

# Califano claims U.S. hospitals incredibly extravagant

London — Joseph C. Califano, Jr. said Wednesday the biggest obstacle to a national health system in the United States is money and he called U.S. hospitals "incredibly obese and profligate."

The U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare met with reporters after a three-day visit to study Britain's state-run National Health Service.

## associated press datelines

He said U.S. hospital costs are doubling every five years, increasing 2½ times faster than living costs—and inflation in hospital costs is rising at \$1 million an hour.

"Health at \$160 billion a year now is the third biggest industry behind agriculture and construction," Califano said. But, he added, 50 million of the 213 million U.S. population have no health insurance or are inadequately insured.

## Brush fire

Los Angeles — Firefighters struggled today to encircle a fire that spread from a dump and charred 3½ square miles of brush in the parched Santa Monica Mountains.

Fire spokesman Dennis Phillips said the fire had been 60 to 70 percent contained at midmorning and estimated final containment would be declared by this evening in the area's second major fire in two days. He said 1,350

## short stuff

The Undergraduate Sociology Association will meet at 2 p.m. in Oldfather Hall 722.

Phi Chi Theta will tour the Atrium at 4:30 p.m. Members should meet at the south entrance.

The Engineers for Christ will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Triangle Fraternity.

The Builders will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

Eta Sigma Gamma will meet at 7 p.m. in the Union. Room number will be posted.

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The Union Program Council's American Film Classics Series will present "On the Waterfront" at 7 and 9 p.m. in the Union Centennial Room.

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The East Campus Gavel Club will meet at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.

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Phi Beta Lambda will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Lutheran Chapel. Ms. Elda Van Dyke will be the featured speaker.

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The Phi Eta Sigma Initiation will be held tonight at 7:30 in Hamilton Hall 110.

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The Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Union. Room number will be posted.

## daily nebraskan

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acres, about 2¼ square miles continued to burn at mid-morning.

But Roy Talbot, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, described the morning's drier weather as "just not good. It's pretty warm for this time of the year."

A high temperature of 85 was forecast for today.

## Price boost

Houston — The price increases expected to be approved next month by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will boost the cost of U.S. gasoline and heating oil by 1 cent to 3 cents per gallon, oil industry officials said Wednesday.

As OPEC prepares for a Dec. 20 meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, reports from the Middle East indicate that the 13-nation cartel is planning to impose a price increase ranging from 5 percent to 15 percent.

Most authorities believe the increase will be 5 percent, reflecting the recent decline in the worth of the dollar, the currency with which OPEC members are paid.

## Disease discovered

Boston — Researchers said they have discovered a disease inherited by some male children that can turn a common virus into a cause of cancer or make a killer out of mononucleosis.

The disease, identified at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, is a deficiency that leaves the body open to a fatal attack by the Epstein-Sarr virus.

That germ infects up to 90 percent of the population, usually with mild flu-like symptoms. It also causes mononucleosis, the "kissing disease" of young adults.

The doctors say victims of the disease who are infected by the virus can develop cancer of the lymph glands, suffer a fatal form of mononucleosis or have a breakdown of the body's immune defenses. The disease can also cause birth defects, including malformed hearts.

## Sunshine changes

The Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission has voted to suggest some changes in Nebraska's "sunshine" law.

Among the proposals for legislative consideration is one that would allow anonymous political donations of \$25 or less.

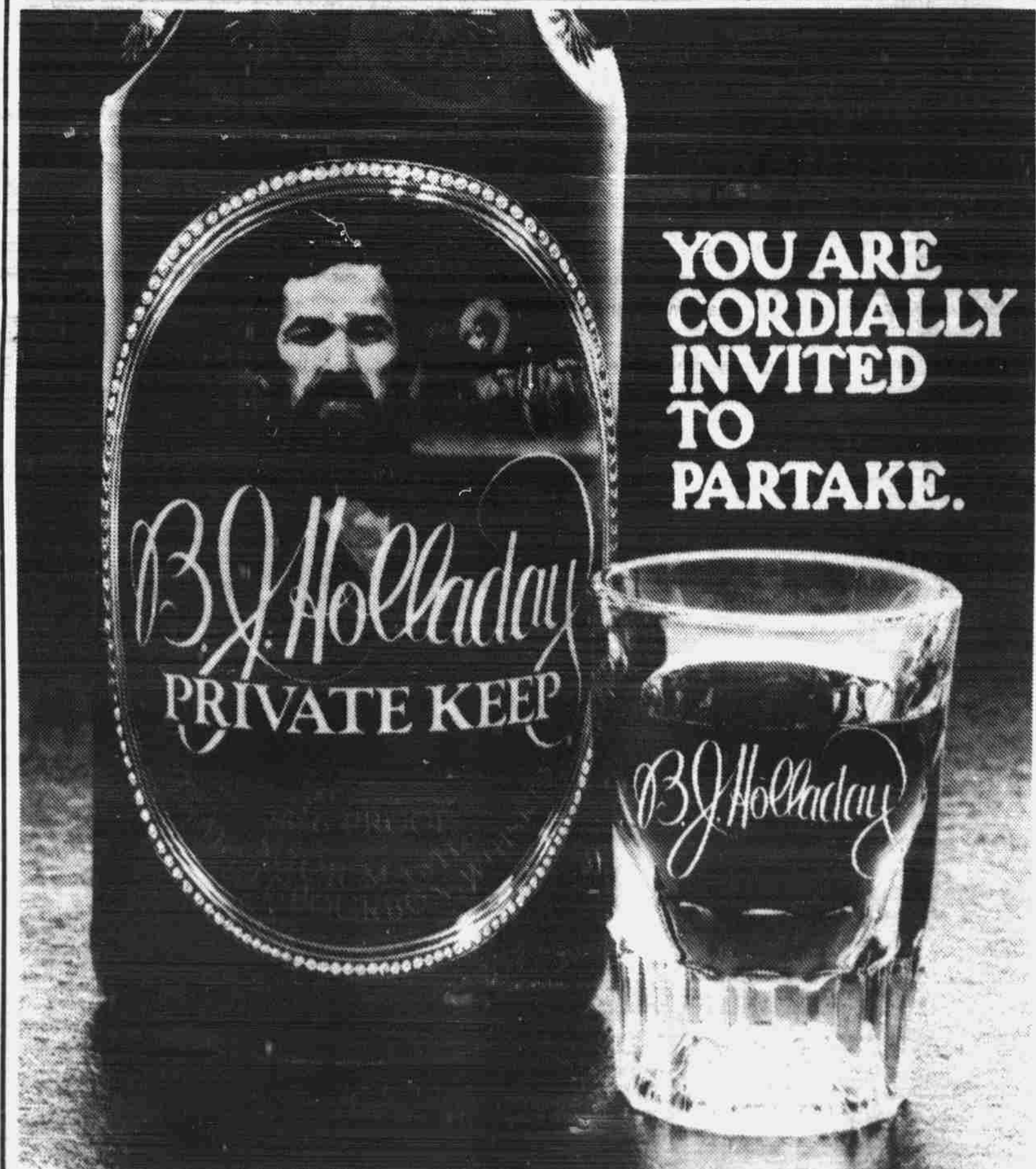
Commission counsel Bernard Wishnow said the anonymous donation and other changes suggested are to simplify the law.

The commission also adopted procedures for investigating complaints. Wishnow said the procedures were drawn to maintain some informality and to avoid the long delays possible under standard court procedures.

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