

Myers fails to block broadcast of Abscam tapes

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court yesterday rebuffed ousted Rep. Michael Myers' attempt to stop television broadcast of his Abscam videotapes, and all three networks promptly aired the tapes — one showing Myers taking a money-filled envelope from an undercover agent.

"Money talks in this business. . . ." Myers said during a meeting with an undercover FBI agent, according to one of the tapes.

The court rejected arguments by Myers, D-Pa., who was expelled from Congress after his Aug. 30 conviction for accepting a \$50,000 bribe, and his three co-defendants that airing the tapes would hurt their appeals.

Federal authorities in New York City immediately turned over five videotapes and one audio tape to the three networks. All three networks showed excerpts on their nightly news broadcasts, letting millions of Americans in on what the jury saw during Myers' bribery-

conspiracy trial.

The sound quality on the tapes was uneven, and the networks "bleeped" out several obscenities from meetings between Myers, his co-defendants and FBI operatives offering bribes in return for help on special legislation to get a bogus Arab sheik into the country.

On one tape, FBI agent Anthony Amoroso was shown stuffing \$50,000 into an envelope just before meeting with FBI informant Melvin Weinberg, Myers and co-defendant Angelo J. Errichetti, mayor of Camden, N.J., in August 1979. During that meeting, the tape shows Myers taking the envelope.

Amoroso asked Myers for help on the legislation, noting his friends "have tons of money," according to the tape.

"You're going about it in the right way," Myers told him. "I'm going to tell you something real simple and short. Money talks in this business. . . the same way it does in

Washington."

NBC also aired an audio tape of a conversation between Weinberg and Sen. Harrison Williams, D-N.J., that defense attorneys at Myers' trial said demonstrated how the FBI coached tape subjects. Williams has not been indicted in the Abscam probe.

And it showed a videotape of a subsequent meeting of Myers and FBI agents in which Myers complained he hadn't gotten enough money and wanted more.

The networks devoted up to five minutes each of the 30-minute broadcasts to show the precedent-setting material. CBS and ABC planned to show more of the tapes in late-night programs.

Local TV stations devoted even more time to the tapes, showing portions of each of the six segments released by the court.

Although the issue was raised only in the Myers trial, the tape release decision was ex-

pected to result in the future public availability of tapes used in the other five Abscam trials.

On the tapes, Myers and Errichetti are heard discussing their influence over scores of politicians, members of the Mafia, members of the Philadelphia City Council, dock workers' unions, port officials and coal mining interests.

One videotape records an Aug. 22, 1979, payoff meeting between Myers, a former longshoreman; FBI agent Anthony Amoroso, posing as the sheik's bagman; Errichetti, a New Jersey state senator and mayor of Camden, N.J.; and Mel Weinberg, the convicted con man who helped devise an FBI sting operation that resulted in the indictment of six congressmen.

On the tape of the August meeting, Myers assured Amoroso: "Tony, You're going — let me just say this to you — you're going about it the right way."

"OK," the agent answered.

"I'm gonna tell you something real simple and

short," Myers said. "Money talks in this business. . . ."

In return for the money, Myers agreed to help the supposed sheik with immigration matters, a violation of federal law.

At meeting's end, Amoroso gave Myers a manila envelope containing \$50,000 and told him: "Spend it well."

"It's a pleasure," Myers said.

On another tape, Myers tells undercover agents he can influence five other Philadelphia area congressmen, some Ohio congressmen and members of the Ways and Means, Appropriations, Budget and Judiciary committees of the House.

Also among the released tapes is a 100-minute videotape of a Jan. 24, 1980 meeting between Myers and undercover FBI agents in Philadelphia, where Myers complained that his cohorts had split up the \$50,000 in such a way that he netted only \$15,000.

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McCarthy says candidate choice difficult

By LYNDA ROBINSON
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Former Minnesota Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, an independent presidential candidate in 1968 and 1976, said last night the 1980 presidential candidates present voters with a difficult choice.

"The choices are not easy," McCarthy said. "Reagan doesn't read books; Carter says he's a speed reader which may be worse, and Anderson reads the dictionary."

In a more serious manner, McCarthy said he was concerned by the increasing personalization of the office of the presidency and traced this trend through presidential administrations beginning with that of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"The office of the presidency has become increasingly personalized," he said during a panel discussion held on "The Modern Presidency: Past Experiences and Future Prospects."

"Presidents have been quite indifferent to what their party stands for and what their party recommends," he said.

The two other members of the panel agreed with McCarthy that the image of the presidency has become more important than presidential policies.

