

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush will sign anti-crime bill from Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — President Bush, who has attacked the Democratic-controlled Congress as soft on crime, will sign the anti-crime bill lawmakers sent to him, the White House said Tuesday.

Bush, in recent campaign speeches to bolster Republican candidates,

U.S. BRIEFS

often accused the Democrats of "choking" his anti-crime package.

But his press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, said the president would sign the congressional version.

The House and Senate cut major provisions from the legislation that Bush had sought as a way of making the measure more acceptable. That included a provision to permit use of the death penalty for new categories of federal crimes.

The bill toughens penalties for certain white-collar crimes including a possible life prison term in some cases involving fraud by savings and loan officials.

Lawyer asks jury to spare life of convicted woman

CHILLICOTHE, MO. (AP) — The lawyer for a 69-year-old farm wife convicted in the murders of five transients in a cattle-rustling scheme appealed to a jury Tuesday to spare her life, citing years of torment by an abusive husband.

After closing arguments, the jury began deliberating whether to recommend Faye Copeland get life in prison without parole or death by lethal injection.

She was convicted Saturday of first-degree murder in the slayings.

Prosecutors allege her husband, Ray Copeland, 75, enlisted five drifters to buy livestock with bad checks, then killed them to conceal the thefts. Faye Copeland was his partner in the alleged scheme.

Four of the five bodies were found in shallow graves on farms where Copeland had worked. The fifth was found in a well.

Faye Copeland claims to suffer from battered-woman syndrome.

Poor weather threatens to delay Atlantis launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. (AP) — Five astronauts arrived Tuesday for Thursday's launch of Atlantis amid predictions of dismal weather that could delay the space shuttle's secret military flight.

The mission already is four months late because of hydrogen leaks that required a major overhaul of Atlantis and problems with a spy satellite aboard the shuttle.

Dangerously high winds were expected between 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Thursday, when Atlantis is scheduled to blast off. The exact launch time is being kept secret at the Pentagon's request.

Associated Press



Manpower worker Brian Valles of Reno, Nev., stands in line and carries an oil painting from the Mustang Ranch brothel to an IRS auctioneer in a tent jammed with bidders outside the former brothel Tuesday. More than 1,000 turned out to bid on fancy and plain items from the former house of ill repute.

Sale at defunct brothel lures over 1,000 bidders

MUSTANG, NEV. (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service held the yard sale of the year Tuesday, auctioning off Nevada's oldest legal house of ill repute and a third of a century worth of memorabilia ranging from kitschy to kinky.

Bidding for the two-building Mustang Ranch brothel complex got off to a slow start, with no takers as the price slumped from an asking price of \$10 million to \$1.4 million.

The majority of more than 1,000 registered bidders huddled under a red and white tent in the parking lot of the defunct bordello waiting to bid on souvenirs and memorabilia from Nevada's best known house of prostitution.

After a brief break, the brothel fetched a top bid of \$1.49 million from a man who refused to disclose his name or his plans for the 330-acre property 10 miles east of Reno.

"I have no comment," he said, as he was swarmed by reporters. Storey County has permanently revoked the property's permit to operate as a house of prostitution.

Former brothel boss Joe Conforte at first remained in the background, saying he was saddened by the auction.

"You're dealing with the IRS. What else can you do?" he asked. "My personal feeling is I hate to see this carnival happen."

As the sale progressed, Conforte moved near the front of the action, autographing items for successful bidders.

Mary Kay Walker and Bill Davies of San Diego said they were vacationing at Lake Tahoe and came to the auction out of curiosity.

They bought a painting of a partially clad woman for \$190.

"This is Nevada history," Walker said.

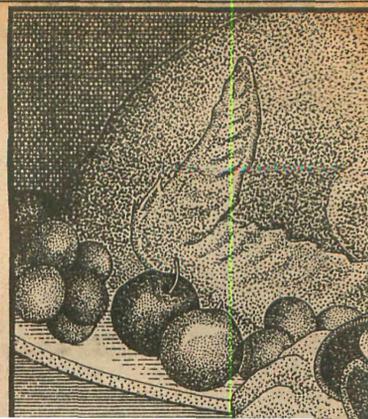
A box of six T-shirts bearing a Mustang Ranch logo fetched \$105, and a case of pocket-sized ceramic liquor bottles adorned with naked ladies sold for \$260.

A couple from the Reno area purchased a nude portrait for \$80.

"I liked it," said Marietta Shaw of Stead.

"It was cheaper than the T-shirts," said her husband, Michael Shaw.

Internal Revenue Service agents padlocked the 104-room bordello on Sept. 21, three days after the property owned by Conforte and his wife, Sally, was forced into bankruptcy liquidation.



