

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

METRO EDITION

DIAL 682-5311, P.O. Box 1650, MIDLAND, TEXAS
Vol. 50, No. 279, Daily 15¢, Sunday 35¢

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1979
32 PAGES, 4 SECTIONS



A burning section of the ceiling of an Arlington apartment building engulfs Arlington Fire Capt. John Murphy in flames, above, as another fireman began to join him. Below, Capt. Murphy dashes toward a ladder as the second firefighter jumps from the second floor. Murphy suffered first degree burns on his face and neck. (AP Laserphotos)

Khomeini: Students act for whole nation, despite contradictions

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini again gave his full backing to the students holding 50 Americans hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, saying that they were acting for the whole Iranian nation.

The 79-year-old Shiite Moslem patriarch and leader of the Iranian revolution also castigated the U.S. government at a televised news conference Monday night with Arab journalists.

But Khomeini said if President Carter "descends from his ivory tower to sit with us on the ground and tries to establish mutual understanding, we will reciprocate, provided he compensates us for the cruelties inflicted so far."

The ayatollah took note of contradictions between the students and his foreign ministers, saying that the suggestion by foreigners that the students were directing Iran's foreign policy was a lie. But he gave the students his unqualified endorsement, saying that in occupying the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and declaring that the release or trial of the hostages depended on the return of "our criminal" — Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi — they were acting for the whole nation.

The students demonstrated their power once again Monday after Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh said some of the hostages might be released before Christmas. A spokesman for the students said none of the captives would be freed and all would be tried as spies. He said "the Iranian people" would decide when the trial would begin.

Khomeini told the news conference at his headquarters in Qom his regime does not regard the U.S. Embas-

sy as an embassy or the hostages as "members of the embassy."

"It was a den of espionage and they are spies," he declared. "We reject all the clamor by various sections abroad that these people should be freed because they are embassy staff and members of a mission and so forth."

He said the U.S. government was a bully which "skins alive the meek ones wherever it finds them, rains bombs on them wherever it can and strips nations of their resources wherever it can."

"Better not to have relations with those who want to rob us until they come to their senses and discover there are other things in the world and realize that the East has been the seat of a great civilization. Then we might establish relations with them, relations which are reciprocal and balanced."

Tehran's chief Islamic judge, Mohammad Gillani, told a news conference in the capital the order for the trial of the hostages would come from Khomeini and the Revolutionary Council which governs Iran in accordance with his orders.

Gillani also said the hostages would be unable to get defense lawyers since these would have to be Islamic lawyers, and "it would be very difficult to imagine what Islamic lawyer would come to assist a bunch of spies."

Monday was the hostages' 44th day in captivity, and during the day Los Angeles radio reporter Alex Paen delivered three sacks of Christmas cards for them from well-wishers in the United States.

OPEC nations bargain over 1980 price hikes

The Washington Post

CARACAS, Venezuela — After a week of preliminary maneuvering that sent oil prices up sharply, the world's major petroleum exporting nations Monday began intense bargaining among themselves over yet another round of increases for consuming countries in 1980.

Oil ministers from the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries opened their year-end formal price-setting meeting Monday in open discord on how much they should charge consumers and with little apparent hope of returning to a single-price system in the near future.

The outcome, expected Tuesday, could be a spread of prices ranging from \$25 to \$30 a barrel for OPEC's 31 million barrels a day of production.

Oil industry analysts said such a range could result in an average new price of about \$26.50 for OPEC oil and

an increase of about 10 cents per gallon for American motorists by the end of January.

The OPEC ministers appeared determined to stay out of the bitter quarrel involving Iran, an OPEC member, and the United States, which has asked all nations to try to

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persuade the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to release the 50 Americans held hostage in Tehran.

Speaking to journalists in the corridors of the luxury hotel housing the OPEC conference, several oil ministers said it would discuss neither President Carter's appeal for international help nor Iran's campaign to get expressions of solidarity from Moslem and oil producing nations.

"Oil ministers are very bad diplomats," Algerian Energy Minister Belkacem Nabi said, when asked if the hostage question would be discussed. "We talk only numbers and prices here. It is up to foreign ministers to discuss such things and there is none here."

Iran's oil minister, Ali Akbar Moinefar, has been accepted by his colleagues from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia without any evident misgivings. He in turn has not pressed Iranian appeals for condemnation of the United States, preferring instead to underline Iran's common interests with other OPEC nations.

At a press conference Sunday, for example, he described the U.S. oil boycott against Iran as "the first time in the history of OPEC that a consuming country has imposed an embargo."

Moinefar also said Iran would not ask other OPEC members to join Tehran in refusing dollars for payment of oil purchases.

Shortly before the OPEC conference formally opened in a hotel ballroom Monday morning, Moinefar put the cap on a series of pre-conference price increases by announcing that Iran was raising the price of its crude oil exports by \$5 a barrel from the current \$23.50. Moinefar asserted that Iran is producing 3.5 million barrels a day.

OPEC prices have been in disarray since June, when the organization formally adopted a floor price of \$18 and a ceiling of \$23.50 that has been broken by some producers in recent months as uncertainty over the Iranian crisis has driven spot market prices up to \$40 a barrel.

The range in which new OPEC prices are likely to fall appears to have been traced by last week's rises, begun by Saudi Arabia on Thursday. OPEC's largest producer announced that it had gone from the floor price to \$24 in a move to establish a new floor for the first half of 1980. The Saudis are now reliably reported to be ready to emerge from the Caracas meeting setting a price no higher than \$25.

Gas prices may climb 10 percent in 60 days

NEW YORK (AP) — Gasoline prices are climbing again, and analysts say the cost of pulling up to the gas pump could be as much as 10 percent higher in the next two months.

Wholesale gasoline prices have been raised as much as six cents a gallon in the last week as major producers responded to announced retroactive crude oil price increases.

But other factors are at work in the market, including inflation, Iraq's embargo on oil shipments to the United States and revised government rules on the mark-up gasoline dealers are allowed, analysts say.

Crude oil price increase expected to be approved by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries this week could push up prices by as much as an additional 10 cents a gallon, analysts say, based on reports from the OPEC meeting in Caracas, Venezuela.

Senate OKs smaller windfall tax

Little prospect for compromise this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "windfall profits" tax passed by the Senate, which would tax the oil industry \$99 billion less than a House version, is heading into a congressional negotiating committee with little prospect for a compromise this year.

The task facing the Senate-House conference committee is to hammer out a measure that over the next 11 years will cost the oil industry somewhere between the \$178 billion voted by the Senate and the \$277 billion passed by the House. The conferees

will be under pressure to make sure the oil industry is provided ample incentives to increase production.

By rough estimate, the Senate bill, passed 74-24 Monday night, would capture about 38 percent of the net "windfall" expected to be taken by the oil industry in the 1980s because of President Carter's decision to remove federal price controls from U.S. crude oil.

The House-passed bill would take about 61 percent.

The president, who proposed the

tax, told reporters at a state dinner Monday night he was glad the bill passed the Senate.

But a statement released by the White House also said the Senate bill "falls considerably short of the House bill."

"We will continue to push for a strong ... bill which is fair to producers, consumers and taxpayers," it said.

The American Petroleum Institute's president, Charles J. DiBona, said: "The tragedy of the Senate bill is that it would give oil companies nowhere near enough to generate the level of domestic investment that must be made to decrease our reliance" on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The API is a trade group for the oil industry.

Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., who will head Senate conferees on the measure, called the bill "a lot better than the alternative," meaning Carter's option to reimpose price controls on U.S. crude oil if Congress does not enact a strong tax.

The senators and House members who will strive for a compromise will meet for the first time Wednesday.

Aides say there appears little chance they can complete their work by Friday night, when they are due to start a holiday recess.

Barring unlikely sessions between Christmas and New Year's Day, final action will thus probably be delayed until early in January. If there is a delay, the new tax would be imposed retroactively to Jan. 1.

There are major differences between the House and Senate bills in addition to the \$99 billion revenue gap. The final compromise will have to resolve these two disparities:

—The House would tax 60 percent of future price increases on oil found after 1978; the Senate tax on this oil would be 10 percent. By 1990, such oil will account for about 43 percent of U.S. production.

—The House granted no special consideration for independent producers. As incentives for independents, who do 90 percent of the exploratory drilling, the Senate allowed each to escape the windfall tax on the first 1,000 barrels pumped daily.

Also, the House bill would merely impose the tax. The Senate measure would cover spending as well.

Senate spending provisions include \$7 billion to help 18 million welfare families pay their energy costs in the winters of 1980-81 and 1981-82; \$4.8 billion in energy assistance income-tax credits of up to \$200 per family for those with incomes up to \$22,000 a year; \$8.3 billion in new incentives for home energy conservation, such as for replacement of inefficient furnaces; and more than \$15 billion in incentives for businesses and to encourage production of such energy sources as shale oil.

Attached to the Senate bill in an effort to avoid a presidential veto are two unrelated amendments.

Bentsen raps Mexico for 'political sniping'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen has called for new evidence of friendship from the Mexican government to counteract what he termed "political sniping" undermining U.S. efforts to end the Iranian crisis.

"The Mexicans really cannot have it both ways," the Texas Democrat said Monday in a Senate speech. "They cannot count on our future cooperation in vital areas such as trade while courting our enmity on an issue as sensitive and compelling for America as the crisis in Iran."

Bentsen criticized Mexico's decision denying the return of deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi to his home-in-exile in Cuernavaca after first indicating that it would be permitted.

"Yet when the Shah's scheduled departure from this country became imminent, Mexico changed its mind, reneged on its commitment and created a new element of crisis in an already difficult situation," Bentsen said.

