

CRIME STOPPERS

TYLER — Almost nine years have passed since Thomas Martin Eliason dropped out of sight.

Yet detectives from the Tyler Police Department, who have warrants charging Eliason with the April 4, 1976 slaying of a local businessman, say they get occasional reports of the elusive fugitive's wanderings.

"We've heard he's been in Houston, Dallas, Colorado, and even paid a visit to Tyler a few years back," said Sergeant Nelson Downing of the Tyler Police Department. "But the information has always been just a little bit late to catch him."

This week Eliason has been added to the Texas Most Wanted list. A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the capture of the 41-year-old fugitive.

Until that fateful April night in 1976, Eliason had only minor brushes with the law. He had been arrested for burglary and some misdemeanor assaults.

But on April 4, investigators say the ex-soldier tried to force his way into his former girlfriend's second-story apartment. When that failed, investigators noted in their report,

the suspect climbed up a gutter pipe and entered the apartment through a window.

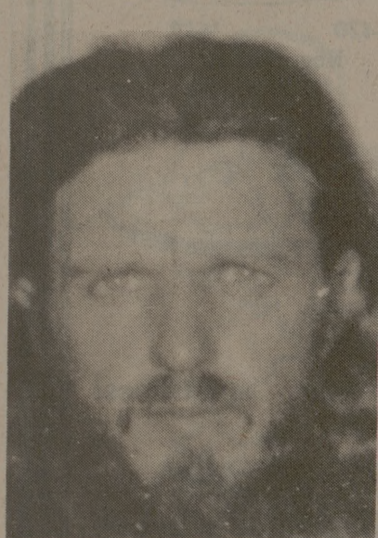
Eliason's ex-girlfriend was inside the apartment with a male visitor she had recently met. The woman and her visitor tried to flee the apartment. The visitor was shot twice in the side as he ran down the stairs.

The victim managed to make it to his car, but was shot six more times with a .45-caliber automatic as he tried to start his car. Eliason's ex-girlfriend saved herself by hiding in some nearby bushes.

Eliason's pickup truck was found abandoned by police at a dump site near Tyler. His motorcycle was left at his apartment. But after calling and threatening his former girlfriend a few times, Eliason dropped out of sight.

He is described as a white male, 5-9, 165 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair. Detectives say that until the late 1970's, Eliason's hair was very long and he wore a beard. But recent sightings indicate he has cut his hair and has gained about 20 to 30 pounds.

The fugitive has worked in the oil



Thomas Martin Eliason

fields, for a tree service and also was a retail salesman. Investigators say he can pass himself off as a "professional type" of a businessman.

Walsh jumps parties

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Williamson County District Attorney Ed Walsh jumped to the Republican Party Monday and indicated he might be interested in being his new party's candidate for attorney general.

"It is an office that would interest me," Walsh said, "but I have made no decision to seek that office."

Walsh said he abandoned the Democrats because "our country needs a strong defense, a strong free enterprise system and a return to the basic values that have made us a great nation."

"The leadership of the Democratic Party either does not know how to achieve these goals, or even worse, in many cases no longer cares about them."

Walsh said he has never voted for a Democrat for president.

Among the "awards and recognitions" listed on Walsh's resume is this line: "The only prosecutor in the United States to have obtained a death sentence for Henry Lee Lucas."

Lucas, a confessed mass murderer, was sentenced to die in the slaying of an unidentified female hitchhiker. Lucas remains housed in the Williamson County jail in Georgetown, where he has cooperated with police who have linked him to hundreds of slayings around the nation.

Walsh's party switch brought quick reaction from Newton Holman, Williamson County Democratic chairman. He said Walsh was "turning his back" on the people who elected him as a Democrat last November.

Holman also questioned why Lucas remains in the Williamson County Jail months after his conviction.

"Is Mr. Walsh exchanging Lucas's present notoriety for a future statewide race at great cost to the Williamson County taxpayers?" Holman asked.

Citizens happy takeover fails

Associated Press

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. — After three months of fending off Phillips Petroleum Co.'s unwanted suitors, Bartlesville citizens were ready Monday to "smell the roses for a few hours," a community leader said.

Hours after Phillips officials announced a company recapitalization plan had failed, the company and financier Carl Icahn said Monday that Icahn had agreed to drop his hostile bid to buy the Bartlesville-based company.

"I think it's a good day," said Sam Cartwright, executive vice president of the Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce. "Certainly we feel relieved, at least for the time being."

The oil company, eighth-largest in the nation, apparently has weathered its second unwelcome takeover attempt in less than three months.

Bartlesville residents, citing the importance of a company employing 7,700 in a city of 38,000, battled Icahn's \$8.06 billion takeover as they had Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens Jr.'s attempt to buy the company. Pickens abandoned his efforts in December.

Residents held rallies and prayer vigils, marched in protest, baked Valentine's Day cookies and donned "Boone-buster" T-shirts in support of Phillips.

Cartwright said Monday that no celebration is planned.

"We're going to smell the roses for a few hours," he said. "It has been so frustrating for this town. We're getting kind of used to bad news. We're getting a little gun-shy."

"We hope there are no more surprises."

