

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

SALT LAKE CITY — A congressional hearing into whether open-air nuclear tests in the 1950s caused cancer began Thursday with Utah's governor testifying that part of Utah got 40 times to 500 times as much radioactivity as areas near the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

But, Gov. Scott M. Matheson added, "Residents in southern Utah heard 'There is no danger' every day there was a test."

Matheson said no one knew at the time that the levels of radiation were as serious as is now known. "Intentional disregard for health crept in a little bit at a time," he said.

Matheson was the leadoff witness before a joint congressional committee, co-chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, which is investigating whether the nuclear fallout caused cancer and other health disorders among people of southern Utah, Nevada and Arizona.

SALEM — Oregon's chief Republican office holders joined in a chorus-like call Thursday for the ouster of state GOP Chair Walter Huss.

But the Portland minister said he would not leave office until an audit of the party's books is completed.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh said, "My patience has worn thin," and declared Huss has been an embarrassment to the state party.

"Mr. Atiyeh hasn't bothered to find out from us how well the party is doing," Huss told The Associated Press. "He's done very little to give me the right hand of fellowship. It's far below the level of a governor to ignore the state chairman as he has."

Huss claimed Atiyeh wants his resignation or recall to "cover up the internal party audit we're in the midst of producing."

After Atiyeh said he would support a recall effort, a string of GOP leaders backed the governor.

Among them were U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood, Secretary of State Norma Paulus, State Treasurer Clay Myers and Republican leaders Bob Smith in the state Senate and Gary Wilhelms in the House.

CAIRO, Egypt — A parcel bomb killed one Cairo postal worker and injured four others in a relatively rare act of violence that marred Thursday's referendum on the peace treaty with Israel.

The postal workers were injured in the midday incident at the central post office as voters elsewhere in the city streamed to voting booths to express their confidence in the peace treaty.

Pres. Anwar Sadat predicted a 99 percent yes vote.

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon ordered the court-martial of rebel Maj. Saad Haddad on Thursday after his declaration of a vest-pocket independent state in southern Lebanon and an attack on an administrative base of the U.N. peace-keeping force.

United Nations officials said his Israeli-armed troops poured an estimated 4,000 machine-gun bullets and 150 rounds of rocket and mortar fire into the base to drive "foreign troops" from the area Haddad proclaimed as "Free Lebanon."

Six Irish soldiers and two Dutch officers of the U.N. forces were wounded. All 14 U.N. helicopters at the base were put out of action. The helicopters were supplied by Norway.

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U.S., Soviet arms treaty moves toward settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union have settled perhaps the key remaining issue in the strategic arms negotiations, but still are not ready to sign a treaty, administration sources said Thursday.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin scheduled a meeting for late Thursday to discuss the remaining differences.

Mindful of unanticipated issues that have arisen in the past to confound the negotiators, officials refused to predict when the talks might end.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said "real problems" remained to be resolved by Vance and Dobrynin before the two sides discussed a summit meeting.

The U.S. sources, asking not to be identified, said agreement had been reached on the rules for defining a new missile type during the duration of the SALT II pact. The definition of new missile types has been a major unresolved issue.

The treaty would limit each side to developing one new land-based intercontinental ballistic missile system.

The American negotiators have been trying to get the Soviets to accept tight rules for defining a new missile out of fear that the Soviets might

dramatically improve an existing missile through a series of modifications and claim it was not a new missile.

According to the sources, the two sides agreed to the American suggestion that any change of missile characteristics such as size and weight in excess of 5 percent would mean that the missile must be counted as a new weapon

under the treaty's limitations. Sources said the Soviets had succeeded in whittling down the number of characteristics affected by the 5 percent rule.

Repeatedly over the past three years, the two sides have come to the verge of an agreement, only to see an unexpected problem arise to prevent completion of the treaty.

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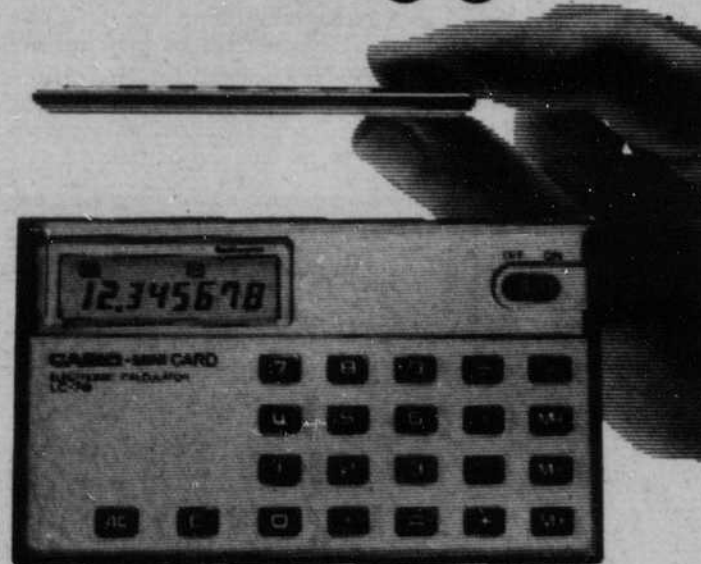
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