

FBI candidates interviewed

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter yesterday interviewed the first two of the five finalists for FBI director — U.S. Circuit Judge Harlington Wood Jr., Chicago, and FBI career agent Neil Welch, Philadelphia.

Attorney General Griffin Bell interviewed both men in advance of

their meetings with Carter.

Wood, administrative assistant to former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst when he was deputy attorney general, refused to comment on what he might do as FBI director.

Welch also turned aside reporters' questions after his interview in the Oval Office. Carter had not instructed

him to remain silent, he said, "I'm just naturally quiet."

Wood, 57, a native of Springfield, Ill., was appointed U.S. attorney for southern Illinois and federal judge.

Welch, 51, a native of St. Paul, has been with the FBI since 1952 and has been special agent in charge of Philadelphia since 1975.

NAACP leader to protect rights

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — The incoming leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said yesterday blacks will "shake up this country from top to bottom" to defeat politicians thwarting gains made in civil rights.

Benjamin L. Hooks, who will succeed Roy Wilkins as executive director August 1, spoke at the 68th annual convention of the civil rights organization.

"In the South we used to have the expression that if there is one rascal in office and one running for office, we'd vote for the one who was out, no matter how bad he was, just to shake it up," Hooks said.

"If we have to shake up this country from top to bottom,

we're capable of doing it and we don't mind doing it."

He told reporters some liberal politicians are turning their backs to the civil rights movement and the country appears to be in a conservative mood.

"I detect a worsening sign," Hooks said. "Many of us felt that with an overwhelmingly Democratic Congress and a Democratic president who owed his election to a monolithic black vote, we would be moving ahead at a faster rate than we are."

"One of the prevalent misconceptions in the white community is 'Well, you all got everything now; what are you still pressing for?'" Hooks said. "It's a myth we have to dispel."

Food stamp bonus starts this month

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of low-income Americans will get larger government food stamp bonuses beginning July 1 to help offset higher grocery costs and another increase is likely next year.

A typical family of four will get \$170 in food stamps each month under the new formula, a 2.4 per cent increase from the \$166 allocation which had been in effect since Jan. 1, 1976.

The \$4 a month increase is the first boost in 18 months.

The Agriculture Department adjusts food stamp allocations on Jan. 1 and July 1, with February's food costs dictating the July 1 rate and the August costs controlling the Jan. 1 adjustment.

Stephen J. Hiemstra, director of economic analysis and program evaluation in USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, said it is "very likely" there will be another increase next Jan. 1 depending on the August figures.

"Keep in mind, however, that there's a seasonal increase in food prices in the summer," he told a reporter yesterday. "So I think it's logical to expect some increase."

The \$5.4 billion program served 17.1 million people in April, down from 18.7 million

a year earlier when unemployment was higher. This represents about 5.3 million households, using the agency's calculation of 3.2 persons a household.

The USDA uses a special "thrifty food plan" to compute food stamp benefits. Unlike the food prices used in other federal cost-of-living statistics, the USDA bases its estimates on food likely to be consumed by low-income families.

Its plan includes more cereal products and less meat and dairy items than more affluent families usually consume, but the USDA considers it a "nutritionally adequate diet."

Depending on its size and adjusted income, a family is required to buy a certain amount of stamps but then gets bonus coupons to greatly increase its buying power at the store.

Nationally, food stamp recipients average about \$10 worth of coupons for each \$4 they spend on them.

For example, under the new formula a family of four with an adjusted income of \$190 to \$210 a month will pay \$53 to get a total of \$170 in stamps — a bonus of \$117 in free coupons. It has been paying \$53 to get \$166 in stamps each month.

Lawsuit threatens to squeeze Bryant

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A \$5 million civil rights lawsuit was filed in federal court yesterday against singer Anita Bryant and others, charging they incited the murder of homosexual Robert Hillsborough in San Francisco last week.

The suit was filed by Mrs. Helen Hillsborough, 72, San Diego, the victim's mother, and named Miss Bryant, her husband, Robert Green, her media manager, Michael Thompson, her Save-Our-Children Inc. organization, California State Sen. John Briggs and the four suspects

arrested for Hillsborough's killing.

The action was brought under a federal civil rights statute of 1861 and said that Miss Bryant and her organizations in Florida incited an atmosphere that resulted in the stabbing death of Hillsborough.

The suit asked \$2.5 million compensatory damages and \$2.5 million punitive damages. Attorneys who filed the suit said they were also directors of Pride Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting rights of homosexuals.

Airbags, seat belts to be mandatory in every car by 1983

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Transportation Secretary Brock Adams ordered auto makers yesterday to put airbags or automatic seat belts on new luxury and full-size cars in late 1981 and on all models by the fall of 1983.

"We are determined that the car of the future shall be a socially responsible vehicle which combines the best of our technology can offer in both safety and economy," Adams said in announcing his order.

He estimated the mandatory safety systems will save 9,000 lives or more a year by the mid-1980s, at an added consumer cost per vehicle of \$25 to \$100 for the new seat belt system or \$100 to \$300 for airbags.

The auto industry and consumer advocate Ralph Nader attacked the ruling.

Detroit called it a high-cost, second-best approach compared to laws requiring the use of existing seat belts.

Nader claimed Adams yielded to political pressure by imposing the new restraints starting in 1981 rather than 1980, and by applying the new requirements last to small, fuel-efficient cars.

The insurance industry said the new ruling will save lives, reduce injuries and hold down the rising cost of auto accidents.

Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa., chairman of the National Transportation Policy Study Commission, introduced a House resolution urging Congress to overturn Adams' order. Nader, however, predicted both the House and Senate would support the new requirements.

Adams' order, which will go

into effect unless Congress rejects it within 60 days, established a three-step schedule to phase in automatic devices able to save the lives of front-seat passengers at crash speeds of up to 30 miles per hour.

It called for either airbags or automatic seat belts to be standard equipment on new vehicles by:

— Sept. 1, 1981, for cars with wheelbases greater than 114 inches. An estimated 2.5 million 1982-model cars will fall into that category.

— Sept. 1, 1982, for cars with wheelbases greater than 100 inches. An estimated 5 million 1983-model intermediate and compact cars will fall into that group.

— Sept. 1, 1983, for all passenger cars, including 2.5 million 1984-model sub-compacts and mini-size cars.

Adams said the ruling applies to foreign cars sold in the United States as well as to domestic models.

He said new small cars were given the longest to comply because it will be harder to fit them with the new systems.

All cars would retain standard seat belts in addition to the new devices.

Adams said he has asked General Motors, Ford, Volkswagen, Toyota and Mercedes Benz to continue a voluntary program that would put some 500,000 vehicles with air bags or automatic seat belts on the road before 1981.

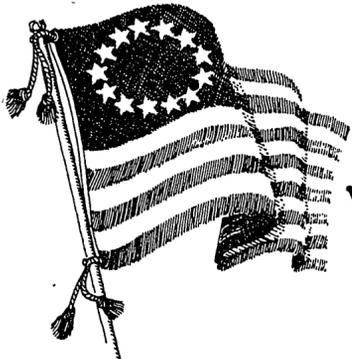
U.S. auto accidents now claim 130 lives a day, with the toll hitting 47,000 deaths and 400,000 injuries a year, Adams said.



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