

Soviet Union plans revival of huge region

United Press International
VLADIMIR, U.S.S.R. — The rolling hills of the Vladimir Oblast, some 150 miles northeast of Moscow, is an ancient land full of history, a fertile place for scholars interested in what happened during the 12th and 13th centuries. But it is not a very fertile place for farmers at all, and despite the ancient monasteries, is rather an embarrassment for the Soviet state. Vladimir is in the heart of what agricultural experts call the "non-black earth zone" — a vast stretch of the Russian Federation with ground as poor as its population. As the crops failed, so did life in the non-black zone. It has become a poverty pocket and the government has decided to invest an immense amount of money on a scheme to revitalize it.

The key to success, the planners in Moscow have decided, is the development of agriculture aimed at making the non-black zone self-sufficient. The Soviet government in its current five-year-plan has earmarked \$5 billion rubles (\$52.2 billion) to what has become known as the "Non-Black Earth Zone Project." But if the project is to succeed, the government will have to overcome soils that are plagued by acidity. It is sandy ground that will not produce crops without maximum attention. Lands long since lost to bogs will have to be reclaimed by filling them and pumping them full of organic and chemical fertilizers so they will be able to produce crops. Why bother? Why not put the investment into other regions with good soils and a more likely chance of success? Mikhail Ponomarev, first secretary of the Vladimir Oblast Communist Party, says that although the soil is poor, the conditions for agriculture are excellent. Despite the infertility due to sandy soils, despite the poor soils, the region has favorable conditions for the development of farming," Ponomarev said. "There is good weather and an abundance of precipitation."

Ponomarev is responsible for only one section of the non-black earth zone. His region occupies 1,565,000 square miles with a population of 1,565,000. The whole non-black earth region covers a vast section of the Soviet Union up to the Caspian Sea. It includes more than 140 million acres of farmland. The size of the project is indicated by the statistics: by 1990, the ex-hungarian Soviet Union wants to triple the agricultural output of the region. There are 142,000 villages in the region now, and by 1990, the population will be increased into 15,400 "large and well-appointed townships," according to the magazine Soviet Union. The expenditure per resident for housing and services under the plan is twice the national average. When the project is completed, it will cover a land area five times as large as France and 11 times as large as West Germany.

Agriculture has never been strong in the region, Ponomarev said, but the quality of life has improved because of a wide and thriving selection of industries. Vladimir Oblast produces everything from tractors to crystal and china plates. There are 86,000 people working in agriculture or agriculture-related industries. Ponomarev said the average agricultural salary in the region is 136 rubles (\$194) a month. Basically, lack of humus in the soil and high acidity have turned the region into a poor agricultural zone. Humus is organic matter, the remains of dead plants and animals. At its worst, humus content registers only 0.5 percent in the Vladimir Oblast. At its best, it registers about 1 percent. Prime agricultural land has a humus content of 20 percent or more.

Defector wins today to end chess match

United Press International
BAGUIO, Philippines — Viktor Korchnoi, near tears with his life's dream of the championship demolished, resigned the 32nd game of the longest and richest world chess series in history today, allowing Anatoly Karpov to retain the title abandoned by Bobby Fischer. "Petra, I've lost the match," the red-eyed Korchnoi told his companion and aide, Petra Leeuwervik, after refusing to even look at the board in which his black pieces were hopelessly pinned in a corner. Karpov is a bitter personal and ideological foe of Korchnoi, 20 years his senior at 47, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1976. The champion earned \$450,000 for his victory. Korchnoi got \$250,000. The \$700,000 total purse

was a record as was the length of the match — exactly three months. Korchnoi's decision not to resume play of the adjourned 32nd game allowed Karpov to keep the title of world champion, which he won by default in 1975 when temperamental American chess wizard Bobby Fischer refused to play the young Russian. The dramatic resignation also ended what had been an unprecedented comeback by Korchnoi, who had roared back from a 5-2 losing margin in games won to tie the match at 5-5. Six games were necessary to win. The series had 26 draws. Off the board, the match was studded with repeated squabbles, over topics ranging from Karpov's consumption of yogurt during the

games and his use of a parapsychologist, to Korchnoi's habit of wearing sunglasses indoors while he played and his meditations with gurus. But it was on the board that Korchnoi lost the title. He was backed into a corner by Karpov, who had only a one-pawn advantage but spectacularly better position for his pieces. "It's all over for Korchnoi," international master Harry Golombek said Tuesday, before the Russian challenger had conceded. "It's completely hopeless," said Korchnoi's aide, Raymond Keene of Britain. Today Korchnoi agreed. He resigned without even looking at the board in the darkened red-carpeted hall.

Academy urges return to breast-feeding infants

United Press International
EVANSTON, Ill. — Virtually all newborn infants should be breast-fed, the American Academy of Pediatrics urges in one of its most sweeping endorsements of the practice. The academy Tuesday recommended breast-feeding for all newborn infants unless the child or mother has some specific physical condition making such feeding impossible. The statement on breast-feeding is contained in a report of the group's committee on nutrition published in this month's issue of the organization's journal, Pediatrics.

