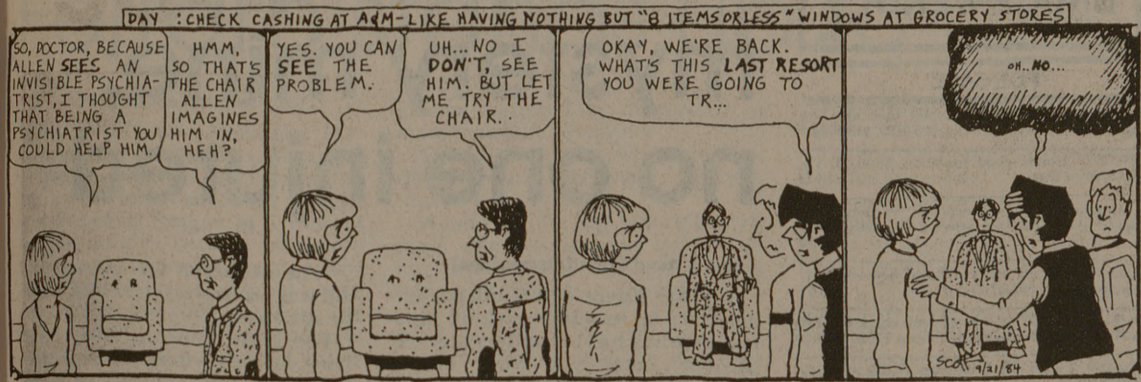


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by Scott McCullar



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Prosecutor finds no crime

Edwin Meese is clear

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — A special prosecutor Thursday found no criminal wrongdoing in an investigation of Edwin Meese, and President Reagan said if re-elected he will renominate Meese to be attorney general.
 Special prosecutor Jacob Stein, in a 385-page report to a special court, said an exhaustive 5-month investigation of the White House counselor concluded there was "no basis" for prosecuting Meese for any of the 11 allegations against him.
 The White House issued a written statement by Reagan. At the same time, Meese appeared in the White House press room to say "it's been a long ordeal over several months."
 Meese, who refused to take questions after making his statement, said he looks forward to the resumption of the Senate confirmation proceedings on his nomination.
 "The experience has been a difficult one," Meese said. "But it was essential for it cleared the air and affirmed what my family and I have always known: that we have lived honorable lives, that we have paid our debts with our own money, and that we have never taken advantage of official position to obtain private gain."

Reagan told reporters, "It's always gratifying when the honor of a just man is vindicated and that's exactly what has happened with the report of the independent counsel on Ed Meese."
 Reagan said that Meese "is one of the most decent and honorable men I've ever known so I'm not surprised by the outcome...."
 "I intend, if I am re-elected, to re-submit his nomination as soon as Congress convenes in January."
 Reagan nominated his longtime friend for attorney general, but confirmation hearings were delayed when questions were raised about his finances and friends in government.
 Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., postponed the confirmation hearings until next year because of the political overtones.
 Stein found no criminal wrongdoing in Meese's activities — including his failure to report on his financial disclosure statement a \$15,000 loan from a personal friend, Edwin Thomas, who later got a White House post.
 The report disclosed that Thomas, on his second interview with investigators, acknowledged that he had told Meese in February 1981, when they were preparing

their financial statements, "not to forget" the loan to Meese's wife. It said Meese did not recall the reminder.
 Stein stressed in the report that it was not his job to draw conclusions about the propriety of Meese's activities or his fitness to serve as attorney general.
 Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, who spearheaded the effort to block Meese's nomination in the Senate, said the Stein report is "replete with contradictory statements" and added there appeared to be "numerous cases" where testimony given to Stein was at variance with testimony given to the Judiciary Committee.
 He said, however, that the "question of criminality and the pressing of charges are matters which have now been determined by Mr. Stein."
 "However, there is no doubt in my mind that the sum total of the report fully confirms my previous statements that Mr. Meese should not be confirmed to be attorney general of the United States of America," Metzenbaum said.
 The five-month investigation included questioning 200 witnesses.

PUF

(continued from page 1)

are eligible for PUF and AUF proceeds.
 Those A&M institutions are Texas A&M-Galveston, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station at locations other than College Station and the Texas Transportation Institute.
 The UT units to be added to the PUF will be UT-Arlington; UT-Dallas; UT-Permian Basin; UT-San Antonio; UT-Tyler; UT Health Center-Tyler; UT Health Science Center-Houston including the Medical School, the Allied Health Sciences School, the Nursing School and the Speech and Hearing Institute; UT Health Science Center-San Antonio and the UT Institute of Texan Culture.
 While A&M is spreading its one-third portion of the fund over 12 institutions with only one additional academic unit, UT will be spreading its two-thirds portion over 15 units with 14 new academic units, three of which are medical schools.
 The usage of PUF bond proceeds will be expanded to include major repairs and rehabilitation of existing buildings, purchase of capital equipment, purchase of land and acquisition of library books and materials.
 Prairie View A&M also will receive added benefits if the amendment is approved. Prairie View will receive a special appropriation of \$6 million each year for 10 years to be

drawn from the UT portion of the AUF.
 If the new amendment passes, the state legislature also will provide \$100 million from general revenues to be dedicated for use by the 26 state universities not receiving PUF money.
 Any excesses, up to \$2 billion, may be placed into a permanent Higher Education Fund structured like the PUF, Southerland said.
 "The goal is to have another PUF," he said.
 Before 1981, state universities other than A&M and UT received funding from a state ad valorem (property tax), but in 1981 the tax was repealed and the institutions lost their dedicated source of funds.
 Since that time, the schools have had to make special legislative requests each time funds are needed to build classrooms or laboratories. Since there is no assurance that money will be available when needed, non-PUF schools have not been able to develop long-range plans.
 Non-PUF schools are Angelo State University, Corpus Christi State University, East Texas State University, East Texas State University at Texarkana, Lamar State University, Lamar State University at Port Arthur, Laredo State University, Midwestern State University, North Texas State University, Pan American University at Edinburg, and Pan American University at Brownsville.

Other non-PUF state universities include Sam Houston State University, Southwest Texas State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Sul Ross State University including the Uvalde Study Center, Texas A&I University, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Texas Southern University, Texas Tech University, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Texas Woman's University, University of Houston-University Park, University of Houston-Clear Lake City, University of Houston-Downtown and West Texas State University.
 If the proposition fails, the non-PUF universities again will have no dedicated fund to lean on for long-range planning. There also is the possibility that an injunction would be brought against the PUF, freezing any spending and halting all construction, Southerland said.
 "We would have a crisis in higher education," he said.
 Southerland also said that if the proposition was defeated, higher education possibly would be put under a scrutiny that it has never had before, much like the scrutiny of public education by the committee headed by H. Ross Perot.
 So far, the Texas A&M Board of Regents, the University of Texas Board of Regents, the Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System, Governor Mark White and several other public officials have come out in support of Proposition 2.

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