

Chicago American

2 Wheeling Aids Seized in Bribery

See Editorial, Page 12

BY DOROTHY ARNS

Allegations of bribery involving two village trustees rocked the suburb of Wheeling today.

The trustees, Fred Cargill, 49, of 167 S. Milwaukee av., and Edward Gieseke Jr., 50, of 295 E. Walnut av., were arrested yesterday on charges of conspiracy to take a \$1,210 bribe and of taking a bribe from two home builders.

Middle Man Nabbed

Arrested with them was Frank Miramonti, 47, part owner of the Union hotel, 124 S. Milwaukee av., Wheeling. He is charged with conspiracy. He is alleged to have acted as the "middle man" and accepted the check for Cargill and Gieseke.

The three men were arrested on warrants issued by Police Magistrate Theodore Scanlon on a complaint

drawn by Eldred Benz, assistant state's attorney, on the basis of statements from the builders.

Released on Bond

The defendants, who deny the charges, were released on \$2,000 bond each for appearance before Scanlon on May 5.

The builders are Frank Budnick, 44, of 8110 Knox av., Skokie, and Raymond Willer, 42, of 311 MacArthur dr., Mount Prospect. Budnick is president of both the Wheeling Building Trust, 1900 Shermer av., Northbrook, and Anda, Budnick & Miller, Inc., 210 Greenwood av., Glenview. Willer is a partner in the firms.

The complaint, signed by Budnick, alleges that he and Willer paid the money to get approval for a street paving project in a 59 home subdivision in the suburb.

Benz said Budnick and Willer had given their statements to the state' attorney's

2 Wheeling Trustees Face Bribe Charges



[Continued from first page]

office in February, and that the matter has been under investigation since.

Tell of Street Offer

According to Benz, the statements assert:

Budnick and Willer built the new homes in 1959 in the Holland subdivision at Dundee and Wolf roads, and had to put in a private street. The street was topped with frown crushed rock instead of white stone.

Budnick and Willer said they were told this was improper and that they would have to replace the paving. Budnick said the new work would have cost his company nearly \$20,000.

The statements allege that Cargill and Gieseke suggested on Aug. 23, 1959, that asphalt could be used on the road at less cost, and also

suggested they be given \$6,000 for "campaign funds."

Cargill and Gieseke told Budnick that the original work could be approved in return for the money, according to the complaint.

Hotel Bill Mentioned

But Budnick and Willer countered they could not pay that much and, according to their statements, Cargill and Gieseke then suggested the matter could be settled if they paid an old hotel bill.

The bill involved expenses for a "Democratic victory" celebration in April, 1959, at the Union hotel. Budnick and Willer said they were told they would have "clear sailing" after the bill was paid.

Willer went to the hotel, according to the statements. The check was drawn on the

Anda, Budnick & Willer, Inc. account Oct. 9, 1959.

Check Deposited

Budnick and Willer said in their statements that Miramonti accepted the check, giving Willer a receipt for it. The check was deposited Oct. 15 in the Wheeling State bank to the hotel's account and indorsed by Miramonti.

The receipt for the check bears these notations:

"Buffet dinners & refreshments tax and tip included. Sub-contractor party."

Budnick said his firms never held a party in the hotel. He and Willer said that the street in the subdivision was approved by village trustees Oct. 12 — three days after Willer gave Miramonti the check.

Cargill, owner of a gas

station, has been a trustee since April, 1959. Gieseke, an official of an asphalt company, served as village president from 1953 to 1957. He has been on the board of trustees since April, 1959.

DID THIS CHECK PAVE THE WAY FOR STREET PROJECT IN WHEELING?

Bribery Must Be Stopped

THE FIRST JAIL SENTENCE for trying to bribe a policeman has been imposed, and we hope there won't need to be many more before motorists who have been accustomed to buying their way out of violations get the idea that this is much more likely to be a way to get into trouble than to get out of it.

Judge James A. Geroulis, sitting in Holiday court, imposed the sentence—30 days in the Bridewell—on George Knight, whom

he also fined \$180 for six traffic violations.

Knight was arrested early Sunday by Patrolman Edward Tansey of Town Hall district, who testified that Knight offered him \$6 to forget the violations.

A jail sentence is severe punishment but bribery is a serious offense. Unless it is suppressed, there will never be effective enforcement of traffic laws in Chicago, and crooked policemen will continue to disgrace the department.

TWO WHEELING AIDS ACCUSED IN BRIBE CASE

Fred Cargill, 49, of 167 S. Milwaukee av., Wheeling, and Edward Gieseke Jr., 50, of 295 E. Walnut av., Wheeling, both village trustees, were at liberty on bond Tuesday, accused of conspiracy to take a \$1,210 bribe.

The complaint was filed by two paving contractors, Raymond Willer, 42, of 311 MacArthur dr., Mount Prospect, and Frank Budnick, 44, of 8110 Knox av., Skokie. The contractors allege that after they completed a paving contract in Wheeling, the trustees refused to approve it on the ground that it failed to meet specifications.

