

Chinese activists arrested in homes

BEIJING (AP) — The detention of two of China's most influential dissidents and three other pro-democracy activists underscores the government's stated determination to crush any challenge to one-party Communist rule.

Legislative chairman Li Peng, the Communist Party's No. 2 man, was quoted Tuesday as saying that Western-style democracy was inappropriate for China and that opposition groups would not be tolerated.

Police in two cities went to the homes of Xu Wenli, Qin Yongmin and

other members of the fledgling China Democracy Party on Monday night and took them away, relatives and a human rights group said Tuesday.

The police action was one of the most severe since dissidents announced their attempt to form an opposition group in June to challenge the Communist Party's monopoly on power. Since then, police have questioned, briefly detained and harassed the activists.

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JAMES P. RUBIN
State Department spokesman

leadership of the Communist Party, then they will not be allowed to exist," Li said in an interview carried Tuesday by the official Xinhua News Agency.

In Washington, State Department Spokesman James P. Rubin said the United States views Xu's detention "as a serious step in the wrong direction."

"We have said for some weeks now that we are disturbed by the recent number of detentions of dissidents that serve to limit political debate in China," Rubin said. "We have repeatedly communicated this view to Chinese authorities."

Police on Tuesday informed the family of Qin Yongmin that he had been arrested for plotting to overthrow the government, the Hong Kong-

based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. The crime carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Police who went to Xu's home Monday night produced arrest and search warrants that identified him as a criminal suspect, said his wife, He Xitong. Unlike previous occasions when Xu was held only for short periods, his wife feared this time that authorities were planning to charge and convict him.

There was no further word on his situation, she said late Tuesday.

"Xu Wenli has already paid heavily for democracy. I understand that he is ready to pay again," she said. "Xu Wenli won't give up."

Lists of gun buyers get FBI sued by NRA

■ The Justice Department says the records are needed to ensure that gun purchases are kept legitimate.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Accusing the government of illegal snooping, the National Rifle Association sued in federal court Tuesday to bar the FBI from keeping lists of law-abiding people who buy guns under a newly revised law.

The Justice Department says FBI records on new gun buyers will be kept for only six months or less. It says the time is needed to permit audits to assure that all gun purchases are truly legitimate and that weapons do not end up in the hands of criminals or mentally unstable people.

The NRA lawsuit, which named Attorney General Janet Reno as a defendant, said lists should be kept only of people barred by law from

owning guns because of felonies or other problems uncovered in a new computerized system of instant background checks.

NRA lawyers said at a news conference that keeping government lists of people found fully eligible to own a firearm represents an illegal bid to establish a national gun registry of new gun buyers.

"Lists on law-abiding people have never been a good idea," said NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre. "This is about privacy and freedom from government snooping into our lives."

The new FBI instant-check system, which governs the purchase of handguns, shotguns and rifles, took effect Monday. The system it replaced applied to handguns only, was conducted by local and state law enforcement authorities and involved a five-day waiting period.

The NRA suit contends that the Brady Act, the law that requires a background check before a gun can be legitimately sold, forbids establishing a registry of gun buyers and directs the Justice Department to "destroy all records."

Justice Department officials said there is no intent to create a permanent gun registry.

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GOP approves subpoenas investigating fund raising

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just weeks before their self-imposed impeachment deadline, Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee approved subpoenas Tuesday seeking fund-raising evidence against President Clinton.

But several said they didn't expect the move to alter the course or timing of their inquiry.

Democrats from House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt on down ridiculed the move, approved on a 20-15 party-line vote, as an attempt to appease the president's most conservative critics.

After the vote, Republican committee lawyers went to court for a second time in an effort to persuade a federal judge to seek internal Justice Department memos in which top law enforcement officials laid out fund-raising evidence against Clinton in arguing for the appointment of a special prosecutor.

U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson on Friday had issued a sealed ruling that the committee had not demonstrated a sufficient need for the memos, which include secret grand jury material. Committee Republicans believe the subpoena will strengthen their argument, said panel spokesman Paul McNulty.

Corporate takeover creates world's largest company

NEW YORK (AP) — Pulling off the richest corporate takeover in history, Exxon Corp. will buy Mobil Corp. for \$73.7 billion to create the world's largest company and reunite two of the biggest pieces left by the breakup of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil empire.

The deal, announced Tuesday, joins the nation's two largest oil and gas companies. It's the latest example of rapid consolidation in an industry where profits have been slashed by worldwide overproduction and weak demand.

However, despite the massive size of the new Exxon Mobil Corp., the global trends that prompted the deal are expected to keep pump prices at rock-bottom levels for now.

Exxon Mobil will surpass Royal Dutch-Shell Group as the No. 1 energy company and vault past General Motors Corp. as the largest corporation in the world, with \$203 billion in combined revenue last year. Exxon is about twice Mobil's size in annual revenue.

Students mug for camera in 'Got Milk?' ad campaign

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and in the second one, they're leaning over laughing hysterically," she said.

More than 120 students posed Tuesday at the union and the Hewitt Athletic Academic Center. One UNL student's photo will appear on <http://www.whymilk.com> and in a "Got Milk?" ad in the Daily Nebraskan.

The milk mustache campaign, which was sponsored by the UNL chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, will visit 50 colleges and universities around the nation this year.

One winner will be chosen from each school, and one of those 50 will be featured in a Sports Illustrated advertisement. About 7,500 college students will participate in the contest this year.

Last year's winner was a male student from Indiana State University.

Reidy said she hoped the campaign would motivate students to drink three

glasses of milk a day. She said many students avoid milk because they think it is fattening.

"A lot of girls, especially, are concerned about their weight, and they think milk is a heavy food," Reidy said.

Reidy said that skim milk is fat-free and provides calcium, which is essential for building bone mass. She said drinking skim milk would not cause students to gain weight.

"If you drink a gallon of whole milk a day, you'll probably gain a little weight," she said.

However, most students who posed with a milk mustache said they probably weren't going to change their milk-drinking habits.

Allison Pagehorn, a freshman general studies major, said she drinks milk "hardly at all."

"I just don't like milk. I've never liked milk," she said.

However, Pagehorn thought the ad campaign was fun.

"I just wanted a T-shirt, man!"

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