

## Nixon meeting reassures Meir

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prime Minister Golda Meir said yesterday after meeting with President Nixon that she was reassured of U.S. support in trying to achieve "a true and lasting peace" in the Middle East.

Meir told newsmen Nixon did not pressure her to pull back Israeli forces from positions taken after the initial U.N. cease-fire agreement of Oct. 22.

But, she said, Israel would be willing to discuss with Egypt a straightening-out of the current cease-fire lines. This, Meir said, could involve "moving forces on both sides."

The proposal could provide a way of freeing an estimated 20,000 Egyptian soldiers encircled by Israeli forces on the east bank of the Suez Canal.

Although Meir resisted a public discussion of her hour and 20 minutes with Nixon at the White House, she said she left "confident that the friendship between us will be enhanced and will grow."

"The President assured me that the security and well-being of Israel are a major concern to the United States," she said.

When Meir insisted several times that "there is no pressure" on Israel, a reporter asked why she had come to see the President. "Just to find out that there was no pressure," she shot back.

Nixon, meanwhile, described his meeting with Meir as "very constructive," as he said was an earlier meeting with Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy of Egypt.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said the President's talks with Meir went "very well."

Meanwhile, U.S. officials said they have a "firm understanding" that Israel and the Arab states eventually will negotiate directly with each other for a lasting Middle East settlement. Until now, the Arabs have never been willing to have such face-to-face talks.

Asked why it is in the U.S. interest to

support Israel, Meir replied: "Why should it be so surprising that a big power should not want to see a little power dumped into the sea?"

Meir is visiting the United States seeking assurances that her country's interests will be safeguarded as the United States and the Soviet Union oversee exploratory talks designed to enforce U.N. ceasefire agreements and pave the way for negotiations on a lasting peace agreement.

Egypt, Syria and other Arab foes of the Jewish state consistently have opposed direct negotiations with it. U.S. officials in reporting such talks were in the offing would not say where they would be held or even whether the Arabs had specifically agreed.

Meanwhile, as the diplomatic pace accelerated, these officials indicated that Kissinger may meet with Mohamed Zakaria Ismail, the deputy foreign minister of Syria. Washington has no diplomatic relations with Damascus, but any substantive agreement between Israel and her neighbors would have to include Syria, which along with Egypt, was a principal Israel foe in last month's war. The meeting presumably would be held here before Kissinger leaves Monday for Cairo and other Arab capitals.

However, in New York, the Syrian minister told a reporter: "I know of no meeting with Kissinger." Syrian officials reiterated earlier in the week that they would not negotiate with Israel and that the only solution to Middle East problems is a complete withdrawal from all occupied territories.

In another development, Robert J. McCloskey, a State Department spokesman, said the United States has discussed in meetings with Meir and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy a possibility of opening a corridor to the Egyptian 3rd Army encircled by Israeli troops on the east bank of the Suez Canal.

McCloskey said neither Egypt nor Israel has agreed. The proposed corridor would allow supplies to reach the trapped Egyptians.

Israeli forces opened fire yesterday on Egyptian tanks and infantry that moved out of the circle of Sinai Desert in which Israel has cut off the Egyptians, the Israeli military command said.

But the incident apparently did not upset the general calm prevailing on the Suez Canal front. A U.N. supply convoy continued to ferry food and medicine across the canal to the third army, and Egyptian and Israeli army officers met again to discuss the prisoner of war question, a military spokesman said.



Photo by Ed Pala

Birds of a feather...

...flock together on this tree outside Willard. See related story on the activities of the State College Bird Club, page 10.

## President suspected tape missing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The person who first suspected that a critical Watergate conversation was missing from a White House tape was President Nixon himself, presidential lawyer J. Fred Buzhardt said yesterday.

Earlier it was disclosed in court that presidential aide Stephen V. Bull had checked out in mid-July a recording made that day—April 15, 1973. It was also in mid-July that former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman received a batch of recordings from Bull.

The court hearing was called to determine the circumstances of a White House claim that a tape of Nixon's April 15 conversation with ousted White House counsel John W. Dean III and an earlier tape never existed.

Buzhardt attempted to show with three witnesses that there was so much conversation on April 15—an extra-busy day in the Watergate crisis—that the tape ran out on the unattended, automatic recording device in the President's office.

Buzhardt thus changed the story slightly from Wednesday, when he disclosed that two of the nine subpoenaed recordings were never made. He said then that a switching device malfunctioned in the case of the late-night conversation with Dean.

"The President was reviewing the tapes himself," Buzhardt told a reporter after court, placing the time within the last two weeks. "He's the first one that didn't find it (the Dean tape)."

"He called me in and said 'you check it,'" Buzhardt said. A detailed search was instituted and "we were pretty sure they were not there. Yesterday morning I determined finally that they were not there."

