

Chiean Junta Said to Jail Wrong Man

By Jack Anderson

When we reported in March 1972, that ITT had plotted to block Salvador Allende from assuming the presidency in Chile, there was a lot of whispering and wondering how we got the secret ITT papers to document our story.

Published reports named Orlando Letelier, then the Chilean ambassador in Washington, as our source. We flatly denied the report.

Now his wife has sent word to us through a courier from Chile that Letelier has been dumped into prison and fears for his safety. He is convinced, according to the message from his wife, that the military junta has jailed him for giving us the ITT-Chile documents.

A few minutes after the courier got the information to us, we were able to reach the highest Chilean diplomat now in Washington, Mario Artaza. We expressed our concern that Letelier may be harmed because of false charges. We swore out an affidavit declaring that neither Letelier nor his associates gave us the ITT papers.

Artaza assured us the imprisoned Letelier was "not in danger" but, nevertheless, promised to transmit our message by urgent cable to Santiago.

Conflict of Interest: The Interior Department has awarded a \$2.3 million noncompetitive contract to a company to study the environmental impact of its

own coal mining operation. By an interesting coincidence, the corporate executives also happen to have donated heavily to the GOP.

In a bubbly press release, Interior Secretary Rogers Morton announced that Fluor Utah, Inc., would study "environmental, technical and economic requirements for large-scale coal mining systems" in vast areas of the West.

Morton said the consulting firm of Bonner & Moore Associates would also join Fluor Utah in finding ways to increase coal production "to help meet the growing energy shortage."

Noble as this project may sound, Morton failed to give the public the real story behind the lucrative contract, which was granted without a bid after private talks with Fluor Utah.

Our investigation shows that both Fluor Utah and Bonner & Moore are owned outright by the giant, \$500 million Fluor Corp., which also owns mineral, gas and oil properties right in the areas Fluor Utah in the position of making recommendations that could benefit its own corporate parents by tens of millions of dollars.

On top of this, the GOP contribution records show that Fluor was a moneybags for the Nixon-Agnew campaign in 1972. Well over \$10,000 went to the Republicans from the "Fluor Employees Political Fund," which was set up after the cor-

poration pleaded guilty in 1969 to making illegal corporate contributions.

Thousand more were contributed personally by Fluor chairman John Robert Fluor, his relatives and his company executives, the records show.

Interior admitted there was a "mutual interest" between Fluor and its subsidiary, Fluor Utah, but said the dubious deal was not a result of political pressure.

Fluor denied it would profit from the contract and said it had put no pressure on the administration to get it. Significantly, however, when we reached a Fluor Corp. executive in California for comment, he had already been tipped off by friendly Interior officials that we were working on the story.

Footnote: In addition to Nixon and Agnew, various GOP seantorial candidates received money from the Fluor people, including Sens. Jesse Helms

(N.C.), Jim McClure (Idaho) and Charles Percy (Ill.) and unsuccessful candidates Henry Hildard (Mont.) and Pete Domenici (N.M.).

Agnew and Bumblebee: For all his troubles, Spiro Agnew hasn't lost his sense of humor. Last week, the Vice President sent a belated birthday card to his former press secretary, Vance Gold, who is becoming one of those elite and effete columnists Agnew used to condemn. Gold will start writing a nationally syndicated column later this month.

Agnew's late card featured a sick owl explaining: "Sorry you didn't hear from me on your birthday, but I had eaten a bumblebee on a dare—and was having a very rough day." That happened to be the day Agnew took his unprecedented request for congressional inquiry to House leaders on Capitol Hill.

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