

Devoted Husband Insists Wife Was Target of Murder Plot

NEW YORK (U. S. — James Ricco, a stubborn and devoted husband, insisted Sunday that his wife was innocent of plotting to murder him — and was actually the intended victim.

Furthermore, Ricco told reporters, he is working hard to raise \$50,000 bail for her.

Mrs. Patricia Ricco, 30, and two other women were arrested Friday on charges of conspiring to have a taxi driver run over Ricco in order to collect insurance and money from a fake negligence suit which altogether could have totaled \$103,000.

"The police never gave me a chance to tell them anything," said Ricco, a 40-year-old building superintendent and railroad employee. "My wife is not only innocent but she was the target. She was the one due to be crushed against the pillar."

He referred to the allegation that the taxi driver had been instructed to crush him against an elevated railroad pillar while he was walking the family dog.

It was the story which Fred Bezer, 34, taxi driver, told police which led to the women's arrest. Ricco said Sunday he had gotten a message from his wife through a matron at the women's house of detention.

"Don't worry about me, honey," Ricco said the message began. "Don't try to raise the bail. I'm sorry I caused so much trouble. I love you and the children very much."

He sent back this message: "Tell my wife I will raise the bail. Arrangements have already been made. The children and I love you very much."

Ricco displayed a red jacket as proof of his belief that his wife, the mother of three children, was intended as the victim of the alleged death plot.

"It belongs to my wife," he said waving the garment. "I don't own a red coat or jacket."

This was in reference to the allegation that the cab driver was to have recognized Ricco by a red jacket.

Bronx Asst. Dist. Atty. Louis Silver said, however, that authorities had learned a red jacket was to be bought for Ricco. After Bezer told his story, Silver asserted authorities used wiretaps to help break the case.

"Authorities also have reopened an investigation into an attempt on Ricco's life 18 months ago. On that occasion he was shot twice in the chest by an intruder when he opened the door of his apartment."

Saturday, Sidney Friedman, an attorney hired by Ricco to defend his wife, said "This unfortunate predicament stems from the fact that an unnatural person came into their lives and exerted an undue and baleful influence on the wife."

Dixon, Yates Air Defense Of Atomic Pact

WASHINGTON (U. S. — Edgar H. Dixon and E. A. Yates Sunday night defended their controversial power contract with the Atomic Energy Commission as good for both the government and the taxpayers. They said they had no guarantee of a profit or "anything."

The two discussed their plan to build a plant at West Memphis, Ark., supply power to the Tennessee Valley area in answering questions on the NBC TV-radio show "Meet The Press."

Dixon said his power combine has "no fight" with the Tennessee Valley Authority "and we have no desire to take them over or invade their territory."

He denied the contention that the proposed Dixon-Yates contract is "an opening wedge to destroy TVA."

"This contract has absolutely nothing to do with any controversy between public and private power," Dixon said.

"This is just another contract similar to two contracts negotiated by the agency (Atomic Energy Commission), negotiated in the same way and under the same conditions. It has no significance as a public power-private power fight."

Yates was asked if he thought politics were involved in the controversy over their plan. He replied: "I'm afraid there is."

Dixon said he considered TVA "a fine public utility system" but he objected only to "the rules under which they operate." He said TVA is "no longer a social experiment" and should be required to pay taxes and be subject to regulation just like any private utility.

Japan Declares Open War on Rats

TOKYO (U. S. — Japan's Welfare Ministry has declared war on rats. Rats not only outnumber people in Japan 10 to 1, says the ministry, they also eat almost 35 million bushels of rice a year.

That is the amount Japan imports with scarce foreign exchange.

The ministry is sending extermination experts to villages throughout the nation to demonstrate methods of getting rid of rats.

Mrs. Callahan Succumbs to Brief Illness

Mrs. Caroline Callahan, 73, a resident of Salem for almost 40 years, died Sunday at Redwood City, Calif., where she had been visiting a daughter. She suffered a stroke shortly before her death.

Born at White Fish, Mich., on Feb. 22, 1881, she was a charter member of the Royal Neighbors of America chapter of Salem and was a member of the Four Square Gospel Church of Salem.

She was the wife of James P. Callahan, a retired Oregon Pulp and Paper Co. employee, and he survives her.

Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Wilda Moerel of Redwood City, Calif., with whom she was visiting at the time of her death, and Mrs. Norma Boardman of Los Angeles; two sons, Donald Callahan and Robert Callahan, both of Salem; a sister, Miss Amanda Wicklander of Salem; two brothers, Richard Wicklander of Salem, and Charles Wicklander of Portland; and three grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Howell-Edwards mortuary.

