important announcements we just remembered.

Drew Pearson—Jack Anderson

Other 'Bad Boys' Still in Congress

The unseating of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, the Harlem hotshot, raises some awkward questions about other members of Congress who still hold their seats.

What will the House do, for example, about Rep. Mendel Rivers, the powerful House Armed Services chairman whose drinking problem has made him the nation's worst security risk? He has access to the most sensitive secrets of the Defense Department and Central Intelligence Agency; yet, by any security standard, he can't be trusted with classified information.

Pearson

Rivers has also treated the Air Force as his private airline, commuting between his homes in Washington and Charleston and flying off on overseas junkets, often as the sole passenger in a huge Air Force jet.

"I can swear to having seen Rivers board an Air Force transport alone early on a Monday morning to be flown to Washington," an Air Force officer formerly stationed in Charleston, S.C., told us. "I personally saw him do this about six times only, but I am sure he has done it dozens of times from what was common gossip about the base."

The silver-crested Congressman has also accepted favors from defense contractors, including a contribution from Lockheed Aircraft to help erect a monument in his honor in North Charleston. The corporation, whose profits depend upon the military authorizations from Rivers's committee, agreed to pay the balance that local contributors couldn't raise. As it turned out, only $200 was needed, which Lockheed happily tossed in the hat.

Rivers also picks up a gleaming new Chrysler Imperial each year for a token $750 payment. We discovered that the $8,000 car is furnished not by Chrysler Corportation directly but by the Chrysler dealer in Charleston — Simmons Motor Co.

Penrose Simmons, son of the owner, would acknowledge only that Rivers received a discount on his Chrysler.

"Everybody gets cars on a cut-rate basis," said the bull-necked Penrose. "I'll sell you one for $100 above my cost, and you can drive back to Washington."

He didn't offer to let us lease one, however, for $750 a year — the extraordinary deal that Rivers gets.

Later Penrose introduced his father, white-haired Harold W. Simmons, who, without waiting for a question, simply blurted, "You're a g-- d-- liar!" and walked off.

We will be happy to turn over evidence of Rivers's misconduct to a Congressional Committee — if the House should decide to treat Rivers, an insider, the same as it treated Powell, an outsider.

Note: The conduct of another House chairman, also from South Carolina, should also be investigated. He is Rep. John McMillan, chairman of the District of Columbia Committee, who has used his political influence to arrange locations in D.C. buildings for a vending company in which he is interested.

He also helped insurance salesman Don Reynolds get the performance bond on the $21 million D.C. Stadium. Reynolds previously had arranged the bank mortgage on McMillan's home in Arlington, Va., and had obtained a Ford convertible for him.

After the stadium deal, Reynolds purchased a Cadillac for the Congressman. Not until the Washington Post began snooping into the Cadillac purchase did McMillan hastily send Reynolds two belated checks repaying the $5,100 purchase price.

Communist party leaders, meeting behind closed doors recently at New York City's Wellington Hotel, agreed to seek a third-party "peace" candidate to back for President in 1968.

They would prefer a distinguished non-Communist, dedicated to stopping the Vietnam war, whose organization they might infiltrate and perhaps take over.

Gus Hall, the party's general secretary, assured his fellow comrades at the secret session that the "war and peace" issue had contributed to the political defeat of the Democratic party in many areas last November.

He called upon the party to combine its campaign for peace with its campaign for civil rights. Hall also instructed Communist party members to join in all demonstrations against President Johnson's policies.

The Red leader warned that the party is not yet "over the hill" in its troubles with the federal government and predicted President Johnson would launch a "massive" attack against the party. To avoid this, he said the Communist party must "appeal to the people."

At the secret meeting, party theoretician Herbert Aptheker urged that party funds be sent to support student rebels at the University of California in Berkeley. He boasted that his daughter, Bettina, had been active in stirring up the students.

Anderson

American Ambassador Wymberley Coerr recently complained in a telephone call to the State Department that Sen. Allen Ellender, D-La., the Senate's most determined globe-trotter, had descended upon our Quito embassy and disrupted his staff with petty questions. They had given the Senator detailed briefings, but he still wasn't satisfied.

Richard Phillips of the embassy staff even made a telephone call to the State Department in Washington for a special document to placate the Senator from Louisiana.

Sen. Ellender, incidentally, rivals Adam Clayton Powell as a globe-trotter and has brought back a small museum of African spears, Grecian urns and Chinese silks from his travels.

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