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Justice Department hit with resignations

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a move that reportedly shocked Attorney General Edwin Meese III, the Justice Department's No. 2 official and the head of the department's criminal division abruptly resigned Tuesday amid a nearly year-old criminal investigation of Meese.

Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns said in a letter to President Reagan that "Unfortunately, I have regretfully concluded that I must return to private life at this time." He did not elaborate.

William Weld, who as an assistant attorney general oversees all federal criminal investigations, resigned effective at the close of the business day Tuesday, despite a personal plea from other department officials that he remain on for several weeks.

Two of Burns' aides and two of Weld's aides also quit simultaneously.

The decision by Burns and Weld, who refused to say why they are resigning or to discuss their plans, leaves a gaping hole in the leadership of the Justice Department.

Meese's continuing legal problems have "everything to do with" why the two men quit, said a department source familiar with the reasons for the resignations who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The unexpected resignations were the result of the fact that "ma-

nor things aren't getting done at the Justice Department, nothing's moving because Meese is under this cloud," said another informed department source.

Meese first learned the two would step down when Burns and Weld walked into the attorney general's office at 8 a.m. Tuesday and informed him of the decision.

The two men conveyed to Meese the sentiment that "it's nothing against you personally, Ed," but "we want to go home," said one department source familiar with the discussion. Several department sources characterized Meese as "absolutely shocked" by the decision.

Meese's chief spokesman, Terry Eastland, said the attorney general "expressed appreciation for the job these two men have done" and "wished them well in their future endeavors." Both had served in their current jobs since Oct. 17, 1986.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said President Reagan accepted the resignations "with regret" and thanked Burns and Weld for serving "with distinction."

Fitzwater said Reagan continues to have "full confidence" in Meese and the Justice Department and that the resignations did not cause any particular concern among the president and his advisers. "We have people resigning all the time, especially

late in the administration," he said.

Meese has been under investigation for nearly 11 months by independent counsel James McKay, who last May 11 began looking into Meese's involvement with the scandal-plagued Wedtech Corp. The investigation has expanded to include his involvement in a \$1 billion Iraqi pipeline project.

Meese has predicted repeatedly that he won't be indicted and has said he won't resign.

The resignations weren't prompted by any new knowledge on the part of Burns or Weld that Meese is about to be indicted in the probe or that McKay has uncovered new evidence of possible culpability by the attorney general, several department sources said.

But they said both men believe that major issues in the Justice Department aren't being resolved and that the attorney general is increasingly preoccupied with the criminal investigation.

Burns has taken a central role in day-to-day operations of the department, while Meese's time increasingly has been taken up in meetings with his lawyers and grand jury appearances.

Burns and Weld arrived at the decision to resign independently of each other but agreed to quit during conversations Monday, said two sources who demanded anonymity.



Guarding a cause

Members of Students Against Apartheid, Derek Kalahar, a freshman psychology major, Jeff Dyess, a junior political science major, Karen Ellington, a freshman journalism major, and Michael Bur-

quieres, a freshman accounting major, guard the apartheid shack early Tuesday morning. The group was protecting the shack from vandals. Students will disassemble the shack on April 4.

Photo by Jay Janner

Speaker: Hispanics need direction in political arena

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

Mexican-Americans need to understand where they are going as a group before they will have any effect in the political community, Former New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya said at the MSC on Tuesday.

Anaya, who was introduced by Pedro Ruiz Garza (class of '67) as leading the race to become the first Hispanic presidential cabinet member, told participants in the two day American Culture Conference '88 to never lose sight of where they have come from and to use their education to continue their progress.

"We Hispanics share a common language and common goals," Anaya said. "We need to know where we are going before we can figure out how to get there."

As far as population is concerned, the Hispanic community is going up. While the United States as a whole only grew by 6 percent between 1980 and 1986, Anaya said the number of Hispanics grew by more than 80 percent. He said projections show Hispanics soon becoming the largest minority in the United States.

"In 50 years, Hispanics will be the majority in the state of Texas," Anaya said.

Even in Illinois and other parts of the Midwest, Anaya said, people are surprised to find pockets of Hispanics who never became involved in the political arena. He said these people are looking for ways to improve

their standing and develop their growing strength.

