

Newsman Accused of Aiding Reds in Korean War

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate investigators Thursday accused a New York Times reporter, an acknowledged former Communist, of filing two news stories from Korea in 1950 that indirectly helped serve Communist purposes.

The reporter, Charles Grutzner, beatifiedly denied helping the Reds in either case, or that he had any intention of helping them. He said he was merely doing his duty as a newsman. He said he never did anything to harm the interests of the United States and that he broke with the Communists in 1940.

Grutzner was called to the witness chair in the second day of hearings by the Senate internal security subcommittee into allegations of Communist activities among reporters.

No Press Probe

Chairman Eastland (D-Miss.) was asked during a recess whether the hearings involved "an investigation of the press."

"No, sir," Eastland replied. "We are hunting for communism wherever we find it."

Another witness, Victor Weingarten, a former reporter for the Brooklyn Eagle, denied that he had been a Communist since the November elections of 1940 but refused to say whether he had been a party member previously.

Weingarten also refused, on the grounds of possible self-incrimination, to answer questions as to whether any of his associates were Communists. Eastland threatened him with citation for contempt of the Senate but Weingarten persisted in his refusal.

Weingarten said he is now a self-employed publicity man at Pleasantville, N. Y.

'Never Dedicated'

Grutzner said he joined the Communist Party in 1937 when he was working for the Eagle. He said he never was a "dedicated" Communist.

"I could take it or leave it," he said. "And I left when I got fed up." That he said, was in 1940 shortly before he joined the Times.

Winston M. Burdett, Columbia Broadcasting System newsman

who recounted a cloak-and-dagger tale of his work as a Red spy abroad in the early 1940s during an appearance before the senators Wednesday, had named Grutzner and Weingarten as among the members of a Communist cell at the Brooklyn Eagle between 1937 and 1940.

Burdett said he quit the party in 1942; subcommittee members congratulated him for his "moral courage" in coming forward to testify.

Air Strike

The two news stories which figured in Thursday's testimony were filed in the Times in December, 1950, when Grutzner was a correspondent for the paper in Korea. The Korean War was going on at the time.

In one, Grutzner reported that the U. S. Air Force used F86 Sabre-jet planes in an air strike against the Communists. In the other, he wrote that "a small group" of American soldiers was damaging this nation's reputation in Korea by "looting and violence."

Eastland told Grutzner an Air Force officer had requested that the reporter be removed from the Korean War theater for writing the story about the Sabrejets. Eastland said it was secret information.

The senator quoted the Air Force officer as saying publication of the story would cost American lives. Grutzner said the story was cleared by the Pentagon in Washington before it was printed.

J. G. Sourwine, subcommittee counsel, said Grutzner's story about GI "looting and violence" was picked up by The Daily Worker, Communist Party organ in New York City.

"You wrote an article critical of the U. S. Army," Sourwine told him.

"It was not critical of the U. S. Army," Grutzner snapped back. "It was critical of a small group of soldiers. I wish you'd not interpret what I write."

Asked why his story turned up in The Daily Worker, Grutzner commented that the Red publication continually uses stories from the Times and other papers when it thinks "it will serve its purposes."

"That's right," Sourwine observed. "It served their purposes."

Turner Catledge, managing editor of The New York Times, said in a statement Thursday night: "The Times rejects any implication that national security was jeopardized by its publication of Charles Grutzner's dispatch regarding the F86 Sabrejet."

Catledge said Grutzner's dispatch to the Times was preceded by a note asking that the newspaper's Washington bureau expedite its release.

'Go Ahead Given'

A copy of the story was sent to the Times Washington bureau and its Pentagon reporter, Austin Stevens, read the story to a civilian member of the press section of the Air Force, Catledge said. Stevens reported that the official said "Go ahead and publish this story."

Catledge also said that C. Herschel Schooley, director of information for the Defense Department, issued a statement Thursday night saying a recommendation that Grutzner's accreditation be revoked because of the F86 incident was received by the Defense Department office of public information on Jan. 10, 1951.

