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# Former employees accuse Finnell of improperly spending state funds

AUSTIN (AP) — Former employees of state Rep. Charles Finnell said he has collected state reimbursement for automobile trips he never took and had staff members work on his abortive 1988 Senate campaign while they were on the state payroll, according to a copyright report Tuesday.

In addition, the employees said Finnell used state long-distance telephone lines at his Capitol office to conduct personal business, the *Austin-American Statesman* reported.

Finnell, a Democrat from Holliday, which is near Wichita Falls, denied engaging in such activities, which are prohibited by state law.

The activities described as questionable by his former employees involved thousands of dollars in payroll expenses.

It wasn't possible to quantify how much the phone calls might have totaled because detailed phone records were not available for Finnell's office.

Responding to the allegations regarding travel reimbursement and the use of staff for campaign work, Finnell said: "I deny that I have ever traveled one mile and billed it to the state when I haven't paid for that mile myself. There has been no political activity in this office."

Last month, the *American-Statesman* reported Finnell, as chairman of the House General Investigations Committee, spent the panel's entire \$40,000 budget, although the committee met only once during 1987-88.

Finnell denied any wrongdoing, saying he personally investigated hundreds of tips, then destroyed the records.

House Speaker Gib Lewis, who appointed Finnell as chairman, defended him, saying he is a "dedicated and committed public servant who has made great sacrifices to serve the people of this state."

But Finnell's former staffers claim the alleged abuses continued after Lewis appointed Finnell last January to lead another panel, the House Rules and Resolutions Committee.

From January through July, Lisa Fasano served as the clerk to that committee, which handles ceremonial resolutions. In recent interviews from New York City where she now works in an auction house, Fasano said Finnell flew first-class friends or family on at least two occasions, summer but instructed her to fill out the claim as if he drove the distance.

She said he flew between Austin and Houston on one occasion and to Fredricksburg on another.

"I thought it was wrong," Fasano said. "I told Charles this was not right but he said: 'I'm not the state money by not flying commercially.'"

Charles Waters, Finnell's administrative assistant, said Finnell told Fasano to falsify the records.

State records show that through September Finnell has collected \$1,967 in reimbursement for automobile mileage and \$543 for commercial air fare.

Fasano said Finnell also conducted personal business on state phone lines when he was trying to find Texas ranch land for investors, including calls to a real estate agent in California.

Finnell said he paid for any calls to the California agent, who has relatives in his district.

## Gay rights group calls for removal of judge

AUSTIN (AP) — The president of a gay rights group applauded an objection filed against a special master's report on a judge who said he gave a lighter sentence to a convicted murderer because his victims were "queers."

In a report last month to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, Special Master Robert Murray didn't find bias or misconduct on state District Judge Jack Hampton's part. He found only that Hampton had violated the Code of Judicial Conduct by talking about a case that was pending appeal.

The Texas Civil Liberties Union, Texas Human Rights Foundation and Austin chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild on Tuesday urged the commission to reject Murray's report and find that Hampton violated rules of conduct for judges.

"It's important that every bit of pressure on Judge Hampton be applied," William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance said. "As long as Judge Hampton is on the bench, homosexuals can expect not to get fair treatment."

Hampton told a *Dallas Times Herald* reporter last December he gave a light sentence to a convicted murderer, 18-year-old Richard Bednarski, in part because his two victims were "queers."

"I don't much care for queers cruising the streets for teen-age boys," Hampton told the reporter.

Hampton later apologized for a "poor choice of words" and insisted he thought the interview was off the record.

"The special master concluded in his fact-finding that Hampton did indeed say bigoted statements about homosexuals," said Virginia Thompson, an attorney for the TCLU who helped file the objection.

"I thought it was wrong. I told Charles this was not right."  
— Lisa Fasano, Former Finnell employee

## In Advance

- Luby's will present drug education program**  
To increase awareness of substance abuse in the community, Luby's Cafeteria will present its Community Drug Education System to Bryan-College Station Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Bryan Council Chambers. The CDES provides children and adults with access to accurate information about drugs and alcohol through a local phone number. To date, the CDES has been installed in more than 30 cities throughout Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Florida and has processed more than one million calls. Scheduled to attend the ceremony are Marvin Tate, mayor of Bryan and Larry Ringer, mayor of College Station.
- Richards will speak at barbecue fund-raiser**  
State treasurer and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ann Richards will speak tonight at 6:30 at the Brazos Center in Bryan at a barbecue fund-raiser. Tickets cost \$7.50 and are available at the door. For information contact Irma Cauley at 822-5500.
- Model Railroad Society will have open house**  
The Brazos Valley Model Railroad Society presents its annual open house Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Bonham Park North Bryan. Admission is free. Call 690-6630 for information.

