

\$337,000 more than last year's
tion of city.

The budget, proposed to council Tues-
day night, proposes the maximum pay
raise allowable under wage guidelines
set forth by the federal government.

Council is expected to approve an
increase in three business and occupa-
tion tax groups in a special session next
Tuesday before taking action on the
budget. The additional revenue of \$600,
000 is needed by the Hutchinson admin-
istration in order to balance the budget.
If council defeats the proposal, the
budget will have to be revised.

39th Street sewer account will yield
about \$70,000. Together, the three re-
venues will bring the city \$1,170,000.

More than \$15 million was allocated
in the proposed budget for the opera-
tion and salaries of 26 city departments
which employ 838 people altogether.
The 7 percent salary increase will cost
the city \$826,000. No positions have
been created in the budget for the city's
95 CETA workers, now funded by the
federal government.

Inflation, a 50 percent increase in
workmen's compensation, a decreased

"What we had over a number of
years was a major inflation rate with
income increasing only slightly. We just
kept getting closer and closer to run-
ning over the budget. Three-fourths of
the operating costs come from personal
services. Our primary responsibility is
not to provide jobs but to provide ser-
vices and I don't think it's fair not to
raise our employees' salaries just be-
cause they're subsidized by the public,"
he added.

(Please Turn to Page 8A, Col. 1)

stockholders, corporate treasurers and
tax collectors," it said.

Kahn said the Council on Wage and
Price Stability, of which he is chair-
man, will soon publish the names of
corporations that have been in violation
of the administration's price restraint
program.

Inflation-fighters are especially fear-
ful labor unions will turn their backs on
the program when they see profits are
soaring while workers are being asked
to restrain their wage demands.

Washington
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the Gazette
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Col. 3)

March 21, 1979 Gazette Chemical Exposure at Nitro Basis for Tests

By Terry Wimmer
Staff Writer

About 250 current and former employees of Monsanto's Nitro plant will
be tested within the next two months to measure long-term effects of their
exposure to two dangerous chemicals from 1948 to 1969.

A Monsanto spokesman in St. Louis said Tuesday that the workers may
have contracted severe skin disorders from exposure to "dioxin," a highly
toxic byproduct of the chemical trichlorophenol.

Dan R. Bishop, the Monsanto spokesman, said 37 workers at the Nitro
plant were tested in 1949 after they came in contact with large amounts of
dioxin after a plant accident. A valve ruptured and employees were
exposed when the dioxin filled the plant, Bishop said.

HOWEVER, it wasn't until 1957 that dioxin was identified. Dr. Raymond
Suskind of the Institute of Environmental Health at the University of

Cincinnati tested the first 37 employees believed to have been contaminated
by the chemical.

On Tuesday, Suskind said that altogether, 114 employees at Monsanto
were exposed to the chemical and suffered a skin disorder known as
"chloracne" which caused ulcerated skin when exposed to the sun.

Employees also suffered symptoms of liver damage, which was not
evident when they were tested in 1955, and neuritis or severe pains of
muscles in the chest.

In laboratory animals, Suskind said, dioxin has caused damage to the
central nervous system, birth defects, liver damage and problems with the
reproductive systems.

"The effects that occur in animals may occur in humans," Suskind said.
"That's why we want to look further."

(Please Turn to Page 8A, Col. 4)

State

Warth and All. Page 7A.

Stream Diversion Page 10A.

Putnam Survey. Page 1B.

Lincoln Strip Case. Page 1B.

Nation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paul J.
Curran, a Republican New York
lawyer, was named Tuesday to
head a special investigation into
bank loans involving President
Carter's family peanut business.
Details on Page 2A.

World

SANANDAJ, Iran (AP) — Kur-
dian guerrillas agreed to a new
cease-fire Tuesday and ended a
bloody siege against an Iranian
army barracks, but by late even-
ing, gunfire and mortars were still
exploding in the city. Details on
Page 7A.

and More

Amusement..... 5E
Bridge..... 6E
Comics..... 6E
Crossword..... 6E
Editorials..... 8A
Gazetteer..... 1B
Horoscope..... 6E
Markets..... 7E
Obituaries..... 9A
Sports..... 1E-3E
Television..... 4E

WASHINGTON (AP) — A defen-

ROME (AP) — Christian Demo-

HERE AND ELSEWHERE

6:30 P.M.

20s to low 40s. High Thursday in the 50s.
TUESDAY'S HUMIDITIES

TUESDAY'S WINOS

THE DATE'S TEMPERATURES

Tuesday's High.....74 Tuesday's Low.....54

Record high for March 20 is 90 degrees set in 1921.

