

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Blackwell, Morton: Files  
**Folder Title:** [Mississippi Gubernatorial Election]  
**Box:** 13

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

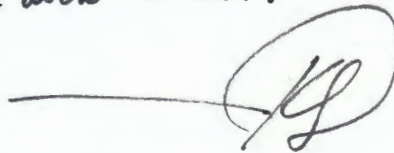
United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

MORTON -

F.V.I. - These newspaper clippings are about a story that broke today about the governor's race in Miss. You may be interested in reading these.

Sorry about Threen.

A handwritten signature, possibly "J.P.", written in dark ink. The signature is enclosed in a large, loopy circle. A horizontal line is drawn across the page, ending at the start of the signature.



officials  
Heves dia-  
a. He said  
omplaints  
t the U.S.

state last  
Washington  
ould be in  
would be

te  
pa State  
ry Tues-  
on in bo-  
a another

the first  
ould have  
self, Can-

Frank J.  
r in 1959  
first wit-

me of his  
ogus bills  
or distri-  
er called  
ey from

leging at a news conference Tuesday that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill Allain "frequently has engaged

Inc., who Spell said oversaw the investigation on which the allegations were based.

# Text of allegations by attorney Bill Spell

An investigation has developed clear and convincing evidence that establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Attorney General Bill Allain, over a period of years, frequently has engaged in homosexual acts with male prostitutes.

Some of the homosexual acts that the evidence shows Mr. Allain engaged in are described by Mississippi statute as "detestable and abominable" and are punishable by a sentence of 10 years in prison.

The evidence includes the following:

1. Sworn statements of persons who state they engaged in homosexual acts with Mr. Allain.
2. Polygraph or lie detector tests of those persons that indicated the persons who stated they participated in homosexual acts with Mr. Allain were truthful.
3. Statements of police officers and former police officers that they observed Mr.

Allain in a pattern of conduct consistent with solicitation of male prostitutes and inconsistent with conduct reasonable for any other purpose.

4. Statements of persons who say they have seen in Mr. Allain's apartment pornographic items and activities consistent with homosexual activity.

The investigative leads were performed by Pendleton Detectives of Mississippi and the investigation is still in progress.

# Text of Bill Allain's response to allegations

These charges are detestable, vicious malicious lies. There is not an ounce of truth in the charges.

They are the product of a desperate campaign of a man who the polls show is 30 points behind and apparently they will make up anything if they think it will help get him elected. Let's banish gutter politics from Mississippi. I'm no sexual deviate and Leon Bramlett knows it.

I was proud during the primary of the clean campaign that Evelyn Gandy and I waged during the runoff. Since then the campaign has degenerated further and further into the mud.

First the Bramlett campaign tried to use leeches to defeat me. They said I was soft on

crime and bad on education. When that didn't work, they tried to drag my personal life into the race, claiming because I have been divorced, I was not fit to be governor. That didn't work either. Now they are making up the most vicious lies of all. They are saying I am a sexual deviate.

Whoever is writing their material is a pretty good storyteller and very good at making up lies to use to smear his opponent. A major component of this calculated smear campaign of character assassination is a self-professed killer — Rex Armistead. Armistead has given statements to the detective agency maligning my character. Those aren't the only kinds of statements he's given. In Garrison vs. Armistead et al on April 21, 1975 he admitted that in the past he had

killed nine people. With the Bramlett campaign's failure at defeating me with attacks on my character, I fear what type of attack may be coming next against me. Because of these false charges, I am more determined than ever to win this election. And today I am asking each and every Mississippian to join me in sending a message to anyone who would condone or participate in this type of campaign. We will not only defeat their election efforts, we will stop their activities in this state forever. So let's get on with electing a governor who can help meet the needs of our people and reject any kind of invitation to wallow in the mud for the next two weeks. Apparently Mr. Bramlett's campaign feels they can bring Watergate tricks to Mississippi, but I don't think we're that kind of state.

"If it's proven out, I'd say that's a pretty serious thing," said Reed, who was the informant.

Although officials for the Bramlett campaign consulted about the investigation, they took a hands-off attitude to the charges.

"As state chairwoman Leon is to Leon Bramlett, I got out and I intend to spend in a positive manner. I do not intend to get off from that goal," said E. Leon.

Both Spivey and Reed deserve judgment as to why the results of the investigation by Republicans was divisive.

"My only answer to you may have a different answer at this point I believe and I can believe that my role Leon Bramlett candidate not to have a divided party."

"At this point, I've given Reed said.

Democratic Party Chairman of Jackson denounced the formation.

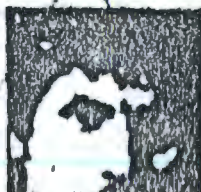
"I knew those guys were an idea that they would do a better politics just to elect a candidate. This is the lowest point that I have ever seen. I've been old enough to see it."

Cupit said he would file a lawsuit against the informant. He scoffed at the comment of the state GOP campaign.

See Party, page 2B

# He smiled on Frank Epperson, he didn't ch

is. Don't  
who don't  
and the oth-  
We going  
open food  
invented



## RAAD CAUTION

With soda water and water you get a frozen confection. With just water you get an ice cube.  
The story of Frank Epperson and his Pop-Tart discovery made me think of some of the people I have known who were only moments away from being famous.  
Unfortunately, the people I have known who were on the brink of historic discoveries had the stars, the fates, or some other cosmic madness conspire against them at the last moment.

It was a great idea. Unfortunately, just as the electric chair to fruition some wisecrack came out with it. The pop-top guy was probably from California. Joe was crushed, and for years he left the electric church key out on the kitchen counter. When he opened a beer he would flip it over and put it into his invention.  
It worked every time.



# Charges tie Allain to male prostitutes

By WANDA CANTRELL  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

A Jackson lawyer has made allegations that Attorney General Bill Allain, the Democratic nominee for governor, has had frequent homosexual relations with three male prostitutes.

Allain issued a statement Tuesday afternoon denying the allegations. "These charges are damnable, vicious malicious lies," the statement said in part.

"I'm no sexual deviate and Leon Bramlett knows it," said Allain, referring to his Republican opponent.

Jackson attorney William Spell told Tuesday news conferences in Jackson, Columbus and Tupelo that he began the investigation into rumors of Allain's sexual conduct after being approached about a month ago by "a small number of people more politically motivated than anything else."

He acknowledged that three of those people were Billy Mouser, Neal Clement and Victor Smith

—all of whom are conservative Jackson oilmen and big contributors to Bramlett's campaign. He said the expenses of the investigation, about \$10,000 so far, were primarily being paid by Mouser and Smith.

Mouser said what "began as routinely chasing down some rumors turned into something much bigger as any campaign. We were only try-

ing to find the truth. Nobody expected this, but now we have an obligation to get this before the people and let them decide."

Statements from two of the prostitutes, who dress as women, Grady Arrington and David Holliday, and the re-

sults of Spell's polygraph tests were made available to The Clarion-Ledger and several other Mississippi newspapers and broadcast stations last week.

Arrington and Holliday, as well as the third male prostitute, Donald Johnson, were interviewed by Clarion-Ledger reporters and tested independently by Tom Harlan, a Memphis, Tenn., polygraph expert retained by the newspaper. Each of the prostitutes, who have criminal arrest records, was tested on whether he knew the man he had relations with was Allain, whether he had engaged in various homosexual acts with Allain, and whether he was receiving any reward or remuneration for making the statements.

Harlan said the prostitutes' responses were not indicative of deception.

Although polygraph tests have long been used to determine veracity of statements, the results of polygraph tests are not admissible as evidence in a court of law in Mississippi and a number of other states.

