

# News Digest

By the Associated Press

## Spy sentenced to 365 years

SAN FRANCISCO — Jerry Whitworth was sentenced to 365 years in prison and fined \$410,000 Thursday by a judge who said his role in selling Navy communications secrets to the Soviet Union made him "one of the most spectacular spies of this century."

"I just want to say I'm very, very sorry," was the only comment from the 47-year-old former Navy radioman as he appeared before U.S. District Judge John Vukasin.

Convicted on seven counts of espionage as part of the Walker family spy ring, Whitworth must serve at least 60 years before he will be eligible for parole.

The government called him the central figure in the most damaging spy ring in U.S. military history, and Vukasin said he had given the Soviet Union "the very blueprint of our most coveted and guarded communications."

Whitworth, of Davis, Calif., was convicted July 24 of selling to the Walkers

the secrets of Navy decoding equipment, code keys and communications systems he gathered and photographed for nearly a decade as a trusted radio operator at ship and shore stations.

He also was convicted of tax evasion on the \$332,000 that he was paid by John Walker Jr., his longtime friend, former fellow radio instructor and confessed leader of the spy ring.

Walker was to have been sentenced Thursday in Baltimore to two life terms under a plea-bargain, with parole possible in 10 years. But sentencing has been delayed until Oct. 3 at the prosecution's request.

Whitworth's lawyer, James Larson, filed papers with Vukasin on Tuesday urging a sentence no harsher than Walker's. Larson said Walker was "unquestionably... more culpable" than Whitworth.

Walker pleaded guilty last October in Baltimore and agreed to testify

against Whitworth in exchange for a reduced sentence for Walker's son, Michael, who also pleaded guilty. Walker's brother Arthur was convicted of spying by a federal judge and sentenced to life in prison.

Walker said the Soviets, satisfied with Whitworth's work, gradually raised his pay from \$1,000 to \$4,000 a month.

Walker said Whitworth photographed with a Soviet-supplied miniature camera such secrets as code keys, diagrams of new decoding equipment, and broadcasting channels that military experts said would allow the reading of all secret messages to the Pacific fleet. Walker said Whitworth also revealed plans to evade Soviet direction-finding equipment for spotting U.S. ships.

Walker said he never told Whitworth of the Soviets' role, but instead suggested the secrets were being bought by Israel, the Mafia or a private intelligence organization.

## Doctor: Soviet nuclear accident could claim 75,000 lives worldwide

VIENNA, Austria — A Los Angeles bone marrow surgeon who treated some Chernobyl victims said Thursday the accident could cause as many as 75,000 cancer deaths worldwide over the next 70 years.

Dr. Robert Gale told reporters that most delegates to an international conference in Vienna agreed that as many as 25,000 cancer deaths linked to the Soviet nuclear plant disaster could occur in the European part of the Soviet Union alone.

An explosion and fire occurred April 26 at the No. 4 reactor of the Chernobyl plant, 80 miles north of Kiev in the Soviet Ukraine. Two people were killed and at least 29 other Soviets have since died from injuries linked to the accident, which sent a radioactive cloud

over much of Europe and other parts of the world.

He said the number of cancer deaths worldwide as a result of the accident could range from 1,000 to 75,000.

Gale told The Associated Press earlier Thursday that estimates of the death toll from Chernobyl are "very broad," but health experts believe "the truth will lie between the extremes."

Gale is attending a week-long conference under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency called to consider ways to improve international cooperation in fighting nuclear accidents.

Speaking at a news conference on the fourth day of the conference, Soviet and Western delegates suggested es-

tablishing an international agency, composed of civil defense and military personnel, to pool efforts against any future atomic accident.

"We believe that as quickly as possible, a responsible and international authority should be considered to make available all possible resources for corrective action (against accidents), involving civil defense and the army," said Helmut Rabold, an East German atomic safety official.

Rabold said the delegates, representing 50 countries, also discussed central "action offices" to test food possibly tainted by atomic fallout. The offices would use the expertise of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, he said.

## Students, police clash over shootings

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — University students threw stones Thursday at police and cars after leaving a meeting held to protest the police killings of 20 blacks in Soweto. The government promised to hold a public inquiry into the shootings.

