

Deceased Governor Of New Jersey Charged With Fraud

TRENTON, N. J. (AP) — Gov. Robert B. Meyner said he will announce today detailed charges of misconduct against the late ex-Gov. Harold G. Hoffman, whose daughter disclosed that he embezzled \$300,000 in bank funds to finance his stormy political career and pay off a blackmailer.

Meyner told a news conference yesterday Hoffman wrote a letter May 1 to his daughter, Mrs. Ada Leonard of Madison, to say he embezzled the \$300,000 to pay expenses during his four years in Congress from 1927 to 1931 and for his successful 1934 gubernatorial campaign.

Mrs. Leonard, in a letter to Meyner last night, pledged that the Hoffman family would repay every cent of the money. Her mother last Monday was voted a \$6,000-a-year pension by the State Legislature. The bill awaits Meyner's signature.

Hoffman, affable after dinner speaker and president of the fun-loving Circus Baiters and Bimmers, was suspended March 18 by Meyner as director of New Jersey's Division of Employment and Security, a \$13,500-a-year post he had held since he left the governorship in 1938.

At the time of the suspension, Meyner said he had evidence of "widespread irregularities" in the purchase of division supplies and equipment.

An authoritative source said the charges against Hoffman include a reference to the \$300,000 and recommendations for the dismissal of several persons, including one in another department.

Atty. Gen. Grover C. Richman Jr., who directed an investigation of accounts of the South Amboy Trust Co., of which Hoffman had been president.

Hoffman, a Republican, died of a heart attack June 4 in New York at the age of 58, and the next

day Mrs. Leonard demanded that Meyner clear her father's name immediately. In her letter to Meyner last night, Mrs. Leonard apologized to the Democratic governor because "for almost two weeks you have appeared in a crucially unfair position."

In an affidavit recounting the letter written to her by her father, Mrs. Leonard quoted him as saying a "certain wealthy elder candidate who is now deceased" was paying to meet his congressional campaign costs but did not lead the way to the embezzlement, which "not deeper and deeper" Hoffman also was quoted in the affidavit as saying another unnamed state official blackmailed him of \$150,000 after learning of the embezzlement. The state official also is dead, the affidavit said.

Mrs. Leonard told a reporter she has a good idea who the "elder candidate" is, but would not identify him because she didn't want to bring "grief" to his family.

The blackmailing official, she said, "I'd tell you if I knew." Richman said his office has begun an investigation to determine the identity of the two men.

The affidavit told of Hoffman's making commitments "which I temporarily covered by drawing from inactive accounts at the South Amboy Trust Company."

"What with the high cost of Washington living, the maintenance of two homes, and what I can only label as the expensive naivete of a new congressman, things instead of bettering, got worse."

At the news conference yesterday, Harry Green of Little Silver, Hoffman's attorney, said he had seen the charges brought against the former governor. Green said the charges were shown to him the day Hoffman died and that a tentative agreement had been reached to have the late governor submit a letter of resignation rather than face a hearing on the charges.

Meyner, Green and Richman told how Mrs. Leonard visited Green at his Little Silver home last Wednesday and showed him the letter from her father. She later showed the letter to an officer of the South Amboy bank, and then destroyed it.

Green said it took several hours Thursday to convince Mrs. Leonard the contents of the letter should be made known to Meyner. When she consented, Green called the governor and he began an immediate investigation.

Mrs. Leonard prepared the affidavit, recalling essentials of the letter. The affidavit was turned over to Richman yesterday.

State Treasurer Archibald Alexander said his records showed \$1,200,000 in state funds has been on deposit in the South Amboy Trust Co. for many years. He said \$900,000 of the funds is covered by securities deposited in other banks.

Meyner and Banking and Insurance Commissioner Warren Gaitney said depositors of the bank would lose nothing because of the Hoffman defalcation.



