

Non-profit insurers deny critics' claims

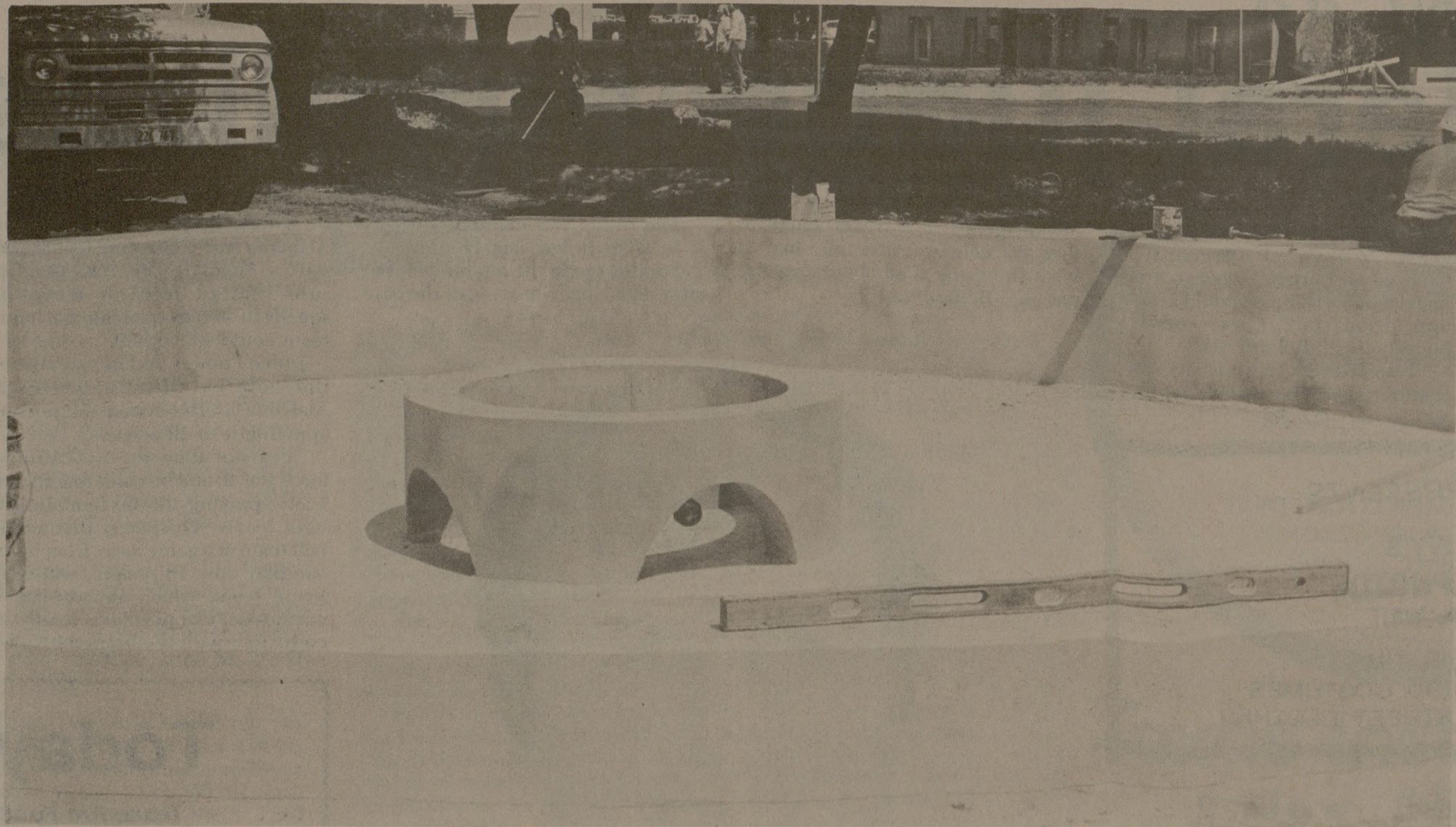
Associated Press
CHICAGO — A spokesman for Blue Cross-Blue Shield said Wednesday a preliminary draft of a government report critical of the insurers' efficiency is "based on inferences and therefore invalid."

