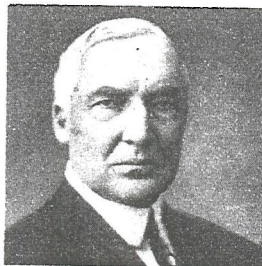


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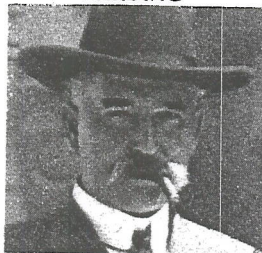
Q. Is it a fact that oil company executives were responsible for the Teapot Dome scandal of the Harding Administration? Can you briefly synopsise the scandals of the Warren G. Harding Administration?
—Louis Berk, Hempstead, N.Y.

A. The Harding Administration scandals came to full light after President Harding died on Aug. 2, 1923. They caused the resignations of Attorney General Harry Daugherty, Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby, and the firing of William Burns, head of the Bureau of Investigation. Burns was replaced by J. Edgar Hoover, and the bureau was renamed the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Subsequently Albert Fall, secretary of the Interior, was convicted and imprisoned.



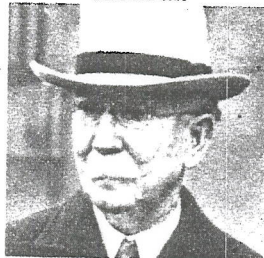
HARDING



FALL



SINCLAIR



DOHENY

The major Harding scandal, called Teapot Dome, involved the leasing of naval oil reserves in California and Wyoming. In 1921, President Harding stupidly signed an executive order urged upon him by Secretaries Fall and Denby, transferring jurisdiction of the Navy's oil reserves to the Interior Department.

In 1922 Interior Secretary Fall leased the Elk Hills, Calif., reserves to Edward L. Doheny of the Pan American Oil Co., and the Teapot Dome reserves in Wyoming to Harry Sinclair's Mammoth Oil company without competitive bidding in a hush-hush deal.

Later investigation by Sen. Tom Walsh (D., Mont.) in 1923 revealed that Doheny had bribed Fall with at least \$100,000, and Sinclair had bribed Fall with another \$300,000. Fall thereupon became the first U.S. Cabinet officer to serve a jail term for illegal activities performed while in government service. Other members of the Harding Administration went free.

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