

TUESDAY

# Douglas Foundation Sells Gambling-Linked Holdings

By JAMES R. POLK

WASHINGTON (AP) — The foundation headed by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas has cashed in a \$2 million jackpot in selling its stock in a firm which owns three Las Vegas casinos.

A foundation official said yesterday the holdings were sold in early March—two years after Douglas had described the stock as "an irrevocable gift."

The Supreme Court justice has drawn fire in Congress over his salary as president of The Albert Parvin Foundation and its ownership ties with plush Las Vegas gambling palaces.

DOUGLAS HAS been paid approximately \$85,000 over the last seven years as the Foundation's only salaried officer, tax records show.

Justice Douglas, reached in Bellingham, Wash., where he was speaking yesterday, declined comment.

Justice Abe Fortas resigned from the Supreme Court last week amid congressional rumblings of impeachment in the controversy over a \$20,000 check from the family foundation of convicted financier Louis E. Wolfson.

CONGRESSMEN HAVE called for an investigation of Douglas

and his foundation's stock in Parvin-Dohrmann Co., which owns the Stardust, Fremont and Aladdin hotels and casinos.

The foundation's secretary and treasurer, Harvey Silbert, disclosed in a telephone interview yesterday that 21,971 shares in Parvin-Dohrmann were sold during the first week of March at \$91.75 each. This would result in a purchase price of just under \$2 million.

The \$2 million price was five times the value listed for the foundation's Parvin-Dohrmann stock when Justice Douglas' role first became known to the public in 1966.

AT THAT TIME, Douglas wrote Chief Justice Earl Warren:

"There has been criticism of the (stock) portfolio of the foundation. Except for minor items, the selection of the portfolio was made solely by Mr. (Albert) Parvin and was transferred by him to the foundation as an irrevocable gift."

Sen. John J. Williams, R-Del., entered the letter to Warren in the Congressional Record this month in charging that Fortas had not returned the Wolfson check in 1966 "until after Justice Douglas had been caught with his hands in the same cookie jar."

THE FOUNDATION'S latest public tax records covering 1967 reported Parvin-Dohrmann holdings totaling 31,291 shares. When the other 9,500 shares were sold is unknown. But Silbert said the 21,791 sold in early March were the last ones held by the foundation.

Tax records show the foundation sold its stock two years ago in Del T. Webb Corp., which operates other casinos at Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Douglas has said Parvin, a Los Angeles business executive, organized the foundation in 1960 after reading the jurist's lectures on the growing menace communism. The foundation provides fellowships for foreign students at Princeton and UCLA.

"WE'RE TRAINING the future prime ministers of underdeveloped countries in our democratic institutions. It is a tremendous project and I commend it to you," Douglas said last Saturday.

Parvin sold his stock in the Parvin-Dohrmann Co. last October when the firm was taken over by Chicago executive Delbert W. Coleman.

Baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn has promised an investigation of holdings in the company by owners of the Atlanta Braves and Oakland Athletics.

THREE BRAVES directors, including Coleman and Club president William C. Bartholomay, are members of the Parvin-Dohrmann board. Athletics owner Charles O. Finley bought an estimated \$2.7 million of stock last month.

The foundation's sale of its stock did not figure in any of the baseball purchases, according to Securities and Exchange Commission and Nevada records.