Witnesses said police fired tear gas when students at the University of the Witwatersrand began throwing stones at police vans and other vehicles and at a police film crew. The university is officially for whites, but many blacks attend. Both blacks and whites were involved in the clash.

The South African Press Association said about 1,000 students attended the protest meeting but only about 400 clashed with police.

The students were protesting the police shootings of 20 blacks during riots in the sprawling black township of Soweto on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

The government said Thursday that 20 blacks were killed by police and confirmed that a black Soweto councilor was killed by youths. It said 98 other people were injured.

Anti-apartheid leaders, however, said up to 30 people were killed and 200 wounded.

Deputy Information Minister Louis Nel told a news conference that a pub-

lic investigation will be held and police will be questioned. He did not set a date for the inquiry but said, "It will not be delayed."

Nel said the Soweto riots were part of an organized campaign to sabotage the 11-week-old national state of emergency.

"It was an ambush to kill the police," he said. "They had to react to defend themselves. Whether they reacted correctly will be decided at the inquest."

## Cult leader sentenced to life in prison, death penalty possible

FALLS CITY, Neb. — A former cult leader on Thursday was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a 5-year-old boy on the cult's farm in southeast Nebraska.

Michael Ryan, 38, received the maximum penalty from Richardson County District Judge Robert Finn.

Last month, Ryan pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in the death of Luke Stice, whose body was found on the cult's farm near Rulo in 1985. Ryan originally was charged with first-degree murder in the case.

County Attorney Doug Merz said Ryan deserved the penalty because the victim was a little boy.

Ryan sat quietly during the 25-minute court session. He declined Finn's offer to speak on his own behalf, but defense attorney Richard Goos gave the court a five-page transcript of an interview he conducted with Ryan earlier this month at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

Ryan told Goos that the Stice boy was killed by his father, Richard Stice.

"I just don't think it's right for the judge to be sentencing me when I believe and know in my heart that... Richard Stice and Richard Stice alone killed that boy," Ryan said during the interview.

Ryan didn't say how the boy died. Authorities said the child hit his head

on a piece of furniture and fractured his skull after being pushed by Ryan.

The elder Stice was a member of the survivalist cult led by Ryan. He was convicted of interstate transportation of stolen cattle, and is serving part of his term under house arrest.

In April, Ryan was convicted of first-degree murder in the torture-slaying of cult member James Thimm. He could receive the death penalty when he is sentenced for that murder next month. Ryan is already serving a five-year prison term on a federal weapons conviction.

Ryan's 16-year-old son, Dennis, and former cult member Timothy Haverkamp were convicted of second-degree murder in Thimm's death and sentenced to life in prison.

Two other former Ryan followers, John David Andreas and James Haverkamp, were each sentenced to 30 years in prison for their involvement in the torture and other crimes.

The bodies of Thimm, 26, and the Stice boy were found in unmarked graves on the cult's farm last August.

Authorities said Michael Ryan led a group of about 20 adults and children on the farm in 1984 and 1985. The group hated Jews, believed in a god named Yahweh and stored supplies and weapons to prepare for a final battle between good and evil, prosecutors said.

## In Brief

### Air Force missile destroyed

VANDEMBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — An unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile was blown up during a test flight over the Pacific Ocean on Thursday because of an undisclosed problem, the Air Force said. "The destruct signal was sent well into the missile's 30 minute test flight," said Tech Sgt. Fred Bolinger of the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division's public affairs staff at Vandenberg.

The 78,000-pound Minutemen 3 missile, an ICBM capable of carrying explosives to three separate targets, lifted off from an underground silo at 7:04 a.m. for its 30-minute flight across the Pacific Ocean to the Kwajalein Atoll, Sgt. Fred Bolinger said.

A team of Air Force and Department of Defense contractor engineers was investigating.

It was not immediately known how close the 60-foot-tall missile got to its target before the destruct command was given, the spokesman said.

Bolinger said there was no danger to anyone in the ocean area where the rocket fell. Its altitude at the time was not disclosed.

The aborted ICBM flight comes at a time when America's space program and missile program has been plagued by failures.

