

Connolly Says He Accused No City Officials

Queens President Denies He Involved Any Member of Estimate Board in Talk With Graft Investigator

Whitman Remains Silent

Wait Until Monday, Is His Only Comment on Article Published in The Tribune

Maurice E. Connolly, president of the Borough of Queens, in a statement issued yesterday denied that during his three-hour conference with ex-Governor Charles S. Whitman on Friday he had involved any city official.

"At this time I will not deny—nor will I affirm—the Tribune story of this morning regarding the Connolly conference, in which it was stated that two or more members of the Board of Estimate were involved," ex-Governor Whitman said yesterday. "All I will say is that the conference was held at Connolly's home, at his request, and that Mr. King will continue his investigation."

In the article published yesterday morning it was said that The Tribune had been informed from an indiscreet source that Borough President Connolly had given information including one or more members of the Board of Estimate.

Ex-Governor Whitman, it was learned, had called at Mr. Connolly's home in Corona, accompanied by Arthur H. King, one of his assistants, who has been investigating city contract graft since the trial of Mayor Hylan's stenographer, a stenographer and an unnamed man who, as an emissary of Connolly, had arranged the meeting.

Connolly Requested Interview

Governor Whitman and Mr. King, who a former Assistant United States Attorney, have been checking evidence which reached them in the last three weeks. It is known that their case is near completion and that it involved at least one member of the Board of Estimate when Mr. Connolly requested the interview.

At his home yesterday Mr. Connolly, who is suffering from a nervous ailment

which has affected his spine and legs and is under the constant care of Dr. Frank Erdwurm, of 128 West Thirty-fourth Street, and Dr. V. H. Morre, of 92 Park Avenue, gave out the following statement:

"Governor Whitman called at my home yesterday on my invitation. There has been so much in the nature of innuendo published in the press that I felt it necessary that all doubt be entirely dispelled.

"The evidence given before the Board of Estimate last Wednesday by Captain Rice, Chief Engineer of Queens Borough, established that not only was there no monopoly in this borough, but that competition was unusually keen on city contracts. It proved also that the taxpayers' interests were being zealously guarded at all times.

"Notwithstanding this, I felt that Governor Whitman should be in possession of all the information I could give him and I accordingly requested that he see me personally or through an assistant, either in Manhattan or at my home.

Connolly Says He Gave Facts
"Governor Whitman was kind enough to call upon me and I was glad to be able to furnish him with the true facts.

"In our conversation the names of no city official or any subordinate in my office were discussed or involved." Mr. Whitman and Mr. King, after having read to them the statement of Borough President Connolly, joined in saying that until the investigation into the alleged city contract graft was completed—and all of yesterday afternoon and today will be devoted to it—they would have no statement to make. They again refused last night to deny or affirm that as a result of the Connolly interview verification of evidence leading to a member of Mayor Hylan's official family had been uncovered or that new leads had been disclosed. "Wait until Monday" was the only thing they would say.

Hatfield Said He Killed Felts, Doctor Declares

Testimony Shows That Detective Made No Defensive Move in Mine Fight

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Feb. 19.—Dr. W. F. Hill, a Matewan dentist, to-day testified at the trial of the nineteen men indicted in connection with the Matewan fight in which anti-strike detectives were killed, that he had heard Sid Hatfield say he had slain Albert C. Felts.

Dr. Hill testified that he entered Mayor Testerman's store. He said he saw Mayor Testerman join Albert Felts and C. B. Cunningham, of the Baldwin Felts party, in front of the hardware shop. The dentist testified that he could see Felts's right arm but he saw Felts make no move.

\$100,000 Drugs Seized in Raids, Seven Arrested

Police Assert City Narcotic Ring Is Broken Up and That They Know Leaders of International Traffic

Women Among Prisoners

Two Sisters Said to Have Had \$20,000 Worth of Illicit 'Dope' Concealed in Belts

Approximately \$100,000 worth of narcotics have been seized by Special Deputy Police Commissioner Carleton Simon and government authorities during the last thirty-six hours. The crusade has not only resulted in the immense seizure of drugs but has brought about the arrest of seven persons charged with alleged illicit traffic in "dope." More arrests are to follow, according to a statement made last night by Commissioner Simon.

Among arrests which the police believe to be of importance is the seizure of two young women, Beneditti and Amelia Bertolotta, of Palermo, Italy. These two, who were arrested early yesterday, are said to have had \$20,000 worth of heroin and cocaine concealed about their bodies in cunningly fashioned belts. As a result of the grilling examination to which they were subjected yesterday afternoon Commissioner Simon declared that much valuable information had been obtained. The two women are still detained without bail by the customs authorities.

International Ring Exposed

Yesterday afternoon Commissioner Simon said that information to show that an international narcotic ring was in active operation between Italian and German ports and New York City was in his hands. He intimated that the police net had already been spread, and hinted that the head of the system, believed to be in New York, will be arrested within twenty-four hours.

