

upi roundup

Senate votes for Rocky, 90 to 7

WASHINGTON—The Senate Tuesday voted 90 to 7 to approve the nomination of former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller to be the nation's 41st vice president.

The lop-sided vote came despite fears expressed by some senators that the multimillionaire's enormous wealth would lead to unavoidable conflicts of interest.

The seven voting against Rockefeller were James Abourezk, D-S.D., Burch Bayh D-Ind., Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and William Scott, R-Va.

Most senators, however, praised the 66-year-old Republican as a man who has "dedicated his life to public service" and many said he was the most qualified man in his party for the job.

Mills to give up chairmanship

WASHINGTON—Rep. Wilbur Mills, suffering from exhaustion and his power diminished by association with a striptease dancer, has decided to give up the chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee, Speaker Carl Albert announced Tuesday.

Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., next in line for the chairmanship, has told the Democratic Steering Committee he would like to fill the vacancy and is expected to take over when the 94th Congress is organized next month.

PLO called 'a direct threat' to American foreign policy

WASHINGTON—Reflecting disenchantment with the United Nations, 71 senators Tuesday declared the Palestine Liberation Organization "a direct threat" to U.S. foreign policy. They called on President Ford to rally American allies in resisting "political and economic blackmail."

At a Capitol Hill news conference, senators representing the group made clear their unhappiness with the United Nations for allowing PLO chief Yasser Arafat to address the General Assembly in mid-November, and for a series of other U.N. actions.

Sen. Henry Jackson, (D-Wash.), said these developments could spell "the beginning of the end" for the world body.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey, (D-Minn.), said:

"It is entirely possible that the United Nations in 1974 could be like the League of Nations of the

1930's...powerless, useless."

The senators stopped short of urging that the United States withdraw support for the United Nations, but urged the administration to warn the Soviet Union and other charter nations about the gravity of the situation.

The senators called the news conference to release the text of their Dec. 9 letter to President Ford which said in part:

"We believe that the prominence of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the Rabat Arab summit conference and at the United Nations General Assembly poses a direct threat to American foreign policy which must be met vigorously and promptly."

They specifically criticized the United Nations for limiting Israel's right of reply during the General Assembly debate on the PLO, and the withholding of aid to Israel by the U.N. Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization—besides allowing Arafat to take the General Assembly podium.

"What's happening to the United Nations?" exclaimed Sen. Jackson, at one point, lifting his jacket to dramatize the pistol holster which the PLO leader was seen wearing under his clothes while he spoke.

The senators' letter added: "These recent events dramatize the need for the United States to take the lead in organizing our friends and allies to resist political and economic blackmail in the future.

"We therefore urge you to initiate a comprehensive and coordinate diplomatic response that will unite our friends and allies in meeting these new challenges to peace in the Middle East."

Baking company threatens to control industry

WASHINGTON—The Federal Trade Commission Tuesday accused ITT Continental Baking Co., the world's largest bread baker and maker of "Wonder Bread" of attempting to monopolize the wholesale bread business in the United States.

Continental is a subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. and makes "Wonder Bread," the largest selling white bread in the country.

The FTC said Tuesday that Continental has since 1952 bought out other wholesale bread businesses at such a rate that it threatens to control the industry, especially in big cities.

Continental's position has been so strong, the complaint added, that it has undercut prices of competitors in some parts of the country to try to force other bakeries out of business.

The company compensated for profit losses in those areas by raising its prices in those areas where it already held dominance, the agency said.

John Schaffer, a lawyer representing ITT, denied the allegations and said the baking company would contest them. He said the firm was only trying to "do business and compete."

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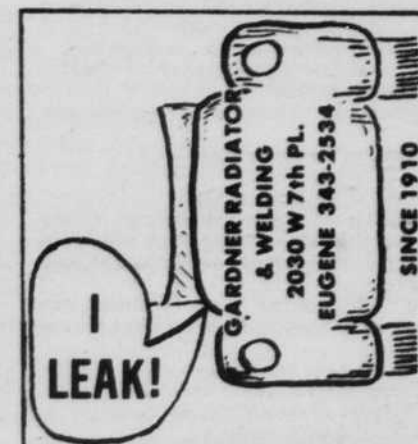
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