

# Senator Bridges Called To Explain Part In Huge Wartime Liquor Tax Deal

By B. L. LIVINGSTON  
 WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Bridges of New Hampshire, Republican Senate leader, will appear before House tax scandal investigators Thursday to explain his interest in the seven million dollar tax case of a Baltimore liquor dealer.

Rep. King (D-Calif.), chairman of a House ways and means subcommittee investigating the Internal Revenue Bureau, announced that Bridges had sent word that he wanted to be heard.

King said Bridges "expressed a desire to be heard as soon as possible."

The tax case is that of Hyman Harvey Klein.

Klein, a Baltimore liquor importer, was the central figure in a dispute in which Sen. Bridges and Henry "The Dutchman" Grunewald, mysterious man around Washington, were revealed to have taken an active interest.

Core of the dispute, still unsettled, is Klein's five-million-plus profit on a \$1,000 investment in imported Canadian whisky during 1944-46.

Klein declared the profit a "capital gain"—limiting taxes to 25 per cent compared with up to 95 per cent levied regularly on income—when he sold his interest in a series of tax-exempt foreign corporations.

Klein testified he paid \$1,200,000 in taxes, only to face the jeopardy tax assessments totaling more than seven millions.

King told newsmen Bridges would be asked informally to tell the committee why he interceded with tax officials on Klein's behalf over a two-year period extending to July, 1951.

Confidential Internal Revenue records, produced by the committee, showed that Bridges on at least

# Child Deal Leads To Jail

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—A Houston butcher who said he wanted a good home for his daughter was jailed at Pasadena, Tex., Tuesday and charged with trying to sell the tot into adoption.

Steve Ribnikar, 27, was arrested by two probation officers who posed as wanting to adopt 2-year-old Sharon Ribnikar. They said the father was willing to take \$500 and a new automobile for the child.

"I wanted to get out of Houston and wanted my girl to have a home," Ribnikar told a reporter. "I owe board and room and wanted to pay her doctor bills."

Ribnikar and the child's mother, Mrs. Agnes Ribnikar, were divorced in 1951 in Pittsburgh, Pa., the father said. He added that he and his second wife were separated.

Yale, which foregoes spring football practice this year, has replaced Colgate and Bates on its schedule with Connecticut and Lafayette.

The committee also found:

1. Someone—not identified—offered to settle Klein's case on payment of an additional one million dollars in taxes. This was on top of \$1,200,000 already paid. Klein's lawyers were unaware of the offer.
2. Grunewald was an active intercessionist for Klein less than 20 days after the government laid the jeopardy tax assessment against him.

"The Dutchman," according to Bureau records, was personally seeing former Internal Revenue Commissioner George Schoeneman and Charles Oliphant, resigned general counsel, about the Klein case before March 23, 1948. The jeopardy assessment was levied 20 days earlier.

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# Tax Burden Cuts Business

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal taxes hit the American buyer so hard last week, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce reported Wednesday, that "retailers in almost every line of business are reporting sharply dropping sales."

Never has there been such a drain on the American economy, the chamber added.

Dr. George Cline Smith, director of the chamber's government economy program, said that during five days—March 17-21—the treasury took in nearly \$5,300,000,000 dollars.

That was "more than all the taxes collected during the entire year of 1940," he added.

Smith said service trades, amusements and hotels were complaining of a sharp drop in business and "these immediate effects can be expected to reflect themselves in manufacturing and other industries as well."

"The situation will probably improve somewhat before long," his statement said. "But general dampening effect of continued high taxes can be expected to last until sharp reductions are made in federal spending and taxes."

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