

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Vance ends Middle East trip

DAMASCUS, Syria — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance wound up his mission to the Middle East on Sunday after talks with Syrian Pres. Hafez Assad, probably the most skeptical of the Arab leaders about negotiating a settlement with Israel.

Assad told Vance that any settlement must include Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory seized in the 1967 Mideast war, full recognition of the national rights of the Palestinians and an end to the state of war, a Syrian government statement said.

Ohio chemical spill spreading

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Traces of carbon tetrachloride were found in the Ohio River here Sunday as a 70-ton spill of the potentially toxic chemical moved downstream from Ohio and West Virginia. But officials said it had become too diluted to threaten Louisville's water supply.

More than 100 miles of the river have been affected by the spill, which has been traced to a West Virginia tributary of the Ohio, the Kanawha River.

Officials here started cleanup measures designed to absorb some of the chemical.

Natural gas lost in lines

DALLAS — Natural gas companies in Texas lost an estimated 358 billion cubic feet of gas in 1976 because it was either lost or left unaccounted for in pipelines, according to the Texas Railroad Commission.

In a copyrighted story Sunday, the Dallas Morning News said the commission's study shows the gas losses each year would be enough to heat the city of Dallas for nearly three years.

The newspaper said the gas would be worth \$225 million if it were sold at the average wellhead price of 63 cents per thousand cubic feet.

Plains minister resigns

PLAINS, Ga. — The Rev. Bruce Edwards said Sunday he has resigned effective April 30 as minister of the Plains Baptist Church, of which Pres. Carter was a member and deacon until he moved into the White House.

The minister said criticism of him had been building and he was "sure it was the backlash" of efforts he made last fall to integrate the all-white church after a black minister from Albany, Ga., applied for membership.

Study center breakup pondered

ADAIR VILLAGE — The membership of the Chicano-Indian Study Center of Oregon (CISCO) will consider at a meeting in Portland on March 1 whether to dissolve the organization.

The board of directors of the organization decided at a meeting Saturday to refer the question to the membership. Two-thirds of the members would have to agree for the organization to be dissolved.

Economic program eyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Both houses of Congress this week will attempt to expand the federal budget to make room for Pres. Carter's \$15.5 billion economic stimulus program.

Legislative work on aspects of the program itself as well as on key Carter nominations also are on Congress' schedule.

Two committees, meanwhile, will conduct investigations into whether natural gas was deliberately withheld from the market during the bitter winter weather.

Both the House and the Senate Budget committees have proposed opening up the budget more than enough to accommodate the \$15.5 billion stimulus package Carter proposed for this year.

The Senate will take up its committee's proposal for a \$16.8 billion increase late Monday or Tuesday. The House will begin a two-day debate Tuesday on its committee's recommendation for a \$17.3 billion enlargement.

A bill to authorize up to \$4 billion in additional public works to create jobs goes before the House Thursday, with leaders predicting passage that day or Friday. The program is another component of Carter's package.

On Tuesday and Wednesday a House Labor subcommittee will consider public service jobs bills

included in Carter's program and other legislation dealing with unemployment.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee votes Tuesday on Carter's nomination of Paul Warnke to head the disarmament agency and be the nation's chief negotiator in strategic arms limitation talks.

While the nomination has aroused some controversy, Carter has strongly backed Warnke and a favorable vote is expected. The Senate Armed Services Committee conducts its own hearings on the nomination the same day.

House Interior and Commerce subcommittees conduct separate hearings on Monday and Tuesday respectively into allegations that natural gas producers held their product off the market despite demand created by the acute cold.

An Interior Department investigation into natural gas production in some fields in the Gulf of Mexico disclosed that production had fallen off, but did not give a reason for the loss. Oil companies have cited technical problems. Critics of producing companies have suggested gas was withheld to raise prices and encourage the government to lift the ceiling on gas prices.

Governors call for water savings

DENVER (AP) — Western and midwestern governors, meeting Sunday to discuss what may be the worst drought in recorded history, unanimously endorsed establishment of a federal-state task force aimed at facilitating the flow of federal dollars into their drought-stricken states.