Panel member Robert K. Murray, a University professor of American history, said the presidential image has become so inflated that it has taken on aspects of a personality cult.

Murray said the emphasis on the personality of the president has led to a widespread belief that "if only the right person is placed in the White House all will be well with the nation."

Murray said this myth ignores the fact that "links between presidential personality and presidential performance are tenuous at best."

Harvard professor of American history Frank Freidel, the third member of the panel, said the problem of a larger-than-life presidency stems from campaign rhetoric.

"The problem has been that the rhetoric has done much to shape the expectations of the nation," Freidel said. "The electorate has come to expect more."

Despite increased expectations and demands, Freidel said the myth of an imperial presidency is not realistic because of structural checks and balances.

"The chief executive cannot achieve instant miracles on demand," he said. "Even a president of heroic dimensions will be constrained. The checks are so effective that we are not likely to suffer from a dictator."

Murray said the president is constrained by Congress, the courts, bureaucracies, public opinion, the media and uncontrollable international events.

"Under such circumstances no president can be omniscient, omnipotent and infallible," he said.

McCarthy blamed the media for the unrealistic im-

age of the presidency because it concentrates on the personality rather than the issues.

"The media presents things totally unrelated to the capacity of a man to be president," he said.

The media was also criticized for its role in creating difficulties for third party candidates to run a viable campaign by giving them very little exposure.

"Television is inclined to limit the presentation of even two candidates — it doesn't know how to deal with three," McCarthy said.

However, television is not solely at fault for limiting the opportunities for third party candidates, McCarthy said.

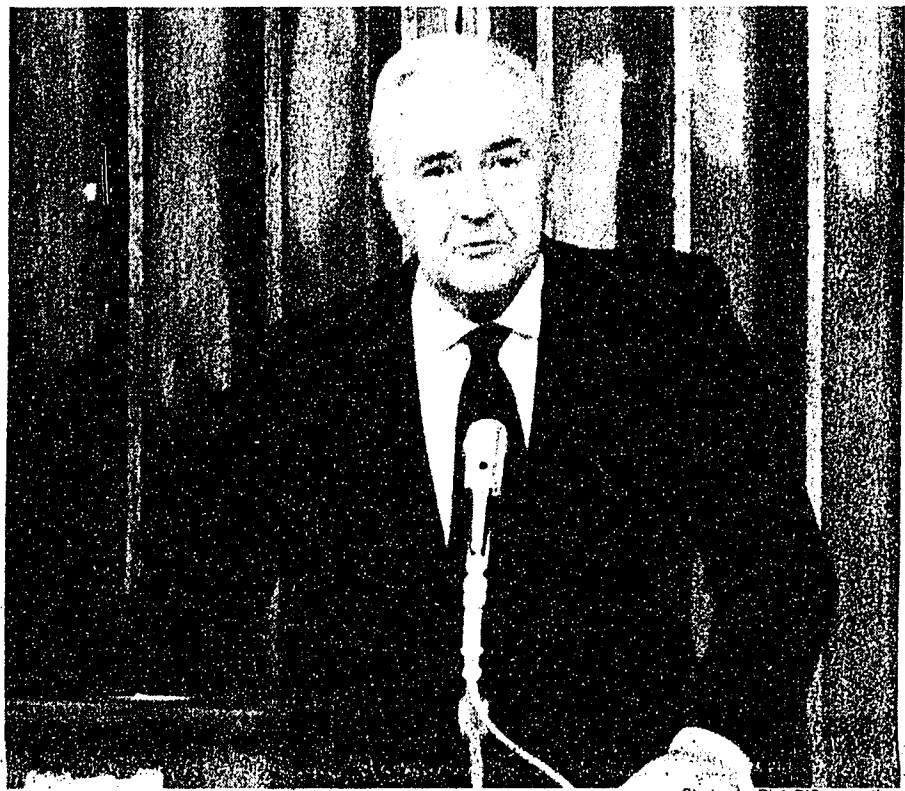
He pointed to state election laws that perpetuate the two party system and the conditioning of the American people to passively accept the two party system as additional problems.

Freidel agreed with McCarthy's criticism of primaries.

"The miracle is that every once in a while we get a strong, capable president," he said.

Murray summed up his thoughts on the state of the presidency by offering three general observations to the capacity crowd at the Forum.

"It is remarkable that the presidency functions as well as it does — it is remarkable that the public is not more disillusioned with the presidency than it presently is — and it is remarkable that any talented, sane individual would want the job," he said.



Former Minnesota Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy told a campus audience last night. "Presidents have been quite indifferent to what their party stands for and what their party recommends."

