

3-28-1987

Personal Finance

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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Recommended Citation

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015), "Personal Finance" (2015). The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum: Education, African Americans Repairs Education, African Amer. Racial Inequities (1987). *Series 13: Personal & Biographical 1944 - 1989*. Series 13, Box 11, Folder 10559. Paper 137.
http://digitalscholarship.tsu.edu/mla_personal/137

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Archer, Brooks listed among wealthiest area congressmen

By JAMES R. PIEROBON

Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Houston-area House members run the financial gamut from a nine-term millionaire to an eight-term congressman who may owe more money than he owns, reports to the House clerk show.

Near the top and one of the wealthier members of the entire 435-member House is Republican Bill Archer of Houston. Archer, who represents most of west and northwest Harris County and was first elected in 1970, listed no liabilities at year-end 1986 and assets totaling more than \$1.2 million.

Democrat Jack Brooks of Beaumont, the cigar-smoking senior member of the Texas delegation, ranks with, if not higher than Archer, on the dollar scale. He listed assets of at least \$915,000 which could be worth several times that amount. Brooks reported liabilities between \$550,000 and \$1.1 million.

Congressmen are not required to disclose an exact tally of their outside income, transactions, assets or liabilities. House rules permit them to report the financial figures in wide-ranging categories, from which actual dollar values cannot be determined.

At the opposite extreme is Democrat Charles Wilson of Lufkin whose liabilities outweighed his assets, excluding a principle residence he may own, by between \$140,000 and \$440,000. House members are not required to report the value of first or second homes in the

annual financial reports.

Wilson chose to sell his share of two Washington town houses — two of the four assets he listed on his report — to reduce his indebtedness.

At least one second-term House member from the Houston metropolitan area exhibited a growing propensity to capitalize on some of the perquisites of congressional life by speaking to interest groups in return for "honoraria."

Republican Tom DeLay of Sugar Land accepted \$500 or \$1,000 honoraria for speaking to grocers, truckers, commodities traders and the Virginia Pest Control Association, among others. As the former chairman of Texas-based Albo Pest Control Inc., who still owns a sizable stake in the firm, DeLay reported assets between \$115,000 and \$300,000 and no liabilities.

Republican Mac Sweeney of Wharton, who, like DeLay, was first elected in 1984, listed no such speeches because, his spokesman said, he was not given any such "opportunity." But, the spokesman said, Sweeney is looking forward to accepting many speaking engagements this year and in 1988.

Sweeney's only asset, \$2,500 to \$5,000 of stock in the Paine Webber Group, just about matched his sole liability, a loan between \$2,500 and \$5,000 from a hometown bank. Sweeney reported receiving just under \$20,000 of Paine Webber stock from "family," in 1986, some or all of which he may have sold.

Democrat Mickey Leland, who represents downtown Houston and many

of the surrounding neighborhoods, set out to improve his admittedly spotty investment record by purchasing numerous bank certificates of deposit and buying into a partnership that owns the Ramada Inn Riviera at 2929 Southwest Freeway.

Leland's investment record may be surpassed by his wife Alison, who purchased all or portions of Midtown Live Inc., a restaurant at 5245 Buffalo Speedway; and Rage Inc., an "entertainment center" at 11383 Fondren.

Leland reported that his family's assets and those from a trust tied to his mother's estate totaled between \$65,014 and \$191,000. Leland's liabilities were between \$110,019 and \$336,000.

Joe Barton, a Republican from Ennis who represents Montgomery County and other counties between Houston and Fort Worth, listed assets between \$80,000 and \$200,000 and liabilities of at least \$15,000 but less than \$50,000.

After moving his family from Ennis to McLean, Va., when he was first elected in 1984, Barton sold the home about a year ago. A spokesman said his wife and children wanted to return to Ennis.

Republican Jack Fields of Humble reported assets of at least \$530,000, including a portion of his family's funeral home business, and liabilities ranging between \$70,000 and \$165,000.

The other Houston-area congressman, Democrat Mike Andrews, listed assets of \$150,000 to \$350,000 and liabilities of \$70,000 to \$165,000.

Lawmakers have good reason to speak out

Outside speeches earn congressmen nearly \$88,000

By JUAN R. PALOMO
Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Your congressmen love to sing for their supper. More accurately, they love to talk for some extra cash.

Financial disclosure forms released Thursday show the nine Houston-area lawmakers were paid close to \$88,000 during 1986 to speak, mostly to special interest groups.

More than half of that money went to Reps. Charles Wilson, D-Lufkin, and Mickey Leland, D-Houston.

Wilson accepted \$24,000 in speaking fees — \$1,470 more than the law allows him to keep. To take care of that problem, Wilson turned over the extra money to charity — a widespread practice.

Congressmen can keep money from speaking fees as long as the total does not exceed 30 percent of their \$75,100 annual salary.

Leland was right behind Wilson, earning \$23,600 in 1986 — \$1,070 more than he is allowed to keep. Although the statement does not show Leland donating the surplus to charity, an aide said an amended form was filed Wednesday showing the money was donated to the Hester House in Houston.

Rep. Jack Fields, R-Humble, took in \$17,200 in speaking fees and Rep. Tom Delay, R-Sugar Land, accepted \$10,300. They kept all of it.

