

### Askew: No homosexuals

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew said yesterday he would not hire any homosexuals if he is confirmed as the president's special representative for trade negotiations.

Askew was asked during his confirmation hearings before the Senate Finance Committee if it was true he had said when he was governor that he would not hire a known homosexual.

"I have said I would not have a known homosexual on my staff," Askew replied. "That is still my feeling."

Asked if he would continue that policy as trade negotiator, Askew said, "To my knowledge, the people on my board are heterosexual."

### Nixon stresses cooperation

PEKING (UPI) — Former President Richard Nixon said yesterday that, as long as the United States and China work together, aggression can be deterred and world peace maintained.

Nixon, on his third visit to China, also said the opening of the door to normal relations between Washington and Peking was the greatest achievement of his administration.

The 66-year-old former president spoke of the need for U.S. cooperation and his China initiative in a toast to Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese and American officials attending a banquet in his honor hosted by Deng in the Great Hall of the People last night.

Nixon warned that if the two nations fail to work together "not only our survival but the survival of others who are threatened by such aggression will be in deadly peril."

### Defense spending hike OK'd

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate voted yesterday to add \$25 billion to U.S. defense spending over the next three years, including the 3 percent "real" increase President Carter had endorsed, while shaving \$2.6 billion from domestic programs.

The action was taken in two votes as the Senate considered the federal budget for 1980.

The first vote was to add \$3.2 billion to the \$127.4 billion defense figure proposed by its budget committee, bringing it to the \$130.6 billion figure recently endorsed by Carter.

Then, by a vote of 55 to 42, the Senate approved \$21.7 billion in defense spending for 1981 and 1982, above increases already projected by the budget committee. These targets for the two later years are not binding.

The Senate's first action would provide a \$16 billion increase in defense spending in 1980 compared to that in 1979. This would amount to a 3 percent "real" increase after allowing for inflation.

The second vote would provide for "real" increases of 5 percent in 1981 and 1982 above inflation.

The Senate's actions brought its total budget proposal for 1980 so far to \$546.3 billion with a deficit of \$31.6 billion. It will continue work on the budget today.

### State appointments rejected

HARRISBURG (AP) — Senate Democrats, claiming they are protecting voters' rights, yesterday knocked down two Gov. Dick Thornburgh's county appointments.

By identical 26-12 party line votes, the Senate defeated the nomination of Stephen Barninger as Perry County corner and Betty Kinports as York County treasurer. Both are Republicans.

"We believe they would have had an advantage," said Democratic Leader Edward Zemprell of Allegheny County.

He said both persons are candidates in the November elections for the offices and Senate confirmation could have been viewed as an endorsement.

"We feel the decision should be left to the voters," Zemprell said.

### Senate kills debate regulations

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Federal Election Commission regulations which would have made it illegal for television networks, newspapers and wire services to sponsor campaign debates were killed by voice vote in the Senate yesterday.

The controversial regulations also would have allowed the League of Women Voters to accept union and labor funds in sponsoring presidential debates.

The FEC proposals were widely condemned by the news media because of the limitation they put on the First Amendment rights of free speech and press.

The FEC now must revise its proposals and resubmit them to Congress.

The Federal Communications Commission had asked Congress to reject the regulations, saying the FEC was interfering with its responsibilities of regulating the electronic media.

The measure to kill the regulations, which would have become effective automatically unless vetoed, was sponsored by Sens. Clairborne Pell, D-R.I., and Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., the chairman and ranking minority member of the Senate Rules Committee.

### Uranium plant forced to close

ERWIN, Tenn. (UPI) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission yesterday ordered a shutdown of a plant making highly enriched uranium for Navy submarines because of its nuclear fuel was apparently missing.

Officials said there was no danger of a health hazard.

An NRC spokesman at the plant said inspection teams from Atlanta and Washington were supervising an inventory of the fuel at the Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. facility.

"It is an orderly shutdown," said Frank Gillespie, NRC regional chief of materials control and accounting. "They (company officials) are simply ceasing the input of material into the manufacturing process. It is the process of getting the plant ready for inventory," he said.

An NRC spokesman in Washington said the order, issued by Robert Burnett, director of the NRC's division of safeguards, was unusual.

Burnett declined to reveal how much fuel was missing.

Gillespie said he was not in a position to speculate on the missing fuel but said "we have no suspicions at the present time."

Gillespie said the missing fuel was not of a high radiation level and not considered a health hazard.

