

# Milk co-op fined \$35,000 for campaign donations

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI), the nation's largest milk cooperative, was fined the maximum \$35,000 in U.S. District Court after pleading guilty Thursday to conspiracy and making illegal campaign contributions.

The contributions cited in the six-count felony indictment amounted to \$280,900 to members of both parties, including presidential hopefuls Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn., and Rep. Wilbur D. Mills, D-Ark.

E.C. Heining, the AMPI lawyer who entered the plea, recommended that the cooperative be fined only \$15,000. But he was overruled by U.S. District Judge George L. Hart, Jr.

In accepting the guilty plea, the Watergate special prosecutor's office specified that AMPI was not receiving immunity from

possible charges growing out of the 1971 federal price support increase for raw milk. The prosecutors are investigating whether the administration raised the support in exchange for AMPI's \$2 million 1972 campaign pledge to President Nixon.

AMPI was charged on one count — punishable by a \$10,000 fine — of conspiracy to make illegal campaign contributions in 1968, 1970 and 1972 to members of both parties, and five counts — each punishable by a fine of \$5,000 — of making illegal campaign contributions.

"The dairy farmers are hardworking people who have contributed a great deal to this country," Hart told Heining. "I don't believe the directors of the corporation, even though they were farmers, were not aware the law was being violated. This type of cavalier violation of the law has just

somehow got to be stopped."

"We've learned the bitter experience by giving too much power to a few," Heining said, adding that the members of AMPI "are going to bear the cross of this for years to come." The co-op, formed from several smaller co-ops in 1969, has 40,000 members between Minnesota and Texas.

The information named as unindicted co-conspirators Harold S. Nelson, former AMPI general manager; David L. Parr, former special counsel; Bob A. Lilly, Nelson's former assistant, and Robert O. Isham, former AMPI controller.

Nelson and Parr have pleaded guilty to similar charges in recent days and Lilly and Isham have been given immunity.

The information charged that AMPI caused:

- \$63,500 to go to a fund-raising dinner for then-Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey during the 1968 presidential campaign.
- Lilly, while on the AMPI payroll, to work full time in the 1970 congressional campaign of former Rep. Patrick Hillings, R-Calif.
- \$100,000 in AMPI funds to be paid in August, 1969, to Herbert W. Kalmbach, personal lawyer and political fundraiser for President Nixon.
- \$12,000 in AMPI funds to be paid for advertising in Humphrey's 1970 senatorial election in Minnesota.
- \$10,000 in AMPI funds to go to former Rep. Page Belcher, R-Okla., in his 1970 race.

# Reinecke to resign before being ousted

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke, facing a possible five-year prison term and \$2,000 fine for lying to a Senate committee, said Thursday he will voluntarily resign his office before any action is taken to force him from it.

Still insisting he was "absolutely not guilty," the one-time heir apparent to Gov. Ronald Reagan made the announcement shortly before California Attorney General Evelle J. Younger ruled he cannot hold his office after he is sentenced Aug. 30.

In Washington, his attorneys filed motions to overturn the verdict.

Reinecke did not say when he would resign but an aide said it would probably be on the day of sentencing or shortly afterward.

Reinecke was convicted last week of falsely testifying to the Senate Judiciary Committee that he had not discussed efforts to hold the 1972 Republican National Convention in San Diego in May of 1971.

The California state constitution excludes from office an official convicted of perjury.

Reagan, who first appointed Reinecke in 1969, must name a successor to fill out the balance of Reinecke's term which ends Dec. 31. An assistant said a new lieutenant governor would be named when Reinecke actually leaves the \$35,000-a-year office.

As Reinecke announced his plans, his attorneys in Washington moved that his perjury conviction last week be reversed on grounds his testimony was "literally true... and legally truthful."

The conviction resulted from an April 19, 1972, hearing of the Committee at which Reinecke was asked by Sen. Hiram Fong, R-Hawaii, whether he had discussed the GOP convention with Mitchell in mid-May of 1971.

"I see. So the only time you discussed the convention with Mr. Mitchell was in September after the ITT case had already been settled?" Fong asked.

Reinecke replied, "That is correct, Senator."

During his recent trial three witnesses testified that Reinecke had told them about the mid-May meeting with Mitchell. Reinecke never denied it in court but said the discussion with Mitchell was over the telephone and it was his understanding Fong was asking about a face-to-face discussion.

