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# Stewart Washington Letter.

NEA Service Writer.  
Washington—Washington's all excited over the Doheny and Sinclair oil decisions.

The capital feels a proprietary interest in these cases. Here they started in the Senate. Here they'll wind up, in the Supreme Court.

In the meantime Washington's watching developments, as they break out, here and there.

It's no exaggeration to say they've got her guessing—the shape they've been taking in the last few weeks.

First, Federal Judge Paul J. McCormick, of Los Angeles, fooled Washington by deciding the Doheny case in the government's favor, Washington expected a decision the other way.

However, Doheny having lost "Sinclair surely will," though Washington, for all the dope indicated that the government's evidence against the Sinclair lease was a good deal stronger than against the Doheny interests.

And then Federal Judge T. Blake Kennedy, of Cheyenne, decided in favor of Sinclair.

Judge McCormick found evidences of fraud in ex-Secretary of the Interior Fall's oil deal with Doheny. Judge Kennedy found no such evidence in Fall's deal with Sinclair.

There's nothing inconsistent in that. They were different transactions. There may have been fraud in one and not in the other.

Still, Washington was surprised. Of the two, she had been a little less suspicious of the Doheny than of the Sinclair lease.

Fall and Doheny had been old pals. Doheny was the type of man to help out a friend who was in hard financial luck.

That, he said, was all there was to that \$100,000 loan he made to Fall. It sounded a bit fishy, but Washington recognized there was a chance it might be true.

Sinclair, on the other hand, wasn't sized up as the kind of individual to let good money go for nothing.

Yet Judge McCormick refused to swallow the explanations of Fall and Doheny, while Judge Kennedy readily accepted those of Fall and Sinclair.

Nevertheless, both judges may—theoretically—be right as to the matter of fraud.

They can't both be right concerning the question of the late President Harding's power to transfer control of the government's oil lands from the navy to the interior department.

Judge McCormick says Harding exceeded his authority when he made this transfer, that the land remained the navy's in spite of him, and that Fall's lease to Doheny was void because he was disposing of what belonged to another department.

According to McCormick, it was void regardless of the question of one crooked deal between Fall and Doheny—though McCormick added, incidentally, that the deal was crooked, too.

Judge Kennedy holds that President Harding did act within his rights, so the Sinclair deal is o.k.

Kennedy agrees that it wouldn't have been o.k. if Fall and Sinclair had framed it crookedly, but he finds no evidence that they did.

The nub of the dispute to be settled on appeal is whether President Harding did what the law entailed him to do, or went too far.

If he went too far the leases to Doheny and Sinclair are no good, and it's unnecessary, so far as the civil suits are concerned, to discuss the fraud issue.

If not, the leases stand, unless fraud is proved.

The criminal cases still hang fire. Doheny probably will wait to start his off-hoping for a reversal of Judge McCormick's decision.

Sinclair is apt to seek rapid action, before any higher court has time to spoil Judge Kennedy's vindication of him.

The civil and criminal actions are different, of course, but courts have considerable influence with one another, back and forth.

### MONKEY CASE IS CALLED MOCKERY UPON RELIGION

Nashville Man Says It Is Burlesque of Science. Prayed on Law.

New York, June 29.—The forthcoming evolution trial in Dayton, Tenn., is regarded by John Edgerton, of Nashville, Tenn., president of the National Association of Manufacturers as "a travesty on law, a mockery of religion and burlesque of science." He gave his views in a statement here yesterday.

"Such a spectacle as the turning of an American court into an advertising arena for publicity seekers with warped mentalities and a parade ground for freaks, fanatics and fools ought to be impossible in the country which gave John Marshall to immortal fame," he said.

"The walking delegate of agnosticism, atheism, communism and bolshevism, will be there. Everything will be represented except science and religion."

The Rev. Dr. Charles F. McKay, pastor of the Green Avenue Baptist Church, Brooklyn, in a sermon last night attacked evolution as a "lie of hell."

"If Mr. Scopes wishes to act as an ambassador of the devil in teaching the doctrine of evolution," Dr. McKay continued, "let him seek a position in some of our universities where atheism, manhood and agnosticism are openly taught."

"Thank God that the people of Tennessee have grit enough to fight this dogma of animism."

Wealth in Old and Rare Stamps. Stamp collecting, or philately, is not what the uninitiated might imagine. It is more than a mere fad or hobby.

In fact, it has grown to be a real science with its technical libraries, experts, counterfeits, historians and national and international societies. There are four great stamp collecting centers in the world—London and Paris in Europe and New York and Philadelphia in this coun-

try. Millions of dollars are invested in stamp collections. The most distinguished collector in the world is the King of England. His collection is said to be priceless.

There is one collection in Philadelphia with an estimated value of \$100,000.

The only open-air stamp market is in Paris. Three hundreds of men and women gather on Sunday to buy, sell or trade stamps. Stamp exhibitions are held in various countries with collectors from all over the world in attendance.

Counterfeiting rare stamps is more profitable and less dangerous than counterfeiting money.

But most stamp collectors are able to spot a counterfeit the moment they see it. Stamp collecting is costly if a complete assemblage of special issues is made. A perfect general collection, comprising stamps of all issues, dates, colors, occasions, etc., is claimed to be the rarest and costliest of all.

Although it is not generally known England sends thousands of tons of waste paper to this country annually.

It is converted into paper stock in American mills. Recently a man in Philadelphia received a small bag full of old envelopes, torn into halves and quarters, faded and crumpled, some dirty, others indecipherable.

All these envelopes had been through the mails some time—some of them over fifty years ago. They were fished out of bales of waste paper shipped to the United States from England.

This apparently worthless bag of waste which weighed only a few pounds proved to be a real "gold mine." When its contents were carefully sorted, selected, cleaned and passed under a microscope it was found to contain \$2,000 worth of canceled, old and rare stamps.

The Paris club of the East Texas baseball league has a nifty batsman in Outfielder Clabaugh, who has been hitting for an average well over .400, and with something like 20 home runs chalked up to his credit so far this season.

### TRUNKS AND BAGS—

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