

Tragedy and Comedy in Standard Oil Correspondence

Following are Associated Press dispatches: Washington, D. C., Jan. 13.—While in Chicago on December 21, Gilchrist Stewart, a negro law clerk, told the senate campaign funds committee today, he was kidnaped by "gangsters," taken to the office of the Chicago Examiner and robbed of a number of letters and papers, including two letters to him from former Senator Foraker.

The men who kidnaped him, he said, told him they were policemen, exhibited what purported to be warrants and attempted to make him

believe the Examiner office was a police station.

A story of how copies of letters from John D. Archbold to Mr. Foraker and other public men were taken from the Standard Oil company's New York office and sold to the New York American, New York, by W. W. Winkfield and Charles Stump, negro messengers employed by the company, was told by Stewart who said he was employed by Mr. Foraker to investigate whether certain alleged photographic copies of letters published were forgeries.

Stewart told of his interview with William Winkfield, a colored man,

who was formerly employed as confidential messenger in the Standard Oil offices.

"A chance remark by Charles Stump, a clerk in the office, of how an employe had sold some financial secrets of the corporation for which he worked, led Winkfield and Stump to attempt the sale of some Standard Oil secrets," Stewart told him.

The witness detailed Winkfield's statement to him, showing how Winkfield and Stump wrote to Hearst after first "hounding out" the New York World, and how they finally met Fred Eldredge, a night editor on one of the Hearst papers.

"Winkfield said he was given a list of 200 names of public men, whose letters to or from the company would be valuable," Stewart testified. "I understood that the letters were photographed in the office of Hearst's New York American."

Stewart described how a search was made for him in Chicago by detectives and "gunmen" in December, at the time he was in that city looking for information from Winkfield. He declared he was arrested by a group of police and forced to enter the office of the Hearst newspaper.

"I recognized in Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Hearst's manager," said Stewart, "a man who sternly asked these 'gunmen': 'Officers, have you searched the prisoner?' I told him he need not try to hold court in the Hearst building. He replied that he proposed to get some information before I went. He later allowed me to go."

After consultation with ex-Senator Foraker, Stewart said he had decided not to prosecute his alleged abductors until after he should have testified here.

Winkfield was ill today and unable to appear. Stewart will resume his testimony tomorrow.

A NEGRO CONFESSES

Washington, Jan. 14.—W. W. Winkfield of Chicago, formerly employed by the Standard Oil company as a messenger, today told the senate campaign fund investigating committee how he and another employe named Stump took two letters from the desk of John D. Archbold of the Standard Oil company and disposed of them for \$1,000 each. He also told of selling a copy of a telegram for \$1,000 and lending two copy books of letters, for which \$500 was paid. Of the amounts received, Winkfield said he received half.

Winkfield said he could not recall the contents of the two letters or the telegrams, to whom they were addressed or the signatures attached. He said that the letters were taken in the fall of 1904 and published by the New York American. He did not know what letters had been taken from the copy books.

Winkfield testified that in 1904 he was employed by the Standard Oil company in New York as a messenger, and Stump, he said, was employed as a file clerk. Winkfield said that in the autumn of 1904, after reading in the New York American regarding certain telegrams sent to some one in Washington, he spoke to Stump and another office boy named Frank Morrill, employed in Mr. Archbold's office.

"Morrill said he knew of a telegram and he said he would let us see it," said Winkfield. "A couple of days later he showed it to us. I made a copy of it and put it in the hands of Stump and he disposed of it. It came out in the paper on a holiday."

Winkfield said he did not remember what the telegram said, and did not remember to whom it was addressed or whose signature was attached to it.

He then testified substantially as follows:

"I had nothing more to do with



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Send no money. Just your name and address on a postal card. Say: "Dear Sam Katz, Please tell me how you cured your catarrh and how I can cure mine." That's all you need to say. I will understand, and I will write to you with complete information, FREE, at once. Do not delay. Send the postal card or write me a letter today. Don't think of turning this page until you have asked for this wonderful treatment that can do for you what it has done for me.

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