Five days later, Schooley's statement continued, Clayton Fritchey, then director of information, advised officials that the Department of Defense "does not concur" in the recommendation.

The Times managing editor said by that time, Grutzner had returned to "this country and had been working on the city staff for a full week." Catledge said Grutzner had requested in November, 1950, a return to his regular assignment in New York by Christmas if possible.

Ike Signs U. S. Debt Limit Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shortly after Congress completed action, President Eisenhower Thursday night signed into law a bill continuing the federal debt limit at 281 billion dollars for one more year.

The action came a few hours before the fiscal year ended at midnight. Under the old law the ceiling was to drop then to 275 billion. Senate passage of the bill — with little ado — had completed congressional action Thursday afternoon.

The fiscal year-end found the government in the red for the fourth straight year.

SKYSCRAPER RISING

NEW YORK (AP) — The steel skeleton of the world's largest stainless steel-clad skyscraper — the 45-story Socony Mobile Oil Building — has been completed. The building, to be finished in 1956, occupies a block at 42nd St. and Lexington Ave.

Statesman, Salem, Ore., Friday, July 1, 1955—(Sec. 1)—3

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Land Party Reaches Site Of C47 Crash

KODIAK, Alaska (AP) — A land party headed Thursday night for the wreckage of an Air Force C-47 transport that crashed Wednesday killing 10 persons on lonely Sitkinak Island about 90 miles southeast of here.

A flight surgeon and two other persons reported Thursday recovering eight of the 10 bodies.

The Elmendorf Air Base at Anchorage said three soldiers aboard were from the 558th Aerial Communications System. Three Western Electric Co. representatives engaged in work on the air-rail warning installations being built in a series of isolated Alaska locations were listed as passengers.

An earlier report had indicated only the four-man crew was aboard the two-engine plane when it hit the highest peak on the small island just southwest of Kodiak Island in the North Pacific.

Turbulent weather was blamed. It was so rough Thursday paramedics could not be dropped by parachute.

The flight surgeon and his party reached the scene from a Navy tug. They reported the crew members' seat belts were unfastened and the door had apparently been open at the time of the crash.

The plane was on an air drop mission from Kodiak. There never was any report of trouble.

Members of the flight surgeon's party said the crew was apparently ready to make their drop of supplies when tragedy struck. Military authorities believe a sudden down draft may have dropped the plane onto the mountain.

Roberts Bros. Stores Win Appeal Ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The United States Court of Appeals Friday reversed the National Labor Relations Board in a case involving purported "unfair practices" by the Roberts Brothers Department Stores, an Oregon chain.

The court decision was a victory for the stores and held that the labor relations board had erred.

The AFL Retail Clerks Union claimed the company had committed "unfair practices" during a union organizing campaign in September, 1952, when it assembled employees and talked to them about unionization.

The company reportedly told employees they could join a union if they wished but the store thought they would be better off not to do so. The store asked them to take a secret ballot on whether they would join the union. The ballot was taken.

All this, the Labor Relations Board thought, constituted "unfair practices," but the Circuit Court of Appeals did not agree.

The court pointed out that "times have changed," employees no longer need fear for their jobs if they join a union and "labor and industry speak with equal dignity."

Portland Parking Authority Vote Eyed

PORTLAND (AP) — A proposal for creation of a city parking authority would be put before the voters at the next general election under a recommendation made Thursday by Mayor Fred L. Petersen.

The authority would be empowered to issue revenue bonds, acquire parking sites and make other improvements. Its purpose would help private operators provide more parking space.

Multnomah Dairymen Plan Meeting Today

GRESHAM (AP) — Dairymen of the Multnomah County Unit of the Grade A Milk Producers Assn. were to meet here Friday to discuss pending negotiations with distributors for a milk price increase. The possibility of forming an organization matters, including dairymen's union, also will be discussed, Fred Roitsch, president of the organization, reported.

