

the nation

## Senator denies cash his

WASHINGTON — Sen. Herman Talmadge, testifying for the first time in public under oath, told the Ethics Committee Wednesday he did not keep a cash hoard in the pocket of an old overcoat.

The Georgia Democrat, facing financial misconduct charges before a panel, accused his former wife, Betty, and his former top aide, Daniel Minchew, of lying to the

committee. When Minchew says I authorized or directed the opening of a secret Riggs (bank) account, he

says. When Minchew says that I ordered the diversion of Senate and campaign funds into that account, I

deny it. When Minchew says he gave me funds from that account or that I benefited from it in any way, I deny it again, Talmadge declared.

Talmadge also attacked the testimony of his former wife who testified she went into the cash stuffed overcoat when she needed household money. Mrs. Talmadge testified she found as much as \$50,000 in the coat.

Talmadge, however, said the amount of money in the coat "at no time" approached the huge amount testified by Mrs. Talmadge. He said he has been burglarized three times during his 23 years in the Senate, and "I thus do not and did not receive large sums of money at home."

"At no time did I maintain a cash hoard in the pocket of an overcoat or anywhere else," Talmadge said. "I wore the overcoat apparently referred to by Mrs. Talmadge from time to time in 1973 and 1974."

He said he did not know the source of the 77 \$100 bills turned over to the ethics committee by Mrs. Talmadge even though she testified the money came from the

house. Mrs. Talmadge has testified she found as much as \$45,000 in cash stuffed in the old overcoat owned by Talmadge and that she dipped into it when she needed petty cash.

Talmadge, who initially refused to testify before the committee, said now is a "willing witness" and intends "to establish once and for all why all five financial misconduct charges against him should be dropped."

He again claimed that two minor charges involving reporting errors on candidate declarations and "unintentional" financial disclosure forms were unintentional and the result of inadvertence and confusion.

Talmadge said two major charges against him — the filing of \$50,000 in false Senate expense claims and the conversion of campaign contributions to his personal use — are true.

"At no time," Talmadge said, "did I receive cash from campaign contributions nor did I benefit from a secret bank account opened by Minchew to launder \$34,000 in campaign money and bogus expense payments."

Talmadge said the expense overstatements were made without his knowledge or involvement and he knew nothing about them until last week when news stories first reported them.

## Postal Service starting mail by satellite for overseas letters

WASHINGTON — The Postal Service, in its biggest step into the electronic age, is inaugurating a mail-via-satellite network that photographs letters and transmits them from Washington or New York to London in less than a minute. The new computerized INTELPOST began a month-long demonstration stage this week between the United States and England. The Postal Service then plans a one-year field test in which actual mail will be sent between the United States and seven countries.

England, Argentina, Belgium, West Germany, France, Iran and the Netherlands have purchased computer equipment to join in the project in August.

The cost of mailing a letter to Britain will be \$5-a-page — the

rates may be reduced if the system proves profitable — plus additional postage for hand delivery if the sender desires.

The Postal Service, contending the rate is far cheaper than Telex fees, hopes the system will someday be a big moneymaker and timesaver for the public.

INTELPOST has headquarters at newly remodeled, computer-filled rooms in the Postal Service's Washington offices and at the World Trade Center in New York.

The satellite system works like this:

A person bearing a letter arrives at the post office and fills out a brief form stating his address and the address of the intended recipient.

The postal clerk glances at the letter to make certain the print is dark enough to photocopy. ("We don't want to read the letter," says Jack Funderburk, director of the Postal Service's new Office of International Electronic Message Systems, stressing the importance of protecting individual privacy.)

Depending on the sender's instructions, the clerk will either hold the mail for the recipient to pick up, drop it into the normal mail stream, or have it delivered as special express mail with an extra charge of a couple of dollars.

The same procedures will occur for mail sent from London to the United States, with the rates slightly different at 2 pounds (about \$4.30) a page.

While the Postal Service guarantees no delivery time, it says letters transmitted from London by 4:30 a.m. should be in the morning mail. Funderburk said contact with some 70 companies has brought a "remarkable" response. If those businesses apply the system during the field test, INTELPOST soon may be transmitting close to its maximum of 4,000 letters a day.

## Insurance council denies charges against life policies

WASHINGTON — The government says Americans are losing billions of dollars a year in interest by investing in "whole life" insurance policies instead of simply putting their money in bonds or savings accounts.

But the American Council of Life Insurance says the government doesn't know what it's talking about.

Whole life policies are those in which the owners' investment accrues, can be borrowed against, and is paid off in the form of dividends or retirement income, as opposed to simple term policies from which

death benefits are the only repayment.

A report issued Tuesday by the Federal Trade Commission said "whole life" insurance policies earn only 1 to 2 percent on the average, compared to 5 to 5½ percent interest on the lowest-paying savings and loan accounts.

It said the reason whole life insurance is so popular in the United States is that consumers simply don't realize how little they're earning.

A spokesman for the American Council of Life Insurance said the report is based on "inaccurate analysis."



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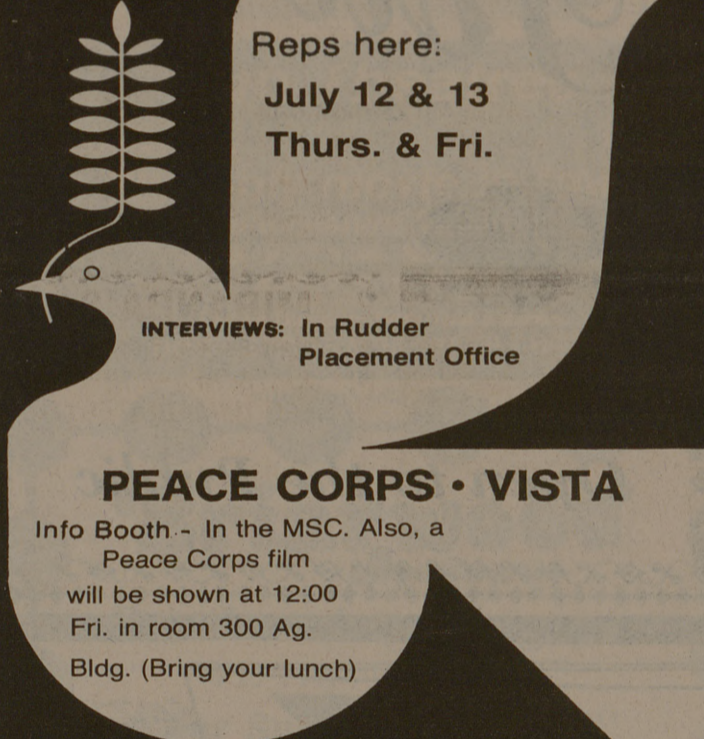


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## Traveler's checks left home without them

United Press International OMAHA, Neb. — Karl Malden might have trouble believing this story.

Sandra L. Rock of Grand Island reported \$500 in traveler's checks stolen from her purse July 1. She and her husband, who live in Grand Island, were visiting their daughter,

Kimberly, a cashier at an Omaha supermarket.

On Tuesday, Miss Rock said a woman entered her store, showed two pieces of identification and presented a traveler's check to be cashed. The cash bore her mother's signature.

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Summer students may dine on the board plan during the second session of summer school at Texas A&M University. Each board student may dine three meals each day except Sunday evening if the seven day plan is elected, and three meals each day, Monday through Friday, if the five day plan is preferred. Each meal is served in the Commons.

Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

Board fees for each plan are as follows:

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