

News Digest

By The Associated Press

McFarlane attempts suicide Former adviser overdoses on Valium

WASHINGTON — An investigation concluded that former presidential adviser Robert C. McFarlane attempted suicide, a police source said Tuesday, while authorities said officially only that there was no evidence of foul play in McFarlane's Valium overdose.

"There's not going to be any ruling that it was an attempted suicide. We are satisfied that there was no crime and there's no further legal action to be taken," said Harry Geehreg, spokesman for the Montgomery County Police in suburban Maryland.

But a source close to the investi-

gation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the police had determined McFarlane's ingestion of 25 to 30 tablets of Valium, a tranquilizer, was an attempt to take his own life.

The source also confirmed that police learned that McFarlane, President Reagan's former national security adviser, had written a note that his wife Jonda carried to the hospital. However, police did not know the contents of the note, the source said.

The 49-year-old McFarlane, who associates said has recently been in severe pain with a back ailment, was

rushed to the hospital Monday morning, shortly before he was to testify before the presidential commission set up to investigate the National Security Council's role in the Iran arms-sale crisis.

He was listed in good condition Tuesday at Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Maryland and was visited by his wife, said hospital spokesman Lt. Russ Sanford.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Reagan had not tried to contact his former aide, but that the president and first lady Nancy Reagan planned to telephone Mrs. McFarlane.

Kidnappers try to swap with Israel

BEIRUT — Moslem kidnappers were reported trying to strike a deal with Israel on Tuesday that would free 400 Arab prisoners in exchange for three Americans and an Indian held in Beirut and a captured Israeli airman.

The Christian-run Voice of Lebanon and the Moslem-run Voice of the Nation radio stations quoted "reports from Washington and other capitals" as saying the captors might be working through the Red Cross for an exchange.

In Geneva, the international Committee of the Red Cross denied involvement in any negotiations.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel said his government would be willing to consider a direct request for negotiations, but added that no such request has been made.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters in Washington, "Our terrorism policy remains the same, and I reiterate once again that we will not ransom hostages nor will we encourage other countries to do so."

A group called the Revolutionary Justice Organization renewed a threat Tuesday to harm hostages if the United States takes military action. "The retaliation will be very cruel," it said in a statement delivered to the Beirut office of a Western news agency.

It holds American hostages Joseph James Cicippio, 56, of Valley Forge, Pa., acting comptroller at the American University of Beirut, and Edward Austin Tracy, 56, a writer who formerly lived in Burlington, Vt., and Jean-Louis Normandin, 35, a French television engineer.

In Brief

Iran demands 'war until victory'

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini spoke in public today for the first time in almost 12 weeks and said his people demanded "war until victory" against Iraq.

The address by the 86-year-old Supreme Iranian leader at a mosque near his home in north Tehran came on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the revolution that toppled Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Although some western media have reported Khomeini's health was declining, he spoke in a strong and steady voice during the 17-minute speech, which was broadcast on Tehran radio.

He said Iranian troops were battling for a "divine cause" in the 6 1/2 year old Persian Gulf war with Iraq, but added that Iran's people had experienced "bitter moments because of our spiritual condition."

Iraq and Iran have been pounding each other's cities with air raids and artillery and thousands of civilians have been killed.

Pseudo salesman steals fine wine

SAN DIEGO — A man posing as a newspaper subscription salesman forced his way into an apartment and grabbed a box containing five bottles of wine worth about \$12,000, police said.

The victim, who asked not to be identified, said the thief apparently grabbed the box of wine as an afterthought after taking \$635 in cash. The robber carried a 4-inch knife.

The bottles were part of a case that normally holds six magnums, but one was empty. Each magnum holds the equivalent of two regular-sized bottles of wine.

According to the victim, the five stolen magnums stolen Saturday are worth as much as \$2,400 each.

"Chateau Petrus 1961 is considered the most perfect wine in this century, of the Bordeaux wines," he said. "If you have a grading scale, it is 100 points, and everything else is compared to it."

Teens charged with murder in Howard Beach attack

NEW YORK — Three teen-agers were charged Tuesday with murder and nine others with lesser crimes in a racial attack in which a white mob chased and beat three black men, one of whom fled into traffic and was killed by a car.

The suspects, ages 16 to 18, surrendered Tuesday morning to police in the New York City borough of Queens, where the attack took place Dec. 20.

The 12 defendants, accompanied to

state Supreme Court by parents and lawyers, were arraigned before Justice Alfred D. Lerner. All pleaded innocent.

Two of the three youths charged with murder Tuesday had previously faced the same charge until a judge dropped it for lack of testimony by the survivors of the attack.

Those charged with murder again were Jon Lester, 17, of South Ozone Beach, and Scott Kern, 17, of Howard Beach. The other youth charged with

murder was Robert Riley, who was described by special prosecutor Charles J. Hynes as the only defendant who cooperated in the investigation.

The judge agreed to Hynes' request that Riley be released on his own recognizance. Bail was denied for Kern. Lester, already imprisoned on a weapons charge, was remanded to Rikers Island prison.

The third youth charged in the original investigation, Jason Ladone,

16, was charged with second-degree manslaughter. His bail was set at \$50,000.

The other charges against the teen-agers included attempted murder, assault, rioting, inciting to riot, conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

The lawyers entered the innocent pleas and offered medical problems, deaths in the families and school records as reasons why their clients should be shown leniency.

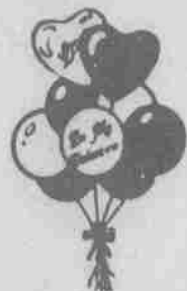
Daily Nebraskan

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1987 DAILY NEBRASKAN

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