

National

Jailhouse lawyer goes overboard with appeal tries

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A "jailhouse lawyer," with a reputation for working harder than any prisoner in American history to challenge his confinement, is in trouble for his campaign to flood the courts with appeals.

Clovis Carl Green, who has filed more than 700 complaints from his jail cell without legal assistance, was warned by a federal appeals court Tuesday to stop his paper blizzard of frivolous appeals — for his own good.

Green is incarcerated at the federal prison in Anthony.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ordered Green — "in all likelihood the most prolific prisoner litigant in recorded history" — to put away his typewriter unless he comes up with a legitimate beef.

If not, they threatened him point-blank with spending more time in jail for contempt of court.

"Ironically, Green appears to be his own worst enemy," wrote the court. "Green's 10-year sentence for rape, imposed by the Jackson County, Missouri, circuit court in 1975, apparently was completed in 1980.

"(He) would be a free man today were it not for the several sentences the (Missouri) district court imposed for contempt convictions in 1978 and 1979 stemming from Green's writ-writing and jailhouse

Fields' gadgets aimed to please the chickadees

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — W.C. Fields died 35 years ago this Christmas — a holiday the caustic comic detested — but in many ways, he lives on in the gewgaws and gadgets capitalizing on his boozy drollery and famous voice.

Instead of ringing, the telephone murmurs in a familiar bibulous drone, "Ah yaasss, my little chickadee."

W.C. Fields is not dead, just on hold.

The telephone that speaks with his voice is just one of an outpouring of gadgets memorializing the comedian.

Fields' heirs are discovering the truth in one of the comic's famous maxims:

"Where there's a will, prosperity is just around the corner."

Although Fields died 35 years ago, the demand for Fields-oriented items still is growing.

More than 30 licenses have been granted to use the comic's likeness, Roger Richman, agent for W.C. Field Productions, said. The company was formed a few years ago by Fields' heirs.

The items include everything from aprons and ice buckets to recordings preserving the Fields brand of black humor, such as:

"Anything worth having is worth cheating for."

And the immortal:

"Anyone who hates children and dogs can't be all bad."

The Fields telephone, to go on sale this summer, uses a tape-recorded simulation of Fields' distinctive voice. It alerts the owner

Today's almanac

United Press International
Today is Thursday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 1981 with 21 to follow.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Sagittarius. American poet Emily Dickinson was born Dec. 10, 1830.

On this date in history:

In 1817, Mississippi was admitted to the Union as the 20th state.

In 1898, Spain signed a treaty officially ending the Spanish-American War. The treaty gave Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the United States.

In 1941, Japanese troops landed on northern Luzon in the Philippines in the early days of World War II in the Pacific theater.

In 1974, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller

to a call by opening with Fields' famous line to Mae West and continuing with:

"This infernal device wishes to chew your ear."

On the second ring:

"Move with alacrity."

On the third:

"Tarry no longer — no longer, I say."

Surely the product most likely to please the shade of W.C. — who prided himself on his consumption of martinis ("Get me a sedative with an olive in it") — would be W.C. Fields Private Stock Gin.

At 100 proof, it is stronger than any other gin on the market, the makers claim.

For some reason, the gin, and a companion vodka, are currently sold only in the city of Las Vegas and the state of Washington. That, as Fields would say, might as well be Lompoc.

There's an after-shave to be marketed in a hip flask — "The chickadees will flock to the scent" — and a battery tester (the nose glows crimson if the battery is good).

Even the government joined the parade by issuing a W.C. Fields postage stamp in January 1980 — the 100th anniversary of Fields' birth. The Postal Service paid a \$2,000 royalty for the spin-off merchandising rights.

Under discussion, according to Richman, are a chain of W.C. Fields franchised saloons, a comic strip, a Broadway show and a TV retrospective using film from Fields' career.



Rule changes may avert silver crisis

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A House committee has recommended several changes in federal regulation of commodity markets with an eye to averting the kind of events that led to last year's silver crisis.

The 21 to 13 vote by the Government Operations panel Tuesday was split along party lines with only one Republican, Rep. Lyle Williams of Ohio, endorsing the unreleased report. The report will not be available for two days to permit dissenting views to be included.

Public and government

attention turned toward the world commodity futures markets in early 1980 when prices for the precious metal climbed to record levels — over \$50 an ounce — and then plummeted sharply. Tuesday's silver price in New York was \$8.88 an ounce.

A congressional source familiar with the report described it as very critical of the commodity exchanges mainly because of their lenient financial requirements, which the committee said encouraged speculation.

Two of the major figures in

the crisis, Texas financiers Nelson Bunker Hunt and Herbert Hunt, have sent their own report to a separate House panel that blames five major commodity trading companies for the silver price collapse.

Herbert Hunt issued a statement in Dallas Tuesday reacting to news accounts about the committee report, although a spokesman said Hunt had not seen the full document.

"The allegation ... that my brother and I attempted to corner the silver market is false and we have provided numerous documents to government

agencies to establish this fact," Hunt said.

"The collapse of silver prices was caused by exchange board governors protecting the interests of five major commodity trading companies who were on the brink of bankruptcy."

The operations committee report also criticizes several government agencies — including the Federal Reserve Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission — for their lack of coordination in dealing with the crisis.

It recommends an improved

federal interagency participation in regulating the markets, a CFTC investigation of whether commodity exchange board members should be permitted to trade in commodities that they regulate and the establishment of investor margins at the exchanges to reduce speculative abuses.

Silver prices quickly fell in 1980 from a high of \$50 an ounce to \$10.80, seriously damaging the Hunt brothers financially and several Wall Street brokerage firms doing business with them.

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