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Influence-Peddler Tried To Unseat State Insurance Director

By ALEX DREHSLER
Star Staff Writer

PHOENIX — An effort to unseat state Insurance Director Millard Humphrey led last fall to attempts at buying the influence of the Democratic candidates for governor and state attorney general.

Behind the effort is Joseph P. Cefaratti of the Cefaratti Insurance Agency here.

Cefaratti's candidate for the insurance job is Mel Dunton who, as an assistant to Humphrey, once gave a ruling favorable to Cefaratti and then turned around and went to work for Cefaratti. The ruling was later reversed by Humphrey.

Humphrey said he was not aware of a power struggle over his office, but said he has heard rumors that Dunton wants his job. Humphrey has held the position since January 1969. His term is up next Jan. 15.

Those trying to remove Humphrey made campaign contributions and offers of free plane trips to a party in California. The contributions and offers were made to Raul Castro and Bruce Babbitt, later elected governor and attorney general. Cefaratti said he also phoned or visited a number of other Arizona politicians, including a congressman.

Cefaratti, a Republican, said he contributed $500 to Castro's campaign because he was "sick and tired of the runaround" he had been getting from the Republicans over Humphrey. Daniel Cracchiolo, one of Cefaratti's Phoenix attorneys, contributed $1,170 to Castro's campaign. The contributions, however, were not made at the same times that Humphrey's job was discussed.

Cefaratti admits that he met Castro during the campaign and suggested that Castro replace the state insurance director with a former employe of his agency.

Castro said at one point during the conversation that Cefaratti invited to fly him in his plane to a private party in California to meet the Democratic candidate for governor of that state, Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown Jr.

Babbitt said he met Cefaratti during his campaign and discussed Humphrey. Babbitt said Cefaratti also invited to fly him to California to meet Brown. Both Castro and Babbitt said they declined Cefaratti's offers.

After the election, Cracchiolo met with Pima County Atty. Dennis DeConcini and

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suggested that Humphrey be replaced, DeConcini said. Dennis DeConcini is the brother of Dino DeConcini, Castro's top assistant.

Cefaratti said that, in addition to Castro and Babbitt, he went to see numerous other petitioners, including Rep. John Rhodes, R-Ariz., state GOP Chairman Harry Rosenzweig and Arizona House Minority Leader Burton Barr, R-Phoenix.

Humphrey said he received a telephone call from Rosenzweig. "He wanted to make an appointment for Joe (Cefaratti)," Humphrey said. "I told him that Cefaratti doesn't need an appointment and that he's just trying to influence me," he said.

Cefaratti said he flew to Washington to see Rhodes. "He told me, 'These are my friends.' In fact, Frank Middleton is a real close friend of mine. Go somewhere else," Cefaratti said. Middleton was a campaign fund raiser for former Gov. Jack Williams.

Eddie Basha, owner of a Phoenix grocery store chain, then told Cefaratti to call Barr. "I went up there with Mel Dunton and we told him our story," Cefaratti said.

On Oct. 17, Barr came out with a statement that Humphrey might have illegally withdrawn Cefaratti's approval to write low-rate policies for 300 Arizona restaurants. That was the approval that had been granted by Dunton.

Barr said at the time that he was disturbed by rumors that restaurant operators has pressured him into action against Humphrey. Barr, owner and operator of Maverick Store Fixtures and Supply Co., said 10 per cent of his business is with restaurants and bars, the remainder with food stores.

Cefaratti said he believes Dunton would be a good man to replace Humphrey.

But Dunton pleaded, "Don't associate my name with Cefaratti. Our views are completely different." Dunton said he no longer works for Cefaratti.

Dunton was Humphrey a deputy in 1973 when he granted Cefaratti the authority to write the low-rate insurance policies. He then quit the department to go to work for Cefaratti at a reported salary of $25,000 a year.

Humphrey withdrew Cefaratti's authority to wrote the low-cost insurance plan because, he said, it would have contributed toward making Middlesex Mutual Insurance Co. of Massachusetts even more financially insolvent than it was at the time Cefaratti's low-cost plan was to be handled by Middlesex.

Humphrey blamed Middlesex's predicament on mismanagement and the John Brittan Agency of Los Angeles. "The agency wrote so much business in California that, when the losses began to catch up with the low premiums, loss ratios began to exceed 100 per cent," Humphrey said.

