

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Senators pass LB1 34-10; investigations may be ahead

LINCOLN — The Legislature's special session Wednesday ended like a modern Hollywood adventure film that sets the stage for a sequel.

It resolved one issue, but ended while the plot was still thickening. There also was a surprise twist in the final scene — courtesy of a spectator who tried his hand at speech making from the visitors' gallery.

The 89th Legislature's first special session came to an end after senators passed LB1, a bill appropriating \$8.5 million to pay a claim against the state filed on behalf of Commonwealth Savings Co. depositors. The state Department of Banking declared Commonwealth insolvent Nov. 1, 1983.

The bill passed, 34-10. It was promptly signed by Gov. Bob Kerrey and became law at midnight.

In farewell remarks that took only a few minutes, Kerrey thanked senators for their time and said he hoped no other special sessions would be needed this year. Some senators believe Kerrey should call another session to trim the state budget in the face of continuing revenue shortfalls.

Lawmakers failed to include required language in the original Commonwealth appropriations bill passed on the final day of the 1985 regular session. That bill omitted the words, "There is hereby appropriated," and thus led to the seven-day special session.

A final vote on LB1 was briefly delayed Wednesday when a man stood in the visitors' gallery and asked that the appropriations bill be read slowly by Clerk of the Legislature Patrick O'Donnell, so that it could be clearly

understood. Les Christiansen, 68, of Lincoln, was later escorted from the balcony of the chamber by a state trooper. He left without incident and was not detained by law enforcement officers.

The Legislature adjourned without considering Legislative Resolution 1, calling for an investigation of two other industrial loan and investment companies — State Security Savings Co. of Lincoln and American Savings Co. of Omaha. Both are under jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court.

The Executive Board considered the resolution before the floor session, but failed to resolve several issues.

Lawmakers also declined to suspend rules to allow consideration of a resolution calling for another special session — this one to consider budget cuts.

Mid-21st century oil crisis likely

WASHINGTON — The world appears to have enough oil to last until the mid-21st century, the U.S. Geological Survey said Wednesday.

But, it said, because most of the known and undiscovered reserves are found principally in the Middle East, Americans can expect to face several repetitions of the energy crises of the 1970s.

In a 25-page report, "World Petroleum Resources," the government geologists said their survey of potential oil-bearing formations around the globe indicates there are none equivalent to those in the Middle East.

"The most important conclusion of our study is that the Middle East increasingly will monopolize world petroleum supplies," said Charles Masters, the chief author of the report. "Even with continued frontier exploration effort and success, that distribution reality is not likely to change."

The study said discoveries of new oil appear to be on a permanent decline from a high of some 35 billion barrels per year in the 1950s to between 10 billion and 15 billion barrels annually in recent years.

Given this trend, it said, "we can project the potential for substantial oil discovery and production to the middle of the 21st century."

The report dismissed what it called "the commonly held assumption" that discoveries have dropped because of a decline in exploration caused by a current surplus in world oil supplies.

The researchers noted that annual production and consumption of oil has continued along at about 20 billion barrels per year and is outpacing new discoveries by almost two to one.

"Were it not for a world recession, we most surely would have even a greater disparity between discovery and production," they suggested.

World oil reserves now total 723 billion barrels, about a 36-year supply, the report said. It estimated undiscovered resources at 550 billion barrels, but half the amount already found or drilled.

"We have but a few decades to enjoy the convenience of crude oil as our major energy fuel," the report said. "And while it is found in great supply today, there is every indication that it will become ever more difficult to obtain in years to come."

Because about 350 billion barrels of the known reserves and at least 120 billion barrels of the undiscovered oil are in the Middle East, "we can anticipate many irregularities in its availability during those last decades of oil prominence," the researchers said.

The report noted that an increase in U.S. coal production during the past 10 years — from 600 million to 875 million tons annually — already has displaced about 1 billion barrels of oil imports.

Setting the summit stage

Meeting 'worthwhile;' no Soviet plan unveiled

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met for more than four hours Wednesday, but Shultz said they did not reach agreement on any of the issues discussed.

Both had indicated they were optimistic before the meeting.