The last conversation on the tape was between the President and former Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst in the afternoon, Buzhardt said. The

conversation with Dean was from 9:17 to 10:12 p.m. that day.

Raymond C. Zumwalt, a Secret Service technician, testified that a computer print-out showed no one entered the room where the recorders were kept on either April 14 or 15.

The tape is considered vital by the Watergate special prosecution staff because Dean testified his April 15 conversation with Nixon included the President's whispered remark that he was probably foolish in earlier discussing an offer of executive clemency for Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

Bull, a special assistant to the President, is one of three witnesses scheduled to be called today in the unusual hearing.

There was no explanation for a Roman numeral one that appeared on the tape box—a notation that Zumwalt said sometimes indicated the first of two reels.

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica called yesterday's hearing to get the story of the non-existent tapes into the public domain.

Haldeman told the Watergate committee that he had listened, sometime between July 9 and 11, to a recording of an earlier meeting between Nixon and Dean. He said at that time he

also received several other tapes but did not listen to them. He said he got them from Bull, took them home, kept them for two days and returned them.

Zumwalt said his notes show Bull checked out three tapes on July 10, including two reels of the Sept. 15, 1972 conversations Haldeman said he had heard. On the following day, Zumwalt said, Bull received six more tapes, including the April 15 recordings.

"Do you know whether or not a tape recording of conversation between the President and John Dean in the Executive Office Building office on the 15th of April 1973 was given to Mr. Haldeman in July this year?" asked Richard Ben Veniste of the Watergate prosecution force.

"No," said Zumwalt. On Wednesday, White House lawyer J. Fred Buzhardt disclosed that two of the nine tapes that prosecutors have fought for so long never existed.

## Weather

Partly sunny today with slight chance of a shower in the afternoon, high 54. Tonight chance of rain, low 37. Saturday variable cloudiness with few lingering showers, high 55. Sunday colder with flurries or showers possible in the afternoon, high 40.



## Administrative unit discussed

By STEVE OSTROSKY  
Collegian Staff Writer

Discussion on a proposal for a new administrative unit to take charge of lower-division baccalaureate instruction, associate degree programs, continuing education and community services dominated yesterday's University Council meeting at Berks campus.

At the open meeting, members of the Berks faculty expressed dislike of the plan.

One faculty member said, "I think each department is better qualified to evaluate each faculty member. I cannot see why we need a new structure."

Provost Russell E. Larson said the new unit would evaluate instructors on what they do at the University. Larson said because many instructors teach only freshmen and sophomore courses, they should not be evaluated on the same criteria as faculty members who are engaged in research and upper-level teaching.

"The faculty members have a choice on which way to go," Larson said. "The administration is not pressuring it on the faculty."

Charles L. Hosler, dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, said, "If I were an assistant professor teaching freshmen and sophomore courses at a Commonwealth Campus, I would be all for the organization."

Hosler added, "As a dean I do not like it for two reasons. I do not like to set up two sets of standards and I am against additional administrative structures."

Larson said a similar program exists in the College of Engineering and there have been no problems there.

One faculty member said, "I think I can speak for most of the faculty. I think there are so many things, such as this proposal and collective bargaining, that we are confused about. A lack of information is part of the cause."

Robert A. Patterson, senior vice president for finance and operations, who was asked what was happening with appropriations, said, "I do not have an answer. You are dealing with a two-party system. To make a long story short, there are always different situations each year."

Since the State House and Senate had passed appropriation bills, Patterson said, "We should have been off and running by the end of August."

"But we have legislative personalities which are outside the University scope. It is a human problem," he said.

Appropriations bills are tied up in a conference committee where neither side is yielding to the other.

"The legislators are human and have their own interests. We are sort of a pawn in the process," Patterson said. Berks students complained about campus food service, which consists

only of vending machines. The students said the machines are usually empty by noon and the food is also poor.

The students asked the Council members what they thought of their lunch, which was from the vending machines.

Ingersoll said, "If the cheesesteak I had was served at a recently opened cheesesteak house in State College, the place would be burned down."

Charles N. Coffey, professor of psychology, said, "I would rate the food four-star—but I won't say out of how many stars."

## Legislative arguments delay appropriations

# College money problems continue

By RICK NELSON  
Collegian Senior Reporter

Legislative argument over one per cent is causing severe financial difficulties for three state-related universities.

Temple University is the hardest hit by a General Assembly impasse over whether to grant Penn State, Temple and the University of Pittsburgh a five or a

six per cent increase over last year's appropriations.

Temple officials Wednesday announced the university had used its entire borrowing margin with banks and was "in serious, serious circumstances."

Officials said if borrowing powers are not extended or if state appropriations are not approved this month, the university will not be able to meet next month's payroll.

All three universities have reported

borrowing money at a prime interest rate near 10 per cent to maintain operations in the absence of state funding.

