Brooklyn Public Library
http://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/53774960

Downloaded on Mar 3, 2015

Anastasia Due for Spotlight in Senate Crime Probe

Politics and People

By HAROLD H. HARRIS

Crime Hearing Could Affect '52 Election; Probers to Put O'Dwyer on Hot Griddle

SPINE-TINGLING DRAMA—We've seen a handful of pretty dramatic events and portrayals during our brief career as a political reporter. But we take our hat off to Democratic Senator Estes Kefauver and his staff of plucky probers who are making the nation sit up and take notice — and perhaps help put a Republican administration back into the Washington saddle. Their performances during the past week have surpassed anything which even make-believe Hollywood could have presented. Here the crime hearings unfolded the stark drama of illicit activities which undoubtedly will have nationwide repercussions.

HOT TIME—After five days of eyebrow-raising testimony, the Kefauver probers have set the stage for the big climax—the appearance of William O'Dwyer, the greatest performer ever to tread the political boards. From indications based on what has already been unfolded, we believe Bill O'Dwyer is in for one of the most trying times in his hectic political career. Too many embarrassing situations already have been uncovered to permit the committee members to do any white-washing of our Ambassador to Mexico. Charges of association with Racketeers Frank Costello and Joe Adonis, and testimony regarding bookmakers and the bushed-up Albert Anastasia Murder, Inc., case will cause Mr. O'D to do some sweating. Even if the Democratic committee members try to treat O'Dwyer kindly, we think Republican Senator Tobey will inject the needle.

NO PREDICTIONS—The word is being passed around in political circles that the Democrats are fortunate there is no major election contest this year—except for the run-off for City Council President. No one is willing to hazard a prediction, since the startling disclosures of hushed-up crime in high echelons, what the effect of the shocking revelations will have upon the voting public. At this point the clubhouse boys are fearful of an honest-to-goodness city fusion movement.

IMPRINT—Veteran newsreporters almost popped their eyeballs when the vivacious Virginia Hill, paramour of the slain gangster Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, told how thousands upon thousands of dollars kept rolling in from her boy friends and from men in Mexico. The 35-year-old Alabama-born, busty brunette admitted she knew Joe Adonis. Our informants reveal that mink-clad 'Gimmy' spent many a night with Joe A. in Brooklyn some 15 years ago when she was a svelte dream-doll.

Virginia Hill

Virginia also left an imprint upon this reporter's shins. We and several of the other newshawks chased the free-spending glamour puss down the elevator for some more intimate details. But during the descent she slugged two girl reporters and one of her high-spiked shoes landed on our shin-bone.

The Hill gal further explained she never had any trouble finding bookmakers in New York City with whom to place her bets. "I didn't find 'em. They always happened to be around," she told the probers.

QUICK DEAL—City Hall observers got a chuckle from the testimony of Charles Haffenden who lasted only six months as Marine and Aviation Commissioner for O'Dwyer. He explained that Queens Democratic Leader Jim Roe called him in one day after the '45 election and asked him how he would like to become a Commissioner.

"The next thing I knew I was a commissioner. Next I had a fight with the Mayor, and the next thing I knew I was fired," Haffenden declared.

If Committee Counsel Rudy Halley had kept pressing about a certain dock deal, two local Congressmen would be walking around with red faces today. But we guess Congressional immunity prevailed.

NEXT MAYOR?—Inasmuch as Charles (Socrates) Lipsky, the Republican sage, testified that, in his opinion, you can't become Mayor without the okay of Frank Costello, we sought some advance info. During a recess, we asked Costello who is going to be next City Hall boss. The racket king let out a long belly-laugh and gave us the nod . . . Allie Tannenbaum, one-time stooge in the Murder Inc. investigation, is now said to be a respectable out-of-town businessman . . . We wish Costello had put walked out and thumbed his nose at the Senate Committee until he spilled some inside politics . . . By the way, no one offered us any stock deals in our golfing experiences. Perhaps we don't play at the right clubs.

"POLITICS AND PEOPLE" Appears Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the BROOKLYN EAGLE.

CAN'T TAKE IT—Walking out on Senate crime probe, Frank Costello looks unhappy. He said he couldn't stand bright lights. His attorney, George Wolf, said Costello had reached "limit of his physical and mental strength."

Faces Grilling On His Role in Murder, Inc.

Continued from Page 1

quitted on murder charges in the Bronx.

He was found in a luxurious apartment with a separate entrance adjoining a private house in Hazelton, where he had evidently been hiding out for a couple of years.

