

Meese probe findings nulled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Office of Government Ethics staff members concluded that Attorney General-designate Edwin Meese III violated government ethics rules, but the agency director overruled them and found there was no violation, Meese's lawyer said today.

Leonard Garment, attorney for the White House counselor, confirmed that the investigators found violations in the federal appointments of two men who helped Meese financially. But Garment said the preliminary finding was changed after he was given a chance to submit a rebuttal.

Meese faces confirmation hearings Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee and the committee chairman, Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., "has officially requested" the two staff members and their boss to testify, according to panel spokesman Mark Goodin.

The staff report was overruled by David H. Martin, director of the ethics office, who wrote Thurmond on Jan. 24 that "Mr. Meese is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest."

Martin did not return several phone calls to his office.

The findings by the staff members focused on Thomas Barrack, a California real estate developer who received an Interior Department position, and John McKean, who became head of the Postal Board of Governors.

McKean lent Meese \$60,000 in two loans and Barrack helped arrange the sale of Meese's California home, including lending some of his own money to one of the purchasers. Both matters were covered extensively in the report of an independent counsel, who investigated Meese's behavior and found he violated no criminal law.

Garment said Meese received no favored treatment in the McKean loans — even paying higher than market rates — and added that Meese did not initiate the postal governor's job.

That was done by another White House official, Michael Deaver.

Garment added that Meese was not aware that Barrack was financially involved in the sale of his home when Barrack received a federal appointment. Garment said Meese believed Barrack only helped find a buyer without making any financial commitment.

"The staff recommendations were overruled by the head of the Office of Government Ethics as part of their routine recommendation and review process," Garment said.

At the White House, deputy press secretary Larry Speakes declined comment saying, "I don't have anything on it specifically, except Ed Meese will be testifying tomorrow. I presume the Senate will have an opportunity to ask any and all questions."

The ethics standards, among other things, forbid an official from taking actions that "might result in, or create the appearance of... giving preferential treatment to any organization or person." They also urge an official not to take actions that create an impression that he has lost "complete independence or impartiality of action."

In another development, Common Cause, the self-styled citizens' lobby, purchased a full-page advertisement in the Washington Post that quoted 20 newspaper editorials arguing that Meese should not be the next attorney general.

Said Speakes, "I wouldn't pass judgment on what Common Cause does with their money."

Beirut captive appears on tape

LONDON (AP) — A U.S. Embassy political officer who was kidnapped in Beirut almost a year ago was shown on a videotape Monday saying he and two other missing Americans were well.

In Washington, Cable News Network reported that U.S. officials saw another videotape last summer that showed jour-

nalist Jeremy Levin and two others assumed to be captives in Beirut. But the administration urged that the matter be kept quiet at the time.

The report said State Department sources had confirmed the existence of the tape. Department spokesman Bernard Kalb, however, refused comment on the CNN report.

The tape obtained by Visnews, a London-based international television news agency, showed William Buckley, political officer of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, standing alone against a blank wall and holding a copy of a Beirut newspaper dated Jan. 22.

"Today, the 22nd of January 1985, I am well and my friends Benjamin Weir and Jeremy Levin are also well. We ask that our government take action for our release quickly," Buckley said in the 56-second video.

The tape did not identify the Americans' captors nor specify any demands for their release. The only previous demand has come in calls from a group identifying itself as "Jihad Islami," Islamic Holy War, calling for all Americans to leave Lebanon.

Witnesses saw Buckley being kidnapped last March 16 and the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister, being kidnapped last May 8. Levin, the Beirut bureau chief of the Cable News Network, has been missing since March 7 of last year and was presumed to have been abducted.

In Washington, Kalb said, "We obviously welcome this evidence that William Buckley is alive and well and the indication that Jeremy Levin and Benjamin Weir are also well."

He said the release of all the kidnapped Americans "remains a top administration priority."

The Cable News Network report said a tape "came into the hands of State Department officials through Arab sources" last July. The tape shows Levin holding a newspaper dated July 5, 1984, and two other people who are apparently hostages, according to the report.