Comments by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo on the U.S. dollar's value and his criticism of President Carter's decision to freeze Iranian assets also were not helpful to the effort to free the American hostages in Tehran, Bentsen said.

He said he had heard Lopez Portillo remark while preparing for discussions, "Never mind the platitudes. How about the actions?" Bentsen said he had seen Mexican actions regarding Iran, and was not impressed by them.

The Texas senator later told reporters all of the actions were within Mexico's sovereign rights, but taken together they represented an objectionable pattern.

Bentsen said he had not cleared the speech or discussed its contents with the Carter administration because he wanted it considered as a "friendly warning" rather than an official U.S. stance.

LISTEN TO THIS CHARLIE BROWN! ONLY 6 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT!

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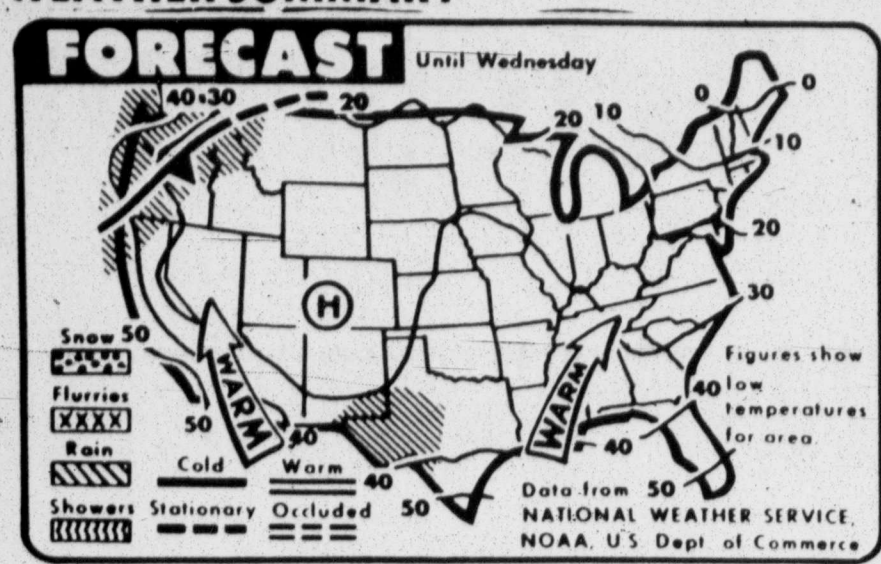
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WEATHER SUMMARY



Rain is forecast today through Wednesday for West Texas and the Northwest, according to the National Weather Service. Warm weather is expected for the Southeast and South, with most of the nation remaining cold. (AP Laserphoto Map)

Midland statistics

Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Warmer Wednesday. Low tonight near 30, high Wednesday in the mid 60s. West to southwest winds decreasing to 10-15 mph tonight.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE READINGS table with columns for Yesterday's High, Overnight Low, Sunrise, Sunset, and Local Temperatures for various times of day.

Texas temperatures

Table of Texas temperatures for various cities including Abilene, Alice, Alpine, Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Childress, College Station, Corpus Christi, Dalhart, Dallas, Del Rio, El Paso, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Junction, Langview, Lubbock, Lubin, McAllen, Midland, Mineral Wells, Pecos, San Antonio, San Angelo, Shreveport, Stephenville, Texarkana, Tyler, Wichita Falls, and Wink.

Extended forecast

Thursday through Saturday. West Texas: Cloudy with chance of showers south, partly cloudy north Thursday through Saturday. Highs, upper 30s mountains and north to lower 70s extreme south. Lows upper 20s mountains and extreme northwest to middle 40s southeast.

More Americans want Carter to make 1980 re-election bid

NEW YORK (AP) — More than half of the public now wants to see Jimmy Carter run for re-election, a remarkable reversal from the negative sentiments about the president in the last six months, an Associated Press-NBC News poll says.

Carter's handling of the Iranian crisis has helped give his standing with the public the largest boost of his tenure in office. But with more than 10 months left before the election, the seemingly intractable problems of the economy and energy are still major weak spots for Carter's image.

Charges against Roloff dropped

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A misdemeanor indictment against a child care facility without a license has been dismissed. County Court-at-Law Judge Robert Blackmon ordered the charge dropped Monday on a technicality.

The weather elsewhere

Table of weather elsewhere for various cities including Albany, Albuquerque, Amarillo, Anchorage, Asheville, Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Bismarck, Boise, Boston, Brownsville, Buffalo, Charleston, Charleston WV, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, Duluth, Fairbanks, Hartford, Helena, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Juneau, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Norfolk, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, Rapid City, Richmond, St. Louis, St. Paul, Salt Lake, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Tulsa, and Washington.

Texas area forecasts

West Texas: Fair today becoming partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Warmer today and Wednesday. Highs today widely scattered showers south Wednesday. Highs today 50s most sections except 60s Panhandle and Big Bend. Lows tonight 20s north and mountains to 30s south. Highs Wednesday 60s most sections except 50s mountains.

North Texas: Mostly fair and warmer today and tonight increasing cloudiness west Wednesday. High temperatures today 53 to 61. Lows tonight 34 to 38. Highs Wednesday 62 to 66.

South Texas: Cloudy extreme south and partly cloudy elsewhere today. Increasing clouds from the west tonight becoming mostly cloudy Wednesday. A slight chance of showers extreme south Wednesday. Warmer temperatures. Highs today 55 to 60. Lows tonight mid 30s north to upper 40s south. Highs Wednesday mostly in the 60s.

Coastal areas: Northwest to west winds 10 to 15 knots today and west to southwest near 15 knots tonight and Wednesday. Seas 4 to 6 feet today and tonight. Scattered showers.

Carter flooded with Iran advice

By GEORGE GEDDA WASHINGTON (AP) — "May I offer a solution to the Iranian problem? Stage a phantom death of the shah. Then give him a new identity. Send the ayatollah an urn of ashes reputed to be the shah's." By the thousands, Americans are writing President Carter to suggest ways of gaining the release of the 50 American hostages in Tehran.

Magazine reporters ordered out

By STUART AUERBACH The Washington Post TEHRAN — Both of Time magazine's correspondents were ordered expelled from Iran Monday amid charges that one of them is a former CIA agent. Government officials said Time would be forbidden to send other correspondents here.

The expulsion came just two days after one of the correspondents, Bruce van Voorst, had been granted a rare exclusive interview with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who is rumored here to be the leading candidate for Time's "Man of the Year" for 1979.

While Iran has opened its doors to reporters since 50 Americans were taken hostage in the U.S. embassy 43 days ago, during the past weeks authorities here have been raising increasing complaints about the type of press coverage this country has gotten.

Last week Associated Press correspondent Alex Efly was expelled from the country for writing stories about national minorities' demands for autonomy, and for reporting on AP's radio service that participants in an anti-government rally in Tabriz shouted, "Death to Khomeini!"

Time's expulsion also reflects a growing suspicion here that American agents are still active in Iran, especially in fomenting opposition to the government among Kurds in Kurdistan and Turkish-speaking residents of the Azerbaijani provinces in northwest Iran.

Iranian authorities did not accuse either of the two Time correspondents here — van Voorst and Roland Flamini — of using their press credentials to spy for the United States.

But Abol Ghassen Sadegh, head of foreign press for the Ministry of Guidance, said Iran knew in advance that one of them had been a CIA agent in the past but decided to admit him anyway.

Sadegh refused to tell which of the correspondents was the former agent "for his own sake," but van Voorst has been publicly identified in the past as an ex-CIA employee. He said Monday that he has always refused either to confirm or deny that he worked for the CIA.

While highlighting the CIA connection, Sadegh focused on Time magazine coverage over the past six weeks, which he called "one-sided and biased."

"Since the hostages were taken," he said, "the magazine has done nothing but help arouse the hatred of the American people toward Iran."

"Time has done much damage to this country in the eyes of Americans that we really cannot afford," continued Sadegh, a former VISTA volunteer who worked on an American Indian reservation in South Dakota and who renounced his U.S. citizenship in 1975 in disgust over the way the Americans treated the Indians.

A magazine cover, which he displayed for television cameras covering his press conference, showed a painting of a blindfolded hostage and had the headline, "Blackmailing the U.S." He said that cover is enough to "create the kind of misunderstanding reaction of the U.S. toward Iran."

Sadegh also was especially angry about a small article in Time Dec. 17 issue that questioned security procedures at the U.S. Embassy here. The article said that sensitive documents that named CIA agents and listed their cover positions should not have been allowed to fall into the hands of the militant students.

Cloudy, warmer weather forecast

While the skies may be partly cloudy, the temperatures should be clearly warmer Wednesday, the weatherman said. High Wednesday should be in the mid-60s with the overnight low near 30, according to the National Weather Service office at Midland Regional Airport.

have to be the best-kept secret ever." A Bloomington, Minn., resident wrote that the Iranian demands are not unreasonable. "Tell the Iranians we are sorry we supported the shah after all," he told Carter. "Please forgive us. Here is your shah. Kick him out. Why should one man's existence jeopardize hundreds of thousands of lives?"

Recalling that Iran released 13 black and female hostages in the early days of the crisis, an Alexandria, Va., man suggested the United States use a similar tactic. "Why don't we round up all the Iranian students who are here illegally and hold them in jail until the hostages are released?" he asked. "We could send back the dark-skinned ones and the women and keep the light-skinned ones here."

Almost all reaction to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is negative. There are many suggestions as to what the president could do about him. d From Des Moines, Iowa: "The more attention you pay to the ayatollah, the more power he gets and unites the Iranians against us. Ignore him. It won't be any fun for him and he'll give up the hostages."

