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## **Police Kill Provoking Gunman** PEORIA, Ill. (AP) - A man four adults hostage for almost John Ardis, son of a Peoria al-

shouting "Kill me! Kill me! Kill me!" and holding a gun in one hand and a student hostage in the other, was shot dead by police Tuesday when he emerged from a Roman Catholic elemen-The gunman and two other

men sought refuge in the school after fleeing police, authorities said, and held 44 children and

two hours in the school's basement cafeteria. The other two gunmen later

surrendered after talking with a Peoria police officer, the brother of the slain gunman and a community action agency employe.

The dead man was identified as Melvin Burch, 25, of Peoria. The student he held hostage,

derman, escaped unharmed, authorities said.

Capt. Sal Pisano of the Peoria police said the men rushed into the grounds of St. Cecilia's School at 2:30 p.m. following a robbery of a Peoria variety store.

Sister Anne Delores, a teacher, said the men first entered a classroom in a small building near the school, where she was working with a class of 24 students.

She said the men marched the entire class and about 20 other students they picked up on the playground into the cafeteria in the basement of the main building.

Meanwhile the building was surrounded by between 40 and 50 city county and state police and FBI agents, said Pisano. These were ultimately joined by

was shot down by police, a pho-

said

with me.'

Star said.

state comptroller's office for an estimated 5,000 spectators, he leged discrimination against nority groups and women. Sister Anne Dolores said that They said the charges wow fishing one of the gunmen was shooting be filed at the San Antonio at police through the windows, then turned to John Ardis, a 6th

needs fice of the Equal Employme trating Opportunities Commission, grader and son of Alderman federal enforcement agency in James Ardis, and said "you come equal hiring laws.

State Comptroller Robert news, t Calvert was recovering from t team t The man stepped outside, fired two shots in the air and shouted illness and also could not on Kansas "Kill me! Kill me! Kill me!" and ment, an aide said. He adde Acaden that Calvert had not seen copi five of tographer for the Peoria Journal of the complaints.

## **Committee OKs** Pot Law Reforms

AUSTIN (AP)-The Senate Jurisprudence Committee voted 8-4, Tuesday for legislation that would make first offense possession of up to 4 ounces of marijuana punishable by a maximum sentence of 7 days in jail and a

By an identical 8-4 vote, the committee approved a comprehensive bill overhauling all Texas drug laws, including the same provisions on marijuana as the

Both measures now go to the Senate floor for debate. The House will debate its version of the drug bill Thursday.

Paso, chairman of the subcommittee that wrote the bills, said he would not offer the one that deals only with marijuana unless it became obvious that the comit became obvious that the com-"What I'm very fearful of is He's Sorry prehensive bill cannot pass.

that this Senate will not pass any drug legislation," Santieste-

there is a chance to reduce Texas' penalty for marijuana possession-two years to life, the stiffest in the United Statesbefore the next legislature meets

one advocated by Gov. Dolph Briscoe, but it was amended 24 times in subcommittee. Like the single shot marijuana

bill, it provides that possession of four to eight ounces will be punished by a jail term up to six months and-or a fine up to

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More than eight ounces would carry a prison term of 2-10 years and-or a fine up to \$5,000. This same penalty would apply to the sale of marijuana. Giving a quarter of an ounce or less to another person would be punishable in the same way as possession of up to four ounces.

Both bills provide that the es-timated 400 to 500 men in the state penitentiary on marijuana charges, and the estimated 40,000 Texans who have been convicted in marijuana cases, could petition the judge who sentenced them for resentencing under the new law. This would reduce most of Sen. Tati Santiesteban, D-El those felony cases to misde-

# **Fo Post, Press**

meanors.

WASHINGTON (AP) - White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler publicly apologized to the Washington Post Tuesday for past harsh criticism of its investigative reporting of the Watergate conspiracy.

Asked if he would apologize in the wake of President Nixon's tv-radio statement Monday night that a "vigorous free press" helped uncover the truth about Watergate, Ziegler replied: "Yes, I would apologize to the

Post." He then volunteered an apolo-

gy to Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward who, he said, vigorously pursued the story, deserved credit for their work and are receiving it.

"When we're wrong, we're wrong," the White House spokesman said.

Last Oct. 25, Ziegler characterized the Post account as "a blatant effort at character assassination that I do not think has been witnessed in the political process in some time."

In his remarks today, Ziegler said, "I think we'd all have to say mistakes were made . . . I



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## House Reps THE File Complaint Ch

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