

# Brewster Claims Insurance Broker Paid Him for Care Given Race Horses

Washington — (U.P.) — West Coast teamsters chief Frank W. Brewster testified today he received about \$5,000 a year from his union's insurance broker.

But he swore it was not a commission. He said he got the money for taking care of race horses jointly owned by him and the broker.

Brewster told the Senate Rackets Committee he received stock valued at about \$5,000 a year in 1951-52 from George Newell, his partner in the Breech Stables. He said Newell receives \$300,000 a year in brokerage fees for handling health and welfare insurance for the teamsters.

Brewster, chairman of the Western Conference of Teamsters, said his payments from Newell had nothing to do with the fact that Newell gets the union's insurance business.

**Knights Contribution**

Brewster had testified earlier that the Teamsters Union contributed money to the 1954 campaign of California Gov. Goodwin J. Knight and later got the man of his choice appointed San Francisco port examiner.

Some time after it gets through with Brewster, the committee plans to question Teamsters President Dave Beck about his personal finances. It gave Beck until noon (PST) today to decide whether to turn over his

financial records or chance having them subpoenaed.

Beck's heir apparent in the giant union, Teamsters Vice President James R. Hoffa, is facing trial at a date not yet set on a federal indictment accusing him of bribing a racketeer investigator to get secret committee documents.

The indictment, returned Tuesday, said Hoffa told the investigator that "it looks like Beck's goose is cooked if that is what they have on Beck."

**Cared for Horses**

Brewster, a suave, graying man of 59 who wears \$180 tailor-made suits, testified that on about half the mornings of 1953-1954 he arose at 4:30 a.m. to tend Breech Stable's stables.

"I was interested in seeing that the horses were properly cared for," he said.

For this, he said, Newell agreed to pay him about \$5,000 a year. He said he was paid in stock of the "Affiliated Fund, Inc.," at the rate of 1,000 shares a year. He said the stock varied in value from \$5.17 to \$5.36 a share.

Committee counsel Robert F. Kennedy said Newell in his 1951 income tax return deducted the payment to Brewster from insurance commissions rather than from operations of the stable. Brewster said Newell later changed this.

Brewster said he still owes Newell between \$40,000 and \$42,000 for Newell's share of their Breech Stables. He said they each put up \$12,500 to buy a string of race horses about 1950, but Newell later added more money to the partnership than he did.

**Memory Is Faulty**

Brewster insisted he could not remember how much money he put into Breech Stables, or how much he got out of it.

"Mr. Brewster, you astounded me with your lack of knowledge, occupying the position you do," said Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.).

Brewster spent much of the morning session explaining operation of the union's health and welfare fund and its pension fund.

He said employers contribute \$10.40 a month to the health and welfare fund for each union member. This is turned over to the Occidental Insurance Co., for which Newell is an agent, and

the company guarantees the union will get back 86 cents of each dollar. Two cents is a brokerage fee and 12 cents goes to the insurance company for costs and profit.

Kennedy said the brokerage fee amounts to some \$500,000 a year. Brewster said a quarter of that goes to City of Hope hospital, leaving Newell's share at about \$300,000.

**Believes He Wrote Letter**

Brewster was questioned today about Charles Tait, who was appointed to the San Francisco port directorship by Knight.

Brewster said he believes he "wrote a letter" to Knight on Tait's behalf. He said he also "may" have talked personally to the Republican governor about appointing Tait.

A few moments earlier Brewster had stated that he had "no discussions whatsoever" with Gov. Knight about appointments.

Tait had figured in Tuesday's testimony as the recipient of a pair of binoculars bought by Brewster with a holiday gift certificate purchased by the Western Conference of Teamsters at a Seattle men's shop.

Today, Brewster asked permission to correct that testimony. He said he bought the binoculars for Tait, as he had testified, but, on thinking it over, was not sure Tait had ever received them.

Kennedy commented that the staff has contacted Tait who stated that he did, indeed, receive the binoculars but thought they were a "personal" gift from Brewster.

**Speaks of Favors**

The union official replied that he is sure he told Tait they were a gift from the union. Tait, Brewster said, was "very close" to the Western Conference which had done some favors for him.

Under questioning, Brewster said the Western Conference contributed \$2,000 to Tait's 1954 campaign for the post of port commissioner in Seattle. He said Tait was elected but failed to serve when no appropriation was approved to finance the post.

## Utility Companies Protest Tax Increase

Salem — (U.P.) — A bill which would increase corporation excise tax rates for utilities from 4 to 8 per cent was protested here last night by representatives of Oregon's largest utility companies.

They said a reappraisal program had not gone far enough to justify doubling corporation excise tax rates at this session.

A program started in the 1955 session looked eventually to a full 8 per cent rate being paid by utilities, with an offset of up to 50 per cent for personal property tax paid, the same as other Oregon corporations. The Legislature of 1955 sought to combine a gradually applied corporation excise tax on utilities with county ratio adjustments stemming from the state's property reappraisal program.

## Illinois Valley Plans Holiday Celebrations

Cave Junction — Plans for two holiday celebrations were made here recently by members of local organizations.

Veterans will sponsor a July 4 parade and all-day program. Members of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the World War I Baracks have asked groups from all over southern Oregon to participate.

The Illinois Valley Labor Day Jubilee is planned this year as a joint venture by all local organizations. Woodsmen and timber shows will be featured in the three-day event.

## Exemption Deadline Near for Veterans

Salem — (U.P.) — Disabled war veterans and war widows were reminded today that they have only until April 1 to apply for property tax exemptions as provided under state law.

The State Department of Veterans Affairs said the exemption applies to veterans 40 per cent or more disabled and to unmarried widows of war veterans.

The exemption amounts to \$7,500 of the true cash value of the property. Application is made to the county assessor.

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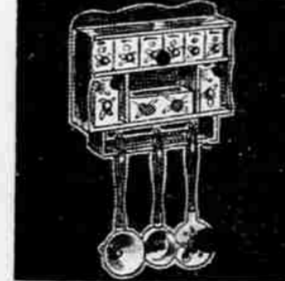
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