The last time a Minuteman 3 was destroyed was on Feb. 5, 1985, Bolinger said. Since that time, there have been 10 successful Minuteman launches. Another failure had occurred in February 1983. The cause of those failures was not disclosed.

### One hurt in grain elevator explosion

LINCOLN — Authorities were searching for the cause of a grain elevator explosion Thursday that caused \$30,000 in damage and left an elevator worker bruised but not seriously hurt.

Fire inspector Charles Beauchamp said the early-morning blast at Gooch Milling and Elevator Co. could have been started by a spark from a belt that was rubbing against a metal grain mixing leg. Beauchamp said, however, that the belt could have been knocked askew by the explosion.

Dust in the elevator exploded about 1:15 a.m., and the blast blew out five large block windows, Beauchamp said. Pieces of glass punctured a roof below the eighth floor, where the explosion occurred, he said.

Employee Richard Barkmeier said he was shutting off an air hose when a 12-foot-high metal dust collection filter exploded about 20 feet from where he was standing.

"All of a sudden, she blew up and shoved me right up against a pillar," said Barkmeier, who was working alone on the floor. "I looked around and all I could see was a ball of fire."

District Fire Chief Neil McPherson said the force of the explosion destroyed the dust collection filter. He and Beauchamp said the force of the explosion apparently blew out the fire before it could spread.

McPherson, surveying damage to heavy pieces of steel in the elevator, said Barkmeier, 40, was lucky he wasn't killed.

### Farmer charges in fatal stabbing

RUSHVILLE, Neb. — A 34-year-old Hay Springs farmer has been bound over to Sheridan County District Court for trial on charges of first-degree murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony in connection with the July 18 stabbing death of another Hay Springs man.

District Judge Glen Fiebig bound over Roger B. Rincker after a two-hour preliminary hearing Wednesday. Rincker was charged in the death of Bryant Ferrel, 27.

Fiebig also ordered a \$100,000 bond be continued. Rincker has been free on bond since he was charged July 21. Trial is set for Sept. 9.

### Lockheed accused of inflated costs

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has accused the Lockheed Corp. of inflating its production contract for the C-5B cargo plane by as much as \$500 million by improperly withholding financial information from the Air Force during contract negotiations.

The allegation was disclosed Thursday by the Air Force in a prepared statement. The service said it would now "initiate action... to obtain an appropriate price adjustment."

Lockheed denied the charges in a prepared statement Thursday, asserting there was "no merit to these allegations."

The allegation against Lockheed is based on provisions of the federal Truth-in-Negotiation act and involves a complex area of law known as "defective pricing."

The Pentagon said Thursday it believes the dollar amount in dispute with Lockheed is the largest ever encountered in such a case.

The allegation against the Lockheed-Georgia Co., the subsidiary that builds the giant C-5 cargo plane, stems from a probe conducted by the Defense Contract Audit Agency in May. That audit, which has not been released publicly, has now been evaluated by the Air Force, and its basic findings accepted, the service said.

According to the Pentagon statement, the heart of the case revolves around Lockheed's alleged failure to share with Air Force procurement agents the company's bargaining goals and objectives prior to negotiating a new union agreement in 1983.

By withholding that information, the Air Force proceeded to negotiate a \$7.8 billion contract in December 1982 for 30 C-5B aircraft, using earlier Lockheed estimates for its labor expenses, the statement said.

The Air Force said Thursday the defense audit agency had projected the defective pricing would total "between \$400 million and \$500 million" through completion of the program in fiscal 1989.

### Elm Creek car crash kills one

ELM CREEK — A car carrying four people from Illinois slammed into a truck parked on the shoulder of Interstate 80 near Elm Creek, Neb., Thursday, killing one person and injuring the other passengers, Buffalo County Sheriff Frank Dineen said.

Dineen said the car was sliced in two when it struck the rear end of an unoccupied semi-trailer truck that had been disabled because of an electrical fire.

Arlis L. Hardy, 20, of Rockford, Ill., was killed in the crash, Dineen said.

Hardy's young daughter, whose age and name were not known, was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Omaha, where Dineen said she was in critical condition.

Omar Francis, 19, of Rockford was in critical condition at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Dineen said.

## Daily Nebraskan

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