

From Associated Press reports

Act signed by Reagan

WASHINGTON — Pres. Reagan signed legislation Wednesday authorizing U.S. Marines to stay in Lebanon for 18 more months, but denounced some of its provisions as arbitrary and inflexible and said they could encourage enemies to fire on Americans.

The measure, the product of long negotiations between the White House and Congress, marks the first time the 10-year-old War Powers Act has been invoked to govern the warming powers of the president.

Reagan, who had promised in advance to sign the compromise measure, said the bill provides "important support for the United States presence and policies in Lebanon, and facilitates the pursuit of United States interests in that region on the bipartisan basis that has been the traditional hallmark of American foreign policy."

He said he signed the legislation "in full support of its policies, but with reservations about some of the specific congressional expressions."

Despite demands from Congress, Reagan had refused to invoke the War Powers Act when the Marines first came under fire Aug. 29 in Beirut in fighting that eventually killed four Americans.

The law requires that U.S. forces involved in hostilities must be brought home within 90 days unless Congress declares war or votes to allow them to remain.

In a statement, Reagan argued that "isolated or infrequent acts of violence" do not necessarily constitute hostilities, even if there are casualties.

Board set to study BPA

SEATTLE — A federal court judge today ordered the creation of a special board of arbitration which will decide whether work should resume on a mothballed Washington Public Power Supply System nuclear plant.

The plant, No. 3 at Satsop west of Olympia, was mothballed for up to three years after the supply system was unable to borrow the \$1 billion needed to finish the project. The plant was more than 75 percent complete when work was halted earlier this year.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard Bilby filed the order in federal court in Seattle today.

The special board will specifically determine whether the Bonneville Power Administration exercised "prudent utility practice" in calling for the mothballing.

BPA owns 70 percent of the plant and the region's four private utilities the other 30 percent.

One inmate still at large

BEND — Four of five inmates who escaped from the Deschutes County Jail Tuesday night were recaptured today, and a search was under way for the fifth, Sheriff Jim France said.

A former inmate who helped the five men flee also was arrested, France said.

The five broke out at about 10 p.m. Tuesday, but the escape was not detected for six hours, France said.

He said the escape was made possible by a former inmate who pried a plexiglass window off his former cell from the outside Tuesday and handed a hacksaw blade to his former cellmate, Daniel Tovrea, 24, of Bend.

Tovrea and the former inmate, Raymond Roth, 19, were arrested by deputies who spotted them in a stolen car at 3:55 a.m., France said. The jailbreak was discovered after deputies determined that Tovrea was an escaped inmate.

William Odell Smith, 20, was still being sought. The four recaptured inmates will be charged with escape, he said.

Roth was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and burglary, France said.

France declined to comment on the reason the escape wasn't detected sooner. He said the Oregon State Police were investigating.

"That's one of the things we hope the internal investigation will tell us," he said.

Court rules on libel law

SALEM — The Oregon Court of Appeals today broadened the grounds for libel suits against the news media, saying private parties need only prove that defamatory statements resulted from simple media negligence.

The precedent-setting ruling reversed a lower court in a \$7.4 million libel suit brought against Willamette Week, a Portland newspaper, by the Bank of Oregon and its president Homer Wadsworth.

The decision returns the case to Multnomah County Circuit Court for further proceedings.

On a key issue in the case, the appeals court said the bank and Wadsworth are not public figures and therefore don't have to prove that the paper's statements about them were published maliciously.

The U.S. Supreme Court generally has made it more difficult for public figures to collect libel damages than ordinary citizens.

Richard Meeker, an owner of Willamette Week who was then an editor and a co-author of the article in question, said he had not yet talked to the paper's lawyers, but "I assume that what we're going to do is appeal to the (Oregon) Supreme Court."

"What's important here is this ruling, if upheld, will create severe interference with the press' ability to cover such crucial areas of modern affairs as business," he said, adding, "the chilling effect of that is just unconscionable."