"We stand comparison with anybody when it comes to administrative effectiveness and efficiency," said Duane Carlson, Blue Cross-Blue Shield vice president for communications. Carlson said he is a spokesman for Walter McNerney, Blue Cross-Blue Shield president.

"This report was based on economic theory, not on fact. They (the researchers) say so themselves," Carlson said Wednesday.

The report, written by researchers from the Social Security Administration and University of Florida, has not been made public. But a spokesman for the study said it concludes the giant nonprofit health insurer is less efficient than its profit-seeking competitors.

Carlson in turn was critical of the report.



Fish Pond

Dedication ceremonies for the renovated "Fish Pond" have been set for Saturday, Sept. 13 at 12 p.m. The fountain, a gift of the Class of '38,

had previously suffered a broken water pump, cracked bottom and rusted pipes. Its "facelift" was given by the Class of '77.

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Bentsen blames detente for foreign policy chaos

Associated Press
NEW YORK — A preoccupation with detente and personal diplomacy has led the United States into a "chaotic" foreign economic policy, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., said Wednesday.

"Great as his powers are, Henry Kissinger can no more concentrate on every problem of foreign policy than Casanova could climb over every balcony in Venice," Bentsen said in a speech at the Overseas Press Club.

He charged that this left foreign economic policy to be shaped "not systematically, but almost by accident, in an atmosphere of bickering and chaos" among the various executive departments.

The Democratic presidential hopeful was sounding a theme he said would be a keynote of his campaign. "I was in the financial field for 15 years," the first-term Texas senator

said, "and I think this country's major problems in the coming years will be financial."

Because of the emphasis on detente, Bentsen said the United States had "failed to bargain tough" at the recent Helsinki summit, and was attempting to solve the country's energy problems by improving relations with Arab nations rather than developing suppliers outside the Arab world.

"Other countries need our trade, our scientific know-how and our managerial expertise and our investments. We need their markets and their raw materials that our industrial economy requires — including their oil," he said.

Bentsen especially criticized the administration's response to a Canadian decision to cut back oil exports.

"For that decision to have caught our government virtually unaware is a harsh comment on our foreign economic policy leadership," he said.

Observers of the fuel supply situation contested Bentsen's assertion that "the Canadian government has shown some interest in an arrangement" to increase exports. They said Canada has very little oil to spare.

They also noted that the other possible sources of supply cited by Bentsen — Indonesia, Nigeria and Latin America — were fellow members with the Arabs of OPEC, the organization of Oil Producing and Exporting Countries, whose price demands have precipitated much of the current problem.

Fanne Foxe claims Mill's baby aborted

Associated Press
NEW YORK — Former stripteaser Fanne Foxe said Wednesday that she became pregnant by Rep. Wilbur Mills in late 1973 and had an abortion 2½ months later.

She made the statement at a news conference called to promote the sale of her autobiography. "It was my own decision — it was in Washington around February, the first part of last year," Miss Foxe said. "Mr. Mills wanted me to have it, but I had the possibility of having a deformed child as a consequence of his drinking," she said.

"Also I did not want to have a child without a father. . . I thought it would have a father. When I saw this would not have a happy ending, I went against my own desires and Mr. Mills' wishes," she told the news conference.

Miss Foxe said Mills wanted to marry her but that his wife "would not give him a divorce and he refused to stop seeing me."