According to their statements to Spell, the three blacks, who use the See Charges, back page this section



HOLLIDAY



ARRINGTON



# Charges

street names Nicole Toy (Arrington), Devia Ross (Holliday) and Donna (Johnson), said Allain would pick them up late at night in his car while cruising the inner city area bounded by Lamar, Mill, Capitol and Monument streets.

The three's statements describe homosexual acts with Allain:

Holliday said Allain would always perform oral sex on him. Arrington said he would perform oral sex and anal intercourse on Allain. Johnson said he would perform oral sex on Allain and that Allain would perform anal intercourse on him.

All said he would meet them on side streets late at night.

Spell said in his statement that he had statements from officers and former officers who "observed Mr. Allain in a pattern of conduct consistent with

solicitation of male prostitutes and inconsistent with conduct reasonably for any other purpose."

Shelby Johnson, a former city patrolman who patrolled the inner city area while on the force five years ago, told Spell that he and his partner saw Allain "about four separate times" before stopping him one night.

"We asked what he was doing in that area," Johnson's statement says. "He stated that he was passing through. We asked him to leave the area because of the high crime rate and because of the crimes that we had worked down there where prostitutes, male and female, were clipping or strong-arm robbing different individuals. At which time he left."

During the polygraph test administered by Spell, Arrington was asked if

he masturbated and performed oral sex on Allain, if he performed anal sex on Allain and whether Allain paid him for sex.

The examiner, employed by the Polygraph Division of Pendleton Detectives Inc. of New Orleans, concluded that Arrington was telling the truth.

In the sworn statement, Arrington said he met Allain about two years ago at the corner of Griffin and Hill streets and has "dated" him 15 to 20 times.

Arrington said he has not been working as a prostitute for several months and that he last saw Allain at the Sun 'n Sand restaurant, where he works part time.

Holliday says he met Allain late one night at the corner of Church and High streets last December and they went to the Jacksonian Inn. Holliday said he has

seen him four times since.

In the polygraph examination, Holliday was asked if he had sex with Allain in a room at the Jacksonian Motel, whether Allain performed oral sex on him, whether he kissed Allain all over the face while wearing lipstick, and if he was lying to get Allain in trouble.

Holliday said in the sworn statement that he talked with Allain last about three weeks ago but that they did not "date" that night because Allain said he "could not transact no business because it was something heavy that was trying to be cracked down on him." Holliday said he had seen Allain driving in the area since then but had not talked with him.

Spell said Johnson told him that he first met Allain about four years ago through another male prostitute named

Francis who has since moved to California and that he has "dated" Allain 18 or 19 times.

He also said he had visited Allain's Stanton House apartment on the first date and that he last "dated" Allain on Oct. 8, late on the night of the Parish Street Festival in Jackson.

All three's statements say Allain told them to keep the dates a secret if they wanted other dates with him. They referred to Allain as "a good trick" because he paid well and was nice.

They said most of the encounters occurred in cars, and Holliday said he sometimes "dated" Allain at a house on Church Street occupied by William Francis. All three said Allain was acquainted with Francis.

But Francis, who uses the street name of Madame Francine, denied that Allain had ever been in his house. He

also said the three were being paid for their stories.

Johnson, Arrington and Holliday deny they are receiving any money except expenses while out of town. The Clarion-Ledger polygraph expert said his tests indicated they were not lying.

Spell said \$200 was paid as a finder's fee to one resident of that area and that expenses for keeping the three out of town were being paid by the group. He denied that they were receiving any additional money for making the statements.

Mounger has contributed \$14,200 to Bramlett, but he said the campaign has discouraged the investigation "for fear of charges of dirty tricks."

Spell also said he did not expect the results the investigation turned up. "I was skeptical when this first came up, but there is no doubt that it is true."



# Political story of season built

By ROBERT OURLIAN  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

It began weeks, even months ago as a sprinkling of a few casual rumors too far-fetched to attract any attention.

But in the last month, the rumors spread wildly, growing within the last week into a tale that anyone worth his Mississippi political connections had heard.

It was a campaign of whispers and murmurs that apparently was escalated through a brilliant orchestration into the political story of the season.

But it was orchestrated, one of its founders maintains, by a group of peo-

Reactions ranged from shock and disgust to indifference. Page 1B

The electorate could go any number of directions. Page 1B

Allain denies and condemns the allegations. Page 5B

The cast of characters behind the allegations. Page 5B

Text of Spell and Allain statements. Page 1B

ple who simply wanted the truth — supported by documentation — to be known.

The campaign was two-fold: Part was directed at making hundreds of Mississippians aware of documents al-

leged homosexual conduct by Attorney General Bill Allain, the Democratic aspirant to the governor's office. That was accomplished through four to six meetings in Jackson and Columbus involving a total of about 600 partici-

## from rumor to roar

parts.

The second part of the attack was aimed at the news media. News-gathering organizations across the state were plied with documents, offered interviews with alleged male prostitutes and threatened with losing the year's top political scoop to another news outlet.

That combination of factors got word circulating, and put pressure on news organizations to report the story. By the time the allegations were publicly made Tuesday, at least 12 news organizations had or were about to have the documentation concerning the al-

leged homosexual conduct.

A third and final phase of the campaign came Tuesday, when Jackson attorney Bill Spell held a press conference to release statements. He detector tests and interviews he says prove Allain has engaged in homosexual activity.

Spell parlayed the meetings, the rumor network and the time-honored practice of anonymously offering documents to the media into the most perplexing story of recent gubernatorial campaigns.

The news conference came after  
See Rumor, back page this section.



# Rumor

Spell's attempts to get newspapers to publish the story on their own had bogged down.

As early as Oct. 14, Spell contacted Charles Overby, executive editor of The Clarion-Ledger and Jackson Daily News, and offered him the results of a four-week investigation.

Overby said he accepted the documentation, studied it over the weekend and called Spell on Monday to tell him he wouldn't run the story. Overby assigned staff members to check out the allegations.

At that, editors and television news directors around the state were contacted, some told they could have the documents for the asking, others advised to "call Bill Spell."

Frank Sutherland, managing editor of the Hattiesburg American, said he and a reporter were contacted last week by three separate "politically active" citizens who suggested they should attend a meeting scheduled for Thursday night in Hattiesburg.

"We said we would come," said Suth-

erland. "That got back to Bill Spell and (Jackson oil man) Victor Smith and they wanted to set conditions on what we would print concerning where we got (the documents) and who was there.

"They just wanted us to look at the documents and act on the documents themselves, and not report on the meeting or who gave (the information) to us."

The American had copies of the documents and was checking out the story at the time of Tuesday's news conference.

It was a few days earlier that News Director Frank Morock of WJTV in Jackson was contacted by a source who said the Allain investigation was under way and that his station could have the results of the probe.

"I think what they were planning on doing was making it available like raw meat to an animal," he said. "But what I wanted was somebody coming forth and making the statements in front of a camera — I wasn't going to do their dirty work for them."

Walter Sadler, news director for WLBT in Jackson, said he assigned a reporter early last week to investigate the rumors. Like Morock, Sadler said he would not allow the station to make charges against Allain purely on the basis of statements made by the male prostitutes.

Both news directors were advised they would lose the story to a newspaper or a competitor unless they broke it quickly.

"We were told that The Clarion-Ledger had already administered polygraphs to them, that other stations had already interviewed them," said Morock.

Sadler said there had been "allegations" all along that somebody else was about to "break" the story.

Jim Young, Jackson correspondent for The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal, said he received similar threats while working the story. "They said (The Clarion-Ledger) might go with it, Meridian might go with it, Channel 3 might go with it," he said. "People were

calling up and asking 'when's the press conference?'"