Under NRC rules, a plant is required to close if the inventories made every two months turn up a discrepancy of more than 10 kilograms of highly enriched uranium.

### Group acquires county land

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy said yesterday it has acquired 12,670 acres of wild mountain land surrounding Cherry Run in Centre and Clinton counties.

The acquisition is the largest in the group's 47-year history.

The Cherry Run project straddles Big Fishing Creek, between State College and Lock Haven, adjacent to Bald Eagle State Forest.

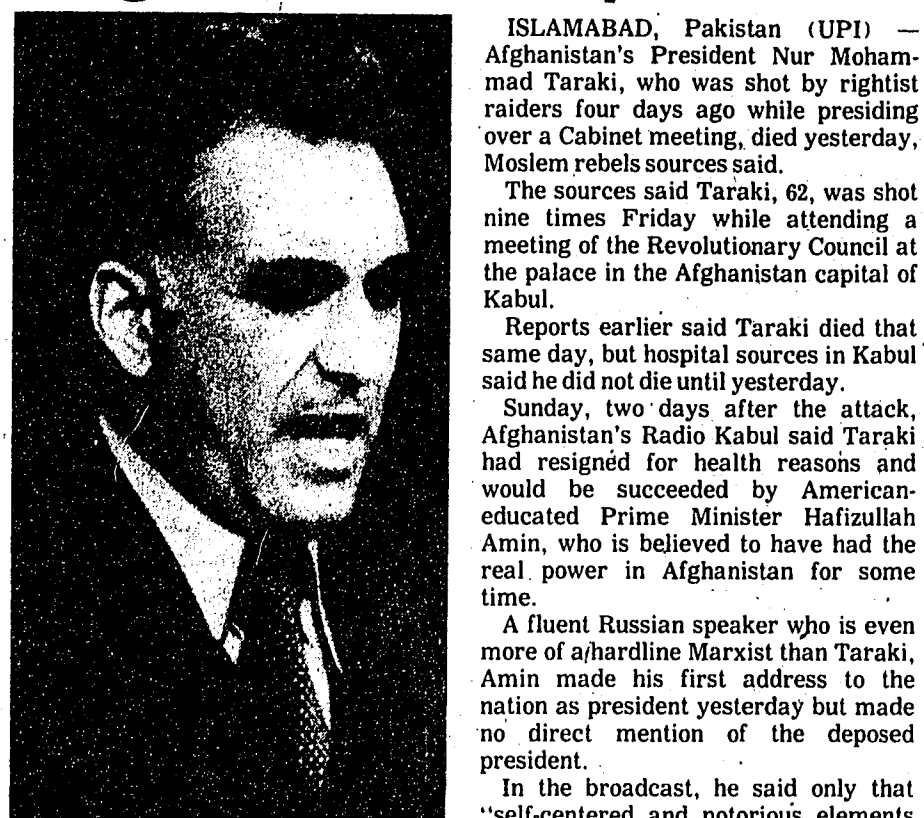
Cherry Run is a native brook trout stream so pure and remote that the Pennsylvania Fish Commission has designated it a "wilderness trout stream."

Flanked by Big Mountain and Bear Mountain, the stream wanders through a forest inhabited by black bear, wild turkey and white-tailed deer.