Middlesex listed $17 million in surplus in its Dec. 31, 1972, financial statement, Humphrey said. "All of that surplus, plus $5 million more, was depleted in a two-year period," he said. Middlesex, which was placed in receivership for a short time, has since been taken over by the Sentry Insurance Co. of Wisconsin.

Brittan was listed as president of the Commercial National Service of Arizona, Inc., on Nov. 21, 1972, after it changed its name from Apache General Agency. Apache was incorporated in Phoenix on Oct. 10, 1972, by J. P. Cefaratti and Daniel Cracchiolo.

The name of the company was changed again on Oct. 23, 1973, to Mel Dunton & Associates, Inc. The president is listed as J. P.

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FINAL Edition

The Arizona Daily Star

FINAL Edition

VOL. 134 NO. 34 TUCSON, ARIZONA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1975 15 CENTS 24 PAGES

good morning
top of the news

FAIR. It will be fair today and tomorrow, with high clouds in the sky, says the National Weather Service. The high should be in the mid 60s and the low tonight near 40. Yesterday's high was 65 and the low was 38. Details on Page 4A.

global

TALKS WITH PLO. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko meets with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to discuss Middle East tactics and the formation of a Palestinian state, guerrilla sources say. Meanwhile, a newspaper reports that France will supply Egypt with a nuclear reactor. Page 5B.

national

"BONUS" FOR THE POOR. President Ford's energy-economy policies promise millions of the poor a $15-a-year bonus, but it may cost them hundreds of dollars they can't afford, say groups for the improverished and the old. Page 3A.

JACK ANDERSON. The columnist says that President Ford, when he was still House minority leader, used secret information from the FBI and, probably, the CIA during his campaign to impeach Justice William O. Douglas. Page 2A.

IMPACT OF ABORTIONS. A study by an institute of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America concludes that the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion has had a greater effect on public health than on the birth rate. Page 5A.

arizona

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. The complexion of the Legislature's battle over the proposed 27th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution may have changed this year, but the outcome probably will be the same as it has been the past two years, an Arizona Daily Star telephone poll of legislators shows. Page 7A.

CATTLE FEEDING. The state's feedlot operators, caught between high feed prices and low prices for their cattle, are making some changes in their feeding programs designed to save grain dollars. Page 1B.

local

TROUBLE AT LA PLACITA. Predictions that foreclosure proceedings on La Placita Village would not affect its daily operations or completion are out the window as legal complications even prevent an elevator there from being fixed. Page 1B.

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Bodies Found Off I-10

Sheriff's identification officer Paul J. Lawton makes his way toward the bodies of Charles and Leslie Rupert, found shot to death yesterday just off the frontage road of Interstate 10 and Vail Rd. On the roadside are, from left, Lt. Neil Scofield, Det. Sgt. Mike Tucker, Det. Larry Ballard, Det. Jim Barkman, Det. Don Talman and I.D. Officer Earl Worthington. (Star Photo by Lisa M. Kreamer)

Student Couple Shot To Death

A University of Arizona student couple was found shot to death yesterday morning in a drainage ditch alongside Interstate 10 near Vail Rd.

The bodies of Charles Lee Rupert, 27, and his wife, Leslie, 22, were found about 10:15 a.m. by a resident of the vicinity, Joseph Lissolo, who called sheriff's deputies.

Each had been shot once in the back of the head, according to Mark Pettit, sheriff's information officer.

Pettit said the couple's automobile, registered to Rupert's mother, was found by Dept. of Public Safety officers abandoned along the freeway near Casa Grande at about 3:30 yesterday afternoon.

Pettit said the car's back seat had a considerable amount of blood in it. "We're not quite sure what that means, yet," said W. James Barkman, the sheriff's detective in charge of the case. Police had surmised the Ruperts were shot where they fell. There was no trail of blood leading from the roadway to the bodies, Barkman said.

Police estimated that both victims died between midnight and 2 a.m.

The Ruperts apparently were returning from a Seventh Step banquet at Ft. Grant, near Safford, when they were slain. Rupert had been active in the organization, which is intended to help convicts make the transition from prison life to ordinary life.

Pettit said two speeding tickets were found on Rupert's body, both issued Saturday in the Benson-Willcox area. One was issued at 6:40 p.m., just before the banquet at Ft. Grant, and one had been issued earlier in the day, at about 11:00 a.m. Pettit said officers were not yet sure exactly where the tickets were issued.

