

Burke Swears Thompson, in Seeking \$15,000, Admitted Church Shortage

Continued from page 1

don't know that I can remember all of it accurately. He first asked how I was getting along. I told him very well. He remarked, "It is better than being Governor, isn't it?" I told him it was more lucrative than being Governor, and he said he understood there was a great deal of business in New York and that all the lawyers were doing well. I told him I did not know how that was, that we were busy, and he said he wanted to come to New York. He remarked that he was tired of the political game, or the Senatorial game—I don't remember exactly his expression—that he was tired of Albany and that he was getting along with them very well, and that unless there was a future I should say he would like to come to New York, either in the public life—I want to get out of the game and come down to New York.

He said, "I am going to come down here and I am going to break into it, and I am going to break in if I have to use an axe."

Looking for an Opening
He then asked if there was a vacancy in my own firm.

He said, "I could not come down and hang up a shingle. Can't I associate with you? I understand your firm is making a lot of money. I would like to see you and we don't know what there is any chance for you there."

He said, "Can't you get me into Stanchfield's firm?" I said, "You know Mr. Stanchfield, why don't you talk with him?"

He said, "He is an old friend of yours, you know him very well, don't you, Governor?" and I said, "Yes," that he was a friend of mine and that I met him in college and that I had known him very well and that I would like to see him and that I would like to see him as a lawyer, and he had better talk with Stanchfield himself.

He said, "I am going to get into this some way. I am tired of the awful pressure—now, this is substantially the conversation I don't maintain that it is word for word correct. I said, 'What do you mean, Thompson?'"

Well," he said, "the terrific pressure—I am tired, and I am tired of—the awful pressure to do things you don't want to do."

Senator Grady Quoted
I said, "Thompson, do you remember Senator Grady's remarks upon that subject?" He laughed.

The whole conversation was in a light vein and very serious, and I did not take him very seriously. To tell you the truth, I don't remember what I said to him. I am going to say by adding that I was city representative in the Corporation Council's office two or three years ago. Grady and I were together there. I held the same position that Mr. McDermid has now.

It was Grady's observation that it was only the people who were looking for pressure that found it, and that the only expression that he had been looking for in that for years and could not find it.

That Senator laughed and said, "That is an awful pressure, and I am being pounded to vote for this Martin bill."

Well," I said, "it seems to me, Senator, that the Martin bill is a good bill."

And he said, "Are you familiar with it?"

He said, "Not altogether, but I did read it far as appeared in the paper. Governor Hughes's argument for the bill, I believe it is good. I think it ought to pass. I think that with the amendments, two or three, made in the house of assembly in New York is a pretty serious situation, and I think there will be more if they don't get relief."

He said, "You are favoring it?"

I said, "I think I am." He said, "Are you willing that I should quote you that way?" I said, "I am perfectly willing that you should quote me in anything I say."

He said, "As for Hughes, they paid Hughes."

I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "They gave Hughes \$100,000 to come to Albany for that bill."

I laughed and said, "Senator, that is the usual talk about lawyers' fees. I don't believe that Hughes got \$100,000 or anything like it. I do know they retained a very able lawyer, and that his argument was convincing."

He said, "Governor, would you have made a better argument myself than Hughes did for that bill, but they gave him the money because they thought he could influence Davenport. Davenport used Hughes. They gave Charles the money because they thought he could influence Davenport. They are both pious men, you know."

I said, "I know nothing about that." He said, "I know nothing about that." I understood that he has testified that I have asked him to vote for the bill. I did not ask him, but I did tell him that were I in the Senate I should vote for the bill, and that I have Governor of New York, if the bill were passed, I would sign it.

Should Be Some Relief
He said, "I think, Governor, there should be some relief for these companies. I said, 'If there is no relief in my opinion they will go to the wall.'"

I stated that as my opinion then, and it is my opinion now.

Well," he said, "I think the bill might be fixed in some way, so that perhaps I could save my face."

I said, "I presume there is one in



SENATOR GEORGE F. THOMPSON

my office—we have the files there."

I said, "I don't know if you get it so that I can have it this afternoon. I would like to look it over. Perhaps it can be fixed in some way."

