

GM Dealer Made \$1,000,000 on Investment, Subcommittee Hears

Washington — (U.P.) — General Motors' sales chief said yesterday that one of the car dealers now complaining against company treatment made \$1,000,000 in 14 years on a \$10,000 investment.

W. F. Hufstader, GM vice president and chief salesman, testified before a Senate Antitrust Subcommittee investigating the giant auto concern.

He presented a case-by-case rebuttal of testimony by several past and present General Motors dealers who were previous witnesses. He dismissed as "untrue" many of the allegations.

Hufstader denied charges that General Motors forced dealers to expand, refused to buy back parts on cancellation, and forced purchase of accessories and special equipment.

Dangerous Credit Policies
M. H. Yager, Albany, N.Y., Pontiac dealer, complained last week about factory pressure for ever greater sales. Yager said this causes dangerous credit policies and irresponsible advertising.

Hufstader said today that Yager invested \$10,000 in his Pontiac dealership—\$5000 of it borrowed in 1941. As of Oct. 31, 1955, Hufstader said, "Mr. Yager had made a total gain in excess of \$1,000,000."

Yager also asserted that GM dealers are subjected to constant factory pressure to sell more and more new cars—even if it involves exaggerated trade-ins, extremely easy credit terms, and other unsound business practices. His testimony was similar to that of other GM dealer witnesses, most of whom had lost their franchises.

Hufstader told the subcommittee that Yager devotes only

half his time to his auto business although his new car sales have been declining for the past two years. Nevertheless, Yager's profits have been averaging \$9,000 a month this year, Hufstader said.

Should Blame Selves
Hufstader had testified previously that complaining dealers should blame themselves for not preparing for the time "when customers ceased walking into their stores clamoring to have their names put on an order blank."

Curtice denied that his recent offer to extend the period of the dealer franchise from one to five

Wolf Decision Due Next Week

Portland — (U.P.) — Attorneys for Victor Laurence Wolf said today their defense for the confessed bomb slayer probably would take about a day and a half, indicating a decision on the 45-year-old handyman's fate would come early next week.

Wolf confessed under an old Oregon law to the bomb-slaying last April of attorney Kermit Smith. A hearing is being held to determine his degree of guilt and whether he must pay the death penalty or go to prison for life.

Marjorie Smith, widow of the victim who was found innocent of a murder charge in McMinnville recently in connection with her husband's death, appeared as a state witness yesterday. It was Wolf who implicated Mrs. Smith in the slaying.

The attractive widow, dressed in black, repeated testimony she gave at the McMinnville trial during some two hours of cross-examination by Charles E. Raymond, Wolf's attorney. She said she realized that Wolf had an emotional interest in her and that she came to resent it.

She said she sent Wolf a valentine eight days after she remarried Smith but that she sent out "a lot of valentines."

Howard Belton Learns Of Death of Son

Portland — (U.P.) — Word has been received here of the death Wednesday in Chicago from a heart attack of Arthur L. Belton, 35, son of State Sen. and Mrs. Howard C. Belton of Canby.

Young Belton was born in Portland and attended high school at Canby. He was a 1941 engineering graduate of Oregon State College.

years was "illusory." He said that the offer even applied to dealers who had been warned that their one-year agreement would not be renewed next year unless they stepped up sales.

Nixon Asks Freer Latin American Trade Relations

Washington — (U.P.) — Vice-President Richard M. Nixon called today for freer trade between the United States and Latin America to cement good will in the Western Hemisphere.

Nixon said the Latin American countries now working to improve their economies want neither "grants nor soft loans but an opportunity of developing wider markets in the United States."

"It is up to us now to help them in this by supporting President Eisenhower's liberal trade program," he commented in an interview.

Efforts Endorsed
Nixon endorsed the efforts of Uruguayan President Luis Battle Berres who is visiting the United States in the interest of lower tariffs and fewer trade restrictions.

Nixon said he agreed fully with the Uruguayan president that words alone are not enough to guarantee good will among the sister republics of Latin America.

"We must develop hemispheric trade to help raise living standards and thus strengthen one of democracy's strongest bastions," he declared.

Firm Believer in Trade
Nixon also recalled that he returned from a tour of Central America earlier this year a firm believer in the advisability of increased trade with the Latin American republics.

Nixon, who served as host to Battle Berres because of the convalescence of President Eisenhower, praised Battle Berres for Uruguay's government and emphasized the importance of the visit.

"Uruguay has a long tradition of democracy which we have always admired," Nixon said. "We are proud to be a partner of a country that values the principles of freedom so highly."

