

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

Voters across the nation decided a variety of propositions on Tuesday, including Proposition 13-style spending limits in three states, bottle laws in three others, and rent control measures in San Francisco and Baltimore.

Early returns in Ohio showed that a proposition that would require a 10-cent deposit on beverage containers to curb litter was being soundly defeated.

In Maine, however, a measure that would have repealed a bottle law in effect since 1978 was losing overwhelmingly.

Washington voters were also considering a proposal to mandate deposits on beverage containers. The bottle bill contests in all three states drew heavy last-minute advertising flurries, mostly by industry foes of the measures.

Meanwhile, a tough rent control proposition in Baltimore was narrowly leading in early returns.

San Francisco voters were also deciding a rent control measure.

In many other propositions around the country, the wording or intent of the propositions was so unclear that the effects of the measures will remain clouded long after the votes are counted.

A proposition in Oklahoma that would entitle taxpayers to a federal tax deduction on state income tax returns was trailing in early tallies.

California and Washington were also taking up tax and spending limit measures. But in all three contests, backers and opponents disagreed sharply whether the propositions — as worded — would actually raise or lower taxes.

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Left-wing extremists freed about 30 hostages and ended a two-week occupation of two government ministries Tuesday night after reaching an agreement with the new ruling junta.

About 200 leftists abandoned the Labor and Economy ministries and were joined by thousands of others in a snake-dance victory parade through downtown San Salvador.

The hostages, including three Cabinet ministers, appeared in good condition despite their long ordeal.

Juan Chacon, 22-year-old leader of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc that organized the occupations, indicated the agreement called for a 30-day truce in the demonstrations and street battles that have taken more than 80 lives in the past two weeks.

He said the military-civilian junta, installed after the right-wing regime of President Carlos Humberto Romero was ousted Oct. 15, had asked for "a reasonable time" to meet the bloc's demands, and the bloc gave the government 30 days.

But he also said his group would "continue the struggle" to force the junta to double the \$3-a-day minimum wage, freeze food prices and report on the fates of political prisoners who disappeared during Romero's rule.

WASHINGTON — The deposed Shah of Iran's complicated medical condition would make it very difficult, but not impossible, for him to get adequate treatment outside the U.S., say medical experts.

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi is being treated for lymphatic cancer and a bile duct problem at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City, where he is recovering from gallbladder surgery.

The Carter Administration, which has rejected Iranian demands to expel the shah, has given the shah permission to remain in the U.S. as long as he needs medical treatment. The administration has refused to grant the former ruler permanent asylum.

Spokesmen for the shah and the hospital said that the shah may have to spend another four to five weeks in the hospital, and may require further surgery.

Iranians threaten Americans

Tehran, Iran (AP) — Iranian demonstrators Tuesday threatened to execute about 60 Americans held hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran if the U.S. government tried to rescue them. Meanwhile, Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan resigned and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini told his Revolutionary Council to take over the government.

White House press secretary Jody Powell said that the administration still did not intend to use military force to free the embassy hostages.

Asked about the death threat, State Department officials had no official comment. "You're dealing with a mob. It's not surprising that some of them would say that," one official said.

"Any military or non-military attempt by the U.S. or its agents in Iran to free the American spies held as hostages in their embassy will cause their immediate execution," the demonstrators said in a broadcast message.

A West German radio broadcast from Tehran also said other Americans, employed by private U.S. firms in Iran, were being rounded up by armed Iranians and taken to the U.S. Embassy grounds.

The U.S. government had ruled out any military intervention, fearing this would endanger the hostages.

America's chief representative in Iran, Charge d'Affaires L. Bruce Laingen, had been negotiating with Bazargan's government at the Foreign Ministry since Sunday when the demonstrators seized the embassy and demanded the extradition of ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, now hospitalized in New York. The U.S. government refused to meet the demand.

The demonstrators at the embassy also threatened Laingen Tuesday, telling him to come out "from your hiding place" and surrender as soon as possible "because your secret wireless contacts with Washington will be of no help."

Hassan Tabatabai, an official of the premier's office in Tehran, said Bazargan, who has headed the government since the successful conclusion of the Iranian revolution last February, resigned because Khomeini's escalating anti-American campaign. He cited "developments over the past few days as well as Bazargan's physical tiredness."

Bazargan resigned several times before in protest against the dominance of the cleric-run Revolutionary Council, but each time previously Khomeini talked him into remaining in office.

A long ordeal appeared in prospect for the estimated 60 hostages. The U.S. government rejected their captors' demand that the deposed shah be handed over to the revolutionary leaders and Khomeini urged on the escalating anti-American campaign.

The Carter administration was negotiating with the Iranian government for the hostage's release, but the Iranian government had no influence on the students occupying the embassy, who were accusing Bazargan and his officials of not getting tough enough with the United States.

The State Department said it

received assurances indirectly from the students that all the hostages were well.

Radio Tehran reported anti-American demonstrations across Iran. Mobs seized the U.S. consulates in the cities of Tabriz and Shiraz and ransacked the Iran-American Society cultural center in Isfahan.

"The question is, 'Are we considering handing over the shah?' and the answer is 'No,'" State Department spokesman Hodding Carter told reporters in Washington. But the students holding the embassy said they would only release their hostages in exchange for the deposed ruler.

Carter reiterated that Pahlavi was admitted to the U.S. for an indefinite stay for medical treatment but would not be allowed to remain permanently.



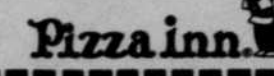
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