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Testimony of Simon Partnoy
5017 Wyandotte
Kansas City, Missouri

Partnoy operated the wire service in Kansas City from 1939 down to May 2, 1950, when the service went out of business. The wire service was originally called the Harmony Publishing Company, but around the first of 1947 the name was changed to the Missouri-Kansas or Mo-Kan News Company. More recently the name was changed to Universal News Distributing Company.

The news distributing company has been owned by Eddy Spitz, "Snag" Klein, Thomas Lococo and the late Charles Gargotta since the fall of 1946.

Attached is a chart of Partnoy's descriptions of the wire service operating out of Kansas City.

When Partnoy went into the wire service business in 1939, he dealt with James Ragen of Continental. Ragen told him he would have to have some sort of publishing enterprise connected with the service so he could classify the company as a publishing company. It was for this reason that Partnoy started the Eagle Scratch Sheet.

When Mr. Partnoy was asked as to why Mr. Spitz should get such good arrangements with Trans-America as compared with those Partnoy had been able to get with Continental, Partnoy said that Spitz must have had some kind of influence some place.

Partnoy says that at the time he dealt with Spitz regarding the sale of the business to Spitz, he did not know that any one was associated with Spitz.

The unfinished answer of Mr. Partnoy's indicates that he thinks the stories about his being muscled in on are probably old rumors out out by Continental in an attempt to blacken their competitor.

Partnoy says that he has no knowledge of a fallow by the name of Burke being beaten up on the corner of 14th and Main in 1946. He does know that the sheriff's office asked him about it. He does not know of any Burke associated with Continental Wire Service.

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The only threat that Mr. Partnoy ever received a threat made by Eddy Lenz, of Continental, after Partnoy went with Trans-America. This threat was merely a threat to put Partnoy and his associates out of business by taking their customers away from them.

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SIMON PARTNOY AND WIRE SERVICE
AS DESCRIBED BY PARTNOY

Date
1923

to 1939 Partnoy was a telegraph operator for General News Bureau, the to- nationwide track- bookie service of Moe Annenberg

	News Came From	Ownership and Financial Arrangements	Area Served	Comment
1939 to Fall 1946	Continental News Service (Partnoy dealt with Ragen)	Nominally Partnoy was the owner of Harmony Publishing Company, but actually he got \$125 per week, plus expenses, from the service and the rest (about \$1500/week) was sent to Missouri Publishing Co. (Continental	Iowa Nebraska Kansas Missouri & Oklahoma (Milwaukee for short time)	Bill Lynch of St. Louis was liaison man from Continental to Harmony. Partnoy was dissatisfied with Ragen's failure to let Partnoy keep profits as promised. No competition. * Ragen killed two months before shift to Trans-America
Fall 1946 to Mid. 1947	Trans-America (Partnoy dealt with Spitz and Pat Burns	Spitz et. al. took over ownership and paid Partnoy \$7500 and \$200/ week plus 15% of profit. Spitz et. al. paid \$1000/ week to Trans-America. Name changed to Universal	Iowa Nebraska Kansas Missouri & Oklahoma	Partnoy sells out to Spitz et. al. because Spitz has competing service and Spitz gives him more money. No muscle. Period of Competition Mid-West Ill. (Lenz & McLaughlin) went around trying to take customers. Mid-West got one man in Tulsa. Spitz traveled to keep customers. St. Joseph man took from both for a while
Mid. 1947 to May 2, 1950	Mid-West Illinois (Chicago) (Dealt with Ed. Lenz and Lester McLaughlin In 1949 began to remit to General News Service Bureau (Chicago)	Spitz et. al. owners. Partnoy received \$150/week plus 15% of profit. Spitz et. al. paid ? /week to Mid-West Ill.	Mid-West does not let them have out- of-town business Kansas City, Mo. & Kansas City, Ks.	Trans-America went out of business. Spitz called Ed. Lenz to get service. No competition.

