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RACE WIRE HUMS A SOOTHING TUNE

Operator Swears It Calms
Bettor's Palpitations

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28 (AP) —A sports service operator told Senate investigators today that his clients paid him up to \$50 a day to relieve acute "tension and anxiety" about the outcome of horse races.

Albert Tollin, 30-year-old partner and general manager of the Delaware Sports Service, testified that his flashes from the track were available only to professional bettors who placed legitimate wagers.

He insisted that he did not provide service to illegal bookmaking establishments. He said he would shut off his service to anyone who turned out to be a bookmaker. But he has never had to do this, he said.

At a hearing of the Senate Investigations subcommittee, Mr. Tollin conceded that some customers were known to him only as Jo Jo, Biff, and Charlie Eye.

Price Range Given

Senator John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas and chairman, asked if bookmakers did not constitute his clientele.

"Not at the prices I charge," the witness answered.

He said he charged \$20 for flashing the winner of one race, \$30 for two races and \$50 for five, the most he would distribute to one person.

Mr. Tollin said he flashed the unofficial results of races all over the country from a three-story building in Wilmington, Del. He said his service could receive about thirty telephone calls at a time, although 100 phone lines ran into the building.

He said he disagreed with a statement made by his father, Joseph Tollin, at a hearing of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Committee several years ago. The elder Tollin said:

"Our service would have probably no value except to a bookmaker."

The witness told the Senators: "I can honestly state it [the service] is a necessity for the professional bettor, but for a bookmaker it is of no value."

Subcommittee aides told Mr. Tollin his customers included a man known as Santo Dimiano of Reading, Pa., listed by the police as a numbers gambler, and another named Frank Sorrentino. Mr. McClellan said Sorrentino had been convicted of "about everything in the book."

The witness said he did not recognize either name and did not know if they were gamblers.

The subcommittee also questioned Walter Shaw, former

equipment engineer for the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, about an electronic device used by gamblers.

The device, known variously as a "cheese box" and an "automatic dialing transfer equipment device," can be used to bypass phone company long-distance recorders.

Mr. Shaw said he had invented the device but denied it was intended for use in making unrecorded long-distance calls. He said he was "100 per cent sorry" he had become mixed up with it.

He invoked the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination, refusing to say whether he had installed a device in the Manhattan home of Archie John Gianunzio.

The cheese box looks like a table-model radio. Witnesses have given conflicting testimony on how it works. They seemed agreed, however, that what happens is this:

An incoming long-distance call to the phone to which it is attached produces a preliminary busy signal, and the call goes down on phone company records as not completed. Actually, however, the cheese box records the conversation, and can automatically relay it to a different phone number.

Police authorities testified last week that this complicated the obtaining of evidence by wiretapping. New York State law allows police wiretapping to obtain evidence.

Three models of the device were shown to the subcommittee last week. Two, apparently those most commonly used, were about a foot and a half long by ten inches high and ten inches wide. The other was a little smaller.

Walter Wassmer, a former investigator of the staff of the Delaware Attorney General, was asked whether evidence indicated that Mr. Tollin's was a "past-post operation." This is a term for placing a bet after the race has been run, but before the bookmaker knows the winner.

This practice is usually done, witnesses have said, by arranging to obtain results through electronic devices that work faster than the services available to the bookmaker.

Mr. Wassmer said he believed the service was more than that.

"I think it's a service to those who are past-posting, a service to bookmakers and a service to professional bettors," he said.