## What's Up

- Wednesday**
- AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 214 Reed McDonald. Representatives from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be present to discuss internships at the 1990 show.
  - MSC POLITICAL FORUM:** presents E.L. Miller lecture series "Tomorrow's Technology Today" in the University Center Complex. For more information call 845-1515.
  - INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM:** will have a seminar on dealing with population pressures and rapidly growing urban centers: The North Mexico Monterrey Plan at 7 p.m. in 305 Rudder.
  - RHA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
  - OPAS STARK SERIES & DEPT. OF PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES:** will have a brown bag concert with pianist Paul Hersh at noon in 402 Academic. For more information call Rebecca Binder at 845-3355.
  - DEPARTMENT OF MODERN CLASSICAL LANGUAGES:** will have a lecture by Dr. Claudine Huntin titled "Counter-Revolutionary Correspondence: Jacques Cazotte's Dangerous Liaisons" at 4:15 p.m. in 212 MSC.
  - STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** will have a TAMU 1990 study abroad programs informational meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in 228 MSC.
  - STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** will have a loans for study abroad informational meeting from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
  - MSC ALL-NIGHT FAIR:** recognized student organizations may sign up for a booth from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in 216 MSC. For more information call Angie Payne at 845-1515.
  - HISPANIC BUSINESS STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 156 Blocker.
  - WOMEN'S STUDIES SUPPORT GROUP:** will have an organizational meeting at 6 p.m. in 139 MSC. For more information call Melissa Cuthbert at 846-3487.
  - COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND DEPT. OF PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES:** Paul Hersh will give a lecture/demonstration performance of the "Goldberg Variations" by Johann Sebastian Bach at 7:30 p.m. in 402 Academic. For more information call Rebecca Binder at 845-3355.
  - CIRCOLO ITALIANO:** will have its first official meeting at 8 p.m. in 127 Academic.
  - STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** will have a table with information on study abroad opportunities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC main hallway.
  - WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
  - BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE:** will present "Succeeding at Texas A&M" at 7 p.m. in Rudder.
  - SOCIETY OF FLIGHT TEST ENGINEERS:** test pilot 7 faculty member Dr. Don T. Ward will discuss the F-15 flight test program at 7 p.m. in 116 Engineering. For more information call Scott Brandt at 696-4010.
  - PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS FELLOWSHIP:** will have a worship service at 7:30 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel. For more information call Chris Blevins at 847-7000.
  - FLORICULTURE-ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE:** will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 104 Horticulture Forestry Sciences.
  - RIO BRAZOS AUDUBON SOCIETY:** Bruce Miles of the Texas Forest Service will speak on Forest Management and its impact on wildlife at 7:30 p.m. in the Mark Francis Room at the Veterinary School.
  - SOUTHWEST DALLAS COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Dixie Chicken. For more information call Bill Wrightson at 846-8519.
  - EUROPE CLUB:** will have its regular weekly meeting at 10:30 p.m. upstairs at Sneakers. Call 696-1413 for more information.
  - MSC COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARENESS OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE:** will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 212 MSC.
  - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. For more information call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.
- Thursday**
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. For more information call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.
  - KANM STUDENT RADIO:** will have a T-shirt and information table from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the MSC. For more information call KANM at 845-5923.
  - CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD:** will discuss miracles at 9 p.m. in lounge B.
  - TRI BETA:** Dr. Marvin Harris will speak on host plant resistance at 8:30 p.m. in 305 A&B Rudder.
  - MSC POLITICAL FORUM:** will have E.L. Miller Lecture Series on "Tomorrow's Technology Today" throughout the day in the University Center Complex. Call 845-1515 for more information.
  - UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC BAND:** will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.
  - ACM:** will take yearbook picture at 6:30 p.m. in the Zachry lobby.
  - RELIEF, EDUCATION AND CONCERN FOR HUNGER:** will meet at 5 p.m. in 146 MSC.
  - TAMU ATARI USER GROUP:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 139 MSC. Bring Mac programs. Call Tom Dodge at 846-4565 for more information.
  - MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DIGITAL INTERFACE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP:** will meet at 7 p.m. in the Moore Communications Center Conference Room. For more information call KAMU-FM at 845-5613.
  - TAMU EMERGENCY CARE TEAM:** will meet and hold elections at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
  - TAMU DEBATE SOCIETY:** will debate on the abolishment of the social security program at 7 p.m. in 226 MSC.
  - HISTORY CLUB:** will have Friday morning yell at midnight on KTSR 92. Call Chris Michaels at 846-0011 for more information.
  - MEXICAN-AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY:** will have speaker on "Review of the '80s" at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder. Call Rebeca Jimenez at 696-8004 for more information.
  - SNOW SKI CLUB:** will have a night ski from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mt. Aggie.
  - BRAZILIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet from 8 to 10 p.m. in 231 MSC.
  - GRUPO LATINO:** will meet at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.
  - FOURTH DAY:** will have a slide show of AA#25 at 6:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.
  - COLLEGIATE 4-H:** will take yearbook picture at 8:15 p.m. in Zachry.
  - BRAZILIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will have Latin American Cultural Night from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information call Fabiana Bezerra at 764-0628.
  - STUDENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder. For more information call Joel Bergkvist at 823-4753.
  - AGGIES FOR LIFE:** will have a meeting at 7 p.m. in Rudder. See monitors for room number.
  - NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
  - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
  - ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** will have a general discussion from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.
- Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.