From Peoria, Ill.: "The unexpected attracts attention... Why not send a woman envoy to talk with Khomeini. Anita Bryant, accompanied by a black guard and perhaps an Iranian interpreter, might just astonish them and accomplish much."

If the letters are a representative sampling of public opinion, many Americans clearly are in a vindictive mood. The letters were sprinkled with suggestions such as "please blow them (the Iranians) off the map," or



This cliffside home, owned by Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former Panamanian ambassador to the United States, now serves as a retreat for the

deposed Shah of Iran. The home is located on Contadora Island, off the coast of Panama. (AP Laserphoto)

Shah's days in 'refuge' quiet

By WILLIAM J. EATON The Los Angeles Times CONTADORA, Panama — The deposed Shah of Iran spent a quiet day in his tropical island refuge Monday taking his dog for a twilight walk but otherwise walled off from the world by a heavy security force.

The ex-ruler, who has lost 20 pounds since his gall bladder surgery, walked at a slow pace with his great dane, called Benno, and his poodle, known as Kutsu, during a late afternoon stroll from his residence to the Contadora Hotel beachfront.

About a dozen security guards surrounded him, and a car full of agents trailed behind as Panama's most distinguished visitor paced the 500 yards along a winding road.

Agents stopped a news photographer, Lenox "Red" McLendon of the Associated Press, from taking pictures of the former shah. One agent restrained McLendon, and escorted him to his room until the shah had left the hotel grounds.

Earlier, a hotel launch touring the island with news photographers aboard was warned away from the waters just off the residence being used by Iran's former ruler.

About a dozen security aides, some with automatic rifles, patrolled the beach. Other armed guards approached the launch and told its captain that it would have to stay farther away from the area where the ex-shah was staying.

Spokesman Robert Armao said that President Carter had expressed best wishes to the shah, and inquired about his health. The shah thanked Carter for helping to arrange for his arrival in Panama through White House Chief of Staff Hamilton Jordan, the spokesman added.

A U.S. Army helicopter arrived on the island carrying a technician to install a special telephone for the former shah's use. Communications by regular lines are not reliable.

There were reports that former Empress Farah Diba, the wife of the ex-shah, went shopping in Colon, a city on the eastern coast of Panama. Spokesman Armao said that she had not left the house on Monday.

There were mixed emotions over the impact of the shah's arrival on the tourist trade. Hotel Manager Ralph Tursi insisted that it was "more of a positive than a negative" because of the global publicity, the resort was receiving.

He reported that no cancellations had been received that were related to the shah's arrival Saturday.

A couple of American tourists, however, said that they did not like the idea of sharing the same small island with a visitor who had been marked for assassination by the new revolutionary government in Iran.

Robin Goldstein of Watchung, N.J., said that she was surprised to see Panamanian special forces troops in the hotel dining room.

"It definitely detracts from the aura of being away from it all," she said. Later, the shah had dinner in the hotel dining room.

to 'obliterate their oil fields' or 'please consider ordering the mining of Iranian ports.'

A Denver man wrote, "For every American killed, we should promise (the Iranians) that we will take over their oil fields and occupy them for three years... They can do their own arithmetic depending on how many years they want an American presence in their land."

A correspondent from Astoria, N.Y., proposed using a missile-launched "knockout gas" that would incapacitate everyone in the embassy compound area. Faratroopers would then rescue the hostages.

"The ideal, of course, would be some sort of mercy bomb that would put the whole of the lunatic Iranian people to sleep for a period of time, but I think this is improbable."



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CHEYENNE (AP) — The Utah man... by former... County D... Delbert J... a \$3 mil... against C... James S... county co... The law... Monday in... Court by t... Jay R. J... Heidi an... Jenkins J... Gray, 29... 40, witho... voked or... cause."

Contadora Island, off the coast of Panama.

(AP Laserphoto Map)

Tax exemption amendment to 'windfall' bill approved

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has approved a federal income tax break that would allow couples to exempt up to \$400 a year in income from interest on savings accounts and stock dividends.

Meanwhile Monday, the House approved a bill that would allow interest-paying checking-type accounts to continue nationwide for at least three more months.

The tax break — \$201 a year for single persons — was approved as an amendment to the Senate version of the "windfall-profits" tax bill, which is headed for a House-Senate conference committee.

The amendment has broad support in the House, and likely will become law despite opposition from the Carter administration.

The provision was offered by Sens. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, and Robert Dole, R-Kan., to help relieve inflation by encouraging Americans to spend less and save more.

Opponents say the tax exemption provides one more way for the rich to get richer, giving lower-income Americans little incentive to save.

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, says it "won't work, it isn't fair, it isn't necessary and... it will leave us \$27 billion less to work with" in efforts

Vertical sidebar containing various advertisements and notices, including "Buyer?...or su", "Santa...", "Child in fo", "Protect y...", "KEY INDE", and "Robert S. 619 W. T. 685-172".

Massive manhunt continues

SANTA FE (AP) — Santa Fe police have launched "Operation Concern" because of fear that four state prison escapees may be hiding in the homes of residents who may have been taken hostage.

Police Chief Jess Sosa appeared on local radio stations Monday and announced the "Operation Concern" effort.

He urged city residents to call on their neighbors and report any unusual activity, or suspicious lack of activity, in all neighborhoods.

The operation came as a result of an elderly Santa Fe couple being held prisoner in their home by one of the fugitives for about 36 hours before they escaped Sunday morning.

Sosa said a similar hostage situation may exist elsewhere in Santa Fe.

"We're gearing our law enforcement efforts with that kind of theory," he said.

"We're asking neighbor to call neighbor and see if things are normal. We are checking out vacant homes where people are on vacation," he said. "We are asking to be informed if people don't report to work without any apparent reason."

Police tentatively identified the fugitive who held the couple as Harmon Ellis, 44, who was serving a 60-year sentence for escape on a transfer from Arizona.

He was one of 11 inmates who escaped from the state penitentiary Dec. 9 in the largest pris-

on breakout in New Mexico history. Seven were captured within two days, but Ellis and three others remained at large today.

The couple escaped out a window while Ellis was in another room and went to a neighbor's home to notify police. But Ellis had fled by the time officers arrived and has eluded capture in spite of a massive search.

Sosa said Ellis gained entrance to the home Friday night through an unlocked garage door and told the couple he was a prison escapee. Ellis told the couple he planned to stay at their

home for several days, until the pressure of the massive manhunt was eased.

The chief said Ellis

was armed with a hunting knife, but did not harm the couple. Ellis apparently was dressed in other clothing he stole

from the couple when he fled. Ellis apparently fled rapidly after he discovered the couple gone.



Santa Claus (Jim Galyean) hands Marie Schmelzer, 6, a gift during his annual visit to the Cerebral Palsy Center's recent Christmas party. A highlight of the event, sponsored by the Children's Service League, was a play performed by the center's school children. Additional entertainment was provided by the Junior Woman's Club. Assistance also came from

Girl Scout Troop 69, whose members sewed and decorated Christmas stockings, and members of the Junior Woman's Association, who wrapped the gifts. Co-chairmen for the party were Mrs. M.C. Durfee and Mrs. James P. Murphy. Local merchants and banks contributed to the event. (Staff Photo by Brian Hendershot)

Children sue deputy in father's death

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The children of a Utah man shot to death by former Sweetwater County Deputy Sheriff Delbert Gray have filed a \$3 million lawsuit against Gray. Sheriff James Stark and the county commissioners. The lawsuit was filed Monday in U.S. District Court by the guardian of Jay R. Jenkins' daughter, Heidi, and son Jay R. Jenkins Jr. It contends Gray, 29, shot Jenkins, 40, without being provoked or having "just cause."

later said Gray, a plainclothes investigator, did not identify himself.

The lawsuit contends the county commission hired Gray despite his "propensity to use excessive force and violence and to use his firearm in a manner which was excessive and violative of the safety and well-being of the public."

Jenkins was shot in the head in December 1978 outside a Rock Springs night club. Gray contended Jenkins, a construction worker at the Jim Bridger Power Plant, had interfered with his arrest of Jenkins' companion, Marvin Butterfield, on marijuana-possession charges.

Gray was charged with second-degree murder. The charge later was reduced to manslaughter and then dropped altogether because of inconsistencies in Butterfield's account of the shooting.

Authorities said Butterfield first told them Gray told Jenkins twice he was a policeman and to stop interfering, but he

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Answer Line

By Franchelle Moore



P.O. Box 1650, Midland 79702

Is there any store in town that gives twice the value of coupons on Wednesday (or any other day)? I've sure missed this since we moved. Also, where can we find out about the taxes we have to pay on the money we made on our other house? Can we spend that money improving this house and not have to pay taxes on it? — Mrs. J.N.

ANSWER: In response to your first question, the consensus is that there are no stores in Midland which offer twice the value of coupons any day of the week. Regarding the taxes which are due, contact the Internal Revenue Service at 682-8291.

Whom should I contact about three dogs that are allowed to go unleashed? There is one on Maxwell, Culpepper and one at a house behind apartments on Lanham. Two of these dogs bark and charge and one bares his teeth at persons walking by. — W.W.R.

ANSWER: Contact Animal Control at 683-2941, giving the center the location of the dogs, etc., and a check will be made.

Is there a way to sterilize canning jars in a microwave oven? — Mrs. M.P.

According to Sharon Hillis, new Midland County extension agent, there is no way to sterilize jars in a microwave oven.

Ms. Hillis says that jars for canned fruits should be sterilized in a water bath, and that jars for vegetables and meats should be sterilized in a pressure canner.

