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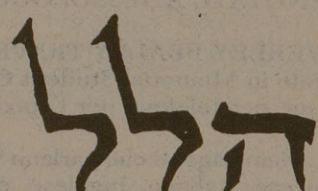
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the state

DPS director resigns

United Press International
DALLAS — Col. Wilson E. Speir, director of the Department of Public Safety through an often turbulent 11 years, announced his resignation Tuesday, saying he would leave the job Dec. 31.

Speir, 62, had a controversial reign, largely because the DPS compiled dossiers on legislators and citizens never accused of crimes.

Speir said he would retire at the end of this year after more than 43 years of public service. Speir was named director of the department on June 1, 1962.

"It was a very difficult decision to make," said Speir. But he said "I felt the time had come to retire. Cer-

tainly I have mixed emotions." Speir spoke to a Dallas press conference and noted he would also be stepping down as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which is meeting in Dallas.

Dropping strong hints about his intentions, Speir had said Monday he was "seriously considering" retiring as head of the state's 2,250-man police force.

Speir, a former school teacher, came under fire in recent years for alleged abuses in the DPS narcotics department and spying on civilians by his intelligence agents.

Several legislators and civil liberties groups demanded Speir's resignation following a 1975 Senate in-

vestigation which found the DPS has maintained "countless" intelligence files on private citizens "who were not even remotely connected with criminal activities."

The investigation began after it was disclosed that DPS intelligence agent David Dimick compiled a dossier on an airline pilot who opposed a nuclear power plant in Texas and turned it over to the pilot's employer.

It was later learned that the DPS compiled a dossier on former state representative Curtis Graves of Houston and a former political opponent of state Rep. Bill Heatly of Paducah. Speir has also come under fire recently because of accusations of misconduct involving current and former DPS narcotics officers.

Federal agencies investigate Nigerian bank fraud scheme

United Press International
DALLAS — Federal authorities are investigating a scheme in which Nigerian nationals obtained more than \$1 million in fraudulent loans and credit from 34 Dallas-Fort Worth area banks, a radio station reported Tuesday.

Federal indictments were expected later in the week from a federal grand jury, the station reported.

It interviewed one Nigerian stu-

dent who said he had three cars obtained on the basis of loans from three different banks under varying names.

In its copyright story, KRLD radio said the FBI, Secret Service, U.S. Postal Service and U.S. Attorney's office were investigating a fraud scheme involving false identification papers. Using false IDs, the station said, the Nigerians opened checking accounts, and obtained loans and credit cards.

state briefs

Credit card company sues singer

United Press International

AUSTIN — American Express filed suit against singer Jerry Lee Walker Tuesday, contending Walker owes the company more than \$38,000.

Exhibits filed with the suit indicate Walker has not paid on his American Express credit card account since July 1978.

The company claims he owes \$37,958 plus 9 percent interest. American Express also is asking \$12,650 attorney fees in its suit for the debt.

Yearbook spread draws flak from parents

AUSTIN — A two-page spread in a high school yearbook depicting students passing around marijuana cigarettes and drinking beer at school property has some parents up in arms.

The pictures were in the Austin High School yearbook distributed to students this month.

"We're not sticking our head in the sand. We know these things exist and the PTA is trying to correct them, but it's like dirty laundry. It shouldn't be aired," said Marlene Rich, president of the school PTA.

She said she and other PTA officials have received numerous calls from angry parents concerning the five pictures and copy describing the drug scene at the school. The photographs show only hands passing a marijuana cigarette, but other pictures show and identify students drinking beer on campus.

Plan approved to convert hotel to home for elderly

EL PASO — The federal government has approved a plan to convert the Hotel Cortez, a 54-year-old downtown landmark, into a 117-apartment complex for the elderly who will have their rent subsidized, an official said Tuesday.

Allan Lemlie, who organized a group of investors to renovate the interior of the old hotel, announced approval of rent subsidies for the elderly by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and said he would be contracting with the El Paso Housing Authority to manage the apartments.

\$10 million in goods recovered in Houston

United Press International
HOUSTON — Suburban police have recovered an estimated \$10 million worth of goods they say were stolen in 400 burglaries in four counties and say related arrests may end one of the area's biggest theft and arson operations.

Spring Valley Sgt. John Greenfield said local and federal authorities believe members of the same organization may be responsible for other crimes, including the

hijacking of gasoline tankers and murder.

Three men have been arrested and charged with burglary or arson. A fourth was arrested but not charged immediately. A fifth is being sought, police said.

Officers said the suspected burglars carried guns, knives, business covers, including cop keys at a car wash or posing as repairmen or carpet cleaners to gain entry.

Greenfield said the gang stole jewelry, furs, money, guns, television sets and other appliances. Greenfield said the items were taken in burglaries in Harris, Brazoria, Bend, Montgomery and Galveston counties.

Raymond Conti, 46, was charged with burglary and freed on \$300,000 bond. Otis Ody Jr., 49, was charged with theft and held in lieu of \$1 million bond. State law permits bond equal to twice the value of stolen property.

Roland Sarvant, 33, was charged with arson and freed on \$300,000 bond.

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