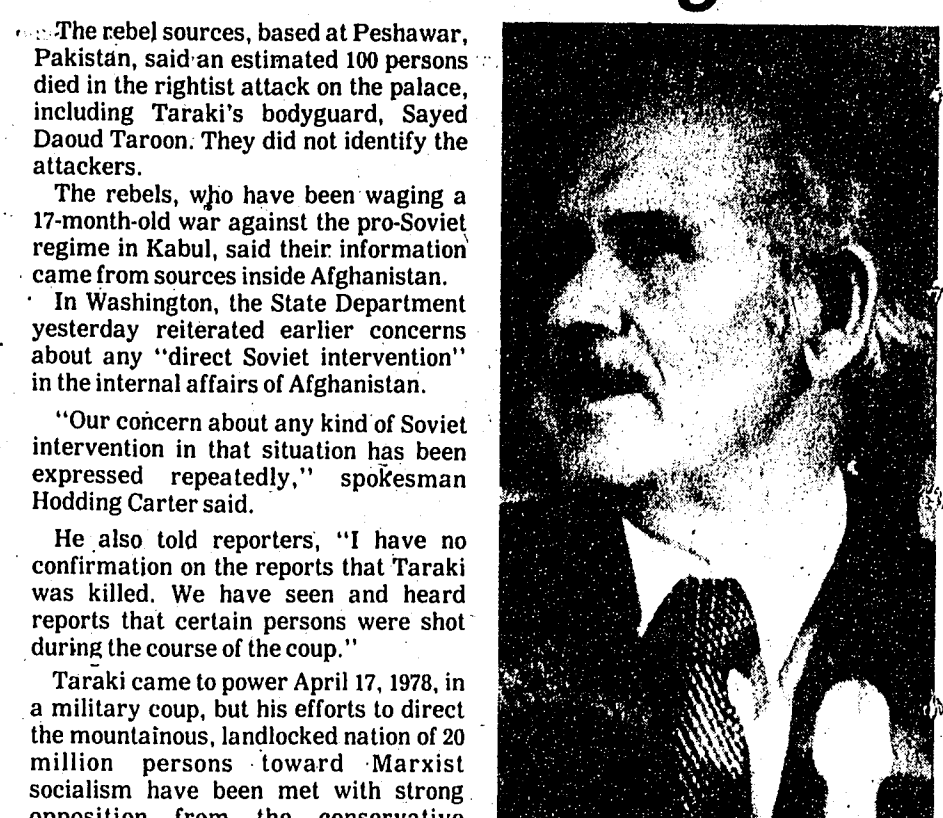
The land will be permanently protected in its natural state and will be open to outdoor enthusiasts for hunting, fishing and hiking. The tract has been conveyed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which will manage it for wildlife habitat.

The real estate was sold at cost to the Game Commission.

## Afghanistan's president dies after being shot



Hafizullah Amin



Nur Mohammed Taraki

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (UPI) — Afghanistan's President Nur Mohammed Taraki, who was shot by rightist raiders four days ago while presiding over a Cabinet meeting, died yesterday, Moslem rebels sources said.

The sources said Taraki, 62, was shot nine times Friday while attending a meeting of the Revolutionary Council at the palace in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Reports earlier said Taraki died that same day, but hospital sources in Kabul said he did not die until yesterday.

Sunday, two days after the attack, Afghanistan's Radio Kabul said Taraki had resigned for health reasons and would be succeeded by American-educated Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin, who is believed to have had the real power in Afghanistan for some time.

A fluent Russian speaker who is even more of an ardent Marxist than Taraki, Amin made his first address to the nation as president yesterday but made no direct mention of the deposed president.

In the broadcast, he said only that "self-centered and notorious elements who started the conflict with our working classes have been eliminated."

The rebel sources, based at Peshawar, Pakistan, said an estimated 100 persons died in the rightist attack on the palace, including Taraki's bodyguard, Sayed Daoud Taroon. They did not identify the attackers.

The rebels, who have been waging a 10-month-old war against the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul, said their information came from sources inside Afghanistan.

In Washington, the State Department yesterday reiterated earlier concerns about any "direct Soviet intervention" in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

"Our concern about any kind of Soviet intervention in that situation has been expressed repeatedly," spokesman Hodding Carter said.

He also told reporters, "I have no confirmation on the reports that Taraki was killed. We have seen and heard reports that certain persons were shot during the course of the coup."

Taraki came to power April 17, 1978, in a military coup, but his efforts to direct the mountainous, landlocked nation of 20 million persons toward Marxist socialism have been met with strong opposition from the conservative Moslem clergy who fear the destruction of their religious traditions.

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## More fires spread in California

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — New fires sprang up in tinder-dry brush yesterday in various parts of California as hundreds of firefighters battled to contain the flames that forced many residents to flee endangered homes.

Some homes were destroyed.

The largest of the fires, in the Angeles National Forest near Los Angeles, blackened about 40,000 acres of mountain terrain.

In northern California, firefighters lost ground in a battle against a 7,000-acre blaze that roared into heavy timber near Placerville. More than 200 people were forced to leave their homes.

The Placerville blaze had been 50 percent contained, but winds erupted and caused it to jump fire lines.

In the southern part of the state, two fires broke out in brushland in Santa Barbara County. A blaze near Goleta charred 90 acres and residents were evacuated from homes in Eagle and Winchester canyons. Two homes were reportedly destroyed in Winchester Canyon.

An oil refinery near the Pacific Ocean was in view of the flames but not in immediate danger, authorities said. Some secondary roads were closed because of smoke and flat tires.

Another Santa Barbara County fire broke out near Lake Cachuma, damaging several mobile homes.

