

Nixon Pulls Gray Nomination

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP)—President Nixon announced Thursday he was withdrawing the nomination of L. Patrick Gray III to be director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said he acted at Gray's request.

In a statement, Nixon said: "In fairness to Mr. Gray, and out of my overriding concern for the effective conduct of the vitally important business of the FBI, I have regretfully agreed to withdraw Mr. Gray's nomination."

Nixon, who did not say who he would name to succeed Gray as head of the FBI, did declare that he has asked Gray to remain as acting director until a nominee is confirmed.

The President said, after talking to Gray by telephone for five minutes, "it is obvious that Mr. Gray's nomination will not be confirmed by the Senate."

To bolster this contention, Nixon cited, without elaborating, action Thursday by the Senate Judiciary Committee which had been handling the matter.

The committee earlier Thursday agreed to a showdown vote next week on the nomination after Democrats moved to postpone action indefinitely.

In his statement, Nixon described Gray as "an able, honest and dedicated American" who had been exposed to "totally unfair innuendo and suspicion" because he had cooperated with White House counsel John Dean III in making available FBI reports on the Watergate conspiracy.

Nixon said Gray's "compliance with this completely proper and necessary request" caused the innuendo and suspicion "and thereby seriously tarnished his fine record as acting director and promising future at the bureau."

In Washington, Gray had announced he had asked that his nomination be withdrawn shortly before Nixon made his formal announcement.

Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst said through a spokesman that he was deeply disappointed by what he called the turn of events.

"He is one of the most loyal Americans I know," said Kleindienst. "He was an excellent choice to be permanent director and should have been confirmed."

The spokesman said Gray telephoned Kleindienst and told him of his decision about an hour before he issued his statement.

"I have asked the President to withdraw my nomination for the position of director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," Gray said in a brief statement.

"The basis for this decision is my deep conviction that the FBI, a great and unique American institution of vital service to the President and the American people, is entitled to permanent leadership at the earliest possible time."

Gray's statement was released by a FBI spokesman.

Gray, who has headed the giant law-enforcement bureau since the death of J. Edgar Hoover last May, has become entangled in the controversy over the bugging of Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate office-apartment complex.

Senators have criticized Gray for turning over FBI reports on the probe of the incident to Dean. Others have accused Gray of making speeches of a political nature during last fall's election campaign. Gray denied this, saying the speeches were in line with his job as temporary head of the FBI.

Earlier Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee agreed to a showdown vote next week on Gray's nomination.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., forced the issue at a hastily called afternoon meeting by moving to postpone action indefinitely — a motion tantamount to killing it.

Radio Committee Loses Its Home, Seeks New Base Of Operations

Memorial Student Center Radio Committee members participated in what may be its final action of the semester recently.

After the broadcast of a chess game by radio with the University of Texas, the Radio Committee

members were told they would have to leave their current base of operations in the MSC Guest Room area although there are no permanent arrangements for them in the new MSC addition.

A temporary home has been set up in the new Graphics Center in the MSC, but the committee is still looking for a 10' by 10' area to serve as its permanent base of operations.

The A&M Chess Committee defeated Texas, 3-1, in the radio chess matches.

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FDA Considers Legal Action Against Tuna Fish Canners

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration announced Thursday it is considering legal action against Star Kist Foods, the company which recalled two lots of tuna fish blamed for sickening 232 persons.

An FDA investigation has determined that the fish was rotten before it was canned.

The agency said the charges it is considering against Star Kist are based on its inspections of Star Kist's American Samoa plant since discovery of the decomposed fish.

The FDA announcement did not specify what legal action the agency might take. The maximum fine it can levy is \$1,000.

Caesar Roy of FDA's office of compliance had said earlier that the decomposed tuna, packed at the American Samoa plant Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 last year, could have been spotted by a trained inspector.

"A layman could have missed it," said Roy. "An individual well trained in organoleptic detection would not miss this decomposition."

Organoleptic inspection involves observing and smelling fish. "We have all kinds of quality control. How that occurred we don't know," said Thomas Virgil, manager of marketing for Star Kist.

Fish products, unlike red meat and poultry, are not processed under the constant supervision of government inspectors.

The FDA inspects plants such as Star Kist's periodically. Inspectors were in the plant in January 1972, but the FDA declined to release their inspection report pending its possible legal action.

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A&M Has Answer To Sidewalk Cafe

By ROBERT STACCHINI

A&M's answer to a French sidewalk cafe is now open for business.

The facility, called the MSC Parisian Cafe, officially opened Tuesday. Anita Davidson, acting manager of the MSC Food Services, created the new facility. She thought A&M students needed a place that could offer both a fast meal and a cozy atmosphere.

The whole idea started because of the pending renovation of the old MSC building. The snackbar at the east end closed down on Monday, and, rather than doing without such a facility, the MSC Food Services initiated a mini-snackbar and named it the MSC Parisian Cafe.

The cafe is in the center of the old building in what was once a lounge area. Davidson had 20 tables with bright red and white tablecloths moved into the area.

With the help of Hugo Stein, maintenance foreman with TAMU Food Services, she designed a brightly colored booth. Later a red and black colored booth, where short order items will be prepared, was installed.

"I think of it as a place where

students can go for a short meal and not have to wait in a long line," Davidson said.

The facility looks like a typical sidewalk cafe where one can sit and observe others walking about while eating.

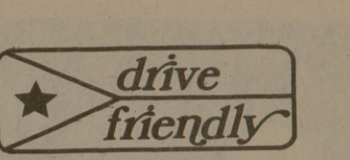
"Right now the facility is somewhat limited to the number it can accommodate. But if business warrants, more tables will be put into service," Davidson said.

The cafe, staffed by four persons including Joe Medina as chef and E. McCoy as supervisor, is open from 3:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Everybody should come to the cafe for it has a touch of the prices of the past," said Col. Fred Dollar, A&M Food Services Director. Hamburgers sell for 49 cents.

"We hope to keep it open until construction warrants that we close down," Davidson said.

In the meantime, Davidson is preparing to be assistant manager at the new University Tower Club when it opens. "After we finally close down, we will evaluate the feasibility of having other cafes around the campus," Davidson said.



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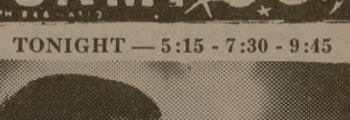
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