

Time could limit inquiry of Mattox

United Press International
AUSTIN — A grand jury investigation of Attorney General Jim Mattox enters its fourth week Tuesday, but time restraints may prevent the panel from expanding its inquiry to cover new allegations of wrongdoing by the state's beleaguered chief legal officer.

No witnesses were subpoenaed for today's grand jury session, but Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle said the panel would continue to review reports that Mattox misrepresented the source of a \$125,000 campaign loan and threatened the bond business of Houston-based law firm Fulbright & Jaworski.

More recent allegations of improper conduct by Mattox have arisen since the grand jury probe began, but Earle said Monday he was unsure whether the new reports would be presented to the grand jury.

"It's a matter of available time and available people," Earle said. "The problem is there are a number of allegations floating around and there are only limited numbers of people and hours in grand jury. Mattox's attorneys contend the documents are privileged information between Mattox and his clients and, therefore, should not be subject to study."

The attorney general Monday defended his actions in the most recently reported incident involving his intervention in a \$1.4 million Texas Southern University construction project.

TSU officials said a contract for artificial turf had been awarded in March to the second-lowest bidder without initial objection from Mattox.

Mattox said the low-bidder — Superturf International, headed by N.W. Paschal, a longtime Mattox supporter who contributed \$5,000 to his campaign last fall — called later to complain about the bid specifications and convinced him to intervene.

Attorney General Jim Mattox defended his actions in the most recently reported incident involving his intervention in a \$1.4 million Texas Southern University construction project.

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Tree spared by corporate decision

United Press International
SPRING — Leonard and Laura Woods have kind words for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. because of a corporate decision to reroute a gas pipeline rather than cut down a 100-year-old black walnut tree.

"I was just amazed," Woods said. "Just flabbergasted that a big corporation would be so cooperative with grass-roots little people like us."

The couple asked officials of Tennessee Gas, a subsidiary of Tenneco Inc., if they could spare the tree, and after some study by company officials were told the company will avoid the majestic tree and others.

Tennessee Gas had the legal right to clear the black walnut, a tree rarely found in southeast Texas, because it was on a company easement. After the first survey, engineers said the tree's

roots were a hazard to the pipeline.

The company's easement cuts diagonally across a corner of the Woods' property.

After several calls, including one to Bill Such, a vice president with Tennessee Gas, the company said it would reconsider.

Pipeline division supervisor

Jim Quasney flew to the Woods' home, looked at the situation and determined it would not be necessary to cut down the tree. The new pipeline would be rerouted, Quasney told the couple.

A tree expert estimated the Woods' black walnut was worth tens of thousands of dollars because the close-grained wood is scarce and highly prized for making furniture.

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Former player will appeal rape charge

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A former Southern University football player returns to court Friday in an attempt to win his freedom while appealing his conviction on charges of attempted forcible rape.

Attorneys for former lineman Linwood Hamilton, 25, of Easton, Pa., Monday filed a request to have bond set for the football player, while he appeals a conviction for the attempted rape of a New Iberia woman.

A hearing on the request was scheduled Friday.

Hamilton was found guilty last Friday of the rape attempt, but a jury could not agree on aggravated rape charges filed against him and four other SU players.

The felony conviction carried a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, with the sentence left entirely to the judge's discretion.

Two other defendants — painter Kim Ray Daris, 20, of Atlanta, and receiver Earnest Bell, 20, of Houston — were acquitted.

The jury could not reach a verdict on the charges against Thomas Hudson and Herman Coleman Jr., forcing the Orleans Parish district attorney to decide whether to try the pair again. A meeting on the DA's response to the "hung jury" was scheduled in two weeks.

Hijacking foiler offered job as supervisor

United Press International
MIAMI — Pan American World Airways is giving Spicer Lung a new assignment as a supervisor in its San Francisco operation, assuming that's all right with the hero who foiled an attempted hijacking on a Miami-Houston flight.

Lung, who was hired by the airline in Nicaragua in 1964, had lost his catering management job in Houston July 15.

On Aug. 2, he, his son and Miami lawyer Ralph Symons jumped a Cuban man who was demanding the plane fly to Havana and strapped him to a seat for the remainder of the flight.

Company officials decided they wanted Lung back, but they weren't sure where.

Pan Am spokesman Mike Clark in Miami said Monday Lung has been given a job as ramp and operations supervisor in San Francisco.

"It was available and they wanted him as soon as they could get him," Clark said. "He was supervisor of catering services in Houston but his new job is akin to what he did for us in Managua."


Clark said if Lung is not happy with the move to San Francisco he will be offered opportunities in other cities later.

Because of red tape, Lung was not taken off the payroll between the time he was furnished and the attempted hijacking more than two weeks later. After the airborne episode, the paperwork was stopped and his pay continued.

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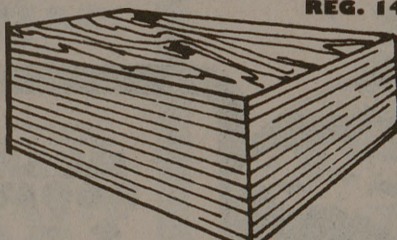
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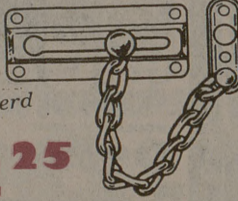
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