HEADS NAM
New York — (U.P.) — Cola G. Parker, former chairman of the Kimberly-Clark Corporation of Neenah, Wis., was elected president of the National Association of Manufacturers last night.



ILL—Buster Keaton, frozen-faced comedian of silent films, is in "very grave" condition at Sattell Hospital in Hollywood suffering from a gastro intestinal ailment. He is shown as he will appear on TV show "The Silent Partner," Dec. 21, in which he re-enacts slapstick routines of yesteryear.

Garden Notes

By C. B. CORDY
County Extension Agent for Horticulture

Our local area came through the November frost with very little damage. Districts further north were not as fortunate and many of the nurserymen feel that they have suffered a very heavy loss. While it is evident at this time that there is injury, the extent of the injury can not be fully determined until next spring.

While some of the nurserymen felt that their losses would be minor, others were of the opinion that they would suffer almost total losses. The temperatures dropped to lower levels in eastern Oregon and in Washington than they did in the Willamette valley and Portland areas.

With the possibility of damage being as severe as some nurserymen feel anyone interested in planting should make arrangements for their planting stock as soon as possible. There seems to be a general increase in orchard plantings along the coast and it seems likely that fruit trees will be scarce by spring. Placing orders now would not only insure you getting your trees but would also help the nurserymen arrange for a source of supply.

Frost damage in many ornamental plantings will be difficult to determine by inexperienced people. Reputable nurserymen will make every effort to keep these damaged plants off the market. While it is always a good practice to buy from established, reputable firms it would appear to be of more than usual importance this year. This would be particularly true if plants were to be purchased from areas where the temperatures went down to or below the critical point.

Casper Woman Pleads Innocent To Murder

Casper, Wyo. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Rose Alexander, the pudgy woman who buried the body of a young divorcee under a basement floor, pleaded innocent to a justice court yesterday to a charge of murder.

The matron, Mrs. Rose Alexander, 42, insisted that Barbara Alexander, 27, was killed accidentally by falling bricks. She said she buried the woman who won away her husband with a crude wooden cross because she was afraid the death would be blamed on her.

Rose Alexander is charged with first degree murder in the death of Barbara Alexander, and with concealing the death from everyone for more than two years.

Canned Pork Products Bought in Support Plan

Washington — (U.P.) — The Agriculture Department has purchased 6,697,500 pounds of canned pork products under its \$85,000,000 program to bolster live hog prices.

This was the largest purchase since the program went into effect Oct. 24. Since then the price of good butcher hogs on the Chicago market has slumped from \$13.90 to a low of \$10.40 reported Wednesday.

British Spend To Eradicate Rabbits, Then Acquire Streak of Sentimentality

By ROBERT MUSEL

London — (U.P.) — Britain squared off against its chief agricultural enemy, the rabbit, two years ago and promptly floored him with a heavy dose of myxomatosis virus.

But it can't deliver the same punch for the knockout because under the stiff upper lip of the British there is a broad streak of sentimentality toward animals.

Besides, chaps, it isn't well, dash it all, it isn't quite sporting 'y'know.

Why it was all right to permit the deadly virus to slaughter 199 out of every 200 rabbits in the island in the first place—and now it isn't all right to finish the job is something as complicated as the British character.

For even though the stakes are very high, about \$42,000,000 a year and going up, the rabbit has succeeded in lining up some powerful forces on its side, in addition to the most powerful force of all—the thing the rabbit does better than almost any other animal.

Myxomatosis spread over Eu-

rope from France where a big landowner tried it on his estate after hearing of how Australia wiped out uncounted millions of rabbits with the virus. Eventually the virus reached Britain.

This week, two years later, the minister of agriculture, Derek Heathcote Amery, told Parliament that almost all of England and Wales was clear of rabbits.

And although the value of agricultural products has jumped millions of pounds, there was an uneasy feeling that myxomatosis is not sporting and should be curbed. TV helped consolidate the opposition by showing a horrifying closeup of a diseased and blinded rabbit stumbling aimlessly around.

So the government has forbidden the deliberate spreading of the virus. Sportsmen, poachers, sentimentalists, city folk and pet shop owners are jubilant. So are the blue-blooded foxhunters.

Why? Well they reason that with all the rabbits gone the foxes would begin killing chickens and lambs and then the coun-

try would get rid of foxes. Farmers still can get rid of

rabbits with shotguns and any other methods except myxomatosis. But most experts think it can't be done. For when he doesn't have a virus, the rabbit is the hardest working family raiser in the world.

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