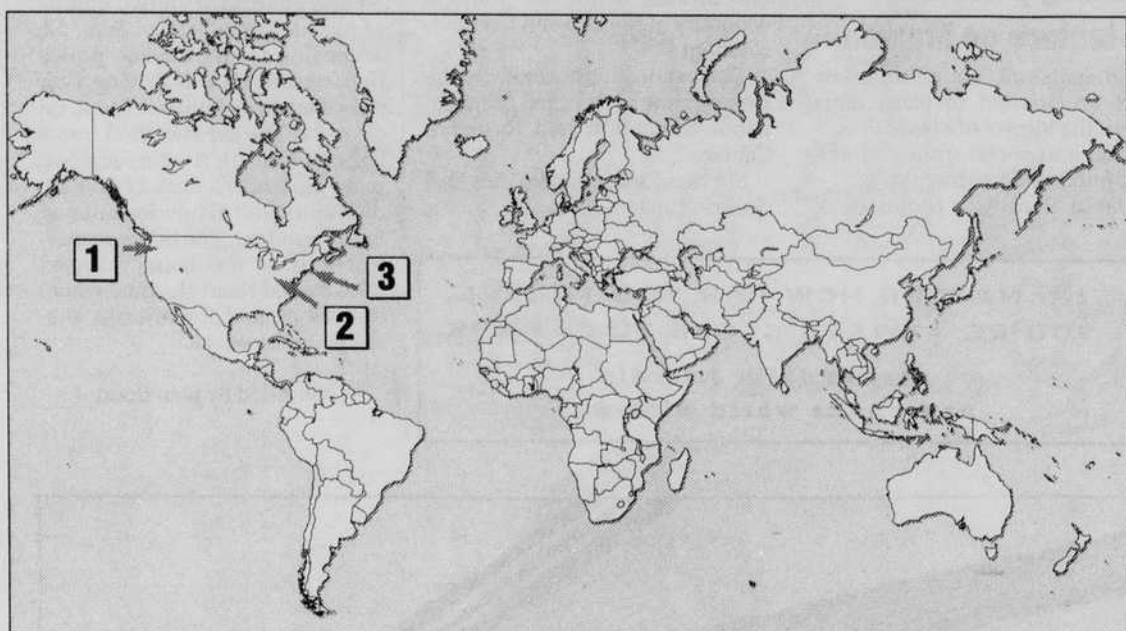


NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Kitzhaber wants to give money to schools

1 SALEM, Ore. — A state budget surplus estimated at more than \$270 million should be sent to schools instead of taxpayers, Gov. John Kitzhaber said Tuesday.

Kitzhaber, speaking to an Associated Oregon Industries meeting in Portland, criticized the "surplus kicker" law passed in the 1970s.

The law says when state income tax collections exceed estimates by 2 percent or more, the surplus must be refunded to taxpayers.

The law has a reasonable goal of keeping the state from building itself up in good times to the point that it couldn't support itself in bad times, Kitzhaber said.

But in practice, it prevents the state from investing the proceeds of a growing economy in the infrastructure on which growth depends, he said.

The latest forecast is for revenue to outstrip estimates by about \$276 million, topping the 2 percent threshold, by the end of the 1995-97 budget period in June 1997.

Steel workers strike over pension package

2 WHEELING, W. Va. — About 4,500 workers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. went on strike in three states Tuesday in a dispute over pension benefits.

The walkout by the United Steelworkers affected eight plants in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The negotiations at a hotel in Pittsburgh stopped after the company rejected a union proposal earlier this week.

The union wanted a pension package in which workers would know exactly how much they will receive. The company offered a sweetened version of the current plan, in which workers contribute and in which the ultimate payoff depends on investments and other factors.

The steelmaker's final proposal provided for monthly pension benefits ranging from \$1,200 for workers with up to 30 years' experience to \$1,600 for workers with 44 years or more.

The president of union Local 2256, called the proposal an insult to workers who helped bring the company back from a Chapter 11 bankruptcy last year.

United Nations lifts embargo on Serbia

3 UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to lift sanctions imposed against Yugoslavia in 1992, a sign of international recognition of Serbia's role in helping to bring peace to the Balkans.

The council suspended the sanctions in November after Serbia signed the Dayton peace accord that ended 3 1/2 years of fighting in Bosnia.

Tuesday's action formally removes the sanctions imposed because of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's role in fomenting Serb separatist movements in neighboring Croatia and Bosnia as part of his dream of a "Greater Serbia."

But last year Milosevic played a crucial role in moves toward a Balkan peace by signing the Dayton accord on behalf of Bosnian Serbs. He also chose not to respond when Croatia's army recaptured most rebel Serb-held territory in Croatia last year.

The results of the embargo, combined with the costs of economic mismanagement and war, devastated Serbia and Montenegro.

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