

Treasury Lawyer Fired

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Senator's Price for ABM Vote

Washington

The price of keeping a Republican Senator from changing his vote on the controversial Safeguard missile defense system was the ouster of a 33-year-old Treasury Department lawyer who was highly valued by his superiors, Administration officials said yesterday.

The senator, Henry L Bellmon of Oklahoma, denied that he had ever threatened to vote against financing for the Safeguard, but conceded that he had sought the lawyer's resignation on the ground that the lawyer is a "highly partisan" Democrat.

Treasury Department officials, while extremely reluctant to discuss any aspect of the case, said in response to questions that they had fought Bellmon's demand for months, because they thought so highly of the lawyer's work and did not believe the Senator's charges of partisanship.

But they said they finally yielded and asked the lawyer to resign when the White House passed the word that Bellmon was threatening to vote against funds for Safeguard if his demands were met.

The administration won it

fight in the Senate for Safeguard funds by one vote and Bellmon voted with the administration.

The lawyer, Paul R. McDaniel, was one of a group of "about a dozen or twenty" government employees, mostly Oklahomans, that Bellmon wanted forced out, he said, on the ground that they were Democrats and a Republican Administration is "entitled to fill jobs with individuals who are in step with the administration."

According to Bellmon's a-

sistant, Drew Mason, "The only thing that made the all the others was that the Treasury fought it. They said, 'We aren't going to fire McDaniel.'"

McDaniel said that he did not know what he was supposed to be guilty of because he had only second-hand reports of the Senator's charges. He said that he had never met Bellmon, a point on which the senator agreed, but that he had known MUA-SON FOR SOME YEARS.

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