Ms. Hillis also explains that with microwave ovens, the principle is that the waves pass through the container and heat the ingredients, not the container.

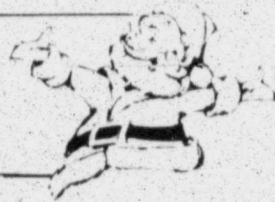
For more information on microwave ovens contact Ms. Hillis, 682-9481.

Why don't postal clerks direct people cutting in line at the Post Office back to the end of the line? Would it contradict the spirit of Christmas to hit such cheats over the head with their own packages? — Mr. R.J.M.

ANSWER: David Holster, Midland postmaster, says the situation is better at the Main Post Office, since the enter and exit aisles have been designated.

He did point out that there are times when the clerks are busy and do not see a person cutting in line, possibly in the substations.

Letters to Santa



Dear Santa, please get me a radio controlled car for X-mas like this, steering wheel instead of buttons
Anjanette J.

EtchaSketch. I Love You Amy Merry Christmas

Dear Santa Claus, My name is Bobby. I'm 3, for Christmas I need: A truck & camper, and a tent house and Pitch n' Pop and a candy cane.
Love, BOB Heller

DEAR SANTA I WANTA WHOOPSIE DOLL AND AN ETCHA SKETCH AND SKATES I LOVE YOU MOLLY

Dear Santa Claus, I have been a pretty good girl this year. And for Christmas I would like you to bring me a stereo and an Elvis Album called "Elvis good times." And we will leave you some milk and cookies, be good!
Candy Clark

Dear Santa Claus, How are you? I am fine. I have been a real good boy this year. For Christmas I would like for you to bring me a gun & holster set, a space ship that flies & Mousetrapp game. I have a little brother, Darren. He has been a good baby & could you bring him a Chatterphone & Jack-in-the-box? We will leave you some milk & cookies.
Love, David Robertson 4 1/2 years old

Dear Santa I want a racing bike a Star Wars land speeder and Star Wars game a dog and a football. I wish you a Merry Christmas! Robert Curry PS My baby brother David wants a little red wagon!

Dear Santa, My brother & I have been pretty good boys this year. My name is Mike & I am 7 1/2 years old. For Christmas, please bring me a "Race and Chase," A.J. Foyt Racing Team, a snap-together diesel truck & all sorts of trucks & stuff. My brother's name is Scott. He is only 4 years old. For Christmas he wants a strongarm loader, a boat and trailer, a farm and tractor set and you can also bring him anything else he can use to play outside with like a bulldozer. He likes most anything. Both of us will be happy with most anything you bring us. We live in a new house now & it has a real fireplace so you can come down the chimney instead of using the front door. We will leave milk & cookies. Be seeing you Christmas!
Love Mike & Scott Boatwright

Dear Santa, I want a Look-n-Love dolly, Princess Lea, Kissing Barbie, and a record player. Also I want a Hungry Hippo game and a pretty heart necklace.
See you Christmas, Love, April Curry

Dear Santa We love you. I want a Bike and lik n lolipop doll and Swing Set and Mr. Professor Calculator and a Perfume Maker. PLEASE!! DONT LET Me DOWN. Beth

Dear Santa, This is Vicki Ragsdale. I want a Woopsie, a slinky, and a Barbie Fashion Doll. I bet my brother Jim would like an Explorer wagon, some big Legos and a puppet. I am a good girl and Jim is a good boy. Thank you.
Love, Vicki

Dear Santa, I would like a Baby Little Love, Checkers, Operation game, and an KKK plans rally to raise funds

Dear Santa I want a pair of skates, also a bible, and a pair of boots, also a baby buggy, and doll, and a new bike, also shoes.
Love Christy Harvel

CLIFFSIDE, N.C. (AP) — The Ku Klux Klan plans a rally Sunday to raise money for the defense funds for 14 men charged in the deaths of five demonstrators at an anti-Klan rally last month. The 14 were charged after gunfire erupted at a Communist Workers Party-sponsored "Death to the Klan" rally in Greensboro on Nov. 3. Twelve were indicted on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder and two on charges of conspiracy last week.

Dear Santa I want a pair of skates, and crayons, and play dishes, and coleren book, and closes, and bible.
Love Jenny Harvel

Parole set

ATLANTA (AP) — The man convicted in the 1974 kidnapping of former Atlanta Constitution editor Reg Murphy is set for parole on Feb. 22, 1984, according to the National Parole Board.

William A.H. Williams was sentenced to 40 years in prison for kidnapping Murphy, now editor of the San Francisco Examiner. Murphy was held for \$700,000 ransom, which the FBI eventually recovered.

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Great debate: Is Kennedy's heart in presidential race?

By JACK NELSON The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., his presidential campaign off to a slow start and overshadowed by the Iranian crisis, faces another vexing problem: a growing debate among political insiders over whether he is a reluctant candidate whose heart is not in the race.

Political figures as diverse as former President Gerald R. Ford and California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s campaign manager have raised questions about Kennedy's enthusiasm for the campaign. And even some of the senator's supporters have expressed concern that he might lack the burning ambition — or "fire in the belly" — usually considered essential for an effective presidential campaign.

"I don't think Teddy's heart is in it at all," Ford told a group of reporters. "He was pressed to run by Democrats in the Senate, but I don't think he wanted to do it. I'll bet he's had second thoughts, and wishes he wasn't in it. He thought he was going to have a free ride but that isn't the way the game is played."

Kennedy's top campaign officials conceded that he was very reluctant to enter the race against President Carter. But they contend that since making the decision to run, Kennedy has been fully committed to the race.

"He is committed to the race with a full heart," said Paul Kirk, a Kennedy campaign official. "And he has prepared himself in a number of ways for the long, hard run. Any ambivalence was before he announced."

But the questions, based on personal and political factors, persist. The doubters cited Kennedy's stumbling start in the campaign, including frequently lackluster speeches, as evidence of his lack of enthusiasm.

They say that while he expected that he would have to answer questions about the Chappaquiddick incident in which Mary Joe Kopechne died, he had no idea that the questions and press coverage would be so extensive. And even his top campaign aides acknowledged that he underestimated Carter's strength.

Tom Quinn, Brown's presidential campaign manager, calls Kennedy "a reluctant candidate who doesn't have his heart in this race."

"He wasn't hungry for this race at all," Quinn said. "There was a legitimate draft movement and I think he got in from a sense of obligation. I don't know whether for personal or political reasons, he is not being an effective campaigner."

On the other hand, at times Kennedy has been exceptionally effective on the stump. And his campaign aides, pointing out that he is keeping an arduous schedule, say that he will get better as the campaign continues. For the moment, says Kirk, the senator's campaign is being "greatly muffled" by the Iranian crisis, which has dominated the news since Kennedy announced his candidacy six weeks ago.

Yet doubts about Kennedy's inner drive persist.

partly because he has thus far failed to articulate serious differences with Carter on major issues, and partly because some Kennedy supporters compare his efforts unfavorably with the campaigns of his brothers John and Robert.

"I don't know whether he has the gut instincts and the fire in the belly that Jack and Bobby had," said a Kennedy supporter who worked in Robert Kennedy's campaign. "That's the question, I just don't know."

"It's puzzling to see him get this kind of start, stumbling along. It's dismaying, but my feeling is he'll turn it around and gain momentum."

Kennedy himself has been quoted as saying that he had not enjoyed campaigning since the assassination of his brothers. "The basic joy of it went out with my brothers," the senator said in one interview. In an exercise that underscored that feeling, the senator, when asked why people should assume he would be cool in a crisis, reeled off a list of tragedies that he had endured, and said that he had handled them responsibly. In addition to the assassinations, he mentioned the deaths of a brother and sister in plane crashes; the mental retardation of a sister; his wife Joan's alcoholism problem, and his son Teddy's cancer operation.

"With all the tragedies," a Kennedy friend said, "you don't know what that's done to him inside. But in times of crisis, he does carry on. And I don't want to overemphasize this, but none of the Kennedys was raised to come in second."

Another Kennedy supporter, a lawyer who served on his Senate staff for several years, said, "At some level, I think he doesn't want to win. Then, if he doesn't get the nomination, he can turn around and say, 'Well, Mother, I tried and I just didn't have it.'"

The lawyer said he sensed "a stable lack of determination, lack of really caring" when he compared Kennedy's campaign performance so far with the way the senator has pursued other goals.

"He knew that someday he would have to pick up the fallen standard," the lawyer said, "and he probably believed that the prospects four years from now wouldn't be that different."

Despite such doubts, Kirk said that Kennedy, fully aware of the political and physical risks involved, is set for "an arduous and physically strenuous campaign."

He said that the senator had "no opportunistic brass-ring lust" to be president, but did strongly believe that the country was in difficulty under Carter's leadership, and that he offered a better alternative.

Asked if Kennedy might reconsider his candidacy if it became apparent that it was dividing, rather than unifying, the Democratic Party for the general election, Kirk said, "I don't see any possibility of a change of heart or mind by Sen. Kennedy."

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DEATHS

Viola Thornton

ANDREWS — Services for Viola Alice Thornton, 57, of Andrews will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Singleton Funeral Home Chapel of the Chimes here with the Rev. Bill Stone, pastor of Bible Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Andrews Cemetery.

She died Monday in an Andrews hospital after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Thornton was born in Barnstall, Okla., and had lived in Andrews since 1967. She lived in Hobbs, N.M., for 11 years and had lived in Kansas before 1953.

She attended Stewart's Beauty Academy in Salina, Kan. She was a housewife and had worked as a hairdresser in Andrews for many years. She was a member of the Women of the Moose.

