

2 Senators Vs. Kelley On Hunting Down Mafia

By DON HOENSCHELL

LANSING -- Mafia hunters are agonizing in private at the threat that the games politicians play will destroy their investigation into organized crime in Michigan.

Capitol sources said the turmoil raised by two state senators and Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley has only hurt the Michigan State Police Intelligence Division and from Kelley's own

crime-busters corps are tracking out every lead given them. Peter J. Lazaro, Mafia defector turned informer, has been under around-the-clock police protection at his Troy home for the past eight months.

IN A DAZZLING display of public relations piling, State Senators George W. Kuhn (R-West Bloomfield) and Robert J. Huber (R-Troy) and Kelley's

office lobbied press releases at each other last week. After the cease-fire, these points became clear:

• Kuhn's charges that the State Police are lying to let go their results of months of work but are being held back by Kelley for political reasons are false. The State Police haven't finished but in any event wouldn't defer to Kelley if they wanted indictments.

• Professional investigators never inclined to cozy up to political people, felt that the Kuhn-Huber versus Kelley uproar is calling undue attention to work that by definition must be done in secrecy.

• Despite other Kuhn imputations, there is no real

split between the State Police and Kelley's own investigators, headed by former Detroit Mafia expert Vincent J. Piersante.

THERE HAS ALWAYS been abrasiveness between two groups of investigators working the same side of the street—and there always will be. After some early problems, Kelley's men and the State Police are getting on better than ever.

Kuhn, who represents Livonia, Plymouth and Farmington was thus partially rebuffed. State Police are mum on Kuhn-Huber statements, that Lazaro has been taken to "an undisclosed place" twice. Kuhn says the moves were for security reasons. Huber indicates he has talked directly with Lazaro. Kuhn mentioned at a press conference Tuesday that Lazaro had been taken to Kuhn's home at least once for talks.

In the press conference—attended by five of the approximately 25 reporters on the capital beat -- Kuhn blasted Kelley for "foot-dragging and politicking" on the probe and on its revelations.

HE SAID THAT Kelley's reluctance might be based on the fact that names of public officials so far unofficially linked to the problem have been Democrats, including former Oakland County Prosecutor S. Jerome Bronson, now an Appeals Court judge.

Kuhn said he was trying to budge the investigation off dead center. Kelley and others said the probe is taking time, that similar inquiries elsewhere have taken two years or more. State Police agree.

So Kuhn asked U.S. Atty. Gen. John Mitchell to take over the investigation. In his request, Kuhn said he had information that Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents had been paid off by the Mafia.

Throughout the press conference, Kuhn parried questions seeking more specific information. Kuhn kept repeating: "I'm

not mentioning any names" and "I'm not going to get into that."

HE SAID HIS source was "reliable," but declined to discuss the source, whether it was Lazaro or whether it was a charge developed by investigators. Kuhn said:

"I'm alleging that certain IRS agents have been paid off by the Mafia, it's up to the Justice Department to find out whether this is true or false."

"I think the state has given up its chance to investigate this matter (state issues)."

Kuhn later asked for an investigation by the Legislature of Kelley's office as it is involved in its own investigation of the Mafia.

KELLEY ZEROED IN on both Kuhn and Huber, referring to them only as "two senators." "The fact is that their interference has hurt rather than helped the investigation, and has delayed rather than expedited its conclusion."

"Harking back to the days of their favorite investigator, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, these senators seek to change a professional investigation into a public witch hunt. We who have the legal responsibility for this investigation simply will not let this happen."

Kelley said the last time Kuhn and Huber investigated anything—the newspaper strike—he had to "save them from going to jail for contempt of court." "I do not wait that kind of aptitude applied to this investigation."

Kelley's beleaguered position was relieved by Gov. Milliken, who after a long briefing gave Kelley and his staff a clean bill of health.

FOLLOWING the latest Kuhn-Huber way, Kelley again went with his crime fighters to give Milliken another briefing. The day before, he gave a telephone briefing to Henry Peterson, chief of the organized crime section of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Politically, Kelley was faster on his feet than Kuhn and Huber—realizing the partisan score by briefing Milliken. He sidetracked the U.S. Justice Department business by calling Peterson. Kuhn and Huber want action, and investigators say it can't be rushed.

Critics of the Michigan one-man grand jury system contend it is slow and incompetent—largely because investigative plum is to be used politically and not for indictments are handed down that smear reputa-

tions and ruin careers before a legal case can be constructed. Whatever happens between Kelley and the two senators

now, this much is plain among the press: They would like to have a moratorium—or at least to be left alone—on politics

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C'ville Youngsters Hear Poet

Third grade students of Mrs. Helen McMillen at Bolston elementary school in Clarenceville have been studying poetry this entire school year memorizing one poem a month.

But the month of May marked the first time the poet, whose poem "Michigan" the students memorized, visited the class and read some of his work. He is Harry Edward Jones of Livonia, grandfather of Bolston third grader Van Jones.

Jones' book of poetry, published in 1955, is entitled "Rhymes of a Common Man." For his poem "Michigan" he was commended by then Governor G. Mennen Williams. Much of the inspiration for the poems was received as Jones traveled throughout Michigan's northern regions fishing and hunting.

DURING HIS VISIT to the third grade he answered questions students had about poets and poems.

"Michigan" as recited by third graders for Jones is as follows:

M stands for the millions
Of your tall and stately pine
I the many islands
Which dot your lakes so fine
C is for the cedars
That grace your winding streams

H the hardwood forests
Which border your ravines,
I means Indian legends
We read about with pride,
G stands for the Great Lakes
Which lie on every side,
A means the abundance
Of many kinds of game,
N the natural beauty
To which you owe your fame,
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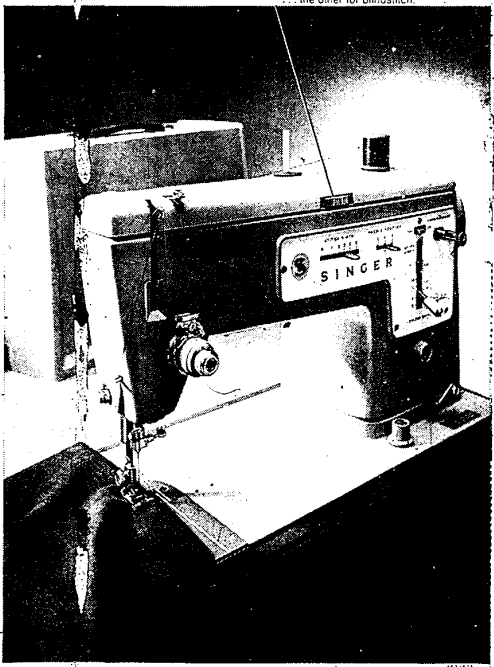
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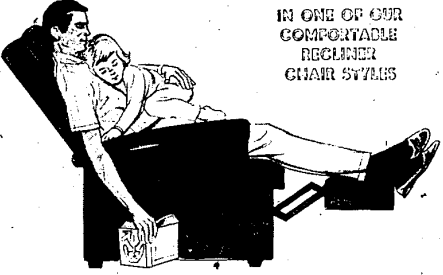
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