

State

U.S. judge freezes Iranian assets in Texas, disregards hostage pact

United Press International
DALLAS — Six Texas banks have 30 days to respond to a federal judge's order directing them to freeze \$17.3 million in Iranian assets, an order that goes against the agreement between the U.S. and Iranian governments that resulted in the release of 52 Americans who had been held hostage in Iran.

At the request of Dresser Industries, Inc., U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders Thursday granted the writ of garnishment on Iranian assets held in two Dallas and four Houston banks.

A hearing on the issue is expected within a month, a spokesman for Sanders said. The banks have 20 days to respond to a request from Dresser Industries that they detail any Iranian assets they might hold.

In November, Dresser, a Dallas-based oil field supply company, sued

Iran for \$17.3 million in debts. On Wednesday, Dresser filed suit to keep the six banks from returning funds to Iran until the suit is settled. Dresser claims President Carter did not have the constitutional authority to reach an agreement that prevents U.S. companies from filing claims.

Sanders' opinion said "this case presents an extraordinary situation that justifies issuance of a writ of garnishment" without first hearing from

lawyers representing both sides in the case.

The affected banks are Republic National Bank and First National Bank in Dallas and Citibank International, Chase Bank International, Bank of America N.J. & S.A. and Bank of America (International of Texas) in Houston.

Officials of the two Dallas banks refused to say whether they were still holding any Iranian assets.

Daniel to plead innocent, lawyer says

United Press International
LIBERTY — Vickie Daniel, indicted on a murder charge in the Jan. 19 shooting death of her husband, former Texas House Speaker Price Daniel Jr., plans to plead innocent at her arraignment next week.

Defense attorney Andrew Lannie suggested that Mrs. Daniel acted in self-defense during the alleged squabble.

Liberty County District Attorney Carroll Wilborn Jr. said he will try to prove Mrs. Daniel killed her hus-

band out of anger in a dispute over the property division accompanying their divorce.

Meanwhile, documents filed in court Friday showed Mrs. Daniel was not mentioned in her husband's will.

The will, filed late Thursday, divided Daniel's property equally among his three children, Thomas Houston Daniel, 10, Franklin Baldwin Daniel, 3, and Marion Price Daniel IV, 1.

The will was dated May 23, more than seven months before Mrs. Daniel filed her most recent petition for divorce on Dec. 31. She filed another petition in 1977 but withdrew it. They were married in 1976.

It did not disclose any information about the value of Daniel's estate but it was expected to be sizable.

The will named Daniel's sister, Jean Daniel Murphy of Richardson, as executrix of Daniel's estate. She

declined comment Friday whether Vickie Daniel knew she was excluded from the will.

Mrs. Daniel, staying with relatives in the Houston area, could not be reached for comment. She was indicted late Wednesday and is free under \$50,000 bond. Mrs. Daniel was scheduled for arraignment at 9 a.m. Wednesday. Her lawyer, Andrew Lannie, said she will plead innocent.

Mystery illness at SMU baffles medical experts

United Press International
DALLAS — At least six art students at Southern Methodist University have contracted a mystery illness with some similarities to Legionnaire's Disease or heavy metal poisoning. Medical experts are baffled.

Federal officials plan an extensive investigation next week, a university spokesman said Saturday.

All of the students have suffered hair loss and numbness in the extremities, reported Dr. James Garriott, who has been investigating the medical mystery for two months.

"It's pretty much of a mystery," he said. "At this point, nobody knows what to do."

University officials said one student lost her fingernails and others may have suffered anxiety problems. One student reported she suffered nerve damage.

The students have contracted "a mystery illness that may be something like Legionnaire's Disease," said Garriott, a Dallas toxicologist.

The symptoms appear like those of heavy metal poisoning, particularly thallium, he said, a toxic metal banned from consumer use eight years ago.

Tests, however, involving more than 400 samples from the university art department and hair samples from the students, showed no traces of thallium or any other toxic substances.

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