Survivors include her husband, Homer W. Thornton; a daughter, Mrs. Melvin Timmons of Odessa; a sister, Doris Hutchinson of Topeka, Kan.; four half-sisters, a half-brother and two grandchildren.

Fanny Milam

WICHITA, Kan. — A memorial service for Fanny Ruth Milam, 87, of Midland was held in Oklahoma City, Okla., with burial in Wichita Park Cemetery here.

She died Saturday in a Norman, Okla., hospital.

Mrs. Milam was born Oct. 17, 1892, in Cambridge, Kan. She had lived in Midland the past three years with her son, J. Max Milam.

Other survivors include a son, Charles B. Milam of Norman, Okla., four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Jim Glenn

Jim Glenn, 70, 406 W. Hart Ave., died Monday in a Midland hospital.

Services are pending at Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

Glenn was born Oct. 22, 1909, in Vernon and was reared in Hamilton and Stephenville. He came to Midland in 1953 and worked as a steel fabricator most of his life on most of the buildings in the downtown area. He retired in 1973. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Alice; four sons, Jimmy Glenn, Bobby Glenn, Dickie Glenn and Tommy Glenn, all of Albuquerque, N.M.; two daughters, Elaine Nelson of Rondebosch, South Africa, and Dell Moore of Dallas; a sister, Gertie Martin of Pecos; and 10 grandchildren.

Casinos take totals \$3.2 billion

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Nevada's big hotel-casinos grossed \$3.2 billion in fiscal 1979 but retained only \$376 million of that in net profits, according to a Gaming Control Board report.

Beulah M. Moss

SEAGRAVES — Services for Beulah M. Moss, 72, of Seagraves, sister of J.C. Moss of Hobbs, N.M., were to be at 2:30 p.m. today in First Baptist Church here with burial in Gaines County Memorial Park directed by Connally Funeral Home.

She died Saturday in a Lubbock hospital following an illness.

Mrs. Moss was born in Eastland and taught school in Ralls from 1926 to 1934. She was married to L.D. Moss June 1, 1933, in Roswell, N.M. She had lived in Seagraves since 1948.

Other survivors include her husband, a brother and a sister.

Katherine Davis

AMARILLO — Katherine Davis, 74, of Amarillo and formerly of Midland, died Saturday in an Amarillo hospital after a lengthy illness.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in the Faith Temple Church of God in Christ here with the Rev. W.C. Kenan officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery directed by Thomas Funeral Home.

Mrs. Davis was born July 15, 1905, in Milam County. She moved to Midland in 1937 and from here to Amarillo in 1973.

Survivors include two daughters, Bobbie Nell Palmer of Amarillo and Jettie Holloway of Midland; a brother, George Ratliff of Midland; and two sisters, Annie Lee Jones of Midland and Rosetta Ford of Los Angeles, Calif.

C.E. Yarborough

BIG LAKE — Services for Clifton Elijah Yarborough, 65, of Big Lake will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Wilkerson North Side Chapel in Brady with burial in Odessa Cemetery in Odessa.

He died Monday in a Big Spring hospital.

Yarborough was born Oct. 4, 1914, in Palestine, but had lived most of his life in McCulloch County. He was a movie house projectionist. He was married to Carrie Jane Sparks in Brady. She died Oct. 4, 1954. He was a Navy veteran of World War I and was awarded the bronze star and purple heart. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Walter Harris of Big Lake and Juanita Salmon of Odessa; a brother, Paul Yarborough of Brady; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Juan Ontiveros

BIG SPRING — Rosary for Juan Ontiveros, 85, of Big Spring will be said at 8 p.m. today in Nalley-Pickle Rosewood Chapel with funeral services scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday in Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He died Sunday in a Big Spring hospital.

Ontiveros was born June 24, 1894, in Marfa and came to Big Spring in 1928. He was employed by the T&P Railroad. He was married to Luz Rodriguez in 1920 in Presidio. She died Feb. 4, 1977.

Survivors include four sons, Cezario Ontiveros of San Antonio, P.R. Ontiveros, Jose Ontiveros and Lupe Ontiveros, all of Big Spring; a daughter, Jesse Cervantes of Big Spring; 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Elmer Lee Call

Elmer Lee Call, 62, of rural Midland, died Sunday at his home.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in Pecos Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Bob Milligan, pastor of the West Park Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Pecos.

Call was born Nov. 5, 1917, in Bonham. He had lived in the Midland area since 1960. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Ellen; a son, Val Call of Midland; a stepson, Floyd Hughes of Midland; a daughter, Jean Wagner of California; his mother, Mrs. L.E. Call of Pecos; four brothers, J.T. Call of Pecos, Weldon Call of Houston, Harry Call of Dallas and Orville Call of Oklahoma; two sisters, Peggy Phillips of Iowa and Jerry Sims of Wisconsin; and five grandchildren.

American businessman shot in Manila out of danger

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — An American businessman was shot in the neck by two unidentified men on motorcycles, but is out of any danger, police and hospital authorities said today.

Jeremy Ladd Cross, 40, a native of Lawrence, Mass., was shot as he and his Filipino wife were leaving their offices at suburban Pasay City Monday evening, detective Isabelo Caneo said.

Korean prosecutor asks that Park's killers die

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was subject to censorship by the martial law authorities.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Demanding death for seven men charged in the assassination of President Park Chung-hee, prosecutors today said Park's admitted killer lied when he claimed he wanted to restore democracy to South Korea.

Sources said the five-member panel will announce verdicts on Thursday.

Britain can't blockade Iran: Prime Minister Thatcher

WASHINGTON (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today that her nation "couldn't possibly" undertake an blockade of Iran without the approval of the United Nations.

The visiting prime minister, interviewed on NBC-TV's "Today" show, said sanctions of three types — arms, trade and other assets — could be imposed against Iran because of its holding of American hostages.

Mrs. Thatcher reiterated her previous support for economic sanctions against Iran if President Carter requests them, but she emphasized that "we couldn't possibly do that without a motion from the United Nations."

She described the crisis in Tehran as "a classic revolutionary situation of the kind we thought we did not get in this time and century."

Mrs. Thatcher added, "I do think there is a chance they (the hostages) will get home safe and sound."

As for the cease-fire in Rhodesia, Mrs. Thatcher said she hoped that whites would remain in the African country because "they are vital to the economy ... I think there will be a multiracial society."

Mrs. Thatcher, winding up her 48-hour visit to the United States, was traveling to New York today for meetings at the United Nations with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the president of the General Assembly, Salim Salim of Tanzania.

She said after her mid-day meeting Monday with Carter that if the president seeks sanctions against Iran in the United Nations, "Great Britain will be the first to support him. You expect nothing less. You will receive nothing less."

Carter declared: "There are no differences between us that cause any concern among Americans or people who live in Great Britain."

At a news conference later, however, Mrs. Thatcher indicated Britain would find it difficult to support such sanctions if they were organized without U.N. approval.

Such approval, she said, would result in the sanctions' taking effect automatically in most countries.

Without U.N. approval, Britain would have to pass special legislation to take part in an economic boycott, according to British officials.

American officials have said they probably will seek U.N. sanctions against Iran if the 50 American hostages held in Tehran since Nov. 4 are not released. Such sanctions would be subject to a Soviet veto.

If the U.N. does not approve them, officials have said the United States would try to organize a series of economic steps by Iran's trading partners.

Mrs. Thatcher's statement indicated that approach might be difficult.

At a White House banquet in Mrs. Thatcher's honor Monday evening, Carter said the prime minister had "exhibited greatness" in facing international problems during her first seven months in office.

He hailed the ceasefire agreement initiated Monday by the Patriotic Front as a "tremendous achievement" to end the fighting in Rhodesia. Mrs. Thatcher thanked him for his support during the long negotiations.

Their remarks came only hours after the United States ended its economic sanctions against Rhodesia. In so doing, Carter had acceded to British desires and overruled some of his advisers who argued the United States should wait for the U.N. Security Council.

Mrs. Thatcher said her nation was "determined to return to the first principles which have traditionally governed our political and economic life; namely, the overall responsibility of the individual, rather than the state, for his own welfare."

She said her government has "a resounding mandate to restore the faith and the fortunes of the nation. We shall stick at the task whatever the difficulties and however great the endurance required."

She joined Carter in emphasizing the goodwill shared by the United States and Great Britain and their joint stand against terrorism.

Carter defined terrorism as "the harming of innocent people to achieve political goals, which most often are indeed unworthy."

Correction

Incorrect information contained in an obituary for Dorris Elizabeth Pringle, 64, 501 N. Pecos St., Sunday indicated that memorials be made to the Permian Basin Community Centers for Mental Health-Mental Retardation.

Memorials are to be directed to the Midland Association for Retarded Citizens.

Mrs. Pringle died Saturday after a brief illness and services were held Monday.

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President considers big oil fee

NEW YORK (AP) — President Carter is considering imposing big fees on oil imports to cut down on gasoline consumption, The Wall Street Journal said today.

It cited administration officials as saying the fees were a "livelier possibility" than Carter's proposal that Congress enact a huge gasoline tax.

Carter has not made a decision yet, but is determined to decrease American dependence on foreign oil.

The president can impose the fees without taking them to Congress, thus avoiding a hard and potentially losing fight for an increase in the gasoline levy, the newspaper said in a story from Washington.

Federal law permits the president to impose import fees if he finds American dependence on a foreign product threatens national security.

The proposed "windfall profits" tax legislation in the Senate contains an amendment that would subject such presidential action to review by Congress, but a move to block the fees then would be subject to Carter's veto.

Dillard lashes out at Sun Oil Co. stand

A call by Sun Oil Co. for defeat of the small producer exemption passed earlier this month by the Senate while calling for the passage of the windfall tax bill has been described by Al Dillard as unconscionable.

