

Carter inks first urban program

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Carter administration's first new urban program was signed into law Wednesday, promising billions for ravaged American cities and their poor and out of work residents.

The \$14.7-billion housing bill includes an expansion of the Community Development program, with an emphasis on older cities, as well as more money for housing programs and rent subsidies for poor families.

The rent subsidies plus added financial aid to hard-pressed cities will help an additional 345,000 families find housing at rents they can afford, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

At the same time, administration officials estimate the measure will provide a half million jobs in construction and

related industries where unemployment rates are the highest.

On the heels of his eye-opening tour last week of the South Bronx, Pres. Carter said, as he signed the legislation, it will provide "a giant step forward" in improving urban living conditions.

"The bill is a big improvement in giving more attention to the older, central cities," says Richard Nathan, urban expert at the Brookings Institution.

"It will help a lot of big Northern cities, but also the inner-ring suburbs and more than a few Sunbelt cities."

New elements in the community development program include a \$400-million Urban Action Grant fund for spurring economic development in the nation's most trou-

bled cities.

The bill includes a formula that drastically increases federal aid to cities in the Northeast and the Midwest.

Carter said his visit to the South Bronx revealed slums that are "a disgrace to our great country."

In fact, ghetto-marked cities like New York, Detroit and Baltimore will receive millions of dollars more under the Carter housing bill than they were to receive under the expiring legislation.

The housing and community development bill, product of a two-month conference between the House and Senate, extends the community development program for revitalizing cities for three years and funds it with a total \$10.9 billion, a \$2.4 billion increase.

World at a glance

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATO disagrees on bomb

BARI, Italy — Defense ministers of the North Atlantic alliance failed Wednesday after two days of talks to agree on European deployment of the neutron warhead.

European ministers said the tactical nuclear weapon, which kills humans but spares buildings and objects outside the impact area, was militarily useful, but they considered it politically dangerous. U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown called their fears unjustified.

Brown and six NATO colleagues making up the alliance's Nuclear Planning Group met in this Adriatic port city to review military preparedness of NATO against the Warsaw Pact nations.

The delay on the neutron bomb meant another month-long wait before President Carter can decide on its production.

Steam runs out of balloonists

HALIFAX, Canada — Two Americans gave up their attempt to make the first flight to Europe by balloon Wednesday, and a Canadian Coast Guard ship headed for the point 27 miles off Nova Scotia where they ditched in the Atlantic in light rain and haze.

The Air-Sea Rescue Center said Dewey Reinhard, 47, and Steve Stephenson, 44, both of Colorado Springs, Colo., were in good condition. A Canadian Forces aircraft was reported on the scene.

A rescue center spokesman said the balloonists came down shortly before 4 p.m. EDT, 27 miles east of the Canadian forces Shearwater base across the harbor from Halifax.

Torrijosto discuss canal

WASHINGTON — Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos will meet with Pres. Carter at the White House Friday, the White House announced Wednesday.

A White House spokesman said Carter and the Panamanian general would discuss the proposed Panama Canal treaty and "the public debate" surrounding the pact.

The treaty has faced strong criticism in the Senate, which must grant its approval before the pact can go into effect. Carter has acknowledged that final Senate ratification is in doubt.

Enterprise flight 'superb'

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The space shuttle Enterprise all but completed its eight-month testing program Wednesday with what scientists said was a "superb" flight that proved the craft can return safely from space missions.

Described as the most important flight in the test program that began here last February, the two and half minute diving glide of the Enterprise was made without the tailcone that had made previous test flights smoother than actual returns from orbit would be.

"It went better than most of us expected," said Donald Slayton, manager of the approach and landing tests.

Smoking linked to miscarriages

BOSTON (AP) — Women who smoke during pregnancy are nearly twice as liable as nonsmokers to lose their babies through spontaneous abortion, a study says.

The researchers recommended that women give up smoking to increase their chances of having full pregnancies with normal childbirth.

This study, conducted at New

York's Columbia University, adds another argument to the growing case against smoking during pregnancy. Earlier studies have shown that babies of women who smoke are smaller than normal and more likely to die at birth.

A report on the latest study was published in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The researchers were not sure why women who smoke have more spontaneous abortions, but they said there are two main theories. One is smoking women eat less than nonsmokers. The other is that fetuses of smoking women do not get enough oxygen.

A spontaneous abortion — as opposed to one that is induced artificially — is defined as one in which a woman naturally loses a fetus less than about 20 weeks old. The researchers did not distinguish between a spontaneous abortion and a miscarriage, which is generally defined as loss of the embryo or fetus during the first three months.

Oil prices may stay in front of inflation

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Oil exporting nations and Western oil companies ended their first joint meeting in four years Wednesday with a consensus that oil prices should keep ahead of inflation to encourage new energy production.

An Algerian proposal to the three-day seminar that oil prices

rise at least 15 per cent a year for the next decade drew support from three other exporters and one oil company, Royal Dutch-Shell.

The consensus on keeping prices ahead of inflation, now running an annual average of 6.5 to 7 per cent in Western industrialized countries, emerged from speeches by delegates from companies and members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

It did not bind OPEC oil ministers, who were not present here, to impose any increase at their Dec. 20 price-fixing meeting in Caracas.

Court hears Bakke case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Allan Bakke's attorney told the Supreme Court Wednesday his client "has a right not to be discriminated against because of race." But Archibald Cox countered that racial minorities are entitled to special treatment to offset past discrimination.

With those arguments, the opposing attorneys confronted the court with the most important race relations controversy to reach it in a generation.

The judgment of the nine justices on Bakke's "reverse discrimination" case could have a profound effect on the future of so-called affirmative action programs in education and business across the nation.

Many civil rights leaders and constitutional scholars believe the justice's decision could rank in its impact with the court's 1954 ruling that outlawed segregation.

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