

Hijacker's Strange Beef With the U.S.

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Washington

Auther G. Barkley has two Palomino ponies, two Cadillacs, a working wife and a \$25,000 ranch house in Phoenix, Ariz.

But he does not have a \$471.78 Federal tax rebate from 1964, and he apparently hijacked an airliner yesterday to try to obtain it.

A stout man fond of sport-shirts and sports, Barkley drove a bakery truck in Phoenix from 1955 until 1963. His co-workers say he was a serious, purposeful worker, a deep believer in the Teamsters local to which he belonged and an aggressive salesman along his route.

He was born in Texas, raised in Louisiana, and formally schooled in the Navy. He came to Phoenix after his discharge from the military. By 1963, at the age of 42, he was earning \$9500 dollars per year and had bought a home in north Phoenix.

He went to the Church of God every Sunday with his two sons and would lend them money whenever they asked for it, his co-workers recalled.

But he was "unpredictable" and he "lied a lot," his boss, Edward Bennett, said yesterday. "He was real conscientious but he was kind of a screwball. You never knew what was coming next."

When Barkley got into a fistfight with a competitor in a Phoenix grocery one morning in 1963, Bennett fired him, despite his eight years' seniority.

It was then that Barkley went on a one-man crusade for what his wife said yesterday was "our rights."

Barkley picketed the Phoenix Teamsters union hall alone every day for a month. He filed a private suit against his employers, the Hostess Cake Co., seeking damages. Meanwhile, he charged that Hostess had not



UPI Telephoto

AUTHER G. BARKLEY
Captured hijacker

paid him for 19 days' sick leave he was owed.

Hostess replied that it
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1968 that he did not.

TWIST

But, for reasons that were unclear yesterday, Barkley himself — without the aid of an attorney — filed a brief before the U.S. Supreme Court in January alleging that even if he did not owe the government money, the government still owed him.

The court routinely and without comment turned down Barkley's request on March 9. But government attorneys said that Barkley had continued to "bombard" several Washington offices with letters and legal documents ever since. He said in several of the communications that he had been studying law, the better to proceed with his own case.

The entire episode was "a run around," his wife Sue said yesterday just before FBI agents took her to their downtown Phoenix office for questioning.

Mrs. Barkley works for International Metals in Phoenix, a firm that manufactures air conditioner parts. She earns \$7500 per year and has been the sole support of the family since 1966, neighbors said.

The Barkleys were a fiscally careful family, Phoenix

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would not pay Barkley the sick leave without a statement from a physician that Barkley had actually suffered "pressures" in his right ear bordering on deafness.

Barkley said that a statement was not available because he had never seen a physician, and that it was "unnecessary anyway," his wife said.

Barkley asked the Teamsters to intercede in his behalf. When the union refused, Barkley sued the Teamsters.

TURN

Both suits were dropped in 1964 when Barkley decided to withhold the 19 days pay he felt he was owed — a total of \$448.19 — from his Federal income tax return. Meanwhile, his co-workers say, he continued to ask for protection and legal help from the Teamsters local.

The Internal Revenue Service sued Barkley for his back taxes the next year and added to what he already owed a penalty fee of \$23.59, according to court records.

The United States tax court here ruled that Barkley did owe the money, but the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled in

Credit Bureau records show. They had never been in debt and had paid for their house, their cars, their horses and an adjoining 2½ acre desert lot in cash.

Ed Boyles, the Barkleys' next-door neighbor on a residential, pinon-lined street, said that Barkley had never been anything but a "good neighbor." He said the families had often cooked barbecues together and borrowed each others' possessions, without incident.

DIFFERENCE

But Mrs. Gwen Jensen, 31, another neighbor, called Barkley "crazy as a loon."

She said she had called the police many times to remove Barkley from trees on the Jensens' property, from which he was "peering in our windows," Mrs. Jensen said. Barkley had retaliated by calling the police to the Jensens' home, Mrs. Jensen said, for "minor and trivial matters."