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Butler Elected New Democratic Chairman



NEW ORLEANS, La. — Paul M. Butler, of Indiana, right, bows to retiring chairman Stephen A. Mitchell, as he steps to the speakers platform after being elected to the chairmanship of the Democratic party Dec. 4. In the center is Mrs. Inez Scholl, national committeewoman from Indiana. (AP Wirephoto.)

Joe's Change Of Plans Kept From Diners

CINCINNATI (U. S. — Sponsors of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's scheduled appearance at a \$10-a-plate dinner here Saturday night said Sunday they knew in advance the Wisconsin Republican would not be there but held up an announcement because some of the guests "would have stayed away."

John E. Held, 32-year-old advertising executive who was chairman of the affair, said Mrs. Mary Driscoll, the senator's secretary, telephoned him at 4 p. m. EST, that McCarthy would not be here because of his injured elbow.

Held told inquiring newsmen nothing about the change in plans until 6:30 p. m. EST.

The 1,000 diners paid \$10 a plate for roast beef and string beans. Rep. Gordon Scherer, Cincinnati Republican congressman, substituted for McCarthy. Guests were not told of the change in plans until the dessert was served.

Sponsor for the dinner and speech was the Cuvier Press Club, whose 1,500 members include very few newsmen.

Held said McCarthy will be invited back to Cincinnati and the persons who paid \$10 a ticket would be admitted free to the next dinner. Held said he talked with Mrs. Driscoll at 2:30 p. m. At that time, he said, she told him McCarthy's doctor would permit him to come.

San Francisco to Bid U.N. Birthday Meet

SAN FRANCISCO (U. S. — The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will meet Monday to extend an official invitation to the United Nations General Assembly to hold a commemorative session here next June.

The United Nations organization was born in San Francisco at a conference which began April 25, 1945.

Chimney Falls In Storm, 3 Germans Die

FRANKFURT, Germany (U. S. — Storms raging over West Germany last night caused three deaths and considerable damage.

The fatalities were reported in the Hessian town of Wrexen where the 90-foot chimney of a paper plant collapsed, killing three and seriously injuring two other workers.

Collapsed ruins and disrupted service lines were reported from Dueseldorf, Duisburg and other parts of the industrial Ruhr, where winds up to hurricane strength were registered.

Masked Man Locks Woman Inside Closet

PORTLAND (U. S. — Mrs. Cecilia Pedersen, 68, told police Saturday that a masked man choked her, gagged her with adhesive tape, blockaded her in a closet and then took \$35 from her purse.

She said the attack occurred when she went to the home of her daughter, Mrs. William Chrysler. The Chryslers now live in Medford and Mrs. Pedersen had stopped by to look in at the house.

A similar attack occurred last September in the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hyatt. Hyatt, part owner of a multi-million dollar hotel at Las Vegas, Nev., was tied up and robbed of \$600 by a masked gunman. Mrs. Hyatt was blocked in a closet by the assailant.

Mrs. Pedersen was released by police who had been summoned by a taxi driver. He had returned at Mrs. Pedersen's direction and heard her calling from the closet.

SHAH OFF FOR U.S.

TEHRAN, Iran (U. S. — Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and Queen Soraya left Sunday for New York, where the 34-year-old monarch will undergo medical treatment.

At The Theaters Today

EL SINORE "BEAU BRUMMELL" with Stewart Granger and Elizabeth Taylor "YESTERDAY AND TODAY" "DESIRE" Marlon Brando and Jean Simmons "STORMY" a Walt Disney Production "GRAND" "THE ROBE" with Victor Mature and Jean Simmons "VESUVIUS EXPRESS" "HOLLYWOOD" "DRAGNET" with Jack Webb "DIAMOND QUEEN" with Arlene Dahl and Fernando Lamas

Office Blaze Blamed to Wiring Short

Fire damaged an office and storage room Saturday at the City Machine and Junk Co., 360 Water St., firemen reported.

The fire apparently started in a corner of the office and ate across the ceiling and upper walls into the store room. Losses included a cash register and other office equipment.

Damage was estimated at about \$500 and owner P. Steinbock said none of the loss was covered by insurance.

Firemen said the fire probably started from a short in the wiring.

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Troops Kill Farmers After China Uprising

TAIPEH, Formosa (U. S. — The news agency of the Nationalist Defense Ministry, which claims underground contacts inside Red China, said Sunday that Communist troops killed more than 100 farmers in putting down a seven-day revolt last month.

Taipei, the news agency, said several thousand farmers revolted Nov. 2 near Hingning, 170 miles northeast of Canton, in Kwangtung Province because of high taxes which left them barely enough of their crops to subsist.

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