

Vastness of Government Makes It Vulnerable to Corruption

(Editor's Note: The McClellan committee of the U. S. Senate starts digging into the Billie Sol Estes case Wednesday. How will the Estes case affect the congressional elections in the fall? This dispatch traces the history of corruption in the federal government, tells why it is so difficult to stamp it out and explains what effect scandals have had on political parties in the past.)

By HARRY FERGUSON
United Press International
Washington - 479 - The United States government spends money at the rate of about \$9 million an hour, Sundays and holidays included.

That much sugar is bound to attract plenty of flies, and every President - Democratic or Republican - has to live with the nightmare thought that somewhere somebody may be sticking his hand illegally into the federal till.

Corruption in government is as old as government itself. There was monkey business about grain storage in Rome 2,000 years before Pecos, Tex., became the nation's best known small town.

There are several reasons why the federal government is vulnerable to anybody who wants to make a fast buck:

Staggering Amount

The staggering amount of money that is poured out. It



FEDERAL CORRUPTION—Corruption in government is as old as government itself. The staggering amount of money used in government business, the vague and contradictory laws under which federal employees work, and the comparatively meager salaries employees receive are reasons why the federal government is vulnerable to anyone who wants to make a fast buck. Current target of investigation is Billie Sol

Estes, left, whose wheeling and dealing has made Pecos, Tex., the nation's best known small town. In the previous administration there was Sherman Adams, center, in 1958 photo, who got into trouble over his relationship with textile magnate Bernard Goldfine. At right, in 1935 photo, is former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall, central figure in the Teapot Dome episode, granddaddy of all Washington scandals. (UPI)

It is difficult for the mind to encompass the figure of one billion. Starting with the date of Christ's birth, a person would have to spend about \$1,400 a day to be rid of \$1 billion now.

The federal government is budgeted to spend more than \$80 billion a year. No Presi-

dent and no committee appointed by a President can make an on-the-spot check of every expenditure. Too much money is passing through too many hands too fast.

The loose, vague and contradictory laws under which federal employees work. One man's favor to a friend is another man's crime.

President Kennedy has pointed out that under pres-

salaries paid by the government. Almost any person in the top three echelons of the government could double or triple his income tomorrow by resigning and going into private business. So many of them do that it has become a serious problem.

For those who remain, the temptation to pick up something on the side is always present.

Jerry R. Holleman resigned the other day as assistant secretary of labor. His salary was \$20,000 a year, but because of the expense of official entertaining, he couldn't make ends meet. Last January a friend offered Holleman \$1,000 to take him over a crisis and it was accepted. The friend was Billie Sol Estes.

There is no evidence that Holleman ever did anything to help Estes, but his case points up the fact that unless a federal official has a private income, he is likely to find the financial going rough.

The American public first became conscious of corruption in government after the Civil War. A big war almost always causes wasteful spending and graft and from the end of the conflict until 1872 congress passed legislation designed to stop the leaks. It didn't work, and that is why Kennedy is urging new and workable laws today.

The odd fact is that in most cases a comparatively small amount of money is involved.

Sherman Adams, assistant to President Eisenhower, resigned when the facts came out about his relationship with Bernard Goldfine, a New England textile magnate.

They were long-time friends and Goldfine presented Adams with a vicuna overcoat, paid some hotel bills for him and loaned him an oriental rug for his Washington living room. The whole thing came to less than \$5,000, and it is doubtful whether Goldfine got anything for his money.

No Preferential Treatment
Adams did make a few telephone inquiries at various departments here, but insisted he never asked or received preferential treatment for his friend. The man who got really hurt was Goldfine because the publicity focused the attention of the authorities on him and he finally went to prison for other reasons.

All the facts are not in yet, but most of the talk in the Billie Sol Estes case has been about his offers to buy clothing and shoes for persons in the department of agriculture who were in position to help him. But that was enough to cause a flurry of resignations and firings in the department because a congressional election is coming up this fall and the Democrats are going to do everything possible to deprive the Republicans of a political issue.

Adams, incidentally, might have survived in the White House but for an election in Maine in the fall of 1958.

Stood Behind Adams
Eisenhower stood staunchly behind Adams, but a Democratic victory in Maine was interpreted by some Republicans as being caused by the vicuna coat and the hotel bills. The pressure on Adams to get out was irresistible.

Like the gentle rain, charges of corruption fall on Democrats and Republicans impartially. John Maragon, a White House hanger-on without any specific job, got the Truman administration into trouble. He wangled permission in 1945 to make a trip to the restricted areas of Europe in behalf of a perfume manufacturer. The owner of the company gratefully sent seven deep freezers to prominent residents of Washington, including Mrs. Truman, Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughn, Truman's military aide, spent many hours before congressional

committees denying that he used his White House influence to further the interests of private industry.

Whenever corruption charges are brought there is an immediate cry of "another Teapot Dome." This was the granddaddy of them all, and involved some real big money. The damage actually was done when Warren G. Harding was president and too preoccupied with poker games with his cronies to keep a sharp eye on what was happening in the executive departments of the government.

The facts came out after Harding's death when Calvin Coolidge was in the White House. The Navy had oil reserves in the Teapot Dome area of Wyoming and Elk Hills in California, worth a total of \$200 million.

Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall persuaded Harding to transfer jurisdiction of the reserves from the Navy Department to Interior. Then, without competitive bidding, he leased the reserves to private oil organizations. Edward L. Doheny got Elk Hills and Harry F. Sinclair got Teapot Dome.