Former ally: Thatcher is risk to nation

By LARRY EICHEL
Philadelphia Enquirer

LONDON, ENGLAND — Geoffrey Howe, whose resignation as deputy prime minister two weeks ago shook the British government, called on his fellow Conservatives Tuesday to choose between their loyalty to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the best interests of their country.

In a packed, hushed House of Commons, Howe delivered a full, frontal attack on the woman in whose cabinet he had served for 11 years. It was blunt, savage and high political drama.

And his words seemed to guarantee that Thatcher, who sat there and listened with a half-smile frozen on her face, will be confronted in the next few days with a serious challenge for her job from within her own party.

That challenge is most likely to come from Michael Heseltine, a man who has made no secret of his prime ministerial ambitions since the day he resigned as Thatcher's minister of defense four years ago.

In explaining his resignation, the normally mild-mannered Howe, a member of the party leadership for 25 years, said he had come to believe that Thatcher's opposition to European integration posed "serious risks for the future of our nation."

Thatcher, he said, clung to a "nightmare image" of Europe as a "continent that is positively teeming with ill-intentioned people, scheming, in her words, to extinguish democracy,



GEOFFREY
HOWE

MICHAEL
HESELTINE

to dissolve our national identities, to lead us through the back door into a federal Europe."

He described how he and other members of the cabinet would hammer out carefully crafted positions on delicate European matters knowing that "every step forward risked being subverted by some casual comment or impulsive answer" by Thatcher.

He had come, now, to see that task as "futile," to see Thatcher's position as "a real tragedy" and to see his loyalty to her as misplaced.

Then he delivered his final sentence.

"The time has come," he said, "for others to consider their own response to the tragic conflict of loyalties with which I have myself wrestled for perhaps too long."

One Conservative member of Parliament called the speech "an incitement to mutiny." Thatcher herself was said to be "saddened." Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock said the day had been "shattering for the government."

Whatever is to come of all this will happen quickly.

Under party rules, Heseltine or any other challenger to Thatcher has until Thursday to announce his candidacy in the regular, annual election for the post of party leader, the prerequisite for becoming prime minister. Heseltine was expected to disclose his intentions today.

lowan among congressmen visiting China

BEIJING, CHINA (AP) — Premier Li Peng on Tuesday greeted the first group of U.S. lawmakers to visit since the June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators and urged them to help improve China's relations with the United States.

The congressional group, led by Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, included Reps. Jim Ross Lightfoot, R-Ia.; John Rhodes, R-Ariz., E. Clay Shaw Jr., R-

WORLD BRIEFS

Fla., and George "Buddy" Darden, D-Ga., the State Department said. None serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The U.S. Embassy refused to provide details about the delegation's activities. But the visit was the lead item on the state-run evening television news, underlining the importance China attached to it.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted Li as telling the group that differences between the United States and China should not obstruct improved relations. He said economic cooperation and trade and technological exchanges between China and the United States help the people of both countries, the news agency said.

Publisher, dictator's aide face runoff in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA (AP) — A newspaper publisher and a dictator's aide began preparing for a runoff vote in Guatemala's presidential election Tuesday after voters soundly rejected the governing Christian Democrats.

Sunday's election narrowed a 12-man field to two contenders for the Jan. 6 runoff: publisher Jorge Carpio Nicolle, 58, and Jorge Serrano Elias, 45, a former top aide to retired Gen. Efraim Rios Montt. Both are political conservatives. The winner will be inaugurated Jan. 14.

U.S., Singapore sign pact over use of military bases

BOSTON GLOBE
TOKYO, JAPAN — The United States, in danger of losing its mammoth military bases in the Philippines, signed a pact with Singapore here Tuesday under which American military planes and ships will be allowed to operate on a larger scale out of bases in the tiny but strategic city-state.

The agreement, signed by Vice President Dan Quayle and Singapore's prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, will not create new U.S. bases. But it will permit what a State Department spokesman described as "greater access to existing military facilities" by U.S. Navy vessels and Air Force planes.

Gunman terrorizes village, kills eight in New Zealand

DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

3 Palestinian leaders are imprisoned

By JACKSON DIEHL
Washington Post

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL — Israeli authorities arrested three prominent Palestinian leaders Tuesday and ordered them imprisoned without trial in the most severe measure taken against the local Palestinian leadership in more than a year.

Military officials said they had detained journalists Radwan Abu Ayyash and Ziad Abu Zayyad, two well-known Palestinian spokesmen in the West Bank, who have been accused by Israel of being leaders of the intifada, or Arab uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In addition, authorities said a Palestinian leader in the Gaza Strip, Ahmed Yaziji, had been arrested and ordered to serve a year in detention.

The action by the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared tailored to satisfy hard-liners in the governing coalition who have been demanding a crackdown on the Arab rebellion.

At the same time, the measure ap-

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