



Price of a diploma

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Battalion photo by Colin Crombie

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Moffett moves committee to prefer oil price controls

WASHINGTON — Rep. Anthony Moffett, D-Conn., says he is usually causing a few votes of persuading the House Commerce Committee to approve extended price controls on oil, before President Carter's decontrol plan.

The committee debated the issue Tuesday and met again Wednesday to discuss Moffett's proposal. Moffett thinks decontrol costs the consumer far too much for what it promises in return — some increase in production and perhaps some decrease in consumption.

"Don't write us off," Moffett said to the voters when asked how near he was to a majority in the commerce committee.

Moffett chose as the vehicle for his attack on the Carter policy a bill to authorize money for the Department of Energy in the coming fiscal year. His proposal would prevent the department from spending any money for phasing out controls in the year that begins Oct. 1 — that is, to keep in place the current price plan that allows prices to increase with inflation.

Carter wants to boost prices faster than that, leading to removal of controls altogether in late 1981. Carter has challenged Congress to pass a tax on excess profits.

Unable to muster a majority for

President Carter's emergency standby gasoline rationing plan, the Commerce Committee bucked the issue to the full House Tuesday, voting to send a report on the plan without recommendation one way or the other. A motion to recommend passage failed on a tie vote, 21-21.

White House press secretary Jody Powell said Carter was "at least somewhat encouraged" because the committee did not vote down the proposal outright.

Carter's backers can ask the House and Senate to consider the plans, whatever the committees do, but a committee recommendation could help in the floor fight.

Bombs go off in Paris; damage but no deaths

PARIS — A bomb blitz swept Paris Wednesday, damaging government buildings, businesses and a bank in one of the worst nights of sabotage in the capital since the days of the Algerian war in 1962. No one was injured in the seven blasts, which all occurred within an hour on the right bank of the Seine and in the western suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt.

Police said damage was extensive, though no immediate estimate of financial loss could be made.

A previously unknown group called the "Coordination of Revolutionary Action" claimed responsibility for the explosions.

The blasts were the latest in a string of violent, and in some cases deadly, incidents that rocked Paris May Day.

The series of explosions began just after midnight Wednesday when a bomb went off at an electricity office. Most simultaneously, two separate

blasts shook two police judiciary commissaries.

Half an hour later a bomb exploded at a federal employment office in the suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt. Minutes afterward, bombs went off at an annex to the Finance Ministry, a branch of the Rothschild Bank and a garage.

Shortly before sundown Tuesday, a small band of helmeted youths disrupted the end of a peaceful May Day march by tossing gasoline bombs, bottles, stones and pieces of wood at hundreds of riot policemen who responded by firing tear-gas grenades.

Six policemen and at least one of the rioters were injured. Authorities took four youths into custody for questioning.

An anonymous telephone caller to a French news agency said the "Coordination of Revolutionary Ac-

tion" set off the bombs to protest against a government "which has bred fascism, racism and sexism, against the imprisonment of dozens of innocent people, against the warped enemy of the victorious people."

The bombings were considered the worst in the city since the last days of the Algerian war, when Algerian nationalists launched a series of violent bomb attacks in a desperate bid to force France to give them independence.

In other violence, an unoccupied building housing an organization for business leaders was strafed and a fire bomb was thrown at the Union pour les Democraties Francaise, a coalition of parties supporting President Valery Giscard D'Estaing.

There were no injuries, but heavy damage was reported.



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Lonely Hearts killer sought

DICKSON, Tenn. — Police chimed the body of Ada Laverne Evans Hensley Hayes Wittenmyer's third husband Tuesday to see if he, like her fourth husband, died of arsenic poisoning.

The plump, 33-year-old brunette, seen near Gallatin, Tenn., two weeks ago, is already wanted for the murder of her fourth husband, John Wittenmyer, 62, a wealthy Oklahoma antique dealer and rancher.

The couple married three years ago, two weeks after she answered an ad in a "lonely hearts" magazine. Wittenmyer died March 28, just a day after he signed a handwritten will leaving the bulk of the cattle ranching estate to his wife, Oklahoma officials said.

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