

News briefs

GM, UAW ratification begins

DETROIT (UPI) — The United Auto Workers Union today begins the long process of ratifying a tentative contract with General Motors Corp. — a contract that reportedly contains historic breakthroughs in labor-management relations.

Rhodesia talks hit a deadlock

LONDON (UPI) — The Zimbabwe Rhodesia conference yesterday headed toward a possible early breakdown with the Salisbury government delegation of Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Patriotic Front guerrillas.

Iran clergy criticizes premier

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI) — Iran's powerful Shiite clergy yesterday charged that Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan's administration was falling apart and called for his government to be replaced.

Ford says he could win now

TULSA, Okla. (UPI) — Former President Gerald R. Ford said yesterday he could beat Jimmy Carter in a presidential election if it were held right now.

Papal souvenir sales booming

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — By the time Pope John Paul II arrives in the City of Brotherly Love Oct. 3, people will be able to buy him, mail him, or wave him.

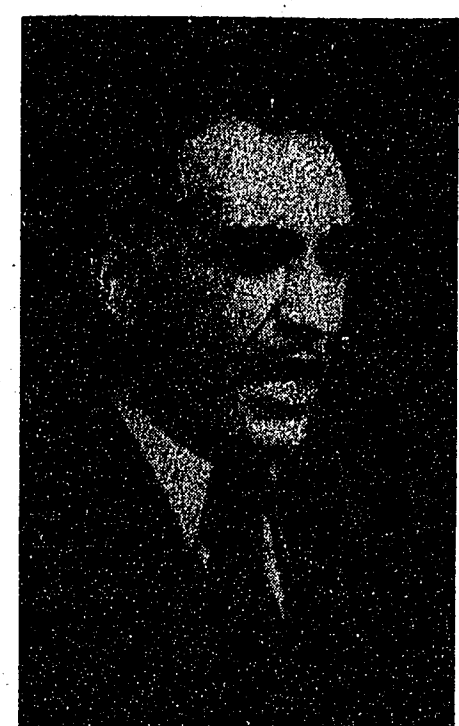
Federal budget battles to start

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress faces a showdown starting today on the federal budget for the coming fiscal year with epic battles promised over the size of the deficit, defense spending and a proposed tax cut.

Smoke-sponger worth millions

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The late Nizam of Hyderabad was never known for his generosity. He never offered cigarettes to his palace guests but instead sponged smokes off them.

Soviet-backed president resigns



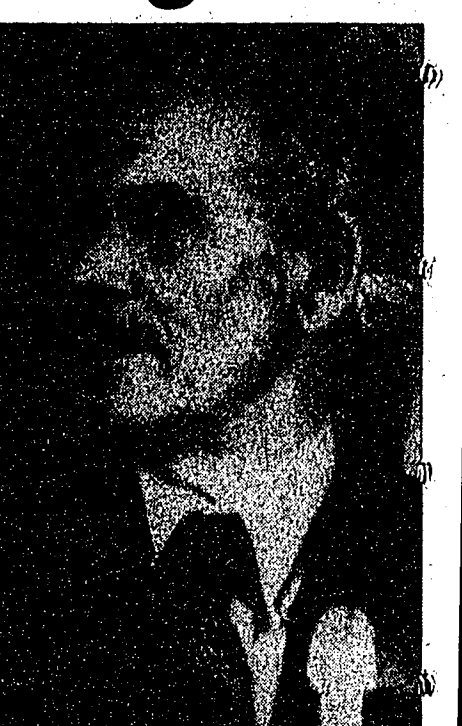
Hafizollah Amin

MOSCOW (UPI) — Afghanistan's President Nur Mohammed Taraki resigned yesterday, Radio Kabul reported.

The resignation came one day after a reported attack on the Presidential palace by Afghan Moslem rebels waging a "holy war" against the pro-Soviet government of Taraki, who came to power last year in a bloody coup.

The radio announced Taraki had stepped down and would be replaced by Prime Minister Hafizollah Amin, according to western sources in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital.

