

Subversive Probe Board Downs Proposal for Cain Reassignment

By LEWIS GULICK
 WASHINGTON — The Subversive Activities Control Board unanimously rejected Saturday a Justice Department suggestion that it reconsider its assignment of member Harry P. Cain as presiding officer in an antisubversive hearing.

It ruled that to disqualify Cain in the Washington Pension Union case "would be to embark upon a course fraught with dangers to the public interest."

Cain, appointed to the SACB by President Eisenhower, formerly was a legislative aide from Washington with a reputation as a strong battler against what he de-

nounced as leftism. More recently he has been an outspoken critic of the attorney general's listing of organizations as subversive and of the administration's loyalty-security program.

Named Year Ago
 The SACB designated Cain last year to conduct its hearing on a Justice Department charge that the pension union was Communist-dominated and should be required to register as a front organization. The union, long active in Washington State, had the avowed purpose of seeking liberal pensions.

The Washington Pension Union case found the Justice Department in the strange position of pushing and the pension union of resisting

—what once was the union's plea that Cain was unfit to conduct the hearing. The pension union had contended he was biased against it.

The union said last February that Cain's public record had shown him to have "such a rabid approach toward Communism" that he could not judge fairly in this case. The Justice Department opposed the union move, and Cain himself denied the charge of bias.

On April 8 the SACB found Cain sufficiently free of bias to preside at the hearing.

Statement Probed
 When the hearing opened Oct. 3 in Seattle, a union lawyer asked Cain about a 1948 statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee, in which Cain had described the union as "one of the most notorious Communist-front organizations in our state."

The attorneys asked whether Cain could preside impartially. Cain said he could and — in the SACB's words — both parties "in effect assented to go forward."

On Nov. 9, 1955, after the hearings were well under way, Asst. Atty. Gen. William F. Tompkins sent the SACB a letter quoting Cain's 1948 statements and saying the government would not have opposed the union's Feb. 14 move to disqualify Cain had it known of the statements at the time. He asked the board to do whatever it deemed appropriate.

Opposed by Union
 On Nov. 18, the Justice Department went further and asked the SACB to reopen the union's move to disqualify Cain. The union opposed this. Cain recessed the hearing on Nov. 22 pending a ruling.

The Justice Department's formal motion mentioned, in addition to Cain's 1948 remarks, a statement attributed to him in a November 1955, article in Coronet Magazine which included mention of the pension union, and testimony given by Cain in a January, 1954, security hearing.

The SACB said its review of the Coronet article, and of Cain's 1954 testimony concerning a "former officer of the pension union," uncovered no indication of "bias or prejudice in favor of or against either party."

No Charge
 Furthermore, the SACB said neither the Justice Department nor the union has charged Cain with unfairness in the proceedings so far.

"On the state of this record," the board said, "we see no reason to thrust upon an unwilling respondent (the union) a disqualification of a presiding member on the ground that he is prejudiced against such respondent... for the board to disqualify under these circumstances would be to embark upon a course fraught with dangers to the public interest."

A Justice Department spokesman had no comment on the SACB decision. An SACB representative said he now expects the hearing to go ahead as called for in the order.

Auto Industry Eyes Cloud of Big Inventory

By DAVID J. WILKIE
 Associated Press

DETROIT — The auto industry easily could stage another record-smashing performance this year but for one thing—its huge dealer inventories.

There are varying estimates of the number of unsold new cars in the field. They range from 725,000 to 800,000. Whichever figure you use, they represent a billion-dollar-plus stock of cars.

If the inventories follow the traditional pattern they will show a further sharp upsurge next month.

Some industry analysts are speculating as to how high they will go before the usual spring sales upturn develops. The thought of a million cars in dealers' hands, in warehouses or in transit from the factories is somewhat fantastic, but the figure has been mentioned in some quarters.

Dealer associations have complained that production schedules are geared too high. At the same time many of the larger dealers agree with the manufacturers' view that the over-all car market is broadening each year.

Dealer Stocks
 That's why many industry analysts say another record year could be expected were it not for the heavy dealer inventories. Some of them say the dealer stocks are almost twice the size they should be at this point in the new model year.

It isn't just a question of marking off a few hundred thousand cars as "over production," or "excess inventory." The very existence of the large inventories makes a lot of dealers jittery. It also influences many would-be car buyers to figure another era of retail price slashing lies ahead.

But, if you take the word of the manufacturers' sales chiefs, the large inventories will level off within the next couple of months. Bargain pricing, they add, will be no more drastic than it was through the banner year of 1955.

