

State \ National

Computer firm wants asset delay

United Press International
DALLAS — A federal judge may rule Thursday on a request by Electronic Data Systems to restrain the United States government from releasing \$20 million in Iranian assets to Iran.

U.S. District Judge Robert Porter said Tuesday he would not rule on the request before Thursday, when Justice Department lawyers — who oppose the request — are expected to submit written arguments.

Porter also said he could see "no real harm" in granting the giant computer firm's request for a temporary injunction blocking the U.S. government from returning the assets to Iran under the terms of the hostage release agreement negotiated by former President Carter.

EDS won a \$20 million judgment

in Porter's court last May after alleging Iran had failed to pay for a data processing system EDS installed under a contract with the government of the former Shah. Nearly a year before, the firm sought and won an order attaching \$20 million as security in the event the company won the suit.

EDS now is arguing the U.S. government has no authority to tamper with the funds because the Constitution does not give the president authority to overturn court rulings.

EDS also argues that even if the terms of the hostage agreement were legal, they apply only to court rulings issued since seizure of the hostages in November 1979, several months after EDS won the attachment order.



Officer Harvey Williams, of the University Police Department, watches as this illegally parked car is

towed from the Agriculture Building parking lot. The car, with no parking permit, has 16 outstanding tickets, and under University regulations, is to be towed away when found on campus.

Staff photo by Brian...



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Oil spill cleanup nearing end

United Press International
HOUSTON — Cleanup crews estimated Wednesday they had recovered 15,000 of 22,000 barrels of oil spilled into the Houston Ship Channel by a ship collision last week, but 10 miles of Galveston Bay beach remained to be cleaned.

"We've got roughly 15,000 of 22,000 barrels that spilled picked up," Coast Guard spokesman Doug Bandos said.

"We're looking at Thursday evening to Friday evening to get the major mass amounts out (of the water)

and then you've got a week to two weeks to get the rocks (shores) clean."

Bandos said he expected oil to be cleared by Friday from the Barbour's Cut Terminal, a man-made inlet and cargo terminal where business has been hampered by efforts to contain the spilled oil.

The tanker Olympic Glory was moored in Barbour's Cut shortly after the chemical carrier Lucor Wic-liffe struck the tanker in the left rear Jan. 24, tearing a 12-foot gash. Bandos said most of the oil spilled fell

into the cut.

The cleanup was being managed by Crowley Environmental Services under contract to the ship owners. Crowley deployed vacuum trucks and barges and crews with hand tools at an estimated cost of \$100,000 a day.

The Coast Guard planned an investigation of the collision.

Bandos said oil trapped at Dollar Point, the southernmost reach of the spill down the western side of Galveston Bay, had "backed up" against

a flood gate blocking Moses Lake, an environmentally sensitive inlet.

"Moses Lake has got the flood gate down and nothing is getting in or out of Moses Lake," Bandos said. "The (shift of oil) is good because we can back our trucks up and suck it right off the front of the flood gate."

Bandos said that although a few stained shores on the mainland west of Barbour's Cut and on Spillman and Alexander Island, he said no major environmental damage had occurred.

Blaze in N.J. nursing home kills four

United Press International
POINT PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. — A smoky blaze at an ocean-side boarding house killed four elderly residents in the third fatal fire at New Jersey facilities for the aged and handicapped in recent months.

Authorities said the fire at Keifer's Quarters Hotel Tuesday night injured eight other residents of the wood-frame boarding house. One

woman, her hair singed from the flames, raced to a neighbor's house to report the blaze.

It was the third fire since last July involving facilities that house elderly or handicapped residents. Less than a month ago, a fire at a nursing home in Keansburg, N.J., claimed 34 victims.

William Eastman, spokesman for Point Pleasant Hospital, said five tenants were admitted in guarded

condition to the hospital and three were transported by helicopter to St. Barnabas Hospital's burn center in Livingston.

Seven tenants of the resident boarding house escaped injury, police said.

Eastman said the 3½-story, wood-frame structure was occupied by 21 people, although two of the tenants were not in the home at the time of the fire.

Some 200 firefighters battled the blaze, which broke out at 9:54 p.m. and was brought under control about 45 minutes later. The blaze was contained in the front of the structure, but thick, choking smoke poured throughout the facility.

Peter Arlauckas, who lives next door to the house, said he was watching television when one of the female residents of the home began banging at his door, telling him about the fire.

"The only way she could have gotten out was to run through the flames at the front door," Arlauckas said. "Her hair was singed."

Arlauckas called police and ran with his brother-in-law to the boarding house, where flames were coming out around the front door. He said he was able to save two residents

from the second floor, and one from the third floor.

"No one seemed panicked," said, adding officials were able to convince one elderly tenant who climbed to the roof not to jump. The man was rescued by firefighters, resident said.

Point Pleasant Beach Police Chief Charles Bertolatus said the victims of the fire died of smoke inhalation.

The origin and cause of the blaze was under investigation by police, the Ocean County prosecutor's office and the state police squad. Officials said the home had smoke detectors, but no sprinkler system, which was not required by the building.

Keifer's Quarters is just 15 miles south of Bradley Beach, where an elderly and handicapped resident of a boarding house perished in a fire last July.

Following the blaze, state lawmakers began clamoring for revisions in fire safety regulations governing boarding and nursing homes throughout New Jersey call for stricter enforcement of fire safety regulations, and more frequent inspections of resident-care facilities.

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Sneaker bank yields jewelry to thief

United Press International
PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A padlock was little deterrent to a thief who stole \$6,940 worth of jewelry from the toe of a sneaker in the women's locker room at Brown University.

Gail Rudginsky of Providence told police the sneaker held a one-carat diamond ring, a necklace studded with two diamonds, a gold watch, a pair of diamond earrings and a pair of

gold hoop earrings, a white bracelet and three diamond bracelets.

She said she tucked the valuable inside the toe of her sneaker, stuck a sock in after them and secured the metal locker with a hefty padlock before her hour-long swim Monday at the university pool.

When she returned there was a sign of the padlock or her jewelry.

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