

## White House wants explanation of O'Leary's journalist rankings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calling the project "clearly unacceptable," the White House demanded Thursday that Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary explain why she spent \$43,500 in public funds to rate journalists and analyze news reports for unfavorable coverage of her agency. O'Leary said she has provided "everything they've asked for" surrounding the project and scoffed at suggestions by some members of Congress that she resign over the controversy. She said she was not aware of the contract at the time it was issued.

White House chief of staff Leon Panetta said he didn't want to speculate on whether the controversy would cost O'Leary her job running the Energy Department. "I want to see what the report is first," he said.

But on Capitol Hill, some members of Congress — led by longtime Republican opponents of O'Leary and the department — called for her resignation. Several critics, including one of the journalists rated, described the rankings as a Nixon-like "enemies list."

Speaking by telephone to three reporters late Thursday, O'Leary said the contract had been mischaracterized. "This was a simple effort to analyze the way the department disseminated its messages. Nothing more," she said.

Asked whether she considered resigning, the secretary replied, "Of course not."

O'Leary said the decision to conduct the media study was made in the department's public affairs office without her direct knowledge. She said she saw two of the reports and after

that concluded that the information "is not extremely valuable."

One Democratic senator said O'Leary, already under fire for her frequent travel at public expense, should reimburse taxpayers.

Earlier, O'Leary, who was traveling in Baton Rouge, La., said she didn't ask for an evaluation of reporters but for an analysis of news coverage. She said it would have cost the department \$170,000 to do the job itself.

She said she told Panetta on Thursday morning, "There's no enemies list, no gumshoes, no investigators."

The Energy Department hired a company that conducts media analyses to scrutinize hundreds of articles and dozens of reporters' stories each month, from December 1994 through August 1995, on issues from nuclear waste to O'Leary's reputation.

The Carma International service scored reporters, politicians, newspapers and others on a scale of 0 to 100, with zero denoting the most unfavorable content, 50 a neutral reading and 100 most favorable.

Carma President Albert Barr said the goal wasn't to rate journalists' attitudes, but to examine news coverage.

"If a journalist on our list scores an unfavorable rating, it doesn't mean that journalist is unfavorably disposed to that client," he explained. "It doesn't mean you have a personal bias against that company."

*"There's no enemies list, no gumshoes, no investigators."*

**HAZEL O'LEARY**  
Secretary of Energy

The Wall Street Journal published a story Thursday on the issue after the Energy Department supplied copies of reports for April and July. The DOE then made all the monthly reports available, including graphics and pie charts on negative vs. positive stories, editorials and overall trends. The reports also highlight quotes, and rank journalists, newspapers and politicians in "top 25" lists — favorable, unfavorable and neutral. In July, President Clinton got a 47 ranking on the "neutral" list.

The July report gave H. Josef Hebert of The Associated Press a 30.8 score, indicating his articles were the least favorable. That occurred after he wrote about allegations that oversight at DOE nuclear weapons facilities was sloppy and that the health effects of radiation exposure had been underestimated. In a story on secret government radiation tests during the Cold War, Hebert reported that there were still "serious deficiencies" in the way the government protects the rights of participants in human experiments.

## Bosnia federation accord revived

DAYTON, Ohio — In the most significant breakthrough in Bosnia peace talks so far, Muslims and Croats agreed Thursday to revive a moribund federation set up at U.S. urging in 1994 to end fighting between them. Although negotiators were not thought to be nearing a comprehensive peace agreement, Secretary of State Warren Christopher was flying to Dayton on Friday to rejoin the talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Sources in both delegations said a ceremony would be held Friday to sign key aspects of the federation accord, including agreements on the return of refugees and the contentious issue of reuniting the southern city of Mostar.

International mediators submitted on Thursday a new set of 11 draft agreements covering Bosnia's future constitutional makeup, its territorial division and military issues such as the separation of forces, officials said. The documents reportedly were so comprehensive that

the delegations would need several days to study them.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns announced that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Serb President Slobodan Milosevic jointly requested the immediate resumption of unrestricted natural gas deliveries to both countries on humanitarian grounds and as a confidence-building measure.

The United States had said previously it would not support a relaxation of economic sanctions to Serbia until a final peace agreement was reached. Burns noted that the U.S. government was recommending to the U.N. sanctions committee an exception on humanitarian grounds and pointed out that the vast majority of the trade embargo remains in place.

The gas would be supplied from Russia and U.N. monitors would ensure that the Serbs don't cut off the gas supplies to the Bosnian side, he said.

Earlier Thursday, Christopher said in Washington that he would fly to Dayton to get involved in the promising discussions.

"I hope I'll be able to make some progress," he said.

Sources in the three Balkan delegations said agreements that would revive the Muslim-Croat federation, provide for the return of refugees, restore a joint administration for Mostar, and — perhaps most significantly — establish a confederation between the federation and neighboring Croatia, could be ready for signing Friday.

The accord creating a Muslim-Croat federation within Bosnia was signed in spring 1993. That accord ended a year of fierce combat between the two sides. But the new structure never got off the ground and the two sides remain divided and wary of each other, despite occasional U.S. appeals for closer cooperation in the war against Bosnia's Serb rebels.

