

Probe asks aides to explain conduct in Mills milk fund

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Watergate grand jury has questioned three current and former aides to Rep. Wilbur D. Mills about milk-fund money used in the Arkansas Democrat's brief 1972 presidential campaign.

In recent weeks the Watergate prosecutors have summoned Mills' administrative assistant, Oscar Eugene Goss, and two former campaign officials, Charles Ward of Conway, Ark., and Betty Clement Bullock of Little Rock.

Goss said he appeared voluntarily, without a subpoena, and was questioned about links between the Mills campaign and Associated Milk Producers Inc., the big dairy cooperative that recently pleaded guilty to donating \$5,000 illegally to Mills.

Goss said the questions concerned the \$5,000 cash gift, which allegedly passed through his hands, and the use of corporate money by the co-op to pay salaries and expenses of Mills campaign workers. Use of corporate money in federal election campaigns is prohibited by law.

Mills, reached by telephone at his suburban Virginia home, said he has not been called to testify by prosecutors. Earlier this year, Mills declined two requests by the now-disbanded Senate Watergate committee to appear for questioning.

Mills, asked for comment on the summoning of Goss and the other witnesses, said only: "I don't know anything about it. I just know they've been up there, that's all."

Mrs. Bullock, who received a subpoena, confirmed in a telephone interview that she had been questioned for about two hours last Tuesday. But she added: "I'd just rather not comment on it."

According to Watergate committee testimony, Mrs. Bullock worked as a secretary for the Mills campaign for several months while receiving salary and expenses from the corporate funds of the milk producers' co-op.

Ward, who headed the early "draft-Mills" efforts in 1971 and early 1972, was not immediately available for comment.

Concerning the \$5,000 cash gift, Goss said he had testified that he has "no independent recollection" of having handled the money.

He said he testified that if he had received such a gift, he might well have failed to ask whether it came from corporate funds, because he knew that the milk producers had a legal political trust for making donations to candidates.

Goss said he was questioned about Mrs. Bullock and two other campaign workers, Joe P. Johnson and Terry Shea, who allegedly were paid corporate salaries by the dairymen while working on the Mills campaign.

Johnson, who worked as Mills' traveling campaign aide and who succeeded Ward as campaign manager, declined to testify about the matter to the Watergate committee earlier this year on grounds of possible self-incrimination.

Goss said he had testified that he was unaware of who was paying salaries for Johnson, Bullock and Shea.

This contrasts with testimony given to the Watergate committee by David L. Parr, former special counsel for the milk producers. Parr said he believed Goss was aware of the co-op's payment of salaries. "I am sure they knew it. We didn't try to hide it," Parr testified.

Parr pleaded guilty on July 23 to charges including donation of \$5,000 in corporate money to the Mills campaign, a gift he said he had sent to Goss.

Parr is awaiting sentencing.

The co-op itself also pleaded guilty to similar charges and was fined the maximum \$35,000.

Today in the Batt

- House firep. 3
- SG exec.....p. 3
- Cancerp. 5

The Battalion

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Weather

Fair and mild today and tomorrow. Easterly winds 5-10 mph. High Tuesday 79°; low tonight 57°; high Wednesday 83°.

\$500,000 malpractice suit filed

A Hearne couple filed a \$500,000 suit Friday in district court against St. Joseph Hospital and Dr. Leon W. B. Rasberry, a local private practitioner, following the death of their son.

The suit, filed by Gary and Carol Broadus, alleges gross negligence by the defendants and uncontrolled conditions at the hospital while Mrs. Broadus was giving birth Jan. 6. According to the suit, the baby, Jason Lloyd Broadus, was allowed to fall on the floor on his head in the delivery room shortly after birth.

The child was rushed to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston where he died 23 hours later.

Mike Strohowski, assistant hospital administrator at St. Joseph's, said, "I had no knowledge of the suit being filed and have no comment to make at this time."

A hearing date on the suit has not been set.



