

# Center says deadly virus to sweep U.S.

ATLANTA (UPI) — A new, deadly flu strain, related to the killer 1972 London flu, will hit much of the United States this winter, the National Center for Disease Control reported yesterday.

Dr. Larry Corey of the center's viral diseases branch said a "significant" outbreak of Port Chalmers flu is expected in all parts of the country except the mid-Atlantic and northeast regions.

Port Chalmers, initially isolated last year in New Zealand, is a Type A strain similar to the London flu which swept the U.S. in late 1972 and early 1973, causing more than 1,000 deaths a week at its peak in February 1973. Corey said it is much deadlier than the Type B flu which swept the nation last winter.

Corey refused to speculate on the number of deaths which

might result from the Port Chalmers outbreak, but noted there are normally about 540 pneumonia and influenza deaths per week in the United States during the three-month winter flu season.

The Port Chalmers strain has a higher mortality rate because it more often strikes adults than last year's Type B strain, which mainly struck children who were more able to resist the disease. Flu-related deaths were down sharply last year because of the prevalence of the milder Type B strain.

Despite predictions of a flu epidemic, Corey said only about nine million of the 45 million persons in the "high-risk" category are expected to get flu shots this winter. He said the flu vaccine, which is between 70 and 80 per cent effective, has been updated to include protection against the Port Chalmers strain.

The high-risk group which should be certain to get shots include the elderly and the chronically ill, said Corey.

Corey said the Port Chalmers flu was widespread in Australia and other southern hemisphere countries last summer, and several cases of the disease were isolated in Georgia and Mississippi during the summer.

He said it is expected to hit the southeast, midwest, southwest and Pacific regions this winter. The mid-Atlantic and northeast areas are not expected to be hit so hard because they had outbreaks of Type A flu last winter.

The flu season normally runs from November to February with the weather a major factor whether it comes early or late.

# Venezuela raises oil tax to reduce 'excess' profits

By United Press International  
Venezuela yesterday took a \$440 million bite out of alleged excess profits made by American and other foreign oil companies operating in the country, applying retroactively a 3.5 per cent tax increase called for by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez explained in a news conference that Venezuela's aim was to cut into excess profits made by such international oil companies such as Exxon, Shell and Gulf, but in such a way as to avoid increasing prices for consumers.

As a result of the measure, Venezuela, the world's third largest oil producer, will collect 97 per cent of oil industry profits this year, bringing its total oil tax revenue to more than \$9 billion.

Venezuela's 12 other partners in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries applied the 3.5 per cent increase for the last three months of 1974. But the South American oil giant made it effective for the entire year with a whopping 18.5 per cent hike for the last quarter.

Since the additional taxes on profits for the first nine months of the year will be on oil already sold to consumers,

Hernandez said, the companies will not be able to pass on the additional cost to consumers.

Oil industry sources questioned on the statement said they would have to absorb the additional taxes for the first nine months of 1974. An official source said that the companies will undoubtedly pass on to consumers the 3.5 per cent increase for the last three months of the year, "but they can't pass along anything for the January-September period." Hernandez discounted the possibility that the U.S. government would react adversely to the tax hike.

"The U.S. government is looking into the companies' excess profits itself and will probably take some kind of action too," he said.

Hernandez said that company profits per barrel, which had been 61 cents for the first nine months of the year, would be 21 cents under the new tax hike.

Venezuela's per barrel share rose from \$8.83 to \$9.06 as compared to an average of \$1.70 per barrel last year.

Exxon subsidiary Creole Petroleum Corp., the country's largest producer reported in July that its first-half 1974 profits were \$81.3 million, up 7.1 per cent from the first six months of 1973.

As a founding member of OPEC, Venezuela had been expected to follow the oil cartel's recommendation made in September in Vienna to increase taxes or royalty payments by 3.5 per cent for the last quarter of the year.

The additional excess profits tax, however, was kept secret until revealed yesterday by the mines minister.

Hernandez said the decision to hike taxes was made to counter world inflation and to narrow the gap between Venezuelan crude prices and those of more costly Middle Eastern oil on the U.S. East coast, its main market.

In Manila, newspapers reported China will supply the Philippines with one million tons of oil over the next year and a quarter and the first shipment is scheduled to arrive this week.

There was no government confirmation of the reports of oil purchases from China negotiated by Philippine first lady Imelda R. Marcos during her 10-day visit to Peking last month.

The press reports said China will deliver 250,000 tons of oil starting this month until January, 1975. Next year, China will supply the Philippines a total of 750,000 tons.

# Nixon condition reported better

LONG BEACH, Calif. (UPI) — The blood clot in former President Nixon's right lung has grown smaller and there is no evidence of any new clots, his doctor said yesterday.

The favorable bill of health from Dr. John Lungren followed his earlier statement that there was a good chance for Nixon's release from Long Beach Memorial Hospital by the end of the week.

Lungren also has said that the former President may be well enough to give a written deposition in the Watergate cover-up trial, which began in Washington yesterday, in two or three weeks.

But Nixon's condition was said to be serious enough to prevent his personal appearance at the trial for at least one month and possibly three months because of restrictions on travel which could aggravate his phlebitis.

In his daily medical bulletin yesterday, Lungren released

four findings based on a lung scan of Nixon that was completed Monday.

"1. Evidence of partial resolution of the clot in the right lung a hospital spokesman said the partial resolution means that the clot, which has once covered a dime-sized area of Nixon's lung, had grown smaller.

"2. No evidence of any additional fresh emboli in the lungs.

"3. Analysis of the data from the initial and latest lung scans indicate that the pulmonary embolus probably occurred about two weeks before his hospitalization when he was seen in Palm Springs for a flareup of his phlebitis.

"4. The battery of diagnostic tests is continuing as we attempt to find the basic cause for his original non-traumatic phlebitis.

Nixon entered the hospital Sept. 23 and had been treated with both oral and in-

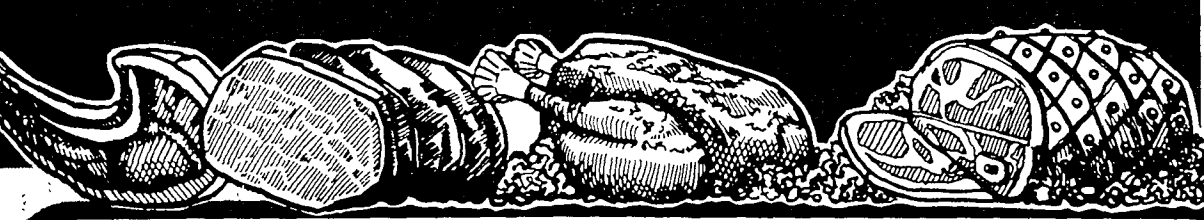
travenous anti-coagulation drugs.

He was photographed Monday by a UPI cameraman, who snapped a picture of a smiling Nixon shaking a patient's hand as he

was being wheeled down the hall.

Lungren said a formal press conference would be held prior to Nixon's discharge but gave no indication what day that might be.

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