Tuesday update

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Ex-Cops Get Year

HOUSTON (AP)-Three former Houston policemen, facing a maximum of life in prison, were sentenced today to serve one year in prison for violating the civil rights of a young Mexican-American who died while in their custody.

U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling assessed the penalty to defendants Terry Denson, Stephen Orlando and Joseph Janisch. A federal jury convicted them on Feb. 8 in connection with the May 1977 death of Joe Campos Torres, 23, a laborer, former serviceman and self-proclaimed karate expert whose body was found floating in Buffalo Bayou.

Rotary Club Ousted

SKOKIE, Ill. (AP)-The Rotary Club of Duarte, Calif., has been booted out of Rotary International because its leaders refused to get rid of female members, a club spokesman said today.

Rotary International spokesman John Giles said the California chapter had until midnight Monday to oust its three women.

Three Crashes In Row

SAN DIEGO (AP)-Navy officials were stunned and puzzled by the crash of three San Diego-based Navy jets in separate incidents within nine hours. Two crewmen were dead, a pilot was seriously injured and another crewman was missing.

Jury Probes Shooting

BIG SPRING (AP)-A Howard County grand jury expected to investigate last December's fatal shooting of a 19-year-old youth by a police sergeant has begun its deliberations.

The panel is expected to issue a report later in the week.

Big Spring police Sgt. Leroy Spires shot 19-year-old Juan Galaviz Dec. 10 following a high-speed chase, police said. Police were seeking a man who had tried to abduct the wife of the Midland College athletic director after a basketball game between Howard College and Midland College.

First Stop On Foreign Trip...

Carter Greeted In Venezuela

By FRANK CORMIER
Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)-President Carter arrived in Venezuela today on his first state visit to a Latin American country. He said his journey shows the United States knows the importance of the developing nations in a changing world.

Carter's trip to Latin America and Africa is the first of at least three overseas journeys he plans this year.

The president's blue and silver Air Force One jet touched down in a stiff wind at Simon Bolivar International Airport, nestled between the Caribbean Sea and the Avila Mountains.

Moments earlier, a street sweeper had cleaned the tarmac.

A red, white and blue banner proclaimed "Bienvenidos Presidente Carter y Sra" - welcome President Carter and wife. Several hundred members of a navy honor guard dressed in white stood at attention in 85-degree heat. Other military guards carried submachine guns. No civilians were in sight.

On his first day in Venezuela, the president arranged to place a wreath at the tomb of national hero Simon Bolivar, in the nave of the National Pantheon, a century-old Spanish renaissance-style church dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Later, he and President Carlos Andres Perez set aside more than two hours for talks about U.S.-Venezuelan relations. Topics included energy and economic cooperation, human rights, curbing the spread of nuclear weapons and restraints on arms trade.

International topics on the Carter-Perez agenda included the impact of oil prices on the world economy and politics in Africa. Venezuela provides much of the U.S. oil supply. Carter will visit Africa before returning to Washington next week.

In sharp contrast to a 1958 visit by then-Vice President Richard M. Nixon and a 1961 visit by President John F. Kennedy, no anti-American demonstrations were expected at Carter's arrival, and Venezuelan security measures were comparatively discreet.

his car nearly overturned when he rode into Caracas. The army mobilized 40,000 troops for Kennedy's visit.

Carter is popular here because of the human rights crusade he has championed during his campaign and in the White House. "The oppressed, the poor and even some leftists who once hated us now see Carter with respect," said one U.S. diplomat in Latin America.

PRESIDENT CARTER
...on foreign trip

Political Deadlines Come Fast

Political deadlines are coming thick and fast these days, and one of particular interest to some potential voters involves voter registration.

Anyone who does not have one of the new voter-registration cards (the yellow one) must register by April 6 in order to be qualified to cast a ballot in the primary election a month later.

Moreover, late April has been mentioned as a target date for a liquor election in Snyder. If this election is called for the last Saturday in April, which will be April 29, tomorrow is the last day for a non-registered voter to qualify himself to vote in that election.

Texas' voter registration law requires that a person be registered 30 days before he or she becomes eligible to cast a ballot.

Sea Conference In Round Seven

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP)-Round seven of the U.N. Law of the Sea conference opens today with rich and poor nations still far apart on how to share the vast wealth of the oceans.

The United Nations has defined the seas, the ocean floor and its subsoil with its huge resources as "the common heritage of mankind." And the Third World, seeking a new international economic order, has been pressing its claims for a share of that heritage since preparations for the talks began in 1967.

