

## Merry-Go-Round

# Pupfish Win Out Over Millionaire



**Jack Anderson**

**F**ORCED to choose between 200 pupfish or a millionaire GOP contributor, the Nixon Administration has put the welfare of the pupfish first.

These tiny creatures have survived as a species for 10,000 years by sticking to themselves in Devils Hole, Nevada. In this single water hole — and nowhere else in the world — they feed and reproduce under the protection of the Interior Department.

Any substantial drop in the water level could end their ice-age lineage in a couple of days. Yet the water ominously began to slip lower two years ago as a big rancher drilled wells nearby for irrigation.

The rancher, Francis L. Cappaert, a Vicksburg, Miss., millionaire, has been a major contributor to President Nixon's campaigns. He donated heavily to Mr. Nixon in both 1968 and 1972. The records for 1972, for example, show he scattered at least \$207,000 among Mr. Nixon's campaign kitties.

After Cappaert tapped into the water table and began pumping out the underground water, the level in Devils Hole began to sink. Interior hastily enlisted the Justice Department to help save the unique desert fish.

A few days ago, the Justice lawyers prevailed and a federal judge issued an injunction against the pumping. Result: the ice-age pupfish no longer face extinction in a dry hole, although the Republi-

cans may find a dry hole the next time they approach Cappaert for campaign funds.

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**ERRAND BOY:** The powerful chemical companies have a new errand boy on Capitol Hill. He is an aggressive, articulate freshman, Representative Samuel H. Young (Rep.-Ill.) who has put up a backstage battle to emasculate a bill designed to protect the health and environment against toxic substances.

In his eagerness to do the chemical industry's bidding, he made four separate attacks on a bill to control toxic substances. Each time, he was rebuffed by his colleagues on the House Commerce and Finance Subcommittee.

Young didn't mention to his colleagues that his election campaign was heavily financed by chemical executives. Daniel J. Terra, president of Lawter Chemicals, Inc., of Northbrook, Ill., funneled \$10,000 to Young's campaign through four separate campaign committees.

Foster McGaw, past president of American Hospital Supply, a firm with extensive chemical interests, gave \$4200 to Young through two separate committees.

Young explained to us that he "was trying to keep a broad new law within proper lines." He had no contact regarding the legislation with his chemical contributors, he added.