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U.S. has trouble with Latin nations

By HELEN THOMAS
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — The United States has had a hard time dealing with Latin Americans — whether Cuba's Fidel Castro, Argentina's Eva Peron or Mexico's Pancho Villa. So, it wasn't surprising that President Carter had his share of frustrations, surprises and blunders during his talks with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo.

Carter failed to achieve any breakthroughs on his trip south of

crack at Mexico's vast oil resources — but at a tough, take-it-or-leave-it price.

Carter, in turn, said the United States wants to be "a good customer" but won't pay a penny more than what it considers "a fair price" for Mexico's newly discovered oil and gas reserves.

And that's where things stood when Carter left for home Friday, possibly a bit sobered by what may turn out to be the start of a new era in Mexican-American relations.

The United States once relied on a "big stick" to keep Latin America in line. Mexico, armed with an "oil weapon" in the class of Saudi Arabia's, says it will use its own stick to win "dignity and respect."

Lopez Portillo described his talks with Carter as properly "frank and direct." He said he intended no insult when he referred to Mexico's "fear and disdain" of Americans.

Carter appeared to be surprised — despite his briefings on Mexican-American relations — by the intensity of Lopez Portillo's feelings about the United States.

In a public toast at a state dinner, the American leader urged Lopez Portillo to join him in burying the past and looking to the future with a "common vision."

As his visit drew to a close, Carter managed to set the stage for future negotiations on the sale of Mexican natural gas to the United States.

Carter would like to meet with Lopez Portillo in the United States in early summer.

It would be the next step on the path toward getting oil-rich Mexico and the energy-short America to join forces in facing the profound changes of the future.

Analysis

the border, but at least he managed to find out where Lopez Portillo stands on the tough issues dividing their two nations.

Perhaps that was all the American leader could really hope for, considering the cool reception he received on arriving in Mexico City last Wednesday.

Lopez Portillo kept the visiting Yankee at arms length during the trip, offering the United States a

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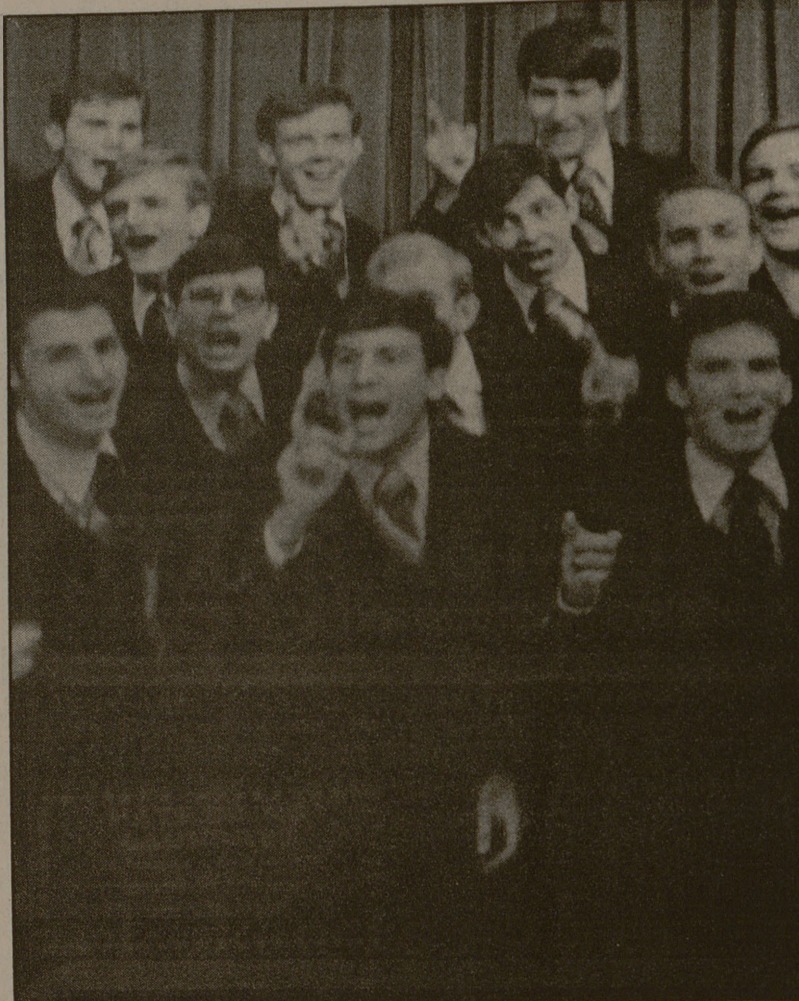
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Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

'There's Nothing Like a Dame'

Even though the number of women has increased on campus, the Singing Cadets theme song is still "There is Nothing Like a Dame," said Robert Boone, director of the group. The Singing Cadets performed for SCONA 24 Friday. SCONA is the Student Conference on National Affairs. They sang songs ranging from "San Antonio Rose" to a Beach Boys medley.

Affects infants to 19-year-olds

Russian flu linked to Reye's

United Press International
ATLANTA — Federal health officials expressed concern Saturday that Russian flu outbreaks may be triggering a serious illness in children — Reye's Syndrome, which has a fatality rate approaching 50 percent.

"Several states that had previously reported widespread outbreaks of influenza-A (California,

Utah, Georgia, Washington and Nevada), subsequently noted an increase in reported cases of Reye's Syndrome," the national Center for Disease Control said.

Reye's Syndrome is a neurologic disorder, cause of which is unknown, the CDC said. However, the ailment usually occurs following a virus infection.

The illness afflicts children between infancy and 19 years of age, with most cases in the 12-to-15-year-old age group. It can affect every organ of the body but primarily attacks the liver and brain.

Except for two weeks in January, there have been no reports of increased deaths this winter from influenza and pneumonia.

Russian influenza is an A-flu type and so far this winter has been responsible for virtually all of the influenza outbreaks across the country.

In the past, outbreaks of Reye's Syndrome have occurred in conjunction with epidemics of Influenza-B, the CDC said and have not been generally associated with the A-type of flu.

Epidemiologic investigations are under way to determine what, if

any, association exists between influenza-A and Reye's Syndrome," the CDC said.

The CDC reported that three cases of Reye's syndrome recently occurred in a single Georgia family, striking two brothers and a sister. All three recovered after hospitalization.

The federal health agency described this as "a relatively rare event," and said "most cases of Reye's Syndrome in siblings have not occurred together in time."

The first documented outbreak of Reye's Syndrome occurred in the winter of 1973-74, along with an epidemic of Influenza-B, when there were 379 reported cases. A second outbreak was noted in the winter of '76-77.

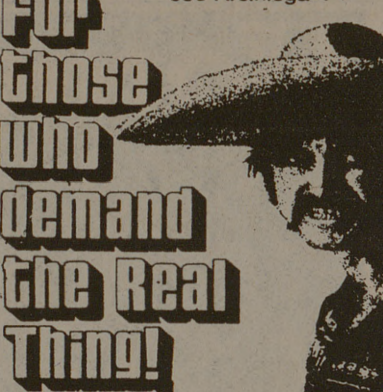
The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation said that when a child has had a viral infection, especially the flu or chicken pox, "parents should watch for the following: persistent vomiting, listlessness, personality change, disorientation and convulsions."

The foundation says that despite its high mortality rate, if a child is seen by a doctor and the illness is diagnosed in its early stages, chances of recovery are very good.

Since December, when the first Russian flu cases of the winter were reported, the A-USSR virus has spread to 37 states. The CDC said that although the virus has been identified in some older patients, "all known outbreaks to date have involved students or military personnel 25 years of age and under."

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