

News briefs

Libya to cut oil exports 18%

By United Press International
Libya, the fourth largest exporter of oil to the United States, will slash petroleum sales by as much as 18 percent in a move that means less oil for Americans and higher world prices, London trade sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Allegheny Airlines, the Flying Tiger cargo line and West Germany's Lufthansa Airlines joined airlines announcing flight cancellations because of serious jet fuel shortages in the United States. United, American, and Trans World Airlines already have proposed fare boosts to offset higher fuel bills.

In an apparent move to capitalize

on the world oil shortage, Libya has decided to reduce by 16 to 18 percent the amount of crude offered to its long-term contract customers — oil companies that supply the United States and Europe, according to London sources.

Libya plans to sell its contract crude, which has been going for about \$14.50 a barrel, at much higher prices on the open market to Turkey, India, Greece and winter-ravaged Eastern Europe, the sources said.

Libya, which accounted for 9.4 percent of total U.S. oil imports in the first nine months of 1977, produces a light crude oil suitable for the manufacture of gasoline and home-heating oil.

Captain Kangaroo defends ads



Bob Keeshan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Robert Keeshan, TV's "Captain Kangaroo," told the Federal Trade Commission yesterday it should keep its hands off children's TV ads because controlling what youngsters see is the job of parents, not the government.

Besides, Keeshan said, his 25-year-old show would probably be one of the first to be driven off the air if the FTC banned commercials on programs aimed at very young children.

The FTC is involved in five weeks of hearings into a staff proposal that would ban TV commercials on shows aimed at very young children and restrict ads for highly sugared snacks and foods, including some cereals, on programs viewed by older children.

His own show, for which 45 percent of the audience is children under the age of seven, would "definitely go off the air" if it could not carry commercials aimed at that group of viewers, Keeshan said.

Senate increases gifts limit

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate, with barely a murmur of dissent, voted yesterday to let members increase extra earnings — above the annual \$57,500 salary — by \$16,375 a year for honorariums, and possibly more for other endeavors.

The change in the two-year-old ethics code zipped through in minutes and there was no roll call vote, sparing senators the unpleasant duty of taking an on-the-record stance.

The code had provided that beginning Jan. 1, 1979, senators could get no more than 15 percent of their

annual salaries — or \$8,625 a year — from outside earned income, with some minor exclusions.

The change approved yesterday postpones the effective date of the ceiling until Jan. 1, 1983.

That means that for the next four years, there will be in effect the former \$25,000 a year ceiling on honorariums.

But senators can earn unlimited outside income in other ways, unless the endeavor is specifically forbidden by other parts of the code.

Plutonium manual called false

OKLAHOMA CITY (UPI) — A nuclear scientist, testifying in an \$11.5 million lawsuit filed by survivors of a woman contaminated by plutonium, said yesterday that manuals for teaching safe handling of plutonium at a Kerr-McGee Corp. plant were inadequate and contained false information.

John Gofman, who helped develop the atomic bomb, testified he never saw the word "cancer" in Kerr-McGee's training manual for the Cimarron nuclear power facility near Crescent, Okla., where the woman, Karen Silkwood, was employed.



Karen Silkwood

"If I were writing that manual, I'd have had the word 'cancer' on every page," Gofman told the six-member federal court jury.

Gofman, of San Francisco, was the trial's first witness. The lawsuit alleges Silkwood's contamination by plutonium, shortly before her death in a traffic crash in November 1974,

resulted from negligence of Kerr-McGee.

The scientist testified that Silkwood would have developed lung cancer had she lived.

Chicago Seven lose lawsuit

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A federal judge yesterday dismissed the "Chicago Seven's" 10-year-old civil lawsuit challenging the legality of wiretaps ordered by former Attorney General John Mitchell.

U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson said he was dismissing the lawsuit because the seven plaintiffs, including former Black Panther Party National Chairman Bobby Seale, failed to answer questions or appear in court.

A month ago, the judge dismissed the Black Panthers as a plaintiff in the case on similar grounds.

Larry Gregg, a Justice Department lawyer assigned to defend the suit only two weeks ago, said he filed a

brief earlier this week asking for dismissal.

The six anti-war demonstrators and Seale accused Mitchell of violating their civil rights by ordering surveillance against them or persons with whom they associated. They asked for unspecified damages.

But the Justice Department maintained that the electronic surveillance involving the "Chicago Seven," both prior to and after Mitchell took office in 1969, was permissible because it involved national security, Gregg said.

Defense lawyers contended there were no national security reasons for the surveillance, which they argued should have been limited by law.

