

Governors seek dump sites for nuclear wastes

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The nation's governors opened their annual winter meeting Sunday, looking for a policy on where to dump dangerous chemical and nuclear wastes that none of the states want.

The governors pushed for congressional passage of a measure that would finance accident cleanup costs and sought to find an equitable plan to decide where to put the unwanted, but needed facilities.

President Carter's newly appointed Council on Nuclear Waste Management was slated during the National Governors Association gathering to meet with Energy Department officials, with whom the panel eventually will help write a national policy on the disposal of nuclear waste.

The nuclear waste issue is especially ticklish because only three states — South Carolina, Nevada and Washington — now accept low-level atomic garbage and there are no permanent sites for higher-level wastes.

"We all recognize the necessity of siting, but the feeling of 'anywhere but here' is a common one we've had to deal with," said South Carolina Gov. Richard Riley, reflecting the consensus of his colleagues.

There are 35 million tons of hazardous chemical waste produced annually in the United

States and the volume is increasing by up to 10 percent annually, officials said.

Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm said a "national program is urgently needed to address the problem of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites."

Congress is considering two plans to create a so-called "super fund" to deal with hazardous waste emergencies. A House plan would establish a \$1.3 billion revolving fund, while a Senate proposal calls for a \$500 million fund.

Most or all of the fund would come from fees imposed on industries that generate hazardous wastes.

Peace Corps volunteers help with food production

By SCOT K. MEYER
Campus Reporter

Joining the Peace Corps is not just something you can do to help other people, it is something you can do to help yourself, Peace Corps volunteers told agricultural students at a brown bag seminar Friday.

"In terms of getting and giving, you give very little and get a lot," said Hedi Naouali, a Texas A&M University graduate who has been working for the Peace Corps for 1 1/2 years.

Naouali, a Tunisian who graduated from Texas A&M in 1971, went on to become Minister of Agriculture for his country. He is currently on loan to the Peace Corps, and is touring American campuses looking for students interested in serving as agricultural technicians.

"So you get his trust and convince him to perhaps spend \$50 on fertilizer, and if he notices some slight improvement then the next time he will use a little bit more," Naouali said.

Getting to know "the realities of the situation" is one of the benefits Naouali said Peace Corps volunteers receive. Naouali said that the ability to learn to work within constraints is a marketable skill.

"So many American companies are looking for technicians, and they just don't find them. These companies are looking for people who have overseas experience, and who can speak another language,"

Naouali said.

Naouali said a person getting out of the Peace Corps will have the experience needed to get a good job. "It's not just sacrifice," Naouali said.

Another speaker at the seminar was Mylen Bohle, an American who has been working with Peace Corps/Tunisia. Bohle graduated from Montana State University in 1975, and decided in 1978 to join Peace Corps.

Bohle said he has been working in a small village of about 200 people in central Tunisia. He has been primarily concerned with convincing farmers there to grow more barley and less wheat, in order to make better

use of the limited water supplies.

Bohle said that one of the most important aspects of his work with the Peace Corps has been the social experience; drinking tea with farmers, meeting their children and grandchildren, and just talking with people.

"Americans don't know what the rest of the world is like, and the rest of the world doesn't know what Americans are like," Bohle said. "This has been the main cause of many of our country's problems of late, and the Peace Corps could be a solution."

Changing rape laws aid victims in court cases

WASHINGTON — A major change in rape laws around the country is making it easier for victims of sexual assaults — men as well as women — to prosecute their attackers, according to groups dealing with the offense.

In the last eight years, 42 states have amended their rape laws to restrict evidence concerning a victim's previous sexual history and many have "neutered" the laws so men can bring charges if they have been raped.

"We are getting away from the concept that the victim is always female and the assaulter is male," says Jean Westler of the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Rape.

"This has a lot of implications, particularly for men in prison who have been raped."

Mary Ann Largen, the director of an Arlington, Va., women's resource organization which monitors sex offender statutes in 50 states, says changes in the laws are a "direct result of an extensive and very organized lobby effort on the part of the women's movement."

A report from the National Conference of State Legislators shows most states have adopted new rape codes that sensitize the investigative mechanism, re-define sex crimes as a form of assault and bring sentencing standards in compliance with other felonies.

During the first half of 1979, the FBI says forcible rapes reported rose

11 percent. Government statistics show 60 of every 100,000 women were rape victims in 1978.

"We can't be sure if there is an increase in reporting or an increase in the crime itself. Experts now agree that rape is one of the most under-reported offenses in this country," she said.

At the same time, Largen said many states changed laws to include other sexual assault besides rape.

"The new laws are giving prosecutors new options in terms of bringing charges," Largen said. "In the past, when a prosecutor was in the situation of knowing he couldn't get a conviction, he would plea bargain the offense down to a simple assault."

In 1974, Michigan completely revamped its rape statute, making it a model for rape law reform around the country.

The new law defined four degrees of criminal sexual conduct — from forcible rape to sexual harassment and recognized rape as a "crime of violence, not lust or passion."

It also simplified the process leading to arrest of a suspect and encouraged the justice system to "try the defendants rather than the victims in sexual assault cases."

Jeanne Marsh and Nathan Caplan, two researchers completing a study of Michigan's law, said it probably does not make the "average" woman safer on the street or in her home.

However, they add, "The average rapist who commits forcible rape is now more likely to be reported to the

authorities, arrested, tried, and convicted of his crime."

In New York, the requirement for a victim to have corroboration of a rape has been eliminated.

"It was unlike a robbery where, if someone robbed you on the street and the victim could make an identification, that was all that was needed," said Diana Steele, a lawyer for Women's Rights Project of the ACLU.

"Now," she said, "the new law has taken away some of the mystique of rape and treated it like any other crime."

Leigh Bienen, a New Jersey lawyer writing a book on new rape laws, says a primary goal of reform is to redefine the offense "in terms of acts and circumstances rather than the conduct or state of mind of the victim."

Some states have passed laws requiring emergency room treatment of rape victims and forbidding hospitals from turning away rape victims, Bienen said.

She said three states — New Jersey, Nebraska and Oregon — no longer exempt spouses from rape laws. Others have made it easier for a person to bring rape charges against a spouse if the couple is living apart.

In October, a Maryland court overturned a rape conviction on the grounds the victim had not resisted enough.

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