

Woman Arrested for Talking Too Long On Phone; Laws Being Passed for Use

New York—(U.P.)—A woman has finally been arrested for talking too long on the telephone.

She may not be the last. Legislatures around the country are being asked to pass the same telephone party line law that was the undoing of Mrs. Mary L. Kayes.

Mrs. Kayes, 42, whose husband is caretaker of a summer camp in Dutchess County, N. Y., was arrested last week and released under \$500 bond on a charge of refusing to get off her

party line so a man could call the fire department.

Her case made history. It was the first prosecution under a New York law, in effect only four months, making it a misdemeanor to refuse to yield a party line in an emergency. If she is convicted and if a judge wants to throw the book at her, she could get up to a year in jail, a \$500 fine, or both.

Other States Have Laws
The states of Washington and Michigan have similar laws, passed within the last two years,

but at Olympia and Lansing there is no record of their ever having been used to prosecute anyone.

This year the Council of State Governments is furnishing a model bill, patterned after the New York law, to state legislatures. The council urges its adoption as a means of preventing tragedy when stubborn party line users block calls to police, firemen or doctors.

The model bill—following the pattern of the New York, Michigan and Washington laws—also would make it unlawful for anyone to demand a party line for an emergency when an emergency does not really exist.

Washington passed its law after a child died of suffocation while its mother tried vainly to get a call for help through on a busy party line. In Indiana, the sponsor of a similar bill said homes have burned down in his bailiwick twice in recent years under similar circumstances.

In signing the New York law last year, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey said he realized it would be hard to enforce but he believed it would be worth while to have on the books if it would save the life of one person.

Officials admit that under ordinary conditions it would be hard to prove a particular person was the one using the party line when someone in distress tried to get through. Mrs. Kayes, however, was a sitting duck. She was talking long distance, and the telephone company had a record of her call.

Fire Warden Donald Townsend of Clinton, N.Y., swore out a complaint against Mrs. Kayes. He said she refused to hang up when he tried to call firemen to a blazing pasture. He said he had to drive a mile to another phone, and meanwhile the fire spread to a barn and burned it down.

"I wouldn't for the world have kept on the line if I'd known there really was a fire," Mrs. Kayes told the United Press, by telephone. She is on a seven-party line. "I honestly didn't believe him. You hear the darndest things on this line."

Philippine Police Nab Chinese Reds

Cebu, P. I.—(U.P.)—Police have begun a roundup of Chinese residents in this Central Philippine city following the discovery of a cache of Communist propaganda in a rooming house here, it has been reported.

Documents seized in the raid included Communist newspapers printed in China and a sketch of Cebu with crosses marking Chinese-owned firms. The landlady said the room was rented but rarely used by an unidentified Chinese.

Jobless Claims Drop For Third Week in Row

Washington—(U.P.)—New unemployment insurance claims declined during the last week of January for the third straight week.

The Labor Department said new claims fell off by 31,400 to 289,400 during the week ending Jan. 29. The Department said 39 states reported declines.

The number of continuing claims however, edged upwards by 11,900 to 1,976,200 during the week ending Jan. 22, the latest week for which figures are available.

The federal-state unemployment insurance program covers 38,500,000 of the nation's more than 6,000,000 workers.

Japanese Leader Says Plan Would Benefit US

Tokyo—(U.P.)—Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu said Saturday "normal relations" between Japan and Russia would help to stabilize the Pacific area and benefit the United States.

Shigemitsu told an audience of American and Japanese leaders, including U. S. Ambassador John Allison, that recent Japanese overtures to Russia were possible only because of the strengthening of Japan's ties with the United States.



CAREFUL, YOUR HIGHNESS—Minister of Education Roy Joseph (front seat) seems deeply concerned as Princess Margaret stands up in this Land Rover (British jeep) in response to cheering children at Port of Spain, Trinidad. Some 30,000 children gave the popular princess a rousing welcome. Driver is Police Cpl. Francique.

Conrad Hilton, History's Biggest Hotel Owner, Not Always at Top of Business

Chicago—(U.P.)—Almost every day somebody tries to sell Conrad Hilton a hotel.

This is like carrying coals to Newcastle because Hilton already is the biggest innkeeper in history. He operates 27 hotels here and abroad, most of them in the luxury class.

But Hilton wasn't always top man in the hotel business. Back in depression days he was a half million dollars in debt.

Owner Pays Account

"I had a charge account at a gas station in Texas," he recalled in an interview. "The owner heard I was going bankrupt. But he didn't want to embarrass me so he paid up my bill himself."

One day Hilton was summoned by the president of the Mercantile National Bank of Dallas, Tex., to discuss a little matter of \$55,000 Hilton owed.

"The banker told me he knew of some good oil stock," Hilton said. "He said I might as well owe the bank \$110,000 and he offered to lend me \$55,000 to buy the oil stock."

Takes Banker's Advice

Hilton took him up on the

deal, and it paid off.

He emerged from the depression with five of his eight hotels intact, managing to save those by such stringent economies as shutting off heat to vacant rooms and pulling out unused telephones to save 15 cents a month on each.

Since those dark days Hilton has embarked on a vast expansion program climaxed last year by the purchase of the Statler chain for \$111,000,000, history's biggest real estate deal. Compare this with the Louisiana Purchase for a paltry \$15,000,000.

Hotel men credit Hilton with bringing system to a hit-or-miss business. There is no waste space in his hotels.

When he bought Chicago's Palmer House he counted 4,000 persons a day passing through the hotel arcade. So he converted a book store with a \$250 monthly rental into a fancy bar that produced \$490,000 in its first year.

