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Ape needs instincts

United Press International
BROOKFIELD, Ill. — Zoo officials hope Hahna, the mother of a newborn 3-pound, 9-ounce female orangutan, has the right maternal instincts despite being raised in captivity.

Hahna was born in captivity and a week after she was born, she contracted pneumonia and had to be taken from her mother and hand raised.

The baby orangutan was born Saturday night, Brookfield Zoo officials said.

"She may never have learned the right orangutan maternal behavior," said Dr. Benjamin B. Beck, curator of primates at the zoo.

Grain contract to up sales

China and US close deal

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland said Wednesday the new four-year U.S.-Chinese grain agreement contains no limit on how much American

grain Peking may buy each year and he expects sales will grow.

The agreement was signed late Tuesday night in Peking by U.S. Ambassador Leonard Woodcock and China's Minister of Foreign Trade Li Qiang.

"We believe the agreement will encourage further sales of grains to China and expect that over the next few years the Chinese will, at times, buy even more than the 9-million-ton level," Bergland said.

The agreement, which runs from next Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1984, calls for Chinese imports of 6 to 9 million tons of U.S. grain, of which 80 to 85 percent would be wheat and the balance corn.

The arrangement is not expected to boost U.S. grain sales above the current level right away, but Bergland said it will assure a "stable, high level" of trade.

China began to buy U.S. grain in 1972 but bought none in 1975-77 before resuming purchases in 1978. Grain accounts for about half of \$2 billion worth of current U.S. farm exports to China.

Estimates for this fiscal year indicate the Chinese will purchase 6 million tons of American wheat, 2.5 million tons of corn, 1 million tons of soybeans and 2 million bales of cotton. Soybeans and cotton are included in the agreement.

If China intends to purchase more than 9 million tons in any single year it must give "prior notice" to the U.S. government, the agreement said, but the pact does not require U.S. permission for China to purchase additional amounts.

That differs from the 5-year Russian grain agreement, which requires U.S. permission for Russian purchases in excess of 8 million tons.

The agreement calls for consultations if "exceptional circumstances prevent the United States from supplying 9 million tons or if China is unable to buy that amount."

Secret negotiations for the agreement first began in May, Bergland said, but the conclusive talks began in the middle of September.

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The speaker is Dr. Rod O'Conner

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Inflation offsets higher incomes

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Americans earned significantly more money in 1979 than in the year before, but inflation ate up virtually all of the increase, the government said Wednesday.

Median family income rose to \$19,680 last year, up 11.6 percent from 1978, the Census Bureau reported, but the increase was almost totally offset by an 11.3 percent increase in inflation.

The report also shows that 11.6 percent of the population existed on incomes that were below the poverty level in 1979. It said there were 25.2 million people in families with incomes less than \$7,412 last year.

The Census Bureau said although there were 700,000 more people in the sub-poverty income group last year than in 1978, "the number is not considered significantly different in a statistical sense."

However, more elderly people — 3.6 million in 1979 compared to 3.2 million in 1978 — were listed in the sub-poverty category.

The report also said income trends for white, black and Spanish-American families remained about the same in 1979 as in the previous year.

The median family income in 1979 was \$20,520 for whites, \$11,650 for blacks and \$14,320 for Spanish-Americans.

The median income for black families was 57 percent of that for white families last year, about the same as the 1978 level of 59 percent, the bureau said.

Beavers blamed for levee collapse

United Press International
OAKLAND, Calif. — Angry farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are taking out their aggressions on the California golden beaver they insist is responsible for last month's levee break near Stockton, Calif.

The head of the East Bay Municipal Utility District also took action on the levee problem Tuesday, sending a telegram to state officials urging the development of a comprehensive plan for improvement of the delta's levee system.

The water supply for the district, serving Oakland and surrounding communities, was seriously threatened last month when a levee collapsed, flooding almost 5,200 acres of the Lower Jones Tract near Stockton, wrecking farmland and endangering rail lines.

Although there is no solid evidence tying the burrowing rodents

to the levee collapse, farmers blaming the beavers, along with muskrats and ground squirrels.

Beaver hunting season does not officially begin until Nov. 1, but the California Department of Fish and Game granted some exemptions Tuesday allowing angry residents begin exterminating the creatures.

Trappers hired by the farmers found 18 beaver huts — with six animals each — within 200 yards of the levee break.

While the trappers and farmers work to reduce the beaver population, Game Warden James Dyer said it will probably prove ineffective.

EBMUD President John Reynolds urged lawmakers to convene a meeting on the levee problem to have "all federal, state and local agencies come to a timely agreement on a comprehensive plan for Delta protection."



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