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WORLD AND NATION

SEC officer resigns amid controversy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Fedders, the Securities and Exchange Commission's top law enforcement officer, resigned Tuesday amid revelations that he has beaten his wife during their 18-year marriage.

In a letter to SEC Chairman John Shad, Fedders said his "private difficulties" have not affected the way he ran the agency's enforcement division. But he said he was quitting because "the glare of publicity on my private life threatens to undermine the effectiveness of the division and of the commission."

Charlotte Fedders, asked about her husband's resignation, said in a brief telephone interview, "The entire situation is very bad." She said she did not want to talk further about the matter.

In divorce proceedings, Mrs. Fedders accused her husband of severely and repeatedly beating her, but Fedders said the beatings — while regrettable — were overblown by newspaper accounts.

"On seven occasions during more than 18 years of marriage, marital disputes between us resulted in violence for which I feel and have expressed great remorse," Fedders wrote Shad.

"These isolated events do not, however, justify the extreme characterizations made in the press," he said. A copy of Fedders' letter was released by the SEC.

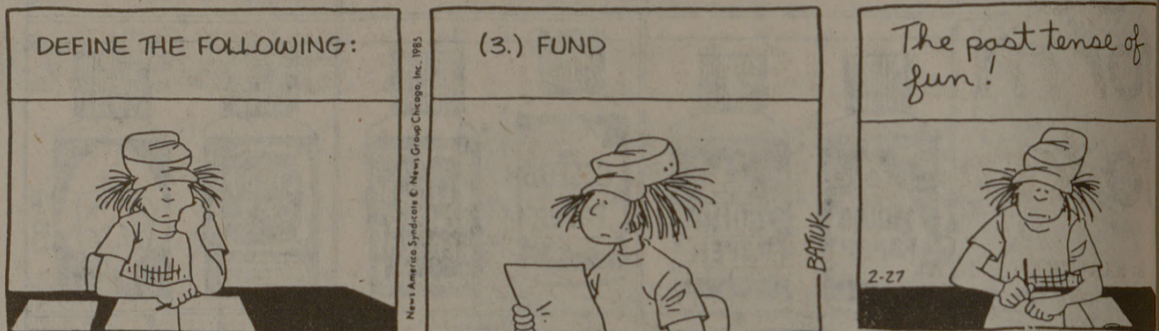
Earlier Tuesday, chief White House spokesman Larry Speakes had said that President Reagan would take no immediate action against Fedders while the Fedders' divorce case was pending.

The divorce proceeding was postponed for three months on Monday after Fedders, 43, said he hoped for a reconciliation with his estranged wife, Charlotte, 41. Mrs. Fedders shook her head in silence when her husband told Montgomery County, Md., Circuit Court Judge James McAuliffe that he still hoped to patch up their 18-year marriage.

Fedders' lawyer, Nathan Lewin, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that although the 6-foot-10 SEC official acknowledged in his testimony that he had seven violent altercations with his wife during the course of their marriage, "he strongly contests that he was a wife beater."

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Bartlett



Drug wars

Mexican police continue waging battles

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Despite U.S. allegations of official corruption, the Mexican government says that it is waging an effective war against drug traffickers and that 315 soldiers have been killed as a result of anti-drug operations.

The comments came after judicial police in Tijuana on Monday announced the arrests of four men, three of them former police officials, in connection with the Feb. 7 kidnapping of Enrique Camarena Salazar, 37, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent.

Camarena was abducted by four gunmen within sight of the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara, regarded as a major drug trafficking center in

Mexico. Authorities say they have no information about whether Camarena is dead or alive, despite a \$50,000 reward offered by the U.S. government.

Arrested in Tijuana was Tomas Morlett Borquez, a former member of the Federal Security Police. DEA chief Frances Mullen Jr. characterized Morlett as the mastermind behind the Camarena kidnapping.

Detained with Morlett were Enrique Gonzalez Aguilar, a former lieutenant colonel in Mexico City's transit police, and Eduardo Ramirez Ortiz, a former federal security officer. All three were taken Monday to Guadalajara for questioning, police said.

A fourth man, Marciano Belandier guigotia, was picked up in Guadalajara on Monday, allegedly for piloting a plane used by reputed drug baron Rafael Caro Quintero to fly out of Guadalajara.

