

## World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

### Largest drug haul in history

SYDNEY, Australia — Two LaPine, Ore., women were charged Thursday with possession of nearly \$22 million worth of hashish in what Australian narcotics agents called the largest drug haul in the country's history.

The two were identified as Florice Bessiro, 61, a former LaPine hardware store employee and Vera Todd Hayes, 59, retired.

They were arrested Feb. 1 in Gosford in northern New South Wales after narcotics agents had kept their camper van under surveillance for nearly two months.

### Nazi war criminal dies

SOLTAU, West Germany — Convicted Nazi war criminal Herbert Kappler, whose escape from a Rome prison hospital and flight to his German homeland caused a furor last August, died Thursday of stomach cancer. He was 71.

Kappler was serving a life term for the mass execution of 335 persons in reprisal for the ambush killing of 32 German soldiers by Italian partisans on a Rome street on March 24, 1944, a date observed now in Italy as a national day of mourning. He was the Gestapo chief of Rome at the time.

He died at the home of his wife, Anneliese, 55, who helped him escape.

### Carter raises farm supports

WASHINGTON — Responding to weeks of protests from farmers around the country, the Senate Thursday adopted a resolution urging Pres. Carter to raise price supports and revive the soil bank program.

Passed by voice vote, the resolution called for increasing price support loans for corn, wheat, soybeans and peanuts. It also urged the administration to activate a program of paying farmers to take crop land out of production.

### The Russians are coming

ATLANTA — An influenza epidemic is sweeping the United States and it includes cases of the so-called Russian flu, the national Center for Disease Control reported Thursday.

However, the more than 3,000 deaths attributed to flu and pneumonia in the United States in the last four weeks appear to have been caused by viruses other than the new strain, which was first reported in Russia and Hong Kong last December, the CDC said.

### Senate confirms Webster

WASHINGTON — U.S. Appeals Judge William Webster won Senate confirmation Thursday to a 10-year term as director of the FBI.

Webster, confirmed by voice vote, will succeed Clarence Kelley, who is retiring.

Webster, 53, has been a judge of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

## Panama debate heated, interruptions tire Byrd

WASHINGTON (AP) — The pitch of the Panama Canal debate rose markedly today as senators on opposing sides interrupted each other repeatedly to challenge assertions about the proposed new treaty.

Growing exasperated by the tactic, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., trying to deliver a long speech in favor of ratification, said he no longer would yield for more than one question from any senator.

Leading off the second day of a debate expected to last several weeks, Byrd got into a heated exchange with opponents on the question of whether the original 1903 treaty between the United States and Panama was signed by a Panamanian or a Frenchman.

Sen. James Allen, D-Ala., a leader of the opposition to the treaties, quoted from one reference book to contend the 1903 document was signed by nine Panamanians.

Holding a different reference in hand, Byrd said Allen was mistaken, that the only signature on behalf of Panama on the

original treaty was that of Phillippe Bunau-Varilla, a Frenchman who negotiated on behalf of the Central American country.

Byrd went on to quote Bunau-Varilla's letter of resignation after completion of the negotiations.

The senator quoted the negotiator as saying he had completed his mission and that "I have

served France."

Leaning toward the opponents, the book still open in his hand, Byrd said, "He had served France. Not Panama. Not the United States...."

"Those were his words: 'I have served' " — then slamming the book shut with a crack that echoed through the chamber — "France," shouted the majority leader.



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