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ON

THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: WHITE HOUSE DID NOT LEAK SECRET FILES ON BILL MILLER; DISCLOSURES RE MILLER'S TAX PROBLEMS CAME FROM HIS PARTNERS AND AN ACCOUNTANT; MISSISSIPPI EX-CONGRESSMAN WAS ANOTHER SOURCE.

WASHINGTON--Congressman Bill Miller, the would-be GOP Vice President, has accused the White House of leaking information to this column out of secret files. This column's ability to get access to secret files, no matter who is in the White House, has been fairly well established through the years. Nevertheless, readers are entitled to know whether Mr. Miller is telling the truth.

The fast-talking, hard-hitting Republican candidate complained first about a revelation that he had approached Rep. Frank Smith of Mississippi with a proposed public relations fee when Smith was in Congress and about to vote on the Niagara Mohawk power issue.

Second, Miller complained about revelations that he had tax problems with Internal Revenue over the sale of a Lockport, N. Y., bowling alley.

Third, Miller didn't like the disclosure that he had lobbied for the Wurlitzer Music Company and the jukebox industry to block a bill requiring jukebox companies to pay royalties to composers.

--LOOK AT THE SOURCES--

Let's look at the news sources behind these stories:

1. The Frank Smith Public Relations Offer was developed by Jack Anderson directly from the ex-Congressman from Mississippi as a result of the latter's own book. The book is public property. Anybody could read it. Anderson called Smith and got him to identify the man who made him the PR offer.

Smith made it very clear in his book that he considered the offer unethical. He says: "The outright buying of votes, which existed on a large scale in another era, is a rare occurrence today....Approaches to this, though somewhat more subtle than those of yesteryear, are still made, however, as I found out. Another member came to me and said he was a director of a corporation, etc."

(MORE)

Smith then tells the story of the public relations fee proposal made to a Congressman who lived in Mississippi, obviously not qualified to do much for a corporation on the Canadian border--except vote right on Niagara Mohawk power, then up for a crucial vote.

2. Allie Brandt Bowling Lanes which Miller and five friends sold, and on which Miller claimed a capital gain of \$50,000, was developed from the lawyers involved. Miller was paid \$67,833 for his one-sixth share; \$17,833 in cash and \$50,000 by note. However, when he filed his tax return, he paid taxes only on the \$17,833, not the note, until the tax agents picked this up and demanded taxes on the full purchase price.

Only then did the would-be Vice President pay up.

This story was dug out of Anthony Parone, attorney for Consolidated Bowling, which bought the bowling parlor, also from Miller's own tax accountant, and finally Jack Anderson talked to two of Miller's partners in the bowling alley deal.

--WHITE HOUSE DOESN'T READ BOOKS--

3. The Jukebox Lobbying story came in part from Farny Wurlitzer, the grand old man of the jukebox business, and from Republicans who watched Rep. Miller's activities at the Cleveland governors' conference--a conference, incidentally, more important than the San Francisco GOP convention in nailing down Goldwater's delegate strength.

Rep. Miller had given orders to his Washington office that he was not to be interrupted at the Cleveland meeting. Despite this, he stopped everything he was doing in rounding up delegates and went to bat for the jukebox industry in blocking the royalty bill for music composers.

The man who tapped him for help was A. D. Palmer, a public relations man for Wurlitzer. Farny Wurlitzer told Jack Anderson quite frankly that he had contributed \$800 every election to Miller's campaign and indicated that he had also contributed to other Republicans.

I doubt very much if the White House knew anything about this or, in fact, the other matters detailed above. At any rate it was not the source. It's possible someone at the White House read the Frank Smith book, though generally speaking they are so busy reading government reports that they don't read books. In fact, you'll have difficulty finding anyone around the White House who knows who Edith Hamilton was.

(MORE)

--MERRY-GO-ROUND--

Congressman Mike Kirwan, the Youngstown solon, walked out of the new smash hit, "The Physicists," after one act. It's about the scientists' responsibility for blowing up the world. Mike was either bored or couldn't seem to understand it....Scholarly Sen. Mike Mansfield and his daughter, who lives in a Georgetown basement, stayed....Gov. Bill Scranton is highly embarrassed when he introduces Goldwater. As he starts speaking, page boys start distributing copies of Scranton's bitter letter against Goldwater written at the San Francisco convention....Supermarkets will soon distribute "The Goldwater Cartoon Book," though not with the blessing of Republicans. The book contains some of the most murderous cartoons of Barry's political career....The Democrats are considering calling Goldwater by his real name: "Baron"... Latest Goldwater wisecrack: "He's the only man who can stand on the border between Israel and the Arab states and be shot at by both sides..."...It was Harry Golden, editor of the North Carolina Israelite, who got off the crack: "The first Jew in the White House is going to be an Episcopalian."

(END MGR FOR RELS. THURS. OCT. 1, 1964)

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