

Ousted GOP Council Blasts Estes Probers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Robert E. Manuel, dismissed Republican counsel to a House investigating committee, charged Friday the group's inquiry into the Billie Sol Estes case "is being distorted—and the truth suppressed."

In a statement, Manuel quoted an Agriculture Department official as saying Estes personally pressured him by invoking the names of the late House Speaker Sam Rayburn and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, but that Johnson's name was not brought into public testimony.

Discussion Cited

Manuel added: "This incident points up the way this investigation is being distorted—and the truth suppressed—either because of shoddy preparation, or a willingness to cover up."

Manuel said another incident involves a discussion by the subcommittee in closed session of how to deal with testimony "which would implicate certain members of Congress and at least one very high-ranking administration official."

"The testimony, taken in executive session, related to a list of individuals to whom Estes allegedly sent gifts in the form

of money orders," Manuel added.

He said it was against this background that he decided, "as a matter of conscience and duty to the public," to give a confidential Agriculture Department report on the Estes case to a newspaper reporter.

The reporter, who Manuel described as a longtime friend, was Earl Mazo of the New York Herald Tribune.

It was for this action that Manuel was discharged after a daylong subcommittee wrangle behind closed doors Thursday. Democratic members spoke of a "breach of ethics."

Manuel also had harsh words for the subcommittee, headed by Rep. L. H. Fountain, D-N.C., which he called a one-party operation.

Manuel brought in Johnson's name in this connection. He said Carl J. Miller, an Agriculture Department employee, told him that Estes on Jan. 25, 1961, invoked the names of Johnson and Rayburn when trying to pressure him.

But when Miller took the stand in open hearings last week, Manuel said, he mentioned Rayburn and Sen. Ralph

Yarborough, D-Tex., but not Johnson.

Manuel said he accosted Miller afterward and reminded him he had previously mentioned Johnson to him. "He admitted this and seemed remorseful, but he offered no explanation," Manuel said.

Miller was the official responsible for allowing Estes' grain storage bond to remain at \$700,000 instead of raising it to \$1 million.

It was in connection with this matter that Manuel quoted Miller as telling him that Estes visited his office and sought to pressure him with the names of Rayburn and Johnson.

Operation 'Incredible'

Manuel said:

"My dismissal by the Democratic party members of the Foundation subcommittee was the price I am and was prepared to pay for making available to the public the true facts in a very important matter of grave concern to the public. I am not the first to be penalized for trying to bring into the open the full truth about the Billie Sol Estes case. And I probably won't be the last."

When he became the minority counsel just two weeks ago, Manuel said, "I saw at once that the operation of the Foundation subcommittee was incredible."

"Here, a counsel and two assistants, sitting in their Washington offices, in about 10 days prepared for public hearings on one of the most complex and serious national scandals in many years. By comparison, the Senate investigating subcommittee, headed by Sen. John L. McClellan of Arkansas, has been working for many weeks with a staff of well over 40 investigators, and still will not be ready to begin its public hearings until June 27."

As to the report which Manuel leaked to the New York Herald Tribune, Manuel said, "This report was not legally classified. It was stamped 'Administratively Confidential,' which meant that it contained politically embarrassing material that the Department of Agriculture wanted to keep from the public."

Straight Party Vote

The subcommittee's debate Thursday over what to do about Manuel kept it from holding a scheduled public hearing.

By a straight party vote of 4 to 2, the subcommittee voted to fire Manuel.

Saved Polio Victim

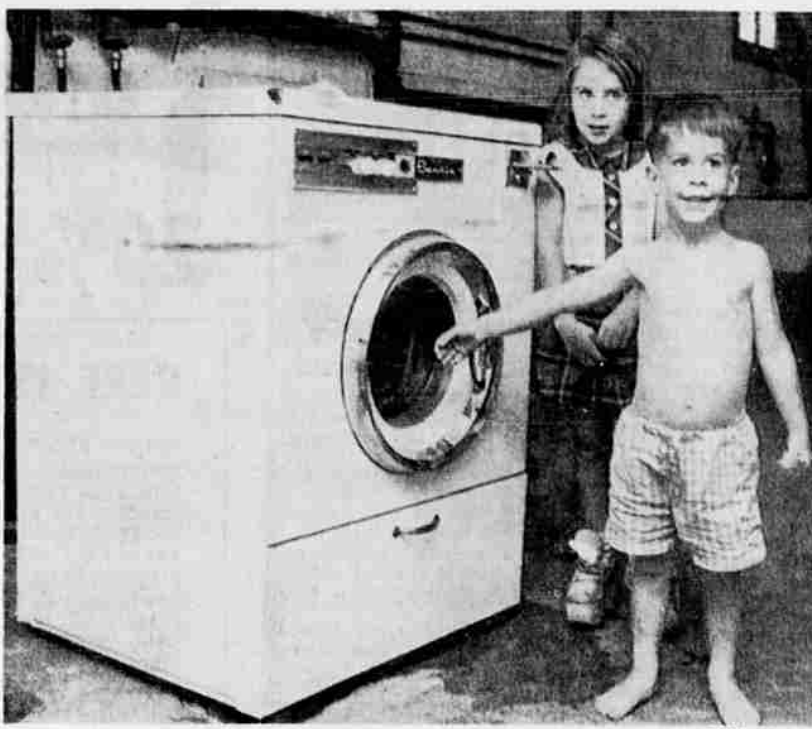
Young Seath, whom Gordon pulled from the lake, had suffered polio and was unable to swim to safety. He was present for the ceremony, along with families of the honored children, government officials and members of Congress.