I told him I would telephone my office. It was not open, but Judge Ransom was there, and I did. The bill was not sent to him from my office, but was sent to me at the St. Regis, a copy of it, and I sent it to him at the Republican Club.

The following Monday morning, about 9 o'clock, as I was leaving for my office, he rang me up on the telephone and said, "Governor, I want to see your car. I come up to see you? I want to talk that thing over."

He Meant Right Now
I said, "No, I am sorry to go to my office, I will see you there. If I cannot see you you can talk with Judge Ransom, who is pretty familiar with these matters."

He said, "I mean now. I am going back to Albany and I would like to see you before you go downtown." I said I could not see him then.

He said, "I will come down on Friday, and we will go over those matters again. I think something can be done."

I said, "It is entirely in your hands, Senator. There is nothing I can do, but I shall be there on Friday."

I have not seen or heard from him since. Reverting to the conversation, I said, "I understand you are insubordinating."

He laughed and said, "I don't know how long it will go; those other fellows may stand and they may not. Of course, Fowler," as he expressed it, "I don't know whether he will stay with me or not. Graves from Buffalo, of course, is mad at the railways up there and he may stay with me. I don't know; I hope he will. But they may get him up there. Davenport is anxious to be Governor, and is playing to the newspapers, and is very jealous of me because I am getting all the notices. And I don't know whether he will stay or not."

He Will Run Out
I don't like to use the term that he used with regard to another Senator, and I decline to, but he said, "He will run out whenever Joe Early tells him to."

Chairman Burlingame: Who was the Senator, Governor?

A. Senator Burlingame. He used some other terms, which I don't want to use here. If you will pardon me, there was not a word said about any \$50,000 offer. There was nothing said about his earning \$50,000 in New York. He did say that "down here they open the barrel and buy everybody, and when they come to the county they expect to get us cheap."

He reiterated that he was determined to come to New York. That is substantially the conversation.

Oh, with regard to another matter, which I think it is only just to him to explain. I understand he has com-

mented on the food of the occasion and on the lunch. It was entirely a very simple meal so far as I myself am concerned. The ordinary instincts of the gentleman prevent my commenting on the gastronomic performances of the Senator from the 4th, but if by the term, appointing, he suggested he had been drinking or I, that is not true. Owing to his position on prohibition, it is perhaps fair that should be said of him. I don't recall for the moment anything else.

Said He Was Ambitious
Q.—Was there anything said about his candidacy for Governor?
A.—He said that unless there was something in his mind somewhere that there was a long distance call. It has been stated to me somewhere, I think in the sub-committee of the Judiciary Committee, that there was a long distance call which preceded the interview of March 29 between your office and Senator Thompson, requesting him to come down?

A.—No, sir, not for me.
Q.—From any body in your behalf to make an appointment?
A.—Not so far as I know. Nobody was authorized to.

Shonts Takes Stand
Mr. Shonts then took the stand. After he told that his relations with Senator Thompson began in 1915, when the Thompson committee began investigating the transit situation in New York City, he said that the only times he met Senator Thompson, save when he was on the witness stand before the committee, was about a year ago, when Thompson made two casual calls on him at his office. A couple of months ago, he said, Thompson telephoned him for some data, and he sent it to him.

He denied emphatically that he had tried to influence Senator Thompson on the Carson-Martin bill, either directly or indirectly.

"Did you have any talk with Governor Whitman in which it was suggested, directly or indirectly, that somebody see Senator Thompson in regard to legislation?" asked Mr. Cheney.

Q.—Did he ever agree to contribute to a fund to promote the candidacy of Senator Thompson for Governor?
A.—No, sir.

Q.—Was anything ever said to you by anybody in regard to that question?
A.—No, sir.

About That Slush Fund
Q.—I will ask you generally if you

Q.—Did he say he had said so publicly and privately and every way?
A.—He said, since the position he had taken, he didn't see how he could save his face and vote for it.

Q.—Did he say he would be ashamed to come to New York if he did anything to pass the bill?
A.—He did not.

Q.—Did you say this to him: "If you feel like that don't you think it could be changed?"
A.—He suggested that it could be changed. I got the bill and sent it to him at his request.

Q.—Did he say anything about his being willing to have an interest in the situation?
A.—He said he would like to have a committee come to New York to conduct further investigations on the subject.