1971. 1972. 1973. 1974. 1975. 1976. 1977. 1978. 1979. 1980. 1981. 1982. 1983. 1984. 1985. 1986. 1987. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 2143. 2144. 2145. 2146. 2147. 2148. 2149. 2150. 2151. 2152. 2153. 2154. 2155. 2156. 2157. 2158. 2159. 2160. 2161. 2162. 2163. 2164. 2165. 2166. 2167. 2168. 2169. 2170. 2171. 2172. 2173. 2174. 2175. 2176. 2177. 2178. 2179. 2180. 2181. 2182. 2183. 2184. 2185. 2186. 2187. 2188. 2189. 2190. 2191. 2192. 2193. 2194. 2195. 2196. 2197. 2198. 2199. 2200. 2201. 2202. 2203. 2204. 2205. 2206. 2207. 2208. 2209. 2210. 2211. 2212. 2213. 2214. 2215. 2216. 2217. 2218. 2219. 2220. 2221. 2222. 2223. 2224. 2225. 2226. 2227. 2228. 2229. 2230. 2231. 2232. 2233. 2234. 2235. 2236. 2237. 2238. 2239. 2240. 2241. 2242. 2243. 2244. 2245. 2246. 2247. 2248. 2249. 2250. 2251. 2252. 2253. 2254. 2255. 2256. 2257. 2258. 2259. 2260. 2261. 2262. 2263. 2264. 2265. 2266. 2267. 2268. 2269. 2270. 2271. 2272. 2273. 2274. 2275. 2276. 2277. 2278. 2279. 2280. 2281. 2282. 2283. 2284. 2285. 2286. 2287. 2288. 2289. 2290. 2291. 2292. 2293. 2294. 2295. 2296. 2297. 2298. 2299. 2300. 2301. 2302. 2303. 2304. 2305. 2306. 2307. 2308. 2309. 2310. 2311. 2312. 2313. 2314. 2315. 2316. 2317. 2318. 2319. 2320. 2321. 2322. 2323. 2324. 2325. 2326. 2327. 2328. 2329. 2330. 2331. 2332. 2333. 2334. 2335. 2336. 2337. 2338. 2339. 2340. 2341. 2342. 2343. 2344. 2345. 2346. 2347. 2348. 2349. 2350. 2351. 2352. 2353. 2354. 2355. 2356. 2357. 2358. 2359. 2360. 2361. 2362. 2363. 2364. 2365. 2366. 2367. 2368. 2369. 2370. 2371. 2372. 2373. 2374. 2375. 2376. 2377. 2378. 2379. 2380. 2381. 2382. 2383. 2384. 2385. 2386. 2387. 2388. 2389. 2390. 2391. 2392. 2393. 2394. 2395. 2396. 2397. 2398. 2399. 2400. 2401. 2402. 2403. 2404. 2405. 2406. 2407. 2408. 2409. 2410. 2411. 2412. 2413. 2414. 2415. 2416. 2417. 2418. 2419. 2420. 2421. 2422. 2423. 2424. 2425. 2426. 2427. 2428. 2429. 2430. 2431. 2432. 2433. 2434. 2435. 2436. 2437. 2438. 2439. 2440. 2441. 2442. 2443. 2444. 2445. 2446. 2447. 2448. 2449. 2450. 2451. 2452. 2453. 2454. 2455. 2456. 2457. 2458. 2459. 2460. 2461. 2462. 2463. 2464. 2465. 2466. 2467. 2468. 2469. 2470. 2471. 2472. 2473. 2474. 2475. 2476. 2477. 2478. 2479. 2480. 2481. 2482. 2483. 2484. 2485. 2486. 2487. 2488. 2489. 2490. 2491. 2492. 2493. 2494. 2495. 2496. 2497. 2498. 2499. 2500. 2501. 2502. 2503. 2504. 2505. 2506. 2507. 2508. 2509. 2510. 2511. 2512. 2513. 2514. 2515. 2516. 2517. 2518. 2519. 2520. 2521. 2522. 2523. 2524. 2525. 2526. 2527. 2528. 2529. 2530. 2531. 2532. 2533. 2534. 2535. 2536. 2537. 2538. 2539. 2540. 2541. 2542. 2543. 2544. 2545. 2546. 2547. 2548. 2549. 2550. 2551. 2552. 2553. 2554. 2555. 2556. 2557. 2558. 2559. 2560. 2561. 2562. 2563. 2564. 2565. 2566. 2567. 2568. 2569. 2570. 2571. 2572. 2573. 2574. 2575. 2576. 2577. 2578. 2579. 2580. 2581. 2582. 2583. 2584. 2585. 2586. 2587. 2588. 2589. 2590. 2591. 2592. 2593. 2594. 2595. 2596. 2597. 2598. 2599. 2600. 2601. 2602. 2603. 2604. 2605. 2606. 2607. 2608. 2609. 2610. 2611. 2612. 2613. 2614. 2615. 2616. 2617. 2618. 2619. 2620. 2621. 2622. 2623. 2624. 2625. 2626. 2627. 2628. 2629. 2630. 2631. 2632. 2633. 2634. 2635. 2636. 2637. 2638. 2639. 2640. 2641. 2642. 2643. 2644. 2645. 2646. 2647. 2648. 2649. 2650. 2651. 2652. 26

DATE: 11/11/2010

Chomley

Chamber

Chamberlain & C.

• **Prevalence** is the proportion of a population that has a disease at a particular point in time. It is a snapshot of the disease in a population at a particular time. It is calculated as the number of people with the disease divided by the total population.

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NOTES

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By Ed

1. The first step is to identify the problem or goal. This involves understanding the current situation and what needs to be achieved.

Business

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce wants Gov. Rockefeller to also

...into law the new air pollution measure?

into law the new air pollution measure.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

| U.S. Cities | High | Low | Outlook |
|------------------------|------|-----|---------|
| Albany, N.Y. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Albuquerque, N.M. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Alhambra, Calif. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Alma, Mich. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Alton, Ill. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Altus, Okla. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ames, Iowa | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Amesbury, Mass. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Amherst, Mass. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Amherst, N.Y. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Anchorage, Alaska | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Annapolis, Md. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ansonia, Conn. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Antioch, Ill. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Apache Junction, Ariz. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Arcadia, Calif. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ardmore, Okla. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Arkadelphia, Ark. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Arroyo Grande, Calif. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Asheville, N.C. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ashland, Mass. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ashland, N.H. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ashland, Wis. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Ashtabula, Ohio | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aspen, Colo. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Astoria, Ore. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Atascadero, Calif. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Atchafalaya, La. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Attleboro, Mass. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Auburn, Mass. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Auburn, N.Y. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Ill. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Mo. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, N.D. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Wis. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Wyo. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Ky. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Ind. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Pa. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, S.C. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Tenn. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, Va. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Aurora, W.Va. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
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|-------------------|----|----|-----|
| Anchorage | 36 | 75 | rn |
| Atlanta | 81 | 54 | cdy |
| Baltimore | 43 | 35 | clr |
| Boston | 55 | 38 | cdy |
| Charleston, S.C. | 64 | 54 | cdy |
| Cincinnati | 69 | 58 | cdy |
| Dallas-Fort Worth | 67 | 54 | rn |
| Denver | 37 | 36 | an |
| Honolulu | 82 | 69 | clr |
| Houston | 78 | 60 | rn |
| Jacksonville | 85 | 53 | clr |
| Las Vegas | 51 | 41 | rn |
| Los Angeles | 61 | 47 | cdy |
| Miami | 71 | 62 | clr |
| New York | 58 | 37 | clr |
| Phoenix | 64 | 53 | rn |
| St. Pete-Tampa | 80 | 53 | clr |
| Washington | 65 | 60 | clr |

| World Cities | High | Low | Outlook |
|--------------|------|-----|---------|
| Beirut | 48 | 55 | cd |
| Buenos Aires | 84 | 78 | clr |
| Cairo | 82 | 50 | cdy |
| Hong Kong | 44 | 83 | cdy |
| London | 45 | 61 | clr |
| Madrid | 54 | 41 | rn |
| Mexico City | 79 | 54 | clr |
| Montreal | 45 | 28 | clr |
| Moscow | 16 | 18 | clr |
| Paris | 50 | 39 | cdy |
| Rome | 53 | 41 | rn |
| San Juan | 82 | 73 | cdy |
| Tel Aviv | 73 | 55 | clr |
| Tokyo | 52 | 44 | cdy |

Highs and lows are previous day's. Outlook is for today's sky conditions.

"What happens then," continued Bur-

Yet, good results will follow, he indicated, but not necessarily from the time "they were locked in honest debate on how much tax relief to give." Removal of the food tax will cause many problems for small merchants, he said.

“If it is shown juvenile crime is going

Chemical

The purpose of the testing now, Bishop said, is to assist the World Health Organization in attempts to measure long-term effects of exposure to dioxin.

Mrs. Maxine Scarbro of room or cabin reservat-
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For further information
forms, call the DNR at
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Chamber Urges Jay to Sign New Air Pollution Measure

By Edward Peck

Business/Labor Editor

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce wants Gov. Rockefeller to sign into law the new air pollution measure electricity and to produce steam power for industry, they maintain. This hurts coal production; particularly in the northern section of the state where the

ALS



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Monsanto Tests Workers In Bladder Cancer Check

ST. LOUIS (AP) — About 100 past and present Monsanto Co. employees are being monitored for bladder cancer — more than two decades after the giant firm stopped production of a chemical that led to the deaths of 14 employees, a company spokesman says.

