

Representative denies \$20,000 mistake

BY BRAD CAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALEM — New questions were raised about Rep. Dan Doyle's truthfulness Tuesday when a consultant said he was never paid \$20,000 by Doyle during last fall's election campaign.

It was the latest development in an unfolding state investigation that could jeopardize Doyle's position as the powerful co-chairman of the Legislature's budget-writing committee.

The Salem Republican listed expenditures of \$20,000 to Salem consultant Thomas Mann's firm in an amended campaign finance report he filed with the state Friday after questions were raised about his earlier report.

However, Mann on Tuesday directly contradicted Doyle.

"Did I get paid? The answer is no," Mann said.

House Speaker Karen Minnis on Tuesday forwarded a copy of a letter she received from Mann on the subject to the secretary of state's office, which on Monday launched an investigation into possible

election law violations by Doyle.

Asked whether the controversy could lead Minnis to remove Doyle as co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, Minnis' spokesman Charles Deister said, "She has not made a decision regarding that at this time."

A spokeswoman for the House majority office, Fawn McNeely, said Doyle would not comment.

"Because it's an ongoing investigation by the secretary of state, he won't be able to comment until the investigation's conclusion," McNeely said.

On Monday, the secretary of state's office said the inquiry would focus on whether Doyle diverted re-election campaign money to personal use, which is prohibited by state law. Doyle denied putting campaign money to personal use.

State Elections Director John Lindback said that in view of Mann's contradiction of Doyle's claims, the state also will look at whether Doyle intentionally made false statements on his campaign finance report — which would be a criminal offense under

state campaign finance laws.

"This makes it a bigger investigation with more ground to cover and potentially larger penalties," Lindback said.

The state began its inquiry after receiving complaints from two Salem residents about possible problems in reports filed in October by Doyle's re-election campaign.

One complaint cited Doyle's listing of payment of \$9,200 to Comcast cable for television advertising — even though no Doyle ads ran on Comcast. In response, Doyle filed amended campaign reports last Friday deleting the payments.

The other complaint questioned the existence of another company listed on Doyle's report as having received \$20,000 from the Salem lawmaker.

Doyle initially listed the company as Redcell Inc. But in his amended report filed last Friday, he changed the name to Red Cell Enterprises — the company owned by Mann — and said he had paid the company \$20,000 for consulting services to his campaign.

In an interview Tuesday, Mann said he hand-delivered a letter to Doyle's Salem home on Saturday to try to set the record straight — that he had never received any payment from Doyle.

Mann said he sent a copy of the letter to the House speaker's office late Monday after Doyle continued to publicly insist he had paid Mann the \$20,000.

The campaign finance reporting flap isn't the first problem Doyle has had regarding his own finances.

In June, Doyle's license to practice law was suspended for 30 days after Oregon State Bar concluded that for a time he had failed to return money and pursue the claims of one of his clients.

In March, the (Salem) Statesman Journal reported that three liens were placed on Doyle's home. The main one was filed by the Internal Revenue Service when Doyle failed to pay \$32,366 in federal income taxes for 1995 and 1996. He eventually paid all his back taxes before he took office in 2001.

IN BRIEF

Indonesia struggles to report tsunami death toll

JAKARTA, Indonesia — With workers still finding bodies under mud-caked rubble a month after a tsunami, Indonesia's Health Ministry revised its casualty count Tuesday, lowering confirmed deaths to 96,000 but raising the number of missing, and presumed dead, to 132,000.

Officials conceded a precise total would never be known, and the ministry said its death count now included only buried bodies and excluded any missing. People still missing after a year will be declared dead, it said.

The Health Ministry's new procedure brought its numbers in line with another government agency tallying the dead, the National Disaster Relief Coordinating Board.

But there were still discrepancies over deaths in both Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Government ministries have provided conflicting figures, reflecting the difficulties of finding, identifying, counting and burying the bodies from the Dec. 26 disaster.

The latest figures put the overall death toll — excluding the missing — across the 11-nation disaster zone between 143,877 and 178,081.

European leaders pay tribute to Auschwitz victims

BERLIN — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder expressed shame Tuesday over the horrors of the Nazi era, acknowledging that Adolf Hitler's regime enjoyed wide support among Germans and promising that his country will always try to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust.

Across Europe, commemorations ahead of the 60th anniversary of the Red Army's liberation of the Auschwitz death camp on Jan. 27, 1945, were tinged with the pain of memories and concern that anti-Semitism lives on.

"I express my shame in the face of those who were murdered and, above all, you who survived the hell of the concentration camps," a somber Schroeder told an audience at a Berlin theater that included Auschwitz survivors.

Some 1.5 million prisoners perished in gas chambers or died of starvation and disease at Auschwitz. In all, 6 million Jews were killed in Nazi camps, along with several million others, including Soviet prisoners of war, Gypsies, homosexuals and political opponents of the Nazis.

— The Associated Press

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► **RideSource** will continue to run and serve those passengers who are eligible. We expect demand to increase significantly. Medical appointments may be given priority over other trips.

► Go to the **LTD website for information** on ways to get around and links to the City of Eugene for Bike Path Maps and links to PeaceHealth and other major employers.

Please plan ahead. For further information,
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