A Temple spokesman yesterday said, "I certainly hope they (the legislature) will approve the funding quickly." He added if appropriations are not

## News analysis

approved this month, Temple's situation would be "quite disastrous."

"We have already conducted very substantial borrowing," he said.

The funding approval will be delayed at least until Nov. 13 when the legislature will reconvene from a recess that began Tuesday.

The Temple spokesman said the university is currently trying to get approval from its board of trustees to extend its borrowing margin.

He said he saw no danger of a need to increase Temple's tuition this year.

A Penn State spokesman yesterday confirmed reports that the University has been paying \$5,000 a day in interest rates since Oct. 1. He said Penn State is not faced with Temple's situation of a fixed borrowing margin.

He indicated there has been no discussion so far of raising Penn State tuition for next term in light of the appropriations delay, but officials have said the Board of Trustees could take this step.

Legislative haggling over the amount of state funding Penn State and the other

state-related universities should get has continued since University President John W. Oswald presented a nine per cent appropriation increase request to the General Assembly in April.

The House and Senate had little difficulty coming to their respective five and six per cent increase recommendations for the state-related universities. House Appropriations Committee Chairman H. Jack Seltzer even commented in June that arriving at a final figure for the universities should be easy because of the slight difference between the proposals.

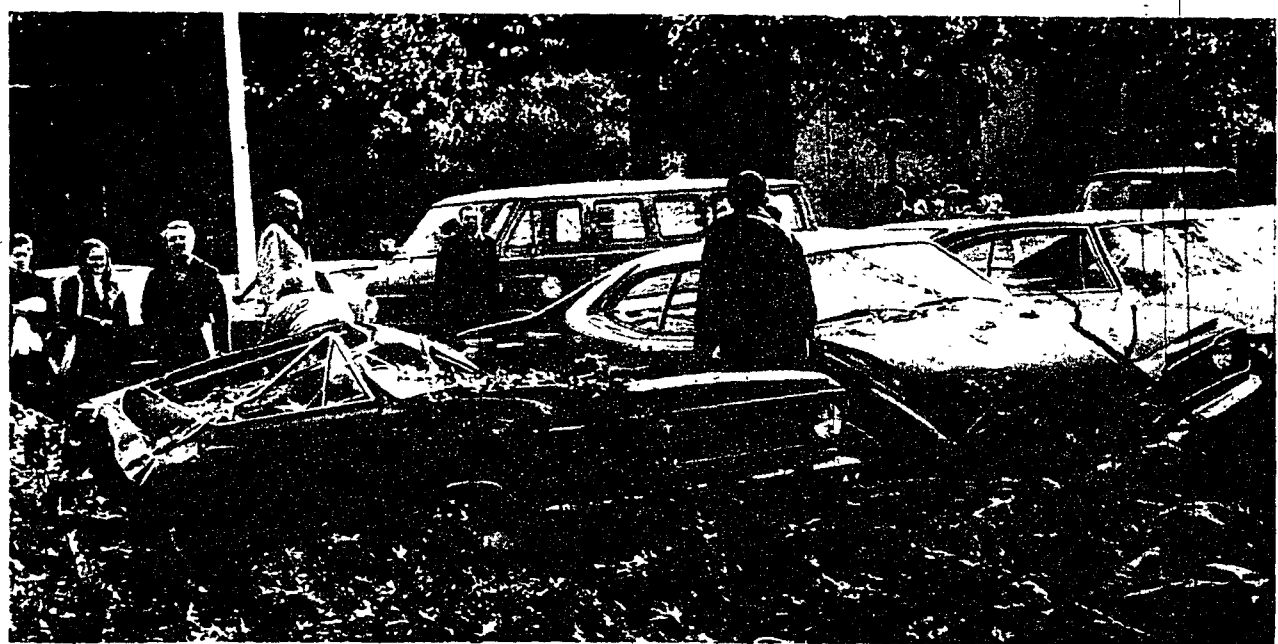
But cries of playing politics have been directed to and from both houses ever since, and the universities now find themselves four months into the fiscal year without funds.

As the proposals now stand, the Democratic-controlled Senate would give Penn State \$87.7 million, \$806,000 more than the Republican controlled House; Temple \$2.9 million, \$449,000 more than the House; and Pitt \$48.2 million, \$417,000 more than the House.

Senate Democrats have offered to accept a five and a half per cent compromise, but Republicans charged them with political gamesmanship and have refused to budge.

The Democrats contend the universities need at least the one half per cent increase over the House proposal to pay interest fees incurred thus far.

Budget delays are not new to the universities. Last year's appropriations were not approved until Nov. 30, the last day of the 1971-72 legislative session.



## Timber!

Two cars were totally demolished about 1:30 p.m. yesterday when a fierce windstorm knocked over a tree near East Pattee. No one was injured in the freak accident, but the tree broke power lines as it fell, cutting power to Pollock and East Halls.

Photo by Ed Golomb