ENTERTAINMENT was provided by Pete Seller at the Basement Committee presentation on Friday night. (Photo by Chris Svatek)

Faculty groups attack LeMaistre for Spurr firing

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—University of Texas system Chancellor Charles LeMaistre was attacked on several faculty fronts Monday for firing UT-Austin President Stephen Spurr last week without public explanation.

The School of Humanities faculty voted 85-1, with six abstaining, to express lack of confidence in LeMaistre and to call for his immediate resignation.

In another action, three committees met jointly to adopt a no confidence resolution against the chancellor.

A general faculty meeting Tuesday, chaired by acting President Dr. Lorene Rogers, will take up the no-confidence resolution, which has no binding force against LeMaistre.

Passing the resolution were the local chapters of the American Association of University Professors and the Texas Association of College Teachers, along with the executive committee of the Faculty Senate.

"The chancellor's failure to consult with the faculty and students in dismissing President Spurr, and his refusal subsequently to provide reasons for his summary and unilateral action, have again shown the chancellor's complete contempt for

the academic community and the people of Texas. We therefore express our lack of confidence in Chancellor Charles LeMaistre," the resolution said.

An attempt to bring the resolution before the full faculty Senate fizzled Monday after several members said it would make no sense to act before the full general faculty had a chance to act.

In another development, 16 deans issued a statement expressing confidence in Spurr and asserting that his firing "has done severe damage to the university. The history of interference in the academic functioning of the University is widely known."

Strachan gets separate trial

Watergate coverup trial begins

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica will begin the Watergate coverup trial Tuesday with five defendants instead of six.

With 4 hours to go before the start of jury selection, Sirica granted Monday a request from Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski that former White House aide Gordon Strachan be given a separate trial.

The renewed request from Strachan's lawyers that the conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury charges against him be dismissed was turned down by Sirica.

Among the five remaining defendants are three of former President Richard Nixon's closest advisors, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell.

Meanwhile, Sirica tried in a closed hearing Monday to clear up remaining legal issues.

Among those apparently called to testify at the closed hearing was former White House chief of staff Haldeman, whose lawyers are questioning the accuracy of transcripts of White House tapes prepared by the special prosecutor's office.

Another issue is whether the 33 presidential tapes the prosecutors want used as evidence can be authenticated without an appearance in the courtroom by Nixon.

While the transcripts question is likely to be cleared up before Sirica begins questioning a pool of 1,000 prospective jurors, the authentication issue is likely to be held off for a week or 10 days.

Also on Monday, Sirica decided that half the public seats in the courtroom would go to spectators who are expected to line the halls of the U.S. District Courthouse in hopes

of getting a seat.

The order sharply limits the number of news organizations which can be represented full time in the courtroom.

Inside the courtroom, technicians were busy placing finishing touches on the listening system which will allow the jury and everyone else to hear the White House tapes on individually installed earphones.

Charges on Sparkey will not be dropped

By STEVE GRAY
Staff Writer

Two assault charges filed against Malcolm "Sparkey" Hardee on July 24 by The College Station, 109 Walton Dr., will not be dropped, County Attorney Roland Searcy said Monday.

Hardee, former candidate for state representative and owner of Sparkey's at 120 Walton Dr., was charged with two counts of assault after allegedly fighting with John Morris, owner of The College Station, and Carl Khuen, a bartender at the night club.

The squabble occurred July 24 when circulars were distributed contending the club treated its customers better than Sparkey's.

Morris told The Battalion, Wednesday, that the charges would be dropped since Hardee had apologized.

However, Searcy said Monday he had talked with Morris and decided not to drop the charges.

Searcy said once charges are filed in the county attorney's office it is up to him to decide whether or not charges can be dropped.

"The charges were filed and we intend to go through with the trial. He (Morris) did not understand that he did not have the option of dropping the charges after they were filed. That is the county attorney's policy," Searcy said.

Morris would not comment on the matter when contacted Monday. Hardee's assault trial is set for Nov. 21.

