

Louisiana Demo Committeeman Held as Drunk

Los Angeles — (UPI) — Louisiana National Democratic Committeeman Camille F. Gravel today waited for a chance to answer charges that he imbibed too freely of pre-mixed martinis during an airplane trip.

Gravel, 45, walked off the plane late Friday night and into the arms of two policemen who arrested him as a plain drunk. The officers said the pilot radioed ahead that someone had stolen a box of pre-mixed double martinis on the flight. Gravel did not take the drinks, but stewardesses said a man sitting next to him did.

Situation Said Mistake

"I was not drunk in any way," Gravel told United Press International. "The whole situation is a mistake on the part of whoever charged me. This is most embarrassing and my attorney is handling it from here on."

The attorney, Morto Goodman, who said he was a college classmate of Gravel's, said the party leader would plead innocent to the drunk charge in Municipal Court Tuesday.

Gravel, cochairman of the committee responsible for bringing the convention to Los Angeles, was free on \$21 bail. The policemen said he was "staggering and unable to care for himself."

"We're going to court Tuesday and plead not guilty," said Goodman. "This seems to be some hideous mistake and we want to get it straightened out."

Stewardesses Insulted

Stewardess Diana Berry said Gravel and the man sitting next to him, who never was identified, became insulting when she refused them more martinis.

"Everytime we walked by them, they'd yell something at us or say something sarcastic," she said. "Then I realized the box of martinis had been stolen. I can't imagine how anybody found them."

Basic Research On Soil Humus Planned at OSC

Corvallis—A three-year research project designed to throw new light on the mystery of soil "humus" will get underway at Oregon State college this summer with a \$27,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. J. Lowell Young, USDA Agricultural Research Service chemist and professor in the OSC soils department, will study humus of various soil types from throughout the Pacific Northwest. Samples of other key soil types not found in this region will be drawn from other areas of the world as needed for the research.

Humus, or decomposed vegetable or animal matter that makes up the organic portion of soil, has long been regarded by farmers and home gardeners as almost magical material. It helps form soil structure, provides aeration and fertility for plants, and improves water-holding capacity of soil.

Almost everyone who works with the soil appreciates "what" humus does, but we know little of "why" or "how" it works, Young said. Do Not Agree

Scientists are not yet in agreement as to whether there is one kind of humus or several kinds. Science must first answer this fundamental question in order to fully understand how humus affects soil fertility and structure, he explained.

The Pacific Northwest is considered nearly ideal for such a study since it has a great variety of representative soils of the world in a relatively small geographic area. Soil types of the region have developed under widely differing conditions of climate and vegetation.

More than half the \$27,000 grant is for purchase of a complex instrument to separate and measure specific kinds of amino acids in the soil types. These acids are the "building blocks" of proteins that make up about 50 per cent of soil organic nitrogen materials.

Measuring the quantities of these specific acids from the many samples of humus is a basic step toward understanding how humus may affect soil fertility and structure, the scientist said.

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