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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Whalley Elephants Bought at Sale

By Drew Pearson

Last Christmas about 100 prominent Republicans received small teakwood elephants as Christmas remembrances from Rep. J. Irving Whalley of Windber, Pa.

Whalley had just come back from a taxpayer-financed junket to the Far East as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and just before Christmas he sent the following note to Gov. William Scranton of Pennsylvania and other Republican friends:

"Dear _____: Our Far East subcommittee just returned from Vietnam, Thailand, India and Pakistan. While in India—the land of the elephants—I purchased a few hand-carved replicas of the elephant because it is the symbol of our party.

"I am sending one to you as a small remembrance of your kindness to me and knowing that you have always been active in the party.

"With kindest regards," signed "Irv."

What the recipients of the Republican elephants didn't know was that Congressman Whalley actually purchased them not on his Far East trip but at a bargain sale.

They were first bought by

Heinz Rollman, a Republican candidate for Congress from North Carolina some years before. Rollman had purchased several hundred elephants from the India Nepal Gift House, Inc., at 3 E. 28th st., New York, to help his election campaign.

The elephants were not sufficient to elect him in the traditionally Democratic state of North Carolina, so Rollman turned them over to the Republican Congressional Committee for \$1 each. Whalley then purchased 100 and kept them three years, until last Christmas.

The recipients of the elephants, ignorant of all this, were impressed. Wrote Gov. William W. Scranton on Dec. 30, 1965:

"Dear Irv:

"You are a wonder!

"I have received the wooden elephant which you brought from India. I certainly appreciate your thinking of me while abroad.

"With many thanks for your thoughtfulness and with best wishes, sincerely yours, William W. Scranton, Governor."

Thought Control

Hard-hitting young Congressman John Dingell, the Detroit Democrat, is getting to the bottom of some of the most potent links between American big business and American thought control—namely, the alliance between defense contractors, the Defense Department and retired generals and admirals.

Here is one case now before the Federal Communications Commission, that of General Tire and Rubber Company, which manufactures the Polaris missile, one of the most important weapons in the U.S. arsenal, and which also operates a vast network for molding the thought of the American people. The FCC is considering relicensing General Tire's KHJ in Los Angeles.

Here is the farflung network of General Tire and Rubber:

1. Through RKO General, Inc., General Tire operates 19 different radio and television properties, including the Yankee Network and RKO General Phovision Co., engaged in the pay-television operation at Hartford, Conn.

2. Independent Video Theaters, Inc., owner of a chain of motion-picture theaters in the Southwest.

3. Vumore, Inc., owner of a large number of community television properties.

4. Independent Video Theaters, which owns 29.5 per cent of H & B American Corp., one of the largest Community Antenna TV owners in the country.

5. RKO Pictures, Inc., is 100 per cent owned by General Tire, which also owns Pittsburgh Outdoors Advertising Corp., 82 per cent; Frontier Airlines, Inc., 98.6 per cent, and Aerojet-General Corp., 84.6 per cent.

In addition, Rep. Edward Hebert (D-La.) has shown that Aerojet hired 66 retired ad-

mirals, generals and other military officers.

Adam and a Lady

Once Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) was Adam Clayton Powell's greatest champion. But ever since the Congressman from Harlem, as chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, tried to take the higher education bill away from Mrs. Green, these two Democrats hardly speak to each other—except to fight.

Their latest clash came over a proposed \$50,000 fund Mrs. Green wants in order to investigate spending by the U.S. Office of Education. Powell blocked this several times while it was before the Accounts Subcommittee of the House Administration Committee.

Finally, Accounts Chairman Rep. Sam Friedel (D-Md.) scheduled a vote, though only after Mrs. Green angrily challenged him: "Why are you taking orders from Adam Powell? He's not your boss. We're entitled to a vote on this \$50,000 fund."

"All right, I'll bring it up," promised Friedel.

"Will you put that in writing?" requested the lady from Oregon.

Friedel did so and at the next meeting of the Accounts Subcommittee Mrs. Green presented the paper signed by the Marylander, and asked for a vote. The members voted unanimously to approve the \$50,000.

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