Barney Wander, manager of science information for the St. Louis-based firm, said Friday 14 persons have died and 100 have developed bladder tumors up to this year as a result of their employment by Monsanto Co. in the manufacture of a carcinogenic chemical 23 years ago.

Wander declined to reveal the names of these workers who died of bladder cancer, or of company officials involved in the production of the chemical para-aminodiphenyl (PAB). Some

details of the handling of the chemical had previously been published in medical journals, but Monsanto had not been identified. Further details were provided by Monsanto in response to media inquiries following a brief mention of the problem by a Monsanto official at a Washington news conference last week.

About 700 workers in St. Louis, Hampton, Ill., and Nitro, W.Va., came in contact with the chemical, which was used as an anti-oxidant in the rubber industry, Wander said. Of that total, 200 have died of unrelated causes, or lost contact with the company. Wander said no new tumors have been discovered in the remaining 100 in more than three years, although medical monitoring continues at company cost. There was, however, a recurrence of a tumor ear-

lier this year, he added.

"It seems like we're over the hump of that period, so the probability of getting more tumors now is lessened," Wander said. "That's not proven, but it's a medical theory."

He said the company discontinued production of the chemical 22 months after it was first discovered to cause tumors in employees who were exposed to it. He said dogs first were tested with the chemical, and later workers were monitored.

"When, after 22 months, we found that an excess number of bladder tumors were occurring in employees, we discontinued production," Wander said.

Workers and their labor union were immediately informed of the chemical's risk, and Monsanto has paid all medical costs for the 700 employees affected, the company said. The current officers of the union said they knew nothing of the PAB episode.

In addition, although Missouri, Illinois and West Virginia denied the employees workmen's compensation benefits, the company said it paid death benefits to relatives of the victims.

Wander said there is no way to estimate the company's cost of the treatment and detection program because of the widespread nature of the treatment, but said the cost has been substantial.

He added that PAB is the only chemical discontinued by Monsanto in its 75-year history because of dangers posed to employees.

Coal-To-Gas Plan Developed By Conoco

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A clean-burning substitute natural gas can be produced from coal found in abundant quantities in the eastern United States, according to a subsidiary of the Continental Oil Co.

Conoco Coal Development Co. said Friday an extensive pilot plant gasification test in Westfield, Scotland, recently converted 970 tons of Pittsburgh seam coal to pipeline quality, synthetic natural gas.

The Pittsburgh seam contains more than 19 billion tons of economically recoverable reserves distributed about equally in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, according to U.S. Bureau of Mines statistics.

"If all these reserves were converted into substitute natural gas by the method used at Westfield, they would provide the equivalent of a 20-year national supply of natural gas at 1977 production levels," said William Carter, vice president of the development company.

"By contrast, current proved and recoverable natural gas reserves represent only a 12-year supply," he said.

The process is not expected to be commercially competitive immediately, according to the company, which did not disclose economic feasibility studies.

The synthetic gas produced in Scotland was part of a program sponsored

The pilot gasifier, developed by the British Gas Corp., used very high temperatures to convert solid ash from coal into a liquid, or slag, which can be removed while gasification continues.

"No mechanical or processing problems occurred during the run and the equipment was found to be in excellent condition at the conclusion, despite the exclusive use of Pittsburgh seam coal," Carter said.

Other than routine washing and screening at a preparation plant in Imperial, a western Pennsylvania community, the coal used in the Scotland test was untreated.

Carter said previously successful gasifications combined Pittsburgh seam coal with specially pretreated coals.

"Elimination of special pretreatment and the ability to feed caking coal exclusively in a commercial scale plant would simplify design and operation, and improve its economic viability," Carter said.

Pittsburgh seam coal is currently mined as fuel for utility power generators. However, the coal's high-sulfur content, a source of potential pollution, has inhibited its full use.

The sulfur is removed and captured in the gasification process, Conoco said.

Carter said his firm has proposed construction of a government-funded demonstration plant for the eastern U-

Coal Suits Dismissal Indicated

Nearly all of the more than 100 coal company suits stemming from wildcat strikes now pending against the United Mine Workers in U.S. District Court in Charleston will be dismissed, attorneys have indicated.

At a conference Friday with U.S. District Court Judge Dennis Knapp, attorneys representing several coal companies indicated their clients were willing to drop the suits in the interest of preserving labor harmony in the coalfields.

Many of the suits, filed by coal companies to force striking miners back to work during unauthorized work stop-



3100 West Virginia Capitol

COMMENTARY

Stereograph: A 'Golden'

By CHARLES CONNOR

This believed to be one of the

STONEWORK
Daily Mail Series By William Thomas

36 Bladder Cancer Cases Reported

Gazette 10/12/77
A total of 36 workers at the Monsanto chemical plant at Nitro developed bladder cancer during the 20-year PAB crisis, the company's national headquarters at St. Louis reported Tuesday.

Communications director Barney Wander said Monsanto records indicate only six of the 36 died from it. Bladder cancer is less deadly than some other tumors, he said, because it usually is detected early.

The number of men who underwent surgical removal of their bladders wasn't determined in a search through records Monday and Tuesday, Wander added.

This week, it was disclosed publicly for the first time that the Nitro plant has had a health dilemma for two decades. In the 1950s, Monsanto discovered that a synthetic rubber chemical, para-amino-biphenyl (PAB), was causing bladder cancer in Nitro workers. PAB production was halted and all exposed men were put under medical supervision.

Wander said 227 men were placed in the screening program. Over the years, 72 of them have died from various causes or dropped out of the program, he said. The rest still are receiving two medical examinations a year.

Veteran Monsanto workers who have kept track of the crisis believe that more than six deaths were attributable to the cancer. They say some victims had bladder surgery and later died — but death certificates cite other reasons as the main cause of death.

Meanwhile, some members of the 450-man Nitro work force say they still develop skin cysts from exposure to 2-4-5-T weed-killer which was manufactured at the plant in the 1960s. Monsanto no longer makes the defoliant, but other companies do. David Wooley, a lawyer with Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, said Tuesday that some rural families have asked him to take legal steps to prevent companies from spraying 2-4-5-T on rights-of-way on their farms because they think the chemical is dangerous.

Six deaths linked to synthetic rubber

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — As many as six workers exposed to a chemical used in making synthetic rubber in the 1950s may have died from a rare form of cancer, it has been reported.

Another 150 of their colleagues have undergone twice-yearly tests since then.

The Charleston Gazette reported today that Monsanto chemical company spokesman Barney Wander said about six employees heavily exposed to the substance at a plant near here died of bladder tumors. Use of the substance, para-amino bophenyl (PAB), was stopped immediately when the cancer threat surfaced in 1955, he said.

HOWEVER, Wander later denied that he had specified six deaths. "I don't know the number of deaths myself. I have no way to judge that," Wander told the Associated Press.

In Akron, spokesmen for Goodyear, B. F. Goodrich and Firestone said the companies' records show that PAB was not used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber.

The Gazette reported that workers at the plant at Nitro said as many as 12 may have died of bladder cancer.

The company discovered in 1955 that PAB was entering the lungs of workers and passing through their blood and urine to their bladders.

where it caused cancer, according to Wander, who is based in St. Louis.

