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World and Nation

Conflict-of-interest probe wide against former deputy staff chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — A conflict-of-interest probe of former deputy White House chief of staff Michael Deaver widened Tuesday to include allegations that the Washington lobbyist may have lied to Congress and that witnesses may have tried to obstruct the investigation.

A three-judge federal appeals court panel authorized independent counsel Whitney North Seymour Jr. to investigate and prosecute Deaver for "any willfully false . . . testimony" he might have given on his lobbying activities last May to a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee.

The judges authorized Seymour to prosecute any person who obstructed justice or lied since the probe of Deaver began 6½ months ago. They said obstruction could have occurred during a preliminary Justice Department investigation last spring that led to Seymour's appointment.

Broadening the scope of the investigation will reinforce Seymour's authority to pursue all possible violations of law by Deaver and others, said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the subcommittee on oversight and investigation.

The judges also authorized prosecution for anyone who aided Deaver in violating federal criminal laws.

Randall J. Turk, an attorney for Deaver, said the lobbyist has cooperated with the investigation. Turk predicted that Deaver would be exonerated and said that broadening the scope of the investigation is a routine matter that in no way suggests the independent counsel necessarily suspects obstruction or lying is occurring.

But Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., a senior member of Dingell's subcommittee, said, "A prosecutor wouldn't request such a clarification unless he

intended to pursue these areas very vigorously."

Seymour has been examining whether Deaver violated federal conflict-of-interest laws representing Canada and other clients since the government in the spring of 1985 set up a multimillion-dollar lobbying firm.

After leaving the government, Deaver accepted a \$105,000-a-year contract with Canada to proceed to meet with Drew Lewis, the U.S. dental envoy on acid rain pollution, an intense interest to the Canadians. While at the White House, Deaver had pushed the appointment of a special envoy's post.

Regarding his activities for Canada, the Department has said that Deaver may be later a lifetime ban on lobbying the government on an issue in which he participated while he was at the White House.

Documents: North behind scenes at fund-raising dinner for Contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fired White House aide Oliver L. North participated behind the scenes in an April 1985 dinner to aid Nicaraguan refugees that netted only \$1,000 to help refugees but paid more than \$100,000 to "consultants," according to documents and sources.

Documents on the April 15 dinner, obtained by The Associated Press, show one of its chief organizers reporting to North on plans for raising money, including a suggestion that the sultan of Brunei "might kick in a million dollars."

Although it is not clear what came of the Brunei suggestion, U.S. officials said last week that the State Department persuaded the sultan of the oil-rich Asian kingdom to donate millions of dollars to Nicaraguan Contra rebels this year.

1984 to enlist third countries and private individuals to aid the Contras in the face of congressional opposition. White House sources said President Reagan gave oral approval for that plan.

Two sources have told the AP that the Nicaraguan Refugee Fund was started in mid-1984 through a secret agreement between the Miner and Fraser Public Affairs Inc. and the Contras' Washington-based corporate arm, the Nicaraguan Development Council.

Letters from Edie Fraser, Miner and Fraser president, to North, suggest that he participated in detailed decisions about the fund.

One letter, dated Dec. 27, 1984, and signed by Fraser, said, "I look forward to getting with you on Jan. 3 or 4 regarding the Nicaraguan Refugee Fund and the proposed plan."

A Dec. 28, 1984, "personal and confidential" memo from Fraser to North notes that the sultan of Brunei had given \$500,000 to a drug program favored by first lady Nancy Reagan and states: "Naturally, it has been recommended that he might kick in a million dollars of that for the refugees for Central America."

Sources said North played a behind-the-scenes role in arranging the April 15 dinner.

North was fired from President Reagan's National Security Council staff on Nov. 25 after Attorney General Edwin Meese III said North knew about profits being diverted from secret Iranian arms sales to the Contras this year. Before his firing, the White House consistently denied that North raised money for the Contras.

North has refused to testify before Congress, citing his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination. Fraser failed to return telephone calls to her office.

