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Texas congressman not trying to follow Leland's footsteps

WASHINGTON (AP) — At his swearing-in last month, Craig Washington wiped tears from his eyes and asked his House colleagues for their prayers and advice, saying he had not come to the Capitol to "try to be king of the Hill."

In the weeks since he became Texas' newest congressman, Washington said he has been on the receiving end of an outpouring of friendship from many who knew his predecessor, the late Rep. Mickey Leland.

"People loved Mickey," Washington said in a recent interview. "It's like I were Mickey's little brother or something. They kind of pat me on the head and want to make sure I'm doing OK."

"It's like I were Mickey's little brother or something. They kind of pat me on the head and want to make sure I'm doing OK."
— Rep. Craig Washington, replaced Mickey Leland

the head and want to make sure I'm doing OK. And that has been a great advantage to me — it's sort of like having Mickey here to show me around."

Leland, who was chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger and an activist in helping solve Africa's famine problems, died last year when his brush plane slammed into a mountain in Ethiopia on its way to a refugee camp.

"I didn't realize the many lives that he touched and the many ways he touched them 'til I got up here," Washington said of his longtime friend and Democratic ally from Houston. "There's been an outpouring of friendship directed toward me by many people who loved Mickey."

Although Leland's reputation "parted the Red Sea for me" on Capitol Hill, Washington said he would not necessarily follow in his footsteps, other than to trying to be as compassionate.

"Mickey was more a citizen of the world," Washington said. "I guess I'm a little closer to the United States and the Constitution. I'm a little bit more comfortable working inside the system, perhaps than was Mickey. I don't think he was any more liberal than I am; I don't think you can get any more liberal than I am."

Washington, a 48-year-old Houston lawyer, served in the Texas Legislature for 16 years. He arrives in

the capital with a reputation as a champion of liberal causes, including abortion rights, gay rights, AIDS health care and support for the poor.

He also faces two court hearings in connection with his law practice. Two judges in Houston have imposed jail sentences — one for 15 days and the other for 30 days — for Washington's failure to heed notices to appear in court on behalf of clients.

While Washington said he is concerned about the matter, he is not allowing it to distract him from his congressional duties.

"To use an old East Texas expression, it doesn't touch me top, side or bottom," he told reporters the day he took office. He also defended his credentials as a lawyer, saying: "There are many people who think I'm the best lawyer in Texas."

Washington, meanwhile, has had his staff research what has been done in Congress on three issues important to his district — health care, education and crime and drugs — so that he can help support any proposed legislation.

His first piece of legislation is being drafted and would require "any banker or bank employee who par-

"I guess I'm a little closer to the United States, maybe because I studied the law and the Constitution."

— Rep. Craig Washington,

ticipates in putting ... United States currency into the drug system, upon conviction, be sentenced to life without parole."

Washington complained that bankers can make millions of dollars from an illegal drug transaction but face only a slap on the wrist if caught.

"When is the last time you've seen one hauled off to prison in handcuffs, held down by the police with somebody's foot on their neck, like you see the 17-year-olds," Washington said.

"They end up getting a suspended sentence ... some community service — come down and work with the little ghetto kids, that's their punishment," he said.

Washington said he also would like to find solutions for the growing number of middle-income families who are finding it impossible to finance their children's college education, as well as for a host of other problems in education.

Library prints collection of quotations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Otto von Bismarck once said "Politics is the art of the possible — as possible as wrongly attributing the quote to a legendary Irish barkeeper."

For pundits and politicians wanting to punch up their pronouncements with such pithy remarks, help is at hand. For the Library of Congress will provide 2,100 similarly sage sayings and with the right attribution.

Over the years the library's Congressional Research Service has found itself continually bombarded by requests for appropriate quotes for use in papers and speeches.

Its researchers have discovered that many a quote popularly attributed to a famous person was actually uttered or scribbled by someone else: for example, the German chancellor's comment on politics often is attributed to F. Lee Peter Dunne's Mr. Dooley.

The 520-page volume, entitled "Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations Requested from the Congressional Research Service" and for sale by the Government Printing Office, has several similar examples.

Lincoln's "You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time ..." has never been verified, the volume points out. Nor has "Let them eat cake," alleged to have been said by Marie Antoinette when informed the French people had no bread.

"Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing," generally attributed to former Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi, was actually said by Red Sanders at Vanderbilt in 1948, the volume reports. In fact, it adds, Lombardi always denied having said it.

Other corrections in attribution include "It is better that one hundred guilty persons escape than one innocent person should suffer," often attributed to Supreme Court justices Oliver Wendell Holmes or Louis Brandeis, actually was first stated by Benjamin Franklin.

Currently the most requested quotation, the Research Service says, is from a 1977 speech of former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey:

"It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life — the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

Convent near Auschwitz relocates to end dispute

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A cornerstone was laid Monday for a prayer center that officials hope will end the long-festering dispute over a Roman Catholic convent at the Auschwitz death camp.

Also Monday, Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, met with President Wojciech Jaruzelski and Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and declared later: "There are no outstanding problems between the Jewish people and Poland."

The convent housing about a dozen Carmelite nuns on the edge of the Nazi death camp has angered Jews and others worldwide who see it as an intrusion of Christian symbols at a site where most of the victims were Jews.

The Roman Catholic church agreed at negotiations in 1987 in Switzerland to relocate the nuns to an interfaith prayer and education center farther from the camp, but a February 1989 deadline for moving the nuns was missed.

After Polish church officials balked last year at fulfilling the agreement, the Vatican intervened in September and upheld the decision. The new Solidarity-led government of Mazowiecki also has worked to speed up construction of the new center.

Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Krakow, whose archdiocese has jurisdiction over the site near the southern Polish city of Oswiecim, presided at the cornerstone-laying ceremony.

Mazowiecki, meeting in Warsaw with Bronfman, said his government's support of the project was illustrated by the presence at the ceremony of Jacek Ambroziak, head of the Office of the Council of Ministers and the prime minister's close aide.

Bronfman called the laying of the cornerstone "very

important."

Citing the prayer center construction, Poland's plan to launch full diplomatic relations with Israel next week, and the government's pledge to fight anti-Semitism, Bronfman said outside Mazowiecki's office: "There are no outstanding problems between the Jewish people and Poland."

But Bronfman said he did not know exactly when the interfaith center would be completed and the nuns moved.

"I don't think deadlines are useful," he said. "It creates a kind of emotionalism that I think is not good. It did not press for an absolute deadline. The spirit was as soon as possible."

He also expressed concern at what he called "a resurgence of anti-Semitism in Poland."

This "is part I suppose of the price of democracy," Bronfman said. "If you are free to do anything else you are free also to not like people."

But he said the government's stance against anti-Semitism is "very clear."

"I express the intention of the Polish government on all matters relating to Polish-Jewish relations to arrange them successfully and to remove all frictions," Mazowiecki said in a brief statement after the meeting. "We are thoroughly opposed to any form of anti-Semitism and we believe that ... it should be counteracted by every means."

The new religious center at Auschwitz will be about quarter-mile from the death camp on a nine-acre site.

Known as the Center for Information, Dialogue, Education and Prayer at Auschwitz, it will include meeting rooms, exhibition and conference halls, a library and accommodations for nearly 100 people, PAP said.

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