Pettit also said that utility service to the couple's residence at 500 W. Roger Rd. had been disconnected.

Mrs. Rupert was a graduate student in the Dept. of Public Administration at the UA. Her husband, who held a master's degree in corrections from the department, had been attending the UA law school under a court order. Denied admission to law school, he had fought in court to be admitted, acting as his own attorney.

Joseph Livermore, dean of the law school, said that although Rupert attended law school classes last fall, no grades were recorded for him pending outcome of the lawsuit. Rupert had declined to attend law classes this spring, Livermore said, preferring to wait for formal admission.

The Ruperts were married last May.

Stanley Harwood, secretary of Seventh Step in Phoenix, said Rupert sometimes let ex-convicts stay at his house. At least once, Harwood said, the Ruperts were robbed by their guests. One such man stole $1,200 worth of stereo equipment from them within the past 90 days, Harwood said.

Militant Indians Win Concession Of Abbey

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SHAWANO, Wis. — An agreement was reached yesterday to peacefully end the 33-day occupation of an unused Roman Catholic novitiate by armed Menominee Indians and to deed the property to the Menominee tribe.

The agreement to end the volatile situation that has existed here since New Year's Day was announced at a news conference by spokesmen for the National Guard, by representatives of the militant Menominees and by the Alexian Brothers Order, owners of the 84-room rural complex in nearby Gresham.

Col. Daniel Griffith, a deputy commander of the 750 Guardsmen who have been stationed here for the past 27 days, said arrangements were being made for evacuation of the abbey, and that "maximum security arrangements" in the area were being used to avoid disruptions.

In recent days, numerous local whites, angered at the Guard's reluctance to use force to clear the abbey, have threatened to take vigilante action to remove the Indians.

Griffith declined to say precisely when the militant Indians, estimated to number at least 35, would leave the novitiate. Since Friday the abbey has also been occuped by Marlon Brando, the actor involved in Indian causes; the Rev. James Geppi, the activist priest from Milwaukee, and several other clergymen sympathetic to the militants' demand that the abbey be given to the Menominees for a hospital or educational complex.

Richard Stadelman, Shawano County district attorney, told newsmen that he and Sheriff Robert Montour "had nothing to do whatsoever with these negotiations" and that they disagreed with the "armed and violent methods" used by the militants to secure the property. Stadelman said, "Arrests will definitely be made" of those involved in the occupation.

Brother Maurice Wilson of the Alexian Order said the property would be deeded to the tribe's new tribal government, which will be elected this month or next. In 1973, the Menominees re-secured their tribal status from Congress. The 2,500 members of the reservation are now involved in a complex and faction-ridden attempt to reorganize their government.

The abbey has an estimated value of $750,000. All through negotiations in the past weeks, the Alexians said they would not give the property away but were willing to arrange its sale.

One source close to the negotiations said the agreement calls for the transfer of the property at a price of $1 and unspecified other considerations.

Brother Maurice said the property must be used "for humanitarian purposes" in the fields of health, education or social services, and that the National Council of Churches, the state of Wisconsin and other groups must assist the impoverished tribe in improving its plight.

Backlog Slows Destruction Of Youths' Files

By JIM KISER
Star Staff Writer

Records of juvenile offenders will once again be destroyed routinely at the Pima County Juvenile Court Center — but officials expect that it will be at least a year before a backlog of thousands of files can be eliminated.

In addition, records kept by police agencies, the County Attorney's Office and the Adult Probation Office will not be among those destroyed, according to Superior Court Judge John Collins, who revealed the new round of record destruction in an interview yesterday.

In the past the center automatically destroyed records when a juvenile turned 21, but Collins said a week ago that the center had destroyed only a handful of records in the past year.

Collins said yesterday that, after making that statement, he "went home, spent a sleepless night, and then the next day signed several orders" which will cause the records at the center to be destroyed when juveniles turn 19.

He said that because there is a backlog of thousands of cases, it will take at least a year to destroy the records, oldest cases being destroyed first.

Because other agencies have said they don't have enough employes to check their files, Collins said he is not ordering them to purge their records also.

State law allows a person 18 or older to petition to have his records destroyed, including his police records. Collins said a person who wants his records destroyed before he turns 19, or who wants all his records eliminated, can easily petition the court.