The two leaders met for four hours and 20 minutes at the Soviet U.N. Mission. It was the first of several sessions regarded as crucial to a successful summit Nov. 19 and 20 in Geneva, Switzerland, between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Shultz said the Soviets did not reveal any new proposal that could break the impasse in the arms control talks now under way in Geneva. He said the discussion focused on "security issues, most particularly those being discussed by our negotiators in Geneva.

"We agreed we were looking for points of contact in our positions and areas of common understanding. We did not reach an agreement on any of these items. But we certainly did discuss each other's positions with great care," Shultz told reporters.

He said the talks had been "most worthwhile" and had been conducted in an "easy and frank atmosphere."

"There was no particular new proposals put on the table," he said. Shevardnadze spoke to reporters after Shultz and said he agreed with the secretary's assessment of the talks. "It was an interesting, frank and useful meeting," he said.

The Soviet foreign minister noted that he will meet Reagan in Washington on Friday. He is expected to see Shultz again on Saturday.

"There are quite a lot of things to do" before the November summit, Shevardnadze said. He declined to take any questions from reporters.

While the two apparently did not agree on any outstanding issues, they clearly made an effort to emphasize that they got along well in the talks, which ran 20 minutes longer than scheduled.

They shook hands and smiled broadly at one another, both before and after stepping to microphones on the sidewalk in front of the mission; and each listened patiently as the other addressed reporters.

Before the discussion, Shevardnadze told Shultz, "I'm sorry," for not attending a U.N. General Assembly meeting Monday where the American secretary of state spoke. The Soviet foreign minister said his schedule was too full.

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

NU center fielder Paul Meyers has been named to the U.S. team that will participate in the Simon Bolivar Games in Caracas, Venezuela, next month. The games are the official Pan American championships and determine the Americas' zone representatives in the upcoming World Baseball Championship in Holland.

A 17-year-old Detroit girl who missed Bruce Springsteen's concert in her hometown because she was in the hospital with cancer met and kissed the rock singer in Denver after his concert there Monday.

Talk-show host Dick Cavett returned to Nebraska to kick off Wayne State College's 75th anniversary celebration and relate fond memories of growing up here: "It's funny; I had to go away to appreciate it," Cavett said. "I often wish I were here." Cavett was born in Gibbon in 1936 and left the state to attend Yale University.

John DeLorean, 60, says the federal indictment accusing him of defrauding investors of \$8.9 million in his failed sports car company was part of a government frame-up and was timed to coincide with the release of his autobiography.

Socialite Claus Von Bulow received \$1 million from oil magnate J. Paul Getty Jr. to pay for bail and for his successful defense against charges that he tried to kill his wife. "The fact is that a friend needed help and I was able to give it," Getty, 53, is quoted as saying in October's Vanity Fair magazine.

San Francisco faces a \$76 million deficit next year that could lead to the layoff of 800 employees from a city workforce of 25,000, Mayor Dianne Feinstein says.

With cost-cutting measures by the U.S. Postal Service working, an official says current first-class and package rates likely can remain in effect until 1987.

A produce manager was alone in a Milwaukee supermarket getting ready for the day's work when a man clad only in a loincloth dropped through the ceiling with a scream and landed between the onions and the watermelons. Francis Bredeau, 21, Milwaukee, was charged with burglary in connection with the incident. Police said he apparently took off his clothes and left them on the roof because the cooling vent through which he entered the store was a tight fit.

In Brief

9 KKK members named in indictment

WASHINGTON — Culminating a two-year investigation, the Justice Department announced Wednesday the indictment of nine Ku Klux Klan members on charges they conspired to violate the rights of blacks and whites who were living or socializing together.

The indictment, stemming from an investigation of racial violence in North Carolina during 1982, also charged the nine defendants with committing perjury before a federal grand jury by denying any knowledge or involvement in a series of cross-burnings.

Among those indicted were Jerry Douglas Suits, identified as the titan, or leader, of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Iredell County; and his wife, Mary Vestal Suits, said to be queen kleeagle, or leader, of the women's unit of the Klan. Also indicted were Tony Douglas Earp, identified as leader of the Klan in Alexander County, and Klansmen Jerry Albert Henderson, Michael Thomas Chambers, Rodney Eugene Pope, Alfred S. Childers, Dan Pritchard and Kenneth Ray Blankenship.