Anastasia will probably be asked about the coincidence and he will most certainly be questioned on his ties with waterfront rackets, as well as his friendship with Joe Adonis and other racketeers.

Whether he answers the questions is another matter, but he showed up voluntarily before the Kefauver committee, making it unnecessary to subpena him.

Night Session Possible

In addition to Anastasia, 18 witnesses were scheduled for today and a night session might be necessary, it was indicated.

Highlight of yesterday's testimony, after Hale had rocked the courtroom with his account of how Beles was only trying to kid with officers by crawling out a window of the hotel where he met death, was the walkout of Frank Costello.

Albert Anastasia

Costello, who faces arrest for contempt of the U. S. Senate and jail for the first time in 36 years, was reported to be in seclusion nursing a sore throat.

He had a note from a doctor yesterday that stated he should be in bed, but the committee said it wasn't enough to get him out of the question bee. So Frankie walked out despite the contempt threat directed at him.

Many of the witnesses scheduled for today are from Saratoga. They are expected to go into the details of gambling operations there. Joseph Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association is also expected to testify.

The witness list also includes John Doyle, former Saratoga County District Attorney; James A. Leary, a political figure; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Weiss, Saratoga residents; Peter Hofses, Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety at Saratoga Springs; James Kennedy, a businessman; Michael Borelli, Commissioner of Public Safety in Hoboken; Thomas Natunhuf, described as a mystery witness, and Superintendent of State Police John Gaffney; his chief inspector, Frank McGarvey, and Inspector Charles LaForge.

Legislature Acting On Bill to Assure TV Set Repairs

Special to the Brooklyn Eagle

Albany, March 16—The Senate was asked to consider before adjournment today a bill designed to protect owners of television sets when service companies with whom they have contracts enter bankruptcy.

Sponsored by Assemblyman J. Sidney Levine, Midwood Democrat, the bill requiring the setting up of trust funds by the TV service firms was approved yesterday by the Assembly.

Levine's measure provides that 50 percent of all money received under the service contracts must be placed in a separate account by the firms or else a bond must be filed guaranteeing sufficient funds.

Took P. O. Trash Wood, Guilty of Mail Theft

Detroit, March 16 (UP)—Ove T. Bjerregaard refused to consider himself a common thief today just because he took scraps of wood from a Post Office trash bin to build the replica of a church.

Bjerregaard, a postal employe for 29 years, pleaded guilty in Federal court to charges of stealing from the U. S. mails and was released on $1,000 bond. He was accused of swiping parts of packages which were damaged badly in shipment and could not be delivered or salvaged.

Virginia Puts Dagmar in Shade as Dumb-Bunny

VIRGINIA IN ACTION—Stole-minked Virginia Hill Hauser, friend of the late Brooklyn and West Coast racketeer Buggsy Siegel, is escorted, left, from Federal Courthouse in huff at newspapermen after testifying before Kefauver committee. Still with mad on, right, she angrily slams door of her car after stormy exit during which she kicked one reporter in the shins and slugged a girl scribe on jaw.

Spectators, TV Audience Enjoy Glamour Girl's Act

Virginia Hill, glamour girl of the underworld, gave the television Senate crime show the only thing it had lacked previously—sex.

The chestnut-haired, 34-year-old girl friend of slain Hollywood gangster Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, flounced to the witness stand yesterday wearing a $5,000 silver-blue mink stole draped across her shoulders, and put on the greatest dumb bunny act since Dagmar and My Friend Irma.

She opened her testimony by verbally slugging newspaper photographers—or "those boors" as she unknowingly referred to them. Senator Estes Kefauver, the committee chairman, politely asked the picture boys to stop flashing so many bulbs, since Virginia was obviously almost shaking with fright.

Stage Girl Reporter

She ended by actually swatting the jaw of a girl reporter for the Journal-American while riding down in an elevator of the Federal Courthouse after testifying.

"I hope the atom bomb falls on every one of you," she shouted to newspapermen as she climbed into a taxi and sped away.

But while she was before the television cameras of the hearing she entranced spectators with her Hollywood-like appearance—so different from the nervous-voiced politicians, gangsters and former police officials who had appeared previously.

Miss Hill, now the wife of a skiing instructor, has ducked the limelight since Siegel was shot down in her Hollywood home in 1947. But before she was excused, the questioners had stripped away some of the mystery surrounding her, although the net worth of her testimony appeared dubious, at best, to the committee.

The committee learned that Virginia formed a friendship with Joseph Epstein, a Chicago gambling figure, at the 1934 World's Fair where she was a waitress, and as a result of the friendship with Epstein and others, she said, she later lived like a queen.

