

# Ex-Oregon Congressman Tells Of Conflict of Interest Case

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Mail Tribune  
Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special)—Sam Coon, ex-congressman from eastern Oregon, has disclosed details of a "ugly Americanism" in Peru where a U.S. foreign aid director has been fired for a conflict of interest.

Coon last March resigned from the post of deputy director in Peru for the International Cooperation Administration, the federal agency which handles the foreign aid program. In June he went before the House Appropriations Committee, of which he was once a member, to reveal behind closed doors shenanigans connected with the Peru operation. The testimony has now been made public.

The story Coon told contained these elements:

1. John R. Neale, ICA director in Peru, was fired for being in the livestock business in that country. He was in partnership with the Peruvian husband of another ICA employee, his administrative assistant.

2. Neale used an ICA veterinarian six or seven times to treat his stock. The vet told Coon the ranch was 17,500 acres devoted to 2000 sheep and a string of cattle.

3. Neale's daughter then bought a ranch near an isolated town, Oxapampa. Shortly thereafter, Coon found that three main ICA programs—agriculture, health and education—were started in that area without any apparent foreplanning. Coon caught the reason. The head of one of these three programs said he went in because he learned the other two were going in.

4. A road project, whose location was settled with local authorities, was suddenly relocated into an area that hadn't been checked by ICA

technicians and was only a "short cut to the jungle." Coon, stating that local Communists took advantage of Peruvian discontent over these things, told how he personally tried to call it to the attention of top ICA officials in Washington but only got the run-around. Often he was advised not to relate these developments to anyone. He wrote a long letter to the head of ICA, but his only reply was a request that Coon thereafter go through proper channels with his letters.

Coon then flew to Washington at his own expense to try to see the top brass at ICA. He was unable to get an appointment with James H. Smith, then ICA head, and lower officials suggested he return to Peru and not mention this to any members of Congress.

When asked by his old colleagues why he didn't make these matters known then—back in 1958—to the press or to Congress, Coon said he knew that a new director would be coming in soon and he thought this would bring needed changes.

When Vice President Nixon visited Peru on his rocky South American trip, Coon was told by an aide to the U.S. ambassador in Peru not to say anything critical of ICA Director Neale "or you will pay the consequences." A possible later consequence was that Coon's work in Lima was given a low rating by his superior, Neale.

Coon told how the main office in Lima showed an elaborate map that was not accurate in showing the extent of ICA work in the country, but he was told it was only to impress visitors from Washington. The budget for Peru was from \$2.5 to \$2.75 million a year, Coon said.

Under investigation Neale was finally replaced and replaced by another man whom Coon had little praise for. Neale then went to work for the Minister of Agriculture of Peru, and then the Minister of Agriculture was hired by ICA, Coon declared.

Coon wasn't solely responsible for bringing Neale's conflict of interest to light. That had been under investigation for several months before

Coon arrived, ICA officials claim. Queried now, they say they are "still investigating." The Republican from Baker, who won high praise from his congressional colleagues, said he wasn't against the foreign aid program and thought it had in many cases helped combat Communism. But he criticized its top management.

Coon resigned after his initial two-year term was up, as he was free to do. He was offered another post in Pakistan at slightly higher salary but turned it down. When asked why, he said he thought he would find "more peace of mind if I went back out in the West and did not have the responsibility of being connected with this program any longer."

## Family Council

Harriet R.—I can't stand mother's new husband.

Mrs. J. F.—He has almost saved my life.

Harriet R.—I am happily married and the mother of two youngsters. My problem concerns my mother who recently remarried.

Mother was a widow for ten years. She owned and operated a small business very successfully. She took in Ralph, a man nearly 20 years her junior, as an assistant. He managed to win her confidence and she finally married him.

Now Ralph runs the business—and Mother as well. She does everything he tells her. He has fallen into a trap for he didn't have a dime of his own. Everyone is laughing at Mother and I feel so bad for her that I can't bear to face her. I certainly can't stand the sight of Ralph. I love my mother, but she won't visit me without him and I can't visit her.

