Many Things Unanswered In Death Of Video Actor

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Actor George Reeves, who solved mysteries as Superman on television with unearthly strength and skill, continues to leave them in death.

Why did he complain to the city attorney's office that the woman to whom he left most of his estate—a movie executive's wife—was harassing him with phone calls?

Was the June 16 gunshot death of Reeves, 45, really a suicide? His mother has hired an attorney to investigate.

Where is the second will that his fiancee, Leonore Lemmon, 35, says she believes he made, naming her as chief beneficiary?

Miss Lemmon, New York cafe socialite, was not mentioned in the will filed for probate in Santa Monica Superior Court. The document named as chief recipient Toni Mannix, wife of Eddie J. Mannix, vice president of Loew's, Inc., and former manager of MGM Studio.

Mrs. Mannix issued a statement Tuesday saying she and her husband had been friends of Reeves for years. It said she supported his work for ill children and: "I intend to continue this work."

A complete autopsy, performed Tuesday was ordered by Coroner Theodore Curphey "to satisfy the mother" of Reeves. Helen Lescher Bessolo said in Galesburg, Ill., she doesn't think the actor killed himself.

After the autopsy Curphey confirmed the police finding that Reeves shot himself to death at his home.

Meanwhile, Deputy City Atty. Noel R. Slipsager said Reeves came to his West Los Angeles office the week of March 27 and complained he had been receiving round-the-clock telephone calls from someone who hung up when he answered. Reeves said he had reason to believe the calls were coming from Mrs. Mannix.

Because of Reeves' suspicions, Slipsager wrote Mrs. Mannix a letter that said in part: "Kindly be advised that Mr. George Reeves has complained to this office about telephone calls by you to his place of residence.

"In the event you pursue a course of conduct which harasses, annoys and disturbs him, this office must consider a criminal complaint based on such action."

Mrs. Mannix never replied to the letter, Slipsager said. Later investigation, he added, convinced him the calls were not coming from her home.

Miss Lemmon, Reeves' fiancee, contended there was a second will and said: "There's something very peculiar about this whole thing." But her attorney, Leon Kaplan, expressed doubt there was a second will.

Arthur Weissman, Reeves' personal manager and executor, said neither he nor Reeves' attorneys knew of a later will.

Demo Leader Praises Housing Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas said today Congress has sent President Eisenhower a housing bill "everybody can live with."

"We have performed our responsibility by passing the best bill we thought we could," Johnson told reporters who inquired what would happen if the measure is vetoed. "Let the President perform his responsibility."

A cut-down compromise of larger Senate and House bills, it was trimmed to a two-year program in an avowed effort to make it veto-proof.

With 10 days to decide, President Eisenhower was keeping his own counsel about disposing of it, but Congressional Republicans expected a veto. Both Budget Director Maurice H. Stans and Housing Administrator Norman P. Mason have indicated they would recommend rejection.

The bill was sent to the President Tuesday by a 241-177 House vote. The margin of passage was nearly 40 votes short of the two-thirds vote necessary to override a veto. The 56-31 vote by which the Senate passed it Monday also fell short of a two-thirds margin.

A veto now, with Congress talking of adjournment in August, would probably mean another housing go-round ending in adoption of about what Republicans proposed when Congress convened Jan. 7.

This would renew the Federal Housing Administration's Mortgage insurance authority, now almost exhausted; extend the college dormitory loan program; and continue on a limited basis the urban renewal and slum elimination program.

Some members feel this would be about the best Congress could expect to get if the President uses his veto power.

Although less in dollar amounts than the administration program, the bill nonetheless clearly exceeds spending rates proposed by Eisenhower.

The compromise provides for a two-year urban renewal program totaling only 900 million dollars, for example, against a six-year $1,350,000,000 program asked by Eisenhower.

Spending for the two years, however, would be at the rate of 500 million the first year and 400 million the second, while Eisenhower's top recommendation for any one year was 250 million.

The completed bill cut down new public housing units from 140,000 to 45,000, but also activated 145,000 more at the discretion of the President. Republicans figured the cost of the 45,000 new public housing units, not figured in the bill, at an additional 875 millions.

"This is known as saving money by spending it faster," charged House GOP leader Charles A. Halleck of Indiana. "A few more gimmicks like this by the spenders will save us into bankruptcy."

But Rep. Albert Rains (D-La), Democratic housing leader, contended the final measure could no longer be called a budget buster.

"It will have less than 68 million dollars of impact on President Eisenhower's 1960 budget next year," he said. "This is less than one-tenth of one per cent of the budget."

The Senate originally passed a six-year, $2,675,000,000 authorization measure which the House cut to three years and $2,100,000,000. These compared with the $1,650,000,000 suggested by the President for a six-year program.

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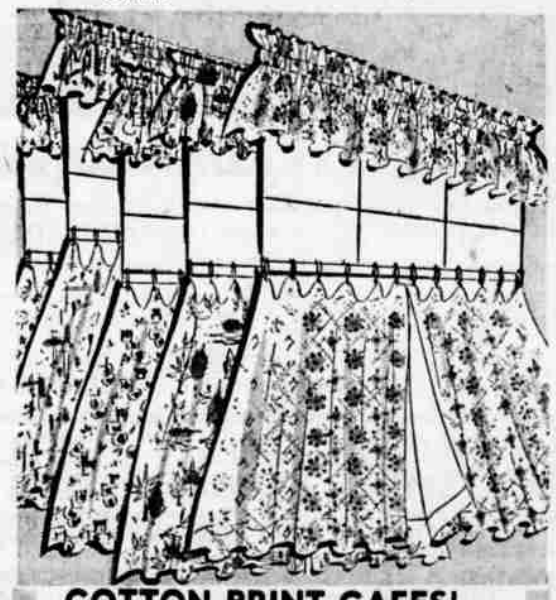

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