However, the 11 governors and representatives from six other states generally agreed that water conservation is the only long-term solution to the drought.

Gov. Richard Lamm hosted the meeting attended by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus. It was Andrus' first meeting with former fellow governors since he took the cabinet post.

Andrus told the governors that water shortages are "real, they are immediate and they could be very devastating."

"It will be President Carter's intent to compile results of this meeting and discuss them at a cabinet meeting Monday," Andrus said. "He (Carter) urges you to accelerate your planning... to determine what the anticipated devastation will be."

California Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. said he felt the drought

must be viewed in the context of the energy crisis.

"We are in an era of limitations," Brown said. "Our resources are inextricably linked together."

He urged voluntary water conservation measures, including use of a water-saving device in toilets and shorter showers.

Gov. James Exon of Nebraska said he felt the "one over-lying thing" that everyone must realize is the effect a drought could have on food prices.

"This is the widest spread drought that any of us has ever heard of," Exon said. "It is going right to the heart of the possibility of food shortages."

He suggested that more federal help be given to farmers and that loans be made available so that food surpluses could be stored.

"We should consider our present surplus as an asset and not a liability," Exon said.

Governors from the northwestern portion of the country pointed to the devastating effects the drought is having on hydroelectric power supplies and on fruit crops.

"We have a large fruit tree industry," said Gov. Dixy Lee Ray of Washington. "We already are res-

igned to loss of the crop, but we must save the trees."

She said people already are out of work because of hydro-electric power shortages.

The general consensus of the governors was that a task force should meet as soon as possible to discuss water problems and possible solutions. Each governor was asked to appoint a top-level aide to meet with top government officials early next week in Washington.

The governors also endorsed the possibility of naming a federal drought coordinator.

Brown said he hoped the task force would lead to increased federal aid to drought areas, pointing out that drought is treated differently from other disasters, such as floods.

"Drought does not trigger the amount of money victims think they are entitled to," Brown said. "We all talk about red tape. What we are really mean is green money."

He said the main question is whether more federal money can be freed for victims of the drought.

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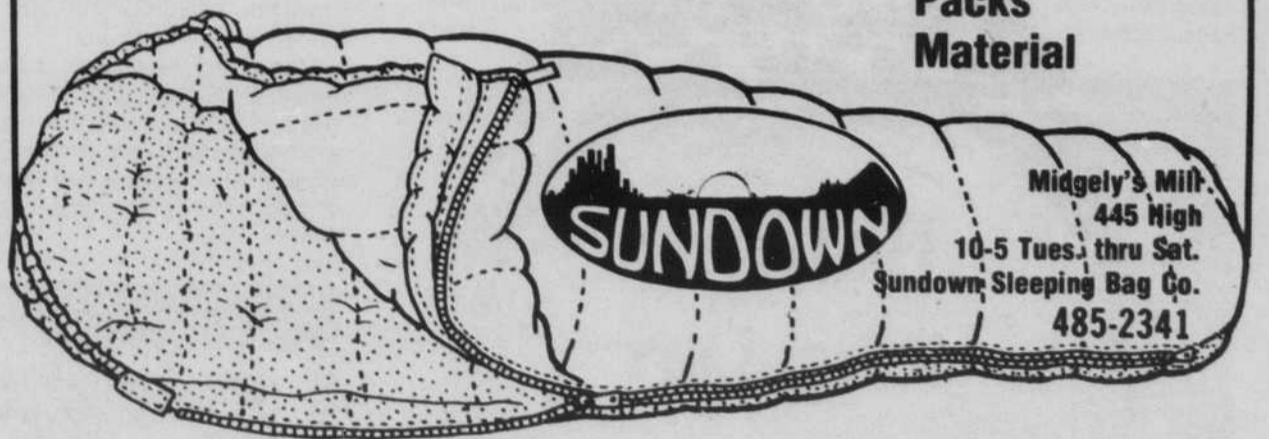
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