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A22, Col. 1

Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger wrote Attorney General Edwin Meese III last August complaining about a high Justice Department official's comments on the relationships between Pentagon procurement officials and defense contractors.

In an interview with the Associated Press yesterday, Weinberger said he did not know about the investigation until it was revealed last week and did not have any suspicions of wrongdoing before leaving office last November. [Details, Page A13.]

A statement issued by the Pentagon yesterday said that former Navy secretary John F. Lehman Jr. was "not briefed" on the investigation either. Published reports have

See PENTAGON, A12, Col. 4

what weapons systems, procurement programs or specific defense contracts generated the alleged fraudulent activity and bribery.

It is unknown whether the controversial Unisys project is a subject of the widening Justice Department inquiry. However, information gathered by The Washington Post in recent days from federal records, congressional testimony and reports, and interviews with lawmakers, consultants, and other knowledgeable sources regarding the Unisys procurement, sheds light on the close relationships between key legislators, consultants and defense contractors and how

See TIES, A12, Col. 1

ant as Victim Earlier Traumas

rd, was dictated to me by the
ice officer," Bolding said in a
-hour interview yesterday in the
enbelt office of her attorney. "It
like, 'Come in and take a
no.' I think [the letter] is why a
of people aren't 100 percent
vinced that I'm innocent."

he names and the writing—in
form of a letter of apology to
son of Elinor Dickerson—tem-
urily became the most incrim-
ing evidence against Bolding
convinced many that the critical
nurse must have done some-
g to cause her patients at
ce George's Hospital Center to
cardiac arrests.

See BOLDING, A16, Col. 1

mpphony's Mitchell Dies

Howard Mitchell, who was con-
tor of the National Symphony
chestra for 20 years, died yes-
day at age 77. Page D6

WASHINGTON HOME

A Washington couple builds a
fortable farmhouse on irreg-
city lot surrounded by alleys.
Inside the Weekly

Manassas Developer Barred From Wetlands

U.S. Order Sets Project Back, Battlefield Preservationists Say

By D'Vera Cohn
Washington Post Staff Writer

In a preliminary victory for preservationists seeking to block construction of a giant shopping mall and office park near a historic Civil War battlefield, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ordered the developer of William Center yesterday to halt work on wetlands at its Manassas site.

The cease-and-desist order was only part of what opponents of the project had requested—they wanted to shut down all construction on the 542-acre site—but it represented their first success in a protracted struggle with the developer, Hazel/Peterson Cos. Preservationists estimate that at least 50 acres of the site are wetlands.

Hazel/Peterson plans to build shops, office buildings and houses on the property, but that plan could be halted or severely modified as a result of the corps' intervention.

"I believe the decision of the corps has grave and negative implications for the developer," said Harold Himmelman, a lawyer representing a coalition of preservationists and Civil War buffs trying to stop the development of William Center.

Because the mall would have a major impact on wetlands and federal law presumes that wetlands must be protected from development, "I believe it is going to be impossible under the corps and [Environmental Protection Agency] legal provisions for this sort of shopping mall ever to be placed at this site," Himmelman said.

Robert Kelly, a spokesman for Hazel/Peterson, said construction at William Center is not going on "in anything that could be identified as wetlands." The main activity right now, he said, is digging a tunnel under I-66.

"When we receive the letter telling us specifically what it is they want us to do, we will of course do it."

See MANASSAS, A16, Col. 1

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Warner Plan Could Hinder Va. Project

MANASSAS, From A1.

Kelly said. "We're not quite sure where or what we're supposed to cease and desist."

However, a corps letter to Hazel/Peterson cited two recent inspections and specifically ordered the developer to halt construction at Young's Branch, a stream running through the property, and on its adjacent wetlands. The developer is building a road across Young's Branch, the corps said.

Word of the corps' intervention came on the same day that Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.) entered the fray after weeks of silence. He offered legislation that would deprive Hazel/Peterson of direct access to the project from a proposed I-66 interchange, a proviso that also could have a detrimental impact on the project. Warner's proposal failed in a Senate transportation appropriations subcommittee yesterday, but he said he plans to reintroduce it before the full Appropriations Committee.

Officials from the Corps of Engineers state office in Norfolk telephoned Hazel/Peterson on Tuesday to deliver the cease-and-desist order, which was followed yesterday with a letter signed by District Cmdr. J.J. Thomas.

Corps spokesman Bill Brown said the order was issued because the developer had violated a provision of corps rules requiring that the Army be notified that the work could affect a historic property: the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Himmelman said that any construction that would have a significant impact on wetlands would require a difficult-to-obtain permit from the corps, a process that would include public hearings and detailed scrutiny by government agencies.

Brown said the corps considered the cease-and-desist order to have taken effect with Tuesday's telephone call.

The acres of wetlands are scattered throughout the development site, according to preservationists.

The Second Battle of Manassas was fought in and around the site of the planned megacomplex, which would include a 1.2 million-square-foot shopping mall, 1.7 million square feet of office space and 560 houses.

John T. (Til) Hazel, one of the area's most prominent developers, has described the site as historically insignificant. Most members of the Board of County Supervisors are enthusiastic about the proposed development, seeing it as a way to raise the county's tax base and increase the county's stature.

But opponents have said that William Center would desecrate the battlefield site and destroy a delicate environment of beaver dams and rare plants.

Staff writer John F. Harris



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