The seizure of a small, bound handbook, said to contain the names of leaders in the "dope" ring, from Ernesto Araco, who was arrested Friday with approximately \$70,000 worth of cocaine and heroin in his possession, is one of the most important arrests made during the crusade, according to Commissioner Simon.

As a result of the notebook Commissioner Simon yesterday sent several cables to Danzig, Germany, and to Pal-

ermo, Italy, instructing the authorities there to seize certain men believed to be members of the international ring. When asked yesterday whether he had positive knowledge as to names and addresses of "higher ups" in New York Commissioner Simon said:

"Most emphatically, yes. We will close in on several of them within a few hours. I sincerely believe that we have reached the inside of the ring, and as a result hundreds of addicts have already left the city. We even have the password that is being used between addicts and peddlers, and now things are in such a condition that the peddlers are afraid to sell to any one. The traffic is practically paralyzed here. Hundreds have fled to Hoboken and Brooklyn. Now that we have gained information that will stop the 'dope' from coming into America I believe that the rest of our work will simply be a round up of addicts and peddlers who are attempting to open new channels for getting narcotics into the country."

Araco's Arrest Ends Long Chase

The arrest of Araco was the termination of a chase which lasted three months, according to Commissioner Simon. Araco, better known as Rocky, has long been suspected as being a leader in dope traffic. At least three traps laid for him failed, according to Commissioner Simon. Araco is charged by the police with being the originator of the underworld password which opened negotiations between addicts and the peddlers. According to Commissioner Simon, it was the custom of the addicts to go to certain places controlled by Araco and knock three times.

Upon the door being opened the addict asked, "Does Mme. X live here?" Another password used, according to Commissioner Simon, was a repetition of the three knocks and the statement, "I am looking for work," being spoken when the door was opened. Araco was ordered held in \$2,500 bail when arrested before Magistrate Thomas J. Nolan in Essex Market court yesterday.

Louis Bauman and Joseph Feldman, stewards on the steamship Susquehanna, which arrived here last Wednesday, who were arrested Friday night, when, it is alleged, they had \$100,000 worth of narcotics in their possession, were both ordered held in \$1,000 bail yesterday when arraigned before United States Commissioner Samuel M. Hitecock. It was through the arrests of Bauman and Feldman that the police secured a line on Araco, it was said yesterday.

Bond was fixed at \$25,000 in the case of Anthony Barr, nineteen years old, who was also arrested Friday night by Commissioner Simon and Federal Agent McCormack on a charge of having narcotics in his possession. Barr, according to the police, had just sold a bottle of heroin to McCormack when arrested. It was learned that Barr was among fifteen others who escaped from Leavenworth prison last October, after stealing a prison ambulance. The prison authorities will be notified.

Chicago Prisoner Is Accused of Big Bond Hold-Up Here

Police Think They Have Man Who Aided in \$149,000 Robbery of Messenger of Chemical National Bank

Spender Seized When Glass Quarter Bursts

Money Passed on Newsboy Slips From His Fingers and Smashes on Sidewalk

Now it's glass money that you have to look out for. A quarter, which Herman Rogers accepted from a stranger at his newsstand, Sixth Street and Eighth Avenue, last night, slipped from his fingers as he was putting it in his cash drawer. Striking the sidewalk, the coin broke into a dozen pieces. The stranger still was in sight and Rogers pointed him out to a patrolman. Keogh overtook him at Seventh Avenue and Fourteenth Street and called on him to halt, the man took to his heels. The patrolman chased him through the Fourteenth Street crowds to Broadway, before two shots from his revolver brought the fugitive to a stop.

He said he was Gaetano Scarlevina, of 330 East Twelfth Street. He was locked up at the West Twenty-fifth Street Police Station to be turned over to the Federal authorities. He had another quarter in his pocket which the police think is made of glass.

Rules "He Don't" Is English

School Head Also Favors "It Is Me": Other Forms Stilted

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—The expression "it is me" and "he don't" are permissible for both school teachers and pupils in Cook County public schools under an opinion issued to-day by Edward J. Tobin, superintendent of the county schools.

Superintendent Tobin said the correct form, "it is I," sounds stilted and even egotistical, and that it does no good to teach children forms of expression "outlawed by common usage and a sense of good form." He said he was not instructing his teachers to depart from grammatically correct usages, but would not reprimand them if they did.

Nuns Freed From Vows

STRASBOURG, Feb. 19.—A decree dissolving the Marienthal Convent, near here, was produced by Father Sarda, a Hungarian priest, sent to intervene in pending differences at the convent over the departure of German nuns, who left after the armistice, when the nuns refused to recognize the priest's authority. The decree was signed by Cardinal Valere di Borzo, and charges breaches of discipline and the repeated ignoring of an apostolic delegate.

The decree releases the nuns from their vows and orders the restoration of the dowries they brought, but authorizes the delegate to make exceptions in his discretion.

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