

Carter plans boost for antitrust laws

WASHINGTON (AP) —The Carter administration is planning an over-all examination of the nation's complex anti-trust laws, emphasizing toughened enforcement and improved efficiency in the fight against monopolies.

Vice-President Walter Mondale and Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell indicated the question of anti-trust enforcement and its affect on consumers, was on the administration's agenda.

The two appeared Thursday at the ceremony to swear into office the new head of the Justice Department's anti-trust division.

The fact that the swearing-in of Asst. Atty. Gen. John Shenefield was held in the White House was itself a sign of the increased focus on anti-trust enforcement. Such ceremonies are usually held at the Justice Department, where they attract less attention.

Shenefield, praised by Mondale and Bell as one of the top scholars and trials lawyers in the anti-trust field, was given the oath of office in the White House Roosevelt Room by Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell.

The vice-president called the choice of Shenefield "a central feature in this administration's vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws," an enforcement which he said would be of particular benefit to consumers.

Bell said the administration would begin "a re-examination and a study of the anti-trust laws . . . to see what we can do to better handle the procedures."

A Justice Department spokesman, Mark Sheehan, said later the department was thinking of setting up a special commission early next year to conduct a six-month

study and make concrete, specific recommendations on anti-trust statutes.

It would be the first such study in about 20 years, he said.

Last year Congress passed legislation to strengthen the government's anti-trust enforcement powers and allow state attorney generals to sue price-fixing businesses on behalf of consumers. It gave the Justice Department authority to investigate proposed mergers in advance.

That legislation had to survive a battle in Congress that included a filibuster in the Senate.

Mondale said there is "much work to be done" in the anti-trust field.

World at a glance

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spaniard wins Nobel lit prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The Swedish Academy of Letters on Thursday awarded the 1977 Nobel Prize for Literature to Spaniard Vicente Aleixandre, a sickly recluse cited for a half-century of haunting, surrealistic poetry that "illuminates man's condition in the cosmos."

The academy's choice was a surprise. The 79-year-old Aleixandre's reputation has been largely limited to the Spanish-speaking world. Such internationally celebrated authors as Britain's Doris Lessing, Turkey's Yasas Kemal and West Germany's Guenther Grass had been prominently mentioned as front-runners for this year's award.

Carter commutes sentence

WASHINGTON — Puerto Rican nationalist Anres Figueroa Cordero was released from prison in Springfield, Mo., Thursday, shortly after Pres. Carter cut his sentence to the 23 years he has already served for his part in an armed attack on Congress.

Cordero has cancer, and a White House spokesman said Carter commuted his 25 to 75 year sentence to the time he has already served because of his physical condition.

The three other Puerto Rican nationalists with whom he was convicted after the 1954 attack are still in prison.

There's a surprise inside

MANITOWOC, Wis. — Butch Kohls of Manitowoc, whose 65th birthday is Sunday, got a premature surprise Thursday.

Doctors at the Manitowoc hospital, where Kohls is due for surgery soon, took preliminary X-rays and discovered a six-inch surgical scissors clamp in his stomach.

Kohls said the instrument probably was a leftover from a gallbladder operation he had about 30 years ago.

But he said the clamp never bothered him, and doctors said they would go along with his wish not to have it removed.

Students fail allegiance test

HONOLULU — When 111 ninth-graders were asked to write the Pledge of Allegiance, not one could do it correctly. One response described the United States as a nation "under guard" and dedicated "for richest stand."

A schoolteacher, who asked not to be identified so her students would not be embarrassed, called the results frightening.

She said all the students, Americans coming from varying racial and ethnic backgrounds, had spelling problems, and they apparently had little grasp of what the pledge meant.

The word "indivisible," for example, came out as "in the visible" in many papers, or with spelling mistakes like "vissable" or "visble."

Two students said the nation was "under guard" instead of "under God." The phrase "to the Republic for which it stands" appeared in some papers as "of richest stand" or "for Richard stand."

Speaker

STEPHEN KANTER

Former Director of Portland Public Defender Office
Professor of Criminal Law at Lewis & Clark Law School

"The Public Defender &
the Criminal Justice System"

Friday, October 7 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 129 Law School

SBA Presentation

Wholesale prices down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wholesale prices turned up-ward by one-half of one per cent in September, but a government economist said Thursday there is

no evidence that retail food prices will begin spiraling again.

The increase followed three months of declines or little change in the Labor Department's over-all

wholesale price index.

The increase was the biggest since 1.1 percent increase in April, just before wholesale food prices began a dramatic decline.

Farm product prices dropped a total of 15.2 per cent in May through August, translating into a slower rise in food prices at the grocery store.

The September report showed prices of farm products declining only two-tenths of one per cent.

Courtenay Slater, chief Commerce Department economist said, "There is still no reason to believe food prices will be rising much at the retail level. They should be moderate for the rest of the year."

She said food price increases should be in the four to four and a half per cent range in the next year or so. Grocery prices have risen less than one per cent in the past three months.

Panel trims energy plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Finance Committee voted down the last of Pres. Carter's major energy related tax proposals Thursday and then voted to block him from using an alternative weapon to forced energy conservation.

But after rejecting the bulk of Carter's program, the committee voted 9-2 endorsing his goal of reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil through some yet to be determined system of tax cuts — but not through tax increases.

Meanwhile, the full Senate continued to labor over another section

of Carter's energy package and was expected to turn down the President's proposal to force utilities to revise their rate structures.

On a 14-2 vote the Senate Finance Committee approved a provision that would reduce oil company taxes \$3 for every barrel of oil they produce from shale. That could cost billions in lost taxes, but only if that promising but difficult source of energy is tapped.

It also rejected the administration's plan to levy a stiff tax on factories and power plants that use oil and natural gas.

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