Speaking fee totals for other Houston area lawmakers are: Mike Andrews, D-Houston, \$6,200; Jack Brooks, D-Beaumont, \$3,000; Bill Archer, R-Houston, \$2,400; and Joe Barton, R-Ennis, \$1,000. None shows they gave any of it away.

Rep. Mac Sweeney, R-Wharton, didn't collect any speaking fees. In addition to their salaries, most congressmen have outside incomes.

The list includes a couple of millionaires — Brooks and Archer — and several others who, while not millionaires, are certainly wealthy by most Houstonians' standards.

Of the 27 Texans in the House, three others are millionaires, all Democrats: Reps. J.J. "Jake" Pickle of Austin, Marvin Leath of Marlin and Ralph Hall of Rockwall.

At the lower end is Sweeney, who claims the value of his assets and his liabilities — other than his home, car and personal property

FINANCES AT A GLANCE



REP. MICHAEL ANDREWS
(D-Houston)

ASSETS
\$150,000 to \$350,000

LIABILITIES
\$70,000 to \$165,000

NET WORTH
\$80,000 to \$185,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Real estate, common stock in financial institution.



REP. WILLIAM ARCHER
(R-Houston)

ASSETS
\$1,236,536.93

LIABILITIES
None

NET WORTH
\$1,236,536.93

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Common stock in utilities and banks, municipal bonds, real estate, limited partnerships, certificates of deposit.



REP. JACK BROOKS
(D-Beaumont)

ASSETS
\$2,008,000 to more than \$3,190,000

LIABILITIES
\$500,000 to more than \$850,000

NET WORTH
\$1,508,000 to \$2,340,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Bank stock, real estate, trust funds, limited partnerships.



REP. TOM DELAY
(R-Sugar Land)

ASSETS
\$115,000 to \$300,000

LIABILITIES
None

NET WORTH
\$115,000 to \$300,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Exxon stock, pest control company.



REP. JACK FIELDS
(R-Humble)

ASSETS
\$530,000 to more than \$950,000

LIABILITIES
\$70,000 to \$165,000

NET WORTH
\$460,000 to \$785,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Stock in family's cemetery and funeral home, contracting company; real estate and rental property.



REP. MICKEY LELAND
(D-Houston)

ASSETS
\$561,000 to \$1,255,000

LIABILITIES
\$350,000 to \$800,000

NET WORTH
\$211,000 to \$455,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Stock pool investment, partnership in night club and entertainment center, certificates of deposit.



REP. MAC SWEENEY
(R-Wharton)

ASSETS
\$15,000 to \$50,000

LIABILITIES
\$15,000 to \$50,000

NET WORTH
0 to \$35,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Common stock in Paine Webber Group.



REP. CHARLES WILSON
(D-Lufkin)

ASSETS
\$300,000 to \$755,000

LIABILITIES
\$240,000 to \$645,000

NET WORTH
\$60,000 to \$110,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Rental property, bank and other common stock.



REP. JOE BARTON
(R-Ennis)

ASSETS
\$80,000 to \$200,000

LIABILITIES
\$15,000 to \$50,000

NET WORTH
\$65,000 to \$150,000

NATURE OF INVESTMENTS
Common stock in business firm, oil company

Note: Assets exclude principal residence, cars, personal property.

— are about equal.

Leland, who in 1985 had his assets in a blind trust and therefore was not obliged to detail them, last year took off the blindfolds to reveal that his wide-ranging investments have paid off handsomely, giving him a net worth of between \$211,000 and \$455,000.

His outside income — including speaking fees and his lawyer-wife's salary — was at least \$60,602. It could have been more than \$130,600 — depending on how

much his wife earned from E.F. Hutton. The previous year, Leland only reported earning some \$15,000 in speaking fees, plus his wife's salary.

In addition to owning common stock in a wide variety of companies, Leland or his wife are part-owners of the Ramada Inn Riviera on the Southwest Freeway, the Midtown Live jazz restaurant on Buffalo Speedway and the Rage entertainment center on Fondren.

Unlike most members of Con-

gress, Archer voluntarily attached a detailed report listing, to the penny, all his assets and outside income. He reported no debts. His biggest holding is a quarter interest in Archer Associates, a limited partnership, worth \$267,198. His total assets — \$1.24 million — were worth \$132,000 more in 1986 than they were in 1985, Archer reported.

Brooks reported an increase in his net worth of at least \$156,000. His net worth was in the range of

\$1.4 million to more than \$2.3 million in 1985. Last year it was in the range of \$1.5 million to more than \$2.3 million.

Among his holdings: a cabin on a 16-acre tract in Virginia.

At the lower end of the scale, Sweeney reported stock in the PaineWebber Group worth between \$15,000 and \$50,000. But he also reported a personal loan from the Wharton Bank and Trust of between \$15,000 and \$50,000.

The only other Houston area

Post chart by Gladys Ramirez congressman to report receiving any gifts was Barton, who said he was given a \$125 Cotton Bowl souvenir watch by the Texas A&M athletic department.

House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Fort Worth, reported assets in the range of \$205,000 to \$540,000 against liabilities of \$75,000 to \$180,000.

Wright's outside income, ranging from \$106,114 to \$269,108, included \$6,108 in retirement pay from the Air Force.