Most of the news organizations declined to name their initial "tipster," but several indicated it was Spell or Smith, local Republicans or someone closely allied with them.

Young reported that he was contacted by Diana Day, a spokesman for GOP gubernatorial nominee Leon Bramlett. He said she advised him to contact GOP attorney Michael Alfred, who referred him to Spell.

Cliff Treyens, a Clarion-Ledger political reporter, said Day approximately a month ago mentioned "rumors" that Allain was homosexual. On another occasion, Treyens said, he went to the Bramlett campaign office and overheard a lively discussion about the charges among Bramlett staffers, including Day, in the next room.

Lloyd Gray, managing editor of the Sun/Daily Herald in Biloxi, said rumors were not as intense along the Gulf Coast, adding he was told of the documents over the weekend by some-

who called him at home.

Brad Ashmore, managing editor of The Meridian Star, said the paper was contacted by a local citizen who advised them to "call Bill Spell."

The information suggested that "an investigation that was either in progress or had been completed was being made to other members of the media."

He said despite examining the information, that newspaper — like others around the state — had doubts about publishing the story.

"With the magnitude of it, the questionable aspects of the allegations made and where they came from, it caused a great deal of pause at The Meridian Star on the story," he said.

Similarly, Overby said the Jackson newspapers couldn't publish a seemingly self-initiated account of Allain's sexuality.

"The idea of basing a story like this on the word of two or three male prostitutes two weeks before an election just stretched all credibility," he said.

Even after conducting its own Fe-

ductor tests, he said The Clarion-Ledger was doubtful about publishing the story.

"There were a lot of newspapers in the state that had the same information — and made the same decision," he said. "This is the only story I can remember where editors were calling one another to talk about the ethics of the situation."

Overby said that Spell, a former aide to Sen. John Stennis and a politically savvy Jackson attorney, "has played hardball with the best of them — from (former) Defense Secretary Robert McNamara on down."

"I don't believe Bill Spell would do this if he didn't believe it," Overby said. "He was simply willing to put his reputation on the line more than I was willing to put the newspaper's reputation on the line."

But the Jackson attorney insisted the information had to get out — any way possible.

Said Spell: "We simply seek the truth — which I thought was a common trait I shared with the media."



# Party officials react differently to allegations

By CLIFF TREYENS  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

Reactions to allegations Tuesday that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill Allain has engaged in homosexual activities ranged from shock and disgust to indifference by top officials in the state Democratic and Republican parties.

"I deplore the new low of gutter politics that the Republican Party has injected into this race. In my years of political activity, I cannot recall a race of such vicious attempted character assassination and personal attack," said Gov. William Winter. "I reaffirm my unqualified support of Bill Allain."

On the other extreme was Clarke Reed of Greenville, a Republican national committeeman and former head of the state party.

"If it's proven out, I'd say they did the right thing," said Reed, who said he had not seen the information.

Although officials for the state GOP and the Bramlett campaign said they were not consulted about the investigation, they took a hands-off attitude to the entire incident.

"As state chairwoman, I feel my obligation is to Leon Bramlett. We have two weeks out and I intend to spend every moment in a positive manner. I do not intend to be diverted from that goal," said Ebbie Spivey of Canton.

Both Spivey and Reed said they would reserve judgment as to whether the release of the results of the investigation backed by key Republicans was divisive to the party.

"My only answer to you at this point, and I may have a different answer tomorrow, is at this point I believe and my fellow Republicans believe that my role is to promote a Leon Bramlett candidacy. I will fight hard not to have a divided party," she said.

"At this point, I've got nothing to say," Reed said.

Democratic Party Chairman Danny Cupit of Jackson denounced the release of the information.

"I knew those guys were sorry, but I had no idea that they would stoop to this level of gutter politics just to elect their candidate," he said. "This is the lowest and dirtiest campaign that I have ever seen conducted since I've been old enough to vote."

Cupit said he would encourage Allain to file a lawsuit against those who released the information. He scoffed at denials of involvement of the state GOP and the Bramlett campaign.

Party, from page 1B  
"It typifies the irresponsible and repulsive nature of the Republican mentality and attitude," he said. "The (Democratic) support for Allain has not altered one iota. . . . The adversary is making the charge and they're making it in a political context. Nobody in this state would think that Billy Mowinger has done this out of spiritual reasons. The whole thing is subject to doubt."  
Jackson oilman Billy Mowinger was identified by Spill as one of the investment's backers. Mowinger is a long-time Republican activist and financier of GOP campaigns.  
Independent gubernatorial candidate Charles Evers called the charges "unbelievable, un-Christian and unparliamentary."  
He declined to comment on what af-

fect the charges would have on the campaign. Some have speculated that Evers' presence in the race could prevent any one candidate from getting a majority of the vote. The state constitution requires that the election be decided by the state House of Representatives in such a case.  
Evers would not speculate as to whether the Bramlett campaign or the Republican Party were behind the investigation. However, he said, he believes it was entirely "politically motivated. . . . It looks very sticky to me, especially when he (Bramlett) started talking about this family thing," Evers said.  
Asked if the claims would affect his campaign, Evers said, "Let's see what's going to come out of it."



# Allain denies charges in emotional speech

By TOM OPPEL  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

NEW ALBANY — In his most emotional and personal speech of the 1983 campaign, Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill Allain denied and condemned charges by opponents Tuesday that he is a homosexual.

Branding the charges "damnable, vicious, malicious lies," Allain, speaking at the eighth state Democratic Party victory rally, blamed the "slandering remarks" on pre-election Republican "Watergate tricks."

"You get down to 13 days before an election and somebody looks at a poll that was taken . . . what will some people do to get elected governor in the state of Mississippi?" said Allain, referring to his own recent polls that have shown him as much as 38 percentage points ahead of GOP nominee Leon Bramlett.

"How long, how long will the people of this state put up with this kind of politics?" Allain asked the crowd of about 200 north Mississippians in the Union County Courthouse.

"On Nov. 8, (the voters are) going to have to decide whether they want someone who's going to get jobs for the people, who will come out for an education system second to none, who is going to fight the problems we have, who has served the people of this state or whether they're going to say, 'We're going to turn our back on you because of some innuendo and false statements,'" said an angry and visibly tired Allain.

The Democrat was accompanied to the rally by four armed security men because of recent death threats, according to several top Allain supporters.

Allain's speech, interrupted several times by sustained applause, blended a discussion and defense of his personal life — including his

1978 divorce — with the fiery, battling rhetoric that highlighted his campaign in the Democratic primaries.

"The bombs and the bullets in Korea (where Allain served in the military) didn't get me. I don't believe somebody throwing a football over in Clarkdale can do it," Allain said, referring to Bramlett, a former All-America football player from Clarkdale.

Allain said he had tried to run a positive campaign focusing on the issues of jobs, education, high utility rates. But, he said, "at every turn I continue to hear these same allegations."

The Democratic nominee, as he did during a statewide rally in Jackson Sunday, noted that he had married in 1964 a woman who had three children from a previous marriage and "helped raise those children."

Because their father died when they were young, two of those stepchildren "think of me as their father." The third child, he said, was "murdered at 18" after two escaped convicts whom he picked up hitchhiking shot him in the head. That statement about the killing of his stepson was the first time he has ever publicly discussed that subject.

"I know about the problems of raising a family," Allain said, referring to Bramlett's charge that he did not understand family problems.

Allain said his divorce came because "I was a workaholic," while adding that the separation was "amicable." He said he has even spoken to his former wife in the last few days.

