

Senate rejects House Canal input

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate rejected a Panama Canal Treaty amendment today that would have given the House a voice in ratifying the pact.

The amendment, which would have required House approval in disposing of U.S. property in the canal zone, was rejected 58-37.

The rejection stunned treaty foes who had hoped for as many as 47 votes. The amendment, proposed by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, was presented as a constitutional issue.

The most votes in favor of any opposition proposal to date was 41 on an amendment to a treaty that dealt with neutrality of the canal after it is turned over to Panama. That treaty was approved last month.

The treaty being debated now would actually turn the waterway over to Panama. Among the lawmakers siding with the anti-treaty forces on Hatch's motion were eight who had voted in favor of the first treaty last month, but several others they were counting on did not switch.

Senate sources said they may have been

reluctant to support any move that would undercut Senate rights concerning treaties.

Senate leaders were to meet later with treaty opponents to see if a final vote can be taken earlier than April 26, the date agreed upon so far.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., planned the meeting to reach an agreement on ending the debate that has occupied virtually all of the Senate's time since early February.

Byrd has named himself, Republican Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee and

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. to a three-man committee to settle on a final date and time for the showdown vote.

Byrd and Baker support the treaty. Helms opposes it.

Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate GOP Policy Committee and a treaty opponent, predicts the vote will come sometime during the week of April 17.

Before today's vote, treaty foes had cited a constitutional provision that says U.S. property can be disposed of only by the full Congress.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Dismissal angers Anderson

WASHINGTON — Columnist Jack Anderson says dismissal of his damage suit against former Pres. Richard M. Nixon is "a major setback for freedom of the press."

U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell threw out the suit Tuesday because Anderson refused to disclose some of his sources. The journalist sought more than \$20 million from Nixon and former top officials of his administration.

He claimed he was the target of attempts to interfere with his work as a newsman, that his wife and children were followed, that his income tax returns were audited, and that there was a plot to murder him by use of poisons and another plot to inject him with hallucinogenic drugs.

European workers walkout

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Angry over rising unemployment, millions of Western European workers walked off the job, rallied in plants or demonstrated in the street Wednesday in their first such international labor protest.

The European Trade Union Confederation called the walkout on the eve of a Common Market summit in Copenhagen, blaming business employers and government leaders for the region's more than seven million jobless.

At least 31 trade unions representing some 40 million workers in 18 countries were included in "Action Day," officials said.

'Dead' woman revived

REDDING, Calif. — A woman found "dead" in a field revived more than an hour later in the morgue, Shasta County Coroner Joe Kohn said Wednesday.

Ginger Regus, 38, who had tried suicide with alcohol and pills, started breathing during a routine examination at the morgue, Kohn said.

"We started cardio-pulmonary resuscitation right away. She was taken to the intensive care ward of Shasta General Hospital, where the prognosis is poor," Kohn said.

Regus, who has a husband and several children, had left a suicide note in her home in nearby Old Shasta, Kohn said, and drove off in her car with all the pills from the medicine cabinet and some beer.

Sadat urges 'flexibility' in Begin's peace stance

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin "should be more flexible" in peace negotiations, Pres. Anwar Sadat said Wednesday.

He added that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, seen as Begin's growing political rival, is welcome to return to Cairo "whenever there are new ideas."

The Egyptian leader spoke to an international group of jour-

nalists and academics here for a conference on news exchanges with the Third World.

He was asked whether Begin personally was regarded as responsible for the current deadlock in the Israeli-Egyptian peace process.

"Well, I don't want to interfere in others' domestic problems," Sadat replied. "What I feel is this — Mr. Begin should be more flexi-

ble, and I told this to Weizman when he visited me last time. I don't feel like making any comment other than this."

The Egyptian president also said, as he had Sunday, that the estimated 30,000 Israelis who demonstrated in Tel Aviv over the weekend for Begin to make more concessions to the Arabs were "wise."

Formal talks between the two nations were suspended more than two months ago, although Weizman visited Egypt last week and met twice with Sadat. The defense minister is expected to return next week.

Israeli spokesmen said Weizman brought new proposals last week, but the Egyptians said there had been no progress.

The stalemate centers on Egypt's insistence that Israel withdraw from all occupied Arab land and allow the Palestinians to determine their own future. Israel rejects the idea of total withdrawal and Begin has offered home rule with a continued Israeli military presence for the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and West Bank of the Jordan River.

Also, Wednesday, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan returned to Israel from a three-day visit to Romania and Mideast talks with President Nicolae Ceausescu, which Dayan said yielded no concrete results.

House reduces S.S. tax hikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats voted Wednesday to reduce Social Security tax hikes that go into effect next year and to use income tax revenues to save the retirement system from bankruptcy.

The 150-57 vote by the caucus is not binding on the regular legislative committees. But it puts pressure on the Democrats who control and dominate those committees to push for the changes. Democrats control the House by a 2 to 1 margin.

