

MERRICK DESERTED DUKE KAHANAMOKU

Hawaiian Swimmer Left Sick and Penniless By His Manager In Mainland, Claim

When Duke P. Kahanamoku, the world's swimming sprint champion, returned to Honolulu on November 14 from his six month's Red Cross tour of the mainland he told The Advertiser, within three hours of his coming ashore, that the story then current that he had been left stranded in Washington and that friends had gone to his assistance in order that he might be able to return home, was not true.

It now appears that the stories were true after all, and that Duke Kahanamoku would not admit them for some reason or other. The whole thing appears to have been threshed out at a meeting of the Hawaii promotion committee, but, for some reason, the Honolulu press was kept unadvised of the proceedings.

It also seems that a copy of the minutes of the meeting in question was sent to Hilo. In this connection the Hilo Tribune of last Tuesday prints the following story:

As Told By Hilo Paper

"Sick, penniless and miserable Duke Kahanamoku was abandoned by his manager, Owen Merrick, and left in Washington to any fate that might befall.

"Taking pity on the big Hawaiian swimmer, several newly made friends clubbed together and raised sufficient to pay Duke's hotel bill and his railroad fare as far as San Francisco, where Emil Berndt of Honolulu found him destitute, ill with influenza and very homesick. This, in substance, is the information contained in the minutes of a meeting of the Hawaii promotion committee reaching Hilo in Sunday's mail and which, for some reason, have not heretofore been made public.

"When Hawaii set her Olympian idol forth last spring to swim in the name of the Red Cross and for the greater glory of Hawaii nei, there were those who expressed misgivings at trusting the world's champion to the mercies of Merrick as business manager.

"When news reached Honolulu that certain irregularities had occurred in the finances of the expedition and charges were brought by the A. A. U. citing misappropriation of funds, everyone experienced an uncomfortable feeling that things were not as they should be.

"After threats to disbar the swimmers from membership in the association some sort of restitution was made and the matter hushed up.

"Now comes Duke before the promotion committee of Honolulu at a meeting held in the chamber of commerce rooms, with the story of his pilikia through the States.

Berndt Advances \$160

"Duke can swim faster than he can talk and oftener. He spared the committee details regarding the tour in general. His chief object and most pressing need was to get from under a note for \$160 which he was compelled to sign for funds with which to return to the Islands.

"Emil Berndt, chairman of the promotion committee, was present at the meeting and told the story of finding Duke in San Francisco, ill and penniless. Duke told him that Merrick had left him sick and wholly without funds in Washington, and that two or three friends there had clubbed together and paid his hotel bill and railroad fare to San Francisco. Since arriving in San Francisco he had been sick and without a cent. He had sent several telegrams to Owen Merrick and also to Angus Ealy at Washington and received no reply.

"J. S. McCandless was in San Francisco at the time and offered to subscribe toward sending Duke to Honolulu, but Mr. Berndt thought it a matter for the promotion committee to take up, and therefore declined McCandless' offer. He forthwith advanced Duke \$160, taking the swimmers personal note and asked that the committee reimburse him.

Ford Objects To Repayment

"At this juncture Alexander Hume Ford interposed an objection, claiming that if this amount should be paid, all the men who had signed notes making the tour of the swimmers possible, should be reimbursed by the committee.

"G. S. MacKenzie thereupon stated that he had signed one of the notes referred to and did not desire reimbursement—that Mr. Ford's reference was irrelevant, and he was strongly in favor of the refund of the amount paid

HOOVER'S CALL IS READ IN CHURCHES

Pastors of City Join Clergymen of Whole Nation In Urging Food Administrator's Programme

In the churches of Honolulu yesterday a new nation-wide call to service issued by Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator, was read. In his call Hoover emphasized the need of sacrifice now that a military victory has been won, in order that the American people may carry out their pledge to humanity. The proclamation is as follows:

"Again, in full confidence, I call upon the American people to set aside Sunday, December 1st, and the week following for the consideration of American opportunity for renewed service and sacrifice.

"Last summer when the military situation was acute, we assured the Interallied food conference in London that whatever the war food program of the Allies required, we were prepared to meet; that the conference need not consider whether or not we had the supplies we were prepared to find them; we pledged ourselves by the voluntary economy of our people to have the reserves in food to supply all necessary. The ending of the war does not release us from the pledge. The same population must be fed and until another season has passed, they cannot feed themselves.

"The change in the Foreign situation necessarily alters the details of the food program because the freeing of the sea from the submarine menace, renders accessible the wheat supply of India, Australia, and the Argentine. The total food demand upon the United States is not diminished, however. On the contrary, it is increased. In addition to the supplying of these to whom we are already pledged, we now have the splendid opportunity and obligation of meeting the needs of those millions of people in the hitherto occupied Territory, who are facing actual starvation. The people of Belgium, Northern France, Serbia, Rumania, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, and Armenia rely upon America for immediate aid. We must also participate in the preservation of the newly liberated Nations in Austria; nor can we ignore the effect on the future world developments of the famine conditions among those other people whom we have recently released from our enemies. All these conditions mean that upwards of two hundred million people in addition to those we are already pledged to serve, are now looking to us in their misery and famine. Our appeal today is therefore larger than the former appeal to the "War Conscience" of our people. The new appeal is to the "World Conscience" which must be the guiding inspiration of our future program.

"The President of the United States has asked me to take charge for this government of this work; to perfect and enlarge the arrangements for food-stuffs to the population of Belgium and France now being released, and to organize and determine the need of provisions to the liberated peoples of southern Europe to prevent such debacle as has taken place in Russia."

"The determining factor for the success of such an enlarged appeal will be the vivid consciousness in every individual in each community of obligation and opportunity. It is the common recognition of obligation that we now wish to create. Such an intelligent "World Conscience" in the American people must be the main dependence of the stricken countries of the world until normal conditions are once more restored.

America, by her participation in the war, has accomplished her objectives of self defense and of vindication the efficiency of a government in which the people, and the people only, are sovereign. She has established the foundation of government by the people throughout the enemy countries and this the real bulwark of world peace. We have yet to build on these foundations. No government nor nation can stand if its people are starving. We must do our part if the world be not consumed in a flame of anarchy.

"The American people in this most critical period of their history, have the opportunity to demonstrate not only their ability to assist in establishing peace on earth, but also their consecration by self-denial to the cause of suffering humanity.

"HERBERT HOOVER."

by Mr. Berndt for Duke's expenses from San Francisco.

"It was then moved by J. D. McInerney and seconded by Arthur Wall that the amount in question be refunded to Mr. Berndt and that the note signed by Duke Kahanamoku be cancelled and returned to him. The committee so voted.