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REPRESENTATIVES TELL THEIR STORY

Mr. Long Stands By His Statement About Irregularities

CASTRO TURNED DOWN BILL SPEAKER O.K'ED

First Hearing of Graft Committee Brings Out Interesting Detail of House Management

The first session of the Graft Committee, appointed for the purpose of investigating into the allegations of graft that have for some time been going about the corridors of the House and that have been made on the floor of the House, did not bring out anything startling in the way of proof of graft. But a number of irregularities were pointed out and the story published April 13 in the Bulletin that allegations of graft and bribery had been made by a member of the House was fully substantiated.

Representative Long, though puzzled as to where the Bulletin got the story, corroborated it in nearly all its main features despite evident efforts to get him to discredit it. He said that he did not intend to convey the impression that members of the House were actually getting paid for translation work under assumed names, but he had been told that certain members, naming Kaleiopo and Sheldon, had done translation work for which others presented vouchers. That either of them had attempted to pay his salary by such work was something he could not of his own knowledge state, but the proceedings appeared to him decidedly irregular and something that should not be allowed to go on. Other than this, the Bulletin story, he said, was substantially correct.

It was brought out that Representative Castro, chairman of the Committee on Public Expenditures and Accounts, had held up vouchers for translation on the ground that the work had been done by House members and not by the ones who presented the vouchers. Castro stated that at the time he did this he did believe that the members expected to receive compensation for the work, though from what he had heard later, he could not now credit this.

Refused Speaker's O.K. Castro also stated that he had held up the \$50 automobile bill for the ride to the Japanese cruisers and had told the Speaker, who O.K'ed the bill, that he would not approve it. "And I will not approve it," he said. He also expressed regret that he had approved the automobile bill for the trip to the Diamond Head fortifications, as he did not believe it should be charged to the Territory.

The statement was also made before the committee that one of the Journal clerks, although paid out of the Federal appropriation which, under the provisions of the appropriation is not to be expended for translation, has been doing translation. Although this may not be graft, the statement was made that it is certainly an irregularity that should not be permitted.

The charge was made before the committee that ex-Stenographer Lloyd had attempted to bribe Kaleiopo by the offer of a Panama hat to support the resolution later introduced by Alfonso to allow Lloyd compensation for the transcribing of his notes. Kaleiopo himself made this charge, and it was repeated by other members. It was also charged that Lloyd had offered to split up with Clerk Woodward if the latter would approve a padded bill for typewriting.

The committee sat from 2 o'clock until 5:30, adjourning at the latter hour until 10 o'clock this morning. The first witness called was the Bulletin reporter who wrote the stories that occasioned the investigation. He was asked where he obtained his information and replied that he could not divulge the name

of his informant, as he had been told in confidence and information so given was to be regarded as a privileged communication. Deputy Attorney General Whitney was appealed to by Chairman Shingle as to whether or not the committee could force the witness to answer the question, and replied that it could. The witness, however, still insisted that the communication was privileged, and asked the committee to withdraw the question, as he did not wish to be placed in the position of having to refuse to answer. The committee after a consultation withdrew the question for the time being but stated that it would expect to have it answered this morning.

The witness said that as the statements in the story referred to had come indirectly from Representative Long, and as the latter had later corroborated the story, there was nothing to be gained by attempting to find out the name of the person to whom Long had made the allegations of graft referred to in the story. For some inscrutable reason the committee seemed to think that this was essential, and although Shingle said that he was once a newspaper man himself, he still insisted upon trying to make the reporter violate a confidence.

The committee insisted upon referring constantly to the charges of graft "made by the Bulletin," though the Bulletin has made no charges of graft, but has said that allegations of graft have been made by others and has editorially expressed its doubt as to the grounds for the allegations.

The reporter was asked what he had heard in the way of allegations of graft or irregularities, and mentioned in reply the incident of the refusal of Castro to approve a voucher presented by James Apao, the House messenger, on the ground that the work had been done by Sheldon. This matter was more fully gone into by subsequent witnesses.

The witness referred also to the stories that were freely circulating about the Capitol at the time the Liquor Bill was before the House, of bribery and attempted bribery. He said that at the time he had not credited the stories and had not published them, but they were certainly sufficient grounds for the statement that allegations of bribery were being made, whether groundless or not. He also regarded the charges made on the floor of the House that graft existed as amply sufficient basis for the story that allegations of graft and bribery were being made.