CS employees suit dismissal denied

U.S. District Court Judge Woodrow Seals denied a defense motion Monday to dismiss a \$400,000 lawsuit by Ralph Bobbitt, owner of Bobbitt Trailer Park, against 12 present and former College Station city officials.

The motion to dismiss the suit was heard in Houston Sept. 23.

Originally, a suit was filed Aug. 8 by Bobbitt requesting \$50,000 in damages, but was amended to \$400,000 Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

In the original and amending suits, Bobbitt claims that he was denied due process and equality under the law when the city closed his mobile home park at Farm Road 60 West in January of 1973. The city contends the park did not meet electrical standards.

The amending suit says that the defendants, J. B. Hervey, former mayor; James H. Dozier, former city attorney and currently a city councilman; and city employees Ran Boswell, L. P. Dulaney, D. B. Jones, Walter J. Coney, W. E. Johnson, and R. M. Williams, did not give Bobbitt the specific re-

quirements, if the park did not in fact meet city's requirements.

Bobbitt claims in the amending suit that the defendants tried to drive him out of business.

Bobbitt said he suffered physical and mental pain, anguish, distress, public humiliation and ridicule, and is demanding \$100,000 compensatory damages and \$300,000 exemplary damages. The plaintiff also asks that his court costs be born by the City of College Station.

The suit says that Bobbitt has been denied his rights under the Fifth, Ninth, 10th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and under civil rights statutes.

The City Council has Sears & Burns, a Houston law firm, handling the case.

The council has passed a resolution defending both past and present city officials and employees, stating that all the defendants were acting as city agents enforcing city ordinances. Councilman Dozier abstained from voting on the resolution and the retention of the Houston law firm handling the case because of his involvement in the suit.

Ford will personally testify about pardon

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford told a House subcommittee he will personally appear to testify on why he gave former President Richard M. Nixon a pardon.

The President told Chairman William L. Hungate, D-Mo., of the House Judiciary subcommittee in a brief letter Monday that he would personally respond to the 14 questions raised by two resolutions before the subcommittee.

Ford said he would like to arrange the personal testimony within the next 10 days, Hungate said.

Hungate said it would be the first personal testimony by a sitting president before Congress since that of Abraham Lincoln.

The chairman said White House research shows that only Presidents Lincoln and Washington testified before Congress while they were in office and that Theodore Roosevelt testified before Congress after he left the White House.

The questions Ford agreed to answer are on details of whether White House Chief of Staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. suggested the pardon for Nixon, what agreements were made in connection with the pardon and whether Ford's granting of it was based on any knowledge of Nixon's mental or physical health.

Before the subcommittee are so-

called resolutions of inquiry introduced by Reps. Bella S. Abzug, D-N.Y., and John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., which, if approved by the House, would demand the answers within 10 days.

In a "Dear Bill" letter, delivered to Hungate's office shortly before 8 p.m. EDT, the President said:

"This is to advise you that I expect to appear personally to respond to the questions raised in House resolutions 1367 and 1370.

"It would be my desire to arrange this hearing before your subcommittee at a mutually convenient time within the next 10 days."

Rep. Abzug asked for details on when and who first mentioned the pardon to Ford, whether it was Haig during the week Nixon resigned as President and what promises or conditions were set for Nixon's pardon.

Her resolution also asks whether Ford consulted with Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe, Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller or any other attorneys or law professors before deciding to grant the pardon, and if so, what legal authority they cited.

Her resolution asks whether Ford or his aides asked Nixon to give a confession or statement of criminal

guilt and whether the statement Nixon did make when he received the pardon was cleared in advance with Ford's White House.

Finally it asks, "Did you receive any report from a psychiatrist or any other physician stating that Richard Nixon was in any other than good health? If so, then please provide such reports."



ACTIONS AND REACTIONS bring life to the Aggie Players' production of "Lovers and Other Strangers." The play opens October 7 in the Rudder Center Forum. B. J. Strode and Kent Brown practice their roles as Johnny and Wilma in the section of the play by the same name. (Photo by Douglas Winship)

A & M ranked fifth in the nation—see Page 6