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Tylenol-cyanide killing suspect indicted in '78 for brutal murder

CHICAGO (AP) — A man being sought for questioning in connection with seven cyanide-Tylenol deaths was indicted, but never tried, in 1978 for the brutal murder of a Kansas City man, authorities said Thursday.

James Lewis, who also uses the name Robert Richardson, was charged with the murder of Raymond West, whose dismembered body was found in his Kansas City attic in a "semi-

mummified condition," said Illinois Attorney General Tyrone Fahner, who is heading a task force investigating the seven deaths.

However, the charges were later dropped and Lewis was never tried, Fahner said at a news conference.

An extortion warrant for Lewis, using the name Richardson, was issued in Chicago earlier alleging that he wrote a let-

ter to McNeil Consumer Products Co., maker of Tylenol, demanding \$1 million "if you want to stop the killings."

A Chicago detective had been sent to Oklahoma and Texas to try to locate him.

Fahner had said earlier that while Richardson was wanted on the extortion charge, he has "never been a suspect" in the killings.

Earlier Thursday, police said a Jewel Food employee arrested on a tip earlier this week remains a "possible potential suspect" in the deaths of the seven people who had taken cyanide-contaminated Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules.

Nonetheless, police Lt. August Locallo said, there is no evidence that Roger Arnold, 48, the Jewel employee, put cyanide in the capsules, and he has denied any involvement.

Fahner had described Arnold's arrest Monday as "another one of those (incidents) that are unrelated" to the killings.

Several coincidences too strong to ignore make Arnold a "possible potential suspect," and he was uncooperative with detectives, Locallo said. Authorities are continuing to investigate him, he said.

After being released on bond Wednesday Arnold said, "I had nothing to do with this Tylenol thing at all." He is charged with five counts of failure to register firearms and one count of aggravated assault stemming from an earlier incident in a tavern.

Reagan vows to end crime, drug menace

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Ronald Reagan vowed Thursday to "end the drug menace and cripple organized crime" with a \$200 million program that will blanket the nation with federal narcotics task forces.

Reagan, criticized in Congress last year for scaling back the fight against drug traffickers, said the government will hire up to 1,200 more agents and investigators for a dozen task forces. The illicit drug business in the United States is worth an estimated \$80 billion.

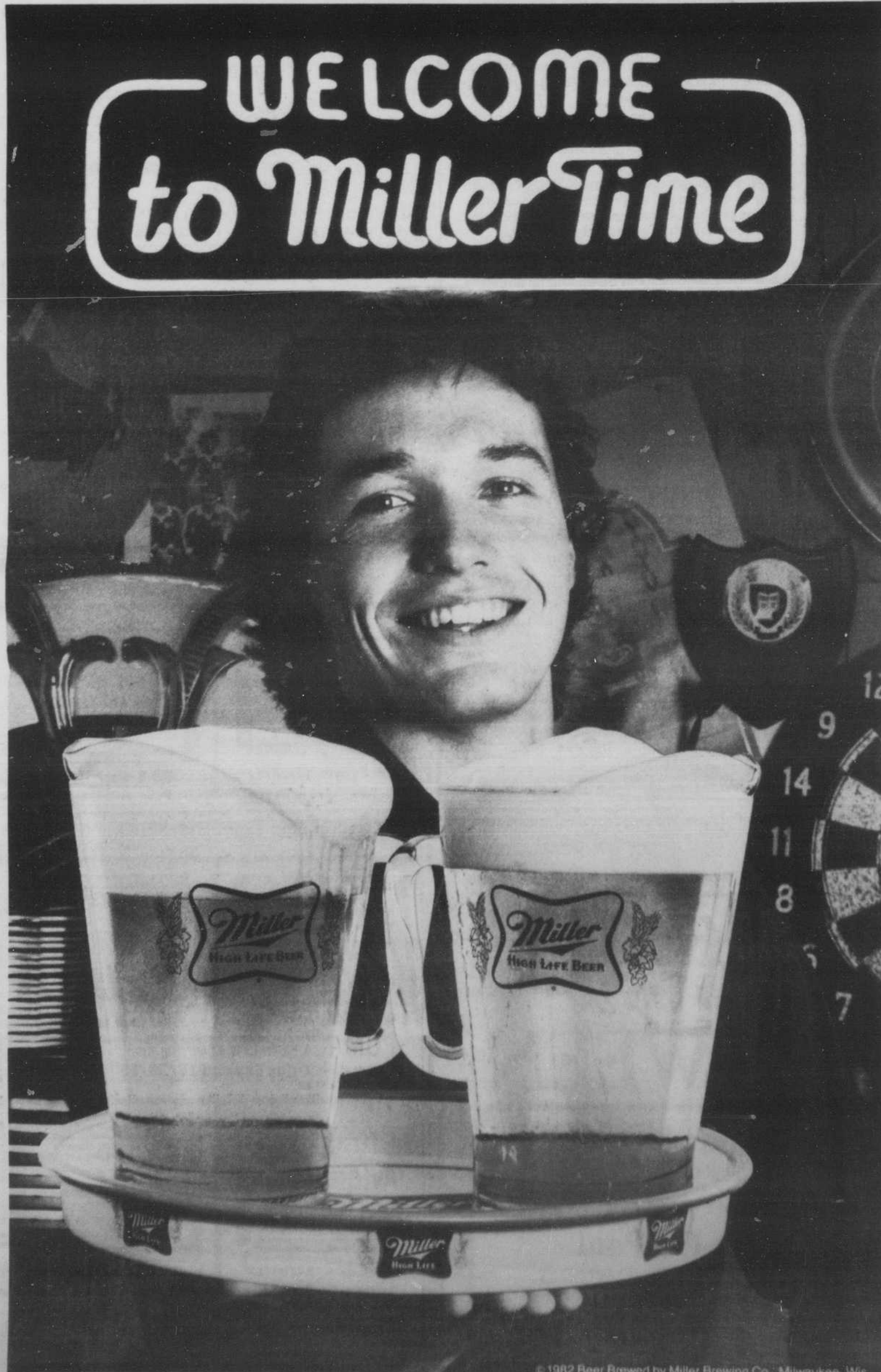
"The time has come to cripple the power of the mob in America," Reagan told more than 300 people at the Justice Department.

Administration officials said the task forces will try to infiltrate the drug mobs, concentrating on long-range investigations aimed at breaking up networks rather than street pushers. They will be modeled after the task force, headed by Vice President George Bush, that was formed to combat the drug trade in South Florida.

Although Congress must approve permanent financing for the plan, the administration intends to begin the operation by shifting available funds from other programs.

The \$200 million cost of the program also includes up to \$34 million to expand prisons to make room for some 1,260 additional inmates.

The administration also is backing legislation to deny bail to accused people who are considered dangerous.



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