The Nicaraguan Refugee Fund sponsored the April 15, 1985 dinner, featuring a speech by Reagan, that took in \$219,525 for refugees. However, an internal audit by the fund showed costs totaling \$218,376, including \$116,938 in consulting fees and \$71,163 to feed the nearly 700 people at the dinner.

Little more than \$1,000 went to transport aid to Nicaraguan refugees.

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The *Los Angeles Times* said the money went through a Swiss bank account controlled by North.

The newly obtained documents show that North participated in pro-Contra fund-raising at least as early as 1984.

Last year, the AP reported that North developed a plan in early

1984 to enlist third countries and private individuals to aid the Contras in the face of congressional opposition. White House sources said President Reagan gave oral approval for that plan.

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Spy gets life term for selling defense data

BALTIMORE (AP) — Ronald W. Pelton, a former employee of the National Security Agency, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison for selling defense secrets to the Soviet Union.

The sentence was meted out by U.S. District Court Judge Herbert F. Murray, who told Pelton that "this court considers espionage one of the

most serious offenses in the U.S. criminal code."

Pelton, 45, was convicted of four counts of espionage in June for selling information about signals intelligence to the Soviets between 1980 and 1985 for \$35,000, plus expenses.

Murray sentenced Pelton to three life terms plus 10 years. He could be eligible for parole in 10 years.

"You occupy a special position of trust critical to the security of our country," the judge said, adding that Pelton's actions damaged U.S. intelligence programs.

Pelton said that he could not condone his actions, but he asked the court for a lesser sentence than the life term recommended by the government. Pelton's attorney had asked for a 30-year term.

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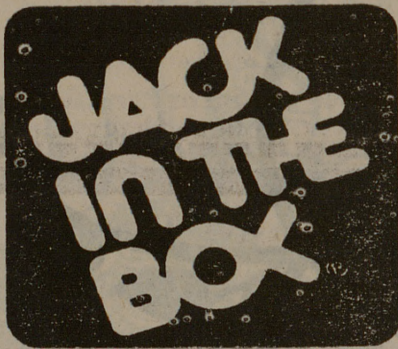
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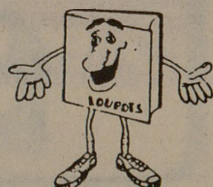


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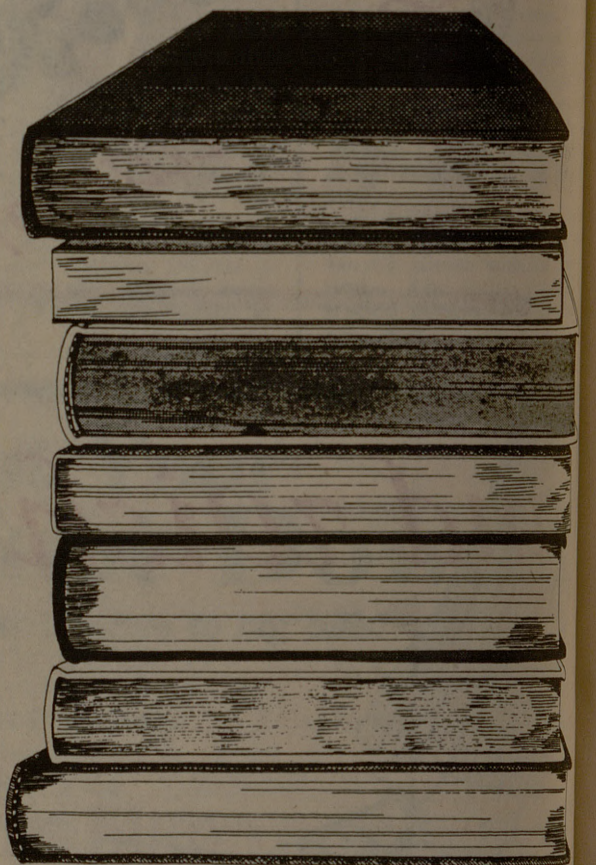


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