

Tax Bureau Refuses To Believe Widow's Story of Many Gifts

Editor's Note: The following dispatch tells how the widow of J. B. Powell, the American editor who was one of the civilian heroes of World War II, is having trouble convincing the Internal Revenue Bureau that \$40,000 was given to her dying husband simply because people admired him and wanted to help him. In the wide circulation of her story by the press, Mrs. Powell's one hope of obtaining the "proof" that the tax agents demand.

By ROBERT LOFTUS
Washington — (U.P.) — This is sort of an open letter to the hundreds and hundreds of people who tried to help J. B. Powell

when he came home to die in 1942. The income tax collector won't believe you helped. He claims the \$40,000 you gave J. B. in fives and 10's and 20's wasn't a gift at all. Maybe you don't remember. J. B. was the editor of an American-language newspaper in Shanghai who started fighting his own war with the Japanese long before the rest of us got into it. Special Treatment J. B. got special treatment from the Japanese when Pearl Harbor came along. Solitary confinement for months in a wet, freezing dungeon. Starvation diet and torture. Prison doctors amputated most of both his feet

before they shipped him home on the repatriation liner Gripsholm in August, 1942. J. B. was an international figure, but he was flat broke and desperately in need of hospitalization when the Gripsholm landed him in New York. That's when the gifts started pouring in. Many Offer Help He found a sack full of mail waiting for him at the dock, from strangers who had read about his Shanghai ordeal and wanted to help. Many didn't even sign their names. But their gifts added up to \$1,200. Then the friends J. B. had collected in 30 years of newspapering went to work for him. A group of Chinese reporters sent \$10,000 from Chungking. The National Press Club in Washington raised \$9,800. Tax Agent Emanuel N. Feigin said J. B. had claimed "too many gifts to be believed." The tax man insisted he must have performed some service for hire to get all that money. And so the \$40,000 was taxable income. Unless Mrs. Powell can prove her husband's honesty by producing the names, addresses and amounts given by each of the contributors.

Compromise May Be Aim for Civil Rights In Democrat Platform

Washington — (U.P.) — A majority of the Democratic party platform-writers will try to compromise the civil rights issue despite President Truman's no-compromise declaration, according to a highly-placed Democrat. The 20-man drafting committee named last week was chosen with an eye to avoiding a rift like that caused by the 1948 civil rights dispute. Harmony Not Guaranteed Agreement on compromise in the drafting group does not guarantee party harmony, however.

The drafting subcommittee and the full platform committee adopted a compromise civil rights plank in 1948. The convention itself overrode the platform committee and approved a tougher civil rights plank, provoking a walkout of some Southern delegates and formation of the States' Rights party. House Democratic Leader John W. McCormack, who is counted among the compromisers, was chosen by party leaders to head the drafting committee. Compromise Evidence Seen Evidence of the compromise aim also was seen in the names of some of the other committee members. One was Burket Murphy, an Atlanta attorney and friend of Sen. Richard B. Russell, (D-Ga.). It was understood that Russell was invited to nominate a member and that he chose Murphy. Russell, a Democratic presidential candidate whose basic strength is in the South, has led Southern senators in their perennial fights to block Mr. Truman's proposals for civil rights legislation. After the drafting group was named, Democratic National Chairman Frank E. McKinney expressed hope that it could draft a civil rights plank which all segments of the party could support. No Retreat Urged Two days later, Mr. Truman made his speech before Americans for Democratic Action, urging no retreat from the 1948 plank. While he angered some of the Southerners, others privately expressed doubt that the no-compromise view would prevail at the convention.

Columbia Floods Shut Down Firms

Portland — (U.P.) — Two lumbering operations near Ridgefield, Wash., were shut down Saturday and low-lying farmlands east and west of Vancouver were inundated as the Columbia and Willamette rivers — filled by the year's first major runoff — crested at below 21 feet. Several lower docks were evacuated in Portland harbor as the Willamette, flooded primarily by backwaters from the Columbia, edged to a 20.3 crest, or 2.3 feet above flood stage. At Vancouver, the Columbia rose to 20.4 feet, or 5.4 feet above flood stage. The Welman Lumber company's sawmill and the Ridgefield Shingle company, a branch of the Portland Shingle company, were forced to close down north of Vancouver because of the rising water. River forecasters said, however, there would be no major damage.

Overland Greyhound Employees Cast Vote
Portland — (U.P.) — Overland Greyhound's transcontinental bus lines, strikebound for more than two weeks, may be running again by Sunday night or early Monday. Members of the AFL Northwest Motor Coach Employees union were voting Friday on an agreement reached Wednesday. Results of the balloting will not be known until early Sunday morning. The agreement includes a 4.6 per cent pay increase retroactive to April 7, a 4.4 per cent hike next October 1 and a 9 per cent boost Oct. 1, 1953. Employees will go on a 5½ day week next October 1 and on a 5-day week Oct. 1, 1953.

Elderly Woman Killed In Hood River Blaze

Hood River — (U.P.) — Mrs. Karl Geissler, 72, burned to death Saturday when fire destroyed her Pine Grove home several miles southeast of here. Firemen said the blaze apparently was caused by smoker's carelessness. Mrs. Geissler, a semi-invalid, was known to be a chain smoker. Sheriff R. L. Gillmouthe said.

Author Fulton Oursler Dies at New York Home
New York — (U.P.) — Fulton Oursler, 59, author and senior editor of the Reader's Digest, died early Saturday in his apartment in the Hotel Novaro. Members of Oursler's family said he had not been ill and apparently died of a heart attack. Oursler was the author of 32 novels and non-fiction books and several plays. Among his best sellers was a series of murder mysteries written under the pseudonym of Anthony Abbott. The Siamese name of Bangkok is Krung Thep.

Red plane Production Ahead of US by 2 to 1

Washington — (U.P.) — Russia, according to present indications, is producing 12 to 15 military planes for every seven the United States builds. During the period from the end of World War II until recently when American production began to gather steam again, the ratio was three-to-one in Russia's favor. Reliable Data The figures are based on reliable data from military and industry sources. They help to explain Speaker Sam Rayburn's unqualified assertion that the House Friday that "we have lost air superiority."

House critics claim the situation wasn't helped by the administration's refusal to spend certain aircraft production money appropriated prior to the Korean war. But air strength comparisons also involve the composition of air forces, quality of the various plane types and training of men. American experts do not believe the Russians have superiority plane type for plane type, despite the surprise handed them in the fighter department by the MIG-15 jet. Cars COLLIDE Cars driven by James Wolford Garrett, 192 Van Ness avenue, Ashland, and Richard Wayne Imhausen, route 3, box 180, Barneburg road, Medford, collided early Saturday on Hillcrest road, state police reported. Damage was listed as minor, and there were no personal injuries, the report said.

MEXICO GROWING OLIVES

Mexico City — (U.P.) — The Mexican Chamber of Commerce says the northern states of Mexico

are becoming important producers of olive oil. The ministry of agriculture will plant 700,000 trees this year.

The United States Weather Bureau at the San Francisco airport is the largest West of Chicago.

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