Whitney made an attempt to discredit the work of newspaper reporters in general by asking if it were not the custom to wait until near the end of a legislative session and then publish such stories as had been published, and suggested that most stories were based on "hunches." He quickly dropped that line of questioning.

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Bulletin Right Long was the second witness called. Miss Bernice Dwight was called to take his testimony in shorthand. He was shown the first story in the Bulletin under the head of "Allegations of Graft." He replied that he had told the reporter after the story was published that the story was true. "The majority of that story is true. The general complexion of it, I said, is true."

Did you mean that certain Representatives were padding their salaries? "No; what I mean was that certain members were translating House bills for other persons."

Long told how the whole thing came about. He said that there were complaints of poor translation, and he left the corridor and asked who was doing the translation. Mr. Testa told him that Kaleiopo was doing the translation work for Kaleo.

"A short while afterwards I saw Kaleiopo after the House adjourned writing away on something. I asked him what he was doing and he replied 'Your man Kaleo is giving me a lot of trouble with poor translation.' I did not pay any more attention until some time afterward I met Kaleiopo again and he was translating more bills for Kaleo. He made the same remark about the poor fellow; he had to help him out."

"I asked who was doing Kaleo's poor translation and was told Poepee. Later someone told me the members of the House were making their own translations. I said that matter ought to be investigated."

"Kaleiopo is the only member I actually saw translating for someone else."

"There is no such thing as financial remuneration so far as Kaleiopo is concerned, so far as I know."

After the last session it was currently reported that certain members were doing their own translating, passing the work on to an outsider, who would draw down the check and pass it over to the member. So he told Castro to keep his eyes open for

that kind of thing, and Castro said he would.

"Finally he came to me and said, 'What you told me is right. I have held it up—one voucher.' He said the member had admitted the fact to him."

Long objected to giving the name of the man referred to, saying Castro could do so. The committee insisted, however, and Long said Castro told him Sheldon was the man. Castro had braced Sheldon with the fact that Sheldon had done the work for James Apao, the House messenger, and Sheldon had admitted it.

"Did you have the idea that Sheldon was making this translation for fun, for love of his country, or for money?" asked Shingle.

"The whole thing was wrong," replied Long.

"You are not answering the question," said Shingle.

Not Working for Their Health "It more or less left an impression on my mind," said Long, "that the people who were doing this translation were being benefited by the payment for the work. These things, I felt, were not being done for their health. I considered it rather a peculiar thing that the House members were doing this translation for other persons."

Long made the further statement that he had called the Speaker's attention to the matter, and that before he did so the story was current in the corridors. Long said he did not know that any member of the House had actually received payment in money for translation.

A strong effort was made by Shingle to create a question of veracity between Long and the Bulletin. Long stated that he did not intend to corroborate the statement that the members were getting paid under assumed names for translation work.

The Bribery Charge Asked in regard to bribery, Long said the use of that word arose from charges made in connection with star-chamber proceedings. This, he said, referred to the accusation of Kaleiopo against Mr. Lloyd—that Lloyd had tried to bribe Kaleiopo by the offer of a Panama hat if Kaleiopo would help put through the Alfonso resolution to pay Lloyd for transcribing his minutes.

Long said he was half joking when he made the statement to someone that all the numerous bills introduced have to be translated. The remark was occasioned by the introduction of a bill to repeal a dead law.

"Can you at this time lay your finger on any certain piece of graft in this present Legislature?" asked Shingle. "I want some definite information. Is there anything that this committee can go and look into that has the color of graft?"

"I don't know of any specific graft by which the man got the money," replied Long.

"Do you know of any case outside the Sheldon-Apao case where members have been helping outsiders in translation?"

Looked Suspicious "The Kaleiopo-Kaleo case. I call it suspicious circumstances."

"Do you know anything of the kind in regard to clerks or clerk hire?"

ter, Kaleiopo repeated the story that Jimmie Lloyd had suggested giving him a Panama hat to support the Alfonso resolution.

Coney asked Kaleiopo in regard to the statement made on the floor of the House regarding graft in connection with clerk hire. Kaleiopo rather hedged on this question, saying the Speaker had told him the committees are authorized in paying out money for clerk hire as they do.

"Do you know anything that savors of bribery?" "I do not."

"Do you know anything about stuffing bills?" "I do not."

Merely Friendship Sheldon took the stand and was questioned about the statement that had been made that he had done translation work for Apao.

Sheldon denied knowing anything of any bill being held up for translation work done for him.

"Have you translated any bill?" "No; I have not."

