

Government drops nuclear secrets suit



Charles Hansen is a computer programmer from Mountain View, Calif., who wrote the letter which allegedly detailed secrets of the hydrogen bomb and was published in a Madison, Wis., newspaper.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The government yesterday dropped its court fight to block the Progressive Magazine and other publications from printing secrets to the hydrogen bomb, but said it may file criminal charges against those involved in exposing some of the sensitive data.

"The Department of Justice has decided to seek dismissal of the cases against the Daily Californian and Progressive Magazine," department spokesman Terrence Adamson told reporters following a day of private meetings by government lawyers.

The government had obtained court orders blocking the two publications from printing H-bomb secrets in a battle that began last spring.

Adamson said the issue became moot when the Madison, Wis., Press Connection Sunday published a letter from an amateur expert that included a diagram and list of key components of an H-bomb.

The same letter, from computer

programmer Charles Hansen to Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., had been circulated to a number of newspapers.

Adamson refused to say if the Press Connection or Hansen would be a target of the Justice Department's preliminary criminal inquiry into possible violations of the Atomic Energy Act that bars disclosure of nuclear weaponry technology.

He said the material published in Madison has been widely disseminated and is in the public domain.

Once the suits are dropped, he said, the government will no longer fight publication of any of the material — "it's a matter of editorial judgment, not legal responsibility."

Administration sources said the government also abandoned its seven-month-old legal struggle to block publication of the Progressive article, by free-lance writer Howard Morland, because the Hansen article

"is more accurate than the Morland article."

Several of the newspapers that received the Hansen letter refused to turn it over to the government, and the Justice Department Saturday obtained a court order barring the Daily Californian — which is circulated at Berkeley, Calif. — from publishing its contents.

Yesterday, following publication of the letter in Madison, the Justice Department asked U.S. District Judge Samuel Conti of San Francisco to dissolve the temporary restraining order against the Daily Californian and dismiss its lawsuit. Conti promptly obliged.

Adamson said Hansen's letter exposed the three "critical concepts of thermonuclear weapons ... we were trying to protect."

He said the United States has been injured by disclosure of the material, because other countries will now have increased capability "to obtain

the knowledge which heretofore has been carefully guarded, restricted data under the law."

Mark Lynch, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union which is representing the Progressive, said his clients did not pass the Morland research to Hansen.

"We're very confident that our clients have been absolutely scrupulous in obeying the court protective order (barring disclosure of the Morland article)," he said.

He said the Progressive was "delighted" at the ruling.

"The government finally realized that prior restraint doesn't work," he said.

Adamson said the Justice will still take appropriate steps to ensure continued protection of material filed by the government under court seal in the Progressive case. But he said it would no longer fight publication of any of the material now in the public domain.

Faculty reaction to bomb disclosure mixed

By PAUL BOYNTON and BOB HANNIGAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writers

The printing of information how to construct a hydrogen bomb, in direct conflict with a federal government restraining order, drew mixed reactions from University professors last night.

"Apparently this was worked from unclassified information," William A. Lochstet, assistant professor of physics, said. "I would be distressed if the government would stop such work, because it would be an infringement on the freedom of press and the freedom of expression. Maybe the government should not have published as much as it did," he said.

On the other hand, Robert O. Blanchard, director of the School of Journalism, said he thought "things

have gotten a little out of hand."

Blanchard said he believes there will be a public reaction against disclosing information that conflicts with national security.

However, Nunzio J. Palladino, dean of the college of engineering, said he does not understand why the government is upset if the information was taken from unclassified sources.

"I imagine the government showed discretion in choosing what information was to be made public," he said.

One University professor said he believes that it is only a matter of time before determined groups can obtain information about hydrogen bombs.

"Sooner or later the people who would want it (hydrogen bomb information) would find out," Thomas T. Thwaites, associate professor of physics,

said. The printing of the story reduced the time in which the information could be obtained, he said.

Robert E. Harkavy, associate professor of political science, said he believes the most serious security threat would come from terrorist groups rather than foreign countries.

Two University professors said they agreed with the lifting of the restraining order and both believed it should not have been issued at all.

"I agree with the lifting of the order," Donald L. Smith, associate professor of journalism, said. He said he was satisfied that the letter contained information that had already been made accessible to the public.

