

IRS head under probe by FBI

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Internal Revenue Commissioner Donald C. Alexander, a subject of several congressional and government inquiries, now is under investigation by the FBI, a spokesman said yesterday.

Published reports have alleged Alexander blocked an audit of tax returns of Sen. Joseph Montoya, D-N.M., who chairs a subcommittee

handling IRS appropriations. Alexander has drawn criticism for suspending IRS Operation Trade Winds-Haven, an investigation into Bahamian tax havens used by Americans, and for curtailing IRS intelligence operations, because he said some tactics used could violate the rights of suspects.

There have also been allegations Alexander continued to advise his former legal client, Procter and Gamble, after taking over his tax post.

The commissioner has denied any wrongdoing.

An FBI spokesman said yesterday, "We are confirming that at the request of

the Department of Justice, the FBI is conducting a preliminary investigation to determine if there has been any violation of federal laws within our jurisdiction."

Treasury Secretary William E. Simon previously ordered his department to look into the allegations, saying he preferred that to an internal IRS investigation which is being conducted by Warren A. Bates, the IRS assistant commissioner for inspection.

The Los Angeles Times reported that it was Simon who referred the matter to the Justice Department. Treasury officials refused to comment.

Rocky open to '76 bid

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI) — Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller said last night that he will not rule out a 1976 presidential bid because "nobody knows what might happen."

Rockefeller said he fully expects President Ford to win nomination at the Republican National Convention next summer but he refused to say that he would not get involved in the race if Ford faltered seriously in the GOP primary.

Rockefeller said it was not so much a question of "keeping my options open" as it was that he was "just not freezing a position."

"I do not foresee that opportunity,"

Rockefeller said, and then pausing to correct himself he continued, "that possibility of a deadlock" at the convention.

Rockefeller made his comments to reporters aboard Air Force Two enroute to Austin for the third of six Domestic Council forums designed to gather local opinions on the nation's problems and priorities for the Ford Administration.

"I think Mr. Connally has anticipated that situation a deadlock in his statements about Reagan's growing strength," Rockefeller said.

Rockefeller said that as of now, "I expect President Ford to be nominated ... he is my candidate and I am supporting him."

Illegal Gulf donations admitted

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A former Gulf Oil official acknowledges making allegedly illegal campaign contributions to at least 15 senators and congressmen, including cash paid in a hotel men's room and behind a barn, it was learned yesterday.

Gulf was convicted in 1973 of making illegal contributions to the 1972 presidential campaign of Richard M. Nixon and the campaigns of Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., and Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash.

But UPI learned the list of alleged recipients has been expanded to at least nine present and former senators including presidential hopeful Fred Harris, six present and former representatives, former Kansas Gov. William Avery and Pennsylvania's "Mr. Republican" George Bloom.

The allegations were made in an Oct. 30 statement to the Securities and Exchange Commission by Frederick Myers, who retired in June as Gulf's legislative coordinator in Washington. Myers worked for Gulf 47 years, the last 16 in Washington.

Gulf had no immediate comment.

Myers said he delivered sealed envelopes "maybe four or five or six times a year" to the Capitol Hill offices of senators and representatives between 1960 and 1972 when the Watergate prosecutor began to probe Gulf's campaign activities.

Myers said he made 20 trips outside Washington to deliver sealed envelopes that were addressed with one person's name, usually the elected official or a campaign aide.

In these trips, Myers said he usually went to a hotel or campaign office, delivered the envelope and returned to Washington. Sometimes he was met at the airport, he said.

Myers said he gave one sealed envelope to Sen. Edwin Mechem, R-N.M., "behind the barn" of a New Mexico ranch in 1964. Mechem lost his bid for re-election to Democrat Joseph Montoya.

He said he delivered another to former Rep. Richard Roudebush, R-Ind., in a hotel men's room in Indianapolis.

Myers said he never mentioned Gulf's name but told each recipient the sealed envelope was from "Mr. Wild."

Claude Wild, who resigned last year as Gulf's

top official in Washington, was co-defendant with Gulf in the 1973 conviction for illicit campaign activities. Wild took the Fifth Amendment, refusing to testify against himself, when he met with SEC investigators Oct. 29.

Wild pleaded guilty Nov. 13, 1973, to violating the federal law prohibiting corporate political gifts and was fined \$1,000. Gulf the same day also entered a guilty plea and was fined \$5,000 — in each case, the maximum provided by law.

Other members of Congress named by Myers included Sens. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., Howard Cannon, D-Nev., Vance Hartke, D-Ind., former Sens. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., Edward Gurney, R-Fla., Wallace Bennett, R-Utah, Norris Cotton, R-N.H., Reps. Herman Schneebeli, R-Pa., James Burke, D-Mass., and former Reps. Julia Hansen, D-Wash., Page Belcher, R-Okla., and James Fulton, R-Pa.

Myers said he saw the sealed envelopes opened only twice. Both times the envelope was filled with cash, he said.