The conference is now in its fifth year, but prospects for the seventh session appear little brighter than the results of the six previous rounds. The industrial nations and the developing countries are still deadlocked on essential points.

At the heart of the dispute are the vast deposits of managanese nodules on the floor of the sea, pebbles rich in manganese, copper, nickel an cobalt believed to be worth billions of dollars.

The advanced industrial countries are preparing technology to scoop up these nodules and have been delaying exploitation in hopes of a Law of the Sea Treaty to regulate the mining.

Companies from the United States, Canada, Britain, Japan and other industrialized states want to begin mining the ocean floor by the early 1990's. Legislation before the U.S. Congress would license American companies to start without a treaty.

The developing countries insist seabed mining must be operated by an international authority that would award licenses to companies that would provide knowhow to the authority. The United States and other advanced nations reject this procedure.

The Third World also proposes that the international authority divide potential mining areas equally.

Harding To Campaign Here Tomorrow

Warren G. Harding, serving now by appointment, will bring his campaign for state treasurer to Snyder tomorrow.

Harding is scheduled to arrive by plane at 11:30 a.m. He will be met at the airport by Roger B. Mize, who will host a luncheon for Harding at the Scurry County Coliseum. Members of local service clubs have been invited to the luncheon session, at which Harding will speak. Harding will be accompanied here by W.O. Bankston of Dallas, who will introduce the candidate at the luncheon.

The SDN Column

Although we were there primarily on business, we had the good fortune to spend most of the Easter weekend in San Antonio, which lays claim to being one of the state's top tourist attractions.

And we believe most of them were there ... the tourists, that is. First of all, we were puzzled by the number of automobiles with registration tags from Mexico. There were many from Coahuila, Chihuahua and even from the Federal District (Mexico City). Finally, a San Antonian explained the situation.

Those people (in Mexico) get a whole week off from work during Holy Week and they head for San Antonio to shop. And indeed they were shopping.

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While there, we were determined to dine at one of those river walk establishments that get the rave notices in the rating columns of the magazines. With all of the tourists in town, along with a convention or two, we thought it wise to delay lunch, with hopes that the rush hour traffic would clear out. Well, at 2 p.m., there still was a waiting line at the riverside cafe we selected. It was 2:30 before we got a table and nearly 3 p.m. before we were served.

Meanwhile, our name had been put on a list and we were ushered to an area overlooking the river where two or three dozen other would-be diners were waiting to be called to their tables. It was here that we looked down on those already dining beside the river, and it was something of a tranquil scene. The little tables were strung along the riverbank, with little canvas umbrellas guarding against the sun --- and the birds.

As the crowd grew, however, a few extra tables were put into service and there apparently were not enough umbrellas to go around. But there were customers eager to sit in the sun. As we observed the formations of pigeons and boat-tailed grackles circling lower and lower over the tables we vowed that if our turn came when there were no covered tables available, we were going to retreat and then head for a fast food place.

As it worked out, we got a table on the porch. The food was palatable, but we've had equally as good and even better right here in Snyder, and without the pigeons and grackles.

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The cactus patch philosopher says one thing scientists can't seem to get the bugs out of is fresh paint. --WACIL McNAIR

Stock Market Turns Upward

NEW YORK (AP)-The stock market turned upward today, reversing a four-session slide.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, off 20.51 points over the past four trading days, was up 1.81 at 755.02 by noontime today.

Gainers took a 6-5 lead over losers among New York Stock Exchange-listed issues.

Continental Oil dropped ⅞ to 27 in active trading. The company said a loss in its coal operations because of the winter-long strike would hold down its earnings for the first quarter.

Munford, which reported Monday that it posted losses for the fourth quarter and for all of 1977, fell 2 to 7½.

Visiting Team Launches An Inspection Of WTC

A dinner in the Western Texas College cafeteria last night provided the setting for members of a committee representing the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to get aquainted with board trustees and members of the faculty who were involved in the college's self-study program.

The nine-member team arrived in Snyder yesterday for a three-day visit to inspect the campus and evaluate a self-study program in the college's bid for re-accreditation.

A college must have accreditation in order for students to transfer their credits to other colleges and universities, said Harry Krenek, History professor and chairman of the self-study team.

"This committee will inspect the campus from how administrators perform their duties to how the boy's locker room smells," said Krenek. In addition to evaluating our self-study it will examine for itself everything from the contents of a physics class to the condition of the swimming pool."