Congress last year voted Social Security tax increases to bring in an additional \$227 billion over the 10 years beginning in 1979. The

increases, aimed at keeping the system financially solvent, would be particularly high for employees in the upper earnings brackets and for their employers.

The caucus vote came one day after the House budget committee voted to make room in its tentative financial plan for the year beginning Oct. 1 for a \$7.5 billion cut in Social Security taxes.

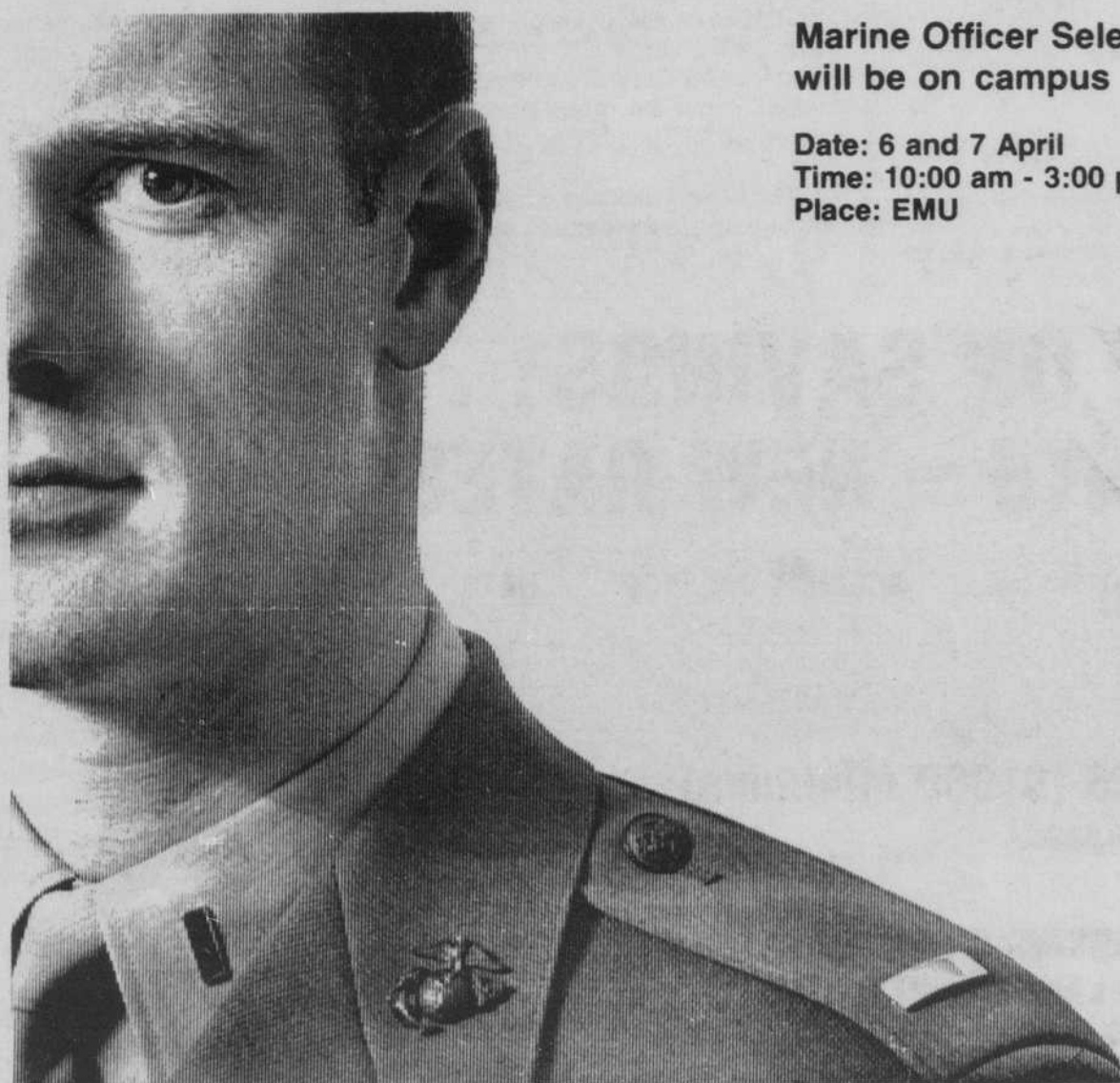
The resolution adopted by the Democratic caucus does not specify any dollar amounts but does put Democrats on record as favoring "the use of general revenue funds to finance a portion of the Social Security system with appropriate reductions in Social Security payroll taxes."

Carter to draft inflation plug

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter, beset by a falling dollar, rising prices and large oil imports, is drafting what is described as a new, get-tough approach to controlling inflation.

He told congressional leaders at a breakfast meeting Wednesday that he will take a larger personal role in lobbying for his energy bill, which he said is crucial to controlling oil imports and inflation, according to some who attended the meeting.

And he expressed what was described as "hostility" to the multi-billion-dollar farm subsidy bill being considered by Congress, which he considers inflationary.



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