

World news

AG sues commune for property

SALEM (AP) — Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer on Thursday filed a civil racketeering lawsuit against Rajneeshee corporations and groups seeking to protect possible state claims to property at Rajneeshpuram.

Filed in Wasco County Circuit Court, the suit seeks forfeiture of the 64,000-acre ranch, property in nearby Antelope, the Hotel Rajneesh in Portland, 835 vehicles and other property owned by the Rajneeshees.

The suit was filed under a racketeering law that allows the state to obtain forfeiture of property that is acquired by criminal activity.

Deputy Attorney General Bill Gary said the purpose of the lawsuit was to "secure our place in line" in the event the Central Oregon commune and other assets end up in bankruptcy court.

The mayor of Rajneeshpuram, Swami Prem Niren, said this week organizations set up by disciples of Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh might file for bankruptcy.

Frohnmayer's office Thursday said the

Rajneeshee corporations engaged in a "pattern of racketeering activity involving conspiracy, attempted murder, assault, arson, burglary, illegal interception of communications and reckless endangering."

Besides the forfeiture of property, the lawsuit also seeks \$250,000 penalties against each of the 26 Rajneeshee corporations and groups named in the suit. It also asks the court to prohibit the corporations from conducting any business in Oregon.

Gary disclosed the plan to file the suit at a meeting Thursday of a Legislative Emergency Board subcommittee that was considering the state Justice Department request for money for its investigation of reported crimes at the Central Oregon commune-city.

The subcommittee recommended that \$125,000 in emergency funds be allocated to the Justice Department and the state police for costs of investigating numerous allegations of crimes made by Rajneesh.

Cancer treatment excites public

WASHINGTON (AP) — News of a promising new cancer treatment at the National Cancer Institute prompted a flood of calls to the federal center Thursday from people desperate for a cure.

"What they're saying is, our mother, our brother, our sister is dying at this very moment. We have nothing to lose. We want to be a candidate," said Carol Case, the institute's chief of public inquiries.

"Our 800 (telephone) numbers are jammed this morning," said Paul Van Nevel, the institute's associate director for communications.

The callers want information about a new treatment, called adoptive immunotherapy, that turns ordinary white blood cells into "killer cells" that attack malignant tumors. The treatment was announced Wednesday in an article in the New England Journal of Medicine.

In 11 of 25 patients with advanced cancer, doctors were able to shrink tumors by at least 50 percent and, in one case, apparently eradicate the disease.

Officials cautioned that the treatment is still highly experimental, carries toxic side effects and is also very expensive. It is available only at the cancer institute in Bethesda, Md., a Washington suburb.

"This is really the first step," said Dr. Steven Rosenberg, director of the research project. "But it demonstrates that it is possible to manipulate the immune system and make a variety of cancers in a variety of locations disappear."

The institute's Cancer Information Service has been swamped with calls to its toll-free number, 1-800-4-CANCER, about Rosenberg's therapy.

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Britain withdraws from UNESCO

LONDON (AP) — Britain announced Thursday it is withdrawing from UNESCO because it said the 160-nation organization is inefficient, spendthrift and "harmfully politicized."

Timothy Raison, Foreign Office minister for overseas development, said Britain's membership in the 160-nation U.N. agency will end as of Dec.

31.

Britain was one of the founding members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, created in London in 1945.

Raison said Britain plans to retain observer status in the organization.

He said Britain would put the money it would have contributed to UNESCO into

bilateral programs going to the Third World, particularly members of the Commonwealth, the association of Britain and its former colonies.

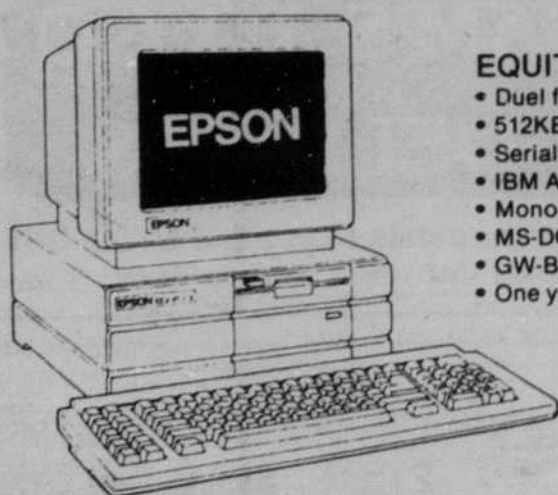
"We are determined that our support for the United Nations should be seen as support for effective and efficient organizations. Unfortunately, UNESCO is not such a body," Raison said.

Britain had examined closely reforms undertaken by UNESCO since the United States withdrew at the end of last year and since Britain announced its intention to withdraw a year ago, he said. The results, he said, "fall well short of what we believe would justify continued British membership."

Raison said some of UNESCO's work was "harmfully politicized," there was inefficient management and "excessive expenditure" at the organization's Paris headquarters.

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