



# world beat

## Chernenko seen on Soviet TV

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, looking frail, broke a two-month absence Sunday with a television appearance in which he was shown voting for deputies to the Parliament of the Russian Republic.

The 73-year-old Soviet leader missed a key election speech only two days earlier because of

illness.

He murmured only a few words during the less than two minutes of film shown on a news brief.

Chernenko's surprise appearance was strictly managed and limited to a handful of Soviet photographers.

Chernenko reportedly suffers from emphysema, and his condition had been said to be worsening. He was last seen by the general public in a brief television report on Dec. 27.

## Ed Meese to take oath today

WASHINGTON (AP) — Edwin Meese III, finally confirmed by the Senate after 13 months of controversy over his finances and friendships, becomes attorney general today.

Meese, 53, was confirmed 63-31 by the Senate on Saturday. He has been White House counselor since President

Ronald Reagan took office in 1981.

Meese will officially join the Cabinet when he is sworn in by a notary public at a private, no-frills ceremony.

Bruce Chapman, an aide to Meese, said the new head of the Justice Department would have a formal, ceremonial swearing-in, with the oath probably administered by Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, within several weeks.

In the meantime, Chapman said, Meese will be dividing his time between the White House and the Justice Department, where his immediate attention is expected to be focused on filling top staff jobs and deciding on more than 100 pending judicial appointments.

Associate Attorney General Lowell Jensen, once Meese's boss in the Alameda County, Calif., prosecutor's office, said the new attorney general's "first priority" will be to fill the jobs at the Justice Department.

Meese was appointed to succeed William French Smith, who headed the Justice Department during Reagan's first term and who has returned to private law practice in California.

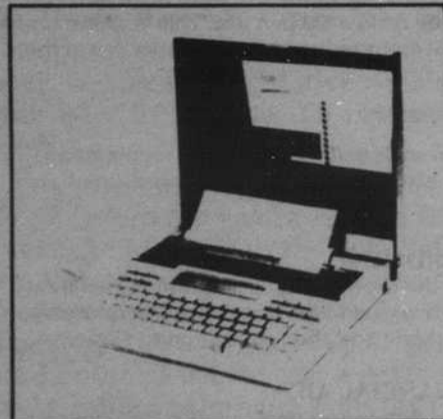
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## Carbide chair urges settlement

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Victims of a poisonous gas leak in India should agree to an out-of-court settlement because Union Carbide will "fight right to the end" if they try to prove the company was at fault, the company's chairman said in an interview published Sunday.

Chairman Warren Anderson, in an interview published in the Charleston Gazette-Mail, said a negotiated settlement would avoid years of entangled court proceedings. He said his company has no intention of ducking responsibility to the victims of the leak from a Carbide plant in Bhopal, India.

U.S. lawyers have filed billions of dollars in lawsuits against Union Carbide on behalf of victims of the Dec. 3 methyl isocyanate leak in Bhopal, where more than 2,000 people died and thousands of others were injured.

Carbide's plant at Institute, W.Va., also produced the chemical, used in insecticides.

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