United States Senate

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR UNDER SENATE RESOLUTION 266

REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP MEMO No. RW-58

Re	Burns Detective Agency, San Francisco	By Bertram Edises
		Working on Burns, etc. case.
	To: ROBERT R. EHRLICH	Address San Prancisco, Cal.
·.		Date December 3, 1936

Brief abstract of report:

- l. Tharp swears by all his gods that Matson case no. 2418 involved thefts only. He says one man was assigned to the job, his object being to find out who was stealing cargo, etc., from the docks. Tharp says the investigator was not a secret operative and that the case is now closed. As for case no. 2882, he explains this one by saying that it involved the same thefts as 2418, but that the agency did not have a suitable operative at the time and hence could not accept the assignment. Tharp is somewhat hazy about the details of these cases. However I was unable to shake any of his statements on cross examination. Tharp claims that they are currently not doing anything for Matson or for any other shipping company and that the last time any such work was done on the waterfront was in connection with case no. 2418.
- 2. Re Burns letter to Therp of August 15. Therp insists that the letter was lost. I teld him that I would give him until Thursday, December 3 to find it, and that if he did not produce it by that time I would inform the committee of ail the circumstances surrounding my demand and his refusal. At this writing I have not yet heard from him.
- 3. There says he has not engaged in any lobbying or other activities in connection with legislative matters. Likewise, that he has no releases, memoranda, letters, or instructions bearing on legislative acitivities.
- 4. Re the present seamen's strike, Tharp says he has had nothing whatever to do with the present strike, has placed no operatives in connection with same and moreover has solicited no business from the waterfront. I questioned him about solicitation of business and learned that he has a canvasser on full time soliciting various firms. This man turns in reports on films covered, but sample reports shown me by Tharp contained nothing of any consequence. These samples showed only the name of the firm canvassed, a one-word characterisation of the subject of canvassing (such as "watchman" etc.), and the address of the firm canvassed. He

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declares that they have no current industrial cases and have not solicited any industrial cases since the Committee started to function.

Conclusion: There is just about the eaglest individual I have come against so far. He and I both know that he is not being at all candid in his revelations, but he is far more slippery than the average sel. Mevertheless, I shall continue to press him in the hope that scmething of importance may be uncovered.

B.T.

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