

Congress To Study Report of Soldiers Used as Servants

Washington—UPI—Congress focused attention today on complaints that officers are turning GIs into "dog robbers."

In military slang, a "dog-robbler" is an officer's servant. The term originates from the soldier's feeling that the assignment may carry a social status one rung lower than that of the officer's dog.

Testimony Asked
A House armed services sub-committee which has been exploring the use of military manpower called on Assistant Defense Secretary Charles C. Finucane to testify today on the assignment of enlisted men as servants.

Finucane was certain to face thorough questioning from Rep. Frank Kowalski (D-Conn.), a retired Army colonel who is Congress' most severe critic of the alleged waste of manpower by the armed forces.

Kowalski predicted in advance of Finucane's testimony that the Defense Department would take the line that the number of enlisted men assigned to servants' chores has been exaggerated.

The congressman said any Pentagon statistics probably would be "like an iceberg," and would fail to give the true picture. "I'm sure any figures we get you can multiply by two or three," he told a reporter.

Kowalski, a West Pointer who spent 33 years in uniform, told the subcommittee when it launched its study May 12 that it might be possible to save as much as \$250 million a year if manpower weren't squandered on tasks such as walking dogs and baby-sitting for generals.

Kowalski at that time cited a Defense Department report this spring which showed that at least 20,000 enlisted men are assigned as stewards, orderlies, messboys, chauffeurs and the like. He argued that young men shouldn't be drafted into uniform for that kind of work.

Hunted Fugitive Takes Own Life

Hollywood—UPI—A young fugitive who told of killing a 27-year-old mother of two children in a love pact shot and killed himself Wednesday night at the climax of a two-hour assault on his hideout by more than 50 policemen.

Robert L. Kilmer, 27, a Fresno, Calif., mill worker, took his own life as police stormed his apartment.

He had been sought since last Thursday when the nearly nude body of attractive Mrs. Mary Ann Prestridge, also of Fresno, was found stuffed in a car trunk in nearby Inglewood.

Don Decker, 28, a boyhood friend of Kilmer and occupant of the apartment where Kilmer was hiding, tipped police where to find the fugitive.

He admitted shooting Mrs. Prestridge two times in the head, Decker said.

Kilmer told Decker he met Mrs. Prestridge the night of July 3 in a "lovers lane" in Fresno where she told him she "wanted to die" if she couldn't be with him.

Decker said he asked Kilmer why he killed her and the fugitive answered, "I'd do anything she told me to do."

Testimony Taken In River Contest

Yreka—California Oregon Power company's plans for diversion of the McCloud river would destroy the scenic value of one of the nation's most beautiful spots, a Sunnyvale planning consultant charged this week.

Fred L. Hector made the charge at a hearing of the state water rights board which is gathering testimony concerning a contest between Copco and Pacific Gas and Electric company over rights to the McCloud.

The planning consultant appeared for the Hearst corporation which planning a recreational development around the town of Wynton. The development could ultimately accommodate 14,000 vacationers.

He charged that "any lessening of the flow between Big Creek and Wynton will destroy the scenic value of the river." Copco plans to run the river from Big Creek through a canal to Huckleberry meadow to produce 31,000 kilowatts of electric capacity.

An attorney for the bureau of reclamation testified that indications are strong the bureau and PG&E could reach agreement on the use of the McCloud, which is a tributary of the Sacramento and therefore affects the bureau's own Shasta dam operation.

Centennial Draws 24,803 Wednesday

Portland—UPI—A whopping crowd of 24,803 visited the Oregon Centennial Exposition here Wednesday with the Roy Rogers show the big drawing card. That boosted the total Exposition attendance to date to 529,582.

Roy Rogers and his troupe set a couple of Arena attendance records, with 5,867 fans seeing the matinee and 5,907 attending the night show. The Roy Rogers show winds up with tonight's performance opening at 8:15.

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