

~~NYTIMES AUG 2 1973~~
**Trip With Contractor
Explained by Talmadge**

WASHINGTON, July 31 (AP) — Senator Herman E. Talmadge, Democrat of Georgia, a member of the Senate Watergate committee, said Tuesday he had gone on a vacation to the Caribbean with a Government contractor because the contractor was a friend of his.

The Washington Star-News said yesterday that Mr. Talmadge flew to Bimini Feb. 9 on a flight sponsored by Rockwell International, formerly the North American Rockwell Corporation. Mr. Talmadge said in a statement: "Al Rockwell Jr. has an operation in Albany, Ga. He has been a friend of mine for quite a number of years. I've hunted with him in Georgia on several occasions. He invited me to join him on a fishing trip, and I went."
