

Thornburgh fills two cabinet posts

HARRISBURG (AP) — Governor-elect Dick Thornburgh, filling the most powerful cabinet post in his new administration, selected former five-term Congressman Edward Biester Jr. as attorney general yesterday.

Thornburgh also nominated Lancaster Mayor Richard Scott, a retired Air Force brigadier general, as adjutant general — the fourth of 17 cabinet selections he will make before taking office Jan. 16.

In addition, three cabinet-level officials have been appointed but do not need the Senate approval required of cabinet nominees. The new attorney general will earn \$44,500 a year; the adjutant general makes \$38,500. Senate Majority Leader Edward Zempelli, D-Allegheny, said yesterday he will ask the Senate to vote quickly on Thornburgh's appointees.

"We wish to cooperate in a smooth transition of power," he said in a statement.

As soon as Senate leaders pick the committee chairmen, Zempelli said, he will ask the chairmen to immediately hold confirmation hearings.

"Ideally, the hearings can be held prior to the Jan. 16 inaugural so that the full Senate is in a position on or about inauguration day to act on these cabinet nominations," Zempelli said.

The 47-year-old Biester, a Bucks County native who has a private law practice in Philadelphia, is an interim selection because of a constitutional amendment. Beginning next year, voters will elect the attorney general, a post that could become a stepping stone to higher office.

Though the powers and duties of an elected attorney general have yet to be outlined by the Legislature, he still wields tremendous clout as the state's chief law officer who advises the governor and state agencies on legal matters.

What's more, new crime-fighting laws give the attorney general investigative powers on empaneling statewide grand juries or using wiretaps.

"My first objective is to create, since the department is going through a transition, a department based on the highest professional standards, with hiring based on merit without politics," said Biester, a former prosecutor who served as an assistant district attorney for six years.

"That's the single most important thing. I want to set exactly the right tone. I see the office potentially becoming a special place of high competence and great respect. It intensifies the need to make the office professional," he said in a telephone interview.

Biester, who recently served as special counsel to a Senate Ethics Committee investigating payroll fraud after the scandal involving former Sen. Henry J. Cianfrani, said he has not given any thought to seeking election. But he would not rule it out either.

"Oh, no, no, I wouldn't rule it out. But I'm really focusing my priorities on getting the department and my work under way," he said.

Biester said his other priorities would be cracking down on public corruption, organized crime, Medicaid fraud, anti-trust violations and taking a hard look at consumer responsibilities.

Biester, who earned his law degree at Temple, served on the House Judiciary Committee in Congress. He was a member of panels dealing with constitutional law, civil rights and parole and prison reform.

He serves as an elected member of the national board of governors of the citizens' lobby Common Cause. His late father was Bucks County Common Pleas Court President Judge Edward G. Biester.

The 60-year-old Scott, in his second term as Lancaster mayor, is a West Point graduate with 28 years of military service. A fighter pilot in World War II, he has a master's degree in political science from George Washington University.

At the time of his retirement in 1970, Scott was serving as director of operations and administration for the U.S. Defense Atomic Support Agency.

"I think the key elements in any job are a lot of hard work and a lot of integrity," said Scott, who will head the Department of Military Affairs which oversees the Pennsylvania National Guard and veteran affairs.

"I've never been in the Prussian mold. I'm a loose guy, easy to get along with. But I like to get the job done in a first class way," he said in a telephone interview.

Both departments were tainted by controversy during Gov. Shapp's reign.

Shapp had five attorneys general in his eight years in office. He fired one, J. Shane Creamer, after a wiretapping scandal. And he refused to reappoint Robert P. Kane in an interim role. Among other things, state police are investigating Kane's role in an alleged coverup involving the Revenue Department's cigarette tax bureau.

Former Adjutant General Harry J. Mier resigned in 1977 before pleading guilty to one count of misusing government property and agreeing to pay \$4,616 to reimburse the government for helicopter fuel.



Edward G. Biester, Jr.

UPI Wirephoto

Shapp fund raisers to enter guilty plea

HARRISBURG (AP) — A Merion couple charged with illegal fundraising for Gov. Shapp's 1976 presidential campaign will plead guilty on Friday, official sources disclosed yesterday.

Eleanor and Samuel Elias, friends and neighbors of Shapp, pleaded innocent in November and were scheduled to go on trial Monday in federal court in Harrisburg.

They are charged in a 30-count indictment with arranging phony contributions to the unsuccessful Shapp campaign.

A U.S. Justice Department official, asking not to be identified by name, said Eleanor Elias has agreed to plead guilty to 15 misdemeanor charges and her husband will plead guilty to nine.

In return, the official said, the government will drop more serious felony charges.

Friday's hearing is scheduled before U.S. District Court Judge R. Dixon Herman, who had been set to preside at trial on Monday.

"There's not going to be a trial. There's going to be a change of plea on Friday," said Peggy Kopp, Judge Herman's secretary.

