

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

HERMISTON — Potential hazards posed by nerve gases stored at the Army's Umatilla storage depot were discussed by state and Army officials Monday.

Robert Oliver, legal aide to Gov. Vic Atieyh, said after the meeting ended in mid-afternoon that no comments would be made until the governor was briefed on results of the session.

"The governor is asking that the chemicals be neutralized," he said.

Atieyh asked that the meeting be held after recent reports that some canisters of deadly gas have leaked.

But officials have said none of the leaks have endangered humans because the canisters are stored inside airtight containers.

TEHRAN, Iran — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's student followers, already holding scores of hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seized two U.S. consulates and the British Embassy on Monday in an escalating war of nerves against "the great Satan, America" and its "evil" British ally.

The head of the Iranian Embassy in Washington made clear the Tehran government would not intercede to free U.S. Embassy hostages. Ali Agah told reporters the government "reflects the demand of the people" regarding the shah, and the student militants who seized the embassy Sunday could not be asked to leave.

But the Carter administration rejected the demand that it expel the shah, and the British said they did not have Bakhtiar — that he was living in France.

Radio Tehran said the students holding the American Embassy also demanded that the Iranian government end all ties with the United States. And Iran's petroleum minister said a cutoff of oil exports to America was possible.

UNITED NATIONS — A U.N. conference "to cope with human suffering of an appalling magnitude" in Cambodia brought aid pledges of \$186 million in its opening session Monday. The Phnom Penh government said it would let relief shipments into the country via the Mekong River.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, who opened the conference on ways to end the suffering of an estimated 2 million persons in the war-torn Indochinese country, called on "all concerned to cooperate fully...in facilitating the distribution of our supplies."

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Fourteen men, described as "dangerous" to others of the community by a judge, were ordered held without bond Monday after the shooting rampage that left five persons dead at an anti-Ku Klux Klan rally.

Four persons died at the scene of Saturday's shootings in a predominantly black housing project. A fifth victim, Michael Nathan, a physician from Durham, died Monday at a Greensboro hospital. Nine other persons were injured.

Each of the 12 arrested Saturday faces four counts of murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder. Two suspects were arrested in Winston-Salem on Sunday. Each was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit murder.

Bottle bill in Oregon works, officials say

PORTLAND (AP) — While voters in three states decide what to do with their bottles Tuesday, the matter is no longer an issue in the state where it all started seven years ago.

Oregon law requires that all soft drink or beer cans be returnable for a deposit — regardless of whether the bottler wants them back. In addition, pull-tabs, flip-tops or other forms of detachable tabs on cans are forbidden.

"There's no question but that it has reduced litter," says R.L. Schroeder, maintenance chief for the Oregon Highway Division.

The division no longer surveys content of roadside litter. But Schroeder says road crews report that beer and pop bottles and cans make up a very minor part of tossed-away trash.

A study ordered by the 1973 Legislature and done by a Massachusetts consulting firm concluded that beverage container litter dropped 66 percent during the first 11 months after the law took effect.

While the law was enacted mainly as a means of reducing trash, backers also tout it as an energy-saving measure.

A study by the state Department of Environmental Quality estimates that Oregonians saved the equivalent of 10.5 million gallons of gasoline in

1978 by returning beverage bottles and cans.

The energy was saved by refilling bottles and making new cans and bottles from recycled material, the DEQ says.

The agency also estimates that \$29.8 million worth of glass and aluminum from beverage containers were recovered last year, based on a survey of more than 200 recycling organizations.

The Oregon law took effect in 1972. It requires a refund of at least 2 cents on beer and soda pop bottles usable by more than one manufacturer, such as stubby beer bottles.

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NRC extends new plant freeze

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission acknowledged that certain nuclear plants near populated areas may have to be shut down because of potential problems in evacuating residents in the event of an emergency Monday.