The committee's report also recommended that: —Employers offer breastfeeding facilities in day-care centers so working mothers can feed their infants during work; —Hospital maternity units be modified so mothers can breast-feed their children from the moment of birth; —Mothers be encouraged to let babies establish their own feeding schedules and allow them to spurn rigid three and four-hour feedings; —That schools include breastfeeding techniques in their sex education classes. The academy, based in this

northern suburb, said the report was written in part to discourage increased use of artificial formulas in poor countries. Dr. Jean Lockhart, director of the academy's health service and government affairs department, said the nutrition committee's unequivocal stand was prompted by urgings from United Nations health officials. The report said formula-feeding unfortunately has supplanted breast-feeding in most of the industrialized world, as well as underdeveloped nations. It said breast-feeding has retained a dominant position only in Israel and the Soviet Union and it urged that more countries return to breastfeeding.

Arabian ministers agree on Lebanon cease-fire plan

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Arab foreign ministers agreed Tuesday on an eight-point plan aimed at consolidating the cease-fire in Lebanon, shoring up the central government and promoting national entente. As sniper fire continued to mar the 10-day-old truce in Beirut between Syrian troops of the Arab League peace-keeping force and Christian rightist militias, representatives of nations contributing either money or men to the force wound up three days of talks at Beit Eddine, 26 miles south of the capital. The state-run Beirut radio said the foreign ministers and special envoys from Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Sudan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait "reviewed specific security arrangements brought to the conference by President Elias Sarkis."

Lebanese army "on a national and balanced basis" in order for the army to take over the duties of the Arab peacekeeping force in the future. The Syrians, dominating the Arab League peace-keeping force that ended the 1975-76 civil war, swapped small-arms and shell fire with Christian rightist militiamen on the edge of Christian east Beirut in the

worst outbreak of fighting since the cease-fire took hold. Sniper fire continued daylong in various parts of east Beirut, killing at least one civilian and wounding two Lebanese Red Cross workers, residents said. The pre-dawn clash erupted around the strategic Karantina bridge area linking east Beirut to outlying Christian areas.

95th Congress - most productive in some time

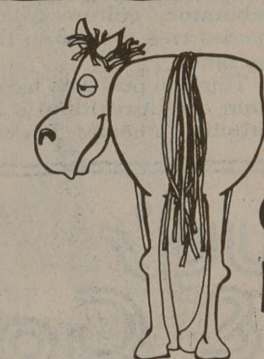
United Press International
WASHINGTON — For sheer volume of legislation, the climax of the 95th Congress surpassed any other in recent times. The energy, tax cut and jobs bills took the headlines, but many more bills won final approval. It will be days before a complete list of the newly enacted bills can be compiled. But here is a summary of the more important pieces of legislation approved in the marathon weekend session: —Labor-HEW: A compromise bill appropriating \$56 billion for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, with compromise language on federally funded abortions. —Public works: A compromise

public works program, tailored to avoid another veto. The new \$1.5 billion legislation eliminates six water projects that President Carter didn't want and denied construction funds for 11 more. —Highways: A bill providing \$51 billion in federal aid for highways and mass transit over the next four years. —Education assistance to students: Carter's bill to expand financial assistance programs for middle income college students, but no tuition tax credits. —Education aid: An estimated \$50 billion in federal aid to education over the next five years. —Airline deregulation: Phasing out federal regulation of the airline industry. Air routes would be deregulated by the end of 1981, fares and mergers would be deregulated by the end of 1982, and the Civil Aeronautics Board would go out of existence in 1985 unless future legislation continued it. —Endangered species: Extends and weakens the Endangered Species Act, setting up a method of reviewing whether the benefits of projects outweigh the dangers to endangered life species, with a clause permitting construction of the Tellico Dam project, halted by a 3-inch fish called the snail darter.

—Cigarette bootlegging: would subject wholesale cigarette bootleggers to five-year federal prison terms and \$100,000 fines, along with seizure of the shipments. —Sugar: A compromise bill raising the price of sugar, providing sugar beet and sugar cane producers 15.75 cents a pound for raw sugar above the current support level of 14.65 cents, ensuring increases in the retail prices of soft drinks, candy, cookies and refined sugar. —Beef imports: a counter-cyclical beef imports bill sought by the cattle industry under which beef imports would increase during times of low domestic cattle production, thus stabilizing ups and downs of supplies and prices. —Military unions: a bill to outlaw union membership by members of the military and forbidding collective bargaining in the military. —Athletics: A bill giving the U.S. Olympic Committee the task of ending years of disputes in amateur athletics, designating U.S. activity as it relates to the olympics, the pan-American games and other international events. —Justice: a \$1.9 billion Justice Department authorization bill.

Center name chosen

The intramural oplex at Texas A&M University will officially be named the W.L. Penberthy Intramural Center, at ceremonies Saturday. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Harrington Education Center, room 108. Speakers will include Clyde H. Wells, chairman of the Board of Regents; Jarvis E. Miller, University president; Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, and former Texas A&M Intramural Director C.G. "Spike" White, now owner and director of Kanakuk-Kanakoma Kamps, Inc. in Brandon, Mo. The head of the Health and Physical Education Department, Dr. Carl Landiss, will preside at the dedication. Penberthy, a Bryan resident, ended a 40-year career at Texas A&M in 1966. During that time he served as an instructor, intramural director, head of the department of physical education, dean of students and chairman of the University Athletic Council. Penberthy established the foundation of the intramural program at Texas A&M, which now includes competition in 36 sports, ranging from softball to water polo. According to recent figures, almost 60 percent of Texas A&M's 30,255 students participate in intramural sports.



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