The citation accompanying Gordon's medal said:

"Gordon dived three times to pull his drowning friend to the surface, then got the larger boy into reach of his dog, King, and they finally made shore with Mark hanging on to King's tail. Mark had stopped breathing, but Gordon applied mouth-to-mouth respiration until he felt Mark's heart beating again."

Rep. Ross Bass, D-Tenn., said Manuel's leaking of the report "was a complete breach of faith with the members of the committee," Rep. Neal Smith, D-Iowa, added: "This was a basic violation of ethics."

Ranking Republican Florence Dwyer, R-N.J., said while not condoning Manuel's action she felt the majority was "exaggerating the significance" of it and that he should be retained with a promise that he would not do it again.



(AP Wirephoto)

Spin Bath

Three-year-old Todd Thompson points to the automatic washer which took him for a five-minute waterlogged spin Thursday in Arlington, Va. While Todd was on an inspection tour inside the machine, his sister Theresa, left, inadvertently closed the door and the washer started pumping water and spinning. The sister brought the mother, Jo Anne Thompson, who opened the door and pulled Todd to more stable and drier ground. The youngster suffered only bumps and bruises during the spin bath.

Nichols Recalls Few Details Of Night His Wife Was Killed

By SAM FREAR
Of the Register-Guard

Ernest M. Nichols, 34, of Fall Creek, took the witness stand in his own defense Thursday in Lane County Circuit Court. He could remember only a few details of the night of Oct. 10, 1961, when his wife was killed.

Nichols, who is charged with second-degree murder, spent two hours on the stand at the conclusion of the third day of trial before Judge Edward Leavy and a jury.

Defense attorney Edward Fadeley took over following the noon recess Thursday after Leavy denied Fadeley's request for a judgment of acquittal.

Nichols, sitting forward in the witness chair and speaking slowly and clearly, told the jury he remembered only two things about the night of Oct. 10.

Agreed to Go Hunting

He remembered arriving home from work when it was dark and asking his wife Hazel, 33, if she wanted to go hunting deer by spotlight. He said she agreed and went into their bedroom to change her clothes.

Nichols recalled he couldn't find his rifle, and went into the bedroom to ask his wife where it was. It was in the bedroom corner and he picked it up.

"All I recall is that I turned to go out of the room and the gun went off," Nichols said.

Nichols replied "no" when Fadeley asked him a series of questions: Did he point the gun at his wife? Did he fire the rifle intentionally? Did he know the gun was pointed at her? Did he know the gun was loaded?

Dist. Atty. William F. Frye

then cross-examined the defendant. But Nichols replied, "I disrecall," "I disremember," or "I don't know" to most of the questions.

"On this night that your wife was killed, you say you were in the house only five or ten minutes. Can't you remember the things you did and the things that were said?" Frye asked.

Nichols replied he could only remember what he had testified about.

Frye pointed out that Nichols' 14-year-old daughter had covered up her head to avoid hearing what was going on. "Did anything happen in the bedroom to cause Susan to cover up her head?" Frye asked.

"Nothing I said would have," Nichols replied. "And I don't remember her saying anything at all."

Nichols didn't recall his wife saying, "Don't point that rifle at me."

Hour of Questioning

After more than an hour of cross-examination in which the defendant failed to recall any more details of the fatal shooting, he was allowed to leave the witness chair.

Nichols was the sixth defense witness. Both Frye and Dep. Dist. Atty. Robert McCrea were called to testify about whether they had been denied permis-

Animals Arrive

JAKARTA (AP)—More than 100 wild animals from Communist China have arrived here for Indonesian zoos.

Medicare Measure Appears Stymied

WASHINGTON (AP)—A member of the House Ways and Means Committee said Friday only a miracle could win committee approval of President Kennedy's program of hospital care for the aged under Social Security.

"There just aren't the votes in the committee to report it out," said Rep. Martha Griffiths, D-Mich., who supports the bill. Other committee members have expressed similar opinions privately, but Mrs. Griffiths is the first supporter of the measure to concede publicly that the bill is probably dead for this year.

Besides discounting chances of committee approval, she said in an interview she doubts that any other devices for bringing the measure to a vote, or any compromises in its content, would bring about passage this year.

Most soundings of sentiment in the 25-man committee indicate 10 supporters of the bill, 10 firm opponents and 5 members considered not absolutely committed, but for the most part leaning against it.

