

# House group may reject arms sale

WASHINGTON (AP) — There may be enough votes in a House committee to reject Pres. Carter's proposed sales of war planes to three Mideast countries despite predictions to the contrary by the panel's chairman, a survey of lawmakers showed Tuesday.

Nineteen House members — a bare majority of the 37-member House International Relations Committee — said they will approve or are leaning in favor of a

resolution against the sale of jet fighters to Saudi Arabia unless Carter makes concessions for Israel.

The Carter administration wants to sell sophisticated, U.S.-made F-15 war planes to Saudi Arabia, 75 F-15s and 15 F-16s to Israel and 50 F-5s to Egypt — a \$4.8 billion deal.

A House or Senate vote against any one of the three sales — the

Saudi Arabian transaction, for instance — would jeopardize the deal because Carter has suggested he'll drop the sales if Congress takes such action.

Under congressional procedure a proposed arms sale by the executive branch must be disapproved by both houses within 30 calendar days of the time the president sends it to Capitol Hill. However, no specific congressional approval is needed.

Under parliamentary procedure, a sale will go through unless Congress rejects it within 30 days. The House and Senate can halt such transactions only by passing resolutions of disapproval.

The Associated Press questioned each member of the House committee, which began considering the war planes deal on Monday.

Nineteen said they either will vote for a resolution disapproving the sales, or are inclined to do so, especially where the administration's sale of 60 sophisticated F-15 jet fighters is concerned.

Only five said they now support or are inclined to support Carter's sales to Saudi Arabia as well as to Israel and Egypt.

The remaining 13 said they're either undecided at this time or are unwilling to speculate on how they'll vote on resolutions of disapproval that have been introduced.

However, at least half a dozen, including some who listed themselves as being tentatively opposed to the Saudi sale, said they would vote for it if Carter makes concessions for Israel.

There seemed to be little congressional resistance to the proposed sale of less sophisticated jet fighters to Egypt.

Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., chairman of the committee, had said Friday he would get the 19 votes needed to kill any resolutions aimed at vetoing the sales.

Zablocki said he already has 15 votes, with the other four sure to come. But the congressman said he's disappointed that "more members don't have the courage to say publicly they support the sale."

Carter's aides have said privately they are counting on the House committee to kill resolutions against the jets sale so that the House — and therefore Congress — cannot veto it.

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Policy thwarts joyriders

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Department, leveling its sights primarily on joyriding thieves, announced plans Tuesday to require automobile manufacturers to install anti-theft equipment beginning with 1981 models.

The devices include protected ignition wires to prevent a car from being started without a key, hood latches that can be released only from inside the car and rounded door-lock mechanisms that prevent a door from being opened by poking a coat hanger through a window crack.

Many newer model automobiles already include one or more of the protective systems that would be required by the proposal, announced by the department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### World's tallest trees cloned

EUREKA, Calif. — California scientist report they have discovered how to clone redwood trees, a process they say may someday revolutionize the timber industry by producing millions of exact copies of the forest monarchs.

Dr. Ernest Ball says he has perfected the first "tissue culture" process for reproducing the coastal redwood, the tallest living tree.

Ball noted that cloning already has been done with orchids, asparagus, tobacco and other annual or semi-annual plants, including many house plants reproduced through cuttings.

### Suspects nabbed in kidnapping

MCKENZIE, Tenn. (AP) — A barefoot Jodie Elizabeth Gaines, wearing bluejeans and clutching a red rose, returned home unharmed Tuesday, three and a half days after she was kidnapped.

The quarter-million dollars in ransom Ben Gaines, a wealthy businessman, put up for his 18-year-old daughter was recovered and authorities said at least two persons were in custody.

James Trimbach, Special agent in charge of the Memphis FBI office, said two men — David Michael Wilson, 25, and Andrew Dickson, 22, both of nearby Paris — were arrested and another man was being sought. Earlier FBI reports said a woman also was in custody, but Trimbach did not confirm that and did not explain the discrepancy.

Jodie's mother Ludie dropped the ransom Monday night at a location specified by a kidnappers in an afternoon telephone call. Jodie was to have been released at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, but the money was not picked up and she was not released. Then the family, which had asked the FBI not to interfere, called for a full-scale effort by authorities to find Jodie.

## Herbicide spraying may resume

An official in the office of the U.S. Chief Forester in Washington, D.C., said Tuesday that herbicide spraying planned in the Willamette National Forest might resume as early as today.

John Barber told a reporter by telephone that Regional Forester Dick Worthington in Portland must review an environmental impact statement on the spraying that was filed in March. Barber said that if Worthington finds no error in judgment or fact, he may authorize spraying to resume.

He said a list of criteria was sent to Worthington Tuesday for use in the review. The review would apply only to areas which are contracted for spraying to go into operation prior to May 12.

Barber said if Worthington finds the environmental impact statement adequate, spraying operations could be under way Wednesday.

Worthington already has reviewed the impact statement once and found it acceptable.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Rupert Culter had ordered a hold on dioxin herbicide spraying as of Saturday midnight.

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## Federal tax queries delay state water loan program

SALEM (AP) — Federal tax questions have delayed the start of a new program of state loans for Oregon water development projects.

Jim Sexson, director of the state Water Resources Department, said Tuesday that lawyers have advised him not to sell bonds for loans until the Internal Revenue Service rules on whether the

bonds would be exempt from federal income taxes.

A decision isn't expected before summer, and Sexson said it appears unlikely that any loans will be made before 1979.

The voters approved a constitutional amendment last fall allowing the state to sell up to \$658 million in bonds for irrigation and other water project loans.

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