

# After three nights Ray, three others still at large

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said FBI agents had been sent as "observers" in the search but that state Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer was in charge.

"We appreciate whatever help the FBI has given us," Blanton said, adding that he was asking federal agents to watch the borders to keep Ray and the others from fleeing Tennessee into surrounding states.

Meanwhile, state Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said speculation that authorities at the maximum-security prison helped Ray escape was "absurd, irresponsible and absolutely untrue."

"We'll make a full investigation," Henderson said. "If I'm wrong, the evidence will prove it."

He said that people seemed to think that "maximum security" means that the man would be locked up 24 hours a day in his cell.

"A few years ago, a federal court ordered Ray released

from his cell, from lockdown," Henderson said. "It shouldn't surprise anyone he is not in isolation."

Henderson said the search perimeter was expanded in order not to take a chance, adding, "We still believe they are still contained in the area. We still believe they are traveling in circles. I don't believe there's any evidence otherwise."

He said that Hacker, serving a 28-year term for safecracking and robbery with a deadly weapon, most certainly had traveled farther in more than a day of freedom than the four miles' distance from the prison where he was captured.

Lane said he felt sure trackers had flushed Hacker out, forcing him to go up a railroad track and into a small church in the woods where an FBI agent and two sheriff's deputies took him into custody.

Asked whether he thought the 49-year-old Ray would be able to survive for long in the rugged woods by subsisting on berries and roots, Henderson replied, "I think it could be

pretty difficult. An individual who had courses in mountain survival could do it."

He said guards at the prison did not think Ray's physical condition was that good.

Henderson said it was assumed the men might try to steal a car.

If Ray or any of the others elude the search, they would be the first inmates to make a successful escape from behind the prison's walls.

Former warden Robert Moore said inmates allowed to work beyond the walls have walked away but no one from the inside has managed to get out and stay out.

In 1970, two men sawed through vent bars on the hospital roof, made their way to the top of the main prison and let themselves down on a rope made of sheets. They were captured an hour and 15 minutes later.

The 81-year-old prison operated a coal mine with inmate labor until 1966, when two prisoners were killed in a cave-in

and the mine was declared unsafe. The fortress-like penitentiary was closed in 1972 by a guards' strike, and all prisoners — including Ray — were transferred to a Nashville facility.

Blanton reopened Brushy Mountain in 1975, partly to relieve inmate overcrowding in other facilities in the state's corrections system.

Henderson said the guard on Tower No. 4 — the man best able to spot Ray and the others going over a wall on a ladder built of pipe scraps — may have been negligent.

But he said an investigation into the circumstances of the escape would have to wait until the men have been recaptured.

Blanton's press aide Jim Gilchrist, who used to work in the corrections division, described Hacker, one of the three escapees apprehended since the break, as "a thoroughly dangerous individual. I think if one person initiated this, I think it was Larry Hacker."

## Freshmen legislators try for state budget control

HARRISBURG (AP) — Freshman and sophomore Democratic legislators could be a powerful force when the House tackles the issue of raising Pennsylvania's taxes.

The Harrisburg newcomers, comprising about 10 per cent of the 202-member House, will meet Tuesday to discuss the budget-making process.

They hope that by banding together they can control the direction of the budget — even to the point of blocking a tax hike if it comes to that.

"The biggest fallacy the public is getting from comments in the press is that, one, there's going to be a tax hike and, two, Philadelphia schools are going to be bailed out," said Rep. John Milliron, D-Blair, who arranged the breakfast meeting.

"Frank Rizzo (mayor of Philadelphia) said Philadelphia

school subsidies were as good as money in the bank. Well, he may go to the bank and find it empty," he said.

The second-term legislator said younger House members are still sore about the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh influence on the election of House leaders.

"They said 'To hell with you guys from upstate' — that's what they call us. But now they need the guys from upstate for a tax vote and they may find we're unwilling to cooperate," Milliron said.

Tomorrow's meeting is the first since new House members successfully forced their leaders to hold a secret ballot on the leadership vote.

"It has the makings of a coalition," said Rep. Stephen Reed, D-Dauphin.

Unless new members are from Philadelphia or Pittsburgh, he said, "They're out of the mainstream of

who sits behind closed doors where decisions are made."

Other young legislators said no one is resigned to a tax increase, but questioned whether tomorrow's meeting would create a bloc vote on taxes.

"I don't see a group action," said outspoken freshman Rep. Michael Cassidy, D-Blair. "Other ties are stronger — for example, what region they come from, whether they are rural or urban."

Rep. Joseph Hoeffel III, D-Montgomery, agreed. "A tax vote is a major undertaking. You don't make it on the basis of working with members from other parts of the state."

That means that if there's a tax hike, legislators want to be sure their constituents and school districts get their share.

## New job laws aid ex-convicts

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Prisoners will be eligible for unemployment compensation and public works jobs immediately upon release from jail under new regulations which take effect today, the Labor Department said.

Department officials said the new rules are aimed at making convicts quickly eligible for public works jobs in hopes of cutting down on the number of men and women who return to crime when they are freed from prison.

The federal government said last week \$4 billion for public works and other jobs programs is to be released through state and local governments in the near future.

When regulations governing the public works program were first announced May 13, they excluded newly paroled convicts from eligibility.

A Labor Department official said the rules now have been revised to include parolees, and memos notifying federal employment field offices of the change were sent out Thursday.

As first adopted, the rules governing eligibility for public works jobs required that a person be unemployed for 20 weeks prior to application and be eligible for unemployment compensation for at least 15 weeks.

That meant anyone leaving prison

would not be able to apply for a public works job for months.

The regulations were changed after the National Alliance for Businessmen and several members of Congress noted that parolees would be excluded from the public works program.

Under the new regulations, effective today, most parolees are eligible for unemployment compensation — and public works jobs — immediately upon release from prison.

A Labor Department spokesman said the revised rules will make 97 per cent of parolees eligible to participate in public works projects.

## Nation's mayors attack Carter program

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — San Francisco Mayor George R. Moscone attacked President Carter's energy program yesterday, warning that it will worsen the problems of cities and their poorest residents.

Congress "ought to reject it out of hand," the Democratic mayor declared.

"A nickel more a gallon is certainly not going to stop the proliferation of cars in our cities, except to cause problems

for low-income people who simply have no other form of transportation. It was hardly even a first step," said Moscone.

He was among five mayors interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press" during the U.S. Conference of Mayors' annual meeting here.

Moscone's criticism of the energy program was the most pointed in the mayors' discussion of the Carter's performance. For the most part the five

mayors — three Democrats and two Republicans — praised the President's actions in his first month in office.

All five, however, voiced a concern expressed several times previously by the mayors' conference that Carter's goal of a balanced federal budget by 1981 is unacceptable if it means sacrificing pet city projects like national health insurance and welfare reform.

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Monday, June 20. Centre Crest Orientation - 323 HUB, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, June 22. Youth Service Bureau Orientation, Room - 323-324 HUB, 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, June 16. Holidaysburg State Hospital Orientation, Room - 324 HUB, 7:00 P.M.

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