Anti-gun control favored in poll

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The National Rifle Association, an anti-gun control organization, issued a poll yesterday showing that most voters feel tougher treatment of criminals, and not a ban on guns, is the best way to fight crime.

Richard Wirthlin, who polls for conservative political figures including Ronald Reagan, conducted the national survey of 1,500 registered voters last May and June. He told a news conference the questions were worded and asked fairly.

The poll found that 93 percent favor strict mandatory penalties for criminal use of firearms in commission of crime.

It found 83 percent oppose banning handguns, 72 percent don't believe domestic shootings justify a handgun ban and 80 percent feel such a ban would not prevent assassinations.

"Clearly a majority of the American people want government to focus on tougher treatment of criminals before trying new social engineering as the treatment of crime," the survey said.

The poll did not ask for opinions on hand gun registration, Wirthlin said, although recent polls by liberal Patrick Caddell, Lou Harris, George Gallup and CBS found between 67 percent and 84 percent of the people favoring it.

Wirthlin said that 54 percent of those polled see no need for more gun control laws. The figure represented the 41 percent who said there are enough laws and the 13 percent who say there are too many. The largest response on the question was 44 percent who favored more gun control laws.

Chinese accused of new attacks

BANGKOK, Thailand (UPI) — Vietnam charged yesterday that retreating Chinese troops were laying waste to northern cities and said other battalions launched fresh border attacks on the 20th day of the Chinese invasion.

The official Vietnamese News Agency reported that Lang Son, which fell to China a week ago, was "reduced to ruins and ashes" by continual shelling from retreating Chinese units. The town has remained under Chinese round-the-clock shelling since the night of March 5, said the agency report, monitored in Hong Kong.

Western military sources said there had been no significant withdrawal of the 100,000-man Chinese invasion thrust, although it was possible some small units had left Vietnam.

In an on-scene report VNA said, "The Chinese aggressor troops are withdrawing very slowly and in very small numbers."

The VNA correspondents at Lang Son said, "Everywhere we went we could see entangled electric wires, broken posts, and heaps of broken bricks where once stood the stadium, the park, the hotel, the thermo-electric factory, the anis-oil factory, the newly inaugurated fodder factory, the half-built cement plant and residences."

The agency reported that Chinese troops dismantled and took away machinery at the factories before "blowing them up."

Retreating Chinese troops blew up the railroad station in the key communications center of Ky Lua, the VNA dispatch said. The Chinese also wrecked a school and a complex of kindergarten

and day nursery facilities funded by the U.N. to observe the International Year of the Child, the dispatch reported.

"Chinese soldiers destroyed everything on their way - from the library to the churches and restaurants," Vietnam said. "Once a famous scenic town, Lang Son is reduced to ruins and ashes."

"All that gives a sharp lie to the Chinese aggressors who claimed that they had 'repaired houses and distributed relief rice' to the local Vietnamese population who 'showed them profound affection,'" the VNA report said.

"On their path of withdrawal they have committed very barbarous acts of burning, destruction and plundering. In some places they not only refused to withdraw, but continued their nibbling attacks," the agency said.

"After blowing up a railroad bridge in Hang Lien Son province (180 miles northwest of Hanoi) the enemy set on fire many of our people's homes in Phu Lo district causing towering columns of flames and smoke to shoot skyward," it claimed.

The agency said Peking had promised to complete its withdrawal by March 7, but did not elaborate. Publicly, China has set no timetable for its withdrawal from Vietnam.

Sources in Washington said the first large Soviet warship ever to enter a Vietnamese port dropped anchor in Haiphong Wednesday to underline Soviet support for its ally.

Radio Hanoi claimed Chinese troops were digging trenches around the town of Cao Bang.



Chinese tank company commander Wei Kuo-chiang (left) and tank crew member Li-pi (right) after being captured by Vietnamese forces in Cao Bang.

Carter gains victory on Iranian legislation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House and Senate yesterday both rejected amendments declaring that an attack on Taiwan would be a threat to American security, and the House refused to give the island government diplomatic status.

All the votes were victories for the Carter administration, which does not want anything added to its Taiwan legislation that would antagonize Peking.

In the House, the administration won a clear victory when members rejected, on a 221-149 vote, an amendment offered by Rep. Ken Kramer, R-Colo., saying the United States would act if Taiwan were attacked.

By a smaller margin, 181-172, the House rejected an amendment that would have set up an American liaison office in Taipei instead of a corporate institute, a move which would have upgraded the island's diplomatic status from non-official to official.

