

# Pass denies guilt

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Albert E. Pass, convicted in the Yablonski family murders, still

maintains his innocence despite being named anew as a key figure in the case, his attorney said here yesterday.

Harold Gondelman made the assertion hours after state murder warrants were issued in nearby Washington County against Pass' former boss, ousted United Mine Workers President W.A. "Tony" Boyle and UMW District 19 President William Turnblazer. "This has not changed my plans to represent Mr. Pass in

our efforts for a new trial," Gondelman said. "Mr. Pass still maintains his innocence," he added.

The noted defense attorney said he presently is working on a brief for a new trial and said he probably would submit it to Erie County Judge Edward Carney "within the next few weeks." Gondelman said if his request for a new trial fails, he will take his case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Gives chronology of events

# Gov't details Yablonski murder

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Here is a chronology of the events in the Yablonski murder case as alleged by the government or detailed in court records:

— July 1969 — The government alleges that the plot to kill Yablonski began five months before the scheduled United Mine Workers presidential contest between Joseph A. "Jock" Yablonski and incumbent W.A. "Tony" Boyle.

— Dec. 31, 1969 — Yablonski, his wife Margaret and daughter Charlotte are murdered in their Clarksville, Pa., farm home.

— Jan. 5, 1970 — The bodies of the Yablonskis are found by son Kenneth Yablonski.

— Jan. 21, 1970 — The FBI arrests Claude Vealey, Paul Gilly and Aubran Martin, charging them with the actual killings.

— June 23, 1971 — Vealey confesses, outlines his part in the murders and implicates Gilly and Martin.

— Nov. 12, 1971 — Martin convicted on three counts of murder and sentenced to death.

— March 1, 1972 — Gilly convicted on three counts of murder and sentenced to death.

— April 4, 1972 — Annette Gilly, wife of Paul Gilly, confesses, giving authorities the first inroad into the plot allegedly involving higher-ups in the United Mine Workers.

— April 12, 1972 — William J. Prater of LaFollette, Tenn., a union field representative, indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiracy to violate Yablonski's civil rights.

— April 15, 1972 — Prater charged by Pennsylvania with three counts of murder.

— May 2, 1972 — Albert Pass of Middlesboro, Ky., secretary-treasurer of District 19, indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiring to violate

murder and sentenced to death.

— May 3, 1972 — Siloos Huddleston, Annette's father and president of a UMW local in LaFollette, Tenn., confesses to having hired his son-in-law Paul Gilly for the murders and names Prater and Pass as the sources of alleged union money used for the assassination.

— May 5, 1972 — Pass charged by Pennsylvania with three counts of murder.

— March 26, 1973 — Prater convicted in Erie County Pa. Court on three counts of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Trial moved to Erie on a change of venue.

— April 10, 1973 — Prater gives authorities a detailed statement of his involvement, naming Pass as the man behind the purported plot.

Yablonski's civil rights.

— June 19, 1973 — Pass is convicted in Erie County Court of three counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to life.

— Sept. 5, 1973 — William J. Turnblazer, president of District 19, gives investigators information in which he implicates himself, Pass and ousted UMW President Boyle in the scheme to have Yablonski killed.

— Sept. 6, 1973 — Boyle and Turnblazer are charged by Pennsylvania with three counts of murder, based on Turnblazer's allegations.

— Sept. 6, 1973 — A federal grand jury in Pittsburgh returns indictments against Boyle and Turnblazer, charging both with conspiring to violate Yablonski's civil rights.

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## UMW District 19 has history of violence and bloodshed

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. (AP) — District 19 of the United Mine Workers union has had a history of violence and bloodshed dating from the Eastern Kentucky organizing wars of the 1930s to recent years when it was the operational center of a plot to murder union reformer Joseph Yablonski.

It has been a stronghold for supporters of ousted union president W.A. "Tony" Boyle.

Boyle and District 19's president, William J. Turnblazer, 52, of Middlesboro, were charged with murder yesterday in the slaying of Yablonski, his wife and daughter.

The two separate warrants were filed in Washington, Pa., 20 miles southwest of Pittsburgh.

Three UMW officials from District 19 already have been convicted in connection with the December 1969 slaying of the Yablonskis.

District 19, with headquarters in Middlesboro, covers five counties in southeast Kentucky and all of Tennessee.

The union's major support in the district comes from pensioners, many dating their membership to the days of John L. Lewis, who hand-picked Boyle to succeed him as UMW president.

The district includes about 1,400 working miners and about 4,000 retirees in its membership.

Boyle carried the district by a landslide over Yablonski in 1969, 4,651 votes to 391. Last fall, when Arnold Miller, who had taken up Yablonski's mantle of union reform, succeeded in

ousting Boyle from the union presidency, Boyle still proved his strength in District 19. He picked up 2,461 votes to 594 for Millers.

District 19 showed its loyalty to Boyle at the UMW's 1964 convention when groups of men from the area showed up on the convention floor wearing white miner's helmets with "Tony Boyle" stenciled on one side and "District 19" on the other. When dissenting delegates tried to interrupt Boyle's speech, the hardhats physically removed them from the floor.

William Turnblazer Sr., father of the man charged in the murder warrant, served as president of District 19 during the organizing wars of the 1930s.

Efforts to organize the Harlan County coal fields resulted in frequent violence between union men, company guards and law enforcement officials.

The problems came to a climax with the notorious "Battle of Evarts" in May 1936, when four men were shot to death in a battle between mine guards and pickets.

Although he was not in Kentucky at the time, Turnblazer Sr. was indicted with about 50 others, most of them miners and union leaders, on charges ranging from conspiracy to murder.

He was not convicted in the crimes but seven others were given life sentences.

William Turnblazer Sr. died in 1944. His son, a graduate of the University of Tennessee Law School, became president of District 19 Dec. 1, 1962.

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