Allain was joined at the rally by Lt. Gov. Brad Dye, who is seeking re-election; attorney general nominee Ed Pittman; secretary of state nominee Dick Molpus and state Democratic Party Executive Director Randy Patterson.



# A look at the cast of players

Here is a look at the cast of characters behind the allegations of homosexuality leveled at Bill Allain.

■ **BILL SPELL SR.**, 57, the point man in the allegations, is a political chameleon. A supporter of Democratic candidates going back to the 1950s, Spell has a framed personal note from Sen. Barry Goldwater, perhaps the most Republican of Republicans, hanging on the wall of his law office.

"That's why people ought to know why this is not a political maneuver on his part," Spell's wife Donna says of her husband's televised press conference Tuesday, in which he aired the allegations about Allain.

Besides working in the gubernatorial campaigns of the late Charles Sullivan in 1958, 1963 and 1973, Spell spent seven years in Washington, D.C., as press secretary to Sen. John C. Stennis.

■ **BILLY MOUNGER**, 57, is one of the men identified by Spell as financing the \$19,000 investigation. He is the millionaire owner of Delta Royalty Co. Inc., a Jackson-based oil company, and a member of the board of directors of the holding company for Deposit Guaranty National Bank.

Mounger has been a longtime source of money for Republican candidates in Mississippi, including Loran Bramlett and former U.S. Rep. Jon Hinson. Bramlett has reported \$14,300 in contributions from Mounger so far in the campaign.

A Mississippi delegate to GOP national conventions from 1968 to 1980, Mounger also served as finance chairman for the state Republican Party from 1965 to 1978. He currently holds no post with the state GOP organization.

Close friends describe Mounger as having "very strong convictions" against homosexuality. Close associates say he began the investigation of Bill Allain for political reasons "but was horrified by the facts that came forth."

■ **VICTOR P. SMITH**, 58, is another of the men who financed the investigation. He is the owner of Smith Production Co., a Jackson-based oil firm. He is also involved in real estate and homebuilding and owns the two Maranatha Christian bookstores in Jackson.

A native of Hazlehurst, Smith is a veteran contributor to Republican campaigns, although his wife, Mildred Smith, said Tuesday he has contributed to Democrats and is more interested in individual attributes than party affiliation. Smith has contributed \$11,000 to the Bramlett campaign, according to Bramlett's disclosure reports. Mrs. Smith has contributed \$1,000.

Mrs. Smith said her husband "agonized" over the decision whether to make public the allegations about Allain. She said she and her husband discussed the investigation "all along."

## in Allain political drama

he hoped Mr. Allain would gracefully step aside when he this information had been gathered," Mrs. Smith said.

■ **NEAL CLEMENT**, a Jackson oil man, described by Spell as having been one of the principals involved in the investigation. Clement has contributed \$2,500 to the left campaign.

■ **REX ARMISTEAD** provided to the paid investigation a statement saying Jackson police officers told him they only saw Bill Allain in an area of Jackson where male prostitutes solicited customers.

Armistead lives in Lula, a small town north of Clarksdale, at an unlisted telephone number. However, friends said he had been a former investigator for the Mississippi Highway Patrol and was instrumental in setting up the organized unit of the attorney general's office in the 1970s.

Armistead apparently started his career as a constable in Lula. A statement released Wednesday, Allain called Armistead a major component of this calculated smear campaign aimed that Armistead in a 1975 court case "admitted the past he had killed nine people."

■ **DONALD R. JOHNSON**, 21, of Pearl. Known by the name of Donna, he is one of the three male prostitutes allegedly had sex with Allain.

He has given police three or more different ages and at least two different addresses so a judge would not be aware of his string of prior convictions when sentencing him, according to police sources who asked not to be identified.

City court records show Johnson has been arrested at least 11 times since November 1980, mostly for soliciting prostitution and once for carrying a concealed weapon.

Police sources described him as one of the better known male prostitutes in the city and a man who had served time in the State Penitentiary at Parchman for armed robbery in 1979 or 1980. Police sources also said he has a hotel burglary conviction on his record.

■ **GRADY L. ARRINGTON**, 24, of Jackson, known on the street as Nicole Toy, is another of the three prostitutes. He has been convicted of a false pretense charge in 1979 and paid a \$100 fine. That same year Jackson police arrested him on a burglary in Simpson County and released him to police in that county.

■ **DAVID J. HOLLIDAY**, 24, of Jackson, known as David Ross, is the third prostitute. He has been convicted of shoplifting and served six months in an alternative detention program. He also was arrested in 1979 for grand larceny and was freed a \$1,000 bond. Court records show no disposition of the grand larceny case.



# Bramlett's funders fling accusations of 'gay' at Allain

By JAMES YDUNG

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Miss., Bureau

JACKSON, Miss. — Backers of Republican gubernatorial candidate Leon Bramlett yesterday capped an extensive rumor campaign with a press conference accusing Democrat Bill Allain of engaging in homosexual behavior.

While Bramlett, campaigning in Greenville, attempted to keep his distance from the controversy, Jackson attorney William E. Spell Sr., a Bramlett supporter, was unveiling the results of an investigation financed by some of the GOP nominee's biggest political contributors.

Allain, on the gubernatorial campaign road in Northeast Mississippi, branded Spell's charges "damnable, vicious, malicious lies."

"I'm no sexual deviant and Leon Bramlett knows it," Allain said. "Apparently, Mr. Bramlett's campaign feels that they can bring Watergate tricks to Mississippi.

But I don't think we are that kind of state."

Bramlett said in Greenville that the charges would have "no bearing on how I'll conduct myself as a candidate and nothing to do with the issues of the campaign."

Over the last two weeks, as Bramlett stepped up his efforts to make Allain's unmarried status — he is divorced — an issue, his supporters have circulated rumors that a revelation was pending.

Over the weekend, a reporter for The Commercial Appeal was

(Continued on Page A3)



# draw strong Allain denial

(Continued from Page A1)

referred to Spell by Bramlett's press secretary and by the general counsel for the Mississippi Republican Party.

Spell, who has provided questioning reporters with some of the work produced by Pendleton Detectives of Mississippi, held a press conference in Jackson yesterday after briefing a crowd of religious leaders, reporters and businessmen in Columbus at a meeting arranged by Bramlett supporter Fred Beard. The group also held a meeting last night in Tupelo.

The Jackson attorney and former advertising executive, who was an adviser to Cliff Finch when Finch was governor, charged that the investigation, financed by three of Bramlett's top financial backers and some persons he refused to identify, had developed "clear and convincing evidence that establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Attorney General Bill Allain, over a period of years, frequently has engaged in homosexual acts with male prostitutes."

At the heart of Spell's case is what he said are sworn statements from four male transvestite prostitutes, two of whom charge they had sexual relations with Allain on a number of occasions.

Two of the male prostitutes, who frequent an area near downtown Jackson, also took polygraph tests that Spell said indicated they were telling the truth.

The rest of the material, which Spell contended corroborated the prostitutes' stories, included unsworn statements from a police officer who said he had seen Allain driving slowly in the area near downtown Jackson. The material also included unsworn statements from repairmen who said they had seen "in Mr. Allain's apartment pornographic items and activities consistent with homosexual activity."

Spell said during the press conference yesterday that the investigation began about one month ago, prompted by recurring rumors about Allain.

"Some guys came to me and said they had heard so many rumors they felt it was a good idea to at least trace those rumors to their source," he said during an interview earlier this week.

The group, Spell said, included three Jackson oilmen and others who did not want their names to be associated with the investigation.

