

Vorster election victory expected

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Voters defied rain and gales Wednesday to elect a new Parliament in segregated South Africa and Prime Minister John Vorster was expected to win in a landslide.

The country's 19 million blacks are barred from voting. Final results of the voting are expected Thursday. Some 2.2 million whites were registered, but some didn't bother to vote in an election in which many candidates of the ruling National party were unopposed.

The conservative Nationalists, bolstered by white concern over continuing racial tension, seemed capable of extending their 70 per cent control of the current Parliament in which they hold 116 of 165 seats.

Vorster called elections 18 months early. He was seeking support for a proposed new constitution that would set up separate parliaments for the 4.5 million whites, 2.5

million persons of mixed race and 750,000 Asians. There would be no representation for the blacks, who make up 70 per cent of the population.

Vorster also wanted a mandate to reject what he called "meddling" by the United States and other nations in South Africa's domestic affairs.

He and his wife, Tini, were among the first to vote, casting their ballots in drizzling rain at a booth at a Pretoria high school.

Vorster, like most of the National party leadership, is an Afrikaner. The Afrikaners, descended from Dutch and French colonists, are solidly in the majority among the nation's whites and support the government's apartheid policy of race separation.

The Nationalists have a firm grip on most of their seats in Parliament, and fielded 147 of the 275 total candidates in this election. Forty-two Nationalist candidates

were unopposed.

The opposition, whose two major parties advocate some power sharing with blacks, has splintered over how to react to black discontent, and the English-speaking whites were expected to swing away from their usual support of the opposition and toward the Nationalists.

The blacks' unrest was mirrored in their election-day comments.

"The election means nothing to me because I am excluded from voting," said Joe Sibibi, a welfare officer in the huge segregated Soweto township near Johannesburg.

"I just wonder how long these people think they can go on perpetrating the myth that I don't exist."

Coal hauler Shadrek Libitso said: "What election? I don't know about it, but if it's for whites only I don't think I like it."

World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

Lawyer warns truck designers

DALLAS — The lawyer who won a \$10.1 million damage suit against a major truck manufacturer said Wednesday the award should warn the entire truck industry to redesign their chassises to protect those familiar side-mounted fuel tanks from accidents.

The award, believed to be one of the largest ever in Texas, went to Mary Kathryn Maxey, 12, and her sister, Carole, 9. The girls' parents died in a fiery West Texas crash in November 1974 when Billie Maxey's tangerine-laden tractor trailer rig ran off the road and flipped on its right side.

Hay may effect milk prices

SACRAMENTO — If hay prices stay down and milk production stays up, milk prices will probably be cut two cents a half-gallon early next year.

So said Jerry Scribner, deputy director of the Department of Food and Agriculture, at an Assembly subcommittee hearing Tuesday.

Scribner said a department study indicates that minimum prices to producers are two cents a half-gallon higher than production costs justify.

Sex ban confuses public

FLORENCE, — The inadvertent wording of a new city ordinance has left some residents of this coastal community concerned about their sex lives.

The ordinance says it's illegal to have sexual intercourse "while in or in view of a public or private place."

What the city fathers and mothers were trying to do, was ban lovemaking in public places — and in private places that can be seen from public places.

But recently some people starting saying the wording could be read to mean sex is banned in public or private.

"The chief of police and his men are not going to go around arresting people for doing things in their homes — unless there are wild acts of intercourse in view of other people. Someone could be cited for that now, but not in the past," he added.

FDA counsel disqualifies self in 'sweet' controversy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new chief counsel of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has disqualified himself from working on the FDA's most controversial case — the proposed saccharin ban — for the next year to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

But since Congress has barred

the agency from imposing its planned ban of the suspected cancer-causing sweetener for 18 months, Richard Cooper could be back on the case before any final action occurs.

Cooper, a former junior law partner of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph

Califano Jr., also promised not to take part in any matters involving three major corporations that have dealings with FDA and which have been represented by his previous law firm, although Cooper himself never represented the firms.

The three corporations are Coca Cola Co., the country's largest producer of saccharin-sweetened diet soft drinks; Pfizer Inc., the world's eighth largest drug manufacturer; and Michigan Chemical Corp., the company that accidentally contaminated cattle feed with the potent chemical PBB suspected of indirectly causing wide-spread illness among Michigan farm families.

Cooper's actions were disclosed in a memorandum written to his boss, HEW general counsel Peter Libassi, following a reporter's inquiry about the new FDA lawyer's possible conflicts of interest.

Cooper actually is not required under federal law to remove himself from the deliberations over saccharin since his former law firm, Williams and Connolly, represented Coca Cola only in cases dealing with matters other than saccharin.

Mediators attempt coal contract talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal mediators shuttled between union and industry bargainers Wednesday, trying to at least arrange a meeting of the two sides in the coal industry's contract talks.

"We're following a timetable that we have in our own minds" said chief mediator Wayne Horvitz before a brief morning session with bargainers for the United Mineworkers Union (UMW), a session he later declared, "a good meeting."

Horvitz and two other federal mediators met later in the day with negotiators for the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, industry's bargaining arm.

The chief mediator said he didn't know when conditions would be favorable for bringing the two groups together at one bargaining table.

A spokesman for the UMW said late Wednesday there was "no indication of any movement of any substance" in the talks.

He said discussions would continue Thursday "on the same format" as the one established by mediators when they entered the talks this week.

Industry sources, reluctant to comment on the discussions, said they expected no further negotiations Wednesday night beyond the session held by the mediators with coal company bargainers.

Carter promises tax reductions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter promised on Wednesday to push for "substantial tax reductions" as soon as possible next year and said he might delay sending complicated tax reforms to Congress for fear that they might tie up the tax cuts.

Rep. Al Ullman, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, welcomed the president's pledge. Sen. Russell Long, chairman of the Finance Committee, said he had "no comment."

Carter's go-slow attitude toward comprehensive tax reform means he might delay redeeming his campaign promise to completely overhaul the nation's tax system. As a candidate, he called the system a "disgrace to the human race."

Although Carter gave no specifics, Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal has said the administration is considering tax reductions of between \$15 billion and \$20 billion for business and individuals.

One White House source said the tax-cut total could go higher than \$20 billion but said he would be surprised if it went over \$30 billion. This official said no decision on the size or timing of the tax

reductions has been made.

He said those decisions were likely to come in the next two weeks.

The official said Carter's 1978 tax proposal probably would not include previous plans to eliminate tax preferences on investment profits, called capital gains, and to reduce double taxation on corporate dividends.

But the administration still

hasn't decided whether to include a proposed cut in deductions for business lunches, the official said.

Carter voiced the possibility of postponing comprehensive tax reform at a nationally televised news conference.

"In 1978, there will be a substantial tax reduction," he declared. "And combined with that will be an adequate proposal for a tax reform."

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