"We immediately stopped using PAB," Wander said. "Monsanto did all it could to make the best of a difficult situation . . . There are 155 men at Nitro in the screening program, getting medical exams every six months. We've never attempted to hide it. All the families knew about it."

MONSANTO could not be sure of the number of PAB-related deaths and illnesses without extensive checks of company files, Wander said. He added that PAB had been used only at the Nitro plant.

Estel Dailey of Bancroft in Putnam County was one worker who was exposed to PAB. He told the Gazette: "They doctored me six or seven years before they finally took my bladder out in 1964. Monsanto paid all my medical costs . . .

"I'm the only one I know who lived this long, but my back and hips hurt so bad I can't do much."

Others who worked at Monsanto at the time said that after the danger was discovered, part of the building where PAB was used was torn down and remodeled.

TWO OTHER chemicals used in the rubber industry have been linked with cancer. Last year, the Beacon Journal reported at least 12 deaths from leukemia or blood-related diseases among Goodyear workers exposed to benzene, a toxic solvent used in the manufacture of pliofilm, a clear, rubber-like food wrap. A federal agency declared benzene a cancer-causing agent in August 1976.

And vinyl chloride, used to make everything from raincoats to electrical wires and floor mats, has been linked with a rare form of liver cancer. Strict government controls now limit the emissions of both chemicals.

Of Shakeup

By RICHARD GRIMES
Chief Of The Capital Bureau

State Corrections Commissioner Stewart Worrell said today he has fired the administrative assistant at Pruntytown Industrial School for Boys, demoted the deputy superintendent and retained and reorganized the superintendent for a streamlined organization at the facility.

Worrell refused to comment on the cause of the shake-up and would not say whether it was related to a case pending in U.S. District Court in which he is criminally charged by a mistress and the facility's director.

Worrell, who has taken command of the school, said that Sup't Mark Stoddard will become coordinator of training schools but will take a salary cut from \$23,900 to \$21,360.

Worrell brought Stoddard to the school this year and he was confirmed in the state senate in June.

Deputy Sup't Charles Taylor, who has been with the corrections department for 36 years, was demoted to administrative assistant and will take a cut in salary from \$17,800 to \$15,100.

A Pruntytown administrative assistant, William Hall, who has worked in corrections for 10 years and was earning \$14,600, will be terminated as of Oct. 25, Worrell said.

The commissioner, who spoke to reporters via a telephone hookup from Pruntytown, said he will appoint two new superintendents for Pruntytown and Salem Industrial School for Girls. He said two chief corrections officers will serve as deputies to the superintendent.

Worrell said the changes were necessary for him to reorganize the operation of the two industrial homes, which he hopes to combine eventually into a single operation with several locations. He said there was a problem with accountability, and that on one occasion an inmate escaped from Pruntytown.

(Turn to Page 12A, Col. 2)



FOUND SLAIN — These three youngsters were found stabbed to death in a shallow stream near Elverson, Md., on Monday. The girls from left are Ann Marie Brzezinska, 5; Theresa Hagan, 5; and her sister Deborah Anne, 10. AP Wirephoto.

3 GIRLS STABBED TO DEATH

Killings Stun Neighborhood

ELVETON, Md. (AP) — The discovery of the bodies of three missing girls, stabbed repeatedly through their backs and left lying face down in a creek, stunned the neighborhood tonight.

The bodies of Theresa Hagan, 5, her sister Deborah Anne, 10, and Ann Marie Brzezinska, 5, were found Monday. The girls had left a house early Sunday morning to play and were last seen on a bridge over a stream which runs through a wooded area near the subdivision where they lived.

State Medical Examiner Russell Fisher said two of the girls had been stabbed about six times, and the third girl had more than a dozen knife wounds. Fisher said the murder weapon was probably a hunting knife with a blade at least five inches long.

The girls were found fully clothed and there was no evidence that they had been sexually molested, Fisher said.

"We don't have anything," said Detective Sgt. William Chapman of the Anne Arundel County homicide squad. "No clues, no motives, no weapon."

News of the slayings sent parents in Southgate Elementary School to gather up their children when classes were

dismissed. School officials said details of the slayings were not to be released until after the bodies had been identified.

The girls were last seen on the creek bridge Sunday morning. They were last seen on the bridge over a stream which runs through a wooded area near the subdivision where they lived.

Worrell was first to the scene Monday and he said the girls were found in a creek near the school.

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There was no comment from Stoddard and John Brzezinska, the parents of Ann Marie and Deborah Anne, said the girls were last seen on the bridge over a stream which runs through a wooded area near the subdivision where they lived.

Richard Hogan, the father of the other two girls, said he was in the neighborhood when the girls were last seen. He said he was in the neighborhood when the girls were last seen.

Neighbors in the area controlled access to the creek. They were told not to let anyone near the creek.

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BLADDER CANCER SURVIVOR

'There's So Many You Forget Them'

By JEFF KONNETT
Of The Daily Mail Staff

Whatever a man works, he's working in danger all the time, said Estel Hader of Hanroff, who believes he may be the only survivor of a rare bladder cancer found among employees of a para-aminobiphenyl (PAB) manufacturing unit at Monsanto.

Hader, 70, revealed that employees of the now-demolished unit were exposed to the liquid called PAB from the early 1940s to 1955, which entered the blood stream of the men and filtered through the kidneys to the bladder. In some cases it caused cancer, fatal to an estimated six to 12 former workers.

A former Monsanto employee Sherman Withers, 63, a resident who suffered from prostate cancer, joined in publicizing the history of cancer at Building 34.

Though the cancer was reported in St. Louis newspapers in 1955 and 1956, PAB was in use in the spring of 1955 and in union publications of the same period. It was never made public by the company in the Kentucky Valley, Mon-

ro to its headquarters in St. Louis. Federal agencies such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the U.S. Center for Disease Control had no record of the cases before they occurred in the 1950s.

Hader said the agencies were established before the cancer was found among employees of the PAB manufacturing unit at Monsanto.

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(Turn to Page 12A, Col. 1)



Columbus Statue Needs Place To Land

WASHINGTON, AP — Nineteen years after its removal from the East Front of the Capitol, a controversial statue of Christopher Columbus is looking for a new home.

The discovery by Luigi Protti, a sculptor outside the East Front for 15 years, helped it was placed in temporary storage during a Capitol renovation.

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IN EXILE — This statue of Christopher Columbus and a sculptor, a Sicilian migrant decorated the east front of the Capitol for 114 years until it was removed during a building expansion in 1958. The controversial statue titled "The Discovery" has been in a warehouse ever since. AP Wirephoto.

Big E
500-Pound K

Top Of
The Consumer

The Coaches

Justice Neely thinks a lobby is needed in House. Richard Grimes story Page 1A.

They met last night at Harry's to display their boxes and talk shop. Writer Riv says it looks like the year freshman Page 10A.



Corner

Robin Scott—a senior at George Washington High School—is getting in a little studying before a B team football game. Robin, a resident of 863 Sherwood Road, is a water girl for the varsity and B team, a member of the pep club and will try out for the track team. She plans on majoring in speech at Fairmont State College next year.

