

the nation

DA can't outlaw laetrile; court orders guidelines

United Press International
DENVER — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has no authority to prohibit the use of the controversial drug Laetrile, a federal appellate court has said. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled the terms "safety" and "effectiveness," as used in the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act under which Laetrile was banned, do not really refer to cancer patients certified as terminally ill. The court ordered the FDA to set up guidelines permitting laetrile use for those certified as terminally ill.

What can "generally recognized" as "safe and effective" mean to such persons who are stricken with a disease which there is no known cure for, the appellate court asked.

Under this record Laetrile is as effective as anything else, but can "effective" mean if the

person, by all prevailing standards, and under the position the commission takes, is going to die of cancer regardless of what may be done."

The appellate court's decision stemmed from a ruling by an Oklahoma City federal district judge who declared invalid the FDA ban on Laetrile which is extracted from apricot pits.

The appellate court did not address itself to the constitutional issues raised by U.S. District Judge Luther Bohanan but said an injunction issued last year by the judge against the FDA should remain in force.

The 10th Circuit Court, however, said the injunction would be limited only to permit procurement of intravenous injections administered by a licensed medical practitioner to a person certified by a physician to be a terminally ill cancer patient.

The court said the FDA should issue "with all due dispatch" regulations for guidelines to be

used by terminal cancer patients wanting to use Laetrile injections.

The appellate court took the case, a class action suit filed more than two years ago on behalf of all terminally ill cancer patients, under advisement last January.

The 10th Circuit Court initially heard the case in June 1976 and remanded it back to Bohanan with instructions the FDA must hold a hearing on whether or not laetrile was a new drug within the agency's power to regulate.

The hearing resulted in a finding that Laetrile was a new drug, thus giving the FDA the authority to certify as safe and effective before it can be sold for human use.

Bohanan, on an appeal, later upheld his first decision that Laetrile had been used in cancer treatment for at least 25 years and therefore was exempt from FDA certification.

Space agency battling to save Skylab station

United Press International
HOUSTON — Flight controllers hoping to save Skylab from an unscheduled landing Tuesday intensified efforts to keep the 84-ton space station in a life-prolonging Earth orbit.

NASA Skylab Coordinator Robert O. Allen Tuesday flew from Washington to Johnson Space Center and spokesman Charles Redmond said, "You can tell we've got a problem if he's here."

"It looks as if we're going to have to put more men and more effort into this if we want to do it right," JSC Deputy Flight Director Gene Kranz said.

"It's a manned vehicle without men and that makes it more difficult to fly."

Sunday Skylab slipped out of a desired life-prolonging orbital attitude for the third time since June 11, when it was placed in a flight profile designed to minimize the drag of the outer fringes of the atmosphere.

Scientists want to prolong Skylab's current 240-mile-high orbit until a space shuttle crew can use a remote control rocket to shift the \$294 million craft into safer orbit or

send it crashing into an unpopulated area of the Earth.

Skylab's orbit has deteriorated more rapidly than expected since the last crew left it in 1974.

Officials say unusual solar activity may be partially responsible. Another problem is the delay of the space shuttle program.

The first orbital flight test of the shuttle has been delayed twice, from late this year until summer 1979.

Without the reorientation of Skylab June 11, it appeared the craft might re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, disintegrate and scatter debris on populated areas before a Shuttle crew can reach it.

NASA, aiming for a minimal cost in the effort, has had two shifts of 12 flight controllers working during the 16 hours each day that Skylab is in contact with ground tracking stations.

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nate clears way for arms bill cluding ships Carter opposes

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate beat back an attempt to the Navy's new F18 fighter smoothing the way for passage of a \$36.1 billion weapons bill. The bill includes another \$1.9 billion for the development of a new aircraft carrier the administration does not

Hart opposes big carriers for the Navy, but went along with the Senate Armed Services Committee's decision for one more of the nuclear-powered flattop ships for the fleet until vertical-takeoff jets can be developed in the 1990s.

Hart's suggested cut was the

biggest change proposed in the overall bill, which will authorize weapons purchases for the year which starts Oct. 1. There has been no attempt to delete funds for the supercarrier, although the administration opposed it in favor of building a smaller ship later.

ment by Sen. Gary Hart, Colo., to remove \$983 million from the production of the plane.

ended the F18 was too and said cancellation of the plane would save up to \$15 billion throughout the 1980s.

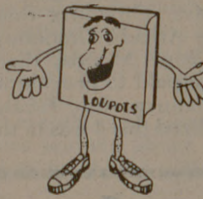
orders of the plane urged its cancellation as the only fighter aircraft expected to be in production by the late 1980s.

though I'm disappointed in its cost has gone up, I'm not saying we cannot afford to build this plane," said John D. Miss, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

ter, officials news leaks 'demic disease'

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter says he's concerned over leaks of government secrets growing reluctance of "reluctants" to give intelligence information to the United States. "I had a long talk about leaks," Carter said. "Leaks are an epidemic disease in Washington. If we don't stop them, then I think we're going to slow them down." Carter said, result in a "loss of confidence and intelligence gathering and foreign policy."

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