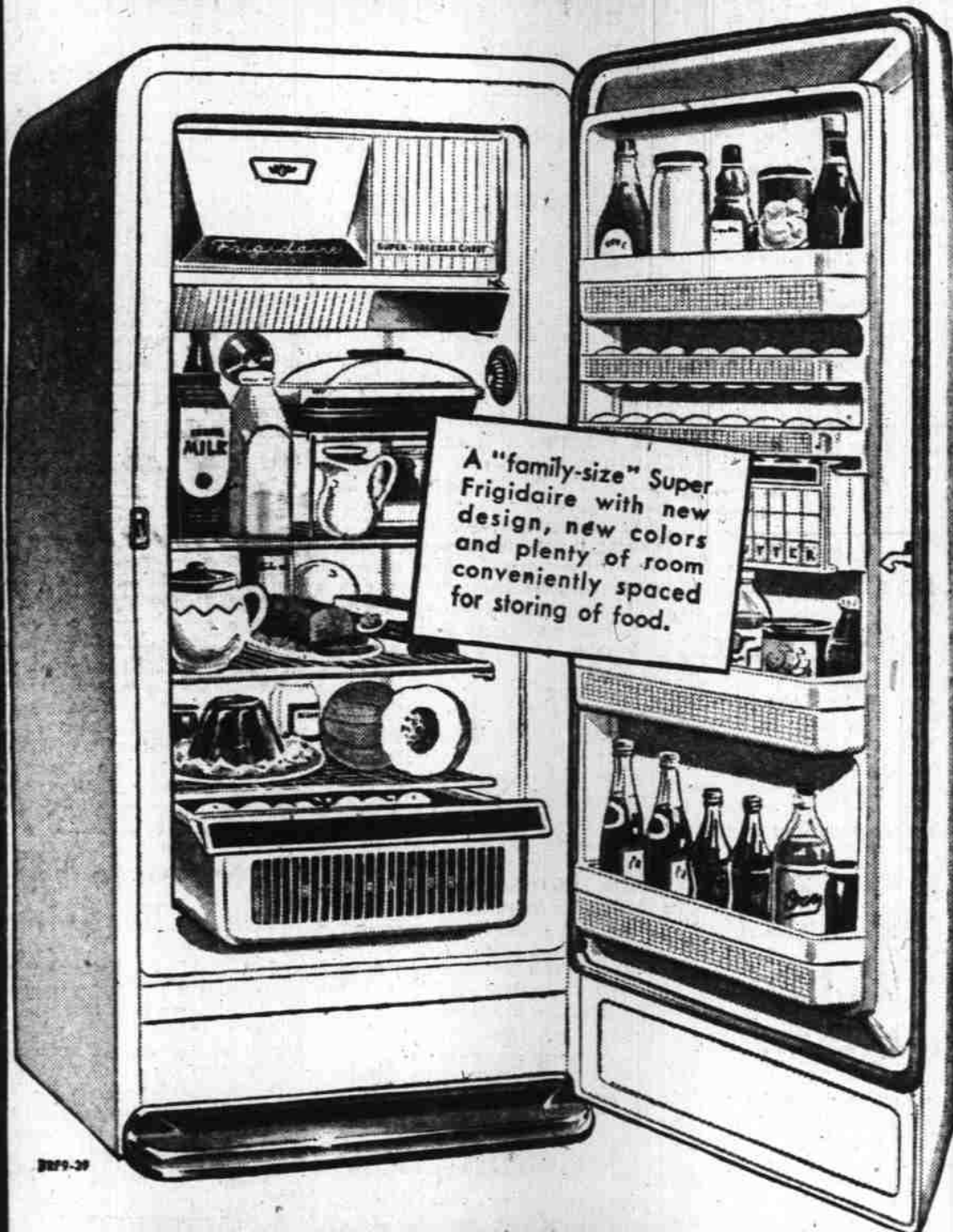
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