# Rhodes support seen as big factor in House vote

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Amid growing indications that House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes would support impeachment of President Nixon, the House leadership Thursday tentatively agreed to a timetable for a final vote by Aug. 31 — a week later than their original goal.

Rhodes scheduled a news conference for Monday to announce what aides called his "agonized" decision. A moderate Republican said Rhodes's defection from the ranks of Nixon supporters, if it happens, would have a "profound effect" on the outcome of the House vote.

Rhodes, with other Republican and Democratic leaders, top members of the Judiciary Committee and the full membership of the House Rules Committee, met to discuss House procedure for the momentous impeachment debate.

Rep. B.F. Sisk, D-Calif., Democratic whip, said the group reached tentative agreement to begin consideration before live television cameras on Aug. 19, with a vote on the first article by Aug. 26 or 27 and a final vote by Aug. 31.

Speaker Carl Albert originally hoped to start debating by Aug. 13 or 14, with a final vote by Aug. 23 or 24.

The leadership also tentatively approved the kind of rule for debate which would permit motions to strike individual paragraphs of the three Articles of Impeachment, but would not allow adding

new charges or amending the language approved by the Judiciary Committee.

An aide, meanwhile, said that if Rhodes supports impeachment, he will step down as GOP leader in favor of a Nixon supporter until the issue is decided in the House.

Rhodes has been the Republican leader only seven months. Formerly the chairman of the GOP policy committee, he was elected to the leadership post vacated when Gerald R. Ford became vice president last December.

But he is well liked, and Rep. Charles W. Whalen Jr., R-Ohio, said his support for impeachment would have "a profound effect on all the members — liberals, conservatives, whatever."

In advance of his decision, Rhodes has been holding a series of meetings this week, attempting to talk privately with all 187 House Republicans before making his announcement.

Rep. John Ashbrook, R-Ohio, who as a conservative opposed Nixon's renomination bid in 1972, told reporters Wednesday he not only endorses impeachment of Nixon, but estimates a margin of 3 to 1 in the House in favor of sending the case to the Senate for trial.

Democratic Leader Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill has estimated that about 300 of the 435 House members would vote in favor of one or more of the three impeachment articles.

# Soviet Union ends opposition to expanding U.N. police role

UNITED NATIONS (UPI) — The Soviet Union dropped its opposition Thursday to expanding the role of United Nations peacekeeping troops on Cyprus and the withdrawal from the island of all foreign military personnel not provided for under international agreements.

Waldheim met with Security Council delegates Wednesday night and Thursday morning after Malik rushed from the airport to veto the resolution.

Malik stressed after his veto that he would

have enough time to consult with Moscow. Malik abstained from the vote Thursday.

The resolution requested a cease-fire on Cyprus and the withdrawal from the island of all foreign military personnel not provided for under international agreements.

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# Phone workers threaten strike

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Armed with overwhelming approval from its half million members, the Communications Workers of America Thursday threatened to start the nation's first coast-to-coast strike against the Bell Telephone System on Monday.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a coalition of independent telephone unions, representing a total of more than 200,000 additional workers, quickly followed suit.

CWA President Glenn E. Watts said unless the union and the company reach agreement on a new contract before the union deadline at midnight Sunday, the strike will begin at 12:01 a.m. EDT Monday.

He said the walkout would "commence simultaneously in all parts of the country," meaning it would begin at 9:01 p.m. PDT Sunday on the West Coast.

Watts said the unions had no intention of completely stopping telephone service if they go on strike. Asked what impact the public would feel from a system-wide walkout, he replied, "Slowness in getting a dial tone."

The unions have been bargaining with the

American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and its subsidiaries on money covering some 725,000 employees from coast to coast. It is the first time ATT has attempted simultaneous nationwide negotiations.

In the event of a strike, Watts said installation of new service and transfers of phones would be hindered and the quality of service would diminish later on due to equipment breaking down and not being repaired.

The telephone industry is heavy in supervisory personnel, and for that reason can continue to operate during a strike.

During the 138-day strike by CWA against the New York Telephone Co. in 1971, for example, supervisory personnel filled in for operators and maintenance employees, and telephone service continued.

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