

Oil Permit 'Speculators' Were Aided by Williams, '49 Report Charges

Specific Times Documented in Probe of Dept.

Selling of Public Land Improperly Handled, Investigator Says

By LESTER A. INSKIP
Star Staff Correspondent
PHOENIX, Feb. 28.—Promoters engaged in the acquisition and re-sale of state oil drilling permits were "aided and abetted" by O. C. Williams, former state land commissioner, who himself was speculating in federal drilling permits.

This charge was made by the attorney general's office in a 1949 report that remained secret until yesterday, when it was made public for the inspection of William R. Mathews, editor and publisher of the Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, on order of Judge C. C. Paine of the Gila County Superior court.

The report now is available for inspection by any other interested parties, but only upon written order from the superior or supreme courts of the state.

Long Legal Fight
Mathews waged a three-year legal battle for return of the permits, which were issued by former Gov. Dan R. Garrison. Williams agreed to resign in order to keep it from being made public.

In addition to several specific charges, the report charged that Williams improperly had handled the acquisition and sale of public lands, the then attorney general, Fred O. Wilson, accused the commissioner of conspiring closely with oil drilling permit speculators.

Although the report itself does not list the names of any of the "speculators," accompanying documents indicate that the biggest operator was Fred H. H. Townsend, a Phoenix attorney.

They also indicate that Townsend and Williams conspired in federal oil lease speculation.

Illegalities in Report
The report charges that "the land commissioner permitted and encouraged certain promoters to collect many thousands of dollars from individuals unfamiliar with the true nature of their investment in alleged oil leases."

It then went on to say that the so-called leases are nothing more than permits to prospect for oil. "These permits," it said, "are provided for by law at a cost of 50 cents each per acre."

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U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
TUCSON AND VICINITY: Slightly cooler.
Temperatures:
Yesterday: HIGH—37 LOW—20
Year Ago: HIGH—37 LOW—42

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TUCSON, ARIZONA, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1953

SECTION A

SIXTY-SIX PAGES

PRICE FIFTEEN CENTS

Confidence Game Smashed

Thomas Ward, 54 (at left), shown entering the county jail yesterday morning after his arrest. He was charged with a \$155,000 confidence game.

PHOENIX, Feb. 28.—(Special)—A confidence game involving three strangers who had groomed him as their victim in an ancient horse race swindle.

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SECTION A SIXTY-SIX PAGES PRICE FIFTEEN CENTS

IRAN'S PREMIER MOSSADEGH FORCES TO TAKE REFUGE IN PARLIAMENT AS ROTTERS SMASH GATES TO HIS HOME

Key Men in Tehran Turmoil

Shah Cancels Plans For Leaving Nation

TEHRAN, Iran, Feb. 28.—(AP)—Mossaddegh supporting the young shah and Iran's powerful old Moslem religious leader crashed down today with the gates of Premier Mohammed Mossaddegh's home today with a jeep and forced the aged premier to flee to parliament.

The shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who wears the title of emperor of emperors, canceled plans to leave Iran.

The premier's escape was made under covering gunfire of his residence guard.

Some demonstrators were wounded but their leader, driving the jeep through the yard, escaped unhurt.

In a short time, a large delegation, clad in pajamas, fled from the rear.

Mossaddegh took refuge first in the adjoining offices of the U. S. government's Point Four program and then in the usually inactive parliament building.

In rapid order, the shah's cabinet meeting during his flight.

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