Falls Back on 'Chivalry'

The Alabama-born Virginia explained that "chivalry" prevented her from identifying some of the men who boosted her income with cash gifts. She said friends in Mexico once gave her $11,000 which she blew on a last fling in six weeks at Sun Valley, before she married skiing instructor Hans Hauser.

But the glamorous Virginia said most of her money came from horse race betting on tips supplied by friends. But, she said, one New York bookmaker refused to take bets from her any more because "I won so much."

Now she has so much money "I don't want anyone," she said. It would only get her in trouble with the income tax people. However, she only admitted to being worth $15,000.

She admitted to committee members that she had met big-time leaders of the underworld, including Joe Fischetti, Joe Adonis and Frank Costello. But she denied she got money from them or carried large sums between Chicago and New York.

Miss Hill said she received money from Siegel, but did not know how much.

Legislative Group To Study Horse Racing in State

Albany, March 16 (UP)—A "fact-finding" committee, composed of seven members of the Legislature, will be installed soon to study horse racing in the State.

A resolution, creating such a committee, received the full approval of the Legislature. The board will consist of four Senators and three Assemblymen.

All laws, rules and regulations pertaining to horse racing, race meets, betting and the improvement and registration of horses will be studied by the committee, which has until Feb. 15, 1952, to report to the Legislature.

Meanwhile, the State still is without a licensing board for owners, trainers and jockeys following a decision by the Court of Appeals which ruled the Jockey Club's powers unconstitutional.

The Senate now is studying an administration bill that would transfer the power previously vested in the Jockey Club to the State Racing Commission. The lawmakers hope to approve the bill before the start of the new racing season, April 2.

Rabbi Sack Urges Kefauver Follow Through on Quiz

Senator Charles Tobey's comment on the Anastasia mystery in Brooklyn's Murder, Inc. that "the whole thing is a tawdry mess—it smells to high heaven"—drew approval today from Rabbi Eligene J. Sack of Congregation Beth Elohim, 8th Ave. and Garfield Place.

In a telegram to Senator Tobey, addressed to the Federal Building in Manhattan, Rabbi Sack told that the Senator's statement "voices throughout the nation the horror that members of my congregation and all of Brooklyn has felt at the revelations of the Brooklyn Eagle and the Kings County District Attorney."

"We take heart from the work of the Kefauver committee and place great hope in its continued labors," the Brooklyn spiritual leader stated. "We plead that it should follow through until the whole picture is revealed—until measures will be taken to cleanse this evil from our midst so that the future of our country may be secure for our children and our ideals."

6 Killed in Derailment

Doncaster, England, March 16 (UP)—At least six persons were killed today when the Doncaster-London express train jumped the track.

6 ENGINE DOUGLAS DC-4S
Direct Flight Lafayette & Lincoln
DC-3 MIAMI $35 NON-STOP 4 Engine—$43
Chicago $29
$88 CALIFORNIA $72
1 Way 1 Stop Return
Fly NORTH AMERICAN AIRLINES
Make your advance reservations now
ULster 5-3888
Hotel St. George, Clark St. Brooklyn
BR. 9-6492 405 5th Ave. (at 42 St.) MU 2-2100
Free Ticket Delivery Free Tax Inc. Free
TRAVEL AGENTS RECOGNIZED

STATLER announces a distinctive CATERING SERVICE
to serve you at your home...office...club
No affair is too large . . . no affair is too small . . . for Statler's catering service!
And any type of affair may be accommodated!
Formal and informal dinners . . . buffets . . . banquets . . . weddings . . . cocktail parties . . . garden parties . . . business, club and home receptions.
There is a service to suit every budget. For information, call PEnnsylvania 6-5000 and ask for Mr. Jules Gallina.
HOTEL STATLER NEW YORK

ABRAHAM & STRAUS
THE GIRL SCOUTS ARE COMING . . .
HURRAY, HURRAY!
COMING TO A&S SATURDAY, WHERE 99 NEW GIRL SCOUT TROOPS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THEIR TROOP FLAGS!
It's a grand tradition here at A&S. Tomorrow at 10:30 A.M. A&S will make its 19th annual flag presentation. The 99 Girl Scout Troops that were formed in 1950 (making the Brooklyn Girl Scouts a rousing 13,595 strong!) will receive their troop flags for the first time. A&S is proud and happy to present the flags in the ceremonies Saturday at the Special Events Center on the Eighth Floor. All friends of Brooklyn's Girl Scouts are cordially invited.

Copyright © 2015 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.