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AF Dismisses Accountant After 3 Days

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Three days after he was hired, the accountant whose firm audits Lockheed Aircraft was abruptly dismissed as a consultant by the Pentagon.

The sudden decision yesterday brought to an end the employment of John J. Dymont of New York. He is a partner in Arthur Young & Co., auditor for Lockheed and co-defendant in a suit charging both companies with concealing the massive cost overruns on Lockheed's C-5A.

The Pentagon announcement was made by Spencer J. Schedler, Air Force assistant secretary for financial management.

Schedler said he "is convinced that no conflict of interest has occurred," but "does not want a situation to exist which could in any way cause speculation about the integrity of his office, himself or Mr. Dymont."

Schedler had put Dymont to work the very day that he fired A. Ernest Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald is the Air Force industrial engineer who discovered that Lockheed's big cargo carriers were going to cost nearly \$2 billion more than the Pentagon had estimated.

Dymont, who received \$107.92 for his one day's labor, was hired to devise better methods for enabling the Air Force to keep abreast of contractors' costs, scheduling and performance. This job was among Fitzgerald's other duties.

On Thursday, both Dymont and Schedler said they saw no reason why they could not continue their relationship since Dymont did not work in the Arthur Young office that allegedly covered up Lockheed's soaring costs.

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Auditor Dismissed By AF After 3 Days

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Yesterday, Schedler said he had "exercised the prerogative of his office" to change his mind. He declined to comment on reports that his decision was prompted by the office of Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird after an account of the relationship appeared in the Friday edition of The Washington Post.

Schedler's formal statement said he had told Dymont of the decision and Dymont agreed with it.

Fitzgerald Defended

At the same time, Rep. William Moorhead (D-Pa.) told a press conference that the Fitzgerald-Dymont affair reflected an "incredible insensitivity" on the part of the Pentagon.

He called Dymont's dismissal "a clear victory but a small one" and said he would not be satisfied until Fitzgerald was vindicated.

Moorhead also made public a letter he had written President Nixon, urging him to "repudiate" the "punitive action" taken against Fitzgerald.

"The firing of this dedicated public servant was a punitive action," the letter said, "taken because he refused to knuckle under and rationalize the waste, inefficiency and bureaucratic bungling he came across."

Sen. William Proxmire's Joint Economic subcommittee intends to hold hearings into the Fitzgerald firing. The date for the hearings has not yet been set.

Meanwhile, Lockheed announced yesterday that it will enter the competition to build the AMSA, the proposed new manned bomber. The Air Force has figured that this program will cost \$12 billion, but Proxmire (D-Wis.) and others have estimated that it would cost at least twice that amount. The other contractors bidding for the rich prize are North American, Rockwell, General Dynamics and Boeing. Congress has so far only au-

thorized funds for research into AMSA but the Air Force announced yesterday a "system program director" to supervise the construction.

He is Brig. Gen. Guy M. Townsend, a veteran pilot. Townsend ran the C-5A program from 1965 until mid-1968, but Pentagon critics say that he made a searching effort to hold down the cargo carrier's mounting costs.