

CONGRESS MAY ACT IN BERGDOLL CASE

Edmonds Says He Will Ask Probe if War Department Doesn't Catch Slacker

QUESTIONS ANSELL'S ACTION

Washington, May 25.—Congressional investigation of the Bergdoll case was resumed today from two sources. Representative George W. Edmonds, Republican, of Philadelphia, in whose district the Bergdolls formerly lived, and still are, would introduce a resolution in the House calling for a thorough investigation into Bergdoll's escape and the circumstances surrounding it.

Representative Edmonds said he would wait a few days to give the department a chance to find Bergdoll before asking a congressional probe and putting army officers, War Department officials and Bergdoll's attorneys on the spot in an effort to fix responsibility for his escape.

Interested in Ansell. Closely following this development, it was learned that Representative Finis J. Garrett, of Tennessee, one of the Democratic leaders of the House and a member of the select House committee investigating the conduct of the war, has under consideration a similar resolution aimed at discovering the relations between Bergdoll and his attorney and their knowledge, if any, of the family plans for the disposal of large property interests about the time of Bergdoll's second disappearance.

Is Considering Probe. Representative Garrett admitted he was "considering" a demand for an investigation, but refused otherwise to discuss the case. He has been following developments since the escape, and he knows to be interested in Ansell's activities in obtaining Bergdoll's temporary release from prison, while still connected with the Graham committee.

So far as the Washington developments are concerned, the situation stands now as follows: Ansell admits he arranged for Bergdoll's trip to Philadelphia, believing his own gold was hidden near Hagerstown, Md. Adjutant General P. C. Harris admits granting permission for Bergdoll's trip, but says it was specifically understood Bergdoll was not to be taken to his home.

Secretary of War Baker, although denying all knowledge of the plan for Bergdoll's trip until after he had escaped, admits official responsibility as head of the War Department for the acts of his subordinate. "Moral responsibility" for Bergdoll's capture is placed by Adjutant General Harris, Ansell and Colonel Edward B. Bailey, his law partner, who have offered a total of \$4000 reward for information leading to Bergdoll's capture or his return to military custody.

Department of Justice officials declare they were not informed before the capture of Bergdoll's hope of escape and of a plot to make his getaway. This Secretary Baker and other War Department officials deny. Colonel A. B. Cox, director of the division of investigation of the Military Intelligence Service, is conducting an investigation into the case for the War Department, under order of Secretary Baker.

The War, State and Navy Departments and the Department of Justice are co-operating efforts to had Bergdoll and return him to prison to serve out his five-year sentence. Ansell and Bailey disclaim any connection with Bergdoll's affairs other than that they were retained for his trial and to arrange for his release prior to his escape. They are obviously much worried by his flight. Ansell and Bailey also declare Judge John W. Westcott was associate counsel in the Bergdoll case, despite his denial of any connection with it.

Westcott Accepted Bergdoll Case Fee

Continued from Page One. wanted me to meet Mr. Ansell and see what he thought of him. Mr. Ansell thought of him as a brilliant man, and I thought he was a very nice fellow. He wanted to see how I would be impressed by him. As a matter of fact, I was very much impressed by him. Mr. Ansell was very much interested in my acquaintance and I thought him a man of exceptional ability. We conferred on various subjects and took up the brief which Mr. Ansell had prepared. He handed it to me and I thought it was a very able brief. After reading it I told Mr. Ansell I thought it was a very able brief and that there were several points brought out that were unanswerable. I told them of the conversation was so excellent that Secretary Baker should see it himself. I dictated the letter to Mr. Baker, enclosing the brief.

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MRS. FRIDA STECHER, Jovial wife of Grover Bergdoll's chauffeur, who declares she does not believe her 'Gene' is fleeing with escaped draft dodger.

received the impression I was retained by Mr. Gibboney, but that was untrue. Mr. Ansell, in his letter to the War Department, had no right to bring my name in as counsel. I merely discussed different points in the case with Mr. Gibboney, with whom I have been associated in various other legal matters. It was in that way that Mr. Gibboney came to discuss the Bergdoll case with me.

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Wood's Manager Advanced \$500,000. Continued from Page One. "And you are willing in behalf of your client to pay \$35,000," Senator Reed asked. "Yes."