Joseph Hendrie, testifying before a House subcommittee, also announced that an NRC freeze on new nuclear plants — imposed shortly after the March 28 accident at Three Mile Island — is being extended at least until spring.

The added time is needed so the recommendations of the

presidential commission on Three Mile Island can be fully examined by policy makers, he said.

The delay directly effects four plants that had been scheduled to open by the end of this year, and keeps another 88 plants in various stages of construction in a holding pattern.

There are now 70 nuclear plants in operation in the United States.

Rep. Toby Moffett, D-Conn., noted that a number of the plants now in operation are older ones, built before the current policy of constructing them away from populated areas.

Proposal allocates funds for emergency fuel aid

SALEM (AP) — Low-income and elderly Oregonians faced with dropping temperatures and rising fuel bills will be eligible for up to \$300 per household for winter heating starting Nov. 15 if a proposal to the state Emergency Board wins approval.

Department of Human Resources officials say in the past there has been "no specifically earmarked" program in Oregon to help pay winter fuel bills. Proposals to provide energy coupons or discount rates to the poor never made it through the 1979 Legislature.

Oregon's share of funds already appropriated by Congress for energy crisis intervention is about \$2.1 million, but the funding is not expected to reach the state until mid-December.

In order to start up the program by Nov. 15, the Department of Energy and Department of Human Resources asked the Emergency Board when it meets Thursday and Friday to release \$1.5 million in state funds set aside for an energy emergency.

The Department of Human Resources also wants the Emergency Board to authorize spending up to \$16 million in federal funding for winter heating assistance.

The program's highest priority would be placed on serving the elderly and handicapped, according to the proposal submitted to the Emergency Board, which handles budget matters when the Legislature is not in session.

It also would help homeowners and renters who have incomes at or below poverty guidelines established by the Federal Community Service Administration or are heads of households certified for Supplemental Security Income.

Those eligible could have up to \$300 paid directly to vendors

for overdue fuel and utility bills incurred after Oct. 1 where the participant is in danger of having service terminated.

The program also would allow direct reimbursement to participants of up to \$50 if there is proof that services or supplies such as blankets and fuels were purchased in an emergency situation or to participants who show they have paid an energy or utility bill and are in a crisis situation.

"It's anybody's guess as far as how many people need help," said Dana Roberts, Department of Human Resources assistant director. "Heating costs this winter are approximately double what they were last winter and a lot of low income people may not be able to meet them."

He said there are about 135,000 households in Oregon which could qualify for help under the federal poverty guidelines. He said an eligible non-farm family of four would need an income at or below \$8,375 and a farm family of four would need an income of \$7,125 or less to qualify.

For people who live near the Indian Point nuclear plant near New York City or the Zion plant near Chicago, "there is no evacuation plan that can help you," Moffett said.

"If we are really concerned about safety, why don't we shut down some existing plants?" he asked.

"It's a possibility, Mr. Moffett," Hendrie replied.

However, Hendrie was quick to note that he wasn't advocating shutting down either of the plants mentioned by Moffett, saying "we're going to come to a very hard-rock place soon, but we're not up against it yet."

He said the closer a plant is to a populated area "the time for evacuation gets longer and longer."

Commissioner John Ahearne said that, short of being closed down, some older plants might be ordered to operate at vastly reduced generating levels to provide an extra margin of safety.

Hendrie said it will take time to digest and implement recommendations made last week by the presidential commission that investigated the accident at the Three Mile Island plant near Harrisburg, Pa.

An NRC spokesman said the four plants that will be unable to open this year because of the freeze are: Salem II in New Jersey, North Anna II in Virginia, Diablo Canyon in California and Sequoyah I in Tennessee.

Three other plants — Zimmer in Ohio, McGuire in North Carolina and LaSalle in Illinois — are due for completion next spring and also could be affected.

The presidential commission made numerous recommendations, but stopped short of proposing an industry-wide moratorium on construction of new power plants. Eight of the 12 members favored some kind of moratorium, but disagreed on details.



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