Q.—Did you say to him, "I would like to see you to-morrow or Monday?"
A.—I certainly did not.

Q.—You know Theodore Shonts?
A.—I do.

Q.—Were you sent to Senator Thompson by Mr. Shonts?
A.—I was not.

Q.—Were you employed or requested by Mr. Shonts to see Senator Thompson?
A.—I was not.

Q.—Senator Fred M. Davenport, one of the insurgents, and candidate for Governor on the Progressive ticket in 1914, will be a witness to-morrow. He will be asked to give details concerning a charge he made on the floor of the Senate to-day that a man "on the inside" of organized lobbying in Albany had talked to him over the telephone, and that there would be less pressure on legislators not to support the so-called welfare legislation.

Senator Alvah W. Burlingame, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked Senator Davenport to name the man. Davenport refused. Later Burlingame announced that Davenport would be subpoenaed as a witness before his committee.

Were Retained Later
Q.—Were you at that time in the employ of the Interborough Railroad Company, street railroad, or whatever its name is, popularly known as the Interborough?
A.—My firm, Whitman, Ottinger & Ransom, I think, at that time hadn't been retained. We were the next week on some various matters. Judge Ransom, my partner, was the counsel for the Public Service Commission. We had received no retainer on the Saturday that I talked to Senator Thompson.

Q.—Did that retainer have any relation to any pending legislation in Albany?
A.—No, sir, it did not. I expressly stated to Mr. Shonts, as I am sure he will remember, Judge Ransom was present that I was in no sense a lobbyist and had nothing to do with any-

thing to influence legislation, and he said he understood that perfectly.

Q.—Your firm is under retainer for the Consolidated Gas Company?
A.—It has been for several weeks.

The Chairman—When he made the suggestion that he would like to be in your law firm, did he intimate whether or not he had any clients in New York?
A.—He said he could control large water power clientele or business, or something of that kind, in the state.

Senator Foley—What was the date of the first interview with the Senator?
Only One Meeting
A.—There was only one. It was Saturday, two weeks ago, the 29th.

Senator Foley—Of March?
A.—I think the 29th.

Q.—That was the Saturday after the 27th Division parade?
A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he mention the insurgents at that time?
A.—I said: "I see you are insubordinating," and he laughed, or "Are you insubordinating?" Something of the kind.

Q.—The only thought occurs to me was, so far as I follow the political history up here, the insurgents hadn't broken out until the first week in April.

A.—He has insubordinated a good many times.

The newspapers hadn't mentioned any insurgents until the first week in April.

That was the conversation. The impression rests in my mind somewhere that there was a long distance call. It has been stated to me somewhere, I think in the sub-committee of the Judiciary Committee, that there was a long distance call which preceded the interview of March 29 between your office and Senator Thompson, requesting him to come down?

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know anything about the half-million dollar slush fund?

A.—Only what I have seen in the newspapers.

Q.—What have you done to bring about an increase in fare?
A.—We have done everything that we wanted to in order to educate the public to the necessity of receiving additional revenue in order to avoid a catastrophe to the various companies. I have written letters to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, setting forth our reasons. I have written letters to the various civic bodies setting forth our reasons. I have put our advertisements in the cars. I have made addresses before various bodies, giving our reasons, and have done everything that we could think of that would probably go to educate the public to our necessities.

Q.—Now, I mean in respect to the Legislature of the State of New York?
A.—I have done nothing except to distribute our literature, and by the same method to try to impress the public as to its necessity. This so-called seven-cent fare bill—we never understood it to be a seven-cent bill. We understand it to be only for general application by which the state expressing its power through a tribunal, would delegate the power to hold investigations and on sworn testimony, in cases necessary to do justice to all parties concerned—the public, community, owners and—

Origin of the Bill
Q.—Did you communicate with Senator Thompson about such a committee?
A.—Never.

Questioned by Senator Cottillo as to the origin of the Carson-Martin bill, Mr. Shonts said it was the result of conferences between him and counsel of his road and other traction men with Mr. Whitman, Speaker Sweet and Elton R. Brown, then majority leader of the Senate. He said there were several conferences here last winter before the bill was drafted, when Mr. Whitman was Governor.

The vital clause of this bill was written, I think, by Senator Brown in his handwriting," said Mr. Shonts.

