

Senator charges govt. loan abuse

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., yesterday criticized the Health, Education and Welfare Department for allegedly failing to correct abuses in the \$3.8 billion student loan program.

"The real question here is whether HEW intends to improve the administration of the program to the point where it will stop the fly-by-night operator in his tracks," Percy said in a letter to HEW Secretary David Mathews.

He said congressional hearings on profit-making schools in the program showed that HEW's Office of Education lost records, tolerated an excessive default rate of 47.6 per cent among the proprietary schools and allowed "unscrupulous hucksters" to bilk the program of millions of dollars.

Deadlines announced for financial aid

The following deadlines for fellowships, traineeships and grants-in-aid have been announced by B.F. Howell, associate dean for the graduate school.

—Sept. 30, 1976. Applications for Winter Term tuition grants-in-aid are due in 317 Kern. They must be endorsed by department heads or graduate officers, supported by transcripts and by two or more letters of recommendation. Applicants must have completed at least two terms at Penn State. The Winter Term applications may be accompanied by applications for renewal for Spring Term. Awards will be announced about Nov. 12.

—Jan. 3, 1977. Applications for Spring Term grants-in-aid are due in 317 Kern. Procedures are the same as for the Winter Term applications. Awards will be announced about Feb. 15.

—Feb. 3, 1977. Applications for all fellowships and traineeships awarded by the graduate school are due in 317 Kern. Each applicant must be nominated by his graduate major. Not more than three nominations per major (exclusive of traineeships and mining fellowships) are allowed. Applications must be supported by three letters of recommendation and complete transcripts. Awards will be announced about March 27. GRE verbal and quantitative scores or the equivalent are required of applicants except for ERG traineeships and mining fellowships.

The program's over-all default rate for all schools is 25 per cent, Percy said.

Under the program, the federal government guarantees loans to needy students for their education at 19,000 colleges, vocational, professional and other schools. More than 3.5 million loans have been insured through the program.

"Students have been cheated out of their educations, only to be billed later by the Office of Education for payment of loans that should have been cancelled," Percy told Mathews.

He said HEW had rejected his recommendations that accrediting agencies make in-depth checks on school operators, examine their capital sources, verify the academic credentials of all teachers and require notarization of all reports filed with the Office of Education.

He quoted Education Commissioner Terrel Bell as saying such requirements "could not be practically and effectively implemented by the accrediting agencies as they are now constituted."

Percy said such "out-of-hand rejection... is a disservice to the taxpayers and students who stand to gain so much from a well-run program."

He urged Mathews to review Bell's decision.

Fellowship opportunities open to grads

The following fellowship opportunities were recently announced by B. F. Howell, Jr., associate dean of the graduate school.

A \$300 to \$8,000 grant to graduate students studying museum conservation. Apply to M. Wells, National Museum Act Administration, Room 2467 Arts and Industries Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20560. Deadline is Jan. 15, 1977.

—Pre- and post-doctoral fellowships for research on drug

—Feb. 17, 1977. Applications by incoming graduate students for all fellowships offered by the graduate school are due in 317 Kern. Applicants must be nominated by graduate majors, with a limit of three nominations per major. Applications must be supported by complete transcripts, at least three letters of recommendation, and by GRE verbal and quantitative scores, or the equivalent. Awards will be announced about March 27.

Birth control pills win praise of group

CHICAGO (UPI) — The pill is an exceedingly favorable form of birth control, causing fewer deaths than pregnancy itself, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists reports in its latest technical bulletin.

The bulletin, distributed to more than 18,000 obstetricians and gynecologists, said despite some recent controversy, the benefits of oral contraception far outweigh its possible risks.

The bulletin, a compilation of the latest thinking on oral contraceptives, includes information on the pill's side effects, major complications and risk-benefit ratio.

One of the main points in favor of the pill, the bulletin said, is that the death rate from the pill is lower than from pregnancy itself. "No known contraceptive at the present time has a death rate comparable to that of pregnancy," the bulletin said.

The bulletin said an increased risk of thromboembolic diseases — blood

Ford appeals to Brezhnev

Embassy protection asked

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford sent a personal appeal to Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev urging that the Soviets curtail their microwave bombardment of the U. S. embassy in Moscow, according to Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.

Dole said he was told of the President's letter to Brezhnev during a closed-door briefing on the Moscow radiation problem by Helmut Sonnenfeldt, one of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's closest associates.

