

UPI Roundup

France uneasy on US leaving Europe

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — President Georges Pompidou, reflecting France's apprehension over the Soviet-American summit talks next month, warned President Nixon Thursday of "the great danger" of a unilateral U.S. troop reduction in Europe. Temporarily setting aside the issues of trade and monetary reform dividing them, Nixon and Pompidou concentrated on NATO and related problems in their opening meeting at the starkly modern, glass-and-stone Kjarvalsstaðir art museum. Nixon's press secretary, Ron Ziegler, later noted that Nixon had often declared in the past there were no plans for unilaterally withdrawing the 306,000-man U.S. force in Europe.

The French president's point could be cited by Nixon in resisting demands in Congress for a troop cutback to ease the chronic U.S. balance of payments deficit.

Skylab power shortage is worse

HOUSTON — Faced with a power shortage that threatened to cut short their earth resources surveys, Skylab's pilots turned off fans and canceled a ground photographic run Thursday to save precious electricity. Engineers on the ground rushed tests to see if a daring spacewalk along the side of the space station would be able to free a jammed solar generating wing, needed now more than ever. It appeared that two of Skylab's 18 main battery circuits were lost permanently, in addition to the earlier loss of the two exterior wings that convert sunlight into electricity to charge the batteries. Nonetheless, the three astronauts continued observing the sun through a powerful array of telescopes. They delighted scientists by discovering a new plume of hot gas streaming away from the east side of the solar disc.

Experts weren't sure; Chevron ad ok

WASHINGTON — Charges that Standard Oil Co. of California falsely advertised that one of its additives would contribute to reducing air pollution have been dismissed for lack of proof. An administrative law judge of the Federal Trade Commission, in a ruling which may be appealed, stayed, or docketed for review, found that advertisements about F-310 in Chevron gasoline "do not represent, either directly or by implication, that F-310 reduces all pollutants in motor vehicle exhaust, much less that it eliminates all such pollutants..." Judge Eldon Schrup noted that each of the statistical witnesses called by the FTC counsel, experts from competing oil companies, "denied any training, experience or expertise in the engineering fields in which his opinions were being sought. On cross examination it was established that each of the competitive oil companies...had also conducted other tests of F-310, not offered by complaint counsel, which showed that it did reduce deposits and emissions."

Democracy sneaks into whale's life

NEW YORK — Starting today, Alex, the Beluga whale at the New York Aquarium, no longer will automatically get rewards for the tricks he performs during the whale-dolphin show. Instead, five voting machines have been set up at poolside. The audience will be divided into five "political parties," and each party will select a representative. After each stunt, the representatives will poll their sections to decide if they feel Alex did a good job. If the majority thinks he did, then the voting machines will trigger an automatic feeder to reward Alex with fish. Dr. James Oliver, director of the aquarium, said it's the only fish show in the world with audience participation.

Congress acts on rights of fetus

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to prohibit use of federal funds for research on live fetuses or requiring anyone to perform abortions who objects on moral or religious grounds.

The fetus provision was approved 354 to 9 as an amendment to a bill establishing a two-year, \$415,594 program of biomedical research fellowships and training. The bill was one of three health measures passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Harley Staggers, (D-W.Va.), chairman of the House Commerce Committee, castigated his colleagues for the fetus amendment, but said he voted for it "because I didn't want some demagogue saying...I voted for experiments on human fetuses."

His committee had written into the bill a section barring use of any of the funds for "unethical research" as determined by the National Institute of Health.

The research bill was passed by 372 to 1.

The House also approved by voice vote a \$1.2 billion bill extending a dozen health programs for a year, including a provision barring use of federal funds to force individuals or institutions to perform abortions they oppose as a matter of conscience.

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Rep. Angelo Roncallo (R-N.Y.) proposed the successful amendment barring support of any research on living fetuses "outside the womb of the mother and which are alive with a beating heart."

The nine who voted against the fetus provision included John Dellenback (R-Ore.).

Also on Thursday, six senators moving to bypass a recent Supreme Court decision, proposed a constitutional amendment which would outlaw abortions except as a means of saving the mother's life.

Sen. James Buckley (R-N.Y.) is chief sponsor. Co-sponsors include Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.).

The measure would give an unborn child full protection of rights under the Constitution.

In a decision invalidating the anti-abortion laws of most states, the Supreme Court last Jan. 22 ruled that an abortion in the first three months of pregnancy is a matter to be decided solely by a woman and her doctor.

In the second three months, states may regulate abortion procedures. And in the final three months, after the "viability stage," the state may forbid abortions except where necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.

Ecology group, Nader sue AEC to close 20 atom power plants

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Ralph Nader and the environmental organization Friends of the Earth, Thursday filed suit to shut down 20 nuclear power plants on safety grounds.

Two of the plants, Nader said, are near President's Nixon's California and Florida homes — the San Onofre No. 1 plant, located "a few hundred yards" from Nixon's San Clemente home, and Turkey Point Plants

No. 3 and No. 4 at Biscayne Bay, Fla., site of Nixon's Florida home.

