

'Lack of Supervision'

McGovern Chastised by State

A state health official said Tuesday the Escambia County mosquito control program "has suffered from lack of proper supervision" and instructed director E. E. McGovern to drop outside activities and devote full time to his job.

The instructions were in a letter to the Escambia County Commission from J. A. Mulrennan, director of the State Health Board's Bureau of Entomology.

"The director is paid with funds directly from this office and he has not been authorized to participate in other programs

of the county," Mulrennan wrote.

"Therefore, it will be indicated that if his salary is to be financed by this office that he give full time to supervising and directing the arthropod control program which has suffered from lack of proper supervision," Mulrennan said.

McGovern never was mentioned by name in the letter.

McGovern has been acting director of Pensacola-Escambia County Civil Defense and heads the Escambia County Search and Rescue Unit. Both are non-paid positions.

At one time the county commission had announced plans to hire McGovern as full-time, paid director of city-county Civil Defense and McGovern had said he would resign from his state job to take the post.

However, the county later decided against creating the new position and didn't budget funds for it because, commissioners said, Congress had failed to vote matching federal funds for Civil Defense.

He was not available immediately for comment.

Commissioners said they re-

gretted that McGovern was forced to give up the search and rescue work.

"The organization has done a wonderful job under McGovern's direction," commission Chairman A. S. Cobb said. "It will be difficult for the volunteers to find a replacement who will provide as good leadership."

Mulrennan said he hoped the commission can effect changes and follow recommendations in the mosquito control program by Oct. 1.

The program is jointly financed by the county and state.

The director is a state employee under the state merit system.

"It is apparent from copies of correspondence from the clerk of the court, from discussions with A. P. Asby, internal auditor for the State Board of Health, and with recent conference with Dr. J. E. McSween (director of the city - county health department which is in charge of the arthropod control program locally that it is incumbent on this office and the Board of County Commissioners that steps be taken to greatly

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A)

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

tighten up the entire management of the arthropod control program in Escambia county," Mulrennan wrote.

"This office has been aware that the director was involved to a degree in civil defense," he said. "I recently informed him to divorce himself from this activity as soon as possible.

"I was not aware that he was tied up in a program of rescue work involving ambulances and other vehicles which are stationed and work out of the arthropod control facilities," Mulrennan said.

Mulrennan said it will be indicated that the director completely divest himself of any county administrative or operational program.

"The arthropod program should be operated as a separate entity in order that this office can be assured that the entire arthropod operations are in conformity with the law, as a joint state-county operation," he wrote.

Mulrennan said his second recommendation is that the director is not to leave the county

on official travel status until and unless he has obtained a recommendation from Dr. McSween and the recommendation is approved by Mulrennan's office and finally confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners.

"The third, and last recommendation, if it has not already taken place, would be that all purchases and other encumbrances required by the arthropod control program be under the direct supervision of the Board of County Commissioners in their purchasing department, and that the individual responsibility for the stockroom, the using of supplies, equipment, parts gasoline, oil, insecticides and the receiving and accounting for all materials, supplies and insecticides, be directly responsible and accountable to the board or its designated representative other than the director of the arthropod control program," he said.

Last month, Circuit Court Clerk Joe Flowers revealed that McGovern may have been overpaid \$1,775 in salary supplements. He asked commissioners

to decide whether McGovern should refund the money.

McGovern has said he will refund the money if it is determined he should.

Flowers had told commissioners the \$1,775 had accumulated the last three years because McGovern's supplement had not stopped when it should have on Jan. 1, 1959. It had been authorized in 1954 by the State Board of Health.

Flowers told commissioners he was unaware McGovern had been receiving the supplement until he got a call last May from Dr. McSween asking why he had received a check for \$50. Flowers said Dr. McSween was told it was for his supplement and had been mailed because it had not been picked up at the courthouse by McGovern "as in the past."

The doctor, according to Flowers, said he thought the supplement had been discontinued.

Flowers said both Dr. McSween and McGovern said the money was intended for McGovern.

McGovern later said he had endorsed Dr. McSween's name to some of the checks "as a matter of expediency." He said some had been endorsed in that manner as far back as 1955.

McGovern said he assumed McSween knew he was signing them. "He'd sign them one month, I'd sign them the next. If he was handy he'd sign them. If he wasn't I would."

Dr. McSween said he had never authorized McGovern to sign the doctor's name to supplement salary checks.

McGovern said, "I feel that the money I drew in salary was justly due me, but if the board (county commission) decides I have received money not due, I will gladly refund the county."

Commissioners referred the matter to County Atty. Jack Greenhut. The attorney apparently has not yet made a recommendation.

65 Gather at Meeting

Businessmen Back Fiesta: 'It's a Good Investment'

By GEORGE ELLIS

Three Pensacola businessmen Tuesday night described the annual Fiesta of Five Flags as "a definite success" and "a sound advertising investment" at a dinner meeting at Martine's Restaurant.

A native son, a "newcomer" and the first Don Tristan de Luna of the fiesta all praised the annual event as the "best advertisement that Pensacola has ever had." About 65 business, industrial and civic leaders and

tions between U.S. Navy personnel and the citizens of Pensacola. Plans are now in the making, Welles said, to celebrate in 1964 the establishment of Pensacola as the first Naval Air Station in 1914.

Vince Whibbs, another local franchised automobile dealer, described himself as the "newcomer" to the city.

He said he came here three and one-half years ago to learn about the area so that he could "sell" some automobile dealer on the idea of establishing a