Victims pulled alive from rubble

MEXICO CITY — Rescuers pulled a baby boy and a woman alive from the ruins of a hospital Wednesday, and U.S. officials said the two killer earthquakes that hit Mexico last week were much stronger than first measurements indicated.

Police said the death toll in Mexico City from the quakes last Thursday and Friday was up to 4,596. Mayor Ramon Aguirre's office stuck with its estimate of the death toll at 3,500. There was no explanation of the discrepancy between the two figures.

About 1,500 people were believed trapped in the wreckage, some perhaps still alive. Aguirre's office said 11,700 people were injured, of whom 1,700 remained hospitalized.

Five Americans are included among the fatalities, and there are about 28 Americans not accounted for that are believed to have been in hotels that collapsed.

Hurricane Gloria threatens E. Coast

MIAMI — Hurricane Gloria, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the open Atlantic, spared the Bahamas and headed for the East Coast on Wednesday as it spun across the sea with 150 mph winds.

Officials in coastal states began taking precautions, and campers were evacuated from one coastal island. A hurricane watch was posted for North Carolina's vulnerable barrier islands and parts of Virginia and South Carolina.

"Some place along the East Coast of the United States is going to be threatened by this storm, and very quickly," if the storm's path doesn't change, said Neil Frank, director of the National Hurricane Center in nearby Coral Gables.

Frank said that even if Gloria's winds weaken before landfall, which could come by Friday at a site yet uncertain, it might attain such a fast forward speed that it could be just as dangerous because there would be less time to evacuate.

Gloria was classified as a "borderline" Category 5 storm on a scale that rates hurricane strength from 1 to 5, said Hal Gerrish, a forecaster at the hurricane center. A Category 5 hurricane is capable of catastrophic damage.

Lockdown ends at state penitentiary

LINCOLN — Corrections officials ended a five-day lockdown at the Nebraska State Penitentiary on Wednesday, releasing inmates from their cells and sending them back to their jobs and classes in the prison, Assistant Corrections Director John Dahm said.

The men had been confined to their cells, except for meals and regularly scheduled visits, since Friday.

Warden Gary Grammer had ordered the lockdown at the maximum-security portion of the prison after 150 to 200 inmates held two nights of mass meetings in the prison yard.

Grammer said several knives were found during a cell-by-cell search. Inmates, upset about new policies regarding possession of personal property and inmate classification, had said they would have another meeting last Friday night, Dahm said.

Pilot given wrong directions

WASHINGTON — An air traffic controller gave a helicopter takeoff clearance that allowed it to take a conflicting path with an Eastern Airlines Boeing 727, forcing the jetliner to abort its liftoff and skid within 40 yards of the Potomac River, federal officials said Wednesday.

No one was injured in the incident Tuesday evening at National Airport outside Washington, but federal air safety experts said it put renewed focus on the problem of hazardous conflicts at busy airports.

NTSB investigators, who have examined tapes of communications between the airport tower and the helicopter in Tuesday's incident said the controller had thought she had given the helicopter pilot clearance to depart in a direction away from the main runway being used for takeoff by the Eastern jet.

But an examination of the tapes showed that the pilot had received a general departure clearance and no specific instructions to avoid the main runway for a route that normally would take him across the runway, said NTSB spokesman Bill Bush.

French secret service chief named

PARIS — The government on Wednesday named army chief of staff Gen. Rene Imbot to head the secret service and ordered him to clean up the agency and report fully on its role in the bombing of a Greenpeace protest ship.

Imbot, 60, a Foreign Legion veteran who recently completed a controversial army reorganization, was appointed at a Cabinet meeting to replace Adm. Pierre Lacoste, who was fired last week for refusing to answer questions about the affair.

The authoritative daily L' Monde said Premier Laurent Fabius was convinced that Charles Hernu, who stepped down as defense minister last week over the scandal, gave an order that led to the bombing July 10. The vessel, the Rainbow Warrior, was sunk at its berth in Auckland, New Zealand, and a crewmember was killed.