A TRIO OF DANCERS from the A and I club are shown here rehearsing for the June 20 folk dance festival to be held at the club from 1 to 5 p.m. The festival, which is open to the public at no charge for either spectators or dancers, is sponsored by the A and I club, The Minute club and the city recreation department. This is the first such dance meeting to be held in Klamath Falls. From left to right, Shirley Mayhew, Bill Clark and Alma Hodson.

Velde Probes Seattle Reds

SEATTLE (AP) — House Red hunters swung into the second day of a Seattle hearing Tuesday after a trio of opening day witnesses, including a stole-knitting steelworker, invoked Fifth Amendment immunity.

The afternoon session Monday also was punctuated by a witness' bitter denunciation of the House Un-American Activities Committee and a subsequent flare-up over his "Joe Must Go" button.

One of the baiky trio, former shipyard craftsman Carl Harvey Jackson, 38, Seattle, touched off the Fifth Amendment pleas with a string of at least 25 identical replies that included the phrase "I cannot be forced to bear witness against myself."

Among the questions he refused to answer on grounds of possible self-incrimination was one asking whether he ever had been a Red spy, or had engaged in espionage in Seattle.

The hearing was replete with shouting, bickering and angry charges.

Will H. Parry, 34, Seattle, listed recently as acting Northwest director of the Daily Peoples World, called the committee headed by Rep. Velde (R-Ill) "unconstitutional" and an "inquisitorial proceeding."

It was Parry's half-dollar size "Joe Must Go" button that prompted committee member Rep. Scherer (R-Ohio) to remark that "my opinion is that if people like you continue to wear such buttons, Joe will never go."

The slogan was one used in connection with the recent unsuccessful recall movement in Wisconsin against Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

CONFERENCE — Gen. James A. Van Fleet conferred with U.N. economic coordinator C. Tyler Wood today as he wound up a second visit to study South Korea's military needs.

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Railroad Days Slated

DUNSMUIR — This little mountain town with the big locomotives is bustling with activity in preparation for Dunsmuir's Ninth Annual Railroad Days Celebration.

Dunsmuir's Railroad Days is the only celebration of this kind known west of Chicago.

It is unique in that it is free entertainment designed for all ages.

Starting with the Kiddies parade at 2:00 p.m., Friday, June 18th, and concluding with the Sixth Army Band concert on Sunday afternoon, June 20th, there will be over thirty hours of free, wholesome entertainment.

The entire community of 6,000 citizens is going all out to make

this year's celebration the best ever.

Highlights of this year's entertainment will again feature the 175 piece band and marching units of the Welltonians of Oakland, Oriental Band of the Ben Ali Temple of Sacramento, the Sixth Army Band of the Presidio of San Francisco and many other well known entertainers of Northern California.

A special fan train to Ashland and return, on Saturday leaving Dunsmuir at 8:00 a.m., and returning at 6:00 p.m., in time for the evening festivities, street dancing on Friday and Saturday nights, Saturday afternoon and evening folk dancing in the elementary school. A special feature of the celebra-



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Chamber Group Plans Tour

Observation of range, farm pasture and grass seed plantings is the purpose of the second annual "grasslands tour" which will take 25 members of the Portland Chamber of Commerce on a four day visit through eight southern and central Oregon counties beginning Sunday, June 20, according to Walter A. Holt, chairman of the Portland Chamber Agricultural committee, and general manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition.

Arrangements for the tour have been made through the cooperation of the county extension agents in Linn, Lane, Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath, Deschutes and Crook counties.

Luncheon and dinner meetings are also planned enroute, with luncheons in Eugene, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls and Prineville.

On Tuesday, June 22, the tour will include morning stops to inspect Nomad alfalfa plantings near Keno, the Tulana Farms irrigated pastures near Worden and the Glen Dehlinger ranch near Keno, with a joint luncheon in Klamath Falls with the Lion's Club. Afternoon stops are planned at the Geary Brothers Ranch and at Ira Orem's and the Mesche Ranch near Klamath Falls and will continue on to Bend for a dinner meeting with the Chamber at 7:30 in the Pilot Butte Inn.

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