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After a brief presentation we will go out for some free pizza.

the world

Labrador cold but oily

Canada seas oil-rich

United Press International
BUCHAREST, Romania — Prospectors exploring the iceberg-infested waters of the Labrador Sea Tuesday reported that Canada's coastal waters are as potentially oil-rich as the North Sea.

At a 10th World Petroleum Congress seminar on "exploration in new areas," Venezuela and Spain reported significant discoveries on their continental shelves and the Soviet Union boasted of a "petroleum bearing" area of western Siberia "that occupies an area of over 2.8 million square kilometers."

In a paper presented to the 4,500 delegates from 70 nations, Canadian geologist Neil McMillan estimated that the Labrador and Baffin Island shelves hold a total of 18 billion barrels of oil and some 4 trillion cubic meters of gas.

"The Labrador Sea has many of the earmarks of the North Sea," McMillan said. "Many explorationists think that the petroleum successes of the Labrador Sea will, in the end, be found to match the North Sea."

The Americans, in a paper presented by G. Alex Mills of the Department of Energy, discussed their work in coal conversion — expected to be a major part of President Carter's \$88 billion plan to develop a massive "synfuel" program to replace 2.5 million barrels of imported oil daily by 1990.

He said coal conversion would only become commercially feasible if the initial cost of building and developing synthetic fuel plants inflated more slowly than the price of oil inflated.

In estimates of the costs of producing synthetic fuels, most delegates agreed that the minimal cost per barrel was \$40 with many types three and four times that amount. It will take many years, they said, before such synthetic fuels can compete against oil which OPEC is currently selling for about \$20 a barrel.

A paper, prepared by the Department of Energy, for presentation to the congress today said the U.S. is sitting on 301 billion barrels of petroleum the oil industry has written off as too expensive to bring to the surface.

The DOE said the United States currently extracts an average of only 33 percent of the petroleum in each of its exploited reservoirs. The other 67 percent, usually heavy crude oil, is too expensive to pump to be commercially feasible.

Vegetable plots in trouble in Soviet agriculture picture

United Press International
MOSCOW — Personal farming plots, a key factor in Soviet agriculture, are heading for troubled times.

Social changes seem to be in collision with the Soviet push to improve harvests from the country's 534 million personal plots. Agriculture ministry officials admitted as much in a recent interview.

"The young people say, 'Let it be for mamma or papa or babushka,'" said Leonid Ivanovich Zaitsev, deputy head of the collective farms section of the Agriculture ministry.

"The new generation just doesn't feel very excited about land cultivation. From the profit point of view, it's just not very attractive. And a small plot means a lot of work." Besides the fact that young people don't like groveling in dirt, rural villages are gradually being consolidated into larger rural towns and there's a migration to the cities across the U.S.S.R.

Yet small, private gardens play an important role in Soviet agriculture. Zaitsev said they cover about 9 million acres, even though personal plots are generally limited by Soviet law to about an acre. But their output is impressive.

According to Zaitsev, in money terms about 25 percent of the food grown in the Soviet Union comes from private plots.

Besides growing fruit and vegetables, Zaitsev said the law allows owners of personal plots to have one

cow, one calf, a "small number" of beef cattle, one sow or piglets, up to 10 sheep or goats, plus chickens, bees and rabbits without limit.

Personal plots have been around for centuries, but they didn't become a state concern until the mid-1930s. They have had a roller-coaster existence since then. Various heads of government never have been able to decide whether they were for or against them.

Despite the label "personal plot," the system smells of private enterprise, and that fostered years of debate. Western agricultural specialists, who believe uncertainty has hampered the system's development, say it was one factor that led to Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny's ouster. They say he opposed expansion of the program while Communist party chairman — and now president — Leonid Brezhnev supported it.

Bishops hope pope will deal with abortion

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The nation's Roman Catholic community looks for support from Pope John Paul II's visit to America in their effort to overturn liberal abortion laws, a top Catholic official says.

"We certainly hope abortion will be a principal theme of his visit," said Bishop Thomas Kelly, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Abortion has been a major issue for the nation's Roman Catholic

The ideological argument was resolved when it was agreed to include the personal agricultural sector in the new Soviet constitution, ratified in 1977. Brezhnev himself stressed the importance of the plots and has publicly chastised state and collective farm managers for not assisting personal plot farmers.

