

National / World

Pot substitute called flop

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A marijuana reform group says the government should stop pushing a synthetic drug for cancer and glaucoma treatment and instead promote a better remedy — the natural weed.

"The National Cancer Institute's synthetic substitute for marijuana is a medical flop and a financial disaster," Robert Randall, president of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, said Sunday.

Randall's group favors the

legal use of natural marijuana to ease the side effects of cancer chemotherapy and treat glaucoma, a debilitating eye disease that often leads to blindness. It argues the real stuff is cheaper and more effective.

Thirty-two states permit such access and a federal appeals court has ordered the Department of Health and Human Services to review its prohibition of marijuana.

But the federal government has sought to promote the use of a synthetic drug, delta-9THC,

instead of natural marijuana. THC is the most psycho-active ingredient in marijuana.

NCI spokesman Dr. Daniel Hoth disputed Randall's contention. He said the medical use of marijuana is "a scientific question that has to be answered and all the data isn't in yet."

With THC, he said, "the scientific trials have been completed."

Randall said last year NCI estimated 50,000 cancer pa-

tients would benefit from the government's THC program at a cost of less than \$1 million.

But, he said, in June the institute conceded fewer than 3,000 patients actually have received THC, that the synthetic drug works only 30 percent of the time, and that most patients could not tolerate the its powerful mind-altering affects.

"Federal bureaucrats have spent a million dollars to temporarily provide less than 1,000 patients with a medically inferior product," Randall said.

Work for 3 million by 1986

Reagan promises jobs

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan predicts his economic recovery program will generate several million more jobs by 1986 and give wage earners added purchasing power.

In a Labor Day radio address aired Sunday, Reagan said of his program to stimulate the nation's private sector: "Let me make our goal in this program very clear: jobs, jobs, jobs and more jobs."

"I see an era in which wage earners will be taking home more money in real dollars and an era in which fewer of us will be looking for work," he said.

Predicting "the creation of 3 million more jobs by 1986," the president was keeping his distance from disenchanted union leaders yesterday.

Celebrating the holiday, Reagan flew to New York to present an \$85 million federal check

to Mayor Edward Koch for construction of Westway, a Manhattan highway project.

Not far away, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland led a parade of thousands of workers down Fifth Avenue to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary.

Labor leaders, irate at Reagan's firing of air traffic controllers who went on strike in defiance of federal law, did not invite him to participate in the parade.

A group calling itself the "Coalition to Defend the Air Traffic Controllers" planned to hold a rally outside Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official home, where Reagan was to present the check.

A spokesman for the striking Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization said the union had no connection with the demonstration and would not participate.

Before leaving the White House, Reagan was to be greeted by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's recommendations slashing military spending in 1983 and 1984.

Weinberger has balked at cuts and will have a chance to make his case at a meeting with Reagan and budget director David Stockman.

Reagan spent the weekend at the White House, considering budget reductions and preparing for a visit this week by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Begin is to confer with Reagan on Wednesday and Thursday on a major topic of discussion: the president's proposed \$8.5 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia, a package opposed by Israel's many members of Congress.

Today's Almanac

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 1981 with 114 to follow.

The moon is moving toward its full phase.

The morning star is Mars.

The evening stars are Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Virgo.

On this date in history:

In 1565, the first permanent settlement of what is now the Continental United States was founded at the present location of St. Augustine, Fla.

In 1900, more than 6,000 people were killed when a hurricane and tidal wave struck Galveston, Texas.

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IRA hunger strike wanes as fifth striker breaks fast

United Press International
BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Another inmate joined the IRA hunger strike Monday but the grim protest appeared to be weakening with the decision of one faction to reduce its role and the announcement that a fifth striker had broken his fast.

Irish Republican Army inmate John Pickering, 25, ate his last meal Sunday night after he was named to continue the hunger strike abandoned by Laurence McKeown. Pickering, who is unmarried, is serving 26 years for a bombing and for killing a part-time soldier.

The announcement of a new sixth hunger striker came after the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army said it was scaling down its involvement because at the current rate all jailed members would be dead in six months.

The mother of McKeown authorized medical treatment for her son on his 70th day without food. He was the fifth hunger striker to break the fast since the protest began March 1.

Meanwhile in Armagh, 35 miles southwest of Belfast, gunmen pumped at least four shots into the head and chest of an off-duty policeman outside the church where he had attended mass, injuring him seriously.

Hunger strike supporters said they were not demoralized, but observers said continued intervention by relatives of hunger strikers would undermine the campaign.

The INLA, with 28 prisoners remaining, had provided one hunger striker for every three IRA

volunteers and three of its members died. Devine, who became the 10th and latest to die Aug. 2, was the co-founder of the INLA, the paramilitary arm of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

Protesters are demanding the right to freely mingle, to wear their own clothes, refuse prison work, receive extra visits and letters and have their sentences reduced in half for good behavior. Britain has refused on the grounds that would be abandoning control of the prison.

Paintings saved; found in garbage

United Press International
NEW YORK — A call from Cape Cod, Mass., saved a set of Indian paintings owned by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis that were inadvertently thrown out of her Fifth Avenue apartment building with the trash.

A spokesman for the city's Sanitation Department said Sunday that the paintings had been returned early Friday, after being reframed, to Onassis' apartment.

He said a cardboard box containing the works, which were a gift of India's government to Onassis, was delivered to the rear of the apartment, where a building maintenance worker mistook it for a box of trash.

The man threw out the box with the rest of the day's garbage, which then was picked up by a sanitation truck, the spokesman said.

He said hours later the department received a call from "one in Cape Cod" saying the paintings were missing and that was suspected that they had been thrown out with the garbage.

The spokesman said the truck was emptied at a department depot late Friday and the paintings were recovered.

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1ST GENERAL MEETING MSC GREAT ISSUES

MSC Great Issues is a student programming committee of the Texas A&M student union — the Memorial Student Center. Funded with student service fees, Great Issues serves the academic community of Texas A&M by presenting leading speakers on the important issues of the day. The committee has served Texas A&M for over 25 years.

Since its inception, Great Issues has brought some of the leading personalities of the day to Texas A&M. In recent years, it has presented speakers such as William F. Buckley, Jr.; heart surgeon, Michael Debakey; anthropologist, Richard Leakey; journalist, Jack Anderson; and Nobel laureates, Milton Friedman and Paul Samuelson.

Membership in Great Issues is open to all students who wish to become involved in the presentation of speakers at Texas A&M. To sign up, please contact a member of the committee or come by the Student Programs Office (room 216) in the MSC.

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