CANCER SURVIVOR

(Continued From Page One)

...spending Easter weekend in Nitro and told customers it was stopping production immediately. Treatment of the affected employees started right away.

Many workers eventually underwent major surgery, and some later died from complications or other causes of cancer. Warden said he did not have the number of bladder cancer victims at just Monsanto was running its files through computers to seek the exact number. Workers put at his disposal and

Monsanto continues to keep 135 files on under other medical surveillance. The number is large because many employees were exposed to union and bladder files from unit to unit at the plant without knowing that this

potential unit was a risk.

Daley, who left the mines after 23 years in 1945 to work at Monsanto, said he was in another part of the plant for two years before he had successfully for a spot in Building 34, the affected work area. He worked shift work rotating clock work making "wood" and "weed killer," which he claimed was also hazardous to the workers.

That PAB would give you tumors in your bladder, that's what they told me," Daley said from his home in Baltimore. "The weed killer, that was bad too. It would give you bumps as big as marbles."

Warden said Monsanto stopped making the "weed killer" H.V.X.T. in 1969. He said the skin infections were probably the result of an accidental spill rather than a long period of exposure to the substance.

Daley retired after he had to have his bladder removed in 1964. He said he is presently in fair health and hasn't had to go to the hospital in three years. But he said most of his fellow plant workers, including his foreman, have died, some of them from bladder cancer.

The former employee said when the company discovered the possible cancerous effects on the workers, it sent a whole gang of us to Charleston Memorial Hospital to have the doctors find tumors in us.

He said that was about 20 years ago, but didn't remember exactly. "Some of the men, nothing didn't show the first time, but you'd go twice a year. I went up until they took my bladder out in 1964."

Some workers were sent out of state to hospitals for more serious cases, he recalled. They sent Russell Terry up in Baltimore twice, along about 1966. He didn't live too long after that, he said.

Daley said he thought all the other "fellows" were dead though he said he isn't sure about two or three whose names he didn't remember. "There's so many you just forget them," he noted.

Born in Lenoire County, he entered the mines in 1922 and lived in county with his father during the 1920s and 30s. He took the job with Monsanto. He said he receives \$128 in company retirement, \$64 in Social Security benefits for him and his wife, and \$708 in black lung payments.

Daley said Monsanto supplies him with the medicine pills and that he said his wife recently covered under the company's insurance plan, as well as Medicare.

Warden said routine medical examinations at the Nitro plant have not detected any more problems there.

And he said the company has learned a lot from the tragedy.

There have been about 150 times since make PABs as a 2001 intermediate of both times we're relieved," Warden said. He also said he's going home tonight. If a third tragedy here, cases has been good in the 20 years of mine in and the 1920s.

2 Hijackers Seek Asylum In Germany

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP)—A man and woman employed by the Czechoslovak Airlines and carrying loaded pistols hijacked a domestic jetliner to Frankfurt airport today and asked for political asylum, police said.

The two wore their uniforms but carried 25 passengers, police said.

After holding the other 24 passengers and three crew members hostage on the plane for two hours, the two surrendered to police, Frankfurt police chief Knut Mueller said. He identified them only as Vlastav 29 and Helena 22, both employees of the CSA Airlines in Karlovy Vary, since their flight was known as "Libad 22." They carried pistols when they boarded the flight to Prague, he said.

The hijackers were taken to the airport terminal for questioning and were expected to be formally arrested later today for "endangering airline transport," Mueller said.

Airport authorities said the hijackers only said to another would return to Czechoslovakia with the passengers and crew.

After the plane landed, the hijackers demanded a 100,000 mark ransom for a 100 mile flight southward to Munich. Authorities said they told them that the ransom was not needed for the flight was not really a hijack, but a flight.

Daley said a Frankfurt airport official told him Klaus negotiated with the hijackers through an intermediary of the jetliner which was parked but not out of the terminal and surrounded by police and soldiers.

County Weighs

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ANY STYLE YOU NEED. TRADITIONAL, CONTEMPORARY, OR EARLY AMERICAN, IN A VARIETY OF BEAUTIFUL FABRICS

FULL SIZE AND QUEEN SIZE STARTING AS LOW AS \$375.00

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The Charleston Gazette

The State Newspaper

Morning, October 11, 1977

24 Pages, 2 Sections, 15 cents

VALLEY EDITION

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to said persons attempting to
photograph the eclipse should be
broadly warned.
Although the eclipse is total in
some parts of the world, only 18
percent of the sun's diameter will
be covered in Charleston at the
maximum eclipse at 5:15 p.m. The
first contact will be made at 4:23
p.m. and the last contact at 5:25
p.m. with the sun about 17 degrees
above the southwest horizon at
maximum eclipse.



"Many people are under the
false assumption that it is safe to
watch the partial phase of an
eclipse," said Virginia S. Boyce,
executive director of the National
Society for the Prevention of
Blindness. "This is a dangerous fal-
lacy—the partial phase is the
more dangerous to view."
"Even though only a portion of
the sun remains visible, the light
coming through has full intensity
and can burn the retina, the deli-
cate backlayer of the eye that
transmits images to the brain. The
principle is similar to the way a
magnifying glass can burn a hole in
a piece of paper with the sun's rays
reflected on the paper."
"The sun's bright rays prevent us
from gazing directly on a regular

day. During an eclipse, these rays
are progressively blocked, making
it easier to look directly at the sun.
Visible dangerous infrared rays
continue to be emitted, and can
burn the eyes instantaneously,
without your being aware of it.
Burns to the retina are incurable
and can produce a blind spot in the
viewer's field of vision—in the
vital area for reading and close
work."
"Sunglasses, goggles, smoked
glass filters or homemade viewing
devices cannot give the eyes 100-
percent protection from the harm-
ful rays of the sun. Watching the
eclipse directly, even for a quick
moment, could mean serious prob-
lems for the careless observer."

Congress Warned on Canal Treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former
ambassador to the State of South
Vietnam on Monday said any
treaty to open up a U.S. right of
navigation in the Gulf of Tonkin
would be a "very serious problem
with Latin America."
Sen. Howard D. Baker told
the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
that he believed the treaty would
be a "very serious problem with
Latin America." Baker said the United
States should not open the canal
to foreign ships without the consent
of the Latin American countries in the
area.

But he said that because of the diffi-
culty of agreeing with Panama on the
exact meaning of certain terms, it
would be better to leave the language
alone. "I would be very concerned with
improving with the wordage," Taylor
said. "I think it would be very danger-
ous."

Can't Cope, Cold Weather Study Shows

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new De-
partment of Energy has seriously over-
estimated its ability to cope with another
cold winter and resulting natural gas
shortages, a congressional report says.
Federal officials have said they will
be able to make up 80 percent of
expected shortages like those that
closed schools and factories last winter.

