

THE WOMAN IN BIG JIM'S BED

From JOHN SMITH, New York, Saturday.

RELIGIOUS Leader Big Jim Taylor talked angrily today about his part in a bedroom scene.

And he denied the accusation of adultery which has rocked his strict and controversial Executive Brethren sect, which is also known as the Clove Brethren.

"Yes, there was a lady in my bed," said 71-year-old Big Jim, grandfather of seventeen children.

"But neither the lady nor we had done anything wrong."

Malicious

"I think some malicious people are trying to get rid of me as leader of our group. But they can't do it—I am still the boss."

The bedroom together that sparked off the rift happened in Scotland last month.

Big Jim, the sect's American leader, was on a visit to Aberdeen, one of the strongholds of the so-called Executive Brethren.

Speaking from his home in Brooklyn, Big Jim Mr. Taylor told me what had happened in Aberdeen.

"I said: 'A lady called Mrs. Madeline Ker from Harrow, with her husband, would like to watch my lecture. That's scriptural, you know.'

"I agreed Alan, her husband, knew it would be all right."

Tired

"He came into my room with her. I was in bed. After she reached my bed, Mr. Ker suggested his wife should rub my head and massage my neck. I had that very soothing."

Then, said Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Ker decided to be gone, under a shawl. "I don't know why," he said, indignantly. "Maybe she was tired. I was in my pyjamas. I don't

She was only washing my feet, says Brethren leader

know what she was wearing. No, sir. She was not naked. That is a gossip about me that is going around and people are going to be wiser who put it about."

It was at this point, said Mr. Taylor, that two other sect members, Stanley McCullahan and James Gardiner—owner of the house where it happened—came into the room.

"McCullahan charged me with corruption," said Mr. Taylor.

Asked about some clothes in the room Mr. Taylor said: "I don't just know whose they were. Maybe they belonged to some angel."

He declared: "I am no fornicator."

Friends

"Mrs. Ker was in the same bed. But she wasn't lying with me and I wasn't lying with her. If you are a husband, you know what I mean."

"We had done nothing wrong."

Mr. and Mrs. Ker, of Woodbury avenue, North Hattow, had stayed into children, Charles and Allison, are staying at the Taylors' Brooklyn home.

The two men, about together as Mr. Taylor said: "We are the greatest of friends and always will be."

And Governor Mr.

Ker said: "My wife is a pure woman, a very pure woman."

He added: "My wife was on the bed, fully covered by a sheet. I was in and out of the room all the time."

"Do you think any husband would stand by and do something improper happen when he was actually in the same room?"

"It's hardly likely Mr. Taylor would have let Mr. McCullahan and Mr. Gardiner in if anything wrong had been going on."

Mr. McCullahan, for years No. 3 in the movement, said from his Detroit home: "I am not prejudiced towards Mr. Taylor."



Big Jim Taylor: "Still boss."

Forbiden

Mr. Taylor's religious rules are alleged to have led to marriage break-ups in the past because members of the sect are forbidden to live with non-members.

Recently it was rumored that Big Jim had been replaced as leader. The "woman in the bed" row was thought to be the public notice that week through a letter sent by Big Jim to members of the sect—and published in a Scottish newspaper.

In the letter Mr. Taylor said that in addition to being accused of "corruption" he was the legal captive in a house against his will.

He asked the Brethren, "if I wanted to sleep with another man's wife would I go to Aberdeen on a trip costing about 1,000 dollars?"

"Brethren" would be cheaper.

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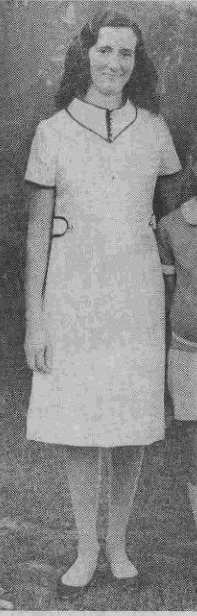
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Mrs. Ker: "Nothing improper."



Mr. Ker: She's pure.