Mrs. J. F.—I certainly never expected to be estranged from my only daughter in my late years. We have always had a warm, wonderful relationship. Now she acts as though she is my enemy. The few times we have been together since my marriage, it has all ended in bitterness and tears.

Harriet is so sure I have married a fortune-hunter. But I have no fortune and Ralph knows it. I am 63 and have worked hard all my life. I couldn't go on indefinitely. Ralph learned the business in no time and almost saved my life by taking over some of the heaviest burdens.

My husband has tried to win Harriet over, but she has been nasty to him. I feel I have a right to demand that she respect him.

The Council. We're with Mrs. J. F. She has a right to demand respect for her husband.

Harriet should also recognize that love and respect for her mother demand that she treat her stepfather with courtesy and kindness—even if she can't muster any enthusiasm for the relationship.

Harriet seems deeply affected by the external appearance of this marriage of her mother's but we don't see any sign of an effort on her part to delve further.

If Mrs. J. F. has fallen into the hands of a real fortune-hunter who will selfishly use her and show no love and consideration in return, Harriet will be needed. But the critical, hostile attitude she has taken sets up a barrier between her and her mother, and it may prevent her mother from coming to her should she need a friend.

On the other hand, Harriet should recognize that she cannot judge a relationship like marriage purely on the social appearance. It is just possible that this older woman and younger man have much to give one another mentally and emotionally—as well as economically.

Mrs. J. F. seems satisfied with the arrangement she has made—at this time at least. It may be hard for Harriet to accept the fact that her mother could be quite content to let this man enjoy certain economic advantages while she enjoys other benefits. It may also be hard for her to understand that two individuals so far apart in age could love one another sincerely. But life is full of interesting possibilities and Harriet should be willing at least to look at this relationship with an open mind. Outsiders who scoff aren't worth thinking about.

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About 5,500 Americans visited the Union of South Africa in 1958.



STANDING ON ROSTRUM, Martin B. McKneally, Newburgh, N. Y., and Mrs. Alexander H. Gray, Brownsville, Tenn., new American Legion National Commander and Auxiliary President, acknowledge cheers at Minneapolis.



## Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

### These Bees Were Bugged

I would not have believed it either, except that I saw it very plainly under the magnification of a strong hand lens. It was rather startling. The subject under observation was a honeybee, but the unbelievable part about the inspection was the "passengers" on the bee's body, the other "animals" the bee was carrying.

Member of a populous colony of honeybees, this one we were examining had been "acting funny." The bee's owner told me this particular colony "hadn't been doing so good." An inspection inside the hive had revealed that "something was drilling tiny holes in the comb."

Careful observation of the incoming and outgoing bees from this hive had attracted the attention of the beekeeper. Several times he had noticed that a bee, landing on the hive entrance, would go into a crazy sort of dance, turning in tight circles, then reversing the circles and twisting and turning in the opposite direction. "Funny and highly unusual behavior," the man said, "for normally well-behaved and well-adjusted bees."

It was one of these "twisting bees" we now had under the magnifying glass, and what we were seeing, besides the bee, was utterly ridiculous. On the body of the bee, an area equivalent in size to a navy bean, was a crawling horde of microscopically tiny insects. The bee was infested with "bee lice."

With a soft brush, a pair of tweezers and a needle, we brushed the lice from the little bee-body onto a sheet of blue paper—ninety-one, very small, wingless lice. These tiny parasitic insects, crawling over the sensitive body of the bee-host, had been driving her to go into her crazy, circular dance, interrupting her nectar gathering, and later infecting the hive itself as the lice departed the host to take up residence in the honey-combs.

In the comb the larvae of the bee-louse feeds on the nectar as well as the bee-bread. On the living bees, the lice take food from the bee's mouth. During the night, when the activity of the hive slows down, the bee-lice are known to crawl from the mouth of one sleeping bee to another, taking what food it can from each one it visits.

