

\$2.40 Telephone Call Story Launches New Hunt in FCC Probe

By ED CREEGH
 WASHINGTON (AP)—A public relations man's account of a \$2.40 phone call set House investigators hunting for new evidence of political maneuvering in the fight for a multimillion-dollar TV license.

Spurned Suitor, 53, Kills Himself After 2 Wounded

PLYMOUTH, Ind. (AP)—A 53-year-old spurned suitor shot himself to death in a taxicab Thursday after the wounding of two other men—one of them the cab driver, shot by mistake by his trooper friend.

William Fahlgren of Knox was found dead from a bullet from his own .38 caliber revolver at the end of a manhunt on Ind. Highway 1 about 19 miles southwest of Plymouth.

Harold Dill, 38, of the Plymouth cab driver who was taking Fahlgren to Knox, was shot twice in the left arm as he fled from the cab toward a state police car.

Trooper Fired Twice

Trooper Forrest L. Kent said he didn't recognize Dill as his friend until he had fired twice. Then Dill rose from his crouching run and shouted, "Ferry, it's me."

Dill's general appearance was similar to the broadcast descriptions of the wanted gunman.

The manhunt by state and city police started after Ned Cramer, 23, an off-duty mail carrier, reported Fahlgren shot him, grazing his chest, when he tried to stop an argument between Fahlgren and Cramer's widowed mother, Mrs. Norma Cramer, 53.

Cramer said Fahlgren went to the Cramer home this morning and told Mrs. Cramer, "If I can't have you, no one else will."

Driver Suspicious

Dill said he had heard about the Cramer shooting and was suspicious when he answered Fahlgren's call for a cab. He said he turned off the radio in the cab to avoid giving his passenger any information about the manhunt.

Kent and Lester Thomas, an

testified Thursday that he "made a mistake" in reporting to his boss that the 1956 call had to do with the Miami Channel 19 case, then pending before the Federal Communications Commission.

Members of the House subcommittee on Legislative Oversight told Hill his story was self-contradictory, false and fantastic.

Two members agreed the Channel 19 case gets "curiouser and curioer"—like something out of "Alice in Wonderland."

Then committee Democrats developed that:

1. National Airlines President G. T. Baker knew when he hired Hill in 1953 that the public relations man had been "bobnobbing"—as Rep. Mack (D-Ill.) put it—with top Republicans including Postmaster General Summerfield and White House aide Wilton D. Persons. Hill worked for the GOP National Committee in the 1952 campaign.

"I didn't think it would hurt him," Hill replied.

Public Service Television, Inc., a subsidiary of National Airlines was the licensee but the FCC has moved to reopen the case in view of disclosures in the House investigation.

The telephone call exchanges stemmed from a pencilled memorandum which subcommittee investigators found in the airline's office here.

The memo was from Hill to a National vice president, Alexander

G. Hardy, and said Hill made a call to lawyer Charles Steadman in Cleveland Dec. 18, 1954, shortly before FCC announced its decision in the Channel 19 case.

"Keeping Clear"

"This call got the word re-Channel 19," the memo said. It added that Steadman had been "keeping clear" so the then chairman of FCC George McCunnaughey. The implication was that there had been an FCC leak to an interested party.

Hardy told the committee recently, however, that Hill had "confessed" the call had nothing to do with Channel 19—that he had made the notation simply to save himself \$2.40 on a personal call.

Hill testified he had no clear recollection of the call. He said he thought it had to do with travel arrangements and the like. And he said his attributing it to the Channel 19 case was a mistake made in the course of accounting for a whole flock of telephone toll calls at Hardy's insistence.

He said, too, he has known Commissioner Robert E. Lee for some years and occasionally gets together with him socially.

Chairman Harris (D-Ark.) said Hill's testimony stretched beyond the "fantastic" and "amazing" accounts the committee has received on other aspects of the Miami case.

"This case gets curioer and curioer as we go along," said Moss.

And Rep. John Bell Williams (D-Miss.), agreeing, said Hill's testimony was seriously contradictory to itself and in relation to other information in the committee's hands.

Rep. Hale (R-Maine) told Hill: "You leave me with the distinct impression that you are more anxious to please Mr. Hardy than you are in telling the truth. All you have done is damage your reputation—but not confuse this committee."

White House Invitation

2. Hill arranged through Persons to have Baker invited to a White House dinner in 1954—mentioning to Persons that Baker was a "personal friend" of Col. George Gordon Moore, Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower's brother-in-law.

"Did you think this would help Mr. Baker?" Mack asked, referring to a dinner invitation at a time when National's application for the Miami TV license was before FCC.

New Europe Forum Named

STRASBOURG, France (AP)—Europe's newest international forum Thursday named itself the European Parliamentary Assembly.

It is the public sounding board for the six-nation economic communities—the common market (European), atomic energy development (Euratom) and the coal-steel pool.

Representatives are seated from each of the six nations, these are France, West Germany, Italy,

Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. A total of 148 are on hand under the presidency of Robert Schuman, former premier of France.

Red Reactor Readied

BUDAPEST (AP)—Communist Hungary expects its first atomic reactor, made in the U.S.S.R., will be ready to start experimental work next fall.

Under sharp questioning by Rep. Moss (D-Calif.) and others, Hill said he couldn't swear the call did not relate to Channel 19.

"It could have, I suppose, but I don't think it did," he said.

In any case, he said at another point, he didn't know at the time whether Steadman and McCunnaughey even knew each other.

Deated Discussion

Hill denied discussing the Channel 19 case with any FCC member,

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Civil Rights Figure Said Hindering Jury

MINDEN, La. (AP)—A grand jury Thursday accused W. Wilson White, U.S. assistant attorney general in charge of civil rights, of interfering with its work.

The Webster Parish (County) grand jury also indicted M. M. Coleman, Minden Negro funeral director, for attempted intimidation of a public official and found Mrs. Winnice P. Clements, parish vote registrar, has been conducting her office in accord with state laws.

The grand jury reported to Dist. Judge James E. Bolin in its probe of FBI agents' conduct in a federal investigation of Mrs. Clements' office.

The report said Coleman attempted to "commit the crime of public intimidation... by attempting to use a threat upon Louisiana State Sen. Herman Jones..."

Jones told the jury earlier that Coleman threatened recently to "go to the federal government" after being told that only qualified Negroes would be permitted to register to vote.

Six FBI agents connected with the federal probe of Mrs. Clements' office testified before the grand jury. The federal probe had been ordered by White.

"In connection with our inquiries," the jury report said, "we caused the appearance of several agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation before our body, and it appears that but for the interference of White, these agents would have cooperated with this investigation."

"But because of the interference of... W. Wilson White," it continued, "several of the agents did not give important information which would have aided this investigation."

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