

Presidential power cut

Law revises 'crisis'

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A 40-year-old "time bomb" is about to be defused, ending the possibility of a "lawful dictatorship" being set up in the United States during a national emergency.

Four states of emergency still in force providing the president with sweeping powers in times of crisis will expire Thursday.

New legislation will make it possible for Congress to terminate future states of emergency, even if the president objects.

The National Emergencies Act, which terminates the four emergency states and governs such declarations in the future, was passed Sept. 14, 1976.

The two-year delay in implementation was to give the administration a chance to ask Congress for new statutes to replace the 407 laws that a president could have invoked under the states of emergency.

Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md., the prime mover behind the legislation, said, the two-year-old measure "defines a time bomb at the heart of government."

"There has been in the United States for upwards of 40 years the potential for lawful dictatorship under the banner of national emergency," Mathias said.

He blamed aggressive presidents, permissive congresses and successive crises for "the erosion of the structure of divided powers that is the bedrock of our constitutional system of government."

The states of emergency — de-

clared in 1933, 1950, 1970 and 1974 — gave a president the power to institute martial law, seize property and restrict travel.

The chief executive also could send armed forces into action abroad, take control of communications facilities and even set the stage for secret laws by shutting down the Federal Register.

Mathias, bothered by the president's potential powers after watching executive actions in the Vietnam War, introduced a resolution in 1971 for a study of the state of emergency declared by President Truman during the Korean conflict.

A year later, he joined Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, in introducing a resolution creating a special Senate committee to look into all the emergencies.

The legislation that finally emerged from the committee study ended the four states of emergency and set standards for the future.

No later than six months after a president declares a state of emergency, the Senate and House will vote on a resolution to determine if the emergency shall be terminated.

Any national emergency would automatically end after a year unless the president notified Congress 90 days in advance that it will still be in effect.

The president would also have to inform Congress of all executive orders pertaining to the emergency and make semiannual reports on any spending involved.

Texas cities grabbed land to grow, UT teachers say

United Press International
AUSTIN, Texas — Annexation rather than migration from rural areas and other states has been the primary factor in the growth of Texas cities during the past three decades, two University of Texas teachers contend.

Alfred J. Watkins, assistant professor on the Department of Government at the University of Texas, and Arnold Fleischmann, a teaching assistant, said some cities in the state would have lost population since the end of World War II if they had not extended their boundaries through annexation.

"While popular literature on the rise of the Sun Belt suggests that migration is the primary cause of population increase, the major Texas cities would have faced limited growth rates since the end of World War II had they not acquired new territories," the two said in an article written for the Texas Business Review.

Without annexation, the state's urban centers would resemble those of the industrial northeast, with decaying central cities and shrinking populations and tax bases.

The most hectic pace of annexation came during the 1950s, when Dallas and Houston each added an additional 160 square miles to their boundaries, San Antonio and El Paso each added 90 square miles, Galveston annexed 76 square miles and Abilene and Lubbock each expanded by more than 50 square miles.

Legislation enacted in 1963 slowed the pace of annexation, but

there are indications it may again be on a rapid increase, Watkins and Fleischmann said.

"Already, the total area annexed between 1970 and 1975 exceeds by 33 percent the total area added during the entire previous decade," they said. "If these trends should continue, the 1970s could become one of the most active decades of urban areal expansion in Texas history."

Annexations now require approval of the federal government

because of extension of the Voting Rights Act to Texas, and minority groups and downtown business interests may oppose further attempts to spread city limits, the government teachers said.

"Several obstacles to continued annexation are rapidly emerging in Texas, and, should they succeed in blocking or even slowing the pace of territorial expansion, problems similar to those of the northeastern cities may soon emerge in Texas," the two said.



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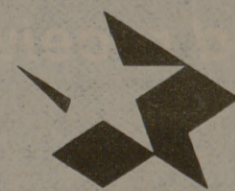
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Oil drilling know-how can be sold

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Dresser Industries of Dallas has been told it may continue its plans to sell \$144 million worth of oil drilling technology to the Russians, despite some complaints the sale amounts to giving away some military secrets.

The Dresser license has been challenged to Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., who maintained the technology could easily be applied to weaponry, but Dresser has countered that none of the information involves secrets and all of it is readily available from other industries in other countries.

President Carter sent word to Jackson Wednesday that he was standing firm on permits granted Dresser.

"We felt all along that the president would make the right decision. We hope it has laid to rest doubts about the sale," said Tom Campbell, a Dresser spokesman in Dallas.

Campbell said the project would create 2,000 jobs in 13 states.

A spokesman for Jackson confirmed Thursday "Sen. Jackson got the word yesterday that the decision has been made to let the licenses stand."

Jackson wanted the licenses held up while his investigations subcommittee looked into the deal and the process by which the licenses were granted to Dresser.

Jackson had hoped they would defer the licenses until the subcommittee completes its inquiry," a Jackson aide said.

The company proposed to sell the Soviet Union an entire drill bit factory, including know-how, equipment and a sophisticated welder that uses electron-beam technology.

After the export licenses had been granted, some officials such as Jackson and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger raised fears of the effect of the sale on petroleum production patterns.

Some also said the electronbeam welder could be turned to military uses such as producing special armor-piercing shells.

Spokesmen for Dresser denied that charge at a news conference held Wednesday. The sale involves only commercial products and none of them included any technology the Russians either do not already have or could easily buy from other producers, they said.

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By United Press International
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