

Freeman Denies Showing Favoritism Trustees Announce '62 Pulitzer Prizes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said yesterday his department may have "dragged a bit" in its handling of the Billie Sol Estes case, but he denied any favoritism had been shown the Texas financier.

Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee, charged Freeman was trying to "whitewash" his department and renewed Republican demands for a full congressional investigation of the case.

"The government hasn't lost a dime—not a single dime to Estes," Freeman said, adding: "This cannot be said for some of the big finance companies which apparently have lost millions to Estes."

"THE DEPARTMENT could have come out much worse," Freeman told nearly 100 reporters crammed into his office for a long, turbulent news conference.

Wilson, in a statement, said that despite Freeman's claims no favoritism was granted, Estes "ob-

viously received a lot of special consideration" from the Agriculture Department.

Wilson said Estes was allowed to put up only \$709,000 bond on grain storage warehouses when the court-appointed receiver had to put up \$10 million.

"The department accepted without question Estes' claim of a net worth of \$12 million," Wilson said, "while at the same time he was claiming losses to the Internal Revenue Service and receiving hefty refunds on his income tax."

WILSON CHARGED the Democratic-controlled Congress "is dragging its feet" on an investigation of the Estes case.

Freeman told his news conference the man who made the decision not to require a higher bond from Estes was a Civil Service employe with 25 years outstanding service in the department.

The 37-year-old Estes built a West Texas business empire involving huge cotton holdings and storage of government grain.

In recent months, however, Es-

tes' empire has fallen apart. He is under a federal indictment on fraud charges and is the subject of energetic investigation by both state and federal authorities.

As to the department's role, Freeman said:

"IT APPEARS to me that this is getting ballooned out of all proportion. All that appears so far is that three people may have received favors from Billie Sol Estes. There is no indication that any of the three made any decisions under the influence of these gifts."

N. Battle Hales, a department employe, charged at a news conference last week that favoritism had been shown Estes.

"I find no grounds for any of the allegations," Freeman said.

NEW YORK (AP) — "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" by Frank Loesser and Abe Burrows, yesterday won then 1962 Pulitzer Prize for drama. The fiction award went to the book "The Edge of Sadness" by Edwin O'Connor.

"The Making of the President, 1960" by Theodore H. White, a story of the last presidential campaign, won a general non-fiction award.

THE PRIZE for meritorious public service was awarded to the Panama City, Fla., News-Herald for "its successful three-year campaign against entrenched

power and corruption in Panama City and Bay County."

This was the 46th year of the awards, established at Columbia University by the late publisher Joseph Pulitzer. The prizes are awarded by the Trustees of the University.

The award for local reporting under pressure of edition time went to Robert D. Mullins of the Desert News, Salt Lake City, Utah, for "his coverage of a murder-kidnaping at Dead Horse Point, Utah."

OTHER WINNERS in the journalism field:

Local reporting in which edition time was not a factor—George Bliss of the Chicago Tribune.

National Reporting—Nathan G. Caldwell and Gene S. Graham of the Nashville Tennessean.

INTERNATIONAL reporting—Walter Lippmann of the New York Herald Tribune syndicate.

Editorial writing—Thomas M. Stroke of the Santa Barbara, Calif., News-Press.

News Photography—Paul Vathis of the Harrisburg, Pa., Bureau of the Associated Press.

Cartoons—Edmund S. Valtman of the Hartford, Conn., Times.

France Conducts Fifth Nuclear Test

PARIS (AP) — France reluctantly confirmed yesterday that she has conducted her fifth nuclear test in efforts to build an independent atomic striking force.

The underground explosion of a nuclear device took place May 1 in the Algerian Sahara, presumably at France's proving ground at Reggane.

Confirmation came after authoritative sources in Washington reported France had detonated a nuclear device last week. The United States presumably picked up the test on its detection equipment.

The previous four French nuclear tests—the first one was Feb. 13, 1960—were followed within a

few hours by official announcements and disclosure of considerable detail.

This time, confirmation of the test came a week after it was accomplished and no details were disclosed, except that the shot was underground. The four other tests were conducted on or slightly above the surface on towers.

Senate Leaders File Petition To Close 2-Week Filibuster

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders filed a petition yesterday to cut off the two-week-old filibuster on the literacy test bill—and they said the showdown on tomorrow could result in a tougher rule against filibusters in 1963.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said that a series of votes tomorrow may show that majority favor the bill even though it may not be possible to obtain the two-thirds majority needed to stop debate and bring the measure up for a vote.

In such a situation the duty of the leadership would be clear, Mansfield said. "It must, therefore, propose to the Senate, once again, early in the next session, that the rule for closing debate be altered to reduce the present requirement of a two-thirds majority for invoking cloture," he said.

THE LITERACY TEST bill would provide that a state cannot prevent a person from voting by means of a literacy test if he has received a sixth-grade education. Sponsors contend that some Southern states have used literacy tests to keep Negroes from voting.

A score of Southern senators led by Sen. Richard B. Russell,

D-Ga., contend the measure would invade a state's constitutional right to set up requirements for voting.

THE SOUTHERN senators have stalled all Senate action for two weeks by talking on the issue.

The petition contained 31 names, 15 more than the required minimum. There were 21 Democratic and 10 Republican signers.

The Senate has not voted to shut off debate since 1927.

Mansfield said the Civil Rights Commission had reported that 129 counties had used literacy tests.

Underground Nuclear Test

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States conducted an underground nuclear test yesterday at its Nevada test site. The Atomic Energy Commission said the shot was of low yield, but gave no details.

The description of it at low yield means it probably had a force about the equivalent of an explosion of 20,000 tons of TNT.

This was the 31st shot in the series of underground tests. The last previous one was April 27.

Currently, the United States is also conducting tests in the atmosphere in the Pacific.

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London, Paris, And Now New York! "A STAGGERING FILM" — Films and Filming, London "A FILM WHICH STILL BELIEVES IN HAPPINESS." Combat, Paris "AS MUCH FUN AS A BARRELFUL OF MONKEYS." The New Yorker, New York "THE PRIGGISH HAD BEST STAY AWAY." — The Saturday Post, New York Picnic on the Grass Written, Directed and Produced by JEAN RENOIR In Eastmancolor Begins TOMORROW TONITE 8:00 P.M. "ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS"