

Ex-Reporter Held; Philadelphia Files Blackmail Charges

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PHILADELPHIA, July 5 (AP)—A former newspaper reporter, the head of a local public relations firm and a third man were charged tonight with blackmail, District Attorney Arlen Specter announced.

Mr. Specter said that Harry Karafin, who was dismissed several months ago from his job as a reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer, and Joseph Ball, head of the public relations firm, were charged in two instances of alleged blackmail totaling \$66,000.

Joseph Kane, who was not identified, and Mr. Karafin were accused in an alleged \$5,700 bribery, and all three men were charged with blackmail, unlawful solicitation and conspiracy, Mr. Specter said.

In all instances, the district attorney said, Mr. Karafin allegedly bribed the victims by threatening to have either favorable or unfavorable stories published in the Inquirer.

Mr. Karafin was also charged with attempting to solicit \$90,000 from several city constables.

The warrant issued by Mr. Specter's office charged Mr. Karafin and Mr. Ball with illegally soliciting \$52,000 from John Reilly Sr., vice president of the First Pennsylvania Bank-

ing and Trust Company, and \$14,000 from Jack Alter, president of the Teachers Service Organization of Philadelphia. It also charged Mr. Karafin and Mr. Kane with soliciting \$5,700 from a local businessman identified as Danny Silverman.

Mr. Specter said the alleged bribes occurred from 1962 to 1966.

Mr. Karafin was arrested at his home while warrants were issued for the arrest of Mr. Ball and Mr. Kane, Mr. Specter said.