All Three Acquitted
All three were acquitted on conspiracy charges in which it was alleged that Fall received \$100,000 from Doheny. It also was charged out of court that Fall received \$300,000 from Sinclair. Fall then was brought to court on a separate charge of accepting bribes, was convicted and sentenced to a \$100,000 fine and one year in prison.

It is difficult to say whether the voters remember federal corruption when the time comes to go to the polls. Teapot Dome did not hurt Coolidge or the Republicans. They won an easy election in 1924. Truman survived several investigations and the Alger Hiss case to score the political upset of the century by defeating Thomas E. Dewey in 1948.

Tightening The Laws
Kennedy has urged a tightening of the laws to prevent corruption and conflict of interest in the federal government. Rep. John Lindsay, R-N.Y., has introduced a bill that would make it fairly clear what and what not a federal employee should do.

But it still will be difficult for a man to determine whether he was being bribed. If you buy a friendly drink for a senator or a cabinet officer, are you bribing him?

The only man in Washington who has attacked the problem head-on is Sen. Paul Douglas, D-Ill.

"If a man sends me a present worth more than \$250," he said, "I send it back to him."

\$OBBIING \$IMS \$UMMER \$AVINGS\$



As Shown 24.88
Without Slide 17.88

LARGER SET WITH 3 SWINGS
SLIDE AND SKY SKEETER 29.88



22 Piece Plastic PICNIC SET
in carrying case.
Made of super strong Polystyrene. It is durable, withstands rough treatments. Sanitary and practically non-breakable. Corrugated carrying case.

SAVE!!
SAVE!!
SAVE!!
Clip This Ad and Buy This Set FOR 66¢



Keep COOL
this new thrifty way!
Now... you can beat the heat for pennies a day! Enjoy years of refreshing, washed, filtered COOL air anywhere in your home, office. No special installation, just plug into ordinary household outlet.

• Three speeds
• Big 6 1/2" blower and powerful motor
• Fingertip water shut-off control
• Beautiful walnut-grained vinyl finish
• 4-way adjustable grille
• Cools areas with up to 175 sq. ft.
Model 861
49.88
Others From \$39.88

Travel Air
portable air coolers

4.88 DOWN



FENCE WICKETS
10 GALVANIZED STEEL WICKETS (17 1/2" high, 10 1/2" wide) RUST PROOF

19" SAVAGE ROTARY
LAWN MOWER
2 1/4 H.P. MOTOR

39.88 4.88 Down 5.00 Month

SIMS CYCLE & HOBBY SHOP

23 North Fir Phone 772-2472

BLISTER RESISTANT HOUSE PAINT

A major achievement in paint technology... developed during 10 years of rigid field testing... Treasure Tones Super Poly-Ester Paint is the best way known to assure years of attractive appearance for exterior siding, sash and trim... even in extremely moist climates. ■ Super Poly-Ester Paint is the closest thing yet to a blister-proof paint... also resists peeling, fading, chalking, cracking, staining, smog, fumes and mildew. ■ Come in and see the popular new colors now available in this finest of all house paints.

Treasure Tones

Why Buy a Cheap TWO-COAT Paint When Treasure Tones Covers in ONE?

MEDFORD PAINT & WALLPAPER STORE

6th and Holly, diagonally across from Post Office
Phone 772-9321

Grants Pass Man Gets Contract

A contract for the reconstruction of eight miles of the Rogue River Trail has been awarded to Walter Eichler, 711 NE Beacon dr., Grants Pass, according to Kenneth W. Jensen, Glendale Unit forester of the bureau of land management.

The portion of the trail to be reconstructed is located between Bronco creek and Kelsey creek, he said. A BLM crew reworked the trail from Kelsey creek to Mule creek last year.

Jensen noted that considerable interest was shown in the contract by a dozen prospective bidders who inspected the trail with a BLM forester recently.

Lowest of Nine Bids
Eichler's bid of \$2,720 was the lowest of nine bids submitted. He will commence work at once.

Although the trail can be used safely now if care is exercised, the bureau of land management plans to complete the reconstruction of the trail from its beginning on the Mt. Reuben rd. 2 1/2 miles northwest of Alameda bridge to the western edge of the Medford BLM district at Marial.

Work soon will be completed on the Tucker Flat Recreation site where the Rogue River Trail crosses Mule creek near Marial, Jensen said. However, it can be used now by trail travelers and persons who drive to the site via the Kelsey and Marial roads from Grants Pass or Glendale. Motor vehicles are not allowed on the Rogue River Trail.



ON TRAIL—A group of prospective bidders inspected the Rogue River Trail recently in preparation for submitting bids on widening and making other improvements. Here, prospective bidders are shown hiking along the trail to be improved.

for . . .
FINER FURNITURE . . .

Prestons
526 EAST MAIN STREET
MEDFORD, OREGON
Next to Winnie's Style Salon

East Main Street

PRESTONS ★ Convenient New Location!

SCHOOL'S OUT...CHILDREN PLAYING...DRIVE CAREFULLY...



The boys and girls in Medford and the Rogue River Valley are out of school now to enjoy a summer of fun. PLEASE help them to keep enjoying it! Youngsters will still be going to school playgrounds and playing at home... they are apt to dash into the street anytime... into the path of YOUR car. The Medford Traffic

Safety Council urges YOU to make SAFE DRIVING a very personal responsibility. Have your car thoroughly checked for safety... be doubly careful to observe traffic signs and regulations... watch out for children everywhere — and give them the right of way!

DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE

Published in cooperation with the Medford Traffic Safety Council by The Mail Tribune