"It doesn't make any difference who financed it, it's whether it's true or not," Spell maintained during yesterday's Jackson press conference when pressed for a full disclosure of persons initially involved in promoting the investigation.

Jackson oilman Victor Smith, who has contributed \$11,000 to Bramlett's campaign, participated in the meeting at Columbus yesterday. Spell identified oilmen W. D. 'Billy' Mounger, a \$14,200 Bramlett contributor, and Neal Clement, a \$5,000 contributor, as some of the sponsors of the investigation.

The month-long investigation, which Spell said is continuing, has cost about \$10,000, he said.

The four male prostitutes who gave sworn statements — identified as David Holliday, Grady Arrington, Donald Ray Johnson and one known only as "Madam" — are being offered "protection" by the sponsors, Spell said.

"Madam" received a \$300 "finder's fee" for steering Holliday to the detective agency, Spell said, and the two had received \$100 to clear up business in Jackson before they were moved to another city.

Spell said all four prostitutes are being given \$12 a day for food and hotel accommodations and \$50 a day "for lost income."

Some sponsors of the investigation "said they really felt a deep obligation to try to determine what the truth was" about Allain, Spell said.

"It was originally conceived by a small number of individuals who were perhaps more politically motivated than anything else," Spell said at the press conference.

Persons in the group, he said, are motivated by "political and moral and spiritual" concern, related at least in part to the controversy surrounding former Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Miss.).

Hinson, a former congressional aide, disclosed in the midst of his 1980 re-election race that he had been arrested in connection with homosexual activity in Washington a few years earlier.

After saying that he had overcome personal problems, Hinson won a second term. But in January 1981, Hinson was arrested on a morals charge in the restroom of a House office building in Washington and eventually resigned his post in Congress.

"Some of the others (sponsors of the current investigation) said that inasmuch as they had been party to giving Mississippi Jon Hinson, they'd had enough of that sort of thing," Spell said in a Monday interview.

Spell said yesterday he had not helped spread rumors about the Allain investigation, which produced statements from one prostitute about sexual relations with an unnamed legislator.

But while he denied any link with the rumor campaign, Spell said he had participated in "four or five or maybe six" briefings, speaking to groups of 25 to 150 persons about the investigation.

Variations of the rumors have



Comm. Appeal

10-26-83

been circulating around the state for more than a week, and newspapers have received calls asking if anyone had scheduled a press conference to publicly reveal the investigation results.

After pursuing those rumors for a few days last week, a reporter for The Commercial Appeal was contacted by Diana Day, Bramlett's press secretary, who advised him, "You need to call Bill Spell."

Jackson attorney Michael Allred, general counsel for the Mississippi Republican Party, contacted a friend on the staff of The Commercial Appeal in Memphis about the investigation, and the message was relayed Saturday afternoon to the newspaper's Jackson, Miss., bureau.

Allred said Saturday afternoon that he preferred that his name not be associated with the investigation and that he didn't want the statements to become known as the "Allred affidavits."

Allred referred a reporter to Spell, who made some of the investigation material available to the newspaper during a meeting

that lasted about two hours Monday.

Spell said Bramlett, who had been advised when the investigation began developing evidence, attempted to discourage further efforts.

Spell expressed surprise yesterday when asked what reasons Allred and Miss Day could have had for referring a reporter to him.

Before Spell's Jackson press conference, Bramlett, campaigning in Greenville, maintained his distance from the investigation or efforts to spread rumors of it across the state.

"I have heard rumors and different reports at different times," Bramlett said.

Asked about the involvement of some of his largest financial contributors in sponsoring the investigation, Bramlett said it had "nothing to do with how I conduct myself as a candidate."

Meanwhile, in Northeast Mississippi, Allain said, "There is not an ounce of truth in the charges."



# Allain denies charges in emotional speech

By TOM OPPEL  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

NEW ALBANY — In his most emotional and personal speech of the 1983 campaign, Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill Allain denied and condemned charges by opponents Tuesday that he is a homosexual.

Branding the charges "damnable, vicious, malicious lies," Allain, speaking at the eighth state Democratic Party victory rally, blamed the "slandering remarks" on pre-election Republican "Watergate tricks."

"You get down to 13 days before an election and somebody looks at a poll that was taken . . . what will some people do to get elected governor in the state of Mississippi?" said Allain, referring to his own recent polls that have shown him as much as 33 percentage points ahead of GOP nominee Leon Bramlett.

"How long, how long will the people of this state put up with this kind of politics?" Allain asked the crowd of about 200 north Mississippians in the Union County Courthouse.

"On Nov. 8, (the voters are) going to have to decide whether they want someone who's going to get jobs for the people, who will come out for an education system second to none, who is going to fight the problems we have, who has served the people of this state or whether they're going to say, 'We're going to turn our back on you because of some innuendos and false statements,'" said an angry and visibly tired Allain.

The Democrat was accompanied to the rally by four armed security men because of recent death threats, according to several top Allain supporters.

Allain's speech, interrupted several times by sustained applause, blended a discussion and defense of his personal life — including his

1978 divorce — with the fiery, battling rhetoric that highlighted his campaign in the Democratic primaries.

"The bombs and the bullets in Korea (where Allain served in the military) didn't get me. I don't believe somebody throwing a football over in Clarkdale can do it," Allain said, referring to Bramlett, a former All-America football player from Clarkdale.

Allain said he had tried to run a positive campaign focusing on the issues of jobs, education, high utility rates. But, he said, "at every turn I continue to hear these same allegations."

The Democratic nominee, as he did during a statewide rally in Jackson Sunday, noted that he had married in 1964 a woman who had three children from a previous marriage and "helped raise those children."

Because their father died when they were young, two of those stepchildren "think of me as their father." The third child, he said, was "murdered at 18" after two escaped convicts whom he picked up hitchhiking shot him in the head. That statement about the killing of his stepson was the first time he has ever publicly discussed that subject.

"I know about the problems of raising a family," Allain said, referring to Bramlett's charge that he did not understand family problems.

Allain said his divorce came because "I was a workaholic," while adding that the separation was "amicable." He said he has even spoken to his former wife in the last few days.

Allain was joined at the rally by Lt. Gov. Brad Dye, who is seeking re-election; attorney general nominee Ed Pittman; secretary of state nominee Dick Molpus and state Democratic Party Executive Director Randy Patterson.



**BILOXI** — For a second year, part-time city councilman, political pressure hit Bill McManus hard in the spring of 1963.

McManus, elected a year earlier to represent Biloxi's 6th Ward in its mayor-council form of government, faced an angry group of constituents who demanded that he oppose a zoning change that would allow construction of a condominium project adjacent to their homes.

Even though his was not the deciding vote, McManus refused, subjecting himself to ridicule and possible political trouble when the project was approved. During the fray, he was denied admission to a meeting of citizens in his own ward.

"It would have been easy politically for me to fight it," the 33-year-old McManus says now. "But you can't split the city. You've got to make the decision on how it affects the city as a whole."

Bob Carroll, president of the 4th Ward Civic Association who is rumored to be a council candidate in 1965, disagrees. "His job is to represent popular

The McManus story is only one of many that has made headlines during Biloxi's 23 months under the mayor-council form of government, but it illustrates this:

If Jacksonians are searching for a government with citizen involvement, the mayor-council form could be the answer. But if they want a government without controversy, they should look elsewhere.

"That's healthy in a Democratic process," says Mayor Gerald Blensley, a strong advocate of the mayor-council government. "It attracts more controversy, but that's better than doing nothing."

"If you do nothing, things don't stand still. They get worse."

