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MISSING PHEY GETS THE SACK

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# MISSING PHEY GETS THE SACK

## Warrant of arrest issued against him

NTUC president Mr C. V. Devan Nair yesterday announced the NTUC's intention to sack Phey Yew Kok from all posts he holds in the trade union movement following his failure to turn up in court in the morning when his case involving over \$100,000 in union funds was to be mentioned.

In a statement, made a few hours after being told of Phey's failure to appear in court and the issue of a warrant of arrest against Phey, Mr Nair said it would appear that Phey had jumped bail.

## 'Very emotional'

He said: "In these circumstances, the NTUC as well as the Singapore Industrial Labour Organisation and the Pioneer Industries Employees Union must completely dissociate themselves from what appears to be a flight from the law on Mr Phey's part.

"The NTUC and the two unions will therefore be obliged to dismiss Mr Phey with immediate effect from all the posts he holds in the three organisations."

He added that emergency meetings would be held today to formally dis-

miss Phey.

In the morning, when Phey did not show up in a magistrate's court, his counsel, Mr H. E. Cashin, told magistrate Mr Khoo Oon Soo that the last time he saw Phey was on Dec 31 and Phey was "very emotional and upset."

Mr Cashin told the court he had not been

able to contact him since then despite ringing his home and writing him a letter.

## Collapse

Last Saturday, Mrs Phey went to Mr Cashin's office and said Phey had not been home since New Year's Eve. She was "in a state of near collapse," Mr Cashin said.

Counsel applied to the court twice to be discharged but Mr Khoo replied that the court could not grant his application until Phey was present.

A warrant of arrest was issued against Phey after one of the two bailors for Phey told Mr

Khoo that he had no idea where Phey is. The other bailor was not in court.

Phey faces six charges involving more than \$100,000 in union funds. Four charges are of criminal breach of trust and the other two are under the Trade Unions Act.

Phey, who is also MP for Boon Teck, is the chairman of the NTUC and general-secretary of three unions — Silo, PIEU and the Singapore Air Transport-workers' Union.

## Intention

On Dec 3, Mr Nair announced at a press conference that Phey had tendered his resignation from Silo and PIEU and also indicated his intention to quit the NTUC post as "he did not wish to be a source of embarrassment to the unions."

But on Mr Nair's recommendation, the resignations were held in abeyance.

The executive council of Satu also similarly decided to hold Phey's resignation from Satu in abeyance and regarded him to be on indefinite leave of absence from his duties.

But yesterday, Mr Nair said the situation has since changed and that the central committee of the NTUC as well as the executive councils of Silo and PIEU will meet in emergency sessions today to formally dismiss Phey from all his posts.

## Interview

Satu, to which Mr Nair was appointed as honorary adviser while Phey's resignation was being held in abeyance, has been advised to take similar action.

Efforts made by the Straits Times yesterday to interview Phey's family on his disappearance drew a blank.

One of the bailors, Mr Phang Tai Mun, alias Phang Tye Man, proprietor of Phang Engineering Works at Kallang Junction, would only say in a telephone interview that the last time he saw Phey was on Dec 11 and that they had no communication since.

On the \$50,000 cash bail he had furnished, Mr Phang said: "I am very, very sad this has happened."

The other bailor, Mr Ham Weng Nam, could not be contacted.

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**PHEY**  
..missing since New  
Year's Eve