

the state

White collar criminals: no trouble finding a job

United Press International
HOUSTON — Thieves are shunted from business to business because of government restrictions preventing verification of past employment and employers' fears of invasion of privacy lawsuits, a security executive said Tuesday.

"As recently as 15 years ago, a thief could expect to be blackballed within his profession," Lonnie T. Shultz Jr. of New Orleans said about white collar criminals. "A bank executive caught embezzling funds could expect to spend the rest of his life in manual labor."

"He was ruined. He couldn't get another job in that field. He lost his social standing. He would be kicked out of his country club and wouldn't be allowed to coach the Little League team any more."

"Today, however, a man can steal at this bank and go across the street and steal from it, too, simply because the first bank can't tell the second he was fired as a thief."

Shultz, vice president of Pendleton Inc., a former U.S. Treasury special agent and a lecturer at the International Security Conference, told business representatives eager for help in stemming losses estimated (by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce) at \$40 billion annually that there were no easy remedies.

"These people are here looking for answers and frankly I can't tell them," he said in an interview.

Shultz said no factor contributed more to internal theft than the lessening of disgrace thieves once expected if caught.

"Today a company asks him to re-

sign," Shultz said of employees caught stealing. "They are not going to fight the prosecution he could bring that would stick them with a civil suit verdict."

"The restraints are gone. You can't restrict who can sue whom. It costs \$25 to file a suit and it can cost a defendant \$100,000 to defend it and win. And if you settle out, then everybody is going to sue you."

"A business can't expose its assets to litigation simply because a guy stole \$500 from the petty cash fund. So you fire a worker and then the strongest thing you can say in a reference check is 'terminated, not eligible for rehiring.'"

Shultz faulted Equal Employment Opportunity Commission legislation for having done more harm in protecting thieves than good in guaranteeing equal access to jobs. He said employers are restricted by law and threat of privacy lawsuits from seeking information about prospective employees' backgrounds.

He said employers can not use polygraph tests to screen applicants unless everyone in a company is subjected to the same test. Shultz said polygraphs were not foolproof anyhow and suggested businesses consider Psychological Stress Evaluation tests instead.

But he also faulted the attitude and practices of business and government in contributing to the growing problem.

"Businesses are not resolved to protect their assets," he said, explaining that many companies for too long have considered employee theft a cost of doing business.

Further, he said the president of a \$100 million company often will submit his firm's security to the low bidder without analyzing his needs or the firm's reputation or performance.

Davis to wed at end of week

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Barely a month after his divorce judgment was handed down, T. Cullen Davis said he will marry Karen Master, with whom he has lived during almost three years of murder charges and criminal trials.

"Unless there is an unexpected hitch," the millionaire businessman said recently, "Karen and I will wed before the end of this week. There will be a quiet ceremony with only friends present." He would not discuss other details of the wedding.

The possible roadblock to which Davis referred could be an appeal by ex-wife Priscilla of their April 20 divorce judgment. Mrs. Davis' associates have said she does not plan to appeal.

Asked where he and Mrs. Master would honeymoon, Davis said "Gosh, I don't know."

"Karen has been so busy making plans for the wedding that we haven't given any thought to a honeymoon. I guess you could say that we have been on a honeymoon for the past five years or so."

Davis said he and Mrs. Master would live in his \$6 million mansion on the city's southwest side, which Mrs. Davis has been ordered to vacate by Wednesday or pay \$50,000 a month rent.

It was at that palatial home in August 1976 that an intruder shot and killed Mrs. Davis' daughter, Andrea Wilborn, and her friend Stan Farr and injured Mrs. Davis and another person. Davis was acquitted in November 1977 of murder charges in the girl's death, and still awaits trial in Farr's slaying.

This summer the wealthy industrialist will be re-tried on charges he solicited the murder of his original divorcee, an alleged plot that never was carried out. The first trial, last fall in Houston, ended in a hung jury.

Now you know

United Press International
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