Dillard, president of the Midland-headquartered Permian Basin Petroleum Association, also said Sun's stand is "a threat to the historical political alliance between major oil companies and independent producers."

In a letter this week to its royalty owners and stockholders, Sun requested they contact their senators and congressmen to call for the defeat of the small producer, or Bentsen amendment, to the windfall profits tax bill.

The amendment would allow independent producers an exemption on the income from the first 1,000 barrels of oil per day before being subjected to the excise taxes. Sun also called for passage of the bill with the windfall tax being lowered from 75 percent to 60 percent.

Dillard called the Sun position "clearly self-serving and not in the best interest of the oil and gas industry or the nation." He said independents "earned their money at the wellhead, unlike major oil companies which make a profit from the wellhead to the gas pump."

Dillard predicted that defeat of the exemption would deny needed capital to the independent who drills 85 percent of the domestic exploratory wells, and could result in the loss of 300,000 barrels of oil per day over the next 10 years.

"This is not the first time that major oil companies have put independent producers on the political altar as a sacrifice for their economic gain," Dillard said. "But its time they realized that we independents are not going to bleed for them anymore."

Caracas citizens illustrate worldwide energy problem

By MURRAY SEEGER
The Los Angeles Times

CARACAS, Venezuela — While the controllers of more than half the world's oil supply were negotiating the crucial question of prices Monday, frenetic Caracas was illustrating the energy problem.

The streets of the city which stretches east and west along a valley a half-mile above sea level are jammed all day long with trucks and cars, mostly large American gas-guzzlers.

Many of the cars are old and in poor repair. Their efficiency ratings would never pass the current U.S. standards for gas mileage.

But then the Venezuelans are paying an average of about 25 cents a gallon for gasoline. Just as in the old days in the United States, when gasoline was so cheap, those Venezuelans who are fortunate enough to own a car fill them up with the family and go joy riding.

One of the busiest highways through the long city takes the drivers below the hillside hotel where the oil ministers from the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is meeting.

Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins apparently did not notice the irony of the scene when he opened the OPEC meeting with a warning that the world energy problem can be met only when the consuming nations "reduce their use of oil to match the available supply."

In Venezuela, which is on the way to becoming a consuming nation but is still a developing one, The National Oil Co., in its most recent annual report, warned that the sharp rise in domestic oil consumption "reflects a persistent and disquieting trend."

The country consumed 17 percent more refined oil in 1978 than in 1977, and the use of high octane gasoline rose 24 percent. The total gross national product in the same period went up less than 5 percent.

Producing from the country's oil wells fell by 3 percent in that year, giving Venezuela a warning that it must develop new sources of crude

and speed its transition from an economy dependent on petroleum.

The government can not, however, challenge the recently won symbol of prosperity: the ownership of a private car.

By setting its the price for its best oil at \$24 a barrel for export last week, Venezuela increased the subsidy it is granting to its own consumers.

The national oil company hopes that the world price for oil is now high enough for it to economically develop the very heavy crude which is available in abundance in what is known as the Orinoco Belt north of the Orinoco River.

Meantime, motorists are required to leave their cars home one day a week. But this has not noticeably improved the traffic scene, here.

"It still takes three hours to travel

three miles," one foreigner said.

There were other ironic notes around the OPEC meeting. Among the delegation of local notables escorting the president to the opening session, reporters noted the presence of Raphael Tudella, one of the world's major traders in the spot markets for oil.

Since OPEC is officially opposed to its members selling in the spot market, and Venezuela publicly subscribes to that policy, the appearance of the tall distinguished local citizen who is a part owner of the hotel where the OPEC meetings are being held, led one expert to comment: "That is really the fox in the chicken coop."

The location of the OPEC meeting in Venezuela after two consecutive sessions in more accessible Geneva, did little to reduce the status of the conference as a media event.

Midlanders final big well

Tucker & Baumgardner of Midland has potentiated a flowing well in the Coahoma, North (Fusselman) field of Howard County, three miles northeast of Coahoma.

The well, a southeast offset to another Fusselman producer, finished for a daily flow of 750 barrels of 52-gravity oil, no water, through a 22/64-inch choke.

The pay section, behind perforations from 8,847 to 8,877 feet, was acidized with 1,500 gallons. The gas-oil ratio on the potential test was 953-1, and flowing tubing pressure was 475 pounds.

Hole is bottomed at 9,845 feet and 4.5-inch casing is cemented on bottom. Wellsite is 1,842 feet from north and 3,173 feet from west lines of section 41, block 30, T-1-N, T&P survey.

CROCKETT EXTENDERS
The Adams-Baggett Ranch (Canyon sand gas) field of Crockett County was extended 1/2 mile northwest, with the completion of Blue Ridge Oil & Gas Exploration, Inc., No. 19-B A.

Phillips, 24 miles south of Ozona.

Operator reported a calculated absolute open flow of 6,600,000 cubic feet of gas per day, through perforations 5,007 to 5,181 feet.

The pay was treated with 500 gallons acid and fractured with 60,000 gallons.

Location is 1,370 from north and 1,320 from east lines of section 38, block 000, W. M. Pool survey.

HMH Operators of Midland finished the No. 2 University as a 5/8-mile northwest extension to the south extension area of the Crockett County portion of the Farmer (San Andres) field, 14 miles southeast of Big Lake.

The well finished to pump 21 barrels of 30-gravity oil and 30 barrels of water, through perforations from 2,280 and 2,625 feet.

The producing zone was acidized with 4,000 gallons and fractured with 15,000 gallons. Gas-oil ratio is 340-1.

Wellsite is 660 from north and west lines of section 1, block 51, University Lands survey.

Operators announce wildcat tests in scattered Permian Basin areas

Permian Basin wildcats were announced and a reopening attempt scheduled in Gaines County.

Laguna Petroleum Co. of Midland will drill the No. 1 Royalty as an 8,700-foot reopener of the Seminole, West (Wolfcamp FB2) field of Gaines County, 1.25 miles southwest of the depleted and lone producer of the field, Ladd Petroleum Co., No. 1 Shell-Corriagan.

Location is 990 feet from south and 660 feet from east lines of section 408, block G, CCSD&RGNG survey, 12 miles northwest of Seminole.

ANDREWS PROSPECT

Amoco Production Co. will drill an 8,500-foot wildcat venture 3/8 mile north of production in the Fullerton field, 19 miles northwest of Andrews.

The No. 73-A C.W. Logsdon is scheduled 915 from south and 660 from east lines of section 5, block A-32, PSL survey.

PECOS WILDCAT

Exxon Corp. will drill a 4,000-foot wildcat, 1/2 mile northwest of a 6,127-foot failure, 16 miles northwest of Sanderson.

The firm's No. 4 Longfellow Corp. is located 1,390 from south and 865 from east lines of section 14, block R5, TCRR survey.

The failure is the firm's No. 3 Longfellow Corp., 8,500-foot wildcat, abandoned Dec. 11.

CHAVES EXPLORER

Yates Petroleum Corp. of Artesia will drill the No. 1-MP Godfrey Federal as a 5,150-foot wildcat, three miles southwest of Linda (San Andres) production, four miles northeast of an unnamed Abo gas discovery, 20 miles west of Elkins.

Wellsite is 1,980 from north and east lines of section 10-7s-25e. Ground elevation is 3,821 feet.

BORDEN SITES STAKED

Mitchell Energy Corp. of Houston will drill the No. 2-276 Morris Miller as an 8,780-foot explorer, one location south of the same firm's No. 1-276 Morris Miller in the Lucy, North (Pennsylvanian) field, which produces at 7,830 feet.

Location spots 1,953 from north and 4,011 from west lines of section 276,

block 97, H&TC survey, 11 miles east of Gail.

Kelloil Inc. of Fort Worth will drill the No. 4 Jones, wildcat test 3/4 mile southeast of the Hood (Pennsylvanian & Upper Pennsylvanian) discovery well, nine miles northeast of Gail.

Location is 1,980 from north and 660 from east lines of section 526, block 97, H&TC survey.

KING PROBE

Gunn Oil Co. of Wichita Falls will drill the No. 1-R.S.B. Burnett Estate as a 6,120-foot wildcat, one location southeast of a 6,192-foot failure, 1/2 mile north of an unidentified gas discovery and 1/2 mile northeast of the Strawn discovery well of the Four Sixties, North field.

Wellsite is 10 miles northeast of Guthrie, 1,320 from north and 660 from east lines of section 16, H.M. Montgomery survey, abstract 800.

LYNN WILDCAT

Kelloil Inc. will also drill an 11,300-foot wildcat in Lynn County, 7/8 mile southwest of an 11,300-foot failure and 2.5 miles south of production in the Lynn County portion of the Mound Lake, North (Fusselman) field, 11 miles east of Brownfield.

The No. 1 Fillingim is located 990 from north and east lines of section 8, block C-42, PSL survey.

SCURRY PROBE

F.W. Holbrook of Midland will drill the No. 2 Koonce, 7,300-foot wildcat, one location southeast of his No. 1 Koonce, 7,049-foot failure.

Wellsite is 1,500 from south and west lines of section 124, block 97, H&TC survey, five miles west of Ira.

GAINES EXPLORER

Mobil Oil Corp. of Houston spotted location for a 5,100-foot wildcat, 3/4 mile southeast of a 5,276-foot failure, one mile south of production in the Tedbit (San Andres) field and 1.5 miles southwest of the depleted discovery and lone producer of the Medlin (San Andres) field.