Cartwright, who met informally with local businessmen Monday, said the community mood appeared optimistic after Icahn's announced withdrawal and Phillips' \$4.5 billion offer to buy back nearly half its stock.

The company announced Sunday that shareholders had rejected an earlier recapitalization plan.

"Phillips management is to be con-

gratulated," Cartwright said. "They certainly have demonstrated they want to remain in the community of Bartlesville and the state of Oklahoma."

"I'm certain that Mr. Icahn is happy with it," he said. "He's going to get his money out of it."

Under the settlement, Phillips will pay up to \$25 million of Icahn's expenses.

Icahn refused to comment on his profit from the transaction, but analysts estimated he earned between \$50 million and \$60 million before taxes.

Pickens' takeover group negotiated a settlement that produced pretax profits of at least \$89 million for Mesa Partners.

Icahn agreed to withdraw his offer of \$60 a share for 70 million shares of Phillips. He also said he would not try to unseat Phillips' board and agreed to stay away from Phillips for eight years.

Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., Icahn's financial adviser, agreed not to finance any takeover attempt against Phillips for the next three years, Phillips said in announcing the settlement. Both Phillips and Icahn agreed to dismiss lawsuits filed in the takeover attempt that began Feb. 4.

Phillips has begun an offer to exchange 72.5 million shares of its stock for securities with a value of \$62 a share. It also said it planned to increase the dividend on common stock from \$2.40 a share to \$3 a share, and to issue \$300 million in preferred stock to the holders of the remaining 73.1 million shares of Phillips' common stock.

Phillips said it would seek shareholder authorization at the annual meeting April 30 for issuing more common stock to implement a 3-for-1 stock split for each share remaining after the stock buyback.

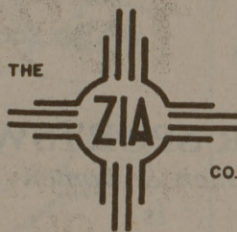
Phillips dropped plans for selling a controlling interest in its stock to employees, although it said it still planned to sell \$2 billion of its assets.

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School prayer

Representative pushes vote on resolution

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A young lawmaker upset some veteran House members Tuesday by trying to force a vote on a resolution involving school prayer — an issue that many legislators view as political poison.

Rep. Robert Earley, 25, D-Portland, wanted to skip the committee process and get House support for his measure calling on Congress to convene a constitutional convention on school prayer.

The constitutional amendment Earley favors would allow states to rule on school prayer. Earley's resolution said federal courts have "inhibited and abridged the right of religious freedom by invalidating numerous school prayer practices."

The U.S. Supreme Court has banned open prayer in public schools.

"The decision needs to be made by the states, not the courts," Earley said.

During a portion of routine House proceedings when members traditionally pay little attention, Earley won approval to suspend the rules requiring committee review of legislation.

When Earley explained his resolution, several House members went to the back microphone to vent the measure. Rep. Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen, complained that the controversial measure had not gone to committee.

He later told reporters that it would be senseless to force a quick House vote on a resolution that probably has little meaning — except possibly to some political futures.

Congress usually pays little attention to what the Texas Legislature says, Hinojosa said, while voters tend to remember how their representatives voted on school prayer.

"It allows the members to get themselves cut up and it doesn't serve any useful purpose," Hinojosa said.

The McAllen lawmaker said he supports the Supreme Court decision on school prayer.

"With the diversity of religions in this country we can't pass this kind of amendment," he said.

Rep. Smith Gilley, D-Greenville, said the Earley move was an attempt to slip something past the House.

"It smacks of an effort to subvert

the committee process," he said. "These types of resolutions are usually done for pure demagoguery."

Earley said he spoke to Speaker Gib Lewis before bringing the resolution to the floor. Lewis said he gave Earley permission to make the effort, but said he would send the measure to committee if there appeared to be any controversy.

Lewis said he told House members to listen up before he asked for the vote on allowing the resolution to come to the floor without committee review.

After Gilley and Hinojosa objected, the speaker sent the bill to the House State Affairs Committee.

"Personally, I feel there is a need for voluntary school prayer," said Earley, a Catholic who said his resolution was not pushed by any organized pro-school prayer group.

Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso, said the Earley move caught him by surprise.

"Members need time to peruse things like this, not just shoot from the hip," he said.



Is there life in politics after November 6?

MSC Political Forum says "yes" with the following programs:

Wed. March 26 -- State Representative Richard Smith
How the budget cuts affect us.
601 Rudder

Wed. March 27 -- Lane McCotter Deputy Director of TDC
Prison Reforms in Texas.

Thur. March 28 -- State Senator Kent Caperton

Tue. April 2 -- John Goodner, Houston City Councilman v. Gara La Mouche, Director of Texas CLU.
Gay Rights Debate
Rudder Auditorium

Wed. April 3 -- Political Awareness Day
Over 50 special interest groups electrify the Memorial Student Center

Tentative programs:

April 16 or 23 -- His Excellency Carlos Tunnerman Berheim
Ambassador from the Republic of Nicaragua

Thur. April 18 -- Congressman Joe Barton

Come discover the vitality that creates politics with MSC Political Forum.

