

Letters indicate Gingrich tried to profit from probe of Wright

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newt Gingrich, the conservative congressman who sparked the investigation of Jim Wright, used the probe as a GOP fund-raising tool aiming for "major gains" in the next two elections, letters he sent to potential contributors indicate.

He wrote four letters over the past year, asking the potential contributors to put pressure on the House ethics committee in the Wright case as well as give money. The latest letter, dated the day after Wright announced his resignation as House speaker, sought a new contribution, declaring the Texan was "not the only corrupt Democrat."

Gingrich, now the House Republican whip, made the fund-raising appeals as general chairman of GOPAC, a tax-paying organization that tries to elect Republicans to state legislatures and sometimes aids local GOP candidates.

The organization said it raised \$1.9 million last year, up \$500,000 from 1987, but could not say immediately how much of that was due to the letters Gingrich pegged to the Wright investigation.

Only days after he filed a formal ethics complaint against the Democratic House speaker, Gingrich began sending out the letters, some

telling contributors they could have great influence on the investigation that eventually toppled Wright.

Early on, prospective contributors were thanked for "helping me force"

the bipartisan ethics panel to deal with the Wright case.

By this spring, Gingrich's renewed thanks for forcing the ethics panel's hand were accompanied by a

new request for money to help GOP candidates. The Democrats, Gingrich wrote, were putting "a great deal of political heat on me" because of the case and hoped to use him as an issue to defeat Republicans.

House Democrats elect Gephardt, attempt to overcome ethics furor

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats on Wednesday elected Richard Gephardt of Missouri as majority leader, embracing a "no problems" former presidential candidate in an effort to push beyond the ethics furor that felled two top party leaders.

The Democrats then chose Rep. William H. Gray III, D-Pa., to be majority whip, making him the No. 3 Democrat in the House, behind Speaker Thomas S. Foley and Gephardt, and the highest-ranking black in Congress.

Gephardt defeated Georgia conservative Ed Jenkins, 181-76, and Gray won with 134 votes to 97 votes for David Bonior of Michigan and 30 for Beryl Anthony of Arkansas.

The two victors, both considered liberals, fill out the new leadership team Democrats have had to install in midterm because of the resignations of Speaker Jim Wright of Texas, and Whip Tony Coelho of California, both following ethics allegations. Foley, of Washington,

was elected speaker last week.

Gephardt accepted the No. 2 post with a call to Democrats to push aside what he said were Republican attempts to slander the party. A top GOP official was forced to resign last week after sending out a statement comparing Foley's voting record to that of a homosexual congressman — an episode Democrats contend was an example of typical Republican tactics.

"Some on the other side are committed to the dark side of politics, smear, innuendo, rumors, cynical media management, the politics of character assassination," Gephardt said. "But let us say . . . that we will win at the ballot box not by the force of our slurs but the force of our ideas."

In the secret ballot, Gray won the whip's post over two rivals despite news reports that personnel practices in his office were under investigation by the Justice Department.

Police hold three in connection with Bryan shootings

STAFF WRITER

A drug deal gone sour may be the cause of three drive-by shootings in Bryan Monday that killed one and injured five. Police have arrested two suspects in connection with the murder.

Sgt. Choya Walling, of the Bryan Police Department, said 40-year-old suspect Carl Alvin Craddock of Dallas and 30-year-old suspect Bruce Kevin Bannister of Florida, have been charged in connection with the murder of Marion Leon Johnson, 38, of Bryan, and the injuring of five others.

Craddock and Bannister are being held at the Brazos County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 each. One other suspect also is in custody while the investigation continues.

Walling said police believe the three went on their shooting spree after not receiving drugs they had purchased with counterfeit money.

"We think the suspects had been purchasing drugs with counterfeit twenties for quite a while," Walling said. "After the

victims realized what the group was doing, they decided not to deliver some drugs and the suspects retaliated by shooting them."

Walling said Craddock was arrested at 11:55 p.m. at a convenience store on 3300 E. 29th Street in Bryan. He said police were able to find Craddock after receiving tips from citizens.

Walling said Bannister was arrested at 7:05 a.m. Wednesday at a duplex in the Pecan Ridge subdivision in Bryan.

"In connection with Bannister's arrest, detectives recovered a beige Nissan Sentra reported stolen in Houston," Walling said. "It is believed to be the one used in the shootings." Witnesses said the suspects were driving a white hatchback vehicle during the shootings.

Walling said detectives seized two sawed-off 12-gauge shotguns, two .22-caliber pistols, assorted ammunition, drug paraphernalia associated with crack and cocaine, a television and other items from the duplex.

Reagan made honorary British knight by Queen

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II made Ronald Reagan a knight Wednesday, but without the kneeling and dubbing because the knighthood is an honorary one given foreigners, who cannot be called "Sir."