"I think it's fair to say there will be some disposition... There's still some negotiating going on," said Washington attorney William Hundley, who is representing the Eliases.

Asked if the purpose of the hearing was for the Eliases to change their plea, Hundley replied, "Yeah." He refused to discuss the case further.

The original 30-count indictment said the Eliases arranged phony contributions to help Shapp qualify for federal matching funds in his unsuccessful bid to get the Democratic presidential nomination.

If she had been convicted on all 24 counts naming her, Eleanor Elias could have received up to 32 years in prison and a \$570,000 fine. Her husband was cited in 11 counts and could have faced up to 19 years and a \$245,000 fine.

Christopher Passodelis, owner of a popular Pittsburgh restaurant, was convicted last month of similar violations involving the Shapp campaign and is now awaiting sentencing. He could get a maximum of 18 years in prison.

Subscription rates also raised

Centre Daily Times increases price to 20¢

By MARYANNE DELL
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Increased labor, distribution, printing and other costs mean that readers of the Centre Daily Times now have to pay more for the paper, said Dave Dickey, Times circulation manager.

A single issue of the CDT now costs 20 cents. The increase — from the old rate of 15 cents a copy — became effective Jan. 1, Dickey said. Costs are up for all industries, and in order to keep up with them, he said, the paper was compelled to raise the 15 cent price

which had been in effect since Jan. 1, 1974.

Having the paper delivered by mail or a carrier also will cost more. All mail delivery rates increased 5.75 percent, Dickey said. The actual price increase for the reader depends on where the paper has to be delivered, he said. Postal rates increase with the distance the paper is sent, so readers who live outside of State College will have larger increases in their bills.

Carrier delivery rates rose from \$10.84 to \$11.45 for a three-month subscription paid in advance; from \$21.10 to \$22.30 for a six-month subscription, and from \$38.90 to

\$42.15 for a year's subscription, Dickey said. Weekly subscription rates increased from 85 to 90 cents.

Rates will not change for advance subscriptions which already have been paid, provided the subscription expired in 1978, he said. Once the current payment runs out, however, the new rates will take effect.

Other area papers, including the Altoona Mirror, Clearfield Progress and Huntingdon Daily News, recently have raised their costs from 15 to 20 cents per issue, Dickey said.

FASH violence breaks peaceful holiday lull

PITTSBURGH (AP) — At least three truck drivers were injured yesterday as violence associated with a two-month-old steel haulers' strike flared in Pennsylvania after a holiday lull.

Two Ohio drivers both hauling building supplies were slightly injured in nearby Shaler Township when rocks and ball bearings were thrown through the windshields of their rigs, police said.

"The two truckers had face lacerations and glass fragments in their eyes," said a police spokesman.

A North Hills Passavant Hospital supervisor said Larry Miller of Amherst and Larry Wozniak of Vermillion were released after treatment. Pittsburgh police said a Portland,

N.Y., driver carrying aluminum was pulled from his rig in nearby McKees Rocks by about 15 unidentified men. His truck was set on fire and the engine wires were cut. There were no arrests.

State police said one trucker was injured when 12 tractor-trailers and a car were struck with shotgun blasts and pellets on the turnpike in Somerset County. Police said the victim refused treatment.

Five trucks were hit in succession around 12:30 a.m., police said. Less than a mile away, seven trucks and a car were struck with pellets at the same time.

No arrests were made. "It's a hell of a thing to handle," said a

state police spokesman. "What happens is they get hit then go to the nearest state police barracks or back to a rest area and report it. By the time we get there to investigate there's no one around."

A truck parked at a residence elsewhere in Somerset County and a rig traveling Old Route 28 in Allegheny County were also fired on without injury in the 24-hour period that ended at 8 a.m. yesterday, state police said.

State police said they suspect the violence is the result of the current shutdown by the Pittsburgh-based Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers, although FASH Chairman Bill Hill says he does not condone violence.

Meanwhile, a federal judge continues to mull his decision in a \$3-million

lawsuit in which seven steel companies claim the strike violates a permanent injunction protecting steel shipments.

FASH members vow to fight any court order against them and not return to work until they win bargaining rights, more money and unified highway regulations.

"What's there to go back to?" remarked one member who attended a FASH rally in Pittsburgh Tuesday. "Sure it's hard without money. You use what you've saved, what you can get from odd jobs and what you can beg," said John Grime.

But the trucker said he's not ready to haul steel again. "I'd rather fight," he said. "I've given up too much so far."

Terrorists murder Spanish military leader

MADRID, Spain (UPI) — Two young terrorists firing automatic weapons assassinated the military governor of Madrid province outside his apartment building yesterday in an apparent new effort to provoke a military takeover in Spain.

Less than four hours later, the Basque separatist organization ETA took responsibility for the killing in a short statement telephoned to news media in northern Spain.

After gunning down Gen. Constantino Ortin Gil, the killers sped off in a stolen white automobile with two other accomplices.