Myers said he did not know how much money was given to the candidates, but \$10,000 was paid in cash to a Republican fund-raising dinner

Senate passes ABM defense site treaty

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate yesterday ratified a treaty negotiated by President Richard M. Nixon in Moscow in 1974 — immediately before his resignation — limiting the United States and Soviet Union to a single anti-ballistic missile defense site.

The Senate approved the accord by a vote of 65 to 15, easily obtaining the required two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Under the agreement, the United States will be limited to a single ABM field at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., while the Soviet Union

will maintain similar anti-missile defenses around Moscow.

Both sides can give notice to the other in 1977-1978 that they would like to switch the arrangements, with the United States constructing a single ABM defense around Washington and the Soviet Union building and a similar defense around one of its strategic missile fields.

Among those voting against the treaty was Sen. William L. Scott, R-Va., who said it was "untenable" for the United States to limit its defense against nuclear attack. Also voting no were

Republican Sens. Barry Goldwater, Ariz., John Tower, Tex., and James Buckley, N.Y.

The treaty approved yesterday by the Senate is a "protocol" or an addition to the 1972 U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. This was one of the key accords of Nixon's first summit conference in Moscow and permitted both sides to maintain two ABM sites.

Both superpowers found the cost of erecting these anti-missile defenses so high they decided against building the optional second site.

Nixon's final summit conference in Moscow in 1974 also produced a second treaty, which critics called "cosmetic," limiting underground tests to nuclear weapons whose yield is 150 kilotons or less.

The maximum blast would be about seven times the force of the A-bomb which devastated Hiroshima in 1945.

The Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said this accord has not been forwarded to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee pending the completion of a companion agreement with the Soviet Union controlling nuclear explosions for peaceful uses.

Conferees ban floor for oil price limits

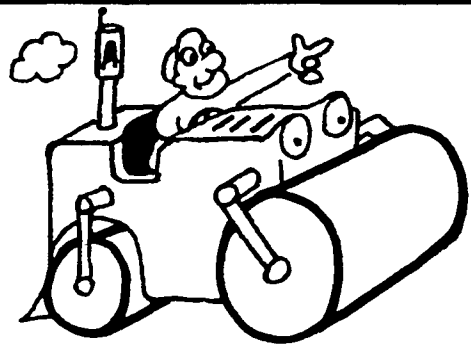
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congressional conferees on energy agreed yesterday to prohibit the President from setting any minimum price for oil or its products.

The ban on a "price floor" is part of a comprehensive energy bill the joint House-Senate conference committee is working to complete before Nov. 15, the expiration date for oil price controls the legislation would replace.

Republicans had considered offering a substitute for the price section conferees agreed upon last week, but the conferees quit yesterday without taking up the price matter without taking up the price matter.

That substitute, Sen. Paul Fannin, R-Ariz., said, would bring oil prices down somewhat at the start, but would exempt some high-cost oil such as from Alaska, and would allow greater flexibility than the plan the conferees adopted. To get the new idea before the conferees would take a formal reconsideration vote.

In yesterday's session, the conferees agreed on language in the House version of the bill that the President be banned from any action "to establish minimum prices for crude oil, residual fuel oil, or any refined petroleum product."



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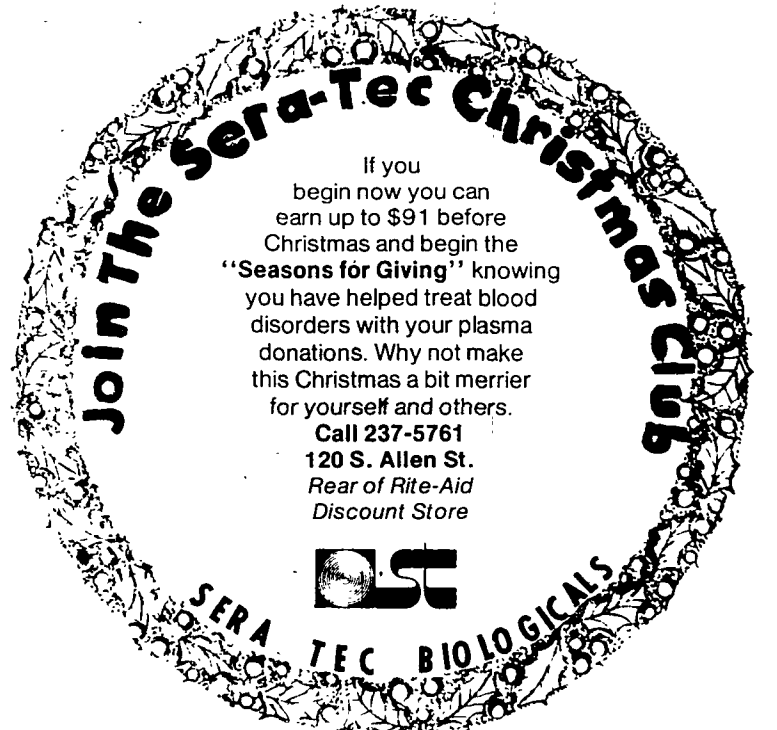
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