

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

SALEM — Two attempts to dislodge a nuclear moratorium bill from the Senate Environment and Energy Committee failed on Thursday.

The bill (HB2570), which was passed by the House, 36-24, would direct the state Energy Facility Siting Council not to approve construction of the proposed Pebble Springs nuclear power plants until the council determines there is a site for permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Spent fuel taken from 72 nuclear power plants around the country now are being kept in ponds at the plants.

Estimates on when a permanent storage site will be available have ranged from four to 12 years.

Sens. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, and Ted Hallock, D-Portland, were unsuccessful Thursday in two motions to send the bill to the Senate without a recommendation.

WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter's plan to renew price controls from domestic oil was overwhelmingly repudiated by House Democrats Thursday while Republicans demanded a better accounting of current fuel shortages.

The developments came amid what appears to be rising congressional hostility toward the oil industry — not just from liberals but from big oil's traditional allies in both the House and Senate.

Expressing frustration over rising prices and tight supplies, House Democrats approved, 138 to 69, a resolution repudiating Carter's plan to begin lifting price controls on domestic oil June 1.

Backers of the nonbinding resolution claimed decontrol would result in even higher gasoline and oil prices and enrich producers while doing little to alleviate shortages.

MIDEAST — Israeli warplanes strafed and bombed mountain coastal Palestinian bases deep inside Lebanon for the second straight day Thursday, hours after Palestinians shelled a northern Israeli border area. Lebanese authorities claimed the raids caused high civilian casualties.

Farther to the south, near El Arish, capital of the occupied Sinai, defiant Jewish settlers who had resisted eviction by throwing stones and vegetables at Israeli soldiers, finally relented and gave up their 10-acre farm so the area could be turned over to Egypt Friday.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived in Cairo and immediately left by helicopter to meet in Alexandria with Pres. Anwar Sadat. On Sunday the two are to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Beersheba, Israel, to begin talks on Palestinian autonomy in occupied areas.

ATLANTA — Bert Lance, Pres. Carter's close friend and first cabinet choice, pleaded innocent Thursday to charges he misused the funds of two Georgia banks. He called the accusations "totally ridiculous."

The former federal budget director and three northwest Georgia associates entered innocent pleas at an arraignment before U.S. Magistrate Allen Chancey Jr.

Their trial is likely to last at least eight weeks, prosecutor William Gaffney said.

U.S. spy flights affect SALT

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the U.S.-Soviet strategic arms treaty-signing summit rapidly approaching, the Carter administration is immersed in delicate talks with Turkey aimed at winning clearance for U-2 spy flights over that country.

The diplomatic maneuvering will have major repercussions on the success of next month's summit meeting and the fate of the SALT II treaty. The flights over Turkey by American spy planes would help U.S. intelligence make up for the loss of two Iranian stations which monitored Soviet missile tests.

The administration's success may be critical in the Senate debate over ratification of the pact. Influential critics like Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, are saying the treaty will not be verifiable unless the administration makes up for the loss of the Iranian monitoring posts.

Informed sources, declining to be identified publicly, say that

sometime between now and mid-June, when the summit is scheduled, the United States hopes to gain tacit Soviet acquiescence for the flights.

That is the price that Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has demanded before he will consider allowing the reconnaissance planes to use Turkish airspace.

Exactly what form of Soviet acquiescence Ecevit might demand is unclear.

Some sources say he will settle for a private assurance, relayed by the United States from the Soviets, that they will not retaliate against Turkey if it allows the overflights.

But public statements in Ankara by the Ecevit govern-

ment seem to indicate he will demand public acquiescence by the Soviets, something they are unlikely to give.

A Soviet diplomat, asked this week about his government's view, responded that U-2 flights over Turkey were both dangerous and unnecessary.

The diplomat, requesting anonymity, said it was hard to guarantee that such flights would not stray over Soviet territory, where the Soviets would try to shoot them down.

And he said Soviet experts think the United States has sufficient capability to monitor the treaty without flights over Turkey. But the diplomat left open the possibility that his government would acquiesce.

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