Bladder Cancer Nightmare Bared in Nitro

By James A. Houghton
Investigative Reporter

Unknown to the rest of the Kanawha
Valley, a bladder cancer "warfare" has
haunted the Monsanto chemical plants
at Nitro for two decades.
Workers say more than a dozen men
have died of rare bladder tumors or
have undergone bladder removal that
leaves them dependent on artificial ur-
ine drainage apparatuses.
Monsanto officials were asked last
Thursday by the Gazette for details.
Corporation officers in St. Louis said
Monday they couldn't give exact num-
bers of victims without extensive
searching through company records.
One official said he thinks there have
been six deaths and "a number" of
bladder operations.

Wander said Monsanto never
used PAB at any other plants, and he
isn't sure whether any other chemical
firms used it. Articles about PAB dan-
gers were published in technical jour-
nals, but nothing has been reported in
news media, he said. "We've never
attempted to hide it," he said. "All the
families knew about it."

(Please Turn to Page 5B, Col. 2)

Power Firm's Rate Appeal Is Denied

By Robert C. Walling
The Associated Press

The state Supreme Court Monday
refused to review Appalachian Power
Company's appeal of a May Public Ser-
vice Commission order requiring custo-
mer refunds totaling \$45 million.
The action could mean Appalachian
would have to process the refunds to its
328,000 customers by Oct. 30.
The court voted 4-1 in refusing to
docket the appeal from a May 6 PSC
order dealing with two Appalachian
rate hike requests. That May PSC de-
cision is also at issue in U.S. District
Court here. The utility also applied to
that court for temporary and perma-
nent injunctions against enforcement
of the order for payment of refunds.
U.S. District Judge Dennis K. Knapp
has not yet ruled in the case.
In its request for state Supreme
Court review of the decision, Appala-
chian contended the rates allowed by
the PSC were insufficient for the utility
to attract new capital.

(Please Turn to Page 12A, Col. 1)

Eye-Opener

Good Morning

Climb into your woolies, because the first mention of snow is
made in today's forecast—but only for the higher elevations of
the state. Highs today will be in the upper 60s with lows in the



Potentially

ter and those of 456 other worried citizens EPA's ruling is due next April.

As a result, the controversy is hot for each alleged victim of 2,4,5-T, as inspectors try and a hole and heavily machine wear. The increments are at each others' throats. Tons of thousands of research projects have been conducted, but exact results in debate.

Talks

million Americans against the disease. The decision followed reports that Dr. M. J. A. had died from virus flu disease.

"Whatever the contemporary notions from outside, it was party politics, President Ford wanted to protect the public health," Neustadt and Flansburg said in the report.

The former president told the authors he felt "you ought to gamble on the side of nature—the report said."

Egypt has limited an embargo in the treaty which would create a deadlock between the two. Various devices have been suggested, including a five-year review clause in the treaty that would bring it up for renegotiation just as Israel is supposed to be reaching the ultimate status of the West Bank and Gaza.

been suggested, including a five-year review clause in the treaty that would bring it up for renegotiation just as the Israeli is supposed to be reaching the ultimate stages of the West Bank and Gaza.

From Left: Dan

...because some people had contracted Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare paralyzing disease, from the inoculations.

Federal health officials, for example, say the immunization campaign may have increased the risk of the fact that any flu inoculations will increase a person's small risk of getting California-Born Syndrome, which case in 100,000 getting it and, most in 2

THE STUDY said the outcome may turn out on balance to have been more positive than negative for public health, but millions have heard of its abuses for the first time.

A senior health official is quoted as saying in the report as saying "Hell, the thing that was needed is planning, the worse the program was a day around the table brainstorming Mr. Lawrence's Law. If anything can go wrong, it will."

Printed Page One

Chief Petty Officer C.L. Kern said the cause of the collision was not known. He said the weather was clear; the seas calm and visibility unlimited at the time of the crash.

But Lt. John Karcher, the captain of a Coast Guard vessel which survived the collision this past Saturday morning, said the first drivers on the scene reported the ship was hit suddenly and there were apparently no survivors.

Colombians reported earlier that a least two of them aboard were American Navy Marines studying techniques of the Coast Guard for their own country, but he refused to say whether they were among the missing.

Coast Guard Lt. Jg. John Williamson said there was a 5 by 10-foot hole above the waterline in the bow of the Santa Cruz. The vessel remained anchored about 200 feet from where a buoy marked the wreckage site.

"Then he struck us on the starboard, we heeled over about 10 degrees," he said. "We started pulling people out of the bridge and trying to get them over the side of the vessel and into the water."

In 1943, another Coast Guard ship, the buoy tender *White Alder*, collided with a Mexican Customs freighter off the Louisiana Coast, killing 17 crew members. Only two bodies were recovered.

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Informal Negotiations

WASHINGTON (AP) - Egypt and Israel resumed informal peace talks Saturday as Israeli delegation leaders prepared to return to Jerusalem for consultations.

An Israeli spokesman, Nafiah Lavi,

said Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan met with his opposite number on the Egyptian side, Dr. Boutros Ghali. They were accompanied by their legal experts and by U.S. negotiators.

Earlier in the day, President Carter

met for an hour and 15 minutes with Ghali and other members of the Egyptian delegation. That session followed a 9 1/2-hour meeting Friday night in which Carter talked with Dayan and other Israelis.

Presidential spokesman Ron Givens said after the meetings that "all sides feel the talks were constructive and progress was made."

Lavi said there was no change in the Israeli plan to send Dayan, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, and the other leading members of the delegation back to Jerusalem Saturday night when the Jewish Sabbath prohibition on travel ends.

The two groups met in the Madinet Hotel, where both delegations have been staying during the round of peace talks held in the nation's capital. "We were staying in the same hotel, so why not talk to each other?" Lavi said.

Asked if there had been progress, he laughed. "When we have a treaty I'll tell you whether there has been progress," he said.

Lavi described the talks as "informal" which generally means that the delegations do not meet at Blair House, the official U.S. residence for visiting dignitaries and the site of the current talks. The negotiators were the same, however, and so presumably, were the matters under discussion.

(Turn to Page 6A, Col. 2)

Follow-Up Failure Costing \$3.4 Billion

WASHINGTON (AP) - The federal government is losing at least \$3.4 billion by failing to follow up on internal audits that discovered misapplied money, a House committee reported Saturday.

It is unbelievable that agencies are letting the resolution of audit findings drag on for years," said Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Texas, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee.

In a statement, the committee said the estimate of the government's loss is contained in a General Accounting Office report that is scheduled to be issued this week.

The committee said GAO's government-wide review of agency audit systems discovered a backlog of \$4.3 billion in unreviewed audit findings. The GAO, an investigative arm of Congress,

estimates that 80 percent, or \$3.6 billion, could be recovered from contractors and grant recipients.

The GAO report blames the failure to collect these funds primarily on a bureaucratic system that gives responsibility for acting on audits to the various divisions of the programs involved.

THESE OFFICIALS often give audit reports low priority, report the findings or fail to take aggressive action to recover misapplied funds, the agency said.

The GAO recommends that program administrators be given an incentive to collect amounts overpaid to contractors or grant recipients. And it proposes that if the money still has not been repaid after that time, an independent official should decide whether to continue the recovery effort.

Potentially Dangerous 2,4,5-T Sprayed Across U.S. Yearly

By Jane See White
The Associated Press

When scientists warned that Agent Orange might just might be the reason for a rash of birth defects in Vietnam, the U.S. halted its use of the weathering defoliant on the Vietnamese jungle.