The complaint says that Cargill and Gieseke suggested that the paving would be approved if the contractors would settle a \$1,210 bill for a Democratic victory dinner given in the hotel at 124 S. Milwaukee av., Wheeling, in April, 1959. The contractors said the paving was approved a few days after they gave the hotel a check.

Frank Miramonti, 47, a co-owner of the hotel, is charged with conspiracy to accept a bribe. All will appear before Police Magistrate Ted Scanlon in Wheeling on May 5.

Charge 2 Officials In Bribery Plot

Oct 26/30

Wheeling Trustees, Hotel Owner Freed in \$2,000 Bond

Two Wheeling village trustees and a Wheeling hotel owner have been charged in an alleged bribery conspiracy.

The three were freed on \$2,000 bond each Tuesday after their arrest Monday night.

Complaints against them were signed Monday by Frank J. Budnick, operator of the Wheeling Building Trust, a contracting firm.

* * *

HE TOLD Eldred Benz, assistant state's attorney, he paid a \$1,210 hotel bill for a village election victory party held April 24, 1959.

Budnick said that after he paid the bill, the village board approved his request to alter street requirements for a subdivision his firm is building at Wolf and Dundee rds.

The trustees — Edward Gieseke Jr., former village president, and Fred L. Cargill — were charged with conspiracy to take a bribe and taking the bribe.

Frank J. Miramonti, partner in the Union hotel, 124 S. Milwaukee, Wheeling, was charged with conspiracy.

BUDNICK, of 8110 Knox, Skokie, said one of his employes paid the \$1,210 to the hotel by check Oct. 9, Benz said.

Benz said the employe was given a receipt for the money that said the payment was for a party given by Budnick.

But, Benz said, Budnick had not given any party and the money went to pay for the victory party.

At the time the bill was paid, Benz said, Budnick was seeking village board approval to use gravel instead of macadam in street bases in the subdivision.

* * *

GIESEKE, of 295 E. Walnut, and Cargill, of 167 S. Milwaukee, both in Wheeling, denied the charges.

Ted C. Scanlon, Wheeling police magistrate, said the three will face the charges before him May 5 in Wheeling police court.

'Politics' Are Blamed

Two village trustees and a co-owner of the Union hotel vigorously denied charges Wednesday that they conspired to accept a bribe from the developer of the Holland re-subdivision, Wheeling.

Free today on \$2,000 bond each are trustees Fred "Scotty" Cargill, 167 S. Milwaukee ave., and Edward Gieseke Jr., 295 E. Walnut ave. Also out on bond is Frank Miramonti, partner in the Union hotel, 124 S. Milwaukee ave.

All three vehemently deny any wrongdoing. They were arrested Monday on warrants signed by Frank J. Budnick, operator of Wheeling Building Trust, contracting firm for 59 homes in the re-subdivision at Wolf and Dundee rds.

"The whole thing, from beginning to end, is political," Cargill told the Herald.

"I'm astounded at these accusations," he added.

CARGILL, 49, and Gieseke 50, are accused of receiving a bribe in the amount of \$1,210 to settle the bill for an election victory party held last April.

Miramonti, 47, is charged with conspiracy to receive a bribe. He is alleged to have accepted payment from Raymond L. Willer, Mt. Prospect, a salesman for Budnick's firm, for the bill incurred at the Union hotel.

Budnick, a resident of Skokie, claims that after the hotel tab was paid, the village board approved a street base substitution in the Holland re-subdivision. Prior to that, he said, the board refused to approve the use of gravel as a street base.

Eldred Benz, assistant state's attorney, drew the complaints on the basis of Budnick's statements. According to the complaints, the payoff was made on October 9, 1959.

MIRAMONTI accepted a check from Miller and issued a receipt, noting on it the money was to pay for a "sub-contractor party" which was never held, the statements say.

The check was endorsed by Miramonti and deposited in the Wheeling State bank under the hotel's account on October 15.

Cargill and Gieseke, both members of the Associated Party elected to the Wheeling board of trustees in April, 1959, say they know nothing of any bribe solicitation.

CARGILL, owner of Scotty's service station, 13 N. Milwaukee ave., until a few months ago, admitted knowledge of the bill at the hotel, but said "backers" of his candidacy had promised to take care of it.

"The first I heard of its being paid," he said, "was when I was asked to go to the police station Monday."

Cargill was booked at the station Monday at 4 p.m. Miramonti was brought in at 7:45 p.m. and Gieseke came in at 11:45 p.m.

A preliminary hearing before Police Magistrate Ted C. Scanlon has been scheduled for Thursday, May 5, at 3 p.m. The defendants con-

sulted counsel in Chicago Tuesday.

