

Grand jury re-indicts DeLay on new laundering charge

BY APRIL CASTRO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A Texas grand jury on Monday re-indicted Rep. Tom DeLay on charges of conspiring to launder money and money laundering after the former majority leader attacked the original indictment on technical grounds.

The new indictment, handed up by a grand jury seated Monday, contained two counts. The money laundering charge carries a penalty of up to life in prison. Last week, DeLay was charged with conspiracy to violate campaign-finance laws.

Defense lawyers asked a judge Monday to throw out the first indictment, arguing that the charge of conspiring to violate campaign finance laws was based on a statute that did not take effect until 2003 — a year after the alleged acts.

The new indictment from District Attorney Ronnie Earle, coming just hours after the new grand jurors were sworn in, outraged DeLay.

"Ronnie Earle has stooped to a new low with his brand of prosecutorial abuse," DeLay said in a statement. "He is trying to pull the legal equivalent of a 'do-over' since he knows very well that the charges he brought against me last week are totally manufactured and illegitimate. This is an abomination

of justice."

Earle's office did not return repeated phone calls from The Associated Press.

In a written statement, the office outlined the new charges and possible punishments, but did not address criticism from DeLay's attorneys.

DeLay, 58, is the highest-ranking member of Congress to face criminal prosecution. House Republican rules forced him to temporarily step aside as majority leader while he fights the charges.

DeLay and two political associates are accused of conspiring to get around a state ban on corporate campaign contributions by funneling the money through the DeLay-founded Texans for a Republican Majority Political Action Committee to the Republican National Committee in Washington. The RNC then sent back like amounts to distribute to Texas candidates in 2002, the indictment alleges.

DeLay attorney Dick DeGuerin said the money spent on Texas candidates was "lawfully collected from individuals who knew what they were contributing to."

The indictment alleges that DeLay knowingly aided the transfer of the corporate money to help the GOP win

a majority in the Texas Legislature.

Once the Republicans had secured control of the Legislature, state lawmakers adopted a DeLay-engineered congressional redistricting plan that gave the GOP a stronger grasp on Congress as well.

It was unclear when DeLay would appear in court to face the new charges. No arraignment date had been set.

DeLay's associates, John Colyandro of Austin and Jim Ellis of Washington, were each previously indicted on charges of conspiracy to violate campaign finance laws and money laundering.

The judge who will preside in DeLay's case is out of the country on vacation and could not rule on the defense motion. Other state district judges declined to rule on the motion in his place.

Two other members of Congress have been indicted since 1996.

Former Rep. William Janklow, R-S.D., was convicted of vehicular homicide and sentenced to 100 days in prison after his car struck and killed a motorcyclist in 2003. Former Rep. James Traficant, D-Ohio, was sentenced to eight years in prison after being convicted on charges from a 2001 indictment accusing him of racketeering and accepting bribes.

Legislative ethics law may be revised and spotlighted

BY CHARLES E. BEGGS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALEM — A citizen commission weighing how to improve the Legislature needs to consider whether government ethics laws should be strengthened, the head of one commission panel said Monday.

"I think that's something we could do to improve the public's view of the Legislature," said Kerry Tymchuk, chairman of the commission's public institutions committee.

Tymchuk's comments followed a presentation from the executive director of the state ethics agency, who outlined laws that deal with the disclosure of spending on entertaining public officials and on gifts to them.

Pat Hearn, Government Standards and Practices Commission director, made no specific recommendations and said he was not speaking for his commission.

He said the legislative reform panel might want to consider whether to revise laws that allow people with a legislative interest to spend up to \$100 a year on gifts for public officials.

He also noted that a lobbyist, for example, can spend up to \$71 per occasion wining and dining a legislator,

without having to disclose on whom the money is spent.

Hearn suggested the panel might also look at whether financial disclosure statements that public officials are required to file could be improved.

The statements require officials to report only broad sources of income but provide few specifics.

"I don't think the economic interest statements are too helpful" to the public, Hearn said.

Tymchuk said after the meeting he thinks a close review of ethics laws and rules is warranted, including how the state ethics agency is financed.

Hearn said an "innate flaw" in the system is that the Legislature controls the budget of a commission that enforces the ethics laws that apply to lawmakers.

The panel headed by Tymchuk, who works for Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon, is part of a new 30-member Public Commission on the Legislature.

The commission was appointed by legislative leaders to consider a variety of topics, such as technical operations, whether legislators should meet every year instead of biennially and how the public image of the Legislature could be burnished.



Outdoor Program





October Events

Outdoor Program Open House
Wednesday, October 5, 5:30 pm: Outdoor Program
Everyone is welcome at the Outdoor Program! Slides, music, conversation and snacks!

2005 Radical Reels Film Tour!
Thursday, October 6, 180 PLC, 7:00 pm
Come see your favorite adrenaline sports: boarding/skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking, BASE jumping and more! Tickets at the door: \$5 UO student/OP Co-op, \$8 general.

Rock Climbing 101
Saturday, October 8, 10am-12:30pm OR 12:45-3:15pm: Skinner Butte Columns
Here's your chance to get outside on real rock and have fun learning to climb! Pre-register at the OP: the cost \$8 UO Students/OP Co-op, \$10 general (\$3 for shoes/belay device/harness).

Trip Initiator Clinic
Tuesday and Thursday, Oct 11 & 13, 5:30 pm: Tuesday at the OP and Thursday at the OP Barn
It's easy to become an OP trip initiator! Come learn the nuts and bolts so you can launch your own dream adventures! Attendance at both sessions is necessary to become an initiator. Free!

OP Kayak Pool Sessions
Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm, Oct 12 & 26 and November 2, 9, and 16
\$3 UO students/OP Co-op, 5 general (OP Kayaks rent for \$5). Pre-register and pay at OP.

Fall Equipment Swap
Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 pm: EMU Ballroom
Buy, sell, trade and socialize while finding super deals on great gear. Free!

The Callahans Climb & Clean
Saturday, October 22, 7:00am: OP Barn
Here's your chance to give back: let's clean-up for half day and rock climb for the afternoon. Co-sponsored by The Access Fund and Weyerhaeuser. Free transportation! Pre-register at OP.

Campus Tree Walk: Interpretive Series
Sunday, October 23, 1-3pm: Pioneer Woman Statue
Join expert arborist Whitey Lueck! Free UO students/OP Co-op, \$2 gen. Pre-register at OP.

The Magic Carpet: Willie Weir Bicycles the World!
Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 pm: 180 PLC
Willie uses slides and acting skills to weave a tale of wonder! Free UO students/OP Coop, \$3 general.

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