But at home things were different.

Now, as then, the two compounds that comprised Agent Orange are sprayed on thousands of acres across the United States annually.

And now, as then, groups across the nation say one of the compounds is hazardous and should be banned.

Agent Orange use in Vietnam was halted in 1969 after South Vietnamese doctors reported an increase in miscarriages and deformed infants. Seven tests suspected the cause was 2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid which contains a contaminant that causes birth defects and cancer in laboratory animals.

AT HOME, foresters and farmers resisted the environmentalists' push for a ban. They said they needed 2,4,5-T to clear brush, weeds and hardwoods. The option they said is to do the work by hand and properly they said 2,4,5-T is safe.

They prevailed in 1969 largely because no scientific anywhere could prove conclusively otherwise. Now can now. But the debate continues.

The Veterans Administration says 500 Vietnam veterans are seeking disability for problems rang-

ing from nervous disorders to deformed children.

But many who use 2,4,5-T say their exposure begins such claims.

The veterans believe the problems stem from exposure 10 years ago to Agent Orange. To date, eight claims have been approved.

In Beaver Wash, Joe Pavel retired early from the county road crew after repeated bouts with double vision, exhaustion and skin rashes. Pavel drove a herbicide spray truck, clearing rights of way. He blamed the sprays.

In Grand Marais, Mich., an organic farmer named Harmon Seaver took a pot shot at a spraying helicopter in 1976. Seaver was acquitted on charges of aggravated assault. He claimed he fired in self-defense.

In Alsea Ore., a teacher named Bonnie Hill miscarried in the spring. So she realized had seven neighboring women. In April Mrs. Hill wrote the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

"We have charted the dates of our miscarriage with the dates that these industries have sprayed dioxin-containing herbicides and an incredibly close correlation exists."

THE PROTEST has snowballed across the nation. In Minnesota and California, in Tennessee and Missouri, angry citizens believe their exposure to 2,4,5-T caused cancer, exhaustion, miscarriages, skin rashes and deformed infants and farm animals.

(Turn to Page 6A, Col. 1)

John Paul Holds Press Conference

By Dennis Redmond

Related Story on Page 121

VATICAN CITY (AP) - Although shocked Vatican officials hadn't planned it that way, Pope John Paul II became the first pope to hold a news conference Saturday, fielding rapid-fire questions from a floor crammed with outspoken international reporters.

"Do you feel a prisoner of the Vatican?"

"I've only been here four or five days."

"Will you go to Russia?"

"If they let me."

"Will you ever hold regular press conferences?"

"As soon as I am allowed to. We'll see how you treat me."

JOHN PAUL, who is proving to be a first in many ways, turned the formal audience for journalists into an impromptu question and answer session at the end of a serious 15-minute talk on

press ethics and reporting religion.

The Polish pontiff said more reporters in 60 minutes of chatter than Saturday as he made his way out of the Hall of the Benedictionists, three predecessors had done a combined pontificate.

And while he walked along to don of outstretched hands, John seemed to be enjoying every minute.

On the day before his installation which will be attended by Henry VIII, Thomas P. O'Neill and native curia adviser Zdzislaw Brzezinski, former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, a former Roman Catholic priest with links to the Polish dissident movement, were refused permission to attend the inauguration.

(Turn to Page 6A, Col. 1)

'76 Flu Epidemic Odds Ignored, Study Reveals

WASHINGTON (AP) - Outside medical advisers felt the odds against a swine flu epidemic were at least 4-1 and possibly 60-1 even before the Ford administration rushed into its decision to mount the ill-fated mass vaccination drive in 1976, according to a government-financed study released Saturday.

Two Harvard professors found that uncertainties were magnified and the threat of a deadly epidemic maximized as H&W health officials convinced then H&W Secretary David Mathews and then President Gerald R. Ford to undertake the campaign against a widespread disease that never materialized.

"Overconfidence by specialists in

eval by health professionals in their lax supervision do right, both public relations are after mistakes cited in the past, more put prepared for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Entitled "The Swine Flu Affair: Decision Making on a Slippery Slope," the study cost \$85,000 and was written by political scientists Richard E. Neustadt and the late, Harvard public health professor.

(Turn to Page 6A, Col. 1)

What's





Controversy started with the spraying of jungles during the Vietnam War.

A Herbicide Under Attack: the Facts

Is it safe, or does it pose a danger to humans? Some answers about 2,4,5-T, a chemical vital to the nation's food and timber production:

Controversy has sprung up over a widely used agricultural chemical, 2,4,5-T, with claims—and denials—that it may be harmful to humans. Just what is 2,4,5-T?

It is one of a group of chemicals called phenoxy herbicides that are capable of selectively killing many broad-leaved weeds while leaving grasses, evergreens, and other plants relatively unharmed. Homeowners often apply such chemicals to their lawns to kill dandelions and other weeds.

What started the controversy?

The chemical 2,4,5-T was used in high concentrations as an ingredient of Agent Orange, a herbicide sprayed during the Vietnam War to defoliate jungles hiding enemy soldiers. Critics also have killed people, livestock and wild animals and caused human birth defects. Some Vietnam veterans claim they have been stricken with cancer and other ailments because of exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange in the jungles.

Have there been other incidents?

Yes. Opponents of the chemical claim that birth control in Alaska

Oregon had miscarriages between 1973 and 1977 and that the miscarriages coincided with the spraying of nearby forests with 2,4,5-T and a similar herbicide called Silver. They contend that the number of those miscarriages is unusually large. The Environmental Protection Agency is investigating.

Is there any evidence that will support those charges?

No, replies the EPA. And Boycie E. Day, professor of plant physiology at the University of California in Berkeley, says charges that Agent Orange harmed animals and humans in Vietnam "have not stood the test of exhaustive scientific investigation," even though the herbicide was used in far greater concentrations than is the current practice in the U.S.

Fears raised by the Oregon charges also have not halted the use of 2,4,5-T in the national forests by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After restricting the spraying of 2,4,5-T closer than one-quarter of a mile from a stream and within a mile of permanent dwellings, the USDA now has relaxed its rules. The safety barrier for spraying the chemical has been reduced to 200 feet, an 85 percent narrower strip. The 1-mile ban on spraying near permanent dwellings still stands.

Then why the concern over 2,4,5-T? A dioxin called TCDD—one of the

deadliest substances known—has been found in minute quantities in the chemical 2,4,5-T. The EPA says that tests by the National Institutes of Health found that heavy exposure to dioxin causes leukemia, liver and lung diseases, birth defects, and dead fetuses in laboratory animals. In similar tests, 2,4,5-T with most of the dioxin removed also proved harmful to laboratory animals.

Has 2,4,5-T been proven harmful to human beings?

As yet, there is no conclusive scientific evidence that links 2,4,5-T and other phenoxy herbicides to any human ailments. In a recent study, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, a nonprofit consortium of 25 scientific societies, contended that 2,4,5-T and other phenoxy herbicides are not toxic to man or animals under normal conditions and that the benefits outweigh the risks.