Following the Ford letter and U.S. diplomatic efforts to protest over the radiation, as well as an embassy staff meeting that led to widespread publicity, the Soviets reduced the microwave power levels. However, they have refused to cease the bombardment completely.

A White House spokesman, John Carlson, said there have been U.S.-Soviet contacts on the radiation issue at various levels and "there has been communication — between the President and Brezhnev." He declined to give any further details.

The radiation problem has caused concern, among current and former American personnel at the Moscow embassy that long-term exposure to the low-level microwaves might result in adverse health or behavioral effects.

Dole, who had voiced

criticism over U.S. handling of the microwaves affair, said in an interview that Sonnenfeldt apparently mentioned the Ford letter — dispatched about seven months ago — to impress upon the senator that "we weren't taking this lightly."

He said he was not told the specific wording of the letter to the Kremlin or what, if any, response there was from Brezhnev.

Disclosure of the Ford-Brezhnev letter marks the first confirmation that the embassy radiation question has been considered serious enough to require personal attention at the highest level.

An aide to Dole who was present during the senator's

Birth control pills win praise of group

closed-door briefing with Sonnenfeldt said the Ford letter to Brezhnev evidently had been sent in December 1975 or January of this year.

According to a classified State department document made available to The Associated Press, U.S. concern over the Soviet microwaves — first detected in the early 1960's — increased in October 1975 when the radiation began focusing on the embassy from two different directions.

Knowledgeable U.S. sources say the searchlight-like Soviet microwave beams are intended to foil American electronic snooping devices on the roof of the 10-story embassy.

born to women who became pregnant shortly after discontinuing use of the pill. It advises that women change to a different type of birth control after going off the pill; await the time when the regular menstrual cycle is reestablished and then try to become pregnant.

New movies start Wednesday

Out of town concerts

Pittsburgh: Jethro Tull appears at the Civic Arena Monday, 8 p.m. Peter Frampton, The Beach Boys and Gary Wright, Aug. 14, 2 p.m. at Three Rivers Stadium. Earth Wind and Fire and Ramsey Lewis, 8 p.m. Aug. 10, Civic Arena.

Philadelphia: Janis Ian, 8 p.m. Aug. 8. Robin Hood Dell West. The Eagles and Boz Scaggs Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 p.m. Spectrum.

Plays

"Little Mary Sunshine" at the Pavilion Theatre, 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

"That Championship Season." A powerful adult play by Jason Miller. Opening at 8 p.m. July 29 at the Playhouse.

"Silent Movie" starts Wednesday.

State. "Peter Pan," till Tuesday. "The Tenant" starts Wednesday. Roman Polanski directed and stars in this bizarre drama.

The Flick. "W. C. Fields and Me." Rod Steiger at Gardens. "St. Ives," till Tuesday. "That's Entertainment, Part II" begins Wednesday.

Movies. "The Bad News Bears," with Walter Matthau and Tatum O'Neal.

The Screening Room. "Tell Them Johnny Wadd is Here," till Tuesday. "Virgin Snow," X-rated. Starts Wednesday.

—Compiled by Barb Coif

Traffic lane cut

Construction work near the Nittany Lion Inn today and Tuesday will necessitate one-lane traffic in the drive from the cross walk near the Inn's main entrance to the parking area east of the Inn.

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Attractions

Concerts

Shirt Sleeve Concert, Pennsylvania Orchestra, 8 p.m. Wednesday, University Auditorium.

Movies

Cinema I. "Murder by Death." Peter Sellers.

Cinema II. "The Omen," till Tuesday. Mell Brooks'

Student preview planned

The Festival of American Theatre presents a special student preview of "That Championship Season" at 8 Wednesday night in the Playhouse. Tickets, at reduced rates, go on sale 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Playhouse box office.

Also in the Playhouse box office are free tickets for a Behind-the-Scenes look at "That Championship Season." The tickets are for 3 p.m. Friday in the Playhouse.

The Lesbian Collective will meet at 8:30 tomorrow night in the Women's Resource Center.

Collegian notes

A Free U soccer course will be given 6:30 Wednesday night at the Women's Athletic Field next to the University Auditorium. For more information call 234-1727.

An air-hockey tournament begins at 6:30 tonight in the Pollock Snack Bar.

The Magazine Club will meet at 8 Wednesday night in 324 HUB. All are invited.

The United Federation of Star Trek Fans will meet at 7:30 tomorrow night in 36 Willard to discuss its summer picnic at Spring Creek.

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