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Millions mail tax returns at last minute

United Press International
Millions of Americans waited until the last minute to mail their federal income tax returns, just in time for the "Apr 15" postmark, but President Carter set a good example by filing his return early — and gaining a more than \$16,000 refund.

The Internal Revenue Service said that as of April 4 only about 60 million of the estimated 93 million American taxpayers had filed returns. Most received refunds averaging \$590.53.

The average American household paid more than \$6,100 in federal taxes for 1979. President Carter paid nearly \$65,000 in income taxes and claimed a \$16,703.50 refund.

As April 15 drew toward midnight, millions of Americans made the mad dash to the post office to get their returns postmarked in time.

"Every year they're out there like this," said a superintendent at the post office at Grand Central in New York City. "People are scared. I don't see why. They're still going to get their money back if it's postmarked the 16th."



A local resident strains to put her last-minute tax return into a mailbox outside of the College Station post office. Many persons throughout the nation

chose to tempt fate by waiting until just before Tuesday's midnight deadline to mail their returns.

Photo by Cathy Kirkham

Carter reveals tax return, expects others to do same

United Press International
Like most American wage earners, the presidential candidates have filed their income tax returns. So far, only the content of President Carter's is known — and that is the core of today's political argument.

No sooner had the Carter return been filed than White House press secretary Jody Powell gave copies of it to reporters and demanded that all presidential candidates do likewise.

Sen. Edward Kennedy's office said the data would be published "as soon as mechanically possible," without making it clear whether the return itself would be made public.

But Ronald Reagan — who was embarrassed while governor of California by the disclosure he had paid no state taxes in 1971 — refused to publish his return and said he would reveal only the "disclosures required by law, as I did as governor."

Reagan said he considers it unfair to require such information only from people in public life and not from the general public. Last week, he said this year's tax bite is the largest since he has been paying taxes.

There was no immediate word from the other Republican candidates George Bush and John Anderson.

But Powell's real target was Kennedy — and a Kennedy press aide, Jim Flug, re-

sponded in kind.

"I would simply note," Powell said, "that more than six years ago, Senator Kennedy stated if he became a presidential candidate he would make public his net worth and tax returns."

He said Kennedy so far has put out only "bits and pieces" of financial information and a disclosure statement that is required by the Senate.

Flug called the remark a "cheap shot," since Kennedy "issued a fiscal statement when he announced his candidacy."

That statement was a detailed summary of his tax return, but did not include the return itself nor his total net worth.

15,000 Ford employees to be laid off indefinitely

United Press International
The recession economists have been predicting for so long may be at hand, with some 15,000 Ford Motor Co. employees learning the hard way the meaning of an economic slowdown.

In order to cut its growing losses, Ford said Tuesday it is closing indefinitely its Mahwah, N.J., car assembly plant, eliminating shifts at four other plants, and phasing out two manufacturing plants.

In total, about 15,000 Ford employees will be laid off indefinitely because of the cutbacks. The company already has 41,000 workers on indefinite layoff.

Ford's car sales so far this year are off nearly 28 percent from last year, and it is not alone.

U.S. automakers reported early April sales slumped 24.4 percent below the same period last year. All domestic automakers had sales declines except Volkswagen of America, which managed to hold steady with last year's levels.

As sales of new cars continue to slump, several auto-related industries are reporting lower earnings. Stockholders of Uniroyal Inc., which makes tires and other auto components, were told the company expected a first quarter loss of \$12 million compared to \$6 million profit in the first quarter a year ago.

Fleetwood Enterprises Inc. of California, a travel trailer and motor home manufacturer, said it was closing nine of its plants across the country, which will put 650 of its employees out of work.

A steep drop in all industrial production was reported Tuesday by the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. money manager. If production continues to fall, the American factory worker will pay for it — in jobs.

Treasury Secretary G. William Miller, acknowledging the economic slowdown was beginning, said in Washington the unemployment rate probably would rise to 7.25 percent by the end of the year. It is now 6.2 percent.

The Fed reported industrial output on a seasonally adjusted basis fell 0.8 percent in March, following a decline of 0.2 percent in February. Construction supplies took the worst beating with production falling 3.6 percent — further evidence the housing industry is in serious trouble.

"I think we're now seeing the onset of a recession," said William Cox, the Commerce Department's deputy chief economist.

"For the average manufacturing worker, it means some of them are likely to face layoffs in the course of the coming months," Cox said. "For young people or people just entering the labor force, it means jobs will be scarcer, harder to find."

House and Senate Republicans used the occasion of "Income Tax Day" to blame President Carter and Democratic members of Congress for soaring inflation and high taxes.

Iran may delay elections

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — The ruling Revolutionary Council is considering yet another postponement of elections for Iran's parliament, which could further delay a decision on freeing the 50 American hostages, the Pars news agency reported today.