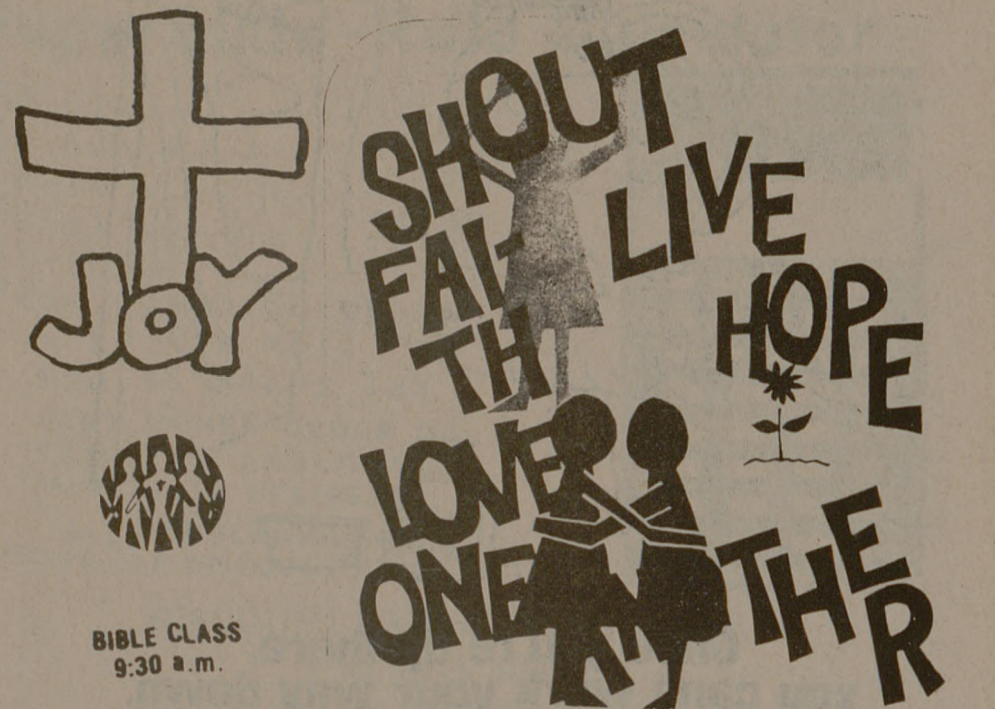
Asked whether she had any documents to substantiate her claims, Miss Foxe, whose real name is Annabel Battistella, said: "I don't have to prove it — it's an autobiography, not an accusation."

Mills, reached at his Washington home, said: "I won't comment. Let me read it first."

The book Foxe was promoting is to be published today. A 14-city promotion tour that began with the New York news conference is to include an appearance in Little Rock, Ark., Mills' home base.

A link between Mills, an Arkansas Democrat, and Miss Foxe first became known when she jumped from Mills' car into the Tidal Basin in Washington nearly a year ago.

Mills was re-elected after the incident, but he subsequently resigned his powerful post as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and said he was undergoing treatment for alcoholism. He returned to Congress in early May.



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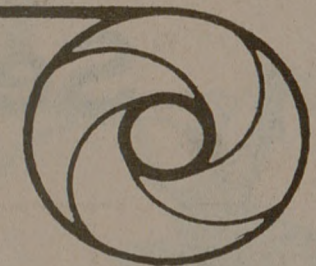


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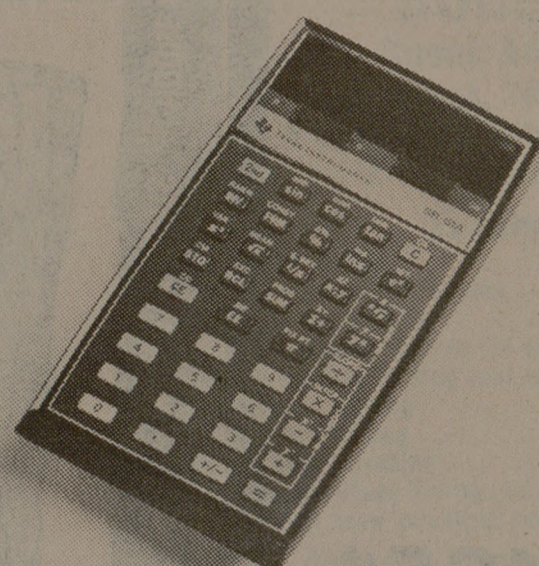
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