

to Bee

BUSINESS

/business

SACRAMENTO

Bolshevik

6.25.05

INSIDE

Citigroup swap

Citigroup Inc. swaps most of its asset-management business for the broker-dealer component of Legg Mason Inc.

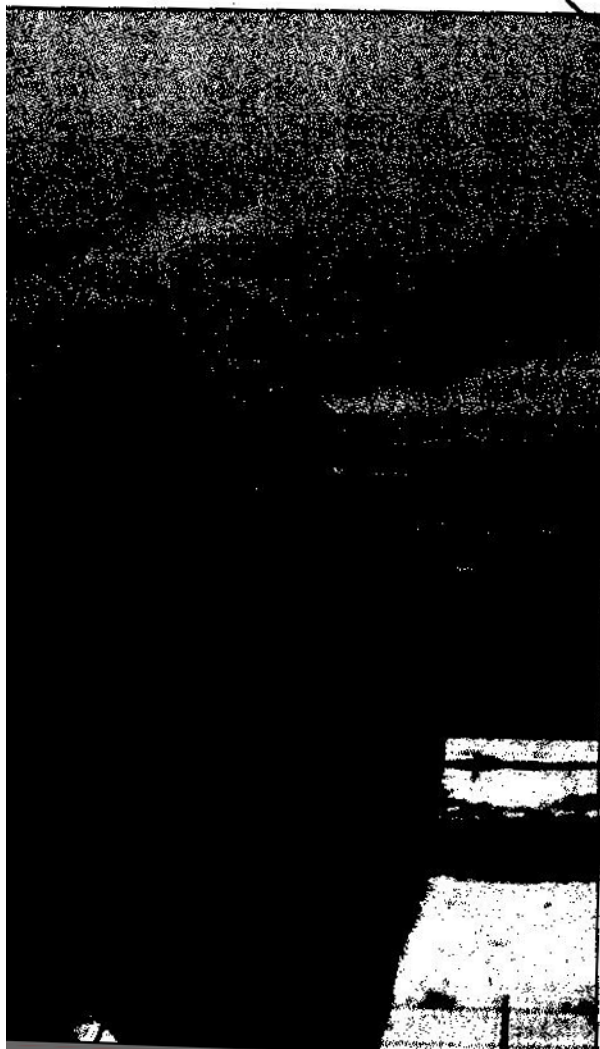
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ASSUMPTION

27.6

billion pounds
2004

Country sees fallout



Verdict cheered by tax evaders

Accountant acquitted of preparing false returns still faces the loss of his license.

By Andrew McIntosh
BEE STAFF WRITER

Tax evaders are crowing over a courtroom victory for accountant Joseph R. Banister, acquitted of helping a client prepare false returns, but the trouble is not over for the former IRS investigator.

The California Board of Accountancy has charged Banister with two counts of professional misconduct under the state's Business and Professions Code because he failed to file his own personal tax returns between 1999-2002.

Banister, a 42-year-old San Jose resident, is facing a second charge after federal Administrative Law Judge William B. Moran disbarred him from practicing before the Internal Revenue Service, saying he was giving taxpayers erroneous advice.

Board of Accountancy executive officer Carol Sigman signed the five-page complaint on Feb. 25, requesting a hearing to determine whether Banister's certified public accountant's license should be suspended or revoked.

Banister, a former gun-toting
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