The Buckingham Palace announcement ended days of speculation about whether the former president, whose easy manner and conservative ardor made him a firm friend of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, would receive the highest honor for non-Britons. Honors to foreigners are recommended by the government.

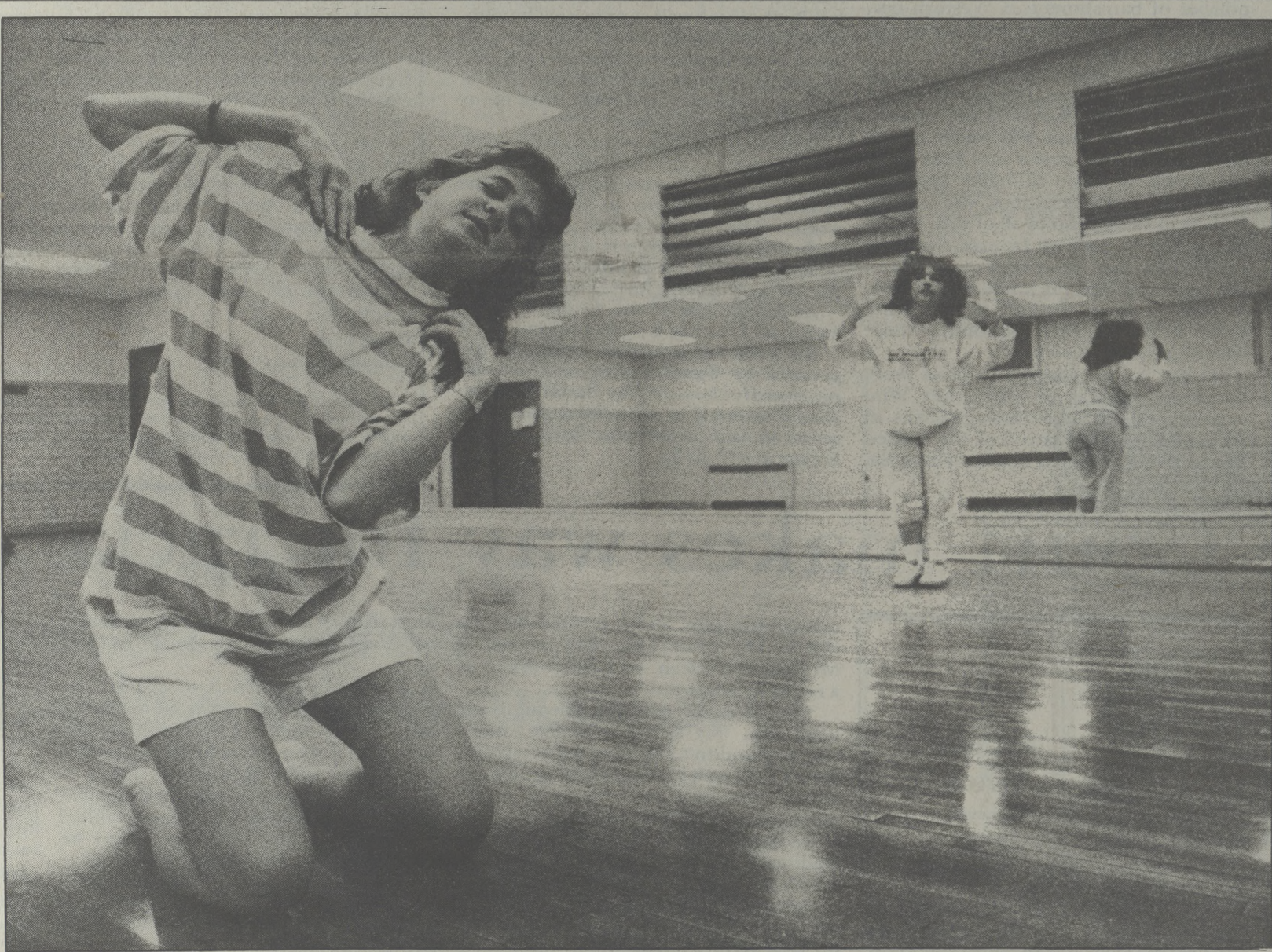
Reagan told reporters outside the palace: "I feel greatly honored."

He emerged from lunch with the queen with a box containing the insignia of an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, one of the highest orders of chivalry.

"Sir" is a title reserved for Britons, but at dinner parties Reagan can sit closer to the queen than unknighthooded former presidents. He also can use the initials "G.C.B." after his name.

Unlike Britons receiving knighthoods, Reagan did not have to kneel and be tapped on the shoulder by the royal sword. Instead, the queen handed him the order's insignia: a star, badge and broad ribbon of crimson silk.

Reagan was the 57th American given an honorary knighthood. Other American honorary knights include philanthropist John Paul Getty II, Henry Ford III, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk and actors Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Sidney Poitier.