R. Thomas Berner, assistant professor of journalism, said he believed the information printed contained no secrets.

Bill might eliminate party voting

By TIM KONSKI
Daily Collegian Harrisburg Bureau

HARRISBURG — Straight party voting in general elections may be eliminated under legislation introduced recently into the state General Assembly.

House Bill 190 would "force electors to vote for each individual candidate instead of a party," Representative Jess M. Stairs, R-Acme, the bill's co-sponsor, said.

"This would help give us a more responsible government because voters will choose candidates on merit rather than by party affiliation," he said.

The bill's other sponsor, Rep. Roger R. Fischer, R-Washington County, said the legislation was initiated to protect independent candidates who have been "traditionally hurt" by the two-party system.

"In many cases, good, solid candidates have not been elected," he said, "because the parties choose candidates who have proven their loyalty."

"For example, Democrats in a heavily Republican area have less of a chance of getting elected. It has nothing to do with their ability; they're just registered in what turns out to be the wrong party," Fischer said.

Fischer also said primary elections should be open to independent electors and that cross-party voting should be permitted.

"This would give us better candidates and may encourage middle and lower income candidates to run," he said.

Support for the bill among members of the legislature has varied, Stairs said.

"Most of our support comes from independent thinkers," he said. "Members are in favor if their party is

in a majority. Minority party members tend to reject the bill."

However, Commonwealth Secretary Ethel D. Allen, who operates the state's election bureau, opposes the legislation.

"Opponents to straight party voting argue that this bill will require voters to become more knowledgeable about the candidates and the issues and that the straight party vote gives an unfair advantage to the party with the registration edge."

"However, this bill would confuse voters and, in fact, deny them the freedom of choice which they currently enjoy. It seems to me that House Bill 190 attempts to do in a haphazard way what should be done in an orderly and comprehensive fashion," Allen said.

She said the bill is deficient because it does not amend the section of the state election code that allows electors in paper ballot districts to vote a straight

party ballot.

The bill does not state how a candidate's party will be identified in the absence of straight party levers on voting machines, Allen said.

"If there is no party lever it is assumed that the candidates of all one party would still appear on one row or column of the voting machine. It should be made explicitly clear in any amendment which eliminates straight party voting how the party of the candidate is to be identified," she said.

Although the bill may weaken the two-party system, House leaders have not committed their support or opposition to the bill.

"I've gone both ways on this," House majority leader Matthew Ryan, R-Delaware County, said. "One minute I think it's right, the next minute I think it's wrong."

He said the bill would not weaken

party strength if candidates continue to be listed in party groups on election ballots.

"But, the parties would definitely suffer if candidates were listed randomly," Ryan said.

He also said straight party voting has been effective because electors who are unfamiliar with a candidate's platform can vote for party philosophy.

"If you don't know the candidate," he said, "you can vote your party line because you should know and agree with your party's ideology."

Charles Bacas, aide to Minority Whip James Mandarino, D-Westmoreland County, said Mandarino has remained uncommitted on the bill.

"People want chocolate and vanilla ice cream," the aide said. "They want straight party voting in areas where they are strong, but want to get rid of it in areas where they are weak."

Public campaign funding possible

HARRISBURG (AP) — Two lawmakers said yesterday they will introduce a bill to establish public funding of statewide election races.

Sen. James Lloyd of Philadelphia and Rep. Allen Kukovich of Westmoreland County, both Democrats, said the proposal will help lessen the influence of special interest groups on political candidates.

"Many of us find that we're torn between those who voted for us and those who financed us," Lloyd said.

Kukovich said the effect of large donations from special interest groups shows up in lobbying.

"I don't think anybody can say that a representative or senator is bought," he said. "It's much more subtle than that."

A group that has contributed to a lawmaker is usually guaranteed an audience when it wants to make a point about pending legislation, he said.

However, the proposal would not apply to the General Assembly.

"It wouldn't pass," Lloyd said, adding that many lawmakers well versed in campaign fund-raising would be reluctant to switch to public financing.

The bill calls for a check-off on state income tax returns similar to the one on federal returns.

Taxpayers could indicate whether they want \$2.50 of their tax to go into a special Public Election Finance Fund administered by the secretary of the commonwealth.

Each candidate who qualifies would receive \$2.50 from the fund for every dollar he or she raises above a certain level.