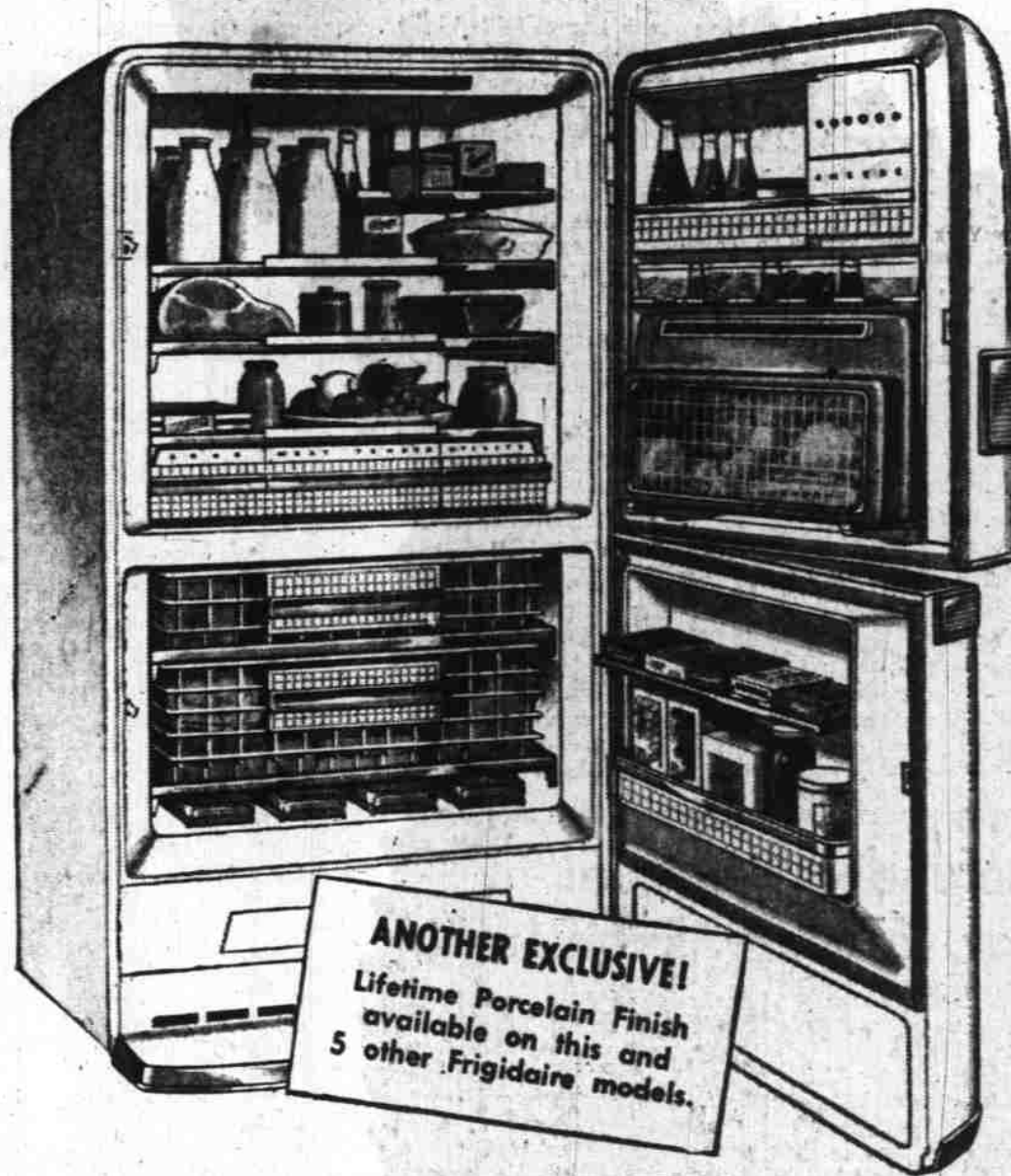
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