He said the committee will then report its findings to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. WTC will receive the final decision in December.

All colleges and Universities undergo this inspection periodically to insure that high standards are maintained, said Dr. Robert Clinton, president of WTC.

Dr. Clinton said the self-study committee has been active since 1976 preparing WTC for the investigating committee.

WTC received its preliminary accreditation in 1971 and full accreditation in 1972, said Dr. Clinton. The next accreditation period will be ten years.

The committee began its duties this morning with a tour of the campus.

Dr. Clinton said he foresaw no problems in receiving reaffirmation of accreditation.

Members on the Accreditation committee, are Dr. John Teel, chairman of the committee and president of Brunswick Junior College in Brunswick, Georgia; Wendell Armstrong, professor of management at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Virginia; David Fields Assistant professor of Chemistry and Mathematics at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia; Hoyt McClure of Southern Technical Institute in Marietta, Georgia; Winton Odham, Business Manager of Lenoir Community College in Kinston, North Carolina; Dr. Merle Morgan, Director, Division of Health at St. Petersburg Junior College in St. Petersburg, Fla.; Miss Carolyn Pulley, Coordinator of Counseling at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, Va. andClyde ginia Beach, Va. and Clyde H. Stephens Director of Learning Resources at New River Community College in Dublin, Virginia.

Dr. Chuck Stebbins from the Southern Association is also with the committee.

Faculty members in addition to Krenek who headed self-study committees included Gil Fleer, Frank Pruitt, Sue Coffman, Bill Halbert, Leslie Albin, Joe Carter, Gerald Corkran, Gene McClurg, Mike Thornton, and Duane Hood.

On the board of trustees of WTC are William A. Jones, president; W. H. Wilson, vice president; George Patterson, secretary, and Dr. Robert Hargrove, Edwin Parks, Bentley Baize, and R.C. Patton.

SNYDER TEMPERATURES: High Monday, 80 degrees; low, 46 degrees; reading at 7 a.m. today, 47 degrees; precipitation, none; total precipitation for 1978 to date, 1.85.

West Texas: Partly cloudy with warm afternoons and mild at night through Wednesday. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms southwest today, spreading over most portions tonight and ending from west to east Wednesday. Highs lower 70s north to lower 80s south to near 90 Big Bend. Lows mid 40s north to lower 50s south and 30s mountains.

Consumers Lose More Ground...

Inflation Is Growing On Food Prices

By R. GREGORY NOKES
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Food prices increased 1.2 percent in February for the second consecutive month, pushing overall consumer prices up 0.6 percent during the month, the government reported today.

Beef prices led the upward march in food costs, rising 4.1 percent during the month, while higher prices also were reported for pork, poultry and cereal and bakery products. Prices of foods sold in grocery stores increased 1.3 percent.

The steep rise in food prices, which started late last year, has caught the Carter administration by surprise. It is the major factor in what appears to be a worsening inflation rate in the economy, even though the overall 0.6 percent increase in consumer prices in February was down slightly from the 0.8 percent gain in January.

If continued for 12 months, the February increase in consumer prices would result in price inflation of slightly more than 7.2 percent, compared with the administration's inflation target for the year of 6.1 percent.

Administration officials say food prices may rise as much as 8 percent this year, up from the 6 percent increase projected just a few months ago.

In addition to food, consumers also faced sharply higher prices in February for fuel and utilities, up 0.8 percent; medical care, up 1.3 percent, and new and used cars, ahead 0.7 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively.

The only significant decline in prices during the month was for clothing, down 1 percent following a small gain in January. However, apparel services such as laundry and dry cleaning services increased 1 percent.

Transportation costs increased 0.6 percent and entertainment prices advanced 0.7 percent. Costs of housing were up 0.6 percent, down slightly from the January rise of 0.8 percent.

The Labor Department said its consumer price index for all urban consumers in February stood at 188.4 percent of the 1967 average of 100, meaning that goods costing $100 11 years ago had risen in price to $188.40 last month.

The department also said the buying power of workers' paychecks declined in February for the third consecutive month, although the drop of 0.2 percent was not nearly so bad as the record monthly 3.1 percent fall in purchasing power in January.

It said real spendable earnings of workers in February were 1 percent higher than in February 1977, despite the recent monthly declines. But just five months earlier, in October, earnings were 4.7 percent above their level of a year earlier, showing the steady erosion of workers' earnings by inflation and higher taxes in recent months.