

the nation

Probes launched on Presley's death

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Elvis Presley's death two years ago in the mansion of his Graceland mansion has many doubts that the rock 'n' roll king died of a heart attack as health officials had ruled.

Last week, the mystery was deepened when the Tennessee Medical Board charged Presley's personal doctor with "indiscriminately" prescribing more than 5,000 painkillers and downers in the seven months before his death.

Elvis Presley by the Office of the Shelby County Medical Examiner has been completed. The cause of death has been ascribed to hypertensive heart disease with coronary artery heart disease as a contributing factor.

Francisco refused to release the official autopsy report, saying he was acting as a staff doctor of the University of Tennessee medical units and not as medical examiner when he was at the autopsy.

WHEN WORD SPREAD

When the world that Elvis had been found dead at 2:30 p.m., Aug. 9, 1977, his family and fans wanted to know immediately what caused his death at the age of 42.

Eight doctors — including Dr. George Nichopoulos, Presley's personal physician, and Dr. Jerry Francisco, Shelby County Medical Examiner — were called to Baptist Memorial Hospital for a three-hour autopsy requested by the entertainer's family.

Francisco said he agreed to observe the autopsy in case the death certificate needed the signature of a medical examiner — a requirement if death came from other than natural causes. He announced that he died of a weak heart, not drug overdose.

Francisco's conclusions were questioned during ensuing months by bodyguards of Elvis who said he needed pills "to get up, sleep, perform and even to go to the bathroom," and by reports from toxicological labs that showed nearly 100 levels of codeine, barbiturates and the sedative, Placidyl.

Two months after the death, Francisco held a second news conference to answer questions.

THIS REPORT, WRITTEN on medical examiner's stationery, said, "The investigation of the death of

The charges turned the clock back two years.

The controversy waned until last Tuesday when the Tennessee Medical Board of Examiners said a routine audit of drugstores in Memphis showed that Nichopoulos provided Presley with 96 prescriptions on 27 occasions between Jan. 20, 1977 and his death, almost seven months later.

THE WHITE-HAIRED doctor was charged in a formal complaint with writing prescriptions for 150 tablets and 20 cubic centimeters of the pain-killers Percodan and Dilaudid, 262 pills of the depressants, Amnytal and Auallude, and 278 tablets of the stimulants, Dexedrine and Biphetamine.

The charges against Nichopoulos prompted Shelby County Attorney Hugh Stanton Jr. to open a criminal investigation into Presley's death.

An ABC television show last Thursday night concluded Elvis was a "medical drug addict" and his death had been covered up by local officials. The show "20-20" prompted Francisco to hold yet another press conference.

He stood by his original contention that Presley died of heart problems and not drugs — despite the finding of eight prescription drugs in Elvis' body and "significant amounts" of four of them.

National briefs

Carter drops out of (running) race

THURMONT, Md. — President Carter, falling to his knees with exhaustion, dropped out of a rigorous mountain race Saturday on doctor's orders after 4 miles but said later he felt great and was still a running "evangelist."

"I pressed myself too much, but they had to drag me off," Carter told reporters at an awards ceremony after the race.

"I did not want to stop," he said, describing himself as a "senior citizen" of the race course. "I feel great."

Fellow racers said Carter stumbled to his knees and was obviously exhausted about 4 miles through the uphill 6.2 mile course in the Catoctin Mountains near Camp David.

Estrogen found helpful, but risky

WASHINGTON — A group of experts brought together by the National Institutes of Health says the hormone estrogen can help women during menopause and afterward, but it increases the risk of uterine cancer.

Hundreds of experts participating in the meeting said Friday in a "consensus report," women must decide for themselves — in consultation with a doctor — whether to use the hormone.

The report said estrogen can relieve hot flashes, vaginal dryness that may lead to painful sexual intercourse and possible bone loss.

But they said it does not help with psychological problems some women believe are caused by menopause, nor does it halt the physical signs of old age such as wrinkles, and hair and body changes.

Women who use estrogen have a four to eight times higher chance of getting cancer of the uterine lining than others, they said.

Secret Service agent shot

NEW YORK — A Secret Service agent, dining with his partner in a fashionable East Side restaurant, was shot in the face early Saturday during a holdup, police said.

The agent, Michael Knorr, 28, of Manhattan, was shot once in the cheek below his right eye and was reported in guarded condition at Bellevue Hospital, the Secret Service said.

He was with his partner at the Guy Fawkes Restaurant about 1:30 a.m., when a patron at a rear bar stood up and announced a stickup, police said.

Police said Knorr intervened when the man, wearing a silver suit, suddenly pulled out a gun and fired a shot into the ceiling of the crowded restaurant.

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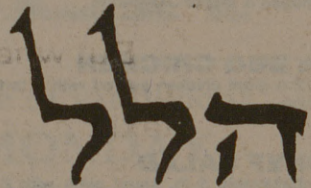
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will meet Monday, Sept. 17 in room 401 Rudder Tower at 7:30 P.M. New officers will be elected and certificates for new members will be distributed.

Wyoming governor calls board unlawful

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A probed federal Energy Mobilization board to cut through red tape to meet the nation's energy needs may be unconstitutional, Wyoming Gov. Herschler said.

In a letter to Sen. Henry Jackson, Wash., the Democratic Herschler said there is nothing to prevent the board from becoming a "layer of tape all its own."

"A sunset provision is not enough to assure accountability," Herschler wrote. "The problem is particularly acute in light of the board's broad powers and broad mission."

President Carter has proposed the board as a means of speeding up construction of power facilities and other means of bettering the nation's energy self-sufficiency. It

would have broad power to cut through procedural requirements of state and federal laws.

But Herschler said such power could create severe problems, particularly in the West.

"The leading example is water," he said. "Western water cannot be ignored without creating short-term and long-term havoc."

The Energy and Interior departments have recommended the board be empowered to override state water laws and water rights recognized by the states in order to obtain water for energy projects.

Herschler said the proposal that the board take over state administrative powers could be unconstitutional.

Soviet troops testing U.S., sensor says

WASHINGTON — Sen. Richard Stone, D-Fla., who first called attention to Soviet combat forces in Cuba, says his information indicates the Russians intended a deliberate test of American resolve.

Stone's revelations, first denied by the administration but later confirmed by U.S. intelligence, have led to a series of negotiations between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin.

The third Vance-Dobrynin meeting took place Friday. He refused to comment on the negotiations, saying, "We have to give quiet diplomacy a chance to work."

Stone told UPI he is continuing to get current information on the situation in Cuba, partly from emigrants who talk by telephone to friends or

family still in Cuba, and partly from "other sources."

He said, "The Soviet combat brigade conducted open maneuvers in August. The very fact that they operated openly, after the public flap in this country in July, would indicate that they intended a deliberate test of this government."

He said, "The Soviets chose to have the test, by conducting the maneuvers. We should meet the test and deal with it with persistence and patience."

Stone said his information from Cuba indicates the Soviet troops are separately housed from other troops engaged in training and advising Cuban forces.

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International Meditation Society

There will be a free introductory lecture on the Transcendental Meditation Technique on Tuesday the 18th of September at 7:30 P.M. in Room #308 in Rudder Tower. This lecture is for those just interested in the general knowledge or in learning the technique for expanding awareness and increasing enjoyment of all aspects of life.

Note: There will be an organizational meeting held at 6:30 p.m. the same evening for those who are already TM practitioners.

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