Q.—What was that vital clause?
A.—Providing for the establishment of a tribunal, which tribunal would have power to make rates, regardless of provisions in franchises and contracts to the contrary.

Q.—How did Senator Brown come to draw up that?
A.—We were all at that meeting. Speaker Sweet said he was trying to run a manufacturing plant, and if the rates could not be increased he could not hold out, and he saw no reason why the electrical roads could help going broke. They were all governed by natural laws. Senator Brown was equally outspoken.

The Whitman-Ransom Fee
Q.—How much does the Interborough pay ex-Governor Whitman?
A.—I am not sure, but he asked for \$10,000.

Mr. Shonts was about to leave the stand when he volunteered:
"It was a director who suggested the employment of the Whitman-Ransom firm, General Cornelius Vanderbilt. James L. Quackenbush, chief counsel to the Interborough, said he had never heard of any slush fund or campaign fund in connection with the Carson-Martin bill until he had read Sen-

ator Thompson's charges in the newspapers.

"Never until this time," said Mr. Quackenbush, "had there been any gossip or suggestion that I, or any of the companies I am counsel for, had any improper or sinister dealings or transactions."

The committee will meet again tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

Mayor Hylan Protests Against the Passage of Seven-Cent Fare Bill
Mayor Hylan yesterday sent to each of the state Senators a letter urging them to oppose the passage of any bill that would increase fares in this city or take away the fare-increasing power from the city officials and give it to the Public Service Commission. His letter follows:

"In behalf of the millions of the residents of this city, I take the liberty to write you to say that they protest against the passage of the notorious seven-cent fare bill or any bill that takes from the elected city officials and gives to the Public Service Commission the power and right to raise the fares on the transit lines in this city.

"The Public Service Commission's conduct in the past has not been in the interest of the people of this city, and they have no hope of relief from this body, which is controlled by the transit lines. The city owns the subway lines and the Interborough has a lease for forty-nine years. If the Interborough is unable to make a profit at a five-cent fare then they can turn the lines back to the city and the city will operate them.

"The people of the city want municipal ownership and operation and to be forever rid of the Shontses and transit manipulators and the rest of the money-hungry crowd. Thousands who ride on the transit lines were amazed when this bill passed the Assembly.

"The people of Brooklyn will not soon forget the action of Assemblyman Charles C. Johnson and Assemblyman Wilfred Karl Youiker (the representative of the Youiker Union in Kings County), who voted in favor of the seven-cent fare bill. The city should be free from the grasp of these transit manipulators."

Japanese Envoy to Return Home in May
Tokio Over New Problems; Not to Resign Post
WASHINGTON, April 15.—The State Department was advised formally today of the plans of Viscount Ishii, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, to leave here next month for Tokio. At the Japanese Embassy it was stated that the ambassador was returning for conferences with his government.

State Department attaches were informed several weeks ago of Viscount Ishii's plans and it was stated to-day that recent international developments were not a factor. Also, it was stated, there has been no suggestion of retirement of Viscount Ishii except as political affairs in Japan may bear upon his personal plans.

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Farmers to Show Why Milk Price Is High
Annual Dairy Exhibition Will Be Illustration of Costs and Production Methods
Milk consumers who have blamed the farmers for the high cost of that product are to be given an object lesson next week during the Dairy Show at the 71st Regiment Armory, by which the farmers propose to prove themselves misunderstood.

It was announced yesterday that the processes necessary in the production of milk will be shown by living models.

The Passing "Iron Man"
The last silver dollars were coined in 1904.—Indianapolis News.

In view of the improvements on Park Avenue at 34th St., and the opening of the new viaduct at Park Avenue and 42d St., the convenience of the Madison Avenue Entrance becomes impressively apparent.

Women's Silk Hosiery
in many strikingly novel effects
is a feature of the before-Easter display in the Hosiery Department, on the First Floor.

Of special interest is American-made silk hosiery ornamented with silver tinsel stripes. This is shown in many vivid colors and some neutral tones, in either case offering an attractive effect in contrasts.

Plain silk hosiery (for men and women) is displayed in all the newest shades, as well as in the indispensable black and white—the latter with and without contrasting clocks.

New importations of woolen sports hosiery, recently received, present many features of unusual interest.

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