news digest

Finances disclosed

Gov. J.J. Exon said Wednesday he plans to "set an example" within 60 days, disclosing all his private finances and investments in dollar amounts. "I am waiting until an auditor completes my federal tax return for 1976," Exon said. The governor, who has long endorsed legislation requiring full disclosure by top government officials, said he wants to set the example before a new law goes into effect. Exon said his disclosures in the past have been what previous laws required. The new law, the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, has been interpreted by a legislative committee as not requiring dollar amounts in listing assets.

Zaire invasion

Washington-Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said Wednesday the foreign troops who have invaded Zaire are moving along routes leading toward copper mines crucial to the survival of the central African nation. He told the House International Relations Committee that the invasion presents "a dangerous situation. If something happens to the copper mines it would be a very severe blow to the government of Zaire." The secretary did not estimate the size of the force which entered Zaire from neighboring Angola last week. Zaire claimed at least 5,000 mercenaries had invaded. Vance limited himself to saying the invading troops are "made up primarily of Katangan" police who fled to Angola when the Zaire government crushed a rebellion in the province of Katanga in the. 1960s. Angola Wednesday denied any involvement im fighting in the Shaba province of Zaire and appealed to the west to ignore the government's pleas for military aid.

Bottle bill killed

The Nebraska Legislature Wednesday killed the so-called bottle bill that would have required deposits on all beverage containers. That was done when the Legislature voted 20-22 against the introducer's motion to raise the bill, LB310, from the deadlocked Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. Legislative rules state that if the introducer tries and fails to bring a bill out of committee, and that committee has taken no action on the bill, it dies. The committee had been deadlocked 4-4 on motions to kill and advance LB310. Sens. Donald Dworak of Columbus, Douglas Bereuter of Utica and Steve Fowler of Lincoln took that chance Wednesday. The Legislature rejected the motion and the bill died. The bill required 25 favorable votes to raise it to the legislative floor.

Drug amendment

State senators adopted an amendment to the drug portion of the criminal code Wednesday that proponents said was aimed at getting state police to concentrate on halting hard drug traffic. Belwood Sen. Loran Schmit said it was a matter of telling the State Patrol to "take the tough ones first" rather than letting the patrol's drug officers "chase the marijuana smokers first and let the tough nut escape." Neligh Sen. John DéCamp said California took a similar step and increased the number of arrests for use and traffic in harder drugs. The amendment was adopted 29-6. Omaha Sen. Ernest Chambers objected because the amendment didn't go far enough and left the real decision up to the patrol. He said that under the amendment, the patrol conceivably could view marijuana as the top priority.

Carter apologizes

Nicosia, Cyprus-President Carter has apologized to Archbishop Makarios for "groundless assertions" that the Cypriot president had been on the payroll of the Central Intelligence Agency, the government reported Wednesday. The Public Information Office said the apology came in a letter to Makarios. The official announcement said Carter in his letter "expresses his regret at newspaper stories in the United States charging that His Beatitude alledgedly received payments from the Central Intelligence Agency." The statement then quoted Carter as saying: "As you know I have no control over the press media in my country and I cannot prevent groundless assertions. I

wish to assure you of my high personal esteem for you and the people of Cyprus, and I trust that these stories which you have so effectively dismissed will not affect the friendship we value with you."

Final chapter

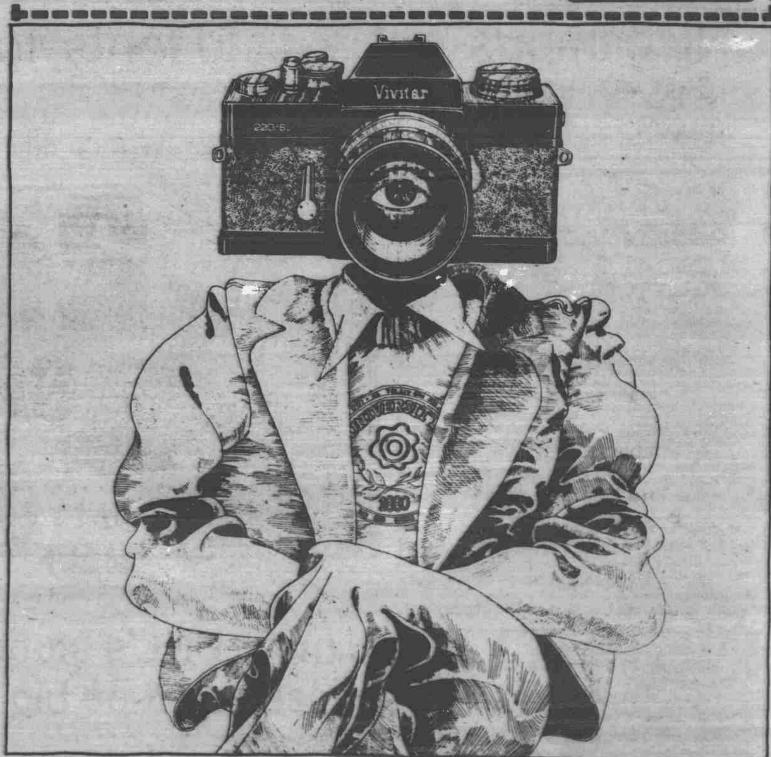
Zurich, Switzerland-Luciano Porcari, the hijacker who forced a Spanish Iberia Airline Boeing 727 on a hopscotch, 8,388-mile odyssey, apparently had planned the incident as the end of a book an Italian newsman and author was writing about him. Porcari, 36, called Ugo Moretti Monday from Barcelona and asked how the book was going. "It's all here, but it lacks the final chapter,"

Moretti said he said. "You'll read the final chapter in the newspapers tomorrow morning. Thanks for everything, If we don't see each other again, take care of the book," Moretti quoted Porcari as saying. Thus, the Italian auto mechanic was heading to make the last chapter of his book the most adventurous.

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