

National

'LA indifferent to killing, Hearst says in interview

United Press International
NEW YORK — Patty Hearst, her terrorist associates in the bihonese Liberation Army had "what" attitude about killing a man in their bank robbery, ABC reported.

In her first interview since released from prison in 1974, Hearst told ABC's Barbara Walters that after she was captured in 1976, she gave the FBI information that could have been used against 30 associates but authorities never made use of it.

Hearst, 27, was kidnapped by a group of members on Feb. 4, 1974, then joined them in a crime spree that lasted until she was captured 19 months later.

She was prosecuted for one crime, robbing the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco, but in her recently released book, "Every Second Counts," she tells of participating in two other bank robberies,

including one in which a woman was killed.

The newspaper heiress, now married to a San Francisco police officer and the mother of a 6-month-old daughter, spoke with Walters about the fatal robbery that took place in Sacramento, Calif.

"A woman was killed there in that robbery and she was a customer in the bank," said Hearst, who said she was sitting in the getaway car at the time.

Hearst said Emily Harris, an SLA leader along with her husband, Bill, killed the woman.

Hearst said the Harris were completely unemotional about the killing.

"It wasn't something that they felt badly about," she said. "Not like they had made some horrible mistake."

"It was, oh, well, she (the victim) was a pig. After all, her hus-

band was a doctor. So what. It just ... it was so cold. It didn't matter what they did to anybody. They were always right, always."

Hearst said she told the FBI everything she knew about the Sacramento robbery but no one was prosecuted for it.

"William and Emily Harris have never been prosecuted for their role in any of the bank robberies or the killing," Walters said.

"Patty told us that as a result of all the information she gave the FBI, upwards of 30 people could have been prosecuted for different SLA crimes."

"No one, she says, was."

Mrs. Harris and her husband were convicted on charges of kidnapping and various charges stemming from a shootout during a botched robbery at Los Angeles sporting goods store.

Hearst said she discussed her crimes in the book because she does not fear she will be retried.

"Sometimes my parents don't understand why I'm doing this," she said. "I've had more horrible threats hanging over my head than gonna be tried again, you know not that. I've been threatened by people who were a whole lot better at it."

Besides the bank robberies, Hearst said, she and the SLA members stole wallets and made various attempts to bomb police cars in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas.



Staff photo by Colin Valentini

Christmas cheer

The Texas A&M Century Singers brought some holiday cheer and music to listeners in the MSC Main Lounge yesterday at noon. The group is directed by Nancy Theeman.

Buyers could save \$25 million

Texas drug law OK's generics

United Press International
A new pharmacy law will give Texas consumers an alternative to expensive brand-name prescription drugs next year, and some medical observers said it could save consumers up to \$25 million a year.

The Texas Legislature last summer passed an amendment to the Texas Pharmacy Act, which will permit pharmacists beginning Jan. 1 to substitute cheaper, generically equivalent drugs on some prescriptions with doctor approval.

Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, who sponsored the bill in three legislative sessions, said Texans could save \$10 million to \$14 million in prescription costs the first year and a study by the Federal Trade Commission said consumers could eventually save \$20 million to \$25 million a year.

However, some participants in the early stages of the debate had claimed savings to consumers would be minimal under the bill. Although the law states that

pharmacists cannot substitute a generic drug if it costs more than the brand name and cannot charge a higher fee for filling prescriptions with generics, there are still loopholes, said Michael G. Long, staff attorney for the Texas Medical Association.

"The savings ultimately are decided by the pharmacist," he said. "If the brand name drug costs \$1.50, the pharmacist can charge \$1.49 for the generic and still be within the law."

Sen. Betty Andujar, R-Fort Worth, who adamantly opposed the bill until she could add the money-saving provisions, said Texas now has one of the best laws in the country.

"We have taken every precaution, primarily with senior citizens who take medication more regularly, to assure they will save money," she said. "It took of a couple of sessions to do it, but I think we have one of the best (laws) because we were able to learn from other states."

Most of the opposition to the bill came from major drug manufacturers, who claimed some generic products would be of low quality and such a law would discourage industry innovation. Federal Drug Administration officials noted, however, that 90 percent of all generic drugs are produced by the major drug firms, which also

developed the original brand name drugs.

