

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The nation's first secretary of education was chosen by Pres. Carter Tuesday, but he held out the possibility that Shirley Hufstедler, a federal appeals court judge, may be named to the Supreme Court if a vacancy occurs there.

The president described Hufstедler, 54, as "one of the best minds in the country," and as someone "who could take a new fresh look at the way we educate our children."

Carter's reached the decision Monday after he met the California jurist for the first time. White House deputy press secretary Rex Granum said it was understood in that meeting that Hufstедler "will not be precluded" from consideration for a high court post.

There is no vacancy on the bench, but Justice William J. Brennan Jr., 73, confirmed last week that he may retire in June or July at the end of the court's current term.

WASHINGTON — The Carter administration told Congress Tuesday it is considering setting tougher auto fuel-economy standards as part of a campaign to make conservation its number one energy priority.

Deputy Energy Secretary John Sawhill said strengthening the standard beyond the 27.5-mile-per-gallon performance specified for 1985 models under existing law is being studied.

"Because of the critical role that the automobile plays in our energy picture, it is important that we continue to explore ways to improve mileage efficiency," Sawhill told a House subcommittee.

SALEM — The start-up of the Trojan nuclear plant was delayed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, because of two safety defects, officials of the Oregon Department of Energy said on Tuesday.

Don Goddard, administrator for plant siting at the state Energy Department, said the 1,150-megawatt plant could be shut down for another month until stronger pipe supports are in place.

Also, he said, the plant cannot operate until the plant operator, Portland General Electric Co., plugs leaks in water pipes in two of the plant's four steam generators.

He said the connections holding 14-inch diameter pipes to a 14-inch-thick concrete wall might not withstand a major earthquake.

MCMINNVILLE — Oregon turkey growers are counting on a strong publicity campaign to counteract public fear about PCB-contaminated gobblers, the association said Tuesday.

"We're going to have an extensive advertising program nationwide," said Dale Henderson, plant manager for the Oregon Turkey Growers Association which markets its birds under the Norbest label.

Henderson said it is too early to estimate the impact of turkey hysteria on Thanksgiving and Christmas sales. He said so far there are no figures available to show whether sales have declined.

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Agriculture condemned 25,000 Oregon turkeys because of possible PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination. About 1,420 birds from the suspect flock were sold to consumers in Oregon and California before the USDA order, but officials say they posed no immediate health hazard.

MADISON, Wis. — The state Assembly approved a resolution ratifying an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give the District of Columbia voting representation in Congress on Tuesday.

But in voting 68-30 for the amendment, the Assembly tacked on a provision taking Congress to task for not giving the district's 700,000 residents full self-rule.

The amended resolution now goes to the state Senate, which previously approved ratification. The Senate is expected to approve the amended resolution before the Legislature adjourns Friday.

Wisconsin would become the seventh state to ratify the amendment.

Nuke panel suggests changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The presidential commission on Three Mile Island called for "fundamental changes" in the way nuclear plants are built, operated and regulated, but said adoption of its recommendations still would not "assure the safety of nuclear power."

The commission told Pres. Carter Tuesday that a broad range of deficiencies — from licensing and regulating atomic plants to the training of operators — made an atomic accident such as the one at Three Mile Island "eventually inevitable."

The panel called last March's

accident the worst to occur at a U.S. commercial nuclear reactor, but said health effects probably were limited to "severe mental stress" to area residents.

Radiation released was so minor that it may never be possible to detect whether the March 28 accident near Harrisburg, Pa., caused additional cases of cancer among those who live near the facility, the commission said.

The 12-member panel's findings are advisory and many of its recommendations, including a proposal that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission be abolished, would take congressional approval.

In accepting the report, Carter said the recommendations "will be studied very carefully" and that after an analysis he will make a report to Congress and the nation.

But he said, "Our own assessment and our decisions on what to do cannot be made immediately, and we'll have to be very careful and very meth-

odical in our recommendations to the public."

However, members of the commission, at a news conference, voiced fears of another serious accident unless there is fast action.

"I have this terrible feeling that somewhere out there is another accident waiting to happen," said Carolyn Lewis, one of the panel's strongest critics of the nuclear industry.

Theodore Taylor, a nuclear engineer, said, "we're going through a period of risks" until the recommendations are implemented.

Commission Chairer John Kemeny and Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt expressed the panel's serious concerns about the NRC. "No one is running that particular agency," Kemeny declared. "We even have some doubt they are very clear what their mission is."

Babbitt called the NRC "a headless agency" that "lacks the sense, direction, the vitality that is necessary to administer safety consideration on a day-to-day basis."

Militants aim guns, shout at U.S. embassy

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — About 300 militant leftists attacked the U.S. embassy Tuesday, firing guns and screaming "We will take the embassy!" authorities reported.

They said U.S. Marine Corps guards and Salvadoran troops used tear gas to repel the invaders who climbed the embassy fence but were driven back before they could force their way into the building. Two Marines were reported to have been slightly wounded.

"They surrounded the embassy building for a few minutes and they may have hurled a Molotov Cocktail on the western side of the building," said embassy representative Vitas Dambrava.

In Washington, State Department officials said one Marine guard was wounded slightly when a bullet grazed his ear. They said the Marine probably was saved by his helmet. No details were given about the second injured Marine, but officials said his wound was not serious.

There was no report of casualties among the left-wing invaders.

The 45-minute attack occurred at midday, the Washington officials said, and Salvadoran soldiers responded quickly to help the Americans and fired on the attackers.

Dambrava said the Marines did not directly participate in the fight. "Our Marines did not respond to the attacks," he said. He reported there was some gunshot damage to the embassy.

The U.S. compound occupies an entire block and is surrounded by a high wall and thick metal fences.

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