Hilton looks like what he is—a tycoon. Tall, vigorous and tanned, with thinning white hair

and a he-man mustache, he is a conservative dresser, a good horseman and a polished ballroom dancer.

Some Exceptions

He might be the executive prototype except for a couple of items. He has no ulcers and he is allergic to cigar smoke. And he never works after 6 p.m.

"I belong to the union," he said. Hilton has an abiding faith in private enterprise and religion. Each year he plays host to President Eisenhower's prayer breakfast.

But he has no ideological qualms about leasing foreign hotels built with the money of foreign governments. He already operates two under such an arrangement, one in Puerto Rico and one in Spain, and others are on the way.

"The foreign governments will benefit the most," he said, "because these hotels are going to stimulate trade."

Hilton's plans are global. Some day he expects to run as many hotels abroad as he does here.

American Business Alters Venezuela Buying Habits

Caracas—(U.P.)—American business is changing the buying and eating habits of Venezuela's 5,000,000 people.

The changes are the result of a private "point four" program founded by Nelson Rockefeller and his brothers and assisted by the major oil companies now producing nearly 2,000,000 barrels of oil a day in this mineral-rich country.

Basically this program has two parts.

To Improve Production

The first is the Venezuela Basic Economy Corporation (VBEC), which is a hard-headed business proposition designed to improve food production, food processing and food distribution throughout Venezuela.

The second is CIDEA, a philanthropic organization, dedicated to a program of raising health and nutritional standards in a country where death from malnutrition once was common.

Both VBEC and CIDEA have produced startling results.

VBEC is a subsidiary of the International Basic Economy Corp. founded in 1947 by the

Rockefellers as a financing development company.

Some of its early projects, admittedly, were failures. Sums spent to modernize farming and the fishing industry did not bring good results. Farmers and fishermen resisted changes in their ancient methods. But after these early failures, VBEC really got going.

Customers Outnumbered

In 1949, in Maracaibo, the big oil capital, the average grocery store was a dingy little hole-in-the-wall where meat and other produce was in the open. Flies far outnumbered the customers, and the proprietor felt he was getting gypped unless he could maintain a markup of 100 per cent on his merchandise.

VBEC erected TODOS, the first ultra-modern super-market in South America. Venezuelan investors joined VBEC in putting up the capital. The results of this project were spectacular.

In less than 30 days prices throughout the city had dropped 15 per cent, and in a year the price drop was close to 30 per cent under the spur of competition furnished by TODOS. The small stores also found that their customers began demanding refrigeration and modern packaging.

Today there is a supermarket in Valencia, the fabulous Automercado in Caracas, and another is planned in eastern Venezuela. Venezuelan investors take part in all these enterprises.

VBEC also moved in on food production. Building modern milk pasteurization plants in many parts of Venezuela, VBEC has raised milk consumption and production 10 times over pre-1950 levels.

The Hard Way

Before CIDEA came into the picture in Venezuela, the basic diet was black beans and rice. Rickets, pelagra, beriberi were common. Malnutrition was standard.

CIDEA, which receives funds from the major oil companies, attacked the problem with a public relations program through the press, radio, schools, mobile units and, later, television. Comic books promoting good eating habits are circulated among the children of the country.

The ministry of health put up half the money for CIDEA at first and now pays for two-thirds of the program.

Some 300 nutrition clubs have been formed among the children. These clubs have their own gardens and learn the value of vitamin-rich food.

As a result of this program, deaths due to malnutrition have been cut by 50 per cent. The old dietary diseases have been cut by 40 to 50 per cent.

There have been disheartening failures in both programs, but as Rockefeller put it:

"In each case we learned the answers the hard way. But considering the problems that needed to be faced, if we hadn't done it this way it would not have been done at all."

"We have accomplished a basic objective. We didn't go in to make money where we could make it best. We could have invested it better in this country. And we didn't pick areas just because we could make an easy profit, but areas important to the Venezuelan economy. You could almost say we had social objectives with capitalistic intentions, rather than straight business aims."

Accused Murderer Thanks Policeman

Marshfield, Wis.—(U.P.)—A 20-year-old Marshfield man, awaiting trial on charges of murdering his grandfather, wrote a letter of thanks to the police chief of his home town who once tried to straighten him out.

Rodney W. Herman fled the state and lived for two years under the alias of Steven Bannon, but he was arrested in Illinois where he had been working.

Police Chief Walter Wohlfahrt said he had talked with Herman many times when the youth was in trouble. Wohlfahrt recently received the following letter from Herman who was being held in jail at Phillips, Wis., for trial for the 1953 slaying:

"Dear Chief,
"Now I'm sitting in a cell in Phillips waiting for a possible life in prison. I was too smart to listen to you and now it's too late. I want to thank you for what you tried to do for me."

"I regret the grief I have given my mother and I hope that maybe someday I can make it up to her. I wish there was some way I could warn other kids who have already started like I did, but they would have the same attitude—it won't happen to me."

"In the last two years I had to learn to work with other people and understand what I had to do to live in this world. But I learned too late. But wherever I go, or get, I will do my best. I still might get the satisfaction of living a right kind of life. I wish I would have listened to you and at least tried to understand what you were trying to say. In the last year, I did."

"I made some wonderful friends, honest and hard-working. I tried hard to be like them at the last. I think I was."

"But you can't live on lies forever. Steven Bannon was found out to be Rod Herman, and so here I am."

"Again I say thanks for trying. Goodbye."

"Yours truly,
"Rod Herman"



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