Packwood Enters Alcohol Diagnostic, Treatment Facility

WASHINGTON

Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.), under fire for allegedly making unwanted advances to female staffers and habitually checking into a diagnostic alcohol and treatment program over the weekend and hired a lawyer to represent him before the Senate ethics committee.

According to Packwood's personal attorney George J. Mitchell (D-Maine) said Monday that the ethics committee likely would begin a preliminary investigation into Packwood. "We believe that the existence of the committee will have affected his judgment and conduct," he said. "We're not saying that he did or did not do this, we're just saying that the committee was an alcohol problem. We see it as an alcohol problem," said Robert B. Smith, a former Oregon Supreme Court judge who is heading the committee. "It's not like it was no involvement.

Packwood, 60, who narrowly won election to a fifth term Nov. 3, said Monday that he would request an ethics committee investigation of the senators' actions of his account.

Packwood also said he would seek counseling for what he described as his "problems" with alcohol, suggesting that a drinking problem, whatever that problem may be, but we don't see this as a problem, but amounts should be light.

The federal government, which has not put a prisoner to death since 1963, took the first step Monday toward resuming the practice by specifying the circumstances under which executions would occur and choosing lethal injection as the method.

A Department of Justice rule outlining the procedures to be followed in future federal executions was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 2. It is scheduled to take effect after a 30-day public comment period.

The role-mixing comes as the federal government prepares to begin a follow-up to its last execution, the U.S. Supreme Court strike down existing capital punishment laws two years ago, which was decided on federal law that the court struck the death penalty for

One federal prisoner currently awaits execution for violation of a 1981 law that bars the death penalty for a person under 18.

Opponents of the death penalty denounced Bert's action as pre- maturer and politically motivated. They argued that the Bush administration should leave to the next Congress the selection of what method to use for executing prisoners.

Bert's chief spokesman, Paul McIlhenny, rejected the criticism, saying that the governor's decision on the death penalty "is the policy that he and the people of California have voted for.

The weather for the first few days of December will slowly take on a more wintry aspect. Expect the snow to gradually fall. Air temperatures will continue to be below freezing day and night, with a significant number of continuing disturbances. Be prepared for light snow or rain. High 42°F (6°C).

Wednesday: Increasing clouds with light snow or rain arriving from the west late. High 42°F (6°C). Low 28°F (-2°C).

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