

Biden says 'malarkey' to jobs at staff costs

DOVER — Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., Thursday night loudly derided recent criticism of congressional staff spending as "a lot of malarkey."

He brought a businessmen's audience to attention with a sharp response to a question suggesting that congressmen were spending too much money on employes and their office quarters. "It always surprises me that those questions come from businessmen," he said.

Biden said members of Congress needed trained staff members to deal with the myriad of issues on which they have to vote, and that staff employes were often crowded into old-fashioned, inadequate quarters. "If you want us to be informed, you've got to pay for it," he said.

Biden was the final speaker at the first congressional dinner of the newly formed Delaware Association of Chambers of Com-

merce. Earlier, Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., and Rep. Thomas B. Evans Jr., R-Del., discussed chiefly economic issues before the same audience.

deaths elsewhere

Actor Jim Boles, known for his characterizations of Abraham Lincoln in more than 50 separate stage, radio and television productions, died Thursday in Los Angeles at the age of 63.

Edouard Van Remoortel, conductor of the Belgian Orchestra and director of the St. Louis Orchestra from 1958 to 1962, died Thursday in Paris. He was 51.

Lela E. Rogers, 85, mother of actress Ginger Rogers, died Wednesday in Palm Springs, Calif. She was a writer, editor and producer.