Biloxi voters chose in 1978 to switch from its commission government, in which a mayor and two full-time commissioners were elected at large, to the mayor-council form. The new government was touted to be more efficient and to give all citizens — particularly minorities — greater access to their leaders.

The city was split into seven wards of

duced Biloxi's first black elected official since Reconstruction.

Since then, debate about the the mayor-council setup has revolved around these questions:

■ Does the new government really open City Hall to the citizens?

■ Is the position of mayor too powerful?

■ Is the mayor-council form more efficient than the commissioner form?

■ Do blacks have a greater voice with one black councilman who depends on their vote rather than three commissioners, all of whom depend on their vote?

■ Should council members vote according to the wishes of their constituents regardless of how the issue affects the whole city?

Blensley says the new government does involve more citizens. "I think it definitely attracts more participation," he says. "Sometimes it takes longer to arrive at a consensus, but the consensus holds better."

Blensley, whose \$45,000 mayoral salary is the highest in the state, makes no apologies for his power and says the

# Allain story cast journalists into

You learn to expect the unexpected in the newspaper business, but this past week surprised even hard-bitten journalists.

It was not enough that we were waging war on two different continents. There was a war unfolding in Mississippi, a very personal war of words and bitterness and spinners.

Charges that Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill Allain has frequently bought sexual favors from male prostitutes have rocked Mississippi. No matter what Allain or his Republican opponent Leon Bramlett do in the next few days, this election will be a referendum on the homosexual charges and on smear politics.

Some will vote against what they consider dirty politics by Republicans. Some will vote against what they consider immorality by Allain. Some will not vote out of disgust for it all.

People have widely divergent viewpoints about the charges but have responded in amazingly similar tones. The most common reaction has been this: "Isn't it terrible?"

If you're unsure of what you think or wary about offending someone, just shake your head and offer these words: "It's terrible, isn't it?"

No matter how you assess it, the charges — unlike any leveled in recent history — have changed the way Mississippians are viewing this governor's race.

This campaign will show up for years to come in case studies around the country on journalistic and political ethics.

The charges have given readers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of how newspapers gather news and how they react



Charles Overby

to "leaky" from news sources.

Starting on Oct. 14, Jackson lawyer Bill Spell Sr. began giving documents relating to the charges to selected news people. The documents were masterfully prepared.

On a background basis, Spell was straightforward and open in his explanations. He didn't flinch about disclosing that Republican money was behind the investigative effort. He was willing to make the prostitutes available for on-the-record interviews and corroboration.

I suppose I was the first news person that Spell approached, mainly because The Clarion-Ledger and Jackson Daily News are the two largest newspapers in the state and because we worked together 11 years ago in Sen. John Stennis' office.

Clarion Ledger Sun Oct 30



professor. intended to (have) a strong ex-  
" Blessy says. "The only folks  
e upset are those who thought it  
re a weak executive or didn't get  
creative they wanted."  
executive that some wanted was  
Barbanovich, who served as city  
commissioner until he lost to  
in the 1981 mayor's race.  
anovich, who now owns a proprie-  
ty on the beach, says he didn't ap-  
p on the change in government and  
a mistake when he didn't fight it  
y. "The City Council has pretty  
turned into a rubber stamp for  
you," he says. "I'm not at all sat-

ed, the council has given Blessy  
of what he has requested, includ-  
ing for street-and-drainage re-  
a hospital in the city's diseased  
own district and money to in-  
staff salaries. He has initiated  
egulation, leaving the council to  
r disagree with his choices.  
North Ward Councilwoman Mar-  
Sherry, who may challenge Elic-  
the 1985 mayor's race, has disas-  
tion, and frequently has been on

part-time council members, who are  
paid \$4,500 annually, give the mayor  
and his staff too much responsibility  
and don't do enough themselves.  
"If you don't get people who know  
what they're doing, they can be led very  
easily," Sherry says. "They tell me  
'Getald's so smart, if he says it's good,  
then it must be.'"  
Michlunas favors a reduction from  
seven wards to five and wants to make  
the council job a full-time occupation.  
"They could communicate with each  
other a little more closely and could  
generate some of their own legisla-  
tion," he says.

A change to five wards would lessen  
the salary increase needed to produce  
full-time councilmen. City salaries al-  
ready are a sore spot with Sherry, who  
contends the city spends too much on its  
employees.  
The city now spends about \$6.3 mil-  
lion annually for its 418 employees,  
compared to \$5.2 million for 443 work-  
ers two years ago. At least 15 city work-  
ers make more than the \$29,808 Mayor  
Jerry O'Keefe was paid when he left of-  
fice in 1981.

Blessy says that the salary struc-

ture for salaried employees. "We don't  
have an accountant in city government  
when we took over," he says. "This  
form of government reorganizes the  
government along corporate lines, and  
it allows you to run it like a business."

Blessy says the streamlined govern-  
ment — the city cut 67 employees and  
reorganized into five departments with  
directors who report to the mayor —  
has resulted in "better efficiency and  
better delivery of services."

In Biloxi, blacks have not often had a  
representative to demand their share  
of those services. But the mayor-coun-  
cil form resulted in a black representa-  
tive for the city's 2nd Ward, Michael  
Esters, who was killed earlier this year  
and has been replaced by Bill Stall-  
worth.

One vote does not constitute a major-  
ity, but Stallworth says that "one man  
in seven is a better voice than no men in  
three."

"This form of government does pro-  
vide more representation, a better  
voice," Stallworth says.

Barbanovich isn't so sure. "They've  
got one person looking for (the black).  
Continued on page 2F

# high-stakes game of chicken

shed the documents over the weekend and called Spell  
day, Oct. 27. I told him flatly that we wouldn't run the

re I wasn't going to risk the reputation of The Clarion-  
and Jackson Daily News on the words of three prosti-  
I couldn't believe Spell was going to risk his

phone began to ring almost immediately. Friends and  
stances called to tell me they were disappointed that I  
zing on the story. Some questioned my motives.

I genuinely were confused by our unwillingness to pub-  
charges.  
I have a reputation for aggressive investigative re-  
g," said one caller. "What has happened to your hold-

re is good reason why we are not in the business of in-  
sting people's sex habits. One reason is it is nobody  
business. The second is you can't document sexual pref-  
erence the way you can stealing a car engine.

engines have serial numbers. Sexual activity doesn't.  
I persisted. He said the prostitute angle made it a hot  
story because prostitution is a crime. He said the  
is were going to come out, whether we ran them or not.  
I with our top editors and political reporters. We decid-  
ed The Clarion-Ledger investigative team — headed by  
our Prize-winning project editor Lee Cearnal — would  
evaluate the charges.

is investigation, which involved independent poly-

graph tests of the three prostitutes and dozens of post-mid-  
night interviews in the Mill Street area, gave credibility to the  
charges.

Still we didn't publish. Most of the corroborating informa-  
tion still was based on the words of prostitutes. That wasn't  
good enough, even though we had spent several thousand dol-  
lars gathering facts for a story we declined to run.

Spell knew that we had administered polygraph tests to the  
prostitutes but he didn't know the results. Only four people  
knew and we weren't telling. Most of the media was waiting  
on the word from us, formal or otherwise.

Spell pressed hard, knowing the results of our polygraph  
tests might persuade another newspaper or television station  
to go with the story. Everybody sat tight.

Spell and his advisers decided they could wait no longer.  
Spell went public on Tuesday, telling the media officially  
what they all already knew unofficially for at least a week.

Our polygraph tests were useful because they at least gave  
us some measure of how to react when Spell went public with  
his charges.

In a political campaign, all sides are trying to use the me-  
dia for their advantage. As long as we recognize that and are  
equally skeptical of everyone, from Bill Aikin to Bill Spell to  
Leon Bramlett, readers can make up their own mind.

