

Porter Gains National Attention By Concern Over Missing Flier

BY A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington—The Fates and personal tenacity have rewarded freshman Rep. Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.), after five weeks of trying to follow a rocky trail, with national attention for his concern over a missing Oregon flier who apparently has been wiped out by a foreign dictator.

Because of the mysterious disappearance in the Dominican Republic of a young aviator from his congressional district, Rep. Porter shortly after taking office in January began urging the government to investigate the whole affair. It was pretty tough going.

Only fragmentary evidence was available concerning what happened to Gerald Lester Murphy, Eugene, Ore., flier who was last seen Dec. 3 in Ciudad Trujillo, capital of the Caribbean country.

Dominican officials subsequently gave their solution to the mystery: Murphy was killed by a fellow pilot for the Dominican Airlines, Octavio de la Maza, who then hanged himself in remorse. Porter labeled this story a phoney and badgered the State Department daily to intensify its investigation and pressure on the Dominican government. State Department officials pleaded with Porter to keep quiet, for they didn't want to ruffle any feathers south of the border.

Getting Run-Around
Members of an exiled political party of opposition to Trujillo informed Porter he was on the right track, claiming inside information that Murphy was killed

because he had learned how Trujillo eliminates political enemies. Porter got a friend to go to the Dominican Republic to investigate. He personally called on the Dominican ambassador here to supply missing documents, but said he was getting the run-around.

This week, after investigating Porter's accusations of foul play, Life magazine reported Murphy was the pilot of a plane used to spirit out of this country a long-missing Columbian University lecturer, Jesus de Galindez, in a plot engineered by Trujillo henchmen, as a means of getting rid of Galindez, who was writing a documented thesis on the dictator who has ruled the Dominican since 1930. De la Maza, said Life, flew Galindez the last leg of the trip, after Murphy flew him out of New York to the Caribbean via Florida. Both fliers were liquidated to seal their lips about the affair, but Murphy had talked freely of it to some acquaintances when he suddenly came into good money paid him by the Dominican government, and realized who his drugged passenger had been.

Labor Probers May Check Bank Records

Washington (U.P.)—Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) said Monday his Senate Labor Racketeering committee is checking bank records in cases where union financial records have been destroyed.

He said some records of the Teamsters union in Portland, Ore., are missing. The committee will open public hearings Tuesday on charges that teamster officials combined with gangsters and some public officials in an effort to control vice operations in Portland.

McClellan said that if union officials can't produce their own records, the committee sometimes is "more or less able to reconstruct what happened through bank records which they can't destroy."

Or the U.S. could break off diplomatic relations entirely with the Dominican government, claiming the Trujillo regime will have to show greater respect for American citizens than it has. But there would be heavy pressure against such an action; first, because it is considered generally desirable to maintain diplomatic relations with all foreign governments, however we may disapprove of them; and, second, because American business interests have extensive investments in the Dominican Republic, and these would possibly be placed in jeopardy by closing the American embassy in Ciudad Trujillo.

Nehru Victory Seen In India Elections

New Delhi (U.P.)—Voting was under way in earnest today in India's second general election, the world's biggest free election with 200 million voters registered.

The voting will continue until March 12 under the watchful eyes of one million election officials.

The voting is for 494 seats in the lower house of parliament and for 3,102 seats in 13 state legislatures. Final results were not expected before March 31.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was expected to have no trouble being reelected in his hometown of Allahabad. All opposition parties, including the Communists, put up joint slates against candidates of Nehru's ruling Congress party, and it was believed the opposition (Praja (Peoples) Socialist party may win four of ten seats in the city.

Aviation Employees To Get Pay Increase

Los Angeles (U.P.)—More than 72,000 employees of North American Aviation company plants in California, Ohio, Missouri and Florida will get three per cent pay boosts effective March 4, firm officials said today.

Indonesians Turn To Fox Trot, Waltz

Jakarta, Indonesia (U.P.)—Indonesians are taking up the fox trot and waltz again because of the nation-wide ban on rock 'n' roll dancing, police said today.

Mustafa Pane, chief of the West Java provincial police, went a step farther than the federal government and also outlawed boogie-woogie and cha-cha because they were "sexual" and offensive to "Oriental morals."

Eugene Deputy Sheriff Continues Critical

Eugene (U.P.)—Deputy Sheriff David Hefner, wounded in the spine by a bullet during a two-hour gun battle Friday night, remained on the critical list in a local hospital today.

Hefner was wounded and State Policeman Charles Sanders was killed during the gun battle after they were called to the home of Albert Wachsmuth in the River Road district.

Wachsmuth was reported in good condition. He was reported to have tried to shoot himself in the head after police routed him from his home with tear gas.

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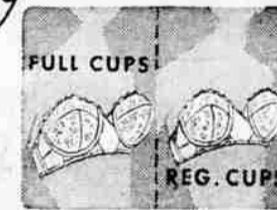
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