Carter tries to replace "irreplaceable" Lance

Washington—President Carter is trying to replace a man he says is irreplaceable. Fighting sorrow at the resignation of longtime friend Bert Lance as budget director, Carter began the search Thursday for a successor. One of his first visitors of the day was Sen. Jennings Randolph, D-W.Va., who told reporters he found Carter calm, relaxed and even in what the senator called a happy mood.

associated press

datelines

"In a sense, he feels he's had a problem lifted from him," said Randolph, whose visit to the White House was to urge Carter to increase fund requests for economic development programs.

Campaign mounted

Washington—The White House mounted a major lobbying campaign Thursday to try to salvage President Carter's

daily nebraskan

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troubled energy program in the Senate. The President and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger sought to persuade undecided senators to side with the administration in a showdown vote scheduled last night on natural-gas pricing.

Carter wants to continue price controls on natural gas, but advocates of a rival plan to lift the controls claimed they would win by a narrow margin. Schlesinger cancelled a scheduled appearance before a House panel on another energy matter Thursday to try to drum up support for the Carter plan in the Senate. President Carter was reportedly busy phoning senators to personally appeal for their support.

Talks resume

Washington—The United States and the Soviet Union resumed strategic arms limitation talks Thursday, apparently prepared to concede that the SALT I treaty will expire as scheduled in 11 days without a new agreement to replace it.

"This is our house; welcome to it," Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance told Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko as Gromyko arrived at the State Department for two days of talks. Under a proposed plan, the two sides would informally observe the current agreement beyond its Oct. 3 expiration date, but some members of Congress are raising both legal and political questions about the procedure.

Fallout

Seattle—Fallout from China's nuclear test caused only a slight rise in radiation in the Northwest and posed little health danger, federal officials say. The air mass carrying the fallout was expected to move northeastward and reach the Great Lakes region Thursday and the East Coast today.

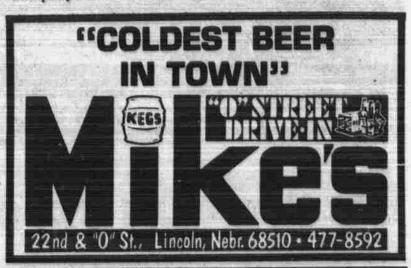
Mid-morning radiation checks Wednesday in Scattle and Juneau, Alaska, showed no increase in ground radiation, but afternoon checks at Anchorage and Portland, Ore., indicated there was some rise in radioactivity.

Escape from Idi

Nairobi, Kenya—Uganda Radio reported Thursday that British-born businessman Robert Scanlon, arrested for spying in Uganda in June, has escaped. There were no immediate details.

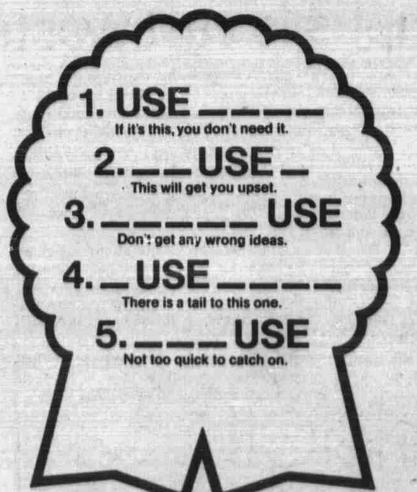
Scanlon, who became a Ugandan citizen two years ago, was accused of spying after a radio transmitter was allegedly found in his home in a Kampala suburb. A Ugandan government spokesman said at the time he would be tried in secret by a military tribunal and executed by firing squad if convicted.

British friends of Scanlon have been quoted as saying he had been a friend of Ugandan President Idi Amin and they believed he was arrested because of personal quarrels with Ugandans and disputes over business deals. Scanlon, 44, was general manager of the Uganda Transport Company.



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