Although the House added a few minor amendments to the Taiwan legislative package, it generally stuck with the approach favored by President Carter. Leaders had planned to wrap up work on the bill yesterday, but then decided to put off a final vote until next week.

The administration's victory in the Senate, where milder language on the Taiwan commitment was at stake, was much slower in coming.

The Senate first refused, in a surprise 49-45 vote, to table an amendment stating that American security interests would be threatened by an attack on Taiwan. The measure was sponsored by Republican Sens. Charles Percy of Illinois and John Tower of Texas.

That vote caught the Senate leadership off guard and sent Vice President Walter Mondale scurrying to Capitol Hill to preside, so he could cast a tie-breaking vote if necessary.

On the key vote on the Percy amendment itself, the Senate rejected the measure 50-42.

The administration is backing language approved by both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee saying any attack on Taiwan would be of "grave concern" to the United States.

Kramer argued his amendment would not revive the U.S. Taiwan mutual defense treaty but would commit the United States to act if Taiwan was attacked.

"If we aren't willing to do that then we aren't willing

to do anything," he said.

In the Senate, the State Department lobbied against even the weaker Percy-Tower amendment, contending it would be tantamount to a new pact with Taiwan and encroach on Washington's diplomatic relations with Peking.

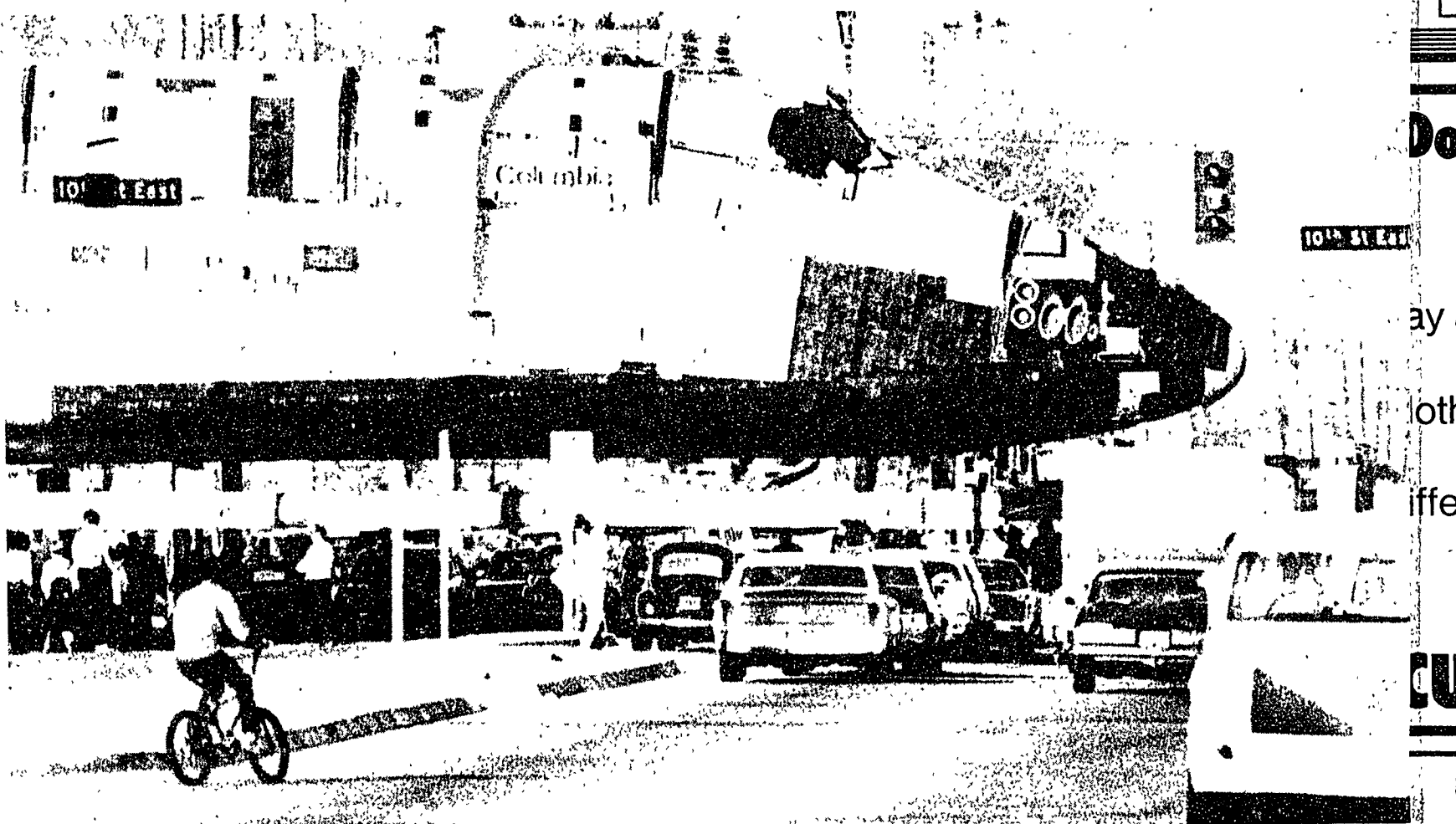
Under Carter's agreement to establish diplomatic relations with China, the United States agreed to a 1954 defense treaty with Taiwan as of Jan. 1, 1979.