Bargaining over new car prices, the industry experts say, has become a part of automobile merchandising. But many buyers apparently are expecting bigger discounts than they are being offered. They are learning, too, that used cars are bringing considerably less than they expect as trade-ins.

Situation Discouraging
 The situation discourages some new car buying; it sends some, who otherwise would buy new cars, directly to the used car dealer. But it does not take anybody wholly out of the car market.

By force of circumstances many new car dealers in large and small centers operate their own used car businesses. They have at least two chances to sell the car prospect. Many of them are satisfied to get out of their used cars only the capital tied up in them. The used car business is not always a profitable operation for the new car dealer.

It has been suggested that the coming of the supplemental unemployment compensation program would bring elimination of overtime in most of the industry's factories; that there would be an effort to stabilize regular employment.

The program does not become effective until mid-year, but there already has been an almost complete elimination of overtime in favor of regular shift operation. And there have been some minor layoffs in what the car makers have described as efforts to adjust production to the market requirements.

Inventory Gains
 Whether those laid off are "temporary" employees, as some employers have said, their idleness results directly from the rapid accumulation of new car inventories in dealer hands.

But their still is no gloom among the car makers. They have spent more than five billion dollars in the last five years for expansion and modernization. Another billion has gone into the development of 1957 model cars. Industry gossip has it these will be the most drastically changed cars to be brought out in the postwar period thus far.

Theatre Time Table

ELMWOOD
 "THE RAINS OF RANCHIPUR" at 7:30, 9:45 and 10:15
 "TARGET ZERO" at 1:30, 3:00 and 8:30

CAPITOL
 "QUENTIN DURWARD" 7:30, 9:45 and 10:15
 "TENNESSEES PARTNER" 1:30, 3:15 and 8:30

HOLLYWOOD
 "ESCAPE TO BURMA" 7:45, 9:15 and 9:30
 "THIS IS MY LOVE" 3:22, 6:48 and 10:18

New Cadillac, 'Owner' Soon Part Ways

DALLAS, Tex. — An icy street quickly parted Richard W. Williams, Jr., 37, and his newly acquired Cadillac here Friday.

The auto skidded on the ice-slick pavement, sideswiping a passing police car.

When the patrolmen overtook Williams 17 blocks later, they identified him as a former Leavenworth inmate who has served four prison terms for car theft. They identified the Cadillac as belonging to someone else.

Brodie Twin In Hospital

CHICAGO — Rodney Dee Brodie, first head-injured twin to survive surgical separation, has returned to the University of Illinois Medical Center after a month's visit at home.

The 4-year-old boy was brought to the hospital Friday for "a check up and evaluation of his condition," a hospital spokesman said.

Rodney was taken to his home in Ferris, Ill., to spend Christmas with his parents and five brothers and sisters. He is expected to remain at the hospital for some time for care and observation.

Rodney's twin brother, Roger Lee, died a month after they were surgically parted Dec. 17, 1952.

Dollar Volume Of Building in Northwest Up

SEATTLE — Dollar volume of building permits in the Pacific Northwest last year passed those of the boom year of 1954 by more than 9 million dollars, a survey by Pacific Architect and Builder showed Friday.

The total for the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho in 1955 was \$462,269,387 compared with \$452,684,957 in 1954, the trade publication said.

Oregon showed a 7 per cent increase from \$19,603,793 in 1954 to \$24,058,630 in 1955.

EXPLORATION DUE

OTTAWA — The Canadian government is opening for exploration March 1 a 5,000-square-mile area in the Northwest Territories where geologists have discovered signs of mineral deposits. The area is a part of the Thelon Game Sanctuary set up in 1927 to help in preserving Northern Wildlife. The government did not say what kind of minerals likely would be found in the territory.

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Private Utility Income Climbs

WASHINGTON —The Power Commission has reported today that the nation's privately owned electric utility companies had \$104,293,000 net income during November, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the net listed in the corresponding 1954 month.

Gross income in November was \$141,380,000, up 10.3 per cent above the November, 1954, total.

Mexican Cottonmen Ask Tax Relief

MEXICO CITY — Mexican cotton producers have asked President Ruiz Cortines to ease their tax burdens and find new markets for their financially hard-hit industry. They claim the present 25 per cent tax on cotton is costing them 600 million pesos (\$54,000,000) a year. They urged investigation of reported offers by Communist-ruled Czechoslovakia and Poland to buy Mexican cotton under certain conditions.

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