The firm's No. 1 John B. O'Reilly is 1,980 from north and 660 from east lines of section 79, block H, D&W survey, 18 miles northeast of Seminole.

CRANE OILER

W.M. & A.P. Fuller of Fort Worth finished the No. 3 Ewell McKnight, 3/8 mile east of Clear Fork production in the Armer field of Crane County, 24 miles northwest of Crane.

Operator reported a 24-hour pumping potential of 25 barrels of 5-p.p.g. gravity oil and 15 barrels of water, through perforations between 4,400 and 4,438 feet.

REEVES TEST

Petroleum Exploration & Development Funds will drill the No. 1 Richer State as a 4,150-foot Casey Draw (Delaware gas) test, 5/8 mile southeast of production, 15 miles southwest of Toyah.

Wellsite is 467 from north and east lines of section 5, block C-12, PSL survey.

GARZA PROJECTS

The Wil-Mc Oil Corp. of Dallas will drill three projects in the Coulter (Spraberry) field of Garza County, 11 miles southwest of Post.

The No. 1-B J.F. Lott is 5/8 mile northeast of Spraberry production, 660 from south and west lines of section 5, Jasper Hays survey, abstract 563.

The No. 2-B J.F. Lott is 5/8 mile north of Spraberry production, 660 from south and 1,980 from west lines of section 5, Jasper Hays survey, abstract 563.

The No. 8-A J.F. Lott is 1/4 mile southwest of Spraberry production, 3,250 from north and 2,080 from east

SCHLEICHER WILDCAT

The Newhall Land & Farming Co. of Valencia, Calif., will drill the No. 1 Dublin as a 6,100-foot wildcat, two and seven-eighths miles east of depleted production in the Page (Strawn) field and two and five-eighths miles north of the depleted Page, South (Strawn) oil field, 12.5 miles southeast of Eldorado.

Location is 760 from south and west lines of section 4, block L, GH&SA survey. Ground elevation is 2,348 feet.

FISHER TRY

The King's Kid Oil Co. of Midland will drill a 3,900-foot wildcat in Fisher County, 1/4 mile southeast of the opener and lone producer of the Longworth (Flippin) field, four miles northwest of Longworth.

The No. 1 Knox is scheduled 990 from north and 975 from east lines of section 4, Gillespie County School Land survey No. 318.

NOLAN PROSPECTOR

D.D. Feldman of Abilene will drill the No. 1 Rotan as a 7,000-foot wildcat, one location southeast of a Nolan County undesignated Strawn oil discovery, 5.5 miles northeast of Maryneal.

Wellsite is 1,650 from north and 467 from west lines of section 47, block X, T&P survey.

RUNNELS SITES SET

EDCO Petroleum Inc. of Dallas will drill the No. 1 Herbert E. Jacob as a 4,550-foot wildcat, one location east of the depleted Gardner opener and lone producer of the Jim Adams field, 1.25 miles northwest of Goen production in the Winters, North field.

Location is 1,125 from south and 467 from east lines of section 81, block 63, HT&B survey, eight miles northwest of Winters.

Clay Phillips of Richardson will also drill a Runnels County wildcat, approximately 1,650 feet southwest of Goen production in the Winters, North multipay, three miles northwest of Winters.

The No. 1-A A.C. Ernst is scheduled to 4,400 feet, 467 from south and 1,800 from east lines of section 79, block 63, HT&B survey.

IRION PRODUCER

Indian Wells Oil Co. finished the No. 1-53 Richey in the Irion County portion of the Probandt (Canyon) field, as the second gas producer and 3/4-mile east extension to the field, 18.2 miles northwest of Mertzon.

Operator reported a calculated absolute open flow of 6,645 to 6,689 feet, which was acidized with 3,500 gallons and fractured with 40,000 gallons.

Total depth was reached at 7,026 feet, where 4.5-inch casing is set, and plugged back depth is 6,978 feet.

Location spots 1,000 from south and 670 from west lines of section 53, block 6, H&TC survey.

TERRELL PRODUCER

The Wilborne (Detrital gas) field of Terrell County gained its second producer and a 1,650-foot northwest extension to that pay with the completion of Napeco Inc. of Houston, No. 1-A Allison (Amended from the No. 1-A Allison); 36 miles northeast of Dryden.

Operator reported a calculated absolute open flow of 800,000 cubic feet of gas per day, through perforations from 10,926 to 11,049 feet.

Scheduled as a wildcat and amended to the above field, total depth was reached at 12,700 feet, with 7-inch casing set at 11,166 feet. Plugged back depth is 11,535.5 feet.

Location is 1,140 from south and 800 from east lines of section 21, block A-4, J.M. Anderson, abstract 2614.

UPTON EXTENDER

John L. Cox has completed the No. 2 Amerada-Neal as a 1/2-mile east extension to the Upton County portion of the Spraberry Trend Area field, 10 miles northeast of Rankin.

The well finished to pump 47 barrels of 40-gravity oil and 26 barrels of water, through perforations from 7,353 to 7,640 feet and 8,092 to 8,266 feet.

The pay was fractured with 90,000 gallons, and the gas-liquid ratio is 720-1.

Location is 1,320 from south and east lines of section 12, block 4.5, GC&SF survey.

Field work announced

Spraberry Trend Area production was extended in the Upton County portion of the field with the completion of Wayman W. Buchanan of Midland, No. 3 Cowden and others, as a 1/2-mile west extension and 5/8-mile northeast extension to the field, 19 miles north of Rankin.

Operator reported a 24-hour pumping potential of 40 barrels of 39.6-gravity oil and 110 barrels of water, with a gas-oil ratio of 1,510-1.

Production was through perforations between 7,455 and 8,951 feet, after an acid treatment of 3,500 gallons and fractured with 90,000 gallons.

Wellsite is 1,320 from north and east lines of section 45, block 39, T-5-S, T&P survey.

COKE SITE

Guy W. Swartz of San Angelo will drill the No. 3 Harris Estate as a location south offset to his No. 1 Harris Estate, eight-mile southwest extension to ARC (Odom lime) production, 5/8-mile east of production in the Lagay field, seven miles south of Silver.

Location is 1,430 from south and 473 from west lines of Winfield Scott survey No. 10.

Contract depth is 7,000 feet, with ground elevation, 2,295 feet.

IRION PRODUCER

Indian Wells Oil Co. finished the No. 1-53 Richey in the Irion County portion of the Probandt (Canyon) field, as the second gas producer and 3/4-mile east extension to the field, 18.2 miles northwest of Mertzon.

Operator reported a calculated absolute open flow of 6,645 to 6,689 feet, which was acidized with 3,500 gallons and fractured with 40,000 gallons.

Total depth was reached at 7,026 feet, where 4.5-inch casing is set, and plugged back depth is 6,978 feet.

Location spots 1,000 from south and 670 from west lines of section 53, block 6, H&TC survey.

REEVES GAS WELL

The Superior Oil Co. announced potential test on the No. 1 Mendall Unit in the MIVIDA (Permo-Pennsylvanian) field of Reeves County, 3/8 mile south of dual Ellenburger and Fusselman production and 1/2-mile southwest of Permo-Pennsylvanian production, seven miles northwest of Pecos.

Operator reported a calculated absolute open flow of 117,000 cubic feet of gas per day, through perforations from 10,219 to 10,295 feet.

The pay was treated with 3,500 gallons.

Drilled to 16,500 feet, 5-inch liner is hung from 15,264 to total depth. Plugged back depth is 10,360 feet.

Location is 990 from northwest and 2,968 from southwest lines of section 15, block 4, H&GN survey.

DRILLING REPORT

ANDREWS COUNTY
Clem George No. 1-X University, id 11,202 feet, plugging back to run pipe and test San Andres.

BORDEN COUNTY
Hanson Corp. No. 1 Good, drilling 3863 feet in shale.

CHAVES COUNTY
Flag Redfern No. 7 Amoco Federal, drilling 1270 feet in native mud and red bed.

COKE COUNTY
Texaco Inc. No. 11 March Ranch, id 6300 feet, swabbed trace of oil and 300 barrels of formation water with trace of gas in 8 hours through perforations not reported.

CROCKETT COUNTY
Texaco Inc. No. 8-B Davidson Jr., id 8100 feet, laying down drill collars in shale, started laying down drill pipe.

ECTOR COUNTY
Cities Service No. 13-A Bagley, id 4412 feet, pumped 18 barrels of oil and 235 barrels of water in 24 hours through perforations from 4385 to 4390 feet.

EDDY COUNTY
Ford Chapman & Associates No. 1 E1 Paso State, id 2328 feet, logging and perforating.

GOULD COUNTY
Gulf No. 1-C Rustler Bluffs, id 10,000 feet in lime, shale and sand, preparing to run 9 1/2-inch casing.

GAINES COUNTY
Gulf No. 1-Traitl Ranch Unit, id 11,418 feet in lime, shale and sand, preparing to core.

GLASS COUNTY
Gulf No. 1-35 Eddy Communitized, id 890 feet in shale, took drk drill stem from 8540 to 8590, 8410 to 8460, 7835 to 7885 feet, no recovery reported, taking drill stem test from 7422 to 7472 feet.

IRION COUNTY
TP-Service No. 1 Birge, drilling 7340 feet in lime.

HOCKLEY COUNTY
South Ranch No. 1 Williams, drilling 8,065 feet in lime.

HOWARD COUNTY
Tucker & Baumgardner No. 2 Black Bass, id 8,945 feet, plugged back depth 8,241 feet, 4 1/2-inch casing set at total depth, perforations from 8,847 to 8,877 feet, acidized with 1,500 gallons, initial potential flowed 750 barrels of oil and no water in 24 hours, gas rate 714 mcf, tripping.