Secretary of Welfare Abraham A. Ribicoff and other top administration officials are scheduled to renew their pleas for the plan at closed committee sessions beginning Monday or Tuesday.

Among factors generally believed to have dimmed the bill's chances in recent weeks are troubles in the Senate over the administration interim tax revision bill, a strong Republican drive to hold the national debt limit \$2 billion under the \$308 billion the Treasury seeks, and the administration decision to drive for action early next year on an income tax cut.

All these measures are under the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, Chairman Wilbur D. Mills, D-Ark., opposes the health care bill, but has led the administration fight for the other top priority proposals of the Kennedy program.

Under the circumstances, Capitol Hill observers are now saying, the White House will be less inclined than it would have been earlier to put pressure on Ways and Means members to change their position on the health bill, or to sanction legislative devices to circumvent the committee's authority and bring the bill to the floor.

Father Suffers Fatal Injuries

HERMISTON (AP)—A father riding with his son on a motor scooter was fatally injured Wednesday night when it collided with a car at an intersection in Hermiston.

Leroy H. Minnick, 37, Hermiston, died two hours later, just before midnight, in a Hermiston hospital. His son, Albert, 12, was in serious condition with compound fractures. Minnick apparently suffered internal injuries.

Their vehicle collided with an automobile operated by Michael Lee Snyder, 18, Hermiston. The court then adjourned.

Health Assn. Ends Parley

PORTLAND (AP)—The western branch of the American Public Health Assn. ended its 29th annual conference Thursday with resolutions and election of officers.

An outstanding service award was presented at the final session to Verne C. Reiersen, chief of the environmental sanitation section of the Oregon Board of Health.

Reiersen's works over the past eight years included writing of legislation and establishment of programs for the Board of Higher Education.

The Seattle-King County health department received the annual Crumrine award of the APHA for effective public health work.

Dr. James T. Spera, Portland, was re-elected president of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Assn.

Dr. John E. Tuhy, Portland, was elected president of the Oregon Thoracic Society.

The Oregon Conference of Tuberculosis Workers elected Hazel Frederickson, Eugene, president. She is executive secretary of the Lane County TB and Health Assn.

The Oregon Public Health Association elected Mrs. Vivian E. Runte, RN, as president, succeeding Kenneth C. Ross. Dr. John Donnelly, Douglas County Health Department, Roseburg, was elected vice president.

The group voted to support a bill in Congress providing for improved dental health measures. Other resolutions supported the principle of improved public health coverage through joint city-county health districts, financial assistance for professional public health training; and efforts to bring Multnomah County under the provisions of the state medical investigation act.

Russian Urged

LONDON (AP)—An Education Ministry committee recommends an increase in the teaching of the Russian language to equal German teaching in British schools. It asks for a force of 1,500 Russian teachers within 15 years.

JFK Pins Medal On Oregon Youth

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy pinned medals Friday on two boy heroes and one young girl he said may become the first woman president of the United States.

He presented young American medals for 1960 to the three in the White House rose garden. They are Gerald Lee Davis, 12, Ontario, Ore.; Gordon Bernard Killemer, 15, Reed City, Mich.; and Mary Ann Kingry, 17, Saginaw, Mich.

Miss Kingry was honored for an exceptional career of service in the Junior Red Cross, receiving the first service award made since 1955 under a program authorized by Congress some years ago. Bravery medals such as the two boys received are awarded each year for outstanding acts.

'Promising Candidate'

After listening to a well delivered brief speech of thanks from Miss Kingry, the President commented:

"Well, the vice president recently predicted we'd someday have a woman president. I want to say it seems to me that we

Plunge Kills Truck Driver

ELKTON — A truck loaded with scrap iron plunged down a 40-foot embankment killing the driver and injuring his step-son Friday morning ten miles west of here on Highway 38.

Arthur M. Dennison, 50, of Powers was killed and 15-year-old Tom Wiedeman suffered a fractured pelvis.

Dennison, driver of the flat-bed truck, was crushed in the cab and died instantly, according to investigating officers.

The boy was taken to Cottage Grove Hospital where his condition is listed as satisfactory.

Police said the truck was east-bound and apparently went out of control after traveling onto a soft shoulder. It did not overturn. The victim's wife and another son reportedly were traveling behind the truck in a car.

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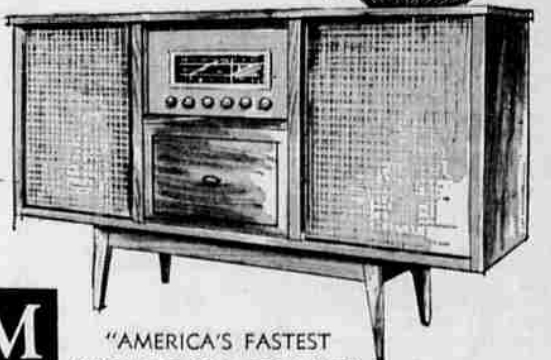
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