As a Chinese diplomat looked on poker-faced in the diplomatic gallery, Percy argued his amendment mild indeed. It is the minimum we could offer, he said, "in no way commits in advance the United States to military action" should Taiwan be attacked.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., an ardent supporter, shrugged off the possibility the amendment might jeopardize relations with Peking.

"I don't give a damn if we make them mad," he shouted. "I'd like to make them real mad!"

But Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, chairman of the foreign relations committee, condemned the change.



Nosing around The space shuttle orbiter Columbia stops traffic at an intersection in Lancaster, Calif. The shuttle is being towed to Edwards Air Force Base where it will be flown to Kennedy Space Center for an orbital launch scheduled in November. See related story on p. 20.

Anti-inflation rule violators may be exposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Carter administration, irked by figures showing a 1 percent increase in wholesale prices in February, threatened yesterday to publicly expose businesses found in violation of anti-inflation guidelines.

The Labor Department released wholesale price figures that showed little improvement over January's 1.3 percent rise. The report provided additional evidence that inflation is worsening.

Prices of food ready for sale to the consumer increased 1.6 percent, foreshadowing higher at-the-counter prices for shoppers later in the year. Wholesale prices of non-food items rose 0.9 percent. Prices at the wholesale level usually end up getting passed along to the consumer in higher retail prices.

Alfred Kahn, President Carter's chief inflation adviser, announced the crackdown on businesses, suggesting that labor has done better than business in cooperating with the anti-inflation program.

"Price developments in recent months have made it apparent that many medium- and smaller-sized firms are not complying with the price standard," he said.

In an apparent shift in emphasis away from wages as a cause of worsening inflation, Kahn said that contract settlements since the program went into effect last October have been relatively moderate.

Carter's program asks companies to hold price increases to 0.5 percent below their average price hikes for the

previous two years, or to limit them generally to an average of 5.75 percent.

Aside from the overall 1 percent increase in wholesale prices last month, price rises were even worse at the beginning stages of the wholesale process. Prices of crude goods, for example, rose 3.3 percent, the worst in nearly four years. Foods and feeds rose

by 3.8 percent and other prices 2.8 percent.

If the price increases for crude continues through the production it means the outlook for inflation gloomier in months ahead.

The Labor Department said increased sharply at the wholes-

Committee backs real wage program

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Ways and Means Committee yesterday narrowly backed President Carter's real wage insurance program which he considers a major incentive to inflation control.

The committee defeated a motion to eliminate the \$2.5 billion program from the budget and went on to recommend a \$502.5 billion budget to the House Budget Committee.

The novel wage insurance plan could face further controversy in the budget committee.

Ways and Means originally voted 17-17 on a motion by Rep. Charles Vanik, D-Ohio, to kill the program by eliminating it from the budget. The tie vote constituted a defeat. However, two Democratic members of the panel who rushed in late were allowed to vote and Vanik's motion was recorded defeated 19-17.

The president's plan would give a tax credit on the first \$20,000 income to workers agreeing to hold wage increases within his 7 percent guideline if inflation rose beyond that

figure. The maximum tax credit would be 3 percent.

Vanik said the plan was more likely to cost taxpayers \$2.5 billion instead of the \$2.5 billion estimated by administration.

"No one out there really wants this," Vanik said, "isn't a single union in favor of this."

"If this thing starts, there will be no stopping it. It's a carrier pigeon for all kinds of things."

"We are the last defenders of the pass," Vanik said, "president will sign anything that has on its cover the 'real wage insurance,' no matter how much it costs."

Even its defenders had little praise.

"It's not a perfect tool, but it is an attempt, however, to halt the wage and price spiral," Rep. Thomas Downey, N.Y., said.

Rep. James Jones, D-Kla., said, "I'm not convinced it will work. But I'm not willing to say to the president we even willing to keep it in the ballpark for him to use."