IRION COUNTY
Union Texas No. 1-45-10 Farmer, id 7,350 feet, flowed 135 barrels of oil and no water in 24 hours, through a 30/64-inch choke and perforations from 7,022 to 7,096 feet.

LEA COUNTY
Union Oil Co. No. 2 Laguna Deep, drilling 11,755 feet in lime and shale.

TEXAS COUNTY
Texaco Inc. No. 2-010 New Mexico State, id 9,015 feet in lime and shale, tripping.

TEXAS COUNTY
Gulf Oil Corp. No. 3-YH Lea State, drilling 5,905 feet in lime.

TEXAS COUNTY
Gulf No. 26-2 Mexico, id 2,855 feet, set 8 1/2-inch casing at 3,348 feet, waiting on cement.

TEXAS COUNTY
Gulf No. 1-1 Getty State, id 13,435 feet, plugged back to 12,808 feet, waiting on cement.

TEXAS COUNTY
Gulf No. 2-AC State, id 3,950 feet, waiting on cement.

New York Exchange

NEW YORK (AP) — Today's selected national prices for New York Stock Exchange issues

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like AMP, ASA, ABB, etc.

American Exchange

NEW YORK (AP) — Today's selected national prices for American Stock Exchange issues

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like Argis, ASEC, ASMR, etc.

Mutual funds

Investing: The following quotations are from the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., which publishes the prices at which these securities could be bought or sold (Net asset value plus or minus charge)

Table listing mutual funds with columns: Fund Name, Price, Chg. Includes entries like Accorn, AIFV, AIFW, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like Dayco, DayPL, Deere, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like EastAir, EastG, EastK, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like FMC, Fairch, Fadd, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like GAF, GAT, Gann, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like Hercules, HIND, HINP, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like C, CTT, CFC, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like D, Dated, Datin, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like American, Argis, ASEC, etc.

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Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like K, Kair, Kan, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like L, LTV, Lear, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like M, MGIC, Mac, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like N, NCR, NLD, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like O, Ode, Ode, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like P, PPG, Pde, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like R, RCA, RAC, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like S, SCM, Sde, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like T, Tde, Tde, etc.

Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like U, UAL, UAC, etc.

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Table with columns: Ticker, High, Low, Close, Chg. Includes entries like Z, Zde, Zde, etc.

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Stock market gains

NEW YORK (AP) — Energy issues led the stock market to a small gain in an active session Monday as oil-exporting countries convened a meeting in Caracas.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, coming off a gain of close to 31 points in the past three weeks, added another 1.87 to 844.62.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange reached a three-week high of 43.83 million shares, against 41.80 million Friday.

Riding the crest of the latest wave of buying in energy stocks, the market value index at the American Stock Exchange reached a record high for the fourth straight session, up 3.54 at 244.15.

Among Amex volume leaders, Houston Oil & Minerals climbed 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 on turnover of better than 560,000 shares as of the 4 p.m. close in New York.

Petroleum rose 1 to 2 1/2; McCulloch Oil 1 to 1 1/2; Imperial Oil class A 3/4 to 3 3/4; Dome Petroleum 1 1/2 to 4 1/2; and Gulf of Canada 4 to 10 3/4.

At the Big Board, where the big international oil issues are listed, the story was much the same: Gulf, the volume leader, up 1 1/4 at 36 1/2; Exxon, ahead 3/4 at 57; Mobil, up 1/2 at 58, and Texaco, 1/2 higher at 29 1/2.

"On both the listed and unlisted markets, anything related to oil is being gobbled up as if there was no tomorrow," said Newton Zinder at E.F. Hutton & Co.

A split was reported within OPEC over pricing strategy for the start of the 1980s.

Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia said he didn't expect any price increases beyond those announced in the past week by various OPEC members.

Saudi Arabia and several other countries considered to be OPEC's "moderates" posted price hikes last week to \$24 a barrel, in what was interpreted as a move to forestall some larger increases sought by the militant forces within the cartel.

But those forces were still pushing for higher prices.

The daily tally on the NYSE showed about five losers for every four stocks that gained ground, and the exchange's composite index added .26 to 62.61.

Standard & Poor's index of 400 industrials was up .48 at 122.78, and S&P's 500-stock composite index rose .41 to 109.33.

In the over-the-counter market, the NASDAQ composite index picked up .53 to 150.56.

No securities trading below \$2 are included. Net and percentage changes are the difference between the previous closing price and today's last price.

NEW YORK (AP) — The following list shows the American Stock Exchange issues trading Monday, based on the most and down the most based on percent of change regardless of volume.

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American banks under cloudy skies

The Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — American banks are laying claim to deposits in other U.S. banks. Iran's central bank is suing American banks. American banks are suing the Iranians and the U.S. government. An Iranian bank is suing a French bank. And European, Canadian and Japanese banks are unleashing a torrent of stinging complaints against U.S. banks.

This is the aftermath of President Carter's freeze on Iranian assets, a move to head off massive withdrawals from U.S. banks ordered by the Iranian government.

The Nov. 14 freeze has rattled the typically decorous international banking community, transformed normally demure and discreet foreign bankers into angry critics, and sent mammoth financial institutions scrambling to protect themselves as agreements on billions of dollars in loans to Iran become unraveled.

"It'll make the law firms rich. That's the ramifications," declared Harry Keefe, chairman of Keefe Bruyette & Woods, a New York securities firm that specializes in banking.

But the freeze also seems likely to have other long-term repercussions. Already, the U.S. response to Iran's declaration that it would withdraw funds from American banks has reverberated throughout the legal, economic and political system.

Some foreign banks can't collect on their own loans to Iran — not because Iran is refusing payment, but because it can't get at its money deposited with U.S. banks.

Non-U.S. banks have been alarmed at the speed of big U.S. banks in declaring Iranian loans in default. As participants in bank syndicates lending to Iran, foreign institutions are being polled about whether to declare even more loans in default. European, Japanese and Canadian banks consistently have resisted — not only because they contend Iran wants to pay, but because they're fearful of being dragged into a conflict that will rupture their own future relationships with Iran.

European governments and financial institutions resent the notion, adopted by the Treasury Department, that says the United States can legally block the movement of assets that are in accounts of foreign branches and subsidiaries of American banks. The move is considered a violation of national sovereignty.

Smaller U.S. regional banks that participated in the Iranian loans don't have much in the way of Iranian deposits. They can't offset the loans, as can the larger New York banks, and some say the money-center giants are hemming and hawing on the point of splitting their deposits with them.

The conviction is widespread that other oil-producing nations in the Middle East are unnerved by the asset freeze and what it could mean some day for their own dollar deposits in American bank accounts. Those nations are expected to diversify even further out of the dollar and out of U.S. banks, exerting more downward pressure on the dollar. That would be translated to the American public in the form of higher interest rates as steps are taken to prop up the currency.

Some foreign bankers foresee the crisis leading to creation of a non-U.S. clearing center for international dollar transactions, depriving the Federal Reserve Board of its window on what's happening in the important Eurodollar market.

Economists generally are not willing to concede that the Iranian threat to withdraw funds from the United States posed a real economic emergency. And some international law experts have questioned whether the stated reason for the funds blockade — the protection of American claims against Iran — was a sufficient legal basis for invoking the extraordinary International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

"This is just an awful confused mess that we've got to sort out in a logical manner," said Paul Smith, executive vice president of Security Pacific National Bank in Los Angeles. "Every step you take, you're stepping on shifting sands. Take a few steps, and you're sliding all over the place."

Security Pacific has particular concern with what's happening on the Iranian front. With between \$50 million and \$75 million less in Iranian deposits than it has in outstanding loans to that nation, Security Pacific is reputed to have the highest net exposure of any American bank. The bank has sued the Iranian government and other entities in Los Angeles Federal court, charging them with default on \$69.9 million in loans and credits.

The current strain in international banking relationships had its origin with an announcement in London that funds would be transferred out of the United States and into European banks. The U.S. learned of the announcement Nov. 14 at 5 a.m. (EST). Within 45 minutes, the order declaring a freeze was prepared, and at 8 a.m., President Carter signed it. The freeze covered property of the Iranian government, that nation's central bank, and "controlled entities." The Treasury said the freeze covered \$8 billion in Iranian assets held both in the U.S. and in foreign offices of U.S. banks.

New York banks wasted no time in exercising a right to "offset" — paying off Iranian loans with funds that nation held on deposit. Considering that Iran had not yet missed a loan payment, analysts have wondered how the banks could have legally taken such unusual action.

The legal basis, one big bank said, was a section of the New York state debt and creditor law providing for the "right of setoff against unsecured debts" in the event a receiver is appointed for a depositor's property. The U.S. government was interpreted to be a receiver for Iranian funds. "We're not going to tell you that's going to be our principal defense," said one bank official. "But the basis for offset was that."

Within a day of the president's freeze, Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Bankers Trust, and Morgan Guaranty Trust offset Iranian loans and deposits. Other banks may have done the same without announcement.

NEW YORK (AP) — Monday's base price quotation for strict low-milking 1.16-cents per 44.60-cents per pound.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Advertisement for Dellwood Mall shopping center, featuring 'OPEN LATE EVERY NIGHT UNTIL CHRISTMAS' and listing various stores like ANTIQUES, BOOKS, etc.

Over the Counter

Quotations from the NASD are representative interdealer prices as of approximately 11 a.m. Interdealer markups change through the day. Prices do not include retail markups, markdowns or commission.

(This OTC list is compiled by Shearson, Hayden, Stone, Inc.)

Table listing over-the-counter securities with columns: Ticker, Price, Chg. Includes entries like A, A, A, etc.