The news agency said the postponement was under consideration and awaiting approval by the Council, Iran's chief executive body. The Pars report indicated the government announced the proposal but gave no reason for it.

Polling for the second and final phase of elections to the Majlis, or parliament, was originally set to be held across the country on May 2. But if the Council approves, the polling would take place one week later.

Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has declared that the Majlis should decide the fate of the hostages, now captive inside the occupied U.S. Embassy compound for 165 days.

President Abolhasan BaniSadr also told European Economic Community nation envoys that a decision on the hostages release rested with the as yet unformed parliament. The diplomats had asked him to set a specific date for the captives' release.

In another development, Iranian heavy artillery and troops were sent to the western border with Iraq to fend off Iraqi attacks on Iran's Bavaissi out post, reported vacated last week by Iraqi forces, reports said today.

Iran's Foreign Minister Sadeq Ghotbzadeh said during a tour of the border that Iranian troops "are ready to drive right through the Iraqi ranks." He said some even wished to "occupy Baghdad."

Several columns of Iranian troops took up positions in the Ilam province, in the southwest, as authorities began evacuating Iranian refugees expelled from Iraq to the interior.

The latest activity follows a promise by the Iranian militants holding the Americans that Amnesty International and other human rights groups will be permitted to visit the diplomatic compound and see the captives.

Apparently eager to show the world their 50 American captives are being well treated, Moslem militants have promised that Amnesty International and other human rights groups may visit the occupied U.S. Embassy.

The new offer, however, was offset by a

militant warning that none of the hostages held for 165 days would be allowed to leave the mission to receive medical treatment.

The statement Tuesday agreeing to visits by humanitarian groups was made by a militant spokesman after officials of the International Red Cross, who toured the diplomatic compound Monday, reported having met separately with all the captives.

In Washington, the State Department said messages collected by the Red Cross from the hostages to their families convincingly showed that all the captives in Tehran were alive and inside the embassy compound.

A department spokesman said the messages would be delivered by the end of the week.

Dr. Bernhard Liebeskind, a Swiss internist who was a member of the Red Cross delegation, flew to Geneva to deliver his report and said the hostages were generally fit but their living conditions could be improved.

He was quoted by Tehran Radio as saying, "In general, they felt very well mentally as well. Only one was a little bit anxious and two others, in my opinion, were a bit depressed."

Cubans to go to Costa Rica

United Press International
SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Costa Rica sent two jets to Havana today to airlift out 253 of 10,800 Cubans stranded in the Peruvian Embassy in the start of operation "Bridge of Freedom."

The aircraft landed in Havana after a two-hour flight but were held up for at least 2½ hours. Officials at San Jose's Juan Santa Maria International airport said they had no explanation for the holdup.

"Everything is ready and a rendezvous with the 253 Cubans is set," one of the officials helping to coordinate the freedom shuttle said.

Approval for the mission was given Tuesday when Cuban President Fidel Castro authorized the departure of 253 Cubans from the jammed Peruvian diplomatic compound.

But the Cuban leader, who has disputed the right of some of the people inside the compound to leave, said nothing about the rest of the 10,800 Cubans who have been at the embassy since April 4.

Costa Rican government spokesman Carlos Aguilar said he has learned that 4,800 of the 10,800 in the embassy have been told they can leave the Communist island nation.

A Costa Rican airlines BAC-111 lifted off from the Juan Santa Maria International Airport at 11:45 p.m., followed one hour later by a Boeing 727 of the LACSA airlines.

The airlift is under the aegis of the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Committee of European Migration. The evacuation of all

10,800 Cubans would be a record for the group.

Jose Luis Monteil, the European Migration Committee representative for Costa Rica and Panama, said his group will provide food and medicine for the 253 refugees when they touch down in San Jose early today.

Jorge Poveda, a spokesman for the Costa Rica presidency, said the 253 who will arrive on the first "bridge of freedom" flight will be allowed to stay in Costa Rica for six weeks until their final destination is determined.

The United States has agreed to accept 3,500 of the Cubans, Peru 1,000 and Spain 500. Canada, West Germany, Belgium and Ecuador may take some of the others.

Diplomatic officials could give no firm reason for Castro's wanting to retain absolute control over who will be allowed to leave first.

One diplomat said Castro may want to block the possible evacuation of the 25 Cubans who started the stampede on the embassy by rushing it and killing one Cuban policeman.

Another said Castro may be trying to insure that the first 5,000 Cubans to leave are "the most anti-social elements" — people who may have lengthy criminal records.

The ICEM group, an autonomous organization with 33 member countries, flew 4,500 people out of Chile after the right-wing military coup that toppled Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

Philosopher Sartre dead at age 74

United Press International
PARIS — Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher who influenced literature and thought throughout the world for four decades, died at the age of 74 with his lifelong companion feminist author Simone de Beauvoir at his bedside.