From Old World Bee lice came over from the Old World, probably on the bodies of imported bees or in combs. They laid their smaller-than-mite sized eggs in every bee hive they could find. Man himself helped a great deal by transporting hives and swarms of infected bees from one point to another. The tiny lice, sometimes as many as a hundred on the body of a single bee, went along, unwanted and unseen, and even unsuspected.

The poor honeybee has no defense against the tiny tormentors. All the bee can do is keep on flying, carrying the pesky little non-paying passengers and going into her twisting dance when the irritation becomes greater than she can bear. Who knows but what the peculiar saying is true that, "Small fleas have yet smaller fleas that bite them—ad infinitum."

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

New York—UPI—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, chairman of the board of Eastern Air Lines, will relinquish the title of chief executive officer on Oct. 1. Rickenbacker said Malcolm A. MacIntyre, the company's newly elected president, will become the new chief executive officer.

WSC Now Officially State University  
Pullman—UPI—Washington State College officially became Washington State University today as the result of action by the last legislature. Established in 1890 by the legislature, the land-grant school has grown from a handful of students to this year's estimated enrollment of 6,650 students.

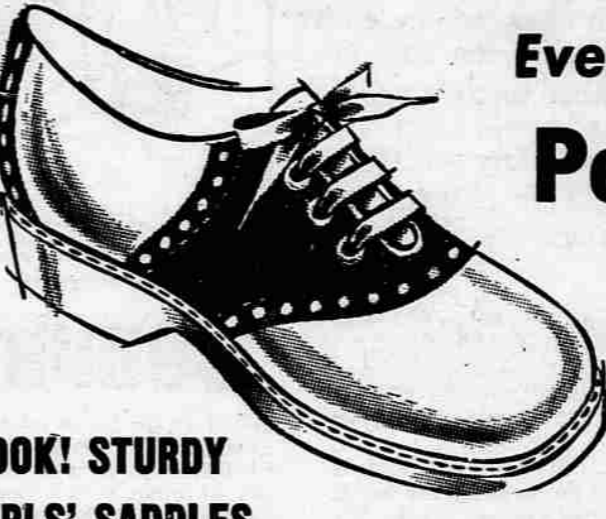
San Pedro, Calif.—UPI—R. E. Goodwin told police today that a thief in a cabin cruiser slid alongside his wharf while he was talking to a friend, scooped up \$180 worth of tools, and roared away across Los Angeles harbor.

Dallas Mill Owner Planning To Rebuild  
Dallas, Ore.—UPI—Andy Talack, Jr., owner of the D-Oreole Lumber Company, whose mill was destroyed by fire Aug. 24, said today it would be about three months before the new mill can be in operation. About 30 men were employed by the mill and planer.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.  
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1959  
There are no railroads in Iceland, but there are about 2,728 miles of highway.

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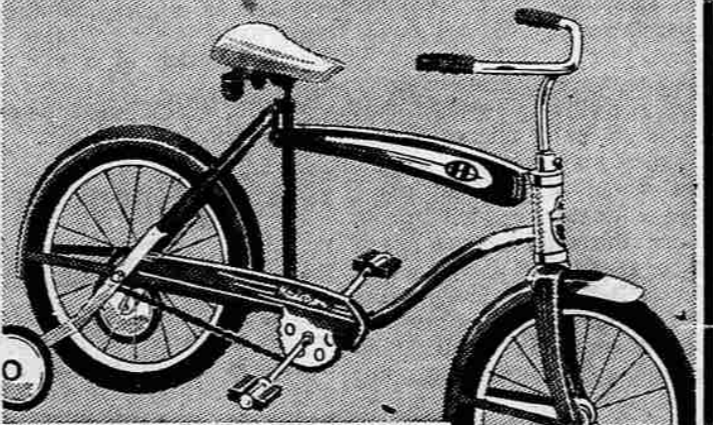


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