Budding artists

Senior elementary education majors Laurie Jones and Joyce Clough practice their dance, "Rise and Fall of a Flower,"

Wednesday afternoon in the Read Building. The dance was part of a Creative Dance (Phed 311) class assignment.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Governor pledges \$5 million to help cities' traffic flow

AUSTIN (AP) — The governor's office is giving the green light — and more than \$5 million — to help speed Texas motorists through traffic snarls and save fuel as well as time.

Officials announced Wednesday that \$5.2 million would be made available to Texas cities and towns in a program to synchronize traffic lights around the state.

"This common sense approach to traffic management can save Texans both time and money by improving the flow of traffic in cities and towns all across our state," Gov. Bill Clements said of the new project.

The governor said fewer than half the estimated 13,000 traffic lights in Texas are timed for maximum driving efficiency, and he noted that autos and trucks burn more fuel per mile in traffic than on the open road.

"In fact, it has been estimated that between 30 percent and 40 percent of fuel burned in high traffic is burned while idling at red lights," he said.

The funds being made available through the governor's Energy Management Center will allow cities and towns statewide to compete for a share under guidelines being written by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

State funds can be used to supplement up to 75 percent of a city's costs, said Jay Rosser, the governor's deputy press secretary.

Rosser said that about 50 percent of the funds will go to the state's eight largest cities, 25 percent to cities under 50,000 population and 25 percent to cities of 50,000 to 200,000.

China tells U.S. to stop interfering in its affairs

BEIJING (AP) — The government Wednesday arrested more student leaders and supporters of the pro-democracy movement, and it warned the United States to stop interfering in China's internal affairs.

It also issued orders to expel two American reporters — John Pomfret of the Associated Press and Alan Pessin of the U.S. government-run Voice of America — for violating martial-law regulations that banned most news gathering.

State-run television announced the arrests of two of 21 student leaders named in a wanted list released Tuesday, and issued a new circular calling for the arrests of three leaders of an independent labor union.

Dozens of people nationwide were shown being led into police

stations, some with their arms wrenched in the air in a posture called by Chinese "the airplane position."

While the mass arrests continued, the People's Liberation Army reduced its presence in Beijing and Tiananmen Square was unguarded by tanks for the first time since the military began cracking down on the democracy movement 11 days ago.

Authorities ordered Pomfret and Pessin to leave China within 72 hours.

The order against Pessin followed a barrage of criticism of VOA by the official Chinese media as a rumor-monger.

Pomfret also was accused of having contacts with student leaders and of obtaining unspecified state secrets.

House subcommittee approves expenditure of \$200 million for building super collider

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House Appropriations subcommittee voted Wednesday to spend \$200 million to begin construction of the super collider after President Bush assured the panel chairman that several foreign countries would share the costs.

Rep. Tom Bevill, the influential Alabama Democrat who heads the House Appropriations subcommittee on energy and water, said Energy Secretary James A. Watkins told him at a White House meeting before the closed vote that a \$1 billion contribution is expected from Japan.

Bevill earlier this year had insisted he would not agree to fund the super collider in fiscal 1990 unless the Energy Department secured firm commitments from foreign countries willing to share the \$4.4 billion cost.

But on Wednesday, Bevill agreed to a bill that has no requirements for any level of foreign participation as well as no restrictions on the \$200 million. Initial construction could begin after Oct. 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

"Watkins assured all of us that they're going to have a good bit of participation," Bevill said late Wednesday.

Also attending the session were Rep. John Myers of Indiana, the panel's ranking Republican, White House chief of staff John Sununu and Budget Director Richard Darma.

Other potential contributors mentioned by Watkins were Italy and India, Bevill said. India is the only foreign nation to sign a commitment to share costs of the particle accelerator and has promised to contribute \$50 million.

Although some Texans vowed to press for spending \$250 million, the level sought by Bush, Bevill warned that final congressional approval of even \$200 million may be tough.

After his meeting with the president, Bevill issued a statement saying: "I told him I would put the money in for him, but it may be difficult to get it approved. It's a good project, but the cost of it concerns me a great deal. It will be up to Congress to make the final decision."

Under the subcommittee's plan, \$110 million

would be set aside to initiate construction at the Ellis County site, including preparation for tunneling of the 53-mile underground ring for high-energy physics experiments that scientists hope will help them understand the fundamental nature of matter. The remaining \$90 million would be used for research and development.

"It's almost a dream that's come true," said Waxahachie Mayor James Self. "It means a tremendous boost for Waxahachie and Ellis County economically. And it places the Dallas-Fort Worth area in the forefront of scientific discovery and research in the world."

"Texas made out like a bandit in this bill," said Rep. Jim Chapman, a Sulphur Springs Democrat and member of the subcommittee. "Odds are good the full committee will support the subcommittee's work."

"There were no requirements imposed that would in any way handicap the Department of Energy's ability to move forward," Chapman said. "This is as positive a response from the subcommittee as we could get."