"It doesn't mean a thing if we don't start using this power," Anaya said. "It is only through politics that we can make the kinds of changes that need to be made."

Hispanic leaders are not the only ones to recognize Hispanic growth. Anaya said Congressmen have noticed, too, and they are worried. He said the English-only movement and the Immigration Act of 1986 are "... continuing steps in an on-going battle against Hispanics. ..."

"The representatives in Washington have the attitude that they need to put immigrants back in their place," Anaya said.

In support of the Immigration Act, Congress cited a "Tidal Wave" of immigrants with over 40 percent coming from Latin American countries. Anaya argues that, compared to numbers at the turn of the century, the "Tidal Wave" is more like a trickle.

"The immigration law was aimed first at Hispanics and then at Asians who want to live in this country," Anaya said. "This fear of foreigners is ridiculous when we all live in a country that was founded by foreigners."

On the topic of English-only, Anaya said no Hispanic leader in the country fails to understand the need to know English. He said this does not mean Hispanics need to be stripped of their bilingual ability.

Speaker: Mexican-Americans need political influence

By Joe Jimenez
Reporter

Mexican-Americans need to find ways to get involved with and influence local politics, the director of the Texas Interfaith Network said Monday afternoon at Texas A&M.

"I grew up in a city (San Antonio) that was over 53 percent Mexican-American," Ernesto Cortez, Class of '63, said. "Besides the occasional glance of opportunities for leadership, like then-Sen. Henry Gonzales, there was little participation by people in the Mexican-American community in the local political activities."

The speech, titled "Local Politics and the Mexican American Community," was part of a convention sponsored by the MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture.

In 1960, the University of Texas Bureau of Business Research did a study of the Mexican-American population and concluded that the population had an average education level of about fourth grade, Cortez said. Also, it found that 85 percent of 25-year-old Mexican-Americans had never been inside a high school, he said.

"The educational level was reflected economi-

cally, politically and socially," he said. "As things have changed, although not a whole lot, the conditions have changed."

Although poverty was a factor, Mexican-Americans did not participate politically because they did not have any power, Cortez said.

The pressures on Mexican-Americans were institutional in nature. Pressure was coming from corporations or financial institutions that had experts and networks working for them, Cortez said.

"There is some connection between money and power," he said. "To simply put it, power in America comes in two forms: organized people or organized money."

The strategy for building a broad based power organization was to have an ideology. People get excited when problems affect their particular interests. It is hard to sustain people's energy in civic activities, Cortez said.

"The problem was how you sustain people's energy," he said. "There has to be something that cuts into their vision of what the world is all about or what they are all about. For the top leaders, it

had to be more than fixing drainages or streets, it had to do with something about their own development as people.

"There has to be a focus of what these organizations are about. You organize people around their own interests."

He then proposed to the audience the question, "How do you do it?"

Before citizens organized for public service in San Antonio, the city was dominated by the political-economic power structure. Today it is a city that allows participation, he said.

"We began to organize people one on one, individually," Cortez said. "Organizing them on small issues in the beginning. We gradually got them to see that if they won issues on drain fights or street fights, they could get in to larger questions, like setting the city budget."

Catherine M. Valenzuela, chairman of CAMAC, said the committee plans to make the conference an annual event.

"We chose local politics as the subject of this year's conference because this is an election year," she said.

Soviet speaker: Space program needs more funds

By Todd Riemenschneider
Staff Writer

The space program is the hope for the future of mankind and America needs to lead the race, a Soviet magazine reporter and engineer said Tuesday.

Alexander Kharkovsky, sponsored by the MSC Political Forum, spoke on the importance of the U.S. space program.

Kharkovsky, who covered the Soviet space program for a leading Soviet magazine for over 20 years, said he believes that Congress should give more money to the space program.

"America is the last hope of the human race," he said.

"If we want to have some hope for democracy and freedom, we have to go into space," he said.

Kharkovsky, who has been a United States citizen for six years, said there is definitely a need for a functional space station for the United States to better put the shuttle to use.

"We made a spectacular show of the shuttle, but it failed," he said.

"The shuttle became a tool," he said. "It is a plane that goes nowhere without a space station."

