

House votes, 'holdings' may conflict

WASHINGTON (AP) — About one-third of House members have \$100,000 or more in outside financial interests and several have portfolios so diversified that many votes they cast could affect their finances, House records show.

Only 22 members reported they had no significant income outside their basic \$57,500 congressional salary.

Several reported they were heavily in debt. Rep. Fermand St. Germain, who heads a House subcommittee that oversees banking practices, disclosed debts of more than \$500,000. The debts apparently

are secured by five commercial properties which he owns and rents.

The first detailed look at the financial holdings of the 435 House members showed that 153 had financial interests of more than \$100,000, excluding personal residences.

It did not, however, show which members of Congress were millionaires. Members were required only to state whether their holdings in any one company exceeded certain limits. There was no requirement that they state how much those holdings actually were.

As a result, Rep. Frederick Richmond, R-N.Y., who has said previously that he is a millionaire, was shown only as having more than a \$100,000 interest in Walco National Corp., in which he owns 750,082 shares, and more than a \$100,000 interest in Walco-Linck Corp., in which he holds 87½ shares.

The financial statements of several members read like a blue chip index of the stock exchange. Several congressmen held such diverse financial interests that many of their votes were on issues that could affect their finances.

Several others who held only limited

stocks also had legislative responsibilities that placed them in a position of voting on matters in which they held an interest.

Rep. Richard Bollings, D-Mo., a senior member of the House Energy Committee, reported that he had between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in Standard Oil of California stock and between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in Texaco stock.

He also reported between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in General Motors Corp. stock. General Motors has a large stake in the outcome of any energy legislation since its products use a sizable portion of the nation's gasoline supply.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Mondale promises arms

BANGKOK, Thailand — Vice-Pres. Walter Mondale promised new warplanes and reaffirmed an American commitment to defend Southeast Asia in talks with Thailand's leader Thursday.

Mondale also said the United States would accept tens of thousands more Indochina refugees.

"Our own peace depends on the Pacific area," Mondale declared in a champagne toast at a state dinner.

Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanah, in his toast, praised the U.S. decision to take in more refugees, saying it reflects Pres. Carter's "concern for human rights and high standard of morality."

Tris 'exports' may be banned

WASHINGTON — The government is moving to ban exports of U.S.-made children's sleepwear containing Tris, a flame retardant linked to cancer that cannot be sold legally in the United States.

Commissioner Edith Barksdale Sloan of the Consumer Product Safety Commission insisted on a quick vote to ban exports because of reports that manufacturers are dumping the sleepwear abroad, a commission source said Thursday.

The source, who declined to be named, said the vote would almost certainly be in favor of the ban.

Wholesale prices rise again

WASHINGTON — Rapidly rising food costs and sharply higher prices for jewelry pushed wholesale prices up 1.3 percent in April for the biggest inflationary surge at the wholesale level in more than three years, the government said Thursday.

The price report confirmed fears that inflation is stuck at a very high level since wholesale prices have increased 3.6 percent since the beginning of the year.

Higher wholesale prices are bad news for consumers since they eventually result in higher retail prices. Consumer prices already have been increasing substantially this year, rising 0.8 percent in March alone. The Carter administration earlier this week revised upward its outlook for inflation this year because of larger-than-expected increases in food prices. It said consumer prices may increase as much as 7 percent, up from its earlier forecast of 6.1 percent.

Carter drops to Nixon-level in opinion poll

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans think Pres. Carter is an honest, hard-working man, but they don't think he has gotten much done as president.

That's the finding of the latest Associated Press-NBC News poll, taken this week.

Moreover, Carter's job rating has plummeted once again, with Americans' judgment of his performance at levels touched only by Richard Nixon among recent occupants of the Oval Office.

Only 29 percent of those questioned said Carter has done a good or excellent job in office, compared with 69 percent who rated his work as fair or poor. Two percent were undecided in the telephone interviews conducted Monday and Tuesday.

That is down four points since the last AP-NBC News poll in March.

Only Nixon's 71-26 negative rating in March 1974 is lower than Carter's current rating.

Carter raps lawyers for 'denying' legal aid

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pres. Carter, in a ringing denunciation of the legal profession, declared Thursday that the vast majority of Americans don't get adequate legal representation while those with means get all the help they need.

In an address to the Los Angeles Bar Association, Carter also found fault with a legal system he characterized as being too lenient with "big-shot crooks" — a reference to white-collar crime.

"We have the heaviest concentration of lawyers on earth — one for every 500 Americans," the president said in questioning the quality of legal assistance available to people.

But, he added, "Ninety percent of our lawyers serve 10 percent of our people. We are over-lawyered and underrepresented."

Carter said the United States needs more women and minority

judges, fewer and shorter lawsuits and more legal aid for poor and middle-income persons.

He also called on lawyers to slow down their fee increases as part of his voluntary anti-inflation program and called for "free and open competition" in setting fees and advertising them.

Carter observed that lawyers often have attempted to thwart civil rights and economic justice, have been responsible for long delays in court proceedings and have tended to favor the rich over the poor.

"I have inspected many prisons and I know that nearly all inmates are drawn from the ranks of the powerless and the poor. A child of privilege frequently receives the benefit of the doubt; a child of poverty seldom does," the president said.

Carter urged Congress to move speedily in passing a new federal criminal code.



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What's Bob's favorite pie?

COOS BAY, (AP) — Gov. Bob Straub was struck in the face with a lemon cream pie Thursday as he finished making a speech on herbicide spraying.

Witnesses said Straub remained stoic as lemon filling dripped from the gubernatorial jaw.

Straub had just finished addressing the Columbia River section of the American Foresters when a young woman extracted the pie from a large purse and swiftly hurled it at Straub.

"Please don't arrest that young lady. I don't wish to press charges," said Straub.

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