Police threw up roadblocks around the capital. The interior ministry said it would prosecute any news organization that publishes any communication in which the killers defend their action.

Both the ruling Democratic Center Union of Premier Adolfo Suarez and the

Communist Party deplored the terrorist attack as an incident "aimed at provoking the armed forces."

The right-wing opposition party Popular Alliance said the killing showed "the total deterioration of law and order and of individual safety in Spain, as well as the absolute inability of the government to face up to it."

In the last three months ETA has taken responsibility for 41 slayings in its struggle to win independence for the Basque region of northern Spain. The victims included an army major shot and killed last Tuesday in the city of San Sebastian.

Each of Spain's 50 provinces has a military governor who coordinates affairs between the local civilian governors and the armed forces. He also commands the troops in his province.

"The assassination of Gen. Ortin, along with the killing yesterday, is the

highest point yet in the escalation of terrorism aimed at destroying Spain's nascent democracy," said the chief of the parliament's Defense Committee, Socialist Enrique Mugica.

Mugica called for unity of the people and the army and appealed for the terrorist "provocations" to be ignored. Ortin, 63, referring to the wave of terrorism that took 99 lives in Spain last year recently told a neighbor:

"Any one of these days they'll put a bullet or two in me."

Friends said he planned to move into living quarters inside the provincial military headquarters to be safe.

Ortin fought in the Spanish civil war as an officer with Generalissimo Francisco Franco's nationalist forces.

After the shooting, police forces were put on general alert and surveillance beefed up at Madrid airport and railway stations.



Gen. Constantino Ortin Gil

UPI Wirephoto

Soviets call McDonald's a real American dream

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Soviet press says the Big Mac is a big mess; the real American dream as seen through red-tinted glasses.

The weekly New Times described the McDonald's hamburger empire as the epitome of an American capitalistic nightmare: it allegedly exploits workers with low pay, grinds out poor quality food, supports paramilitary organizations, sets up secret informer networks and bends the minds of America's youth.

"McDonald's fully exploits the mentality of the average American who tends to look down upon the whole world from across the two oceans," New Times said.

It charged that Big Mac buns are pumped full of air and the tomatoes are chemically treated to look fresh.

"It looks appetizing if one does not know of the technological and chemical manipulations that are concealed from the public eye," the international affairs weekly said.

The key, it said, was a multimillion-dollar advertising budget and a patriotic campaign to make the hamburger empire synonymous with America — complete with American flags out front and a plastic eagle "that looks at the customer with fierce eyes from the wall inside the stand."

It said attempts to present employee grievances in an organized manner have prompted the company to set up a "secret apparatus" to slow down organizing attempts "and to prevent discontent from reaching the confrontation stage."

Butera skates from political limelight

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Robert J. Butera, a Republican candidate for governor in last spring's primary election, joins the Philadelphia Flyers next Tuesday as an executive vice president of operations.

Butera, 43, will attend all National Hockey League meetings and be in charge of all day-to-day club operations except player personnel, Ed Snider, chairman of the board, said yesterday.

A 15-year member and former leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Butera stepped down in May 1977 to

launch his bid for the governor's mansion. He finished third in the primary election.

Butera, a suburban Norristown-area attorney, takes over the job held by Gil Stein, who left the club last January to become vice president and general counsel of the NHL.

"The addition of Bob to our executive staff give the Flyers a solid managerial foundation for the future," Snider said. "It will also allow me to devote more time to other interests and projects, which I have been anxious to explore for some time."

Central Pa. receives new AM station

Happy Valley folks can tune in at 1080 on their dial to a new AM radio station, WQRO.

From sunrise to sunset, WQRO will broadcast from Huntingdon, Janet

Hawks, office manager, said. The station plans to play contemporary music, from the current top 40 hits to oldies of the past 10 years, and will feature local and world news and local sports.

WHUN, the other radio station in Huntingdon, broadcasts more rock and country music, Hanks said. She said WQRO hopes to appeal to the 18 to 44 age group.

Local bank offers charge card credit

Midstate Bank and Trust Co. is now the first bank in Centre County to offer direct Visa and Mastercharge credit card payments to its home office.

An officer at the Allen Street office of Midstate said that up until the end of last year when the service began, all local charge card accounts were with Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, and all payments had to be made directly to them. Now persons who received their Visa or Mastercharge through Midstate can make their charge payments at any branch of the bank.

"Any customer can pay their bills directly to any teller, and if they have any complaints they can bring them directly to us

instead of making long-distance calls to Pittsburgh," the bank officer said.

She also emphasized that the service is available only to people who received their Visa and Mastercharge through Midstate Bank. If they received their charge cards through any other bank they still must make their payments to Mellon Bank.

The officer said whether to allow direct payment of accounts or not is the choice of the bank.

"Up until now our bank wasn't large enough to handle a service like this," she said. "But as the bank grew and our departments grew, we became large enough to handle all the accounts."
—by Sharon Fink

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