

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — A sharp decline in exports of food, chemicals and gold pushed the nation's trade deficit to \$2.1 billion for October, the worst in three months, the government said Wednesday.

Both the U.S. stock market and world currency markets reacted negatively to the news. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 9.70 points to 794.44 in the first few hours of slow trading, while the dollar eased against most other major currencies.

The U.S. trade deficit, which now totals \$24.9 billion for the first 10 months of 1978, has been a major cause along with inflation of the steep decline in the dollar during the past two years.

CORVALLIS — A team of physicians from Colorado State University is due in Oregon sometime next month for further study into whether there may be a link between miscarriages and herbicide spraying in the Alsea area.

The doctors will look at records of miscarriages at hospitals in Benton, Lincoln and Lane counties and compare them with similar records in an area where no spraying is done, according to Jack Griffith, chief of human effects monitoring for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

SAN FRANCISCO — Former Supervisor Dan White, charged with murdering San Francisco's mayor and another city official, made a brief appearance in a heavily guarded courtroom Wednesday but his arraignment was postponed to allow time for him to get an attorney.

White did not speak during the three-minute hearing. He nodded his head when Municipal Court Judge P.J. Reynolds asked if he waived immediate arraignment, but he did not even glance towards the spectator section where his wife, Mary Ann, sat with other relatives.

Judge calls AMA ad rule a 'price-fixing conspiracy'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American Medical Association, by prohibiting doctors from advertising, has fostered an illegal price-fixing conspiracy that has inflated medical bills, an administrative law judge ruled Wednesday.

Federal Trade Commission Judge Ernest Barnes said the AMA's policy against doctors advertising for patients, adopted early this century to stamp out medical quackery, has developed into a device for insuring physicians' profits.

Barnes ordered the 200,000-member AMA, the largest professional association in the world, to rescind its rules that keep physicians from advertising or otherwise soliciting patients.

The AMA said in a statement it will appeal the order.

Barnes said the AMA rules prevent doctors from giving patients information about what alternative health services are available. "The costs to the public in terms of less expensive or even, perhaps, more improved forms of medical services, are great," he said.

His decision is not final until the five-member commission has a chance to review it. If the commis-

sion approves it, as expected, the AMA could appeal to a federal appeals court.

Robert Hunter, chairman of the AMA board of trustees, said in Chicago that "the most shocking and pervasive attack on professionalism" in the ruling is a provision that the AMA will be permitted to participate in the setting of ethical guidelines for doctors' advertising after first obtaining FTC approval.

"We don't feel that lawyers, dentists, engineers, and other professionals, labor unions, business entities, charitable organizations, state and local governmental en-

ties should have to ask the federal government if they can issue ethical guidelines to their members and what those guidelines should say," Hunter said.

He insisted that the AMA favors physician advertising and a free flow of public information about health care services. "We are opposed to false and misleading advertising and its adverse impact on the quality of health care available to patients," Hunter said.

The decision comes after a series of rulings in recent years that have given lawyers, engineers, druggists and optometrists the right to advertise.

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Earthquakes shake Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Three strong earthquakes jolted the capital and much of southern Mexico on Wednesday. Officials said at least 100 persons were injured but there were no immediate reports of deaths.

The quakes shattered windows, shook buildings and sent office workers fleeing into the streets. The Red Cross said it had reports that some buildings were destroyed in the heart of Mexico City.

The tremors—measured as high as 7.9 on the Richter scale, which considers 7 a major earthquake rolled through this city of 13 million people beginning at 2:58 p.m. EST. The first tremor was followed in 12 minutes by a shorter quake and about an hour later by another strong tremor that made tall buildings on Paseo de la Reforma Boulevard sway.

Vivian Carner, 38, of Hackensack, N.J., said she "saw everything shaking" and there "was a tidal wave in the swimming pool" at the downtown hotel where she was staying.

There appeared to be little structural damage to buildings along Paseo de la Reforma Boulevard, but ambulance sirens whined through the center of town.

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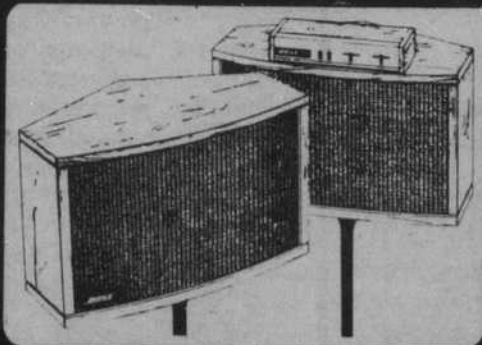
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