On Monday night, National Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Garcia, an army general, released statistics he said shows Mexico is actively engaged in the drug war.

The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee issued a report Monday in which it noted "every narcotics investigation has been compromised due to advanced warning by Mexican government officials involved in the drug raids."

Report claims Nicaragua's arms build-up is defensive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A report on Central America's military balance, co-authored by a former CIA analyst, concludes Nicaragua's leftist government has bolstered its armed forces to defend against a feared U.S. attack, not to invade neighboring countries.

"The truth is that the only Central American nation in danger of an invasion by regular forces is Nicaragua," said the 28-page report released Tuesday by a private group that has been critical of President Reagan's Latin American policies. "The only nation likely to do that is the United States."

"Nicaragua believes that the most important deterrent it possesses against that threat is a level of modern armament sufficient to inflict severe casualties on an attacking U.S. force."

The Reagan administration has charged repeatedly that Nicaragua's military build-up, supported by the Soviet Union and its allies, is a threat to other Central American countries and indirectly to U.S. national security.

The report, challenging that assumption, was written

by former CIA analyst David MacMichael and Colin Danby and Franz Schneiderman, two researchers in the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, which released the study.

MacMichael was an analyst under contract to the CIA from 1981 to 1983 and left after disputing U.S. allegations that Nicaragua's Sandinista government was shipping large stocks of weapons to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador. MacMichael, who went public with his dispute in June 1984, claimed that evidence of a significant weapons flow "just disappeared" after the spring of 1981.

Administration officials, however, insisted that the evidence of Nicaraguan complicity was convincing, and Secretary of State George P. Shultz said MacMichael "must be living in some other world."

Asked about the new report Tuesday, a State Department official, who insisted on anonymity, said that even if Nicaragua does not invade neighboring countries, its build-up allows the leftist regime to back up its version and to "effectively blackmail" weaker countries into making concessions.

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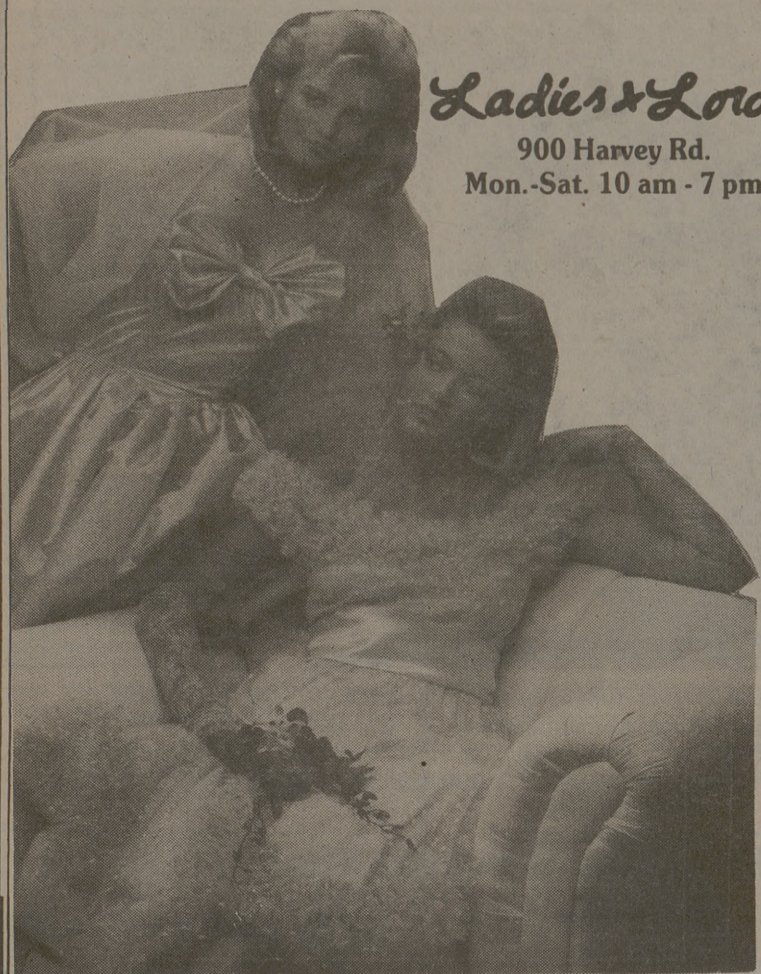
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