

Men aid in friend's suicide

United Press International
NEW LONDON, Conn. — Two young men who helped a paraplegic friend commit suicide received suspended sentences from a judge who said the memory of what they had done was punishment enough.
Brian W. Taylor, 25, and William R. King, 26, were sentenced to 2 to 4 years each Monday, with the terms suspended by Superior Court Judge Seymour Hendel, who then released the men without condition.
"If ever the ends of justice required an unconditional discharge, this case does," said Hendel, who was asked by the dead

man's mother and sister to show the pair mercy.
Taylor and King pleaded guilty last month to one count each of second-degree manslaughter. The pair admitted they had taken Kenneth B. Wright to a wooded area of Ledyard, Conn., in his wheelchair on Sept. 27, 1980. They said they then gave him a 20-gauge shotgun, sawed off so he could point it at his stomach and pull the trigger.
Wright, a high school football star paralyzed in a 1978 wrestling accident, was described by his mother as unable to cope with his paralysis.

"He was an athlete," his mother Phyllis Wright said.
Mrs. Wright, who had been told that her son would never recover from his paralysis, told authorities her son was despondent and often said he would kill himself.
"It was only a matter of time before he did it," Wright's mother said. "They (Taylor and King) were victims of circumstance."
She said she suspected her son asked his friends for help so he could spare her the anguish of finding his body in the trailer they shared.

Proposed amendment approved by committee

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would require the United States to have a balanced federal budget except when the nation is at war.
The amendment would forbid deficit spending unless approved by a three-fifths vote of the House and the Senate, except in time of a

declared war.
The roll call vote was 10-1, with Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md., casting the dissenting vote by proxy. Chairman Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., kept the count open until 5 p.m. so the seven absent members could vote.
At the White House Tuesday, acting press secretary Larry Speakes said although President Reagan favors a balanced budget, he would prefer the deficit be eliminated without mandatory legislation.
Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., proposed adding a second exception for time of military emergency, but withdrew it in order to revise the wording of his proposed addition.
Despite concerns of several members, the committee left in a section that would forbid the government from transferring part of its duties to states in order to keep its budget balanced. The wording was retained with the understanding that it can be changed or deleted during Senate floor debate.

Heflin said the proposal would have the effect of weakening even repealing the 10th Amendment, which says all powers expressly granted the federal government in the Constitution are reserved for the states.
Thurmond said he has supported a constitutional mandate for a balanced budget since he entered the Senate while Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. He noted the federal budget has been balanced only twice in the past 20 years.
It was pointed out that Heflin has petitioned Congress to have a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget amendment. Three more states petitioned Congress would have to call a convention.
The committee's proposed amendment would be approved by a two-thirds vote in the House and ratified by three-fourths of the states. The House has taken no action on the proposed amendment.

Butz to plead guilty to income tax evasion, prosecutor says

United Press International
INDIANAPOLIS — Former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz will plead guilty Friday to income tax evasion, a federal prosecutor says.
U.S. Attorney David Ready Monday confirmed a report in the Indianapolis Star on an agreement between Butz, 71, and the federal government.
The tax violation occurred after

Butz resigned from public office in 1976, Ready said.
Butz was appointed secretary of agriculture in 1971 and served under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. He resigned in October 1976, after a racial joke he told was made public.
Butz will plead guilty to one count of tax evasion, apparently for the 1978 tax year, before U.S. District Judge Jesse E. Eschbach

in Fort Wayne Friday, Ready said.
Ready said no agreement had been reached on sentencing. He said the maximum sentence would be five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.
Other details of the agreement were not disclosed.

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National parks deteriorating, need improvements, money

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior James Watt insisted

Tuesday that the improvement of existing national parks be given priority over park land purchases.
And National Park Service Director Russell Dickenson joined Watt in urging that money be taken from the \$900 million Land and Water Conservation Fund and used to halt deterioration of existing parks.
Under existing law, the fund, which receives most of its revenues from offshore oil and gas leases, is used to buy both federal and state park land.
Watt has declared a moratorium on further park land purchases and is pushing for passage of legislation to allow the fund to be

used for purposes other than acquisition.
Testifying in the House Appropriations subcommittee, Interior Department spokesman Watt said President Reagan's budget for the 1982 fiscal year asks \$105 million more for the fund than the Carter administration's budget when the report was released before the 1980 elections, and not yet seen it.
"I think there was an effort not to see it," Watt said.
Dickenson, a holdover from the Carter administration, said the fund's deficiencies could be traced to concessionaires, and the Park Service has been "well aware" of them.
He said steps were taken to correct many of the problems but the report was released.
Dickenson said the Park Service was "admired and used as a model" by many other countries now in trouble.
Over the past 20 years, he said, funds have been gradually siphoned away from existing parks for purchase and development of new units.
The need for meeting clean air and water standards, conserving energy, providing access for the handicapped, and improving health and safety conditions has also added to the parks' financial problems, he said.
The Park Service director said that lodging, visitor centers, bridges and campgrounds in older parks have reached the point where patching and minor repairs are not enough.
"Many do not meet current health and safety codes," he said.
"Finally," Dickenson said, "there is inflation — the highest cost of doing business that affects every park and every aspect of operation, to the point where services and facilities at some parks have had to be reduced or eliminated in recent years."
The higher costs, he said, are making it "difficult, if not impossible" to meet the public's expectation that parks be clean, safe, well-maintained and open at reasonable hours.
The end result, Dickenson said, was "an inevitable decline in the quality of the park experience for millions of visitors."
"We are committed to reversing this decline, but we will be unable to accomplish this without additional funding," he said.
For that reason, Dickenson said, the administration is asking that money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund be used to restore and improve existing areas, with land acquisition "minimized for the next few years."
He said the Park Service is asking for \$497.4 million in operating funds and \$61.6 million in construction in fiscal 1982.
Dickenson said the administration is seeking \$45 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to administer grants made to states and for emergency federal land acquisitions and changes.
He said the \$105 million increase in the fund should also come out of the fund and be used to correct health and safety deficiencies and reduce the backlog of major maintenance and rehabilitation work.

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