Along the same line, Kharkovsky said that he believed the Skylab crash was and extremely unfortunate incident.

"It was a crime to down this great orbit station — it is a pity," he said.

Kharkovsky said that another crash, the Challenger accident, was also unfortunate.

But the United States seems to be at a standstill where the Challenger is involved.

"It has been two years since the accident and now we are sitting and waiting," he said. "What are we waiting for?"

Kharkovsky talked about the excitement caused by launches at NASA, comparing them to a circus coming to town, saying, "The circus is coming! The circus is coming! It is interesting, spectacular; they are launching their rockets."

"What is between the launches? They work in Houston between the launches."

Kharkovsky said he thinks Congress does not know where money, which is appropriated to the space program, is spent.

"These people in Congress think we spend our \$20 or \$30 billion on the moon," he said.

"It is not true, we spend our

"The U.S. is trying to compete with countries who teach their children English as a second language," Anaya said. "They ensure that their people become bilingual while America does the exact opposite. This is one reason why we are losing out in the world market."

Anaya said the U.S. needs to turn its attention to Latin America and

develop a foreign policy that will work.

"We developed a strong European policy because that's where Americans are from," Anaya said, "but we've never looked south of the boarder and tried to understand the relationship that we need to have."

"There have been small movements in that direction, but, if

we limit our people's ability to speak Spanish, we are only hurting ourselves."

Anaya pointed out problems students could address on campus. He asked students to learn why only 6 percent of the A&M campus is Hispanic and what opportunities need to be provided to attract more Hispanics to A&M. He said it comes

down to two questions: "What is the problem?" and "What is the solution?"

"As we look ahead," Anaya said, "we find many reasons to be optimistic."

"The challenges are out there and they are ours to become involved in. All we want to do is be a part of the action."



Photo by Russell James

Alexander Kharkovsky speaks about the Soviet space program Tuesday night as part of a program sponsored by the MSC Political Forum. He covered the Soviet space program for over 20 years.

money in Houston," he said.

The money appropriated is spent on research and development of equipment. The journalist and engineer also brought out a subtle point that many people do not attribute to the space program, but that is a result of that research.

"Our personal computers fell from the moon, they are a spinoff of

the space program," Kharkovsky said.

Kharkovsky said the space program is important to the future of Texas.

"Texas is the center of the American space program," he explained. "It is your future (people living close to Houston) and you have to invest in your future. But now, even in an election year, it is not even an issue."

Elders order Swaggart out of ministry for year

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Fervent evangelist Jimmy Swaggart was ordered Tuesday not to preach from the pulpit or his television show for at least a year while he is rehabilitating from "moral failure" that reportedly included paying a prostitute to pose nude.

In announcing its decision, the Assemblies of God elders disregarded a more lenient three-month suspension recommended by the church in Louisiana. The national church included provisions for two years of rehabilitation and counseling to begin when Swaggart has agreed to rehabilitation in writing.

Louisiana district officials refused comment, as did the Jimmy Swaggart Worldwide Ministries in Baton Rouge, La. But a spokesman said Swaggart's ministry would have a statement Wednesday.

"It is hoped that Jimmy Swaggart will agree to this program of rehabilitation and that such program will be redemptive and restorative in the life and ministry of our brother," the Rev. G. Raymond Carlson, the church's general superintendent, said in a statement.

People approved by the church would supervise the rehabilitation,

Carlson said. He provided no other details.

"If he does not accept, then the Executive Presbytery would take action to dismiss him," Carlson said at a news conference.

Under the terms of rehabilitation, Swaggart would be barred from his pulpit for at least a year and would have to stop distributing videotaped services that have enabled him to build a worldwide congregation.

Church officials say Swaggart confessed to them in detail but they have refused to make his transgression public. Reports have linked him to a prostitute who says he paid her to pose naked.

Swaggart has 30 days to appeal to the 13-member Executive Presbytery, which serves as a board of directors and which set the terms of rehabilitation.

The Louisiana district had recommended that Swaggart be barred from preaching for three months. National officials say every other Assemblies minister who has confessed to moral failure has been barred from preaching for at least a year.

The Louisiana district refused requests from the Executive Presbytery to reconsider, and apparently also questioned the national leadership's authority to determine discipline.