Iran threatens to mine oil-rich Strait of Hormuz

BASRA, Iraq (UPI) — Iran threatened yesterday to mine the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic artery for 60 percent of the West's oil, if Persian Gulf Arab states help Iraq in the war, Tehran Radio reported.

Iraq rained artillery fire on Abadan, site of the Middle East's biggest oil refinery, and poured more men and tanks into a ground attack that has driven to within 3 to 5 miles of the Iranian city.

But Tehran Radio said Iranian

defenders repulsed the Iraqi attempt to penetrate Abadan.

An official in Abadan told the official Paris news agency that the morale of residents of the beleaguered city, always excellent, was now better than ever.

At the United Nations, the Security Council announced it would hold a special session on the 23-day old war today, with delegates from both Iran and scheduled to debate the issue for the first time.

In Washington, Pentagon officials said

they were skeptical of Iran's ability to block the Strait of Hormuz by mining. According to information in Washington, it is unclear that Iran possesses sufficient quantities of naval mines necessary to mine the strait.

If Iran were to mine the strait, mine-sweeping helicopters based aboard the two U.S. carriers in the Arabian Sea would be available to sweep the mines.

"I think we could sweep as fast as they laid them," said one official.

The threat to mine the gulf was con-

tained in a brief Arabic-language broadcast by Tehran Radio, monitored by the BBC in London, and quoted the evening Eitelleq newspaper as its source.

In related developments on the war:

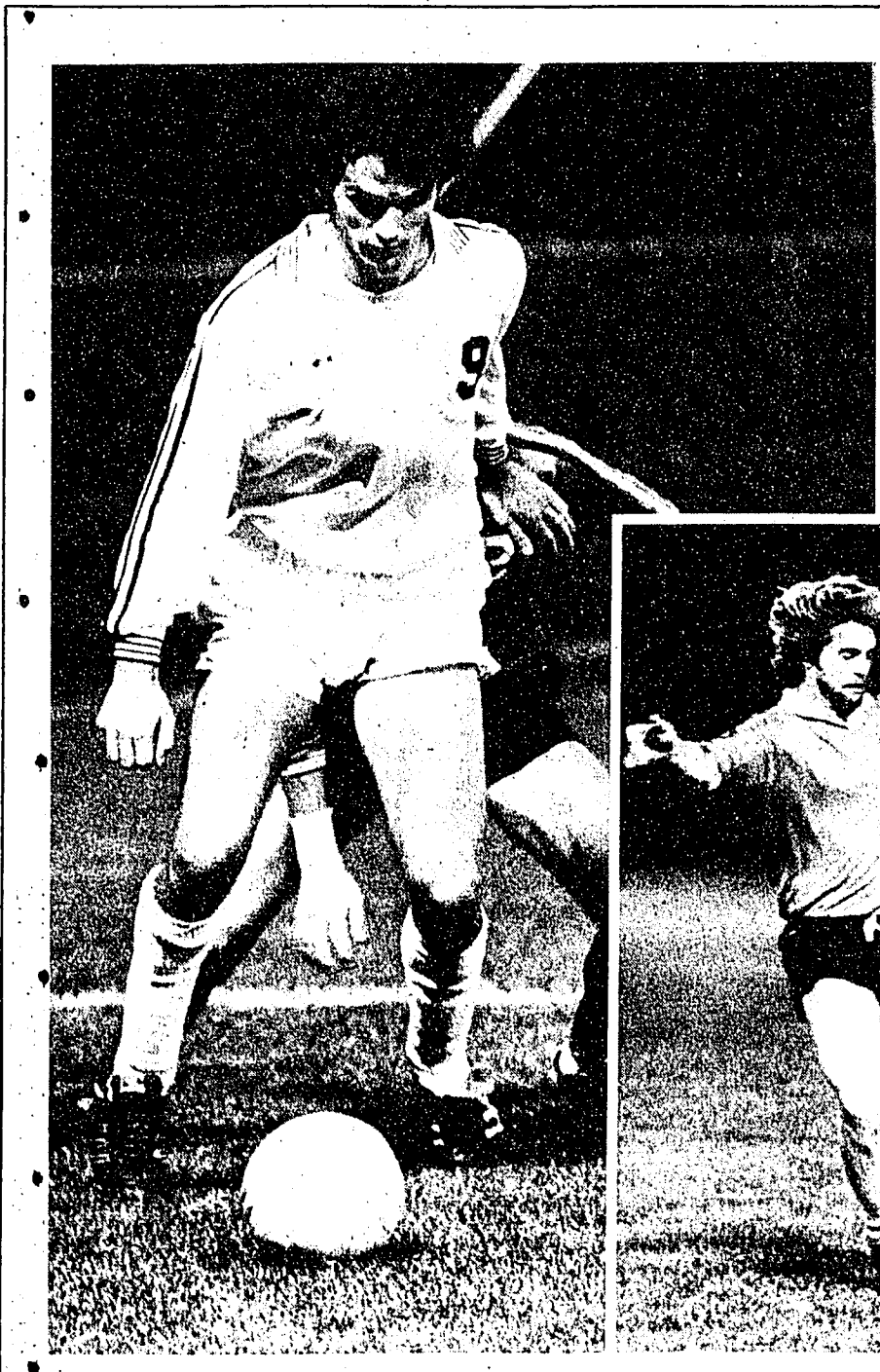
- Iraq said the only reason it went to war against Iran was to frustrate a plan by Tehran to strike at Baghdad first. The state-owned Iraqi newspaper, Al-Thawra, said Iraq attacked Iran on Sept. 22 only to "foil the Iranian plans for striking Iraq with all its forces."
- Iran revealed an uprising by Kur-