Charles Overby is executive editor of The Clarion-Ledger  
and Jackson Daily News.



# Nobody knows who will be hurt the most

A loose cannon has been unleashed in Mississippi politics with the charges of homosexual behavior made against Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill Allain. Nobody can predict now who will be its victims. Almost universally, the reaction has been one of disgust about the entire episode, a feeling that Mississippi politics is becoming mired deeper in the mud than ever before.

No matter who wins the governor's office, there will be a cloud over the victor — a cloud which will be almost impossible to remove the next four years.

If Republican Leon Bramlett should win as a result of these bizarre disclosures — which cannot be, and are not being, separated from his campaign in the public's mind — it could be such a Pyrrhic victory that his administration could be doomed from the start.

Allain, no matter the intensity of his denial that the allegations are untrue, has already suffered some loss of public esteem. Whether or not that will be reflected in a significant change of voter attitudes will probably not be known until the votes are counted Nov. 8.

My initial impression is that the deviant sex charges hurled at him have not cost him the election, but have caused his once-comfortable lead to drop several percentage points.

Some are wondering now if he has lost enough to prevent him from getting a clear majority, thereby losing the election in the Mississippi House where the governor would be selected by state representatives under the obscure electoral college mechanism in the 1890 constitution.

In that regard, some Democratic state legislators who ardently dislike Allain for "messin'" with their double-dipping system of serving on state boards were delighted with the revelations because they now figure they have a chance of beating him. Or if he does win, he would be so compromised that he could not bother them.

There is indication also that fellow state office candidates on the Democratic ticket are putting a little distance



Bill Minor

between themselves and Allain all of a sudden. The other night at a Democratic unity rally in New Albany this writer observed that Lt. Gov. Brad Dye took off in a hurry after asking for votes for himself and nobody else immediately after Allain spoke.

The tendency of the Mississippi electorate for some years has been to react adversely to late attacks in a gubernatorial campaign, rejecting the attacker and rewarding the attacked.

But in this case, because the accusations involve conduct fundamentally disapproved of in Mississippi, and because many are reminded of the Jon Hinson experience, Allain has been forced to convince the people there is no validity to the accusations. That puts him very much on the defensive, where a candidate never wants to be in the final two weeks of a campaign.

The elaborate dossier of aberrant dalliance on Allain put together by professionals, financed by Republican bankrollers who may have been well-meaning, shows the extent to which money mixed into partisan politics can go.

Among those who played key roles in preparing and making the allegations public are three names which give the whole bizarre episode the trappings of a grade-B mystery movie about Mississippi politics — Bill Spell, Rex Ar-

mistead and Shelby Johnson.

Spell, the front man for the disclosure, is an ex-newspaperman who has been in and around the fringes of the political arena the last 20 years or so. He was hired on by Sen. John Stennis in the '60s to build Stennis an image with segregationists and ward off a threat of him being unseated by How Barnett. Spell came back to the state as an advertising executive in 1971 to mastermind Lt. Gov. Charles Sullivan's supposed cinch gubernatorial election.

The only trouble was Spell didn't know blacks could vote in Mississippi, and Bill Waller came from nowhere to whip Sullivan with black votes. More recently, Spell sold himself to Cliff Finch as an expert on organization, but after bringing in a team of retired military officers to get key slots in the Finch administration, Spell wound up out in the cold.

Armistead was (and still is) a Delta plantation owner whose penchant for playing cops and robbers brought him into state law enforcement jobs including chief investigator for the Highway Patrol under Gov. Paul Johnson and later Gov. John Bell Williams. In recent years he was with a regional organized crime information center in Memphis. His contemporaries regard him as something of a self-styled "Kojak" who aspires to be top man at the Highway Patrol if he could get Leon Bramlett elected.

The final irony is Shelby Johnson, until a few months back a Jackson police officer who seemed to be on hand several years ago when prisoners died or were badly beaten while in custody. Johnson, who provided a damning statement on Allain for the Spell disclosures, happens to be the son of former governor Paul Johnson.

In the land of magnolia-scented politics, the wind seems to be shifting, and the odor is not refreshing.

Bill Minor is a syndicated columnist who has been covering Mississippi politics for the past 35 years.

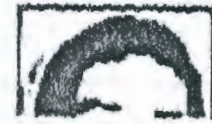
BILL AI

Clarion Ledger Sun. 10-30

# The rumors were a time bomb just waiting

Less than a week ago, most Mississippians had little idea that anything besides Bill Allain being divorced and Leon Bramlett saying a family man should be elected governor was going to be in the election spotlight.

When I closed my column last week, I predicted that the campaign would become nasty in the last three weeks.



Wayne

of taking kickbacks on a housing program. Reed was state GOP chairman and Mouton was state finance chairman at the time. Reed and Mouton refused to take lie detector tests.

Homosexual rumors about Allain did not crop up in just the past few weeks. Even four years ago when Repub-

Other Allain's a moosexual a long tin Evelyn G The



# Spell wants independent test for Allain

By WANDA CANTRILL  
Clarion-Lodge Staff Writer

Jackson lawyer Bill Spell said Friday that Attorney General Bill Allain should "have the courage and candor" to take an independent polygraph examination in response to allegations he has had homosexual relations with male transvestite prostitutes.

In vehemently denying the allegations Thursday, Allain said he would take a lie detector test set up by his attorney and would release the results before the Nov. 8 election.

Spell said Friday that Allain's test plans are "a continued effort to de-

ceive. It is totally unobjective. It will be nothing more than a meaningless piece of political propoganda.

The least he can do is to have the same candor and courage as those who made these allegations have had and submit himself to an objective, third-party expert polygraph examination. If he does anything less than that, the results will be totally unbelievable."

Spell said the three men who claim to have had sex with Allain submitted to and passed lie detector tests, then also took and were reported to have passed tests given by an independent polygraph expert employed by The Clarion-

Lodge.

Allain issued a statement immediately following Spell's press conference. "Not since the days of Sen. Joseph McCarthy or Adolph Hitler has the big lie technique been used with such reckless abandon as by Bill Spell in this campaign. I refuse to even dignify Mr. Spell's latest spatterings with a reply."

Spell also called on Allain to immediately file the libel suit he has threatened, a suit Allain said may take several weeks to prepare.

A libel suit "bothers no one associated with this effort," Spell said. "Truth is an absolute defense to libel. We would

appreciate it if he would file it this afternoon."

"It is a very simple matter to file a libel suit," Spell said, suggesting that Allain attach Spell's public statement to denial and file the suit.

Crymes-Pittman, Allain's attorney said, "The defendants will not dictate when and how we file our suit." Pittman also said Allain's polygraph test will be set up soon but declined to give details.

Spell said at the news conference that the filing of a lawsuit would enable his group to subpoena material it need. See Spell, back page this section.

## Spell

In its investigation of Allain,

Pressed for information on witnesses other than the three prostitutes who have given statements and taken polygraph tests, Spell said police officers who claim to have seen Allain in the inner-city area are collaborating witnesses.

Spell has said his "clear and convincing evidence" against Allain includes "statements of police officers that they observed Mr. Allain in a pattern of conduct consistent with solicitation of male prostitutes and inconsistent with conduct reasonable for any other purpose."

Information from Spell earlier this week contained a statement from one former police officer, but Spell has not named other officers who he says have

given information to the investigation.

Spell said his investigation, which is being financed by several backers of Republican candidate Leon Bramlett, is continuing "with all deliberate speed to develop the facts."

He referred to the controversy as "rather a pathetic situation and I think he (Allain) is entitled to some sympathy."