The suit also named Surrey Plants No. 1 and No. 2 at Gravel Neck, Va., located an estimated 40 miles from Washington.

The suit asks the Federal District Court to order the Atomic Energy Commission to revoke the operating licenses of the 20 plants until all safety standards have been met.

The AEC immediately responded by declaring all the plants are safe, although it is in the process of designing additional features for its back-up safety systems.

"The safety record of licensed nuclear power plants is excellent," the AEC said.

A spokesman for the industry's Atomic Industrial Forum said that contrary to critics, "widespread adoption of nuclear power will not compromise our concern for the environment or public health and safety. Never has a technology been developed with such caution, conservatism and rigorous federal regulatory procedures. It is, in fact, this very caution and emphasis on safety that has often been misinterpreted as lack of confidence in nuclear power safety."

The AFC said that although it has not yet studied the suit, "we know of no basis for suspending operations of nuclear power plants."

Ireland elects Protestant president in surprise vote

DUBLIN (UPI) — English-born Erskine Childers Thursday became the first Protestant to be elected president of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic, succeeding 91-year-old Eamon de Valera.

Political sources said the victory by Childers, 68, over his Roman Catholic opponent in Wednesday's presidential elections was a dramatic gesture of conciliation toward predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland, where the outlawed Irish Republican Army is waging war.

Childers' opponent, 56-year old lawyer Tom O'Higgins, was seeking the presidency for the second time. He ran with the support of Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave's recently elected coalition government.

O'Higgins was a heavy pre-election choice, but his campaign managers said he needed a high turnout to make victory certain.

Childers, candidate of the opposition Finna Fail party, polled 636,162 votes or 52 percent of the total to 587,577 votes or 48 percent for Tom O'Higgins, 56, representing the governing Fine Gael and Labor party coalition, according to the completed count.

Childers said one of his first tasks as president would be to ask the government's consent to invite representatives of the two communities in Northern Ireland to meet "so that we could explore common ground."

Only 55 percent of the Republic's 1.9 million registered voters cast votes.

Childers, who will become the fourth president of the Republic,

actually is the second Protestant to occupy the nation's highest office. Douglas Hyde, the republic's first president, was nominated to the post in 1937 without opposition and held it for one term of seven years.

Despite administration pleas

Senate bans bombs more strongly than House did

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate voted 63 to 19 Thursday to cut off all funds for the bombing of Cambodia. Both houses of Congress are now on record against continuation of the air war that has raged there since the Indochina cease-fire Jan. 28.

The measure passed despite consistent administration steps to block it — including claims that it would cripple Henry Kissinger's attempt to iron out a final cease-fire agreement with North Vietnam representatives.

The House, by a 219-188 vote May 10, passed a similarly worded prohibition as part of its \$2.6 billion version of a supplemental appropriations bill. But its ban would apply only to the funds in the bill — not other congressional appropriations.

B57 flights cut due to \$ trouble

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Defense Department said Thursday that B52 bomber flights in Cambodia have been cut back by one third, from an average of 60 per day to 40.

A Pentagon spokesman, Jerry Friedheim, said the planes were continuing to hit all planned targets and were able to maintain a high level of bombing despite the cutback, by carrying more bombs per plane and by hitting more targets on each mission.

The Pentagon indicated the number of strikes had been reduced because of a budget squeeze due to higher than expected Indochina costs, inflationary price increases and higher costs abroad due to the devaluation of the dollar.

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a delayed military report said more than 100 rebels had been killed by U.S. B52 bombing strikes May 22 in Kompong Cham Province, about 62 miles north of Phnom Penh. Spotter pilots reported a secondary explosion in the area, indicating military supplies had been hit.

The Senate measure was sponsored by Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.). It was an amendment to the \$3.7 billion supplemental appropriations bill. The amendment would cut off all funds "heretofore" appropriated by Congress to support any U.S. military action "in, over or from the shores of" Cambodia and Laos.

The differences will have to be resolved by a House-Senate conference, passed again by both houses and then signed by the President before the measure becomes law.

The administration may try to take its next stand when the two legislative bodies try to iron out differences in the two measures.

In the final Senate vote, 46 Democrats and 20 Republicans supported the amendment, while three Democrats and 16 Republicans opposed it. More than half the President's own party thus deserted him.

The only major challenge to the measure came in an amendment by Sens. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) and Jesse Helms, (R-N.C.) to permit the bombing to continue if President Nixon certifies that North Vietnam is failing to cooperate in identifying U.S. soldiers missing in action.

Dole said the Eagleton amendment — by permitting North Vietnam to have its way in Indochina without accounting for the MIAs — could "further jeopardize the fate of some 1,300 missing Americans."

But Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said, "If you want to create more MIAs, continue the bombing." The Dole-Helms amendment was defeated 56 to 25.

Before that vote, the Senate refused to grant an exemption for pin-point bombing of North Vietnamese troops. By a 63-17 margin, it rejected an amendment sponsored by Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio) which would have allowed the bombing of North Vietnamese soldiers, estimated at between 30,000 and 35,000 in Cambodia.

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