A candidate for governor would have to raise \$60,000, while other statewide candidates would have to raise \$20,000. The minimums are cut in half for primaries. Matching money would apply to any additional funds raised.



Get down
These co-eds from McElwain Hall are not demonstrating a new dance step or polishing their housecleaning skills, but showing one way to have a scavenger hunt in Mifflin Hall.

Hurricane forces 2,000 to flee

VERACRUZ, Mexico (UPI) — Hurricane Henri bounced erratically across the Gulf of Mexico yesterday and sideswiped Ciudad del Carmen where more than 2,000 persons fled to the safety of Veracruz and Tampico.

Hurricane watchers at Mexico's Gulf Disturbance Center said Henri, the season's eighth tropical twist, was spotted about 242 miles southeast of the northern city of Tampico, Tamaulipas province.

They said Henri, packing winds of up to 105 mph, was working its way northwest toward the northern shores of Mexico. The winds could intensify in the area between Nautla, Veracruz, and Punta Jerez, Tamaulipas, a distance of some 198 miles, they said.

At mid-day, the hurricane was centered 123 miles northwest of the

huge Petroleos Mexicanos runaway gusher that has been spewing oil into the Bay of Campeche and Gulf of Mexico since June 3.

Police in Ciudad del Carmen, a shrimp-fishing town in the Gulf of Campeche, said strong winds, driving rains and accompanying floods forced about 2,000 persons from their homes. They said waters in the city swelled at least a foot above street level.

No deaths or injuries were reported.

"We have felt only the secondary effects of the hurricane," a spokesman for the mayor's office told UPI.

He said rescue squads had been sent out to the surrounding areas where flood waters had risen nearly three feet.

Earlier, Henri's 125-mile radius of high winds and accompanying rough seas halted "Project Sombrero" at the site of a huge oil spill that has polluted beaches as far north as Texas.

The aim of "Project Sombrero" was to place a 30-ton bell over the gusher and prevent the escape of more crude oil.

A Pemex spokesman said ships carrying the bell were buffeted by 9-foot waves and 50 mph winds, and were unable to anchor solidly enough to complete the job.

In anticipation of the storm, all Mexican navy and army units in the city of Veracruz were ordered back to their barracks and ready to lend emergency help, Mexican authorities reported.

Leader says opposition is gone

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — New President Hafizullah Amin of Afghanistan confirmed in a broadcast speech yesterday night all opposition was eliminated in his lightning seizure of power.

In a state radio broadcast monitored in New Delhi, the 50-year-old Amin, who rose from prime minister to president and chief of the ruling party Sunday, said nothing about the whereabouts of his predecessor and former mentor, Nur Mohammed Taraki. Amin retained the prime ministry and control of the regime's defense system.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency Tass reported President Leonid I. Brezhnev and Premier Alexei N. Kosygin had sent a telegram to Amin congratulating him on his "election." It quoted the message as saying in part, "We express confidence that fraternal relations between the Soviet Union and Revolutionary Afghanistan will be further developed."

Diplomatic sources in Kabul had said before the upheaval there were indications the Kremlin leadership was not satisfied with Amin and had considered seeking ways to replace him.

The state radio reported Sunday that the 62-year-old former president had "resigned" from the presidency and leadership of the ruling Khalq Party, because of a nervous condition.

Taraki appeared fit during a recent stopover in Moscow following the Havana non-aligned summit.

Amin said he had the support of the "brave army of Afghanistan" and pledged to maintain good relations with all nations, "especially the Soviet Union," ease strained ties with Iran and Pakistan, and respect Moslem institutions.

Referring to the regime's human rights record, Amin promised: "All atrocities by members of the government will no longer be tolerated." All political prisoners "unnecessarily" arrested will be released, he added.

The regime under Taraki admitted it held about 1,100 political prisoners, although reliable Afghan sources said the number was in the tens of thousands. Pul-i-Charkhi Prison on the outskirts of Kabul, reportedly the scene of torture and summary executions, was holding about 23,800 persons, many of them political prisoners, the sources said.

A change is near

Today will be our last sunny, warm day for a while, so enjoy the high of 78. Tonight will be milder with the low going to 57, but tomorrow it will turn windy and colder, with partly cloudy skies and temperatures holding in the low 60's.