

Woodrow Wilson, Eugene Echols Plead Guilty To Bribe Charges

A feeling of shock and "a sinking feeling" reverberated throughout the community Monday after learning that Commissioner Woodrow Wilson had pleaded guilty to accepting \$5,000 on May 27, 1981 from former undercover agent Stephen Rybar allegedly in exchange for his political influence. Former state Sen. Gene Echols also admitted that he had accepted a payoff from Rybar for the same reason.

Wilson and Echols ended a chapter in the Yobo political corruption investigation by admitting they accepted bribes.

They pleaded guilty to attempted extortion and aiding and abetting and will receive no more than six months in prison when they are sentenced Aug. 3 if the judge accepts the plea bargain.

The surprise plea bargain worked out late Friday with Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Ed Kane included dismissal of two remaining charges — conspiracy and interstate travel in aid of racketeering.

Kane also said no other charges will be filed against the two as a result of the political corruption probe code-named Operation Yobo. The prosecutor later refused to comment on whether the probe is continuing.

Wilson cannot be forced to resign his seat on the County Commission until he is sentenced.

Wilson, 68, accepted the money in a meeting with Rybar in the office of Doctors Fiduciary Trust, the mythical investment group the agent pretended to represent.

That meeting was videotaped, making Wilson the only politician to actually be seen on camera taking money.

Echols, 64, accepted \$1,000 two days later. Both men will repay the bribes to the government.

Their admission averted a two-week trial and the ensuing publicity.

They will be sentenced on Aug. 3 by visiting U.S. District Judge Richard Bilby, who has heard all five Yobo cases. The other politicians found guilty include former

state Sen. Floyd Lamb, former Clark County Commissioner Jack Petitti and former Reno City Councilman Joe McClelland.



Woodrow Wilson

The big question now is who will replace Commissioner Wilson.

The commission seat Wilson held is open for

election this year and the closing date for filing a candidate in that election is July 3, one month before his sentencing date. Not one Republican has filed in his district, most of which covers the west Las Vegas area where the population is predominately black and registered Democrat.

One body of opinion holds that the reluctance to file has been purely circumstantial, and that nobody wanted to file as long as Wilson's legal status was uncertain. Sources have indicated See SCOPES, Page 4

Marvin Gaye's Father Ruled Competent To Stand Trial

LOS ANGELES—Marvin Gaye, Sr. is mentally competent to stand trial for the shooting death of his son, soul singer Marvin Gaye, a judge ruled Tuesday after reviewing a psychiatric report.

Superior Court Judge Michael Pirosh ordered Gaye, 70, to appear in Municipal Court on June 20, when a preliminary hearing will be scheduled.

Pirosh made the decision after reading a psychiatric report submitted by Dr. Ronald Markman, who concluded Gay was competent.

Gaye, a retired minister, was charged with killing his son, a Grammy Award-winning singer, on April 1 after a family argument at the elder Gay's home west of

downtown Los Angeles. During the court-ordered psychiatric exam-



Marvin Gaye, Sr.

ination, a walnut-sized tumor was discovered near Gay's pituitary gland. Brain surgeons

successfully removed the tumor May 17.

Gaye, who was present for Tuesday's hearing, is in custody and has been recovering from the surgery at County-USC Medical Center jail ward.

The younger Gaye, who was killed on the eve of his 45th birthday, added the "e" to his name when he started his career, which included hits such as "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" in 1968.

Gaye died as he was beginning a career comeback fueled by the success of his 1983 hit single, "Sexual Healing," which won two 1983 Grammy awards.

Gaye's "Midnight Love" album was nominated for a 1984 Grammy.

Health District Offers Physical Exam To Seniors

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially when it comes to health.

One way senior citizens can maintain good health is by scheduling annual checkups. A physical exam is available to senior citizens over 60 years of age at the Las Vegas and Henderson

public health centers of the Clark County Health District. The exam is performed by a nurse practitioner and is meant to uncover health problems before they reach the critical stage.

The senior citizen clinic is located at the District Health Center,

625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas. Appointments are scheduled by calling 383-1354. A two to three week wait from appointment to exam may be necessary. Two days each month senior health exams are scheduled at the Henderson Public Health Center, 201 Lead St.

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