

No London fog

England in midst of drought

Associated Press
LONDON — The British government directed Sports Minister Denis Howell on Tuesday to coordinate efforts to deal with the nation's worst drought in 2½ centuries.

He called on Britons to let their lawns wilt, recycle bath water and to the laundry less often. The drought has withered crops, dried up reservoirs and threatened to put industry in the hardest-hit areas, such as South Wales, on a three-day workweek.

Howell told a news conference after his appointment at a special meeting of key Labor government Cabinet ministers that priority will

be given to agriculture and industry and householders' needs would be secondary. Some industries may be forced to go on three-day workweeks, a development that could add to unemployment woes and hamper Britain's economic recovery.

"The flowers are going to have to wilt," he said. "The cars are going to have to remain dirty."

"Water used for bathing is also going to have to be used for flushing toilets. Washing machines must be used only once or twice a week and with full loads rather than little and often. That dripping tap that you have been meaning to fix for so long

must be mended within the next couple of days."

But he added that there was no immediate plan to declare an emergency.

"The domestic consumer will continue to receive an adequate supply but this is going to mean a lot of inconvenience and possibly some discomfort," Howell said. "We shall never let supplies reach a situation

where there is a threat to health."

Howell's appointment was announced after the meeting with Prime Minister James Callaghan at 10 Downing Street.

As sports minister, Howell operates within the Department of the Environment. Besides sports, he normally deals with such matters as water resources, pollution and the countryside.

A hot sun continued to beat down on London and much of Britain Tuesday and the London Weather Center said there is still no rain in sight.

The drought is the result of three straight dry winters and an exceptionally arid summer in a nation that usually is cool and rainy.

The last measurable rain in the London area — 0.18 of an inch — fell July 20.

Drought given 10-1 odds over rainfall

Associated Press
A London bookmaker, the William Hill Organization, opened betting Tuesday on the day the drought will end.

It quoted odds of 10-1 on naming the day that at least 0.1 millimeter — 0.00394 inches — of rain falls on the roof of the London Weather Center. This is the smallest amount that the rain gauge will record.

So far the favorite day for the bettors is Monday, Sept. 6, said a William Hill spokesman.

The London Weather Center said it would be of little help to bettors. Its prediction: Dry until at least midnight this coming Friday.

"After that," a spokesman said, "your guess is as good as ours."

Y'all just call him "Tex"

Associated Press
NEW YORK — Just call him Tex.

At 5-foot-4, Mayor Abraham D. Beame may not ride too tall in the saddle, but he is an honorary citizen of Texas, thanks to Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Briscoe made Beame a Texan to

thank the New York mayor for what Briscoe called the "overwhelmingly friendliness" Texas delegates found when they were here for the Democratic National Convention.

Beame said in announcing receipt of the letter Tuesday that he hopes to get the chance to visit Texas "when I can clear my desk long enough."

Crime rate climbing throughout nation

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Serious crime rose 10 per cent in the United States last year even though there was a slight decrease in the number of murders, the FBI reported Tuesday.

The annual Uniform Crime Reports reflected increases in the number of offenses reported to police in seven crime categories last year. The highest increase was 14 per cent for larceny-theft, especially from motor vehicles, with a total loss

to victims in this category of some \$992 million.

Increases were reported for all sections of the country and for cities, suburbs and rural areas alike, although the Northeast recorded the highest rise, 11 per cent. The suburbs at 10 per cent, and rural areas at 8 per cent, increased more than large cities with populations of more than 250,000, which went up 7 per cent.

The FBI figures, comparing the

volume and rate of crime in 1975 with the figures for the previous year, are based on voluntary reports from nearly all state and local police agencies.

One chart in the report uses clocks to indicate that, when dividing the number of offenses into a year, 21 serious crimes were committed each minute during 1975 while there was a violent crime every 31 seconds. There was one murder every 26 minutes, one forcible rape every 9

minutes, one aggravated assault every 65 seconds, one robbery every 68 seconds, one burglary every 10 seconds, one larceny-theft every 5 seconds and one motor vehicle theft every 32 seconds.

Murder decreased 1 per cent while forcible rape increased 1 per cent over the year, aggravated assault rose 6 per cent and robbery went up 5 per cent. Larceny-theft increased 14 per cent, burglary was up 7 per cent and motor vehicle theft rose 2 per cent.

Since 1970, the Crime Index of offenses as a group have increased 39 per cent. The property crimes and violent crimes, each as groups, rose 39 per cent in volume during this five-year period ranging from 8 per cent for motor vehicle theft to 45 per cent for forcible rape.

According to the report, Americans reported 20,510 murders in 1975, one per cent less than the number reportedly committed in 1974. Sixty-six per cent of all murders were committed with a firearm

and 51 per cent of these were committed with a handgun.

Twenty-five per cent of all persons arrested for murder were between 20 and 24 years of age.

Larceny-theft represented 53 per cent of all Crime Index offenses and reached a volume of 5.9 million during 1975, an increase of 14 per cent over the previous year.

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'Crazy Mama' & 'Mephisto Waltz'

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'Cannonball' (PG)

Springsteen files suit saying manager took excess profits

Bruce Springsteen filed a massive breach-of-contract suit in U.S. District Court July 27th against his manager of four years, Mike Appel. Appel countered with legal action in New York and sought in New Jersey to block any concert payments to the singer.

Springsteen asks for one million in damages, permanent dissolution of any agreement with Appel, the return of all property and income that

derived from any agreement with Appel, plus payment of court costs. The suit alleges that Appel "wholly failed and neglected to administer the financial affairs" of Springsteen. It also says Appel's management contract provided for an "unconscionable" commission of 20% if Springsteen earns less than \$5000 a week, 25% between \$5,000 and \$15,000, and 50% if he earns more than \$15,000 per week.

Additionally, the suit claims that of a total of \$641,210.64 that CBS paid in Springsteen earnings from 1972 to 1975, Appel's Laurel Canyon Productions received 72%, or \$460,574.68. Of the remainder, Springsteen was charged with recording costs of \$124,162.73, leaving him \$180,635.96.

In his New Jersey counteraction, Appel claimed that Springsteen illegally broke his contract with Laurel Canyon Management. Additionally, Appel sought in New York State Supreme Court to keep Springsteen from recording, to restrain CBS from recording Springsteen and to restrain Jon Landau from producing Springsteen.

Willie subpoenaed

Associated Press
DALLAS — Defense attorneys have refused to say why they subpoenaed progressive country music singer Willie Nelson in the trial of accused narcotics ring leader Joe D. Hicks.

Nelson is to appear Sept. 20 in U.S. district court, according to the subpoena.

The subpoena was served as Nelson appeared last Friday at the open-

ing of a new record store in Dallas, records show.

Nelson spent five minutes July 1 before the grand jury that indicted Hicks. Authorities refused to say why Nelson was subpoenaed before the grand jury.

Hicks is being held in the Tarrant County jail. He is charged with operating a multi-million dollar international heroin and cocaine operation based in Dallas.

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San Antonio to talk gas

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — A move is reportedly under way here to bring all major LoVaca Gathering Co. gas customers together for talks aimed at reopening negotiations for an out-of-court settlement of damage suits, the San Antonio Express-News reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said a source close to the city council claimed Mayor Lila Cockrell is leading the move and the meeting of major customers would probably be held in Austin this Friday.

San Antonio is suing LoVaca and its parent, Coastal States Gas Corp., for \$436 million in damages in a dispute over contracted, long-range gas supply.

It was reported that the city council also wants Coastal States Chairman Oscar Wyatt Jr. "isolated" from any future role in San Antonio's gas supply situation.

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