Podell Indicted on Charge Of Taking Airline Bribes

NYTimes

JUL 1 3 1973 By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

Representative Bertram L. airline's parent corporation, Podell of Brooklyn was indicted LeasingConsultants, Inc. yesterday oncharges of conThe indictment charged that
spiracy, bribery, perjury and
Representative Podell sought to
conflict of interest involving efassist the airline by "fraud, corforts to obtain route for an ruption and misrepresentation"

Representative Podell, who is the State Department: a Democrat, had obtained \$41,- An angry denial of 350 in bribes to use his influ-sations was issued in Washingence as a Congressman in an ton by the 47-year-old Repreattempt to win a route to the sentative, who said that "I am Bahamas for Florida Atlantic ready to go to trial right now

ed in the alleged scheme are of any charges."

Herbert S. Podell, the Con"I consider it a badge of Herbert S. Podell, the Con-gressman's brother and law honor to be known as public partner, and Matin Miller of

in dealings with the Civil Aero-The 10-count indictment in nautics Board, the Federal Federal Court here alleged that Aviation Administration and

An angry denial of the accuand am confident that a jury Two other defendants indict-will completely exonerate me

Miami, former president of the Continued on Page 64, Column 4



United Press Internation

Bertram L. Podell after indictment was announced

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PODELLIS INDICTED peared guilty of a conflict or interest in dropping an anti-

peared guilty of a conflict of

ON BRIBE CHARGE trust inquiry into a company owned by President Nixon's friend, Robert H. Abplanalp. "On Monday," he said, "I will hold a press conference at which I will give a detailed account of political harassment, intimidation and extortion by a population of this nation," he asserted, "This indictment, an attempt at political death, is Mr. Podell's alleged scheme be-

asserted. "This indictment, an attempt at political death, is meant to atone for the cesspool of crime and corruption uncovered in the Watergate hearings and related matters."

"But I will not submit to blackmail nor political extortion," said the Congressman, who had charged last Sunday that the Justice Department ap-13th District, which covers Con-

ey Island and several neighbor- of the corruption unit in Mr. ing communities.

J. Curran said the Podell indicticing law and from holding ment had resulted from "an exhaustive and long-term investigation" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by Government prosecutors here.

The principal conspiracy count in the indictment charged that defendants had agreed "to defraud the United States of

Curran's office, said Repre-Federal authorities said that sentative Podell and his two co-

Federal authorities said that efforts to obtain an air-taxi defendants were scheduled to route to the Bahamas for Florida Atlantic Airlines had been unsuccessful and that the corporation later went bankrupt.

Kenneth G. Burnstine, formerly the airline's president, and the late Michael Zorovich, who was an officer of the airline, were named in the indictment as co-conspirators but not as defendants.

United States Attorney Paul J. Curran said the Podell indictment had resulted from "an ex-

the honest and unbiased services of a member of Congress" by the alleged bribery of Repre-

by the alleged bribery of Representative Podell.

In the bribery counts, the two Podell brothers were charged with accepting \$29,000 for their law firm in return for the Congressman's influence in seeking the airline route, and Representative Podell was charged with accepting \$20,000 Representative Podell was chargd with accepting \$29,000 "in the form of a check payable to the Citizens Committee for B. L. Podell."

Mr. Miller, the corporation executive, was charged with offering the payments to Representative Podell in 1968, 1969 and 1970.