It was not clear whether Taraki resigned voluntarily or had been pressured to step down by his Soviet sponsors. Last week Taraki met with Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow.



Nur Mohammed Taraki



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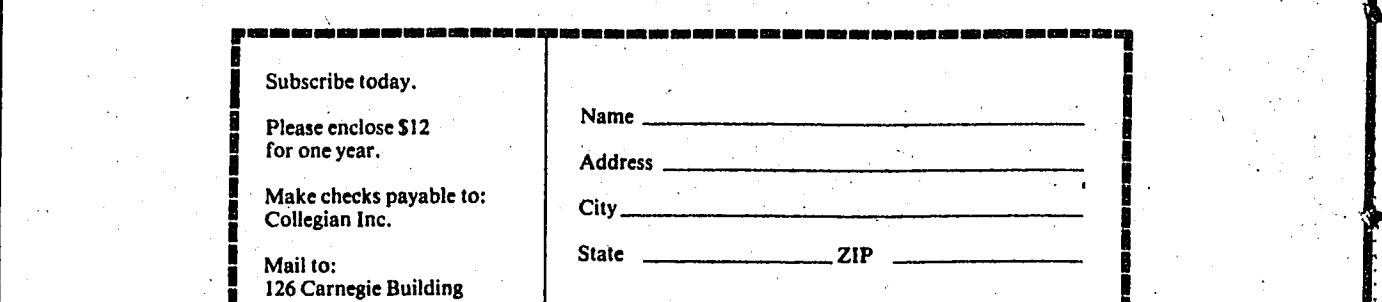
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Camp David talks: A year later

WASHINGTON (UPI) — On Sept. 17, 1978, three weary men came down from the mountain to give the world the good news — the Camp David summit had ended with a historic agreement on how to achieve peace in the Middle East.

A year later, those three men — America's Jimmy Carter, Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israel's Menachem Begin — are still trying to turn the spirit of Camp David into reality.

On the credit side, a formal peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. On the debit side: little or no progress in talks toward Palestinian self-rule.

One of the Americans intimately involved in the Camp David negotiations looked back this week on what went right and what went wrong at the summit.

U.S. urged to stop Marcos aid

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A prominent Filipino in exile has called on the United States to withdraw its support of President Ferdinand Marcos' government before the Philippines goes the way of Iran and Nicaragua.

Salvador Araneta, a former Philippine Cabinet member, educator and delegate to both Philippine Constitutional Conventions, said the United States should heed a warning issued by Cardinal Jaime L. Sin in Manila in July.

Sin, religious leader of the Philippines' 38 million Roman Catholics, urged Marcos, after 14 years in office, seven as a martial law president, "to begin the process of stepping down."

In an interview, Araneta, 77, a soft-spoken man, said the bloodshed of revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua could be avoided in the Philippines through American action.

"With timely help from President Carter in the form of economic sanctions, we can accomplish ours (revolution) without violence," Araneta said.

"The Filipino people are very pragmatic," Araneta said. "Economic sanctions would be sufficient for the mass law of Marcos to fall in a matter of weeks like a deck of cards."

Official doubtful of Chrysler plan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The federal government should not relax air or mileage standards to help Chrysler out of its financial crisis, Transportation Secretary-designate Neil Goldschmidt said yesterday.

"I do not think Chrysler's solution is going to be found in dirtier air or in less efficient cars," Goldschmidt told interviewers on NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

Chrysler has asked the government to consider delaying regulations on auto emission standards and waiving the mileage standards designed for fuel economy.

"These standards will save something like 200 million gallons of gasoline by 1990," Goldschmidt said. "It is critical to our economy that we do that."

He said the president has made it clear Chrysler's predicament deserves Cabinet attention because of the economic impact of a collapse.

"But I don't think he intends for Chrysler to become a child of the government," he said.

The car manufacturer submitted a proposal to Secretary of Transportation William Miller Saturday for \$1.2 million in federal loan guarantees, but Miller rejected a sizable portion of the plan as "way out of line" and told the company to rework it.

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