

the nation

National briefs

Consumers urged to testify on agriculture

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland Tuesday encouraged everyone affected by food policy, not just farmers, to testify when he conducts hearings this fall to examine the future of American agriculture.
"This administration has made a conscious commitment to open the decision making process to a wide range of views," he said. "This is why we want to hear not only from farmers, but from everyone on the food chain."
Bergland said the administration supports steps to encourage agricultural production, but President Carter realized when he took office that the Agriculture Department could not concern itself merely with production of food and automatic delivery to the consumer.

Court turns down drivers license case

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court says freedom of religion does not exempt members of a religious sect from having to have their pictures on a drivers license.
Over the dissent of Justice William Brennan, the court refused Monday to consider the constitutionality of denying a drivers license to a person who refuses for religious reasons to be photographed.
Members of a Pueblo, Colo., religious sect challenged the refusal of the state to deny them licenses. Members of the sect believe the Bible forbids that they be photographed.

17-year-old pleads guilty to murders

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Brenda Spencer, the 17-year-old girl who shot 11 people on a school playground because "I don't like Mondays," has pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder.
Spencer was ordered Monday by Superior Court Judge Byron McMillan to return to court Nov. 29 for sentencing.
She could receive up to life in prison, which would make her eligible for parole after 16 years and eight months.
In exchange for the guilty plea, the prosecution dropped efforts to have her sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.
Spencer peppered the Cleveland Elementary School in San Diego with bullets on Jan. 29, firing from a window of her nearby home with a semiautomatic .22-caliber rifle her father gave her as a gift.
The fusillade wounded eight children and a policeman, and killed school Principal Burton Wragg, 53, and custodian Michael Suchar, 56.

Dixie GOP chiefs debate '80 voting

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Republicans attending the Southern Governors Association annual meeting agree President Carter's solid southern support of 1976 has eroded, but they are unsure which GOP contender can claim the region's electoral votes next year.
Govs. Lamar Anderson of Tennessee, Bill Clements of Texas, Pierre I. duPont IV of Delaware and John Dalton of Virginia said in separate interviews Monday that former California Gov. Ronald Reagan is the current frontrunner.
They said, however, that Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee and ex-Gov. John Connally of Texas can make major inroads into the overwhelming southern support Reagan enjoyed in 1976 — and that the possibility of a renewed candidacy by former President Ford would alter the early scramble in state caucuses and primaries.
The four governors also said former Rep. George Bush of Texas, as a Southerner, has a good chance of picking up Dixie delegates to the national GOP convention in Detroit next summer.

"The fascinating question is, what would happen to all four of them (Baker, Reagan, Connally and Bush) if President Ford gets into it," duPont mused.
Ford has said he does not plan to enter the early primaries but would be amenable to a draft. Recently, however, he has been keeping an active speaking schedule and has sharply criticized Carter — bitterly contradicting the president's statement that the Russian military brigade in Cuba was there during the Republican tenure in the White House.
Clements said Texas polls give Connally an undisputed edge over Reagan, the victor over Ford in the state's primary in 1976, but "whether that will be true a year from now, I don't know."
"Any of the four or five top Republican candidates right now would carry Virginia over Kennedy or Carter," Dalton said. "Ford would sweep Virginia today against Carter."
Dalton said Ford won the state in 1976 by about 58,000 votes — Carter's only southern setback except for a narrow defeat in Oklahoma — but that "it would not be close at all today."
Alexander, the only GOP governor taking sides in the primaries, said he favors fellow Tennessean Baker for the nomination. He said Baker and Ford both visited him in Nashville recently and expressed private expectations that Kennedy would defeat Carter for the Democratic nomination next year.
Alexander said Baker's vote for the Panama Canal treaties — a sore point with the Reagan faction of the GOP — would not hurt him next year and that he did not need to atone for the Canal vote by fighting the pending Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty in the Senate. Baker has been actively mustering the minority against the SALT II accord favored by Carter, which has lately lost Ford's support.
"I don't think the man in the

Pope's mass a splash in Boston

United Press International
BOSTON — They have all trod the ancient Boston Common at some time — the Adamses, Hancock, Cabots and Lodges, and recently the Kennedys. But this friendly man in the red cape was something special and the people of Massachusetts poured onto the soggy greensward to greet him.
There were only 500,000 people. But since the Common's grounds are limited, they stood bumper to bumper.
The spillover of people formed joyous streams in the narrow streets. Along those streets Monday, cruised Pope John Paul II, a pilgrim in a black Cadillac.
Just as John Paul arrived for the second papal mass ever celebrated in the United States, tykies began to deliver a message of their own. A

sprinkle, but a determined one. It aimed to grow.
"Let us join together," said a voice from the altar before the pope got there, "in 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic.'" The response was true ardor.
From where the pope looked over the crowd, there were an immense number of upturned faces and a sea of color — raincoats in yellows, reds, oranges, blacks; nuns in white, monks in black hoods. There were umbrellas by the acres, black, red, polka-dot.
There were loud cheers, throaty screams, for the processions that preceded the pope, and with them came the winking of flashbulbs.

Then, from the far left, the real applause began. It swept across the crowd as they spotted the man they had come to see.
They were wet, but they were electric with enthusiasm.
What John Paul saw as he turned his head to the right was humanity going back and back, sinking with a dip in the ground, then rising up. The buildings behind them had disappeared at midsection into the rain-fog.
Thousands of women stood in plastic hats. The crowd had taken

the umbrellas down when the processions began. The rain was a great veil, softening everything.
"I want to tell everyone that the pope is your friend."
Loud applause, then subsiding, then feeding upon itself and up again, then down, and then swelling into a chorus of "Yeah, yeah," and then a chant of "long live the pope," catching on and intensifying.
"I greet you, America the beautiful," the pope began.
The pope continued with his little joke: "Beautiful . . . even . . . if . . . it . . . rains!"
Now, it was raining hard. Water coursed down the upturned faces, ran down necks, and went through raincoats. The umbrellas went up again. The crowd stayed.
The twilight had come, but the crowd never left, never thinned.
At the end of his Boston day, the pope went to the cardinal's home, where he was to get a night's rest. In the rain, he who had been sheltered on the altar stood up through one of the car's skylights, and waved to the crowd.

Windfall tax may help oil industry

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The oil industry may be wise to accept some sort of windfall profits tax as a way to defuse public suspicions sparked by rising energy prices, the co-author of Harvard Business School's best-selling energy study said Tuesday.
"Otherwise, there will be a stronger and stronger move toward a national oil company," Daniel Yergin told reporters at a breakfast news conference.

Harvard's "Energy Future" and at least two other major, independent energy studies published this year have focused on energy efficiency and free-market pricing as the best policy alternatives.

Yergin said some countries have found a national oil company, now sought by some U.S. consumer groups, to be a useful "window on the market," but that he doubted it would help resolve the fundamental problems of increasing demand and declining supplies.
The study recommends conservation and energy efficiency, coupled with decontrolled prices, as the quickest, cheapest and most effective way to deal with the energy crisis.

Yergin said he is becoming increasingly annoyed by businessmen who promote unrealistic energy production strategies despite evidence showing conservation makes far more economic sense.
Industry advocates of a massive synthetic fuel program, for example, "ant to live in never-never land that's going to come crashing down in the 1980s," he said.

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