

## INQUIRY TO BARE 'BROKER' PROFITS ON ARMS DEALS

### House Group Will Open Hearings Today.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 2.—A story of how penniless political hacks have risen to affluence thru the collection of huge commissions on arms contracts will be unfolded before the house military affairs committee at public hearings beginning tomorrow.

Without equipment, factories, or capital, lame-duck congressmen and others claiming influence with the administration have persuaded business men they could not obtain arms orders from the war and navy departments without political pull. They charged from 1 per cent up to the total of contracts awarded and collected hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Like race track touts, these "profit patriots," as they have been branded, approached so many prospects that they were almost certain to collect.

**Genuine Links Reported.**  
With the government distributing more than 50 billions of dollars in orders in the last 18 months, some of the business men were certain to get contracts and to believe that they had been obtained thru the influence of the "commission broker." In more sinister instances, which the committee is expected to disclose, the broker had genuine administration connections which enabled him to swing a contract to his customer.

**Bidding Systems Urged.**  
May today proposed that the government return to the competitive bid system of letting all arms contracts instead of, by negotiation, which permits the pernicious commission system to flourish.

He also said committee investigators had prepared a list of charges against specific individuals, which will be published. Those involved were discovered after two months of investigation of bank accounts and arms contractors' records in six eastern and middle western states. Photostatic copies of checks, letters, and other documents have been gathered for presentation to the committee.

Robert Patterson, undersecretary of war, has asked to testify, May said, and other officials and persons who hold or have held top government jobs will be summoned.

**Quizzed on Call to West.**  
He made this statement when asked whether the committee would call Charles West, a former Ohio congressman, and Thomas G. Corcoran, a White House adviser until he quit to become a lobbyist a year ago.

West recently sued for \$687,000, which he said was due him as a 1 per cent commission on 70 million dollars' worth of orders obtained by the Empire Ordnance company. West said he received only \$13,000, and his suit was for the remainder he said was due him. It is well known here that West was "broke" in Washington about a year ago.

Corcoran, according to reports, also served as a representative for the Empire Ordnance company and several other concerns here.

## Wool-Like Textile, Made of Weeds, Shown in Paris

PARIS, Nov. 26 [Delayed] (P).—Textiles made from weeds and resembling wool and felt materials were exhibited here today. Eastern thistle was among the plants providing the fiber from which the cloth was made.

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### Marital Puzzle



Martha Stephenson Kemp Mature.

Hollywood, Cal., Dec. 2 [Special].—The marital status of Victor Mature, film actor, and his wife, the former Martha Stephenson Kemp, became a puzzle today when she suddenly canceled plans to leave for New York.

Mature was asked whether a separation was impending. He said: "I don't know."

At her home in Beverly Hills, Mrs. Mature asserted, "there is nothing to the report we are separating."

The indefinite answer given by Mature tended to leave things up in the air and he would not venture a further explanation nor add to his statement.

## 2 NEW CANNONS ARE DEVELOPED FOR ARMY'S USE

### Improve 155 Howitzer; Adopt 4½ Inch Gun.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 2.—The war department today announced that two new weapons have been standardized and added to the fighting equipment of the army—a 4.5 inch gun and an improved 155 mm. howitzer.

The 155 mm. howitzer is believed to be superior to any type howitzer of this caliber in use in any army. It will replace the World war type of this weapon now in use in the army.

The World war model fires a 95 pound projectile about 7½ miles. Although the war department released no data on the performance of the new model, it is believed that it will fire the same weight shell far more rapidly and for a great distance, possibly 10 miles.

**Modernize Gun Carriages.**  
The World war howitzers now in the army are being modernized. The

old carriage is being replaced with one which will permit the weapon to be towed at high speed. As the new model of the weapon is manufactured the World war model will be retired from active use.

The war department last spring adopted a new 155 mm. gun. This weapon fires a 95 pound shell a distance of 15 miles and can be towed at a speed of 55 miles an hour.

The 4.5 inch gun is a powerful light weapon suitable for corps artillery as well as anti-tank missions. The 37 mm. anti-tank gun has been found to be too light for the purpose for which it was designed and the diversion of the 75 mm. World war gun, too light for modern warfare, to this work has not been considered satisfactory.

**Slightly Larger Than 105 mm.**

The new gun is slightly larger than the 105 mm. howitzer which fires a 33 pound shell about 15 miles. The new weapon has approximately the same range, but is newer in every respect. It also has the advantage of being interchangeable as far as ammunition goes with a British piece of the same caliber and for that reason is preferable to the 105 mm. it was said.

The new 155 mm. howitzer and the 4.5 inch gun were tested at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Carriages on which the weapons are mounted may be interchanged. Interchangeable carriages are now used on the 155 mm. gun and the eight inch howitzer, which are companion pieces of artillery.

**BURGLAR ROBS DENTIST'S HOME.**  
Dr. Harry Finkelstein, a dentist, reported to police yesterday that clothes, jewelry, and silverware valued at \$500 were stolen from his home at 3821 North Spaulding avenue Sunday night.

### Test Your Facts

Below each of the following questions are listed three answers. Make your choice, turn to page 41 in the Want Ad section for the correct answers, and mark your score:

1. China and the Philippine Islands are separated by:  
[a] South China sea. [b] Yellow sea. [c] Mozambique channel.
2. In what year was the Custer massacre?  
[a] 1889. [b] 1876. [c] 1852.
3. How old is Lou Boudreau, new manager of the Cleveland Indians?  
[a] 24 years old. [b] 26 years old. [c] 28 years old.
4. In England, what is meant by a close port?  
[a] One closed to traffic. [b] One situated on a bay. [c] One situated up a river.

### Delay Loop Abortion Trial Because of Judge's Illness

Trial of Ada Martin, alleged head of a loop abortion ring, and Josephine Kuder, her receptionist, was postponed yesterday because of the illness of Judge John F. Haas. The case will be kept on call, however, until the judge's return, at which time a definite trial date will be set. Indications are that the case will go over until after Jan. 1, since the prosecutor's office was said to be unwilling to have it tried near Christmas.

## TODAY ILLINOIS CELEBRATES ITS 123D BIRTHDAY

One hundred twenty-three years ago today Illinois became a state of the union. On that Dec. 3, 1818, the new state had only 40,258 inhabitants and its only settled section was south of a line from St. Louis to Terre Haute. Its two important "cities" were Shawneetown, on the Ohio river, and its first capital, Kaskaskia, on the Mississippi.

The former in recent years has had to flee three miles up the bluff to escape the ravages of the Ohio and Kaskaskia's ruins now lie at the bottom of the Mississippi.

The state's population now is approximately 7½ millions and the "looking glass prairie" near East St. Louis, which so depressed Dickens, now is one of the world's greatest industrial areas. Historians recall that when Chicago struggled into existence in the 1830s, it asked Shawneetown for a small loan. Shawneetown declined on the ground the new village never would amount to anything.

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