

# Contractor cuts Pentagon bill by \$23 million

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — General Dynamics, criticized for charging country club costs and dog kennel bills to the Pentagon, told Congress on Monday it is reducing its bills to the government by \$23 million.

But the nation's biggest defense contractor came under more fire from congressmen.

The latest criticism involves allegations that General Dynamics was involved in a conflict of interest by hiring an assistant secretary of the Navy and that the company overlooked warnings that its Electric Boat division was performing poorly in building Navy submarines.

General Dynamics Chairman David Lewis denied to the House Commerce Investigations subcommittee that the firm was involved in conflict of interest and said it had tried to improve the Electric Boat yard.

However, Lewis acknowledged that the company's oversight of its billing practices was sloppy and "left much to be desired."

So, Lewis said, General Dynamics is voluntarily withdrawing \$23 million of the \$170 million in overhead claims it submitted to the Pentagon from 1979 to 1982.

Three weeks ago, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger suspended overhead payments of \$40 million to General Dynamics for 30 days until the Pentagon could investigate billing practices.

Weinberger's suspension was denounced Monday by subcommittee Democrats as more show than substance.

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., the chairman, said Weinberger had sent only a single auditor to review General Dynamics in the wake of the suspension.

Rep. Gerry Sikorski, D-Minn., noted that while Weinberger withheld some payments, he permitted other payments to go ahead "even though there is clear evidence of gouging and mismanagement there."

The Pentagon, asked for reaction to the Democrats' charges, had not issued any statement by midafternoon.

# 'Amadeus' sweeps Academy Awards

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Amadeus," a fictional account of Mozart's tormented final years, dominated the Academy Awards Monday with eight Oscars, including best picture and best actor for F. Murray Abraham, as the jealous, second-rate composer Salieri. Sally Field was named best actress for her role as a gritty farm widow in "Places in the Heart."

Abraham, a 45-year-old veteran of TV commercials and off-Broadway theater won in his first starring film role, playing opposite fellow nominee Tom Hulce as Mozart.

"There's only one thing that's missing for me tonight and that is to have Tom Hulce standing by my side," Abraham said in accepting the honor.

Field, who won previously as best actress for 1979's "Norma Rae," thanked writer-director Robert Benton: "Oh Benton, what you did for me. You changed my life, truly. This means so much for me this time."

This year's Oscarcast was slicker and faster-paced than last year's, when the show dragged on a stupefying 3 hours, 45 minutes and plunged in the ratings. The emphasis was on lavish production numbers and short acceptance speeches. It ended just after midnight.

# Angry mob demands access to deposits

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — More than 2,000 customers of the closed Home State Savings Bank jammed a college fieldhouse Sunday, demanding access to their frozen deposits.

The crowd jeered the mention of Gov. Richard Celeste for his handling of Ohio's savings and loans crisis, in which 69 institutions were ordered shut after Home State's closing on March 8, and cheered loudly when speakers demanded their money.

Home State offices have remained closed while other privately insured, state-chartered savings and loan in-

stitutions across Ohio have reopened for limited withdrawals.

"We do not want to be further victimized by our government and banking officials by having to settle for less than 100 percent of our money," said Lisa Neidich, an organizer who helped provide petitions and lists of state representatives.

Joanne Schreiner, an attorney involved in efforts to find a buyer for Home State, told the crowd at Xavier University that the state was to get responses from some prospective buyers Monday. She also said officials are trying to find a way to unfreeze Home State accounts.

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