

MX battle may climax

Presidential candidates fight against dense-pack

By W. DALE NELSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Four Democratic senators with presidential ambitions are heading into the thick of a fight against President Reagan's plan to put 100 MX nuclear missiles in 21 square miles of Wyoming prairie. Congressional sources said the battle could reach its climax on the Senate floor today when the Senate is expected to get around to a stopgap spending bill containing MX money.

Sens. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, Alan Cranston of California, Gary Hart of Colorado and John Glenn of Ohio all are expected to play major roles in the debate. All also are contemplating races for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Hollings, who has a committee exploring his presidential prospects, succeeded Wednesday in getting the Appropriations Committee to put strings on the \$988 million earmarked for purchase of the first five missiles.

Under the Hollings amendment, the money could not be spent unless Congress approved a basing mode for the weapons, each of which would carry 10 nuclear warheads.

Reagan and a bipartisan group of senators have proposed a so-called alternative under which the president would recommend one or more basing modes by March 1 and Congress would have 45 days to approve one plan. If it doesn't approve one, the money remains frozen.

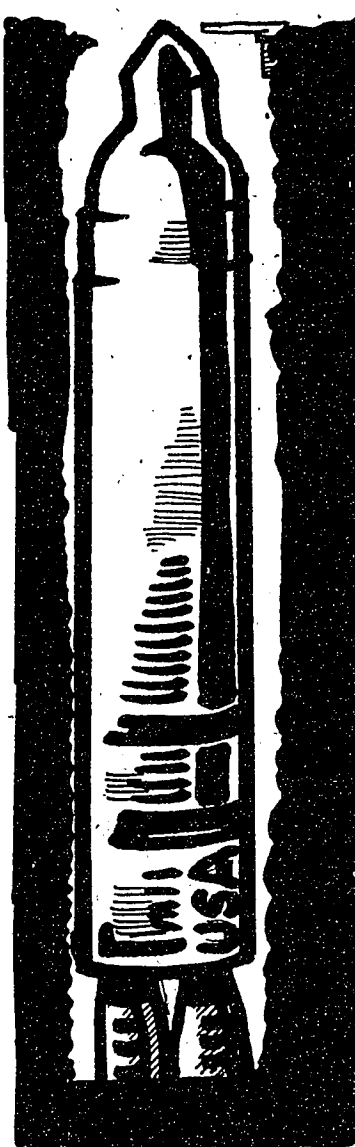
The difference is that the Reagan-backed plan includes a time limit for him to submit a plan and Congress to consider it.

But the bottom line is the same: Until Congress agrees on a basing plan, the MX cannot be built. A source close to the Reagan leadership, who would not agree to be quoted by name, said, "The votes are probably out (in the Senate) to put in the compromise language when the time comes" and Hollings conceded that "the president might win on the Senate floor."

Administration officials have left no doubt Reagan's acceptance of the so-called compromise was little more than an attempt to buy time to lobby for the dense pack scheme. "As far as fallback positions or alternate systems, frankly we don't have any," Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday at about the same time Reagan was announcing the compromise at the White House.

Later that day, a White House official who asked that his name not be used said of the agreement: "We're satisfied with it because... it does give us more time to sell our ideas on the basing mode."

He said some members of the two armed services committees felt "there wasn't an adequate selling job" on dense pack. Nonetheless, House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., predicted that the House will stick by its original decision to delete the production funds altogether.



Cruise missiles deployed

By MEL REISNER
Associated Press Writer

ROME, N.Y. — The first of thousands of nuclear-armed, ground-hugging cruise missiles designed to be dropped from bombers and sneak past Soviet defenses entered combat readiness yesterday at Griffiss Air Force Base. Sixteen B-52 bombers of the 418th Bombardment Wing will each carry a dozen of the highly accurate weapons, making up the vanguard of a 201-plane force that could launch a strike on 10 minutes notice.

Strategic Air Command chief Gen. Bennie L. Davis, Defense Department Undersecretary for Research and Engineering Richard D. DeLauer and Clyde Skeen of Boeing Corp., the contractor in adapting the jet-propelled missiles to Boeing-built B-52s, took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday marking deployment.

The United States and its NATO allies also plan to base 400 Air-Launched Cruise Missiles in Europe next year along with Pershing 2s, a plan that provoked demonstrations in several European cities. Protests against basing of cruise missiles at Griffiss have been subdued, and limited to organized anti-nuclear groups. The Mohawk Valley Peace Council planned a silent vigil yesterday at one gate to the base in central New York.

