

Pool 7.6.56

Edwards: 'Blew My Cool' In Approval of Bribery

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards said Thursday he made "a horrible mistake" when he told reporters last week that he saw nothing wrong with American businessmen bribing foreign officials to do business overseas.

"I just blew my cool," Edwards said. "I know I'm a politician, but I wish I could do it all over."

Edwards said he was caught in an informal news conference the day after he admitted his wife had accepted a bribe from South American businessman Abraham Bar...

He said he was angry and frustrated because of the gift and when asked about the gift, he acted like a pouty little boy.

There have been reports that Edwards lost out on a \$1-million a year in the early 1950s to congressmen and other officials.

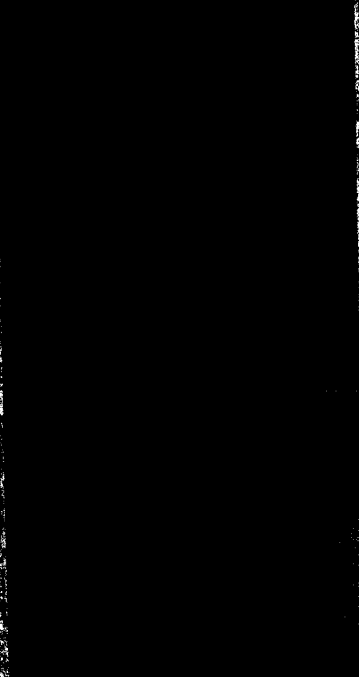
Edwards said the girl was just something that wanted to do for a good cause and had nothing to do with bribery.

Edwards told reporters at his news conference last week that he was "all out" making payments to do business overseas. Asked if that included bribery, he said: "Absolutely, pay bribes."

He said American businessmen lose opportunities for overseas sales because somebody came up with the super-patriotic attitude that you shouldn't be making payments to people in foreign countries. That's a moral thing that shouldn't be looked at by the United States of America. And in order to compete, it's necessary to do that in those countries.

Edwards said he was not in favor of bribery. I wish nations without bribery laws would adopt them.

He said it is what he really meant to say.



Gov. Edwards Admits 'Blew My Cool' In Approval of Bribery

American businessman should be allowed to compete in the framework of rules of foreign countries and if those rules include paying fees or commissions to public officials, that's all right.

he said... considered morally as bribery... acknowledged they might but that's a decision the American businessman must make.