

USG insurance hearings end Hondru denies he offered bribe

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Collegian Staff Writers

Bryan Hondru, representative for Frank B. Hall and Co., told the Undergraduate Student Government, Senate's insurance investigation committee, Friday that he did not offer a bribe to USG President George Cernusca last Spring Term.

Hondru, testifying by telephone, said he had no opportunity to meet with Cernusca alone on May 1, the date of the alleged bribe offer. Hondru said that upon arriving at the USG office in 218 HUB, he and Cernusca were met by Albert Mische, former

mailing services employe. But Mische Friday testified that he walked in on a private conversation held by Cernusca and Hondru. He said he waited three or four minutes before they were done.

Hondru also said that when Cernusca signed a letter for request of installment on May 1, former USG insurance advisor Arthur Williams informed Cernusca that the letter was a legally binding contract.

This contradicts Williams' testimony of Sept. 25 in which he said that questions on the legality of the contract never came up during their discussion.

Hondru was questioned about a document suggesting plan improvements which Cernusca refused to sign on May 17. Hondru said the May 17 document, standing alone, would be a legal contract.

Cernusca later claimed that if Hondru believed the May 1 letter of installment was binding, a second contract would not have been necessary.

Mische also said that he spoke with Hondru on May 1

after the alleged bribe conversation, and that Hondru did not mention having won the insurance bid.

It was revealed at the hearings that since the committee received a tape recording belonging to former executive assistant Eric Richardson concerning a conversation between Richardson and USG office secretary Claire Brown, other parties have heard the tape.

Richardson said he handed the tape to the committee with the stipulation that nobody but the committee was to listen to it. Richardson also said that any questions regarding the integrity of the tape should have been brought to him.

Richardson then asked the committee to return the tape since they had betrayed his trust. He added that his handing over of the tape had since been a "personal sacrifice" since he was not legally bound to do so.

The committee voted to refuse Richardson's request, but Saturday morning the tape was returned.

Cernusca also presented his closing statement to the com-

mittee Saturday morning, saying he had "utmost respect for the Senate as an institution."

"In retrospect I realize I committed a political error in not consulting the Senate during the period in which I was deliberating the signing of the insurance contract," Cernusca said.

He assured the committee that this error would not occur again.

But he said the proceedings of the insurance investigation committee will show the "unobfuscated and uncontested fact that a few of its members have evidenced less interest in arriving at a delineation of the truth concerning these matters than in conducting a personal and political vendetta."

Greg Lord, newly appointed

USG executive assistant, said some of the committee members have become "childishly imbued with the Watergate phenomenon."

"While they picked on the media accounts of Watergate, they they do not possess the sense of responsibility, the courage or the intellectual honesty to ingeniously play out the role."

Lord said he is prepared to advise Cernusca and Mientus to immediately secure legal counsel and "fully examine the possibilities of taking this issue to the judiciary."

In other insurance-investigation-related action, USG Vice President Marion Mientus fired James Newton as her student counsel in the hearings for making statements she deemed "inaccurate."

OTIS reopens co-op

Inflation-weary members of the University community may find some relief in the Organization of Town Independent Students food cooperative. The co-op has been re-established for Fall Term after more than a term of operation.

Co-op members will be able to buy fruit, vegetables, bread and eggs at prices between 15 and 25 per cent below those of local retail stores, according to OTIS member Vicki Spagnol.

Membership in the co-op will be open to any University full or part-time University student, faculty member or employe. However, only 300 members can be accepted for the fall.

Prospective members must show University identification when signing to join the co-op.

Students who were members of the co-op Spring and/or Summer Term will be able to sign up for Fall Term from 9:30 to 4:30 today on the ground floor of the HUB. New members will be accepted Tuesday and Wednesday during the same hours.

There will be no membership fee, although a work commitment of about an

hour and a half every three weeks will be required of all members.

Members will be able to place their first orders 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday in 203 HUB. Orders will be picked up the following Thursday at the Wesley Foundation on College Avenue, which has been rented by OTIS.

Subsequent orders will be placed at the foundation when members pick up their previous week's orders.

The final pickup date for Fall Term will be Nov. 7.

The co-op operated out of the foundation during the summer, but the OTIS Co-op Committee is searching for a permanent site.

According to chairperson Dave Ladov, the committee is looking for a site with space to store bulk-type items such as rice and space to install a refrigeration unit to enable the co-op to sell items such as cheese and milk.

Ladov said he thinks the committee will find a suitable site by the first week of January.

It was reported on Friday's issue that Undergraduate Student Government President George Cernusca's newly appointed press secretary, Tom Downing, had received his degree in political science from Smith College. Downing received his degree from Dartmouth, and participated in an exchange program at Smith.

Energy experts show optimism

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Energy experts say America's supplies will meet winter needs in every field except natural gas — if the Arabs do not restore the oil embargo, if weather is normal and if Americans conserve.

So there are big "ifs", but the outlook based upon the current supply picture alone is for much better days than the cold crisis of last winter — warmer homes, better electrical supplies and no lines at gasoline stations.

A new element of uncertainty clouded the oil supply outlook when

some Arab nations reacted sensitively to President Ford's call for cooperation between oil producing nations and their clients.

But U.S. officials say the major oil-consuming nations have made plans to share supplies even if the Arabs do order another embargo.

In addition, U.S. stocks of the main fuels are bigger now than they were a year ago.

The outlook is bleak only for natural gas, especially for users along the Eastern seaboard. The Federal

Power Commission says curtailments of natural gas service are expected to run 80 per cent higher this year.

But as far as oil products are concerned, John C. Sawhill, the federal energy administrator, said recently the "supply crisis" is over.

If Americans restrain their use of energy and if the winter is not severe, he told a House subcommittee, "the supply of most petroleum products will be adequate through the second quarter of 1975."

The American Petroleum Institute

has reported steadily increasing inventories of major refined oil products for months.

As for natural gas, officials say there is no doubt supplies will be pinched — with resultant curtailments in service — harder this winter than last.

"Curtailments are now occurring on a year-around basis, on some pipeline systems," John N. Nassikas, chairman of the Federal Power Commission, said.

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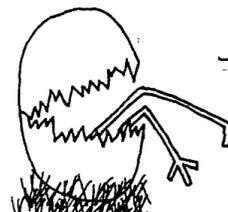
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