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Gillette, Copple said, because none were filed.

Copple's statements followed Monday afternoon's videotape of Douglas telling the legislature's special Commonwealth Committee that his relationship with Copple had not influenced his actions as attorney general.

Copple was escorted in and out of the courtroom by policemen. He currently lives in Arizona and came to Lincoln under the condition that if he testified, he would be granted immunity from further charges.

Setting it Straight

A letter to the editor in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan on cable television in the residence halls should have read: This semester, in a more scientific survey, 68.2 percent of the residents said they were willing to pay for cable television as part of next year's room and board charges. Only 10.9 percent said they wanted no unnecessary items added to next year's rates.

Wire Report

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Farm support programs costly, ag secretary says

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary John Block Tuesday called for major cuts in government financial aid to farmers, saying the United States could no longer afford "explosive, open-ended" spending on farm programs.

Addressing his department's annual conference on the farm outlook, he said costly price support programs should be phased out over five years. Now, the target price program supports prices by paying farmers if market prices fall below a set target.

He also called for a move away from the policy of paying farmers in cash, commodities or other benefits for leaving their land idle.

Block, an Illinois hog farmer, said these programs based on 1983 legislation designed to save farmers from bankruptcy during the Depression, are outdated and no longer serve today's farmers, who export one-third of what they produce.

Block told reporters after his address that he would like the government to step in and help farmers only when crop prices dropped below 75 percent of average market prices over a five-year period.

Indian death toll passes 1,200

BHOPAL, India — An Indian news agency Tuesday estimated more than 1,200 people have been killed by poison gas leaking from a Union Carbide factory here, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said he would seek compensation from the company.

A spokesman for the Madhya Pradesh state said the death toll from Monday's disaster had reached 546, but the United News of India said an investigation by its reporters put the figure at more than 1,200.

The gas has been identified as methyl isocyanate. Staff at city hospitals said 4,000 people had been badly gassed and some had died in neighboring towns after fleeing Bhopal when the gas cloud spread over the city.

Gandhi broke off an election campaign tour to visit Bhopal. He said emergency steps had been taken to stop the spread of toxic effects of the gas on animals and crops but gave no details. He told reporters his government would review its policy on siting of potentially hazardous factories in India. Stringent safeguards would be introduced before such installations were allowed to operate, he said.

"We will also ask Union Carbide to pay compensation," Gandhi said.

Warren Anderson, the chairman of Union Carbide, flew to India Tuesday night to offer financial and other aid to the victims and their families.

Walter Goetz, director of communications, said the company was "more than willing" to help in every way possible, "but we want to see if the Indian authorities will look favorably on us doing this."

Besides Anderson, a team of five people, including a doctor, a production specialist and three chemical engineers, was en route to Bhopal to probe the disaster.

More than 36 hours after one of the world's worst chemical disasters, the deadly gas still hung over the central Indian city of 700,000 people. Hundreds, blinded by poisonous fumes, groped their way through the streets Tuesday in search of medical treatment.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoted unnamed scientists at the Industrial Toxicology Research Center in Lucknow as saying the gas was likely to persist in the atmosphere for three or four weeks and affected areas should be evacuated.

Ferraro cited for financial error

WASHINGTON — Geraldine Ferraro, who lost a bid for vice president a month ago, was cited by the House Ethic Committee Tuesday for failure to file proper financial disclosure statements while a congresswoman. But in its report, the committee said there was no indication Ferraro was trying to deceive House officials with the incorrect financial statements. Ferraro has filed amended reports for 1978 through 1983 to include nearly all of the information originally omitted or misreported.

The report said the improper disclosures should be considered technical violations of House rules and did not recommend any further action.

Ferraro's term in Congress ends Jan. 3. She had no immediate comment.

The panel had been investigating Ferraro's finances because of a complaint made by the Washington Legal Foundation, a private conservative group. The call for the House probe, along with investigations into the finances of her family, had plagued the Democratic campaign of the 49-year-old Queens, New York congresswoman.

Anti-abortion laws ruled illegal

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A federal judge ruled Monday that two Rhode Island laws designed to discourage abortions by limiting health insurance benefits are unconstitutional. The laws, thrown out by U.S. District Court Judge Raymond Pettine, banned municipalities from providing abortion insurance for their employees and banned insurance companies doing business in the state from routinely offering coverage for abortions. The decision marks the latest in a series of unsuccessful attempts by lawmakers in this predominantly Catholic state to discourage abortions in spite of the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision permitting them.

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