dish tribesmen, the first reported internal troubles since the war began. Iran's news agency said Kurds killed 20 Iranians and injured 50 others in attacks near the Turkish border. Iran said it had "foiled this conspiracy" incited by Iraq.

- Palestinian sources in Beirut, Lebanon, reported that although the Palestine Liberation Organization was keeping publicly neutral in the war, it was covertly backing Tehran with material and moral support.
- Iraq's foreign minister, in a

newspaper interview in Kuwait, warned the superpowers against any involvement in the Persian Gulf war. While he did not mention the United States by name, Arab analysts said his statement was clearly designed to warn Washington off any kind of assistance to Iran's U.S.-supplied army.

- Tehran Radio said North Korea had declared its full support to Iran and urged the closing of the South Korean Embassy in Tehran.



Lion power

Lion forward Peter Jancevski, left, and defender Dan Canter, below, each scored goals as Penn State defeated East Stroudsburg 4-0 last night at Jeffrey Field. More photos and stories on Page 7.



Photos by Janis Burger

Local businesses file for restraint against paraphernalia ruling

By LORRAINE ORLANDI
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Two State College businesses have filed a request for a temporary restraining order against the municipality's recently passed drug paraphernalia ordinance.

Lazy J Ltd., 232 E. College Ave., and Quickdraw Accessories Inc., 137 N. Patterson St., filed a petition challenging the paraphernalia ordinance, or bong law, adopted by the council last week.

Joseph Devecka, attorney to the plaintiffs, said yesterday that the petition was filed with the U.S. District Court in Scranton and was referred to Judge Richard Conaboy.

Conaboy was reportedly expected to make a decision yesterday, although he failed to do so.

The restraining order would temporarily prevent the municipality from taking any action to prosecute the plaintiffs or confiscate property of the plaintiffs for allegedly violating the ordinance.

Council President Mary Ann Haas said yesterday that the council learned of the court action Monday night. The council met in executive session after Monday night's meeting to discuss the action.

The bong law went into effect Monday after being advertised in the Centre Daily Times. It is based on a model act drafted by the U.S. Justice Dept. The bong law ordinance incorporates the opinion of a judge in Parma, Ohio, where a similar ordinance was upheld.

Drug paraphernalia laws are being challenged around the country. But council member Joseph Wakeley said at the Oct. 6 meeting at which the State College ordinance was passed, that a

similar ordinance had been passed in Hummelstown and had closed a head shop there.

Conviction under the bong law in State College requires proof that an item was sold with the intent for use with illegal drugs.

According to yesterday's Centre Daily Times, the filing before the District Court said the plaintiffs, David Talmas, president of Lazy J, and James Bauer, president of Quickdraw, cannot comply with the ordinance because it is vague and indefinite and does not adequately define what items are prohibited.

The filing also contains a statement by Talmas.

"I have reason to believe that the Lazy J Ltd. may be targeted for enforcement of this ordinance," the statement says. "I am aware that the Lazy J Ltd. was specifically referred to in a memorandum by State College Borough councilman Joseph Wakeley Jr. as a head shop where drug paraphernalia was sold."

If a temporary restraining order is granted, a hearing will be held within 10 days to determine whether the injunction should continue. If so, the case can then go to court.

Mid week blues

Considerable cloudiness and chilly today with light rain likely at times and a high of 54. Mostly cloudy and cool tonight with a low of 39. A mixture of clouds and sun tomorrow with a milder afternoon high of 60. Partly sunny, breezy and milder on Friday with a high of 67. Showers are possible late in the day on Friday.