

GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

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NATION

More abortion friction seems certain for GOP

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — After an all-out lobbying campaign by chairman Jim Nicholson, there was no doubt the Republican National Committee would reject a "partial-birth" abortion litmus test for GOP candidates.

Friday night's decision was a grudging one, however, and the subject seems certain to cause continued friction inside an anti-abortion party trying to protect still-young majorities in both houses of Congress as well as impressive gains elsewhere.

"We are a pro-life party, and we shouldn't be ashamed of it," Betsy DeVos of Michigan told fellow RNC members. The assurance was in remarks designed to help head off the drive to deny campaign funds to candidates who won't support a ban on certain late-term abortions.

She then addressed Republicans who support Brooks Firestone, a GOP moderate outpooled last week by conservative Tom Bordonaro in a California congressional primary in which "partial-birth" abortion was an issue.

"That your money went your mouth is and write checks to Mr. Bordonaro to win this election," she said, referring to a runoff scheduled for March.

Next, she turned her attention to New Jersey's GOP Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, who vetoed her state legislature's ban on "partial-birth" abortions.

"I challenge her and suggest that she consider changing her position on partial-birth abortion practices and support the ban," DeVos said. Her listeners applauded.

The driving force behind the funds-cut-off effort, Tim Lambert of Texas, suggested the tension could eventually produce a revolt by the rank and file against members of the RNC itself.

"I think there will be consequences," he said. Members of the RNC have "been elected to their positions for years by telling their folks they are pro-life."

New documents in case against Carey

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Telephone records cast doubt on embattled Teamsters President Ron Carey's contention that he had little contact with his former campaign manager, who has pleaded guilty to a fund-raising conspiracy.



Carey

But the records, which are among 21 new exhibits that will be introduced Tuesday at a hearing on whether to expel Carey from the union, also show many more calls from campaign chief Jere Nash to the offices of his key co-conspirator, Martin Davis.

Other documents include memos, all-davits from union leaders and a memorandum that shows some Teamsters may have considered targeting spending on union programs to boost Carey's re-election chances.

The telephone records and other documents were obtained by The Associated Press.

In a memo to top Carey aide Aaron Belk, written at a time Nash was making the transition from consulting with the union on budgetary matters to taking the helm of Carey's re-election, Nash suggested spending could be targeted to help Carey retain office.

Consider adding more spending authority to targeted departments and/or divisions to assist with the re-election campaign," Nash wrote in the March 10, 1996 memo.

Investigators for the court-appointed Independent Review Board questioned another Carey aide, Robert Hauptman, who had worked with Nash on the budget process, about the memo.

Hauptman said he never discussed that proposal with Nash.

"I would never have discussed the option as he presented it here," Hauptman said in deposition. "Had he ever said we need to do this because it helps the election, I would have objected to that."

Carey has maintained that he had no inkling of the scheming by Nash, Davis and others, and he even claimed that he had spoken with his campaign manager only about 50 times.

But according to Nash's cellular telephone bills, he kept in close contact with Carey and others inside Teamsters headquarters at a crucial time during the 1996 union campaign.

Election overseers who tossed out Carey's slim re-election over James P. Hoffa and barred him from a rerun reported that the most egregious fund-raising violations carried out by Nash, Davis and others occurred in October 1996.

Between mid-September and mid-November of that year, Nash placed at least 10 calls to Carey's office, and an additional

dozen to other Teamsters officials in the organizing, legal, education, government affairs and communications departments. Under federal labor law, union officials are barred from electioneering on union time.

However, the records also show that Nash called various extensions at the November Group, the direct mail consultancy where Davis was a partner, at least 65 times during the same period.

Carey's defenders have argued that he was the victim of a conspiracy between Davis and Nash, who also had been on re-tainer to November Group, to siphon funds from the Teamsters treasury.

That defense was discarded by a former federal judge Kenneth Conboy, who disqualified Carey from the rerun, saying he believed Carey helped Nash and Davis siphon \$735,000 in Teamsters funds to third parties in exchange for contributions to his campaign. Carey has taken a leave of absence from the union.

Female cadet quits Virginia Military Institute

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Va. — The first female cadet to enroll officially at the Virginia Military Institute has withdrawn from the school.

Beth Hogan of Junction City, Ore., who went to the formerly all-male military school with dreams of becoming a Navy pilot, dropped out of the school Friday, VMI spokesman Mike Strickler said Saturday.

Hogan, 18, is the fifth woman to withdraw since 30 women enrolled in August, ending the school's 168-year, all-male tradition.

Sixty-five men also have quit, and a sixth woman was suspended from two semesters for striking an upperclassman.

Hogan returned to the school Monday night after Christmas break. Three days later, she told school officials that VMI's rigorous testing of its freshmen was not for her.

Messages left by The Associated Press at the Hogan residence were not returned Saturday.

On Aug. 18, Hogan made history by becoming the first woman to sign her name into VMI's leather-bound matriculation book. The signing of the book, a VMI tradition since

1839, signifies official enrollment in the school.

For most of the first semester, Hogan was bothered by tendon problems after twisting an ankle during a training run. Strickler said Ms. Hogan was frustrated that she couldn't participate in marching, drill and other programs.

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