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the nation

Supreme Court delays sale of off-shore leases

United Press International  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.— Environmentalists won an eleventh-hour reprieve from the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday night in their fight to block the government sale of oil and gas exploration leases on the rich Georges Bank fishing grounds off the New England Coast.

But federal officials are confident of ultimate victory. Time ran out on the scheduled sale of drilling rights on 660,000 acres of ocean floor when Chief Justice Warren Burger refused to hasten Supreme Court consideration of the case, scheduled for Friday.

By law, the lease sale had to be completed by midnight. One official said it would be at least 40 days before the sale could be rescheduled.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused to block the sale Tuesday morning, just hours before bids for the 116 tracts were scheduled to be opened at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Providence.

At the request of the appeals court, the Interior Department waited to proceed while attorneys for the Boston-based Conservation Law Foundation appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. The group claimed Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus underestimated the potential harm an oil spill could cause in the area 85 miles off Massachusetts that produces 15 percent of the world's fish catch each year.

Justice William Brennan temporarily blocked the sale until the full court could review the case Friday. Burger later refused to overrule Brennan's decision.

Donald Truesdell of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management said he was confident the Supreme Court will uphold the leasing process but said he expected a delay of at least 40 days.

"The Supreme Court will apparently make some type of ruling, this week, (or) next week. If it is in the government's favor, it will require, as we understand it, a republishing of the sale notice, so it will mean a delay of at least 40 days," Truesdell said.

Chrysler can recover  
Treasury chief says

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary C. William Miller Wednesday told Congress that if financially ailing Chrysler Corp. goes bankrupt it would cost taxpayers \$2.75 billion over the next two years up to 100,000 Americans would lose their jobs.

Miller, in testimony before a House banking subcommittee, said bankruptcy would be the only alternative to the administration's \$1 billion federal loan guarantee program which was unveiled last week. "Our conclusion is that Chrysler can recover as a result of this proposed financing plan," Miller said. "It makes more sense than a reorganization in bankruptcy."

Miller painted a gloomy picture on the effects of a possible Chrysler bankruptcy.

He said the administration has estimated that the federal cost of bankruptcy would be at least \$2.75 billion in 1980 and 1981 because of loss of revenues, unemployment claims, welfare costs and other incidental costs.

Furthermore, Miller said, the economies of some midwestern states — particularly the state of Michigan and Detroit — would be seriously damaged by a failure.

Miller also said that a Chrysler failure would have "important negative effects" on the United States' trade balance — possibly as much as \$2 billion by the end of 1981.

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9**  
9:30 A.M. 4:00 P.M.

Democrats defeat  
GOP across U.S.

United Press International  
Democrats resoundingly won governorships in Mississippi and Kentucky Tuesday and kept a stranglehold on the nation's largest cities — badly damaging GOP dreams of picking up grass-roots momentum for the 1980 national elections.

Kentucky and Mississippi, traditional Democratic states whose conservative voting in national elections had boosted GOP upset hopes, elected Democrats John Y. Brown and William Winter.

Eight of the nation's 20 largest cities elected mayors — and Republicans won only three. The GOP unseated a Democrat only in Cleveland — and that had been expected — where Ohio Lt. Gov. George Voinovich trounced feisty incumbent Dennis Kucinich.

Former Democratic Rep. William Green was elected mayor of Philadelphia, the nation's fourth largest city, to succeed retiring Frank Rizzo. Democrats already control the three largest city halls — in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

In Houston, incumbent Democrat Jim McConn was forced into a runoff by City Councilman Louie McCann, but even the challenger is a Democrat, guaranteeing party control of the nation's five largest cities.

But in generally liberal San Francisco, conservative GOP City Councilman Quentin Kopp ran an amazingly strong race and forced incumbent Democrat Dianne Feinstein into a Dec. 11 runoff.

In addition, Democrats gained control of the state legislatures in New Jersey, Kentucky, Michigan and Virginia — important state lawmakers will redraw congressional districts based on the census.

The GOP has a chance to win the governorship next month in Louisiana, where Rep. David Bonior is in a runoff. If he loses, the Republicans will have only 18 of the nation's 50 governorships.

Brown was an easy winner in Kentucky governorship over Republican Louie B. Nunn in a bitter campaign.

The sharp personal attacks marked the campaign disappointing on election night as Nunn congratulated the winner and Brown thanked supporters: "We have taken our people and our state out of political damage."

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