NEXT THURSDAY Judge Scanlon will hear full details of the case, starting from August 23, 1959, the day Cargill and Gieseke are alleged to have originally solicited the bribe.

Complainant Budnick told Benz the trustees first suggested "campaign funds," but that when he balked at this proposal, the sum was lowered to \$1,210.



SIX SUBURBS have now selected to represent their communities in the Northwest Suburban Pageant to be held in Des Plaines. One of the 18 winners will be the next Miss Illinois and possible finalists are (l. to r.) row one, Anderson and Lynda Eaton, of

Miss No Pageant

Tom Brice, Wheeling Jaycee, thanks this week to the many who have assisted the Jaycees in the Northwest Suburban pageant being held at West Maine high school. Brice especially thanked M

Wheeling HERALD

11th Year — 24

Wheeling, Illinois

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1960

9 Sections, 92 Pages \$4.00 A Years — 10c A Cop

BRIBERY CHARGES PROMPT DENIALS

'Politics' Are Blamed

★ ★ ★ *Here's Late Summary In Bribe Controversy*

Two village trustees and a co-owner of the Union hotel vigorously denied charges Wednesday that they conspired to accept a bribe from the developer of the Holland re-subdivision, Wheeling.

Free today on \$2,000 bond each are trustees Fred "Scotty" Cargill, 167 S. Milwaukee ave., and Edward Gieseke Jr., 295 E. Walnut ave. Also out on bond is Frank Miramonti, partner in the Union hotel, 124 S. Milwaukee ave.

All three vehemently deny any wrongdoing. They were arrested Monday on warrants signed by Frank J. Budnick, operator of Wheeling Building Trust, contracting firm for 59 homes in the re-subdivision at Wolf and Dundee rds.

"The whole thing, from beginning to end, is political," Cargill told the Herald.

sulted counsel in Chicago Tuesday.

NEXT THURSDAY Judge Scanlon will hear full details of the case, starting from August 23, 1959, the day Cargill and Gieseke are alleged to have originally solicited the bribe.

Complainant Budnick told Benz, the trustees first suggested "campaign funds," but that when he balked at this proposal, the sum was lowered to \$210.

Reporters for Paddock Publications have been investigating the alleged bribery conspiracy in Wheeling since the nature of the case was disclosed Monday.

The following sidelights are published for the first time:

—Fred "Scotty" Cargill, village trustee named in the complaints, strongly suspects his political enemies of "trumping up" the charges. "A reporter for a metropolitan daily was waiting at the police station when I was arrested," he pointed out. "Who tipped her off in advance?"

—At a village board meeting August 3, 1959, accused trustee Edward Gieseke Jr. voted "yes" on a motion to discuss a Holland re-subdivision street base irregularity with Frank J. Budnick, owner of the property. Trustee Cargill did not attend the meeting.

—On October 12, 1959, three days after

the bribe was alleged to have been paid, Cargill and Gieseke both voted "yes" on a proposal to allow the Holland street improvement plan to go ahead.

—Raymond L. Willer, 311 MacArthur, Mt. Prospect, who works for Budnick and paid the Union hotel bill, told reporters he made the payment "because, at the time, it seemed like the only course to take in order to get the streets approved."

—Assistant state's attorney Eldred Benz said Budnick and Willer volunteered their statements in February, and that the case has been under investigation ever since. The accusations, therefore, were made more than five months after the first alleged bribe solicitation.

—Willer said he had "no comment" when asked if influential Chicago politicians had attempted to get the assistant state's attorney to drop the charges.

"I'm astounded at the e

Here's Late Summary In Bribe Controversy

Reporters for Paddock Publications have been investigating the alleged bribery conspiracy in Wheeling since the nature of the case was disclosed Monday.

The following sidelights are published for the first time:

—Fred "Scotty" Cargill, village trustee named in the complaints, strongly suspects his political enemies of "trumping up" the charges. "A reporter for a metropolitan daily was waiting at the police station when I was arrested," he pointed out. "Who tipped her off in advance?"

—At a village board meeting August 3, 1959, accused trustee Edward Gieseke Jr. voted "yes" on a motion to discuss a Holland re-subdivision street base irregularity with Frank J. Budnick, owner of the property. Trustee Cargill did not attend the meeting.

—On October 12, 1959, three days after

the bribe was alleged to have been paid, Cargill and Gieseke both voted "yes" on a proposal to allow the Holland street improvement plan to go ahead.

—Raymond L. Willer, 311 MacArthur, Mt. Prospect, who works for Budnick and paid the Union hotel bill, told reporters he made the payment "because, at the time, it seemed like the only course to take in order to get the streets approved."

—Assistant state's attorney Eldred Benz said Budnick and Willer volunteered their statements in February, and that the case has been under investigation ever since. The accusations, therefore, were made more than five months after the first alleged bribe solicitation.

—Willer said he had "no comment" when asked if influential Chicago politicians had attempted to get the assistant state's attorney to drop the charges.