

Jackson slates Nicaragua trip

DALLAS (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson says he will conduct a fact-finding mission to Nicaragua next month and urge that nation's leftist Sandinista government to refrain from warlike actions that might provoke the United States.

Jackson said he was invited to organize the mission by Nicaraguan President-elect Daniel Ortega. Jackson, who has said he believes a U.S. attack on Nicaragua is "imminent," said Sunday he hoped his trip would convince the Reagan administration "to turn its attention to peace rather than to war."

Jackson was here to raise money to pay off more than \$1 million in debts remaining from his unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Jackson told a news conference that he would urge leaders of the Sandinista government to avoid bringing more sophisticated weapons into their country and to "assume a strong posture for peace."

"Although we have been invited by Nicaragua, ours will be a critical look at its actions and motivations," he said. "We will serve as a rubber stamp for no one."

Jackson said he would travel to Nicaragua Dec. 2-7 with a delegation that includes Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and civil rights leader Ralph Abernathy. He said he would announce the rest of the delegation this week.

Jackson visited Nicaragua in late June during his five-day swing through Latin America.

Dealers want odometer law

SALEM (AP) — Used car dealers plan to ask the Oregon Legislature to require that auto odometer readings be recorded on vehicle titles, a dealer spokesperson says.

Wanda Merrill-Wahus, executive director of the Oregon

Independent Auto Dealers Association, says sales of cars with rolled back odometers is a growing problem.

Jan Margosian of the state Justice Department's Consumer Fraud Division said some estimates are that odometers have been turned back on one in every five used cars sold in Oregon.

Listing mileage readings on titles issued by the state Motor Vehicles Division when cars are sold would make tampering easier to trace, Merrill-Wahus said.

Dave Moomaw, division administrator, said the agency supports the proposed legislation.

Merrill-Wahus said odometer fraud dropped sharply after Congress made it illegal under federal law in 1972. But the practice since has increased in states that don't record mileages as part of title transactions, she said.

BPA reduces rate increase

PORTLAND (AP) — The Bonneville Power Administration drew qualified praise from utilities Monday after announcing that it would sharply reduce a rate increase for wholesale power announced just two months ago.

Instead of a 10 percent increase over the 27 months beginning July 1, 1985, the increase will be 3.2 percent, the federal power-marketing agency said.

The BPA said the reduction, which affects utilities that buy the power for their residential and farm customers, is possible because of its decision earlier this month to extend the mothballing of two Washington nuclear plants.

The reduced increase will mean smaller increases than previously feared in customers' monthly utility bills, said Glenn Gillespie, a spokesman for Pacific Power & Light Co. in Portland.

The Public Power Council of Vancouver, Wash., which

represents 118 public utility districts, repeated its previous criticism of BPA for granting rate breaks to aluminum plants that buy directly from the agency while increasing rates for other customers.

"Our newest increase is discouraging to our several million Northwest customers," said Dan Ogden, council manager. "It's even more distressing that a handful of large industries served by BPA will see their rates go down 8 percent next year."

Couple finds Feher weapon

From Emerald and wire service reports

A rifle belonging to Autzen Stadium sniper Michael Feher was discovered behind a Eugene duplex Monday, Eugene police detectives said.

According to Detective J.T. Parr, the AR-15 rifle was found in the bushes by a couple moving their furniture out of the duplex, located in the 200 block of West 7th Avenue.

The owner of Anderson's Sporting Goods, 199 W. 8th Ave., told police Feher recently had purchased a similar rifle. Detective Lloyd Davis said police identified the rifle found Monday as Feher's by matching the weapon's serial number with sales records from a local sporting goods store.

Feher shot himself to death Nov. 12 at the stadium after killing a former Olympic sprinter and wounding a student wrestler.

Parr theorized Feher placed the rifle behind the duplex in the pre-dawn hours prior to the shootings, before breaking into the sporting goods store less than two blocks away. Police were alerted to the break-in by a burglar alarm just after 4 a.m.

Parr said he believed Feher decided to steal two rifles from Anderson's because his AR-15 had no sling and was not as easy to carry.

The rifle contained a round of ammunition but was on safety, Parr said.

He said a family lived in the duplex the day of the sniping, but moved out later in the week. The rifle was found about 11:45 a.m. Monday.

Workers' Comp premiums drop

SALEM (AP) — Oregon, which had some of the highest workers' compensation rates in the nation, has dropped back into the pack, state officials say.

Oregon's rates peaked in 1980, when premiums totaled \$550 million, according to Jerry Brown, head of the state Workers' Compensation Department.

That figure dropped to \$325 million in 1983, Brown said.

Workers' compensation insurance for injured workers is a major cost of doing business for many companies in Oregon.

Oregon currently ranks between 13th and 17th in terms of premium costs, Brown said. It used to be in the top handful of states, he said.

Rates vary across the country according to the generosity of the benefit schedule, number of qualifying conditions, number of covered workers and the frequency of disabling accidents.

Companies generally look at high rates as a negative factor in deciding whether to locate new plants in a state.

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