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Scott confirms retirement

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott, a power in Washington politics for 33 years, announced yesterday he will retire when his current term ends in January 1977.

"Because there are numerous persons qualified to succeed to the office I will not be a candidate for re-election to a fourth Senate term in 1976," Scott said in a statement issued by an aide.

Scott's statement made no mention of recent controversy involving alleged contributions from Gulf Oil Corp.

"I will say only that, I have done my level best to be an honest, conscientious public servant conscious of the laws and abiding by them," his statement read.

"Only those of you who have shared the experience of public service can realize the effect upon one's personal and family life, the difficulties of living within the limelight of full and proper examination of one's entire record," he continued.

Scott was in town along with Vice President Rockefeller to attend a GOP dinner honoring veteran state party leader George Bloom. But the night belonged to Scott.

State Republican Chairman Richard C. Frame, emerging from a reception for the senator, said "There were tears rolling all over the floor" when Scott told party leaders of his decision to step down.

"His urbane wit, his keen insight, his judgment and his ability to get things done will be sorely missed in the United States Senate," Frame said.

Rockefeller, calling Scott "one of the outstanding public servants in this country," said "His depth of vision, his breadth of human concern, his dedication to this country... are almost without equal."

Scott himself did not meet with newsmen, and the only thing he said about his future, was that he would campaign in 1976 "to elect President Ford and our Republican candidates of

all levels.

A former Republican national chairman, Scott served eight terms in the House and became Senate Minority Leader after the death of Everett M. Dirksen in 1969.

His announcement contained no indication of support for any potential successor, either for the leadership post or for his Pennsylvania seat.

In Washington, speculation on a replacement centered on Sens. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., the assistant leader, and John G. Tower, R-Tex.

A number of state Republicans have already started testing the waters for next year's primary.

Mayor Peter Flaherty of Pittsburgh, a Democrat and also a possible candidate, called for Scott's immediate resignation rather than retirement.

Flaherty made his statement several hours prior to Scott's arrival here for a \$150-\$200 a plate GOP fund-raising dinner. The mayor said the senator's retirement wouldn't remove the "scandal over his head."

"Sen. Scott can no longer be effective for Pennsylvania or the nation and he should step down rather than serve out the remainder of his term," Flaherty said.

He added that "retirement... will permit him to remain in office as a lame duck for another 13 months with a scandal over his head."

"Sen. Scott does not deny that he has been receiving cash payments from Gulf Oil, and has been on the payroll of this giant oil company for years," Flaherty added.

"The failure to deny the Gulf payments raises the question of whether he is on the payroll of any other giant corporation."

A Gulf attorney reported recently that Scott received \$10,000 a year from Gulf.

In a statement issued from his office, Scott said, "I have never knowingly received any corporate funds from

anybody, anytime. I am not going to have any further statement."

The Watergate special prosecutor's office is investigating the allegations, along with other money matters involving Gulf.

Hugh Doggett Scott has been minority leader since 1969. He was in the House for 16 years and has been in the Senate for 17.

Throughout his career, Scott, who served in the Merchant Marine and Navy during World War II, has carried his knowledge of tacking and veering into the political arena.

It was never more evident than during the Nixon years in the White House and the days of Watergate during 1973-74.

Scott stuck out his neck to defend Nixon, claiming the President was viciously and unfairly attacked.

When the tapes finally did Nixon in, Scott quickly deserted, saying the President had "lied" to him. He led the move to force Nixon to quit which ended a two-year era he likened to "pure hell."

Scott was born in Fredericksburg, Va., but went to Philadelphia after law school in 1926. His public career has continued ever since with only one interruption — in 1944 when he was defeated for re-election to Congress during the sweep of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He served as assistant district attorney in Philadelphia from 1926 to 1941 when he first ran for the U.S. House.

He was chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1948-49, was a key organizer of Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential campaign in 1952, and played a leading role in Nixon's first White House battles in 1960.

An Episcopalian, Scott and his wife Marian have one daughter and five grandchildren.

Weather

Ice and snow will melt today under sunny skies and mild temperatures. Brilliant sunshine will arrive after some early morning fog. High 52. Increasing cloudiness tonight and not as cold. Low 37. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with showers developing during the day. High 56. Cloudy and colder Sunday with a few snow flurries.



Winter's debut

YESTERDAY, MOST OF US woke up to find snowflakes dancing on our windowsills. But it won't be a long-running show...warm temperatures are scheduled for the weekend.

