

Simon says he took no part Oil 'double dip' denied

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Treasury Secretary William E. Simon yesterday denied any part in framing a loophole in federal energy regulations which allowed oil companies to amass \$40 million in excess profits.

Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., said Simon's disclaimer seemed to show "the most serious form of lack of leadership" when the Treasury secretary headed the old Federal Energy Office.

The so-called "double dip" loophole in federal oil allocation rules allowed sellers in certain circumstances to pass through increased costs twice — once to refiners and again to consumers.

Before the "double dip" regulation was superseded on May 14, several big oil companies had amassed \$40 million in extra profits and another \$292 million credited for future use.

The Federal Energy Administration, successor of the FEO, is seeking to force the companies to refund the \$40 million.

Simon, named "energy czar" during the crisis following the Arab oil embargo, said yesterday "Only within the past few weeks have I even heard the term 'double dip'."

He told Dingell's Small Business subcommittee on

regulatory agencies that conditions at the FEO were "chaotic" when the regulation was written, and that the drafting of allocation rules was only one of "hundreds of emergencies" at the agency.

Earlier subcommittee testimony named Robert C. Bowen, on loan to the FEO from Phillips Petroleum Corp., as author of the regulation.

Dingell said if Bowen did draft the regulation, he was in a "conflict of interest" although he had been warned by the general counsel of the Treasury Department — and whether he did or not, the loophole should have been sighted by higher FEO officials.

Simon struck back at the charges against Bowen, saying "There appears in the record severely derogatory comments by members of this committee seeking to assign blame for the chaotic situation under which we were all laboring at the FEO. Such statements reveal little understanding of the magnitude of the task imposed upon us."

He said a report on Bowen's apparent conflict of interest had been forwarded to the Justice Department which has decided "that no further investigation seems necessary or appropriate at this time."

Ranchers postpone slaughter of calves

STEPHENVILLE, Tex. (UPI) — Two hundred ranchers and dairymen agreed yesterday to postpone for two weeks the slaughter of 1,000 calves in protest against the low prices cattlemen are getting for beef at the market.

The ranchers heeded a warning from Agriculture Commissioner John C. White that the slaughter would create adverse public reaction to their cause, and White's promise the government would try to arrange for them to tell their problems directly to President Ford in Washington.

But the overwhelming majority of the ranchers who heard White's pleas predicted the calves would be slaughtered sooner or later.

"Last month I lost \$600 and that was the first time in a half a century I have not made a profit," dairy farmer W. L. Payton said. "It's going downhill now and there is no way it's going to get better."

The cattlemen from Erath, Hamilton and Comanche counties planned to herd 1,000 calves into a 30-foot wide-pit on a sloping hill of the Jack Beyer Ranch and kill them to dramatize their protest.

White asked the farmers to delay their kill so a delegation representing them could meet with officials in Washington.

"I believe if you go ahead and kill those calves there's going to be such a public reaction that we can't get anything done," White told them. "I tell you my heart is really with you, but there ought to be a better way."

"We went to Washington and it didn't do us a damn bit of good so I say we need to kill these calves," Ed Black of Hico, Tex., shouted. "These people don't understand 20 hours of everyday working and worrying. I say let's put Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz in that hole. He sends

grain over to feed the Japanese so they can get strong enough to start another war."

White said he talked with Gov. Dolph Briscoe who told him he would try to arrange a meeting with a delegation of the cattlemen and officials in Washington.

"I can't promise you that you can talk to President Ford," White said. "But I believe with all my heart that the delegation from this group can go to Washington and talk to him. I believe President Ford is sincere and will listen and will understand."

Faculty union battle continues

The Fall weather may be turning colder, but the battle over faculty unionization is on a warming trend. In a press release yesterday, Open Options, an anti-union faculty group, charged the pro-union Pennsylvania State University Professional Association (PSUPA) with the "premature creation of an 'adversary' relationship at the University."

Open Options also said PSUPA's unfair labor practices suit against the administration is a "typical union tactic to create sympathy (for unionization) during authorization

card drives." On May 28, PSUPA charged the University administration with dominating and encouraging the Faculty Senate as a company union to discourage the faculty from organizing. Hearings on the charges began Sept. 16 and will continue tomorrow.

The press release said "Open Options goes on record as strongly opposing the unnecessary action by PSUPA to diminish and degrade the Faculty Senate."

Open Options member, George Schenck, associate professor of

mineral economics, was quoted as saying "I believe these unfair labor practice charges are a red herring, invented solely to create a fictitious issue to gain support for PSUPA."

In reply to these charges, Robert Olsen, PSUPA co-chairman, said "the purpose of the suit is to get community as much information as possible, so they can decide if a union is needed here and not just 'get support for us.'"

"The faculty should know how the Senate operates and how the administration is controlling the Senate's actions," he added.

Paul Winter music group begins visit to campus

The Paul Winter Consort begins its three day visit to Penn State today, with three free workshops and a concert planned.

The group plays a blend of jazz, rock, classical and just about every other kind of music.

The first workshops are improvisational. The band will split up to conduct them at 2 p.m. in 101 Kern Graduate Center and in the East Halls lounge.

These workshops, which will explore the possibilities of home-made music, are open to anyone who plays any instrument, regardless of his skill.

A "World Music Seminar" will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Music Building. It is mainly for music students and will include slides, tapes and talks showing the common ground shared by the music of 'all

cultures. It will also explore the possibilities for small group music.

The group will appear in a concert entitled "Consorting with Each Other" 8:30 tonight in the HUB Ballroom. Admission is 50 cents. Students

are encouraged to bring an instrument, anything "from a kazoo to bassoon."

The group will be holding more workshops tomorrow and Saturday, with concerts scheduled for both evenings

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