Dr. Irwin Redlener, Utica surgeon and spokesman for Physicians for Social Responsibility, said deploying the missiles was a tragedy calculated to goad the Soviet Union into extending the arms race. "In the event of war, this area would be saturated with nuclear weapons," he said.

state news briefs

Residents face cold without utilities

HARRISBURG (AP) — More than 3,000 Pennsylvanians are facing the winter without heat, while 2,000 more are without electricity, according to a survey obtained yesterday by The Associated Press. The survey, the first of its kind, was performed by the Public Utility Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services. The survey polled the eight largest electric companies and the seven largest gas companies in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania blue laws bite the dust

HARRISBURG (AP) — "Operation Repeal," an effort by the Harrisburg administration to wipe obsolete laws from Pennsylvania's statute books, continued yesterday as the governor signed a dozen pertinent bills. His action brought to 38 the number of obsolete laws repealed under the act. Among those signed yesterday: An 1887 law that regulated the number of days per week a person may work in a bakery or confectionary establishment.

nation news briefs

Man slashes throat after conviction

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (AP) — A defendant yelled he was innocent and then slashed his throat with a razor blade yesterday after a Circuit Court jury found him guilty of sexually abusing his grandchildren. Witnesses said the Rutherford County jury had just read its verdict convicting Wiseman McCormick, 56, of the aggravated rape of his 11-year-old granddaughter and aggravated sexual battery of his 12-year-old grandson when he pulled a razor blade from his pocket and cut his throat.

Stolen exam may mean fake doctors

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — State licensing of about 255 Michigan medical school graduates as doctors is in doubt because part of their qualifying test was stolen, officials said yesterday. Officials said the theft apparently took place the night before the three-day test began Dec. 7. The theft could have national ramifications because the same Federal Licensing Exam is given simultaneously in all 50 states and the stolen questions may have been taken out of Michigan.

world news briefs

Baby dies after television appearance

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — While her mother pleaded before a live audience, "For the love of God, save my baby," a 9-month-old girl went into cardiac arrest on television and died en route to a hospital. The mother, Maria Elinalda da Silva Garcia, appeared with her baby Tuesday on "The People on TV" program to complain that the still unnamed child had been refused treatment at major Rio hospitals over a five-month period. The baby suffered from a badly bleeding eye, which one doctor had tentatively diagnosed as being caused by a tumor. Mrs. da Silva Garcia said she said she had come to the program to protest after hospitals rejected the child for admission despite worsening symptoms.

Hundreds arrested in Chilean protests

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Police have arrested more than 200 people for staging an anti-government protest in Chile's three largest cities, Roman Catholic church sources said yesterday. Groups of youths gathered Wednesday night in downtown squares and streets of Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion and shouted slogans against repression and economic mismanagement by Chile's military regime, witnesses said. Leaflets had announced a "march against hunger, for the return of exiles and for respect for human rights." No sponsoring group was named. The government gave no information about the arrests. But an official of the Catholic Vicariate of Solidarity, the church's human rights agency, said police told him the number detained in Santiago alone was 208.

stock report

Dow Jones sinks even further

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average sank to a nine-week low yesterday as the stock market posted its third straight loss. The news at mid-afternoon of a big jump in housing starts drew little response from traders, other than gains in a smattering of building-related issues. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials dropped 2.39 to 990.25, bringing its decline since early in Tuesday's session to almost 54 points. The last time the average closed lower was Oct. 8, when it stood at 988.85.

Volume Shares	85,617,540
Issues Traded	1,972
Up	652
Unchanged	405
Down	915
•N.Y.S.E. Index	78.04 - .05
•S.&P. Comp.	135.3 + .06
•Dow Jones Ind.	990.25 - 2.39



Baaah
Staubach, mascot of the Navy detachment at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas, looks a bit out of sorts during a special march yesterday morning. But he had good reason — instead of a proper Navy man holding his leash he had Army First Sgt. James Wittke, who had been assigned to escort the goat across base. The ceremony is an annual one determined by the outcome of the Army-Navy football game. If Army had won, the Navy detachment would have marched a mule.

Flatworms: Brain surgery takes on a new twist

By PATRICIA WOLF
Orange County Register

IRVINE, Calif. — In 12 years of doing brain transplants on flatworms, Harold Koopowitz has discovered some interesting things. A flatworm can live without a brain, for instance, but it can't swim very well.

If a brain is transplanted upside down into a flatworm, it will eventually be able to do nearly everything that a flatworm with a right-side-up brain can do.

What Harold Koopowitz learns from flatworms, he believes, might one day help humans suffering from spinal cord injuries and strokes.

Scientists don't usually choose to study flatworms, because flatworms and humans have nothing biologically in common. He believes he is the only scientist in the world studying the flatworm brain.

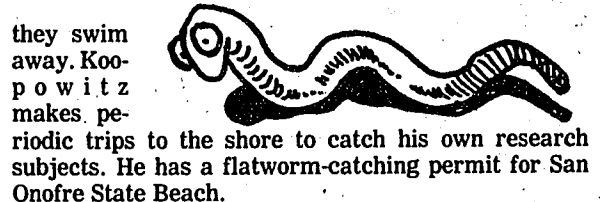
He thinks study of the way the one-inch to two-inch worms repair their nervous systems might suggest ways to repair human nervous systems injured by strokes or spinal-cord injuries.