Pa. Mirror declares it may have to fold

The Pennsylvania Mirror announced yesterday it will stop publication if the newspaper does not become self-supporting within the next six weeks.

In a front page editorial, the Mirror asked subscribers to persuade merchants to advertise in the paper, and to purchase subscriptions for friends.

Noting the newspaper's role in the community, the Mirror stated, "We have tried hard and the venture has been a success from all but a financial standpoint."

Blair Bice, publisher of the Mirror, termed the editorial "an honest assessment of the paper's position."

"We had an encouraging response from advertisers in State College and Bellefonte. We had some emotional phone calls and some flattering ones too," Bice said.

He said the response may grow to the extent that the paper can continue.

Bice said he has been approached in the past by potential buyers for the

paper, and did not rule out the possibility that the Mirror could continue under another owner. He said any sale of the paper will be discussed by the Mirror's Board of Directors.

In any case, Bice said the closing of the paper would not affect Himes Printing Co., 1015 Benner Pike, printer of both the Mirror and The Daily Collegian. Bice called Himes "a profitable, growing printing business."

Rumors of the Mirror's demise have circulated almost since the newspaper was first published on Dec. 11, 1968. The lack of advertising has grown acute in recent months, causing increased speculation that the paper would fold. A reliable source indicated that the paper must cut operating losses by \$30,000 a month to survive.

The Mirror publishes seven mornings a week and serves Centre County. Its circulation averages 8,468, according to Postal Service estimates.

Car impoundments questionable

By MIKE SCHWARTZ
Collegian Staff Writer

State College landlords and Natale Brothers, a towing firm in the borough, asked Centre County Court last week to reconsider a recent decision on a towing question.

The landlords feel the decision handed down by Clearfield County Judge John Cherry did not clarify the legality of impounding an illegally parked car until its towing costs are paid.

Ben Novak, attorney for the apartment owners and the towing firm, told the court the order means "that persons can, with impunity, park on private property." Novak added that suing the car owner to recover the towing charge "is not a realistic remedy" for apartment owners.

In his decision, Cherry ruled that a Motor Vehicle Code provision giving property owners the right to remove illegally parked cars does not give the property owner or his agent the right to hold the vehicle until the fee is paid.

However, Cherry declined to rule on whether a refusal to return the vehicle until the charge is paid would constitute theft. Cherry said a decision on this matter should await an actual alleged violation of theft statutes.

Novak argued before Cherry that the court "refused to decide the issues raised."

Novak is representing Natale's Towing Service, which was once employed by most parking lot owners to remove illegally parked vehicles. He said that unless Cherry reconsiders, it

constitutes carte blanche to park anywhere, without fear of removal, with a guarantee that towing costs would be refunded to the trespasser.

"In no other field of law do the courts order an individual to extend credit for goods and services," Novak said. When an illegally parked car is towed, the owner is entitled to refuse to pay for the service, and can be billed for the cost, under the court's ruling that no claim can be made on the car, Novak added.

Attorney John Blasko, representing the man who sued Natale's two years ago and helped to bring the case to a head, said that Novak's clients "want the criminal courts to become a collection agency to enforce this."

Blasko said Novak's arguments "ignore the thrust of the order — that the

landowner has the right to remove a vehicle and charge for this."

Natale's, Blasko said, wants to go beyond this. They "want the right for storage — a possessory lien."

County District Attorney Charles Brown declined to enter the arguments. He became involved in the case in January, 1974 when he told a committee meeting of apartment owners and managers that impoundment of cars for a fee could be prosecuted as theft.

Natale's stopped towing illegally parked cars after Brown's comments on theft and the development of the case.

Property owners have not been able to set up any other system for removing illegally parked cars that also ensures the payment of towing costs.

Penn Tower shown not to meet fire standards

By PHIL STOREY
Collegian Staff Writer

A recent study commissioned by State College Borough Council found that Penn Towers, the borough's tallest apartment building, was not meeting present borough fire standards in two areas.

Council commissioned Tressler-Lutheran Associates, a research company based in Camp Hill, to find the cost of converting Penn Tower into housing for the elderly. Council voted down the proposed conversion after hearing a preliminary report from Tressler-Lutheran.

According to the research firm, new fire doors — cast iron doors on garbage chutes — would have to be installed and beam coverings — fire-resistant material around steel beams — would have to be changed. Those alterations would be made in addition to changes needed for the elderly.