Closer to Los Angeles, a brush fire broke out in the Oak View area of the Ojai Valley in Ventura County, charring 200 acres and threatening a prep school and a housing subdivision. Firefighters stopped the flames short of both the school and the subdivision.

Several homes were evacuated along Sulphur Mountain Road in the Ojai Valley and the American Red Cross set up a shelter at a local high school.

To the south, in the Angeles National Forest, more than 3,000 people, including support personnel under supervision of the U.S. Forest Service, joined in the fight against the Sage and Monte fires.

Ashe from the blazes were deposited on homes in metropolitan Los Angeles.

The Sage fire had charred more than 30,000 acres before spreading into the San Gabriel wilderness and threatening wildlife and the primitive environment.

Also threatened by the Sage fire was a prime recreational area, the Charleton Chiao campground along Angeles Crest Highway.

Temperatures were in the 90s, not quite as hot as in the last few days, and winds diminished to 8 to 16 miles per hour, giving rise to some optimism among the firefighters in Angeles forest.

The Monte fire, burning parallel to the Sage fire and to the northwest of it, was open on the southern end but was burning slowly.

The Monte blaze had charred 4,800 acres and one point was only a mile from linking with the Sage fire in the mountainous areas of the forest.

"The Monte fire is on the site of



A resident looks on dejectedly at the burned out remains of his home near Hollywood, Calif. A roaring brush fire Monday destroyed 24 homes and 17 cars.

## Crack caused DC-9 tail section loss, airline says

NEW YORK (AP) — Air Canada said yesterday that cracks in a pressure bulkhead apparently caused one of its DC-9 jets to lose part of its tail section during a flight over the Atlantic. The airline ordered 42 other DC-9s inspected and withdrawn from service one that was found to have a similar flaw.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it was monitoring the Air Canada inspection and would order all DC-9s inspected if the cracks proved to be a widespread problem.

Monday's incident occurred on an Air Canada flight from Boston to Nova Scotia. Despite the loss of pressure, the plane made it back and landed safely.

The rear pressure bulkhead which apparently cracked in the Air Canada planes is the final wall between the pressurized passenger cabin and a small, unpressurized area at the rear of the plane. Higher air pressure inside the airplane could eventually blow out the weakened section with explosive force.

"We are looking at the possibility that this is a problem that might involve more than one aircraft, and if we do get any indication that it is a widespread problem we would order inspection of all DC-9s," FAA spokesman Fred Farrar said in Washington.

A federally ordered inspection could, depending on its complexity, create problems for airlines relying on the DC-9. A visual check would not necessarily disrupt service, but orders to X-ray questionable parts of the plane could create scheduling problems for some airlines, officials said.

Farrar said more than 200 DC-9s are now operated by U.S. airlines, making the DC-9 one of the more popular commercial airliners. There are several variations of the DC-9. Air Canada said it believed any problem with the bulkhead would be confined to the Series 30, a plane, nearly 600 of that model are in operation around the world. Air Canada said it also has three shorter DC-9s of a different series.

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## Henri, once hurricane, now 'harmless front'

VERACRUZ, Mexico (UPI) — Hurricane Henri, losing most of its punch over the Gulf of Mexico, weakened yesterday into a tropical storm and then into a harmless weather front of wind and rain.

The season's eighth tropical storm was last reported packing weak to moderate winds with gusts up to 62 mph and only moderate rains, according to the Gulf Disturbance Center in Veracruz.

Henri was so weak that the latest reports showed only an amorphous mass of winds and rain — and its winds were expected to drop to about 43 mph by late yesterday, officials at the center said.

Spokesmen for the Gulf Disturbance Center predicted that Henri would continue to weaken around the Gulf of Mexico until it died and would bring only moderate winds and rain to a 250-mile stretch of Gulf Coast that had been put on alert early yesterday.

The coast between the city of Nautla and Soto La Marina went on alert after the center predicted Henri would make a landfall at the Tamiahua Lagoon about 108 miles north of Nautla, with winds of up to 75 mph.

But the center said later in the day that the danger to the area no longer existed. Officials in the small town of Tamiahua said they had no wind or rain and a resident of Tuxpan, at the northern end of Henri's danger zone, reported moderate winds but no precipitation.

"Thank God nothing has happened here yet," he said.

On Monday, Mexican forecasters issued an advisory for the parts of Tampico, Tuxpan and Nautla, warning residents in low-lying areas to move to high ground. There were no reports of flooding in those areas.

Miami and Mexican forecasters also issued an advisory, warning small crafts along the Texas and Mexican coasts to stay in port.

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

"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.

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