

Lobbyist questioned on financial backers

United Press International AUSTIN — The chairman of a Texas House committee says he's not satisfied with financial disclosures made by an anti-gambling lobbyist who claimed he's being bankrolled with church money.

Rep. George Pierce, R-San Antonio, chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee, said Tuesday the disclosure by Allan L. Maley Jr. of Dallas that his finances were provided through a \$10,000 loan from the Anti-Crime Council of Texas "raises even more questions."

Under the threat of a legislative subpoena, Maley, director of Texans Against Gambling, made the disclosure in an angry letter to Pierce. He said the subpoena threat "flies in the face of the American system of justice."

But Pierce fired back that he

wanted more details from Maley by April 6.

Pierce last week obtained committee approval to subpoena records showing who is backing Maley's lobbying efforts. Maley had declined to answer the committee's questions about his group's financial resources.

The Urban Affairs Committee has been assigned a bill co-sponsored by Pierce that would legalize parimutuel betting on horse races in Texas. The anti-gambling faction of the committee claims enough votes to kill the bill.

Maley gave Pierce copies of a contributions and expenditures list filed with the secretary of state, but Pierce said he wanted more detailed information, including banking records, travel

receipts, telephone records and correspondence.

"There are no legal reporting requirements for the Anti-Crime Council," Maley told Pierce. "Having complied with your request for this information I must tell you that I highly resent your demand for it."

Maley said the \$10,000 was accumulated by the Anti-Crime Council over the last two years. He said the Baptist General Convention of Texas donated \$5,000, and the Texas United Methodist Church gave \$2,500.

The other donations, he said, came from individuals, the largest being \$500 from E.A. Williams of San Antonio.

Texans Against Gambling reported spending \$8,319, most of it in printing and mailing expenses.

State may appeal Gulf Nuclear ruling

United Press International AUSTIN — The state has yet to decide whether to appeal a judge's ruling reinstating the radioactive materials license of a low-level nuclear products manufacturing firm.

A district judge reinstated the license Tuesday, ruling the state improperly suspended the permit after a radioactive spill last month.

But Assistant Attorney General Brian Berwic said Tuesday the state may appeal the case.

District Judge John May granted Gulf Nuclear Inc. a temporary injunction banning the state Department of Health from closing down the firm's operation at Webster.

May also dismissed a complaint filed Monday by Attorney

General Jim Mattox requesting that Gulf Nuclear be banned from any further work with radioactive materials at the Webster plant and fined \$25,000 for each day it allegedly violated state law.

Gulf Nuclear's license to manufacture radioactive materials was suspended by the health department's Bureau of Radiation Control March 18 following a Feb. 8 accident at the firm's Webster plant.

In that accident, a worker accidentally cut open a capsule containing a pellet of radioactive material and a spill occurred, exposing several unprotected workers. Gulf Nuclear did not report the spill to state authorities.

State involvement in the case

began March 4 when the Bureau of Radiation Control ordered Gulf Nuclear to perform tests on two employees to determine the extent of their radioactive contamination and to prepare a report on the February accident within 30 days.

The company's license was suspended two weeks later when the bureau received preliminary test results on one of the two employees. Gulf Nuclear was directed to test seven additional workers for possible contamination.

In testimony Tuesday, Walter Peoples Jr., chief executive officer of the company, argued the firm was not required under state law to report the accident.

Annexation bill debated

United Press International AUSTIN — Passing a bill which would limit annexation by the state's coastal cities to no more than three miles out into the Gulf, would only "be opening a Pandora's box," says a state senator.

The bill by Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls, would end a continuing dispute between cities, the state and oil companies operating off-shore oil rigs over the right of coastal

municipalities to annex and tax the off-shore properties.

"It's not an issue of whether or not they get services," said Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, and a strong foe of the Farabee bill. "It's an issue of whether the cities are entitled to share in the wealth of the state. If you pass this bill, you're going to be opening a Pandora's box."

If approved, the bill would have the effect of reversing annexations by the city of Port

Arthur which have extended that city's boundaries out as much as 10.5 miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

Superior Oil Co. sued Port Arthur over the annexation, claiming the city was taxing its off-shore properties, but providing no services. The Texas Supreme Court upheld the annexation and the case currently is on appeal in federal court.

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