"Flatworm brains are probably similar to the first brains that evolved," Koopowitz said. "If we can understand more about the brain of these animals, we should gain insight into the overall question of why brains evolved in the first place."

It's not an easy job. Koopowitz and his colleague, Larry Keenan, have spent the last two years perfecting flatworm brain transplants.

Flatworms are gray creatures that live under rocks in cold, salty water.

When provoked, they try to blend in with the rock or they swim away. Koopowitz or Keenan makes periodic trips to the shore to catch his own research subjects. He has a flatworm-catching permit for San Quintero State Beach.



Catching the flatworms is difficult; performing brain transplants is no easier. Keenan, who perfected the surgical procedure, said a flatworm brain is about one-sixty-fourth of an inch long, smaller than a pinhead.

Keenan performs the transplant in a laboratory dish under a microscope. He anesthetizes the worm and restrains it with a fence of cactus spines.

It takes 12 days after surgery for a flatworm with a transplanted brain to feel like himself again, Keenan said.

Flatworms are the first bilateral animals — animals with a distinct right and left sides — that evolved, the researchers say. Koopowitz theorizes that a central control, a brain, was needed so the animal could coordinate its systems and not tear itself in half.

The researchers have found that flatworms can survive up to six months in captivity, if they are kept in darkness and fed store-bought brine shrimp. The worms will hatch eggs in captivity, but the offspring survive no longer than two weeks, Keenan said.

Koopowitz and Keenan are beginning a new phase in their research — injecting a fluorescent dye into the transplanted brain in an effort to understand how the nerve cells heal and grow.

"We know the nerve cells find the right targets and grow to the correct location even when put in improperly," Keenan said. "We hope to find out how they do this."

House cites EPA head for contempt of Congress

By WILLIAM KRONHOLM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House voted 259-105 last night to cite Environmental Protection Agency chief Anne M. Gorsuch for contempt of Congress because she refused, on presidential orders, to turn over documents.

She was the highest official ever charged in such a battle between the executive and legislative branches of government.

The action of the House followed more than two hours of debate and a day of fruitless negotiations between congressional leaders and the White House in search of a compromise. The resolution goes to a federal grand jury, which can indict Gorsuch for contempt, a criminal misdemeanor. Convicted in U.S. District Court carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and a jail term of up to a year. The appeal that undoubtedly would follow conviction would ultimately go to the Supreme Court, which could issue a binding decision on the rights of the executive and legislative branches in questions of executive privilege. Democrats voted overwhelmingly in favor of the contempt resolution.

They were joined by almost one-third of the Republicans voting. Rep. James Howard, D-N.J., saying he was acting "with deep regret," offered the motion to cite Gorsuch after the negotiations with President Reagan's aides broke down.

"This is not a partisan issue. This issue deals with the Constitution of the United States and the prerogatives of Congress."

—Rep. Elliott H. Levitas, D-Ga.

"This is not a partisan issue," insisted Rep. Elliott H. Levitas, D-Ga., chairman of the subcommittee that originally subpoenaed the EPA documents. "This issue deals with the Constitution of the United States and the prerogatives of Congress." "We have gone every step of the way to avoid a confrontation," Levitas said. But he argued that the investigative powers of Congress "will be crippled and destroyed if the contemptuous acts (in withholding documents) are left unpunished."

We must take this grave, regrettable step." House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel, R-Ill., urged the House to reject the contempt resolution, although he said he agreed the issue raised "a very serious constitutional question."

But Michel said the issue was being rushed and the subpoena contained technical flaws that threatened Congress' legal position. "This case is not ironclad," Michel said. "It should be put over" until Congress reconvenes next year. The debate was a rare tort battle over executive privilege — the power of Reagan, or any president, to keep Congress in the dark on certain issues. It followed a day of fruitless negotiations involving the Justice Department and the EPA spokes-

man Byron Nelson said Gorsuch kept a morning dental appointment, made a luncheon speech and planned to attend an agency Christmas party later in the day. But in committee debate on the contempt resolution, Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Gorsuch wasn't kept a morning dental appointment, made a luncheon speech and planned to attend an agency Christmas party later in the day.

The House theoretically could have chosen another course of action — sending the sergeant-at-arms to arrest Gorsuch, bring her before the House and have her locked up on the premises until she produced the documents. But that method has not been used in more than 100 years and is not provided for in the statutes, and the contempt resolution called for proceedings "according to law."

The contempt citation was historic both because of the constitutional issue and the target. While Congress and the White House have heated before over executive privilege, contempt citations against high-ranking administration officials always have been resolved short of a floor vote. The most recent, a resolution this spring to cite Interior Secretary James G. Watt for contempt for refusing to produce documents, was settled in a compromise only hours before an expected floor vote. Similar disputes occurred in the Carter and Ford administrations.



Anne M. Gorsuch