"Have you assisted anybody to translate a bill?" "I did in the early part of the session help Apao some in translating bills. He and his wife live in my house and were doing the work on my dining-room table."

"Have you received a Panama hat or a box of cigars or anything of that kind for it?" "No; I have not. I brought Mr. Apao down here and got him to run for messenger."

Sheldon said he could not recollect having any talk with Castro about any voucher. So far as he could remember, there was never any dispute about Apao's voucher. Castro had objected to some of the translation as being poorly done.

Sheldon said he had felt proud that he was a member of this Legislature until this thing came up.

Furtado and Kawewehi Furtado was called to be questioned about the bill introduced to repeal a dead law. He said he could not remember any such measure. He said it to Kawewehi—a member of the Graft Committee.

That ended it for Furtado and he was let off, after Shingle had suggested that Furtado might tell the committee how many bills he had introduced. Furtado grinned and fed.

Kawewehi was sworn and asked whether or not he knew at the time he introduced the bill to repeal the pound law that the law was already repealed. He replied that he did not know it until after his bill had passed third reading, when Furtado told him. So he recalled the bill and introduced another. He received nothing.

Castro on Stand Castro was called and asked about the Sheldon-Apao matter. He said that he had heard that Sheldon had something to do with Apao's translation. "He could not stop the warrant, as it was in the name of James Apao, but he had suggested that no more bills be given to Apao for translation. He had asked Sheldon about the matter, and Sheldon at first denied he had any connection with the matter. Castro cautioned him to tell the truth and Sheldon admitted that he had revised the translation. "At the time," said Castro, "I thought I was warranted in believing that Sheldon was getting the money for the work."

"Do you believe that now?" "No; I can't say that I do."

Regarding the Kaleo matter, Castro said he had asked Mr. Poepee if he were doing any translation for Kaleo. Poepee said he was, and Castro advised him to have the bills come in in his own name in the future. Since then some vouchers have come in in Poepee's name.

"Do you know of any member of the House receiving pay for extra work?" "I do not. I wish I did. I would bring criminal charges against them."

"Could there be a dollar spent for the House without your approval?"

Speaker Turned Down "There could not. But there could be warrants pass through my hands that are illegal. I have nothing to do with whether or not bills are exorbitant. For instance, when the committee goes down to the wharf and a bill is presented to me for automobile hire, I refuse payment. I have notified the Speaker that I will not O. K. the bill."

"There has been something said about a visit to the Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry, and a bill for automobile hire. Is that bill paid?" "Yes, it is; but I am sorry now that I approved it. I did so, however, because of the fact that a visit was made to another place the same day."

Attempt at Bribery "Do you know anything of bribes in connection with the House?" "Not direct. The Clerk and Mr. Kaleiopo came to me and told me of it." Castro explained that he referred to the Panama-hat incident, and

to an offer made by Lloyd to Clerk Woodward if the latter would O. K. a stuffed bill presented by Lloyd for approval. Lloyd, he said, had doubled the amount of the bill.

"Do you know of anything going on that has the color of graft or irregularity?"

"I have turned down certain bills, one for the interpreter which was O. K.'d by Robert W. Shingle, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. As soon as the matter was explained to Mr. Shingle, he accepted my decision."

Other Irregularities Castro went further and said that last month when Rice made a motion that the Committee of the Whole sit in the evening, the chairman of the committee offered the services of their clerks to do the typewriting. He learned that the work was all done by the clerk of one committee and by an outsider. He refused to honor the bill.

Another bill was presented by the clerk of the Finance Committee of the House and of the Ways and Means Committee of the Senate. As the clerk was being paid a salary, Castro turned down the bill, although the Senate paid its half of the bill.

There were other bills of a similar nature which he had refused to honor.

"Do you think any of those bills were presented with a deliberate intent to graft?" "I do not. I think they were due to misunderstandings."

At 5:30 the committee adjourned, instructing Castro to be on hand with his accounts this morning.

Hans A. Reifehl, who arrived in Lihue on December 28th and has been occupying a position as luna on the plantation, will be promoted to H. Smythe's place in the plantation office. He is a comparatively recent arrival in these islands having come to Honolulu for the first time on the 16th of last December, as a petty officer on board the bark Nuuanu, which he left to take up his residence on land, here on Kaula. He has been a seafaring man ever since 1890, having first taken up that life in Hamburg, and coming to New York three years later, in 1903, from which port he started on many long voyages, the last one being the journey on the Nuuanu last year, which ended his career as a sailor.—Garden Island.

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