## Watterson will retire 'Calvin'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Calvin and Hobbes, the terrible tyke and his sidekick tiger, will be retired from the funny pages on Dec. 31.

In a letter to newspaper editors Thursday, cartoonist Bill Watterson said his decision was not a recent or easy one.

"I believe I've done what I can do within the constraints of daily deadlines and small panels," Watterson, 38, said in the letter. "I am eager to work at a more thoughtful pace, with fewer artistic compromises."

"Calvin and Hobbes" hit the comic pages in 1986 and entertained millions with the antics of a 6-year-old boy with an overactive imagination and a not-so-stuffed tiger.

The letter featured a drawing of the two cartoon characters getting kicked out a door. The two buddies are shown clutching each other as they fly through the air, leaving a trail of stars.

In the past nine years, the pair launched countless snowball ambushes, journeyed through space, tormented a baby sitter and ran afoul of Calvin's patient parents.

"Calvin and Hobbes" is distributed internationally to nearly 2,400 newspapers. More than 23 million copies of books based on the cartoon are in print. All 13 collections were million-dollar sellers in their first year.

## Navy will pause to think about preventing discipline problems

WASHINGTON — Stung by yet another embarrassing sex-related incident, the Navy is ordering everyone in the service to pause for 24 hours of "preventive maintenance" against future breakdowns in discipline.

"It's time for the Navy to take a day and stand down and take a hard look at ourselves," Adm. Mike Boorda, the chief of naval operations, said Thursday. The day of introspection will be observed on a rotating basis by units worldwide, he said.

The purpose will be to think of ways to avoid discipline problems before they happen.

Boorda's announcement came after The Washington Post reported Thursday that a drunk Navy cook sexually assaulted a female sailor aboard a commercial jet and that the 20 or so other sailors on the flight chose not to intervene.

In San Diego, Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Cole, a Navy spokesman, said it was not true that no one intervened. "Action was taken on her behalf to stop the incident," Cole said, but he would not say what action was taken or by whom.

Boorda said he could not comment on the sexual assault case because it is under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. But in summoning several reporters to his headquarters office in the Pentagon, the admiral made no secret of the fact that the reported incident prompted him to act.

And there have been these other recent incidents:

- A 22-year-old Navy seaman based in

Okinawa is on trial there, along with two Marines, for the rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl. The seaman, Marcus D. Gill, admitted in court Tuesday that he raped the girl after abducting her Sept. 4.

• Navy Capt. Everett Greene, leader of a SEAL commando unit and a former head of the Navy's equal-opportunity office, was charged with having an "unduly familiar" relationship with a female subordinate. He was acquitted in a court-martial in Washington last month, but Navy Secretary John Dalton decided this week to recommend that his scheduled promotion to admiral be stopped.

All this comes four years after the Tailhook scandal of September 1991 in which drunken Navy and Marine Corps aviators at a convention in Las Vegas groped and sexually harassed more than two dozen female colleagues.

The last time the Navy called a service-wide "stand down" was in 1992 in response to Tailhook. During a "stand down," normal duties are suspended to focus on a particular problem, such as a rash of accidents.

Boorda said he saw no reason to impose any new or tougher behavior standards or regulations, but wanted every sailor to think about how to stay out of trouble.

As an example of the "preventive maintenance" he thinks is needed, Boorda cited the "buddy system" for sailors on liberty at foreign ports in which sailors go ashore with a friend so that help is available if needed.

News  
in a  
Minute



## Default looms over pair of budget bills

WASHINGTON — With a potential federal default and government shutdown at stake, Congress toiled over a pair of budget bills Thursday and lurched closer to a veto showdown with President Clinton.

A day after the House approved legislation that would provide stopgap funds for government agencies through Dec. 1, the Senate adopted the measure by 50-46 after softening House-approved restraints on lobbying by many federally aided private groups.

The House voted 227-194 for another bill extending federal borrowing authority through Dec. 12. Capping a marathon day, the Senate approved that measure by 49-47 and shipped it back to the House after voting by voice to remove language killing the Commerce Department.

The House was expected to accept the Senate version of both measures and ship them to the White House on Friday, where administration officials pledged that both bills would be vetoed.

## Judge upholds scouts' gay ban

TRENTON, N.J. — A state judge, citing the biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah as evidence that homosexuality is immoral, upheld the Boy Scouts' ban on gays.

Superior Court Judge Patrick J. McGann found that the Monmouth Council of the Boy Scouts did not violate state discrimination laws when it expelled James Dale as an assistant scoutmaster in 1990 after learning he is gay.

## Israeli officials unearth conspiracy

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's slaying was part of a carefully planned right-wing conspiracy, Israel's police minister said Thursday. Police unearthed a cache of guns and explosives at the home of the confessed killer.

Two more religious Jewish extremists were hauled into court handcuffed and shackled, and police said they planned to charge one of them with murder. Only one suspect has been accused of murder so far — confessed gunman Yigal Amir.

"We believe there was a conspiracy by a group of people who had the infrastructure and prepared their aims quite cautiously," Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

At least five suspects, including Amir, are being held in connection with Rabin's assassination. Two, Dror Adani, 26, and Ohad Skornick, 23, were brought before a Tel Aviv magistrate Thursday.

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