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# Secord pleads guilty to avoid trial, agrees to 'cooperate fully' in cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord pleaded guilty Wednesday to one count of lying to Congress in the Iran-Contra affair, agreeing to "cooperate fully" with prosecutors in later cases.

He thus could become a government witness against John M. Poindexter, national security adviser in the Reagan administration and Oliver North's White House boss. Poindexter, whose criminal trial is to begin Jan. 22, is accused of conspiracy, obstructing Congress and three counts of making false statements.

Secord, the Iran-Contra middleman enlisted by North, admitted to U.S. District Court Judge Aubrey Robinson that he had made a false statement on June 10, 1987, when he denied to congressional investigators that he gave anything of benefit to North.

Secord paid the bill in 1986 for a security system at North's home, \$7,000 in cash and \$9,000 drawn on a U.S. bank from profits of "the Enterprise," the maze of companies and secret Swiss bank accounts Secord and his business partner Albert Hakim used in the Iran-Contra affair.

Prosecutors indicated in court papers they had been examining possible criminal tax violations by Secord and had been prepared to present evi-

dence that he "personally received total profits . . . in excess of \$1.5 million" from the sale of weapons to the Contras and Iran.

Secord has over \$170,000 in unpaid legal bills, according to a recent fund-raising letter mailed by supporters of a Secord legal defense fund. The fund-raisers estimated a trial would have cost him another \$600,000.

The government will move to dismiss the 11 remaining criminal charges pending against Secord, who was scheduled to go on trial next Monday. Eight of the charges relate to allegations of false testimony to Congress in 1987 focusing on his profits in the Iran-Contra affair. He also is charged with three counts involving gratuities for North.

"We are satisfied that this is a fair, just and responsible solution to a difficult case," said associate independent counsel Reid Weingarten, the head of the three-member prosecution team in the Secord case.

To date, four people including Secord have pleaded guilty to various crimes in the Iran-Contra affair. North is appealing his jury conviction of three felonies and trials are pending for Poindexter, Secord's business partner Hakim and former CIA station chief Joseph Fernandez.

A pre-trial court hearing for Hakim is scheduled for Thursday before U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell.

Pleading guilty in the affair in March was former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, who was placed on probation and fined \$20,000 for withholding information from Congress.

Secord could face up to five years in prison for the false statement plea. The judge, who heard both sides for court filings on whether maximum fines applicable under the law are \$100,000 and \$250,000, set no date for sentencing.

Secord told the judge that "I was shielded both of us" when he denied to congressional investigators that he gave anything to North.

Secord also helped set up a \$200,000 defense fund for the education of North's children, stated a prosecution document outlining evidence in support of his guilty plea.


In his congressional testimony in 1987, Secord said he knew nothing of the \$200,000 defense fund in the account. But prosecutors in court papers that Secord informed North of the fund shortly after it was opened.

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## Minorities

(Continued from page 1)

but there are improvements which need to be made.

"Wilder, who had an excellent record as Lt. Governor, should have won hands down according to polls taken earlier in the race, but instead the results were very close," Hernandez said. "I believe this happened because many whites chickened out

at the voter's booth and didn't vote for him like they said they would in polls."

Nika Davis, a political science major from Waco, said he believes the election of Wilder and Dinkins proves that persons will usually vote for the most qualified person running for a position no matter what race he may be.

"Issues, not race should be considered," Davis said. "Often times people vote for a person based on his color which can be a problem because skin color has nothing to do with a person's political abilities."

Curtis Franks, an executive officer in the Black Awareness Committee, said he thinks the number of blacks in office will increase if blacks

become more involved in politics. Franks, a freshman journalism major from Huntsville said, "I need to get involved in all elections and not just in elections with candidates. Many blacks vote for Jesse Jackson in the primaries because he is black and I don't think this is right because though he is a good diplomat, he probably isn't the best man for the presidency."

## Fans

(Continued from page 1)

avoid a confrontation or block anyone's view, he said. At the end of the second game, which Houston won, Danke again waved the flag.

After this, Danke said, a group of

"My perception of A&M now is that there is a narrowmindedness, maybe a blind devotion to your school that overrides important things like the law and the constitution."

— Michael Danke

A&M students surrounded him and his girlfriend.

"They were yelling at me and the

first guy tried to take my flag," Danke said.

Danke and his companion moved to seats in the section by the scoreboard, and sat behind everyone, he said. After he waved the Houston flag again, the group of students sat behind him. Danke said he had invitations to "step outside," taunts "to go home" and obscenities yelled at him.

"I have my own tradition of standing up on my team's last point of the game," Danke said. "When I stood up I got hard taps on the shoulder."

Danke said he was shaken by the verbal and physical abuse he received.

"Who needs that?" he asked. "I thought A&M had a tradition of sportsmanship and patriotism, and I respected that. Never once did I say anything negative about A&M. The only things I said were pro-University of Houston."

"I'll respect your traditions if you respect mine. I was just trying to support my team. My perception of A&M now is that there is a narrowmindedness, maybe a blind devotion to your school that overrides important things like the law and the constitution. My First Amendment rights were violated. Attempted robbery, assault and battery are crimes."

The same patrol officer that warned Danke had to escort him and his girlfriend from the premises. Danke said some A&M students followed them as they left.

The next day Danke wrote a letter to *The Battalion* saying that he "had been wronged."

Head Yell Leader Waylan Cain said he asked Danke not to run around the home side with his flag. "I didn't want him behind our fans because I didn't think it was necessary," Cain said. "I thought that what did end up happening might, so that's why I warned him."

The guys who go to volleyball do get rowdy and all he (Danke) doing was asking for trouble. If he (Danke) had someone go after him one else, we can't do anything."

A&M senior Joe Ferguson said he saw the group of A&M students gregating around Danke. He said it was pretty obvious the students were trying to intimidate the UH student.

Ferguson, a journalism major from Vidor, said he went over to the group of Aggies and told them to stop harrasing Danke.

"I told the guys, 'This is bad,' Ferguson said. "We want them to stop. They're just trying to support their team and it's not looking good for you're trying to steal their flag and bothering them."


Ferguson said only a few students representing Houston attended the volleyball match. Most spectators there were for A&M.

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