To change the fire doors and beam coverings alone would cost more than \$350,000, the study estimated.

Bruce Kelly, general manager of Penn Tower and eight other A. W. and Sons Enterprises' buildings in State College, said that because the building would be used for a different purpose, different standards of fire safety would be implemented.

"The fire standards for elderly housing are three to four times greater than in any apartment building," Kelly said.

Ron Stehman, staff specialist for Tressler-Lutheran, said that apartment buildings come under the Pennsylvania

Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) C-2 Occupancy Code, while elderly housing comes under the L&I Life Safety Code.

Stehman added that the codes have changed since Penn Tower was built in 1972.

But Bob Nellis, a building inspector for the Centre Region Council of Governments, claimed the fire doors do not meet the standards because they are not fire-tested.

Nellis said he and the L&I inspector approved the fire doors and beam covering because they felt that the materials used were adequate.

Nellis said he is confident that both the fire doors and the beam covering would stand up under intense heat for up to two hours.

Richard Kummer, councilman and a professor of architecture, disagreed. "There is the basic fact: if a fire door doesn't meet the standards, it's not a fire door," he said.

When Penn Tower was built, the borough was using the L&I set of building codes. Now the borough has incorporated both the L&I codes and building codes written by Building Organization Conference of America (BOCA), using the most stringent code between the two in each individual part of construction.

Both sets of codes require that all building materials be fire-tested and rated by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, a group that sets fire safety standards on building materials for insurance companies.

Nellis said he checked several dif-

ferent testing laboratories and that no one had tested the fire-retardant lumber that is used as beam covering in Penn Tower.

"The fire doors and beam covering

weren't tested in a lab but we think they're safe," said Nellis.

"Opinion, has nothing to do with it," Kummer said. "I would have liked to have seen the materials tested."



Not fire-proof?

PENN TOWER, a 12-story apartment building on Beaver Avenue, was the subject of a recent study that showed the building is not meeting fire laws.

Penn Tower has one big plus in its favor — there is a wet standpipe with an outlet running from ground to roof on every floor.

A wet standpipe is a watermain that provides enough water for fire hoses on each floor by turning on the faucet. Most State College buildings have a dry standpipe that, according to Nellis, has to be hooked up externally to a pumper truck and turned on in the basement of the building.

There is also a minus for Penn Tower — the building is more than 110 feet tall while borough fire equipment only reaches 85 feet.

Alpha Fire Co. Chief Ron Ross is not worried about the height difference between the borough fire equipment and the top of Penn Tower.

"What about a place like Pittsburgh?" he asked. "They have buildings thirty to forty stories high. What do they do?"

Each of Ross' men have gone through training courses and attended fire school each year. He claimed that the men know how to fight apartment blazes and that they have even gone to special seminars on fighting "high-rise fires."

Ross added that Penn Tower residents had "nothing to worry about" because there are fire exits at each end of the hall.

"And there's no damn way a fire is going to get out of an apartment," Ross continued. "Those newer apartment buildings are fire-proof."

Kelly echoed Ross's comments saying that in the past few years, two apartments have burned up at Beaver Hill

apartments, which are also owned by A. W. and Sons, without affecting the surrounding apartments.

Penn Tower has a steel skeleton of girders and beams while Beaver Hill does not, but the buildings are similar in construction.

"Steel won't burn," said Kummer, "but it fails and bends at extreme temperatures."

Kummer doesn't see any way the beam covering in Penn Tower can be tested to see if it holds down temperature because the building has been approved of and built.

Meanwhile, Ross is mainly concerned about fire insurance and tenants tampering with equipment.

"Many students don't realize that they should have insurance on their personal belongings," Ross said. "Most people think they're covered enough by the landlord's insurance."

Tenants tampering with apartment fire equipment is an "every weekend occurrence," Kelly said.

Ross said fire extinguishers are "brought into State College by the truckload" because so many of them are stolen.

The fire chief added that all apartment buildings in the borough have the same problem — stolen and discharged fire extinguishers, pulled alarms, broken alarms and cut hoses.

"No one worries about fires until there's a real fire," Ross said.

If there is a real fire and the fire exit is blocked, Ross cautioned, go back into the apartment, shut the door and stuff something into the openings at the top and bottom of the door to keep the smoke out.

The emergency number for fire is 234-0234.