Rogue River not so free

GRANTS PASS — Soon there will be no such thing as a free ride on the wild section of the Rogue River.

U.S. Forestry Service Chief R. Max Peterson has approved a plan to charge non-commercial rafters for using the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Watson Creek during the summer season.

Siskiyou National Forest

spokesman Warren Olney said Tuesday the Rogue will be the first wild and scenic river in the U.S. Forest Service to charge a registration fee for private boaters.

Olney said the Forest Service may start charging the fee as early as next year, but the amount hasn't been set yet.

He added the money will go towards covering the \$42,000 it costs to administer the wild section of the river for a year.

Olney said 5,778 non-commercial boaters rafted the wild section of the Rogue last summer. That works out to \$7.27 a person.

Better late than never

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — A grandmother elected to be Claflin College's homecoming queen says life in the limelight has kept her so busy she didn't have time to design a gown for her coronation.

Zulee Samuels, who refuses to reveal her age but admits she is a senior citizen, says she has had so many requests for interviews that she has had to buy a gown for Saturday's homecoming.

Samuels, who was elected queen from a field of three candidates, has attended college off and on over 33 years in a quest for a college degree. She will graduate in May with a degree in English.

Company to fight disease

SEATTLE — A fledgling company formed by two University of Washington scientists and a marketing expert is gearing up to join the fight on two deadly diseases — leukemia and AIDS.

The Immunex Corp., just 2 years old, was formed to convert basic scientific research into marketable products.

Immunex plans soon to start clinical tests to certify a product it hopes will fight AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The product is Interleukin-2.

IL-2, as it is called, is a naturally occurring hormone that boosts

the body's defenses against disease, says Immunex chief executive Stephen A. Duzan.

He believes IL-2 could prolong the lives of people born with weak immune systems, or people whose immune systems have been broken down by AIDS or by chemical and radiation cancer treatments.

Federal approval for selling IL-2 isn't likely until the end of 1986, he says.

Four AIDS victims are receiving natural IL-2 from the National Institute of Health, he says, and others soon will be given synthetic IL-2 made by Immunex.

Immunex also is working on a hormone, dubbed CSF, which could be used to fight leukemia, a disease in which the white blood cells multiply and crowd out the oxygen-bearing red cells.

Leukemia is believed to be caused by an unexplained, uncontrolled birth rate of white cells. But Duzan says the reverse may actually be the problem: white cells that ought to die don't, and they crowd out the red cells.

The Immunex hormone CSF has been shown in lab experiments to allow leukemic white blood cells to die after a normal lifespan. The tests will soon be tried on mice.

Immunex was founded two years ago by Duzan and by UW professors Steven Gillis and Christopher Henney.

Nozzle delays space shuttle

SPACE CENTER, Houston — A delay of up to four months is expected in the launch of the space shuttle Columbia, a NASA source said Wednesday, because of a problem that an astronaut said brought the last shuttle flight to within seconds of disaster.

The Oct. 28 mission was scheduled to carry the \$1 billion European Spacelab, a science module.

A NASA official who asked not to be identified said the discovery of a near burn-through on a rocket nozzle used to launch a space shuttle mission in August has caused engineers to question the dependability of rocket nozzles that were to be used on the shuttle's Spacelab flight.

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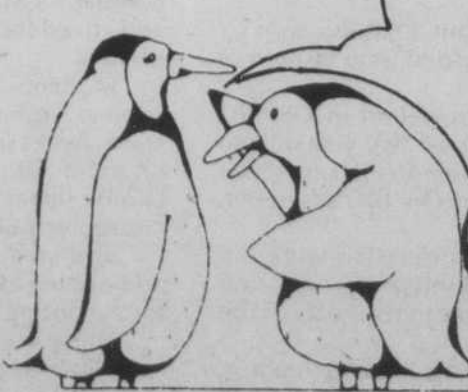
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