

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

BISMARCK, N.D. — An initiative on North Dakota's Nov. 7 ballot would put state controls on how much doctors could charge their patients, and the measure's architect says it is the beginning of a nationwide revolt against health care costs.

"Either way, win or lose, it's just a matter of time before every state will have similar state regulations," says North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Byron Knutson.

The state's medical profession feels otherwise. With cries of "socialized medicine," it has bankrolled an intensive campaign against the measure.

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — About 50 workers at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory's chemical processing plant were evacuated Tuesday night after an apparent nuclear chain-reaction released a small amount of radioactive gas, INEL officials said Wednesday.

There were no injuries reported, and Dick Blackledge, spokesman for the Department of Energy's Idaho office, said no one was exposed to radiation. He said the gas did not contaminate either the inside or outside of any buildings.

Blackledge said the cause of the leak was believed to be an unexpected chain reaction during a uranium separation process.

SALEM — Salem's raw sewage flowed directly into the Willamette River for about eight hours Tuesday because a fire in an electrical panel put a sewage treatment plant out of operation.

The plant was partly repaired Tuesday evening and began providing basic sewage treatment. A representative of the state Department of Environmental Quality said the more refined treatment usually provided by the plant probably would resume Wednesday afternoon.

He estimated that about 10 million gallons of sewage flowed into the river just north of the city while the plant was disabled.

No fish kills were reported, and no drinking water was affected, but officials warned people against swimming in the river near the Willow Lake sewage treatment plant.

Carter moves ahead with neutron bomb

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter has ordered production of the crucial elements of the neutron weapon but is reserving judgement on its deployment, his chief spokesman said Wednesday.

Carter's decision, which moves the United States a step closer to building the deadly nuclear warhead, was announced by press secretary Jody Powell at the daily White House news briefing.

Powell said the decision was unlikely to have any impact on the current Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty SALT negotiations.

Powell emphasized that no final decision has been made on assembling the complete neutron weapon or putting it to use as a line of defense against Soviet and

other Warsaw Pact forces in Europe.

The bomb, formally known as an "enhanced radiation warhead," is a small warhead that would be placed on Lance missiles and 8-inch artillery shells. It produces twice the deadly radiation of a conventional nuclear bomb but less than one-tenth as much explosive power. It is designed to kill enemy soldiers without causing widespread destruction of buildings in populated areas.

Powell said "the elements needed to produce an assembled warhead will be kept here in the United States." But, he added, the actual assembly "will take much less time once the elements are in existence."

Experts say births down

Population bomb defused

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's population time bomb, expected to begin exploding in the 1980's, may have been defused by birth control programs in some of the most populous nations, two Chicago sociology professors said Wednesday.

In a report titled "Declining World Fertility": Trends, Causes, Implications," demographers Amy Ong Tsui and Donald J. Bogue of the University of Chicago write that in most developing countries, birth rates have been declining faster than expected.

"Only ten years ago, doomsday prophesizing called for mass starvation, world chaos and possible world war by the year 2000," the report says. "If recent trends continue, the world population crisis appears resolvable."

The report says that contrary to demographic predictions, the

world's average rate of childbearing declined significantly between 1968 and 1975. As a result, the authors estimate, in 148 countries the rate dropped from 4.6 to 4.1 births per woman of child-bearing age in these seven years.

Some of the most populated countries which were viewed as seedbeds for population explosion, such as China, India, Indonesia and Egypt, were showing evidence of major and continuing fertility decline, the authors say.

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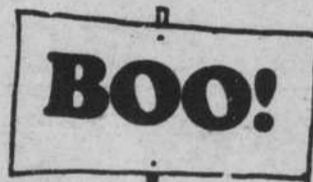
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