

Prosecution gives final words on Douglas trial

By Brad Gifford
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The prosecution rested its case Monday afternoon in the trial of Attorney General Paul Douglas. Earlier an accountant told the court that Douglas would have had to pay more income taxes if he had reported all money he received from Marvin Copple, former Commonwealth Savings Co. vice-president.

Special prosecutor Kirk E. Naylor said he would call no more witnesses after Fremont accountant Steven L. Hull's testimony. Naylor hired Hull to audit Dou-

glas' 1980 tax return and bank statements.

Douglas' returns showed that he received a \$1,293 tax refund, Hull said, but he would have paid \$2,592 if he had reported two payments from Copple totaling \$7,500.

Douglas is charged with perjury because he did not tell the Legislature's Special Commonwealth Committee about the money, which Hull said Douglas received in two payments — one of \$5,000 and the other of \$2,500. He also faces obstruction of government operations charges.

Hull testified that the payments

were not on Douglas' 1980 return.

In a sworn statement Douglas did not tell Commonwealth investigators David Domina and John Miller about any direct payments from Copple. Douglas told Miller and Domina that he had received payment for work he had done for Copple through real

estate transactions.

Douglas later testified before the Committee that he had received \$32,500 in direct payments, but failed to mention the other \$7,500.

Richard Kopf, the Commonwealth Committee's attorney, testified that he discovered the

direct payments when he received a letter from Douglas before Douglas' committee appearance. In the letter, Kopf said that Douglas acknowledged the \$32,500 in payments from Copple and that Douglas said he intentionally withheld that figure from Domina and Miller.

Banker commends modern services

By Gene Gentrup
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

West Coast banker Bruce Roberts was in Lincoln Monday as part of the American Bankers

Association's attempt to better educate American consumers on banking benefits.

Roberts, president of the Bank of Loleta in Eureka, Calif., is one of about 70 banking executives

from across the United States who serve as ABA banking advisers.

As an adviser, Roberts said his job is to inform consumers on the economy and banking, using the media as his podium. No public speeches are planned during his two-day stop in Nebraska, but Roberts said he encourages consumers interested in banking to watch the local news and newspapers to keep informed on current banking issues and services.

Roberts said one of banking's main concerns in Congress is the restructuring of the financial services industry. Last summer, the Senate passed a bill permitting banks to offer real estate brokerage services, sell stocks and bonds and underwrite municipal revenue bonds. The bill has not passed the House of Representatives.

Roberts said consumers should take advantage of new ways of "getting the most for your money." He said banking through automated teller machines (ATMs), point-of-sale (POS) electronic shopping, direct deposit programs, check safekeeping and no-frills checking accounts are some of the most recent trends in banking.

Modern technology is making it easier, faster and less expensive to bank, buy and borrow, Roberts said. He said consumers should talk to bankers to see what services are available that best meet their lifestyles.

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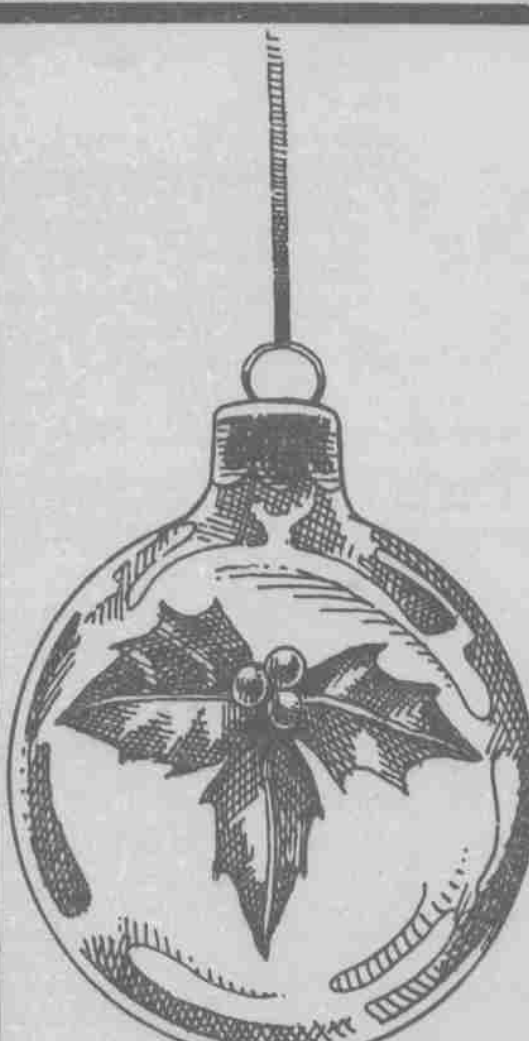
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