

Morton 'Favor' Aided Developers

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Before Rogers C. B. Morton left the Interior Department, Sen. Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.) called upon him as one Republican to another for a small favor.

The senator wanted the Kofa Game Range in Arizona taken away from the Fish and Wildlife Service and put under the sole jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

The BLM has a reputation for being soft on land development. Environmentalists, therefore, suspected that some powerful developers were behind the move and that the BLM would open the range for mining and other commercial uses.

Morton's advisers opposed giving the range to the BLM, but Morton overruled them. "It's the least I can do for Paul Fannin," he was heard to say.

Environmentalists have alerted Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.), who is investigating the transfer. He has found that all of the staff memos on the subject at the Interior Department favored putting the range under only Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction. The two agencies have shared jurisdiction.

A spokesman for Morton said the former Interior Secretary might have made the comment about Fannin but doesn't recall it. Morton decided to turn the range over to the BLM because local citizens wanted it, the spokesman said. The same point was made by a spokesman for Fannin.

But the environmentalists are convinced that the decision was made so that developers, who support Fannin, can get their hands on the land.

Strange Host—The brother of alleged New Orleans underworld boss Carlos Marcello has sworn that the State Department has used him as an "official host at several luncheons and dinners in honor of influential and important international dignitaries."

Joe Marcello Jr. made the claim in an appeal for liquor licenses for Broussard's Restaurant, which he hopes to operate in New Orleans' French Quar-

ter.

Although he has no criminal record, his brother Carlos is identified in federal files as "the top-ranking member of the Mafia in the New Orleans area." Joe Marcello's application was turned down, therefore, because of his "character and reputation."

In his appeal, he contended that "by being called upon to be his country's official host to foreign leaders in world affairs, (he) has served his country, state and city in a capacity that can be claimed by few in this country."

For this service, he said, he

"has been officially afforded the highest compliments and accolades of the United States State Department."

We can find no record at the State Department that Marcello has been used as an "official host." We have established that distinguished visitors have been taken to the Elmwood Plantation, a restaurant he operates in the New Orleans area. However, they were brought to the restaurant by volunteer hosts, not through any arrangement with the State Department.

Washington Whirl—Some political advisers are urging President Ford to let the Republican convention next year choose his running mate. Sources close to the President tell us, however, that he will insist on keeping Vice President Rockefeller on the ticket.

● Former Vice President Ag-

new has gone into seclusion in a fashionable neighborhood near Annapolis. The Agnew family refuses to talk to reporters and has little to do with its neighbors. Close friends say Agnew is waiting for the right time to tell his story and clear his name.

● The Secret Service gave approval to Hollywood producers to film part of the Watergate movie "All the President's Men" on the White House grounds. Then Robert Redford, a star of the picture, began lobbying between takes against the veto of the strip-mining bill. Suddenly, the moviemakers were no longer welcome at the White House. It may have been a coincidence, Redford told us.

● The CIA has received evidence from Cambodia that "over 100 military and civilian personnel who fought or served on the side of the Lon Nol government were killed in one

northwestern provincial capital." The CIA also has "reasonably firm evidence that similar large-scale killings occurred in two other northwestern provincial capitals."

● Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger has ordered a secret review of the Japanese-American military alliance. He hopes to improve military cooperation.

● A ceremony honoring Julian Price, the Army-Air Force exchange's purchasing chief, for his "humanitarianism" was called off after we discovered that contractors doing business with him had been pressured to pay \$175 each to attend.

● The Securities and Exchange Commission is looking into an alleged scheme by a securities dealer to maneuver 150 employees through dealers' exams fraudulently.

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