Andujar said she still has some concern about the import of generic drugs from European and South American countries where production isn't supervised as closely as in the United States.

Generic drug products are sold under their established chemical name and may differ in color, taste, tablet shape and packaging. Only drugs that are therapeutically and pharmacologically equivalent may be substituted, meaning they must contain the same active ingredient as the brand name drug and must be identical in strength, dosage form and method of intake.

The FDA pointed out that all brand name drugs do not have generic equivalents, but of the 3,330 non-patented prescription drug products approved by the FDA, about 2,400 are generics.

The FDA's Approved Drug Products List includes more than 5,000 drugs approved for marketing in the United States. About one-third of the drugs listed are available only from manufacturers who hold patents on the product. The patents prevent other companies from copying the drug for 17 years, according to John Krakosky, supervisory investigator for the FDA in Dallas.

Krakosky said generic drugs have been at a disadvantage because physicians become familiar with a patented drug and many are reluctant to sway from them.

Because generic names are often descriptive of the chemical composition or class of the drug, the names may be more difficult to spell or pronounce. Krakosky said this could cause initial problems because doctors generally prefer to write the shorter brand names.

"It's much easier for a physician

to write the brand name Librium instead of its generic name, chlordiazepoxide hydrochloride or to write simply Darvon Compound 65 instead of the generic, propoxyphene hydrochloride, aspirin, phenacetin and caffeine," Krakosky said.

The new law is a radical change from the one Texas pharmacists have practiced since 1943, said Luther Parker, executive director of the Texas Pharmaceutical Association.

However, he said the TPA is trying to familiarize pharmacists with all aspects of the law before it goes into effect.

Parker said consumers will get increased savings from the law but he added that pharmacists may have to increase prices somewhat to recover expenses of increased inventory, consultation with patients and extra liability insurance.

The FDA said people over 65 make up 11 percent of the population, but pay 25 percent of the nation's \$9 billion annual prescription bill. Brooks said his bill would lower the cost of drugs and aimed at helping senior citizens, low income people and people who are under long-term medication.

In a price survey in four Texas cities last December, the consumer association found the tranquilizer Miltown selling for \$13.80 a bottle, while the same amount of the generic equivalent, meprobamate, sold for \$2.82.

In Dallas, a pharmacy listed the brand drug Hydro Diuril, used to treat high blood pressure, selling for \$5.67 for 100 50-milligram tablets, while the generic equivalent, hydrochlorothiazide, sold for \$3.38. The anti-depressant Elavil sold for \$16.67 for 100 50-milligram tablets, while the generic amitriptyline sold for \$9.97. The brand name anti-histamine, Benadryl, sold for \$7.26 for 100 50-milligram tablets, while the generic diphenhydramine sold for \$4.37.

"I think this will be one of the best achievements as far as economic relief," Brooks said. "It's as noticeable as some of the tax relief programs as far as holding the line on cost, but it will be more significant to people of low and middle income who really need some economic relief."

The success of the law, most observers said, lies with consumers, whom they encouraged to discuss substitution possibilities with their physicians and pharmacists.



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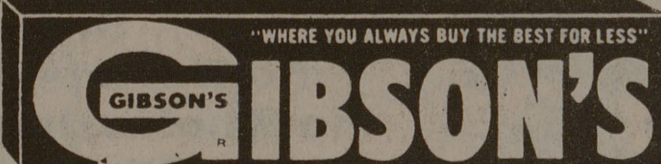
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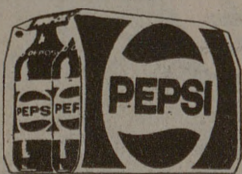
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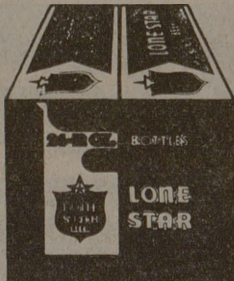
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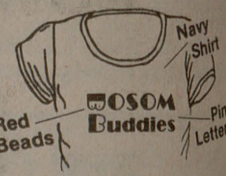
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