What role is the government playing in this controversy?

The EPA currently is engaged in a lengthy process to determine the future of the chemical. After carefully weighing the risks vs. the benefits, the EPA has one of three choices: allow continued use of the 2,4,5-T, permit continued use with tighter restrictions, or ban sale and use. A decision is expected in April, 1979. Meanwhile, the use of 2,4,5-T continues.

What are the uses of 2,4,5-T?

It has four major purposes: kill forest underbrush that retards the growth of conifer seedlings planted for lumber and pulpwood; control weeds in rice crops; kill noxious weeds and plants on grazing land; and clear brush littering utility rights-of-way.

How much 2,4,5-T is used each year?

The EPA says that about 12 million pounds of 2,4,5-T is manufactured in the U.S. each year. About half of it is exported. Over all, some 72 million pounds of phenoxy herbicides is used annually in the U.S.

What would happen if the chemical were banned?

No detailed cost analysis are available. However, most experts agree that alternatives to 2,4,5-T are more expensive and would increase the cost of lumber, agricultural products and clearing utility rights-of-way. One study, for example, estimates that if phenoxy herbicides are banned, the increased cost of alternative weed control measures would total about 1 percent of the farm value of all crops. □

INTERNATIONAL

Lawsuit in vintage Private Eye fashion. Writing under his customary pen name, Lord Gnome, he confidently assured readers last week, "My great organ which has weathered so many storms in the past will not, I am sure, be deflected from its course, let alone be destroyed by our present little difficulties." Ingrams seems to have some public support: Private Eye partisans have already contributed more than \$35,000 to a defense fund. Substituting insult for injury, Private Eye calls it "The Goldenball Fund."

—RICHARD STEELE with MALCOLM MACPHERSON in London

ITALY: Our Own Hiroshima

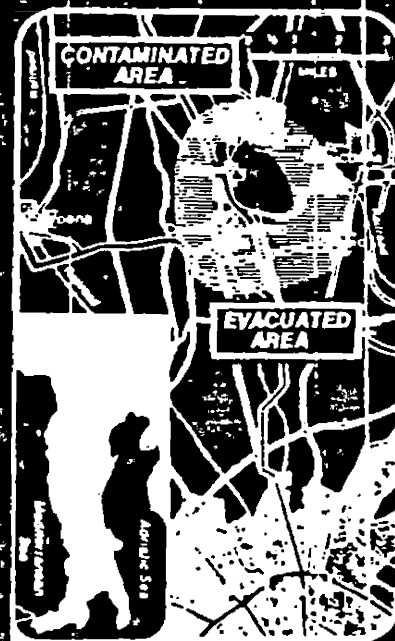
In the little town of Seveso, Giuseppina Senno could recall the precise moment on July 10 when it all began. "Suddenly I saw a white cloud, like steam, shoot up from the Icmesa factory, and then I smelled a nauseating odor," Mrs. Senno said last week. "I called the children into the house and closed the doors; but the smoke and smell were already in the house." That night she suffered headache and nausea, and the next day she took her two little daughters—who had developed acne-like sores and swollen eyes—to a doctor. Neither he nor Mrs. Senno realized it then, but the fumes from the chemical plant were the beginning of a medical catastrophe. Only weeks later—after what some people regard as an attempted cover-up—did it become clear that the cloud could cause damage to northern Italy's people, animals and plant life for generations.

The incident began when a safety valve at the factory, which makes chemicals for herbicides, medicines and cosmetics, malfunctioned. The ensuing cloud contained a highly toxic chemical known for short as dioxin, or TCDD, a component of the defoliants used by U.S. forces in Vietnam. A slight breeze blew the gas southward, contaminating Seveso and several other communities on the outskirts of Milan (map).

Inspections: For a week or more, none of the 100,000 residents of the area grasped the magnitude of the disaster. But soon animals were dying by the thousands and leaves on the trees began to wither. Doctors were swamped by patients complaining of skin ailments. Hundreds of cases of skin infection were diagnosed and, last week, nearly a month after the accident, fifteen people were still in the hospitals. By then, the area had been cordoned off by troops, people had been evacuated from the most heavily contaminated area and the consumption of local produce had been banned. The dioxin cloud, declared regional health minister Vittorio Riva, had become "our own little Hiroshima."

Many people in the Seveso region blamed Icmesa, a subsidiary of the Swiss pharmaceutical conglomerate Hoffmann-La Roche, for its slow res-

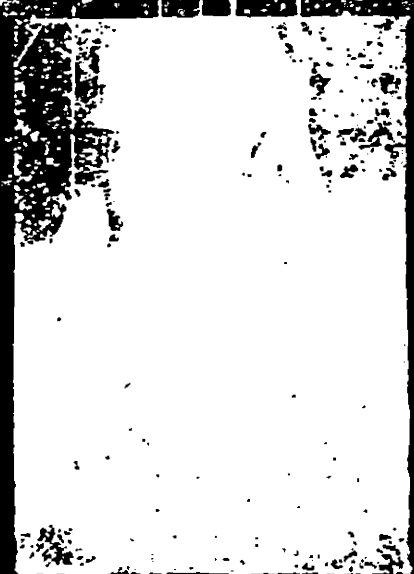
tion to the disaster. The day after the gas escaped, Icmesa assured local mayors that there was "nothing to worry about." On Monday, two days after the accident, the plant resumed operations, but company officials began to visit homes in the area to ask if any pets or farm animals appeared to be sick. A week after the accident, Icmesa informed municipal officials that, despite its earlier assurances, the gas presented a real danger. Finally, almost two weeks after the gas escaped, the company conceded that drastic measures, including evacuation, would have to be taken.



Dioxin's long-term effect was an even more serious concern than its immediate ravages. Past medical experience in other countries showed that small doses can damage human kidneys, livers and lungs. One distressing study from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the effect of dioxin on farm animals suggested that it is thousands of times more dangerous to fetuses than teratogen, the deforming agent in the now infamous thalidomide. Fear of bearing malformed children swept across Italy, and a number of doctors in Seveso warned that if they found signs of deformed fetuses in pregnant women, they would recommend abortion—a statement that touched off a heated debate in Catholic Italy.

To halt the spread of contamination, an army of veterinarians in protective suits began to kill all surviving animals in the Seveso area last week, and it

Finding the fumes: Evacuation from Seveso



Affected child: Can she live long?

seemed only a matter of time before the cornfields and vegetable patches that checker the quarantined zone would also have to be destroyed. But nobody knew how to achieve a real cleanup. Dozens of plans to decontaminate the area—from using flame throwers to burn off the area to soaping it down with chemical foams or natural fats—were considered and rejected. Comments from foreign experts also were discouraging. Prof. Ton That Tung, a North Vietnamese specialist on defoliants, predicted from Hanoi that the contamination would spread far beyond the Seveso area. A British report was, if anything, even grimmer. When a chemical firm in England was contaminated by dioxin in 1968, the only solution found for getting rid of the toxic chemical was to level the factory and bury the wreckage deep in an abandoned mine shaft.

—RAYMOND CARROLL with LOREN JACOBSON in Seveso