"I hope this will encourage juveniles to come forward and say, 'I'd like to have my arrest records destroyed, too,'" Collins said.

In his statements which were reported a week ago, Collins said that state law intends for records to be automatically destroyed when juveniles turn 18. However, the law also requires the juvenile judge to certify that each person is rehabilitated before ordering their records destroyed. He said that is impossible because so many youthful offenders turn 18 every month.

Heavy Fire Aimed At Ethiopian Rebels

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Ethiopia's military government ordered bombers, armored units and elite troops into operation against secessionist guerrillas in Eritrea Province yesterday, official sources said.

At least 75 persons were reported killed and nearly 200 wounded in the heaviest fighting since the rebel movement began 12 years ago.

The official sources said government forces were in control of the provincial capital of Asmara, 450 miles north of Addis Ababa, after a seesaw battle Saturday and yesterday.

Ethiopia's two U.S.-built F5A jet fighters flew bombing runs against a suspected rebel stronghold 10 miles north of Asmara, but the city itself was not hit, a U.S. source in the city said.

Late last night, with the city's 200,000 inhabitants under curfew until dawn, the government moved in tanks, armored cars and troop reinforcements, according to reports from Asmara.

The latest fighting erupted Friday, with troops and rebels using machine guns, mortars, rockets and grenades.

Some heavy clashes were reported during the day around the Asmara airport and near the U.S. consulate. U.S. consular officials reported all 300 Americans safe but ordered them to remain indoors. "They are calm, they have enough food," an official said. "We have no evacuation orders."

Although the fighting near the consulate was fierce, officials said they believed it was not aimed at the Americans but at a nearby Ethiopian naval headquarters.

There were reports that government forces also carried out reprisal raids on villages suspected of harboring Eritrean guerrillas, but this could not be confirmed.

Authorities have clamped a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew on the city and the airport has been closed since Friday. Fierce battles raged for control of the airport all day Saturday and into yesterday, but it was not known which side controlled it. The government has blocked all roads leading to and from Asmara, and newsmen from Addis Ababa have been unable to go there. Reports on the action have come by telephone.

The Ethiopian government, in the hands of young revolutionary officers since the overthrow of Emperor Hailie Selassie last September, has yet to acknowledge any large-scale fighting in Asmara. Neither the national radio nor television has made any mention of the fighting in the strategic northernmost province that controls Ethiopia's outlet to the sea.

However, one Ethiopian source said the government is taking the fighting seriously.

The rebels, believed to be financed by Arab nations, are said to number about 6,000, while the strength of government troops has been put at about 15,000.

There are conflicting reports on the aims of the rebels, made up of two former rival factions now united under a single command. Some sources say the rebels want to demonstrate their strength to the central government. Others maintain the fighting could be the beginning of a major offensive likely to spread to other urban centers.

AT&T Confirms Reports That Calls Were Taped

NEW YORK (AP) — A spokesman for the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. has confirmed that portions of many long-distance telephone calls were recorded from the end of 1965 to the beginning of 1970.

"We believe that what we did was necessary to protect the integrity of our network and to keep people from cheating," said press relations director William Mullane.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported in its Sunday editions that at least 1.5 million calls from six cities were recorded to detect toll frauds.

Mullane said that he did not know the number of calls recorded but said calls from St. Louis, New York, Detroit, Miami, Los Angeles and Newark, N.J., were involved. He said if the tape system detected a particular cycle tone during a roughly 10-second sampling of a call, the call was recorded on a second tape for up to 90 seconds, sent to fraud specialists at AT&T here and examined. The tone, he said, indicated an attempt to bypass tolls.

The tape that made the 10-second sampling, Mullane said, was used over and over, and could have been used for the whole five years.

It has been previously reported that Bell had monitored such calls but it has not been disclosed that voice recordings had been made. Mullane said he was not competent to say whether it was illegal but added, "I don't think we do anything illegal."

The newspaper said that fewer than 500 of the 1.5 millions calls were recorded as fraudulent, and Mullane declared that 500 sounded like the number of frauds nationwide.

The newspaper also said that the program ended in the spring of 1970 when Bell executives were warned that the company's image might be damaged if information concerning the monitoring program leaked to the public. Mullane said he could neither confirm nor deny that report.

"I don't know why it was terminated," he added. "It was only a test on the first place."

He said a new system has replaced the old one, using electronic information such as that which times the calls and bills customers.

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