted Sarner as saying that FHA officials ordered them to construct a shopping and business center in connection with the project. Solow was quoted as saying the housing agency had not given such an order.

But the question of whether or not the witnesses were sworn outweighed the apparent conflict of their testimony, so far as any possible action against them is concerned.

The transcript of testimony handed to newsmen by Sen. Capehart (R-Ind), committee chairman, failed to show that either witness had been sworn, and the official reporting firm which prepared the transcripts said it is customary always to show the swearing of witnesses in the record.

On the other hand, Sen. Bennett (R-Utah), who presided at both morning and afternoon sessions of the secret hearing, told newsmen he was "99 per cent certain" that the witnesses took the customary oath to tell the whole truth. It would have been Bennett's job to administer the oath. He said he remembered distinctly the only reason he attended the hearing was to administer the oath.

The Banking Committee voted Monday to send the secret testimony to the Justice Department for "any action" that might be warranted. Capehart indicated at the time the Justice Department would be interested only in possible perjury prosecution.

Solon Asks 'Foreclosure' On Tin Mine

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Gamble (R-NY) proposed Tuesday the government "foreclose" on the U. S. Tin Corporation's operations at Lone River, Alaska, and "get what money out of it we can."

"That would cost money, but it will cost more money if this foolishness goes on," Gamble told the Senate-House Committee on Defense Production, of which he is a member.

The joint committee has heard evidence that U. S. Tin obtained three million dollars in direct or insured loans from the government since 1951 while producing virtually no tin from its Alaskan mine, 90 miles north of Nome.

Gamble's foreclosure suggestion came after a government auditor testified that Kenneth Kadow, while assistant to Democratic Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman, was hired secretly by U. S. Tin two months before the company obtained its first government-guaranteed loan of \$375,000, in March, 1951.

The committee had heard previous testimony that Kadow lobbied for government approval of the loan.

Clifford Smith, auditor for the General Services Administration (GSA) in San Francisco, told the committee he discovered Kadow's early connection with the company through a study of its records.

He said he found in the proceedings of U. S. Tin's board of directors the acceptance in December, 1950, of "an employment contract" with Kadow, to be effective April 15, 1951.

Kadow was then responsible to the secretary of the interior for checking on all Alaskan development affecting the Interior Department.

Kadow said in Juneau, Alaska, last week that any inference that he supported the U. S. Tin application for a loan just to create a job for himself is "100 per cent false."

There is no question about his supporting the loan in the interests of Alaskan development, he said, but it was prior to any idea on his part or of company officials that he would join the corporation.

Kadow has been asked to testify at executive sessions of the joint committee beginning July 28.

COLLECTOR CONVICTED
MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — William B. Shouts, 33, whose home and garage looked like a warehouse, was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to second degree larceny. Shouts could give police no reason for collecting several thousand dollars worth of electrical fixtures, wire, pipe and a vast assortment of tools.

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