

# Rockey's donations emerge major Senate hearing issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The single largest beneficiary of Nelson A. Rockefeller's generosity said Monday his acceptance of \$625,000 did not hinder his ability to act objectively as a New York state official.

"My judgment was not warped," William J. Ronan, a long-time friend of the former New York governor, told the Senate Rules Committee. The committee is considering Rockefeller's nomination to be vice president.

"We frequently disagreed," said Ronan, adding that if his actions as a state official enhanced the interests of the Rockefeller family, "that would be incidental and only because their interests are so intimately identified with the interests of the community itself."

Rockefeller's gifts totaling \$2.5 million to friends and associates over the past 17 years have become a major issue in the confirmation hearings.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said "reasonable men could draw the reasonable inference" that Rockefeller's gifts to Ronan were

meant to influence Ronan in violation of state law.

But Byrd said he was making no such allegations and is prepared to give Rockefeller the benefit of the doubt.

Ronan's testimony came on the last day of the Rules Committee hearings. Chairman Howard W. Cannon, D-Nev., said the committee probably will vote on the nomination Wednesday, and Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield, said a vote by the full Senate could follow next week.

However, House Judiciary Committee action on Rockefeller is expected to delay final confirmation until around Christmas. That committee opens hearings on the nomination Thursday.

Ronan has been associated with Rockefeller since 1956. He played a major role in Rockefeller's first campaign for governor, in 1958. When Rockefeller took office, Ronan became his chief of staff.

Ronan left the governor's office in March 1968 to become chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation

Authority. Last May he became a trustee of the state Power Authority.

Rockefeller had appointed Ronan to the board of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 1967, and last May 3, Ronan became chairman of that agency.

Beginning in 1962, Rockefeller loaned Ronan \$510,000 in six installments. Ronan said, and his testimony backed that given by Rockefeller last week, that the loans were made out of friendship and were used to improve Ronan's capital position and for investment purposes that would yield income during his retirement.

From the start, Ronan testified, he always intended to repay the loans and was never given any indication by Rockefeller that the notes would be forgiven, as they all were May 3, 1974.

Byrd told reporters that information gathered by the FBI on whether Rockefeller had indicated he would forgive the interest-free loans "does not square with Ronan's testimony."

# Kids escape with minor injuries in bus tractor-trailer collision

LONGVIEW — Forty-one pupils aboard a school bus suffered slight injuries Monday when their bus and a tractor-trailer rig collided north of this East Texas city.

Authorities said the bus overturned upon impact.

Most of the injuries were abrasions, bruises and lacerations, said Brian Williams, public relations director for Good Shepherd Hospital.

Thirty-two children and the bus driver, Elmer Hale, were treated at the hospital went into its disaster procedures, calling in all members of its medical staff.

The school nurse at Judson Junior High School, later sent to Good Shepherd nine pupils who had been brought to their school directly from the accident site.

Cindy Barrett, 11, was admitted for observation with a possible head injury. Michael McCallum, 13, was kept because of a possible back injury, Williams said.

Hale, the bus driver, was treated for a minor leg injury.

"Many of the children were X-rayed for possible fractures, but only two were discovered—a collar bone and a wrist," Williams said.

Parents began arriving at the

hospital soon after word of the accident spread, Wilson said, and were kept advised in the hospital's classroom.

The pupils were released to their parents there.

The truck driver was not injured.

One pupil, Todd Brown, about 10, said the tractor hit the side of the bus.

Brown said some pupils crowded out the back emergency exit which some older boys had opened while others made it out the front door.

The accident happened on U.S. 259 about 8:30 a.m. as the bus attempted to make a left turn onto a farm road. The tractor-trailer rig was attempting to pass at that moment, investigators said.

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# Logo sought by college

COLLEGE STATION — The Liberal Arts Student Council is sponsoring a contest to find a permanent emblem or logo to represent the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University.

The College of Liberal Arts is currently the only college at TAMU which does not have such a symbol to represent the college.

An award of \$25 will be made to the winner. Deadline for entries is 4 p.m. Dec. 13 and the applications to compete should be turned in with proper identification to Dr. Diane Strommer's office on the eighth floor of the Harrington Education Center.

Any Texas A&M student, faculty or staff member may enter the contest.

The council is looking for an uncomplicated logo that may be reproduced easily. Judging will be by three students, two faculty and an administrator.

The symbol will be used along with the other colleges' emblems for centennial purposes during 1976.

Departments included in the College of Liberal Arts are economics, English, history, journalism, modern languages, philosophy and humanities, political science, psychology, sociology and anthropology.

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