In his response, Allain said Spell "is not my judge. Three bribed male prostitutes with criminal records are not my judge. My opponent is Leon Bramlett and my judges are the people of Mississippi."

"From now on, let Mr. Spell stand in a corner and talk to the wall because I'm not listening."



### State

*Allyson to a.c.*

### Judge to decide

From Staff and Wire Reports

## Allain seeks attorney to handle lawsuit

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill Allain is planning to hire a nationally prominent attorney to handle his suit against a group that alleges he has engaged in homosexual acts.

Allain's campaign treasurer, Steve Patterson, says the Allain campaign is about to take an offensive rather than defensive tack. He called the offense more legal than political.

Saturday, Patterson said that part of Allain's delay in filing suit stems from the search for an attorney. Edward Bennett Williams of Washington, an attorney who owns the Washington Redskins, is reportedly under serious consideration and has been contacted. James Neal of Nashville, who was special prosecutor in the Senate Watergate hearings, also has been mentioned.

Patterson says that "truth squads" of Allain supporters may be dispatched to help garner support for Allain. Longtime friends would offer testimonials about Allain, the state's attorney general.

Although Allain's Republican opponent Leon Bramlett has tried to separate his campaign from the source of the allegations, Patterson said Bramlett "signaled it through his own media campaign."

Jackson attorney William Spell presented allegations that Allain has participated in homosexual activities with transvestite male prostitutes and released their testimony to the news media. Allain offered to take a lie detector test to clear his name of the allegations, which he called vicious lies.

## Poverty in state profiled

WASHINGTON — A new U.S. Census Bureau profile of the nation's 635 congressional districts shows Mississippi's second congressional district ranking as one of the districts with more than 30 percent of its population living below the poverty line.

The second congressional district has 34.3 percent of its residents living below the poverty level.

In addition, Mississippi was included in a list of districts with 50 percent or more black population. The same congressional district, District 2, has 53.7 percent black residents.

## Police seek identity of body

Police Sunday had not identified the body of a man that was found in a creek Saturday morning, but Hinds

By LEIGH HOGAN  
Northwest Mississippi Bureau

STARKVILLE — A circuit judge will hear testimony today on whether Intoxilyzer results are admissible evidence of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Circuit Judge Ernest Brown of Brooksville must decide whether the Intoxilyzer currently being used by 177 law enforcement agencies in the state to determine blood alcohol concentration meets the letter of the Implied Consent Law.

Should Brown rule that it does not, "it would have a great impact" on law enforcement in Mississippi, said Bruce Breland, former director of the Implied Consent Branch of the Department of Public Safety.

What may be a loophole in the state's DUI law will be argued by Starkville attorney Ben Hibbs in a pretrial motion in a combined case of three Mississippi State University students charged with DUI. The cases are on appeal to the Oxfordshire Circuit Court.

At the hearing, Hibbs argued that Intoxilyzer results are not admissible evidence of driving under the influence.

"Any person upon the public streets of this state is given his or her right of testing of his or her blood alcohol content by the state."

Hibbs argued that Intoxilyzer results are not as accurate as a breathalyzer test.

On the other hand, the Department of Public Safety argued that Intoxilyzer results are as accurate as a breathalyzer test.



*Clarion-Ledger Monday 10-31*



# The rumors were a time bo

Less than a week ago, most Missisippians had little idea that anything besides Bill Allain being divorced and Leon Bramlett saying a family man should be elected governor was going to be in the election spotlight.

When I closed my column last week, I predicted that the campaign would become nasty in the last three weeks. Like most every journalist in the state and many political activists, I knew that the homosexual allegation against Allain was a time bomb that was going to go off at any time.

Here are some random observations on the fast-moving events:

Initially, many Missisippians were as disgusted with those making the homosexual charges as were disgusted with the actual charges.

In the early going, how far the voters would move was anyone's guess. Some Allain voters were obviously ready to jump ship while others became firmer in their support. Other voters shifted into neutral. Not many Allain voters went all the way to Bramlett.

Even some ranking Republicans were not ready to predict that the election tide had swung in Bramlett's favor. Prior to the allegations, the race was not considered nip and tuck. The gap between Allain and Bramlett was too large to change with charges that many people suspected of being gutter politics from a desperate campaign.

The final resting place of voters may not be determined until Nov. 8, but other developments could change assumptions at any moment.

Leon Bramlett challenged Bill Allain to take a lie de-



**Wayne  
Weidie**

lector test. Perhaps Bramlett should take a similar test. Bramlett initially claimed no prior knowledge of the homosexual investigation and press conference by Bill Spell Sr. Whatever the outcome, few voters will believe Bramlett is "Clean Gene" concerning strategy that could seriously backfire on his campaign.

Attorney Spell, who called the press conference to make the homosexual allegations, is not a dummy. Those who know Spell suggest that he hasn't put all his cards on the table.

Thursday Allain volunteered to take a lie detector test before the election. His acceptance of Bramlett's challenge surprised Bramlett and the Republicans.

More on Bramlett's lie detector challenge — a number of years ago Republicans Clarke Reed and Billy Moninger were falsely accused by Republican political en-



# mb just waiting to explode

eries of taking kickbacks on a housing program. Reed was state GOP chairman and Moulger was state finance chairman at the time. Reed and Moulger refused to take lie detector tests.

■ Homosexual rumors about Allain did not crop up in just the past few weeks. Even four years ago when Republican Charles Pickering ran against Allain for attorney general, some Republicans claimed Pickering had the information but refused to use it. Most journalists heard the rumors early in Allain's term when it became obvious he would be a candidate for governor. The stories grew weekly in the current campaign. The rumors loomed larger as it became obvious that Bramlett's only chance for a Nov. 8 win was a personal attack on Bill Allain's character.

■ More than a few newspapers and TV stations resented the way Republicans tried to play off the media. Journalists were told if they didn't print or broadcast the story that it would be given to someone else. Others were told they were being offered an exclusive, only to learn that many others had already been offered the same material and backed off. Overall, the state's media showed excellent restraint.

■ Despite the fact that Mississippi has made great progress in racial relations, because the allegations involve black homosexuals, the political effects could be stronger.

■ Within a few hours after Spell made his allegations public, one political veteran told me that Allain had to file suit within 24 hours or he was politically finished. Allain announced plans to file suit, but that's different than actually filing before the general election.

■ Others were suspicious of the Republican's timing. If Allain's attackers were on a moral crusade to expose homosexuals in government and the rumors were known for a long time, why did they wait until Mike Sturdyant and Evelyn Gandy were out of the race?

■ The talk about none of the candidates receiving a majority and the election being thrown to the Mississippi House had died down until the recent allegations. If Allain can't recover, this is now a real possibility. According to state officials, it is too late to substitute another Democrat nominee even if Allain would have to withdraw. If the election goes to the House, the legislators are limited to casting votes for the top two finishers in the popular vote.

■ Some say legislators would still vote for Allain if the election were tossed to the House. If Allain is further discredited, it would pave the way for Brad Dye to move up if Dye wins re-election as expected.

■ If Allain can't show the allegations to be false before the general election and most people are still unsure of the Republican charges, some voters may remember the Jon Hinson affair. Hinson was given a second chance, was re-elected and later fouled up again.

■ Richard Nixon's final fall was not because of the Watergate burglary, but because of the subsequent lies and cover-up action. The truth now overshadows the homosexual allegations. Either Bill Allain or his Republican challengers are not telling the truth. The Nov. 8 outcome will rest on who the voters believe is telling the truth.

*Wayne Weidie is publisher of the Ocean Springs Record.*