He died Tuesday night at Broussais Hospital, where he was admitted March 20 suffering from pulmonary edema, a lung disorder.

The philosopher's adopted daughter, Arlette El Kaim, and Liliane Siegel, who wrote one of the last works published about Sartre, also were with Sartre during his last hours.

"I can only say that we have lost someone irreplaceable," Miss Siegel said.

Small groups of people gathered at the hospital to mourn the death of the father of the school of thought known as existentialism.

Today's edition of the newspaper Liberation, which was founded by Sartre, published a large photograph of the philosopher on its front page.

"The immense Sartre, who dominated this century as Voltaire and Hugo did theirs, was a man among men, a seeker and inventor of liberties," the newspaper said in a commentary.

Sartre, one of the best-known and most respected philosophers of the century, popularized the principles of existentialism, which state a man is what he does and is responsible only to himself and fellow men.

Sartre shunned all honors, even rejecting the Nobel Prize for literature in 1964. He contended accepting the prize would have limited the impact of his literary work.

Board names new editors

Wayne Cook was nominated to be editor of the 1980 Aggeland and Dillard Stone was nominated to be editor of The Battalion Tuesday night.

The Student Publications Board nominated the two journalism students; they must be approved by Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs.

Cook was classes editor and features editor for the Aggeland. He also worked as editor of his high school yearbook in Houston. He was selected unanimously by the publications board.

Marilou Tenhet was the other candidate for the Aggeland editor's post.

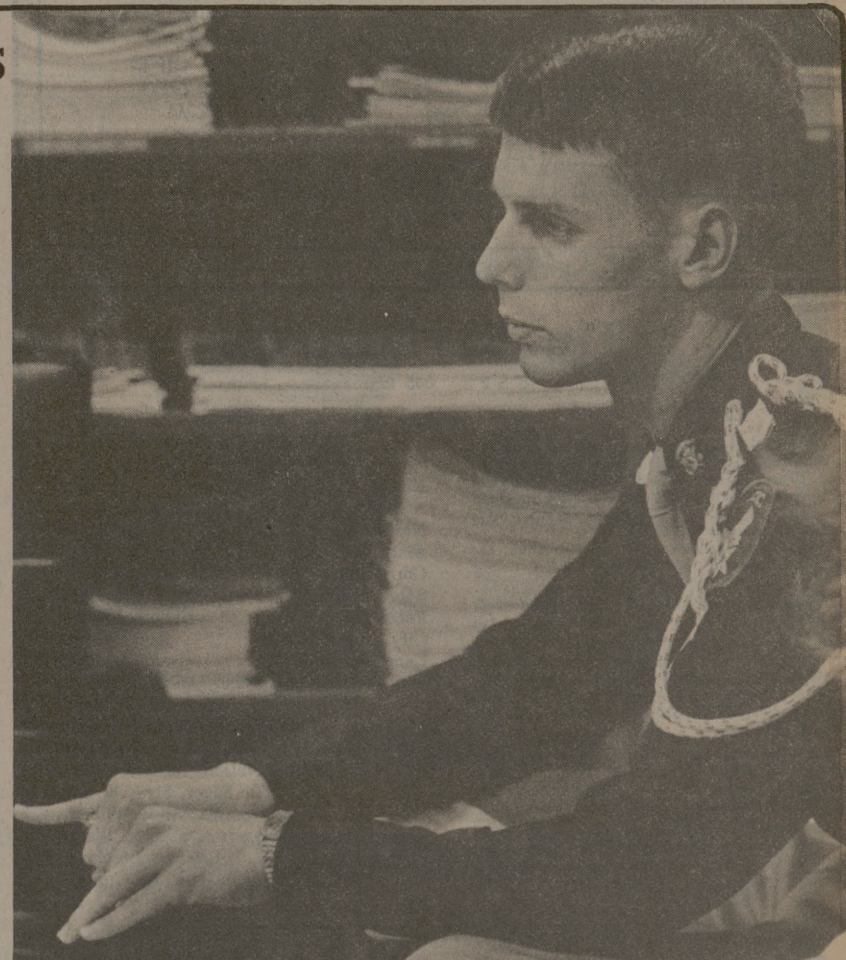
"I look forward to working on next year's book," Cook said. "I'll try to make the best book that A&M has ever had."

Stone, a senior from Brazosport, was nominated for editor for both summer and fall. He has served as reporter for The Battalion one year, news editor for one semester, assistant managing editor one semester and copy editor one semester.

The vote recommending Stone for the summer post was a unanimous 6-0. The board voted 4-2 to recommend him for the fall editorship.

Other candidates considered for The Battalion post were Louie Arthur, Richard Oliver and Tim Sager.

"I'd like to significantly improve both the quantity and quality of campus and local news, striving for increased accuracy and credibility," Stone said.



Dillard Stone counts votes on his fingers as the Student Publications Board names him editor of the Battalion for this summer and fall.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.