The tape shown in London made no mention of two other Americans missing in the

Lebanese capital, even though some of the anonymous phone calls have referred to five Americans. The two are Peter Kilburn, who failed to report for work as librarian at the American University of Beirut last Dec. 3, and the Rev. Lawrence Jenco of Joliet, Ill., head of the Catholic Relief Services office, who was seen being kidnapped on Jan. 8 this year.

Visnews managing editor Kevin Hamilton, who showed the tape to reporters at Visnews headquarters in London, released no information on how his agency had acquired the tape. He said no demands from the captors had come with it.

"We do not see ourselves as intermediaries or negotiators," Hamilton said. "We simply obtained the video."

Jihad Islami is believed made up of fundamentalist Shiite Moslems loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Islamic extremist groups also have claimed responsibility for suicide bomb attacks on U.S., Israeli and French installations in Beirut as part of a campaign to drive all Westerners out of Lebanon.

Panel scolds U.S. schools

WASHINGTON (AP) — A panel of children's advocates charged Monday that millions of poor, handicapped and minority students are being cheated by America's public schools and that the rush to raise standards could make life worse for those at the back of the class.

They said the plight of these children, and the ways the schools and government at all levels have responded to it, "support the worries of those who fear the development of a permanent underclass in America."

"The United States cannot afford to leave underdeveloped the talents of millions of children who happen to be born different by virtue of race, language, sex or income status," said the panel headed

by former U.S. Commissioner of Education Harold Howe II and Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund.

They charged that minority and poor children "do not matter as much... to some school officials," and that, in Howe's words, "state and local financing of schools adds up to a conspiracy to spend more money on rich kids and less money on poor kids."

Howe also charged that President Ronald Reagan has presided over "an anti-childhood administration." He said he "did not look for any relief" in Reagan's second term.

Howe and Edelman chaired a 17-member board of inquiry that conducted a two-year study of the schools for the Boston-based National Coalition of Advocates for Students. Several foundations supported the study, including the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation, the Johnson Foundation and others.

The 162-page report, "Barriers to Excellence: Our Children At Risk," exhorts the public and educators to put equal opportunity back at the forefront of the school agenda, where the emphasis in the past few years has been on raising standards and striving for excellence.

The report criticized school districts that set up smaller classes for gifted youths. That "detracts from resources available to all other youth," said the report, which advocates keeping the gifted in regular classes.

At a crowded news conference in an elementary school auditorium, Howe said "the doors of schools are more open than they were 20 years ago" for poor people, blacks, Hispanics and students with learning problems. But, Howe added, "we found a lack of commitment to making these students successful once they are in school."

Reports such as "A Nation At Risk," the influential 1983 study by the Reagan administration's National Commission on Excellence in Education, have generally called for tougher standards across-the-board.

Howe and Edelman said schools are using tests excessively and doing little to help students overcome weaknesses identified on the tests.

The dropout rate for blacks is nearly twice that of whites, and at the high school level blacks are suspended three times as often, they said.

HUGHES

THE JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

An impressive technological journey began over three decades ago at Hughes Aircraft Company. Today, with more than 90 diverse technologies ranging from sub-micron electronics to large scale systems, you'll find Hughes people forging new discoveries, new futures.

Become part of the Hughes tradition of technological firsts. Our more than 92 different technologies involve expertise in:

Electrical, Mechanical, Manufacturing or Industrial Engineering, Computer Science, Physics, Electronics Technology.

Requirements may vary. Check with your placement office about Hughes' company-wide opportunities at any one of 12 Southern California locations and Tucson, Arizona.

Or contact Hughes Corporate College Relations, Dept. NC, Bldg. C2/B178, P.O. Box 1042, El Segundo, CA 90245. Equal Opportunity Employer Proof of U.S. Citizenship Required

Hughes representatives will be on campus
February 12
(See your placement office for an appointment.)

HUGHES

ON CAMPUS

PREPARE FOR: APRIL

MCAT

Stanley H. KAPLAN
EDUCATIONAL
CENTER
TEST PREPARATION SPECIALISTS SINCE 1938
Call Days, Even & Weekends

**COURSE BEGINS
IN EUGENE
SAT. FEB. 16th
485-5699**

Tuesday, January 29, 1985