Despite the amount of food they produce, Zaitsev said, personal plot land is not always used to its maximum potential. The plots wholly depend on state and collective farms for animal feeds, which creates problems in areas where grain production doesn't match projections.

Despite an increase in aid, he said, production from personal plots has dropped by 5 percent over the past seven years, while production in the state sector on huge collectives has gone up by 20 percent.

bishops and other religious groups since the Supreme Court's 1973 decision to liberalize access to legal abortions.

In the past, the Vatican has been strongly supportive of the bishops' effort, including their activity on behalf of a drive to enact a constitutional amendment to ban most abortions.

Kelly said in an interview that he believes the pope will "have a lot to say to the Catholic community" on the issue during his visit.

Congress pay may rise only 7%

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress may resist the temptation to permit itself a hefty pay raise of nearly 13 percent, and instead settle for a 7 percent hike in line with President Carter's wage and price guidelines.

The 7 percent figure was recommended Tuesday by a House appropriations subcommittee. The bill now goes to the full committee and then to the House.

UNDER PRESENT LAW, Congress is in line for an automatic, compounded pay increase beginning next month: 7 percent recommended by the administration this year plus a 5.5 percent hike Congress deferred last year.

The bill would give an 11 percent increase this year to top federal officials — those making \$47,500 and above — whose pay was frozen last year.

That increase for the top government bureaucrats would far exceed Carter's inflation guidelines and outstrip the 7 percent increase proposed for Congress whose members now earn \$57,500 a year.

Congress last gave itself a pay increase in 1977 when it allowed a \$13,500 increase to go into effect automatically.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Les Whitte, D-Miss., said inflation has climbed 25 percent since the last pay raise.

President Carter has recommended a 7 percent increase this year for all white-collar government employees and high-level officials in the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

The house attempted to deal with the pay question in June when the legislative appropriations bill first came up. The bill proposed a 7 percent raise, but was amended to 5.5 percent in the House.

AMID SOME CONFUSION, the House members then killed the bill when it came up for final passage.

A pay increase of any size is expected to draw some opposition in both House and Senate.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, introduced a bill Tuesday to stop the automatic pay raise for Congress. Hatch's bill would freeze salaries at their present level for members of Congress but would allow the top level government officials to get their 12.9 percent increase.

Soviets deny new combat units in Cuba

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union Tuesday denied a "totally groundless" U.S. reports the Kremlin has sent a combat brigade to Cuba, and said the number of its forces on the island is the same as during the days of the Cuban missile crisis.

In a rare front-page editorial, the Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, said only Soviet military training personnel were in Cuba, that they had been there 17 years and were no threat to the United States.

"Neither the number nor the functions of the said Soviet personnel have changed throughout all these years," Pravda said. "All contentions about the arrival in Cuba of organized Soviet combat units are totally groundless."

The newspaper blamed the charges about the stationing of 3,000 Soviet troops in Cuba on American propaganda media, working with the blessing of opponents of the strategic arms limitation treaty.

"All this outcry is being used by those circles in the United States

that are trying to prevent the ratification of the SALT II treaty or any case to complicate the process of its ratification," Pravda said.

Pravda said Soviet military personnel were in Cuba at the request of the Cuban government.

"It is also absolutely clear to either by its size or its functions Soviet military personnel in Cuba do not present and cannot present any threat to the United States," said.

President Carter said Friday troops posed no strategic threat to the United States, but their presence was unacceptable and would be challenged through "firm diplomacy."

Senators of both parties have called for opposition to the SALT II treaty unless the Soviet troops are withdrawn immediately.

A brigade of 2,000 to 3,000 troops would bring to 5,000 the number of uniformed Soviets in Cuba, including 1,500 to 2,000 military advisers. In addition, there are an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 Soviet technicians and advisers in Cuba.

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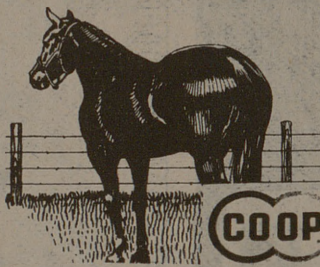
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