

Minister: New leader of PTL denied sex scandal payoff

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Texan who served on the board of the PTL ministry says the successor to PTL leader Jim Bakker repeatedly denied that money was paid to a woman after a sexual liaison with the resigned television evangelist.

The Rev. J. Don George of Irving, Texas, said he first questioned the Rev. Richard Dortch, then PTL's executive vice president and now its president, last fall about reports that Bakker had become involved in a sexual encounter.

George said that after he resigned Feb. 18 from the PTL board — for reasons unrelated to the sex scandal that prompted Bakker's March 19 resignation — he heard that the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer* was investigating a similar report.

George said he telephoned Dortch and questioned him further about the rumor that money was paid to the woman, who was later identified as Jessica Hahn, a Long Island, N.Y., church secretary.

"He steadfastly denied it even at that date," George told the *Los Angeles Times* in a telephone interview published Wednesday.

Dortch, who succeeded Bakker as president of PTL, declined comment Tuesday, the newspaper said.

Bakker, 47, the founder, chairman and president of the \$172 million television ministry, resigned after admitting that he had sex with the church secretary in 1980 and that he agreed to pay her money to keep quiet about it.

A reported \$265,000 payment was negotiated for Hahn in February 1985.

Hahn's representative, Anaheim businessman and church watchdog Paul Roper, has said Dortch suggested the settlement for Hahn.

Operation of PTL, which stands for Praise the Lord and for People That Love, was turned over to the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who asked Dortch to stay on as administrator.

Falwell said last week that the

board's auditing committee will look into the sources of the payment to Hahn.

George said he didn't know where the \$265,000 came from.

"If it was personal money spent by Jim Bakker, that would certainly not be as severe a situation (as) if it were learned that PTL funds were spent, as I see it," George said.

George, an Assemblies of God pastor who oversees the 4,500-member Calvary Temple in the Dallas area, said it "was a horrible thing" for a minister to fall into any sexual indiscretion.

"But when you add to that . . . the expenditure of money in the attempt to quiet an involved party, and add to that the lies and untruths, it compounds the problem dramatically," George said.

George said he resigned from the board after serving for just 15 months.

British refuse to reinstate death penalty

LONDON (AP) — The House of Commons voted by a wide margin Wednesday against restoring the death penalty, which was abolished in Britain 18 years ago.

Lawmakers voted 342-230 to defeat a resolution that would have brought back capital punishment for "evil murders." It was the seventh failure to reinstate the death penalty since it was officially abolished in 1969.

All parties in the 650-member Commons allowed their members a free vote, without the customary demand to follow a party position, and a loud cheer filled the packed chamber when the result was announced.

Law-and-order campaigners, spurred by a wave of public revulsion over a terrorist attack and the murder of a policeman, launched the latest bid to restore the death penalty.

Investigators seeking to question U.S. lawyer about Pollard spy case

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. investigators are seeking to question a Washington lawyer with dual Israeli-U.S. citizenship in connection with the Pollard spy affair, diplomatic and administration sources said Wednesday.

The attorney, who was identified as Harold Katz, allegedly allowed his Washington apartment to be used by Jonathan Jay Pollard's handlers to photocopy U.S. military documents that Pollard smuggled from his job as a Navy analyst, said an administration source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A diplomatic source, who also demanded anonymity, said Katz, who took Israeli citizenship in 1972, also is suspected by U.S. authorities of being involved in payments to Pollard.

Israel is resisting U.S. efforts to question Katz, who also has a home in Tel Aviv, the Israeli capital, the

administration source said, adding that Katz is in Israel now and that the government does not want him to leave.

Questions about Katz's involvement in the Pollard affair were developed by U.S. investigators and not by Israeli authorities, who had pledged full cooperation when the spy case broke.

Pollard, a 32-year-old American Jew, was arrested in November 1985, pleaded guilty to espionage the following June and on March 4 was sentenced in Washington to life in prison for selling Israel hundreds of classified military documents in 1984-85.

His wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, 26, received a five-year term for conspiring to receive embezzled government property and being an accessory after the fact to possession of defense secrets.

Meeting of religious groups works to reform fund-raising

NEW YORK (AP) — Disturbed by increasing instances of shabby tactics in seeking contributions, a gathering of Christian fund-raisers has vowed to shun such practices.

But they didn't spell out specific rules about it.

Representatives of about 350 organizations, declaring mistakes have been made in proliferating fundraising methods, urged greater concern for accountability and biblical, ethical standards.

They also signed a joint "covenant" to "put no stumbling block in anyone's path" so ministries will not be discredited as they seek godly ways of raising and using money.

But explicit standards for meeting that objective weren't laid down.

Many participants called for detailed guidelines — for some definite do's and don'ts, says Gary L. Wall, spokesman for the affair and a New York publisher of Christian materials for youth.

"It may ultimately come to that," he adds, with the conference serving as a catalyst.

The unusual meeting March 9-11 in Kansas City, considered the broad-

est evangelical gathering of its kind, involved various ministries, schools, relief agencies and other evangelical institutions.

Arthur C. Borden of Oakton, Va., executive director of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability said the conference was long overdue.

That council does set specific standards of annual auditing, public disclosure and other processes of accountability, which are required of members, now totalling 354 evangelical organizations.

But the only widely heard TV evangelists among members with approved standards are Billy Graham's organization and Fred Price of Los Angeles. Other big-time TV evangelists don't belong.

Nor were most of them, such as the TV ministries of Jerry Falwell, Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart and now-resigned Jim Bakker, represented at the meeting, although Pat Robertson's TV ministry did send a participant.

Results of a Gallup poll presented there found that 46.6 percent of Americans think most Christian

fund-raising is "ethical or honest," but 39.9 percent put only "some or very little of it" on that dependable level.

Another 2.3 percent think none of it is upright, and a remaining fraction don't know.

Those distrustful of it variously suspect misuse of funds, dishonest leadership or blame over-commercialization.

The meeting heard scathing criticism of assorted current practices, such as "bait and switch" tactics, basing appeals on some emotion-touching cause and then using receipts for something else.

Noted evangelical theologian Carl F. H. Henry of Arlington, Va., criticized numerous current techniques, such as "prosperity theology," implying the more you give the more you get, and various "fund-raising premiums."

Often, some "special spiritual worth is attributed to tiny twigs from the Holy Land, or mother-of-pearl crosses from Bethlehem, or olive wood amulets from Jerusalem," he said.

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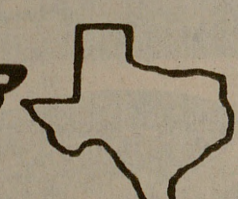
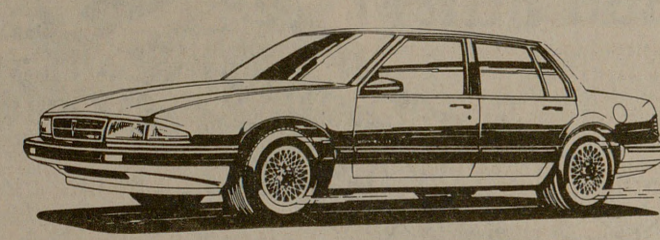
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