

Historian presents

State

Former official pleads guilty for failure to report felonies

United Press International
TYLER — Former Bowie County Commissioner Carlos Eugene Tidwell, charged with accepting bribes and submitting phony invoices to the county government, pleaded guilty Wednesday to failing to report a felony offense on three different occasions in 1978.

U.S. District Judge William M. Steger ordered authorities to submit an investigation report on Tidwell before sentencing him on Sept. 14 in Texarkana.

The federal charges accused Tidwell, who had been county commissioner for 24 years, of accepting bribes on three different occasions and then approving invoices for payment for road and bridge materials which were never ordered nor delivered to Bowie County.

The charges against Tidwell, other northeast Texas county commissioners and salesmen for road and building materials and equipment, resulted from a lengthy investigation authorized by U.S. Attorney John H. Hannah of Tyler and conducted by

the FBI in Tyler.

Others accused in the case are scheduled to go on trial in Judge Steger's court in September.

Wednesday's guilty plea by Tidwell was on a government information report which was offered in place of the indictments under a plea bargain arrangement between Tidwell's attorney, Charles Hall of Texarkana, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Harrison.

The information charged that on June 30, 1978 Tidwell accepted a \$436 bribe from road and bridge materials salesman Dallas Thompson and then approved a phony invoice from Thompson in the amount of \$872.80.

In the next three months, the information charged, Tidwell accepted two more bribes in the amounts of \$543 and \$454 and approved invoices of \$1,087.68 and \$908.88.

As part of the plea bargain, Tidwell issued a check for \$6,000 Wednesday to Hannah as restitution. The money will be returned to the county, Hannah said.

NOW leader says tornado support needed for ERA

United Press International
DALLAS — The president of the world's largest feminist organization is reminding President Reagan he will be in power at the time the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified or killed.

"I want him to concentrate real heavy on these 11 months," said Eleanor Cutri Smeal, head of the National Organization for Women.

"He is standing in the doorway and blocking quality for half the population of which he is president. We will not let the Republican Party forget it in November 1982 or 1984," she said Tuesday night.

With just 11 months left to get three more states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment by June 30, 1982, for it to be part of the Constitution, Smeal said tornado-like support was necessary.

"Political leaders are always testing the political winds," she told about 500 people attending a ERA Countdown Campaign meeting.

"I want them to think there is a tornado — I am in tornado country aren't I — and that they dare not stand in the way of women's equality," she said.

Although the NOW leader blasted President Reagan throughout her hour-long speech, she just as quickly warned Democrats to "not be so smug" because they are in control of many of the legislatures in the 15 states yet to ratify the amendment.

"The ERA clock is ticking, ticking, ticking away," Smeal said. "We have 11 months to change the legal situation and status of women in our country."

The feminist said she is amazed that almost 60 years after the idea of equal rights for women was

first introduced, "millions of people do not know the text of the amendment."

She pointed to the banner behind her which quoted the first section of the amendment: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Smeal accused the Reagan administration of rolling back gains made by women during the past 15 years and also blasted Reagan's proposed cuts to the Social Security system.

"Social Security is the major reason I am fighting so hard for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment," Smeal said.

She described the system as "sex discriminatory" because it does not provide equal benefits for men and women. She vowed the minute ERA passes, "we will go to court and challenge the existing Social Security System."

Smeal, a fulltime homemaker until her election as NOW president, said if the Reagan administration remains in office much longer "homemakers are an endangered species."

Sixty percent of women on Social Security have that as their only income, she said.

"It is the lifeblood of our mothers and grandmothers," Smeal said. "It is a very cold cruel world if you are over 65 years of age and taking home \$3,700 a year."

NOW is trying to raise \$15 million to campaign for ratification of the ERA, she said.

2 men rob Ft. Worth city official

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Two men wearing ski masks entered the home of former mayor pro tem Margaret Rimmer, tied her and her husband up, and took about \$100,000 in valuables from the residence, police said.

Rimmer and her husband, Dr. R.J. Rimmer, told police they were watching television late Monday when the bandits broke in through an unlocked window and pointed pistols at the couple.

"They told us to lie down and be quiet or they'd shoot us," Rimmer said. "We did as we were told because you never know what people might do."

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