

# national

## EPA's new acting head may be asked to resign

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Dr. John Hernandez took over the Environmental Protection Agency today to "get this agency back to work," but the EPA has lunged into a deeper crisis during his short and stormy term as acting administrator.

Hernandez, Anne Burford's deputy administrator, was considered a serious candidate to ultimately replace Burford as permanent EPA chief when she resigned March 9 and he was named acting administrator.

But it now appears he will be forced to leave the agency together, EPA sources said, as a result of allegations that he pressured agency scientists in 1981 to soften an explosive report blaming Dow Chemical Co. for dioxin pollution in Michigan.

EPA and congressional sources said Hernandez is likely to be replaced as deputy administrator by Walter Barber, a former EPA acting administrator. Barber possibly could serve under William Ruckelshaus, who President Reagan reportedly wants to name as new EPA chief.

A former civil engineering professor from New Mexico, Hernandez, 53, was named to EPA's No. 2 job Feb. 21, 1981. He remained out of the spotlight, however, as allegations of mismanagement, political favoritism and sweetheart deals with polluting industries recently engulfed the agency and eventually forced Burford's resignation.

But he was drawn into the controversy last Tuesday when Rep. James Scheuer, D-N.Y.,

disclosed documents indicating Hernandez let Dow Chemical eliminate from an EPA report all references blaming the firm for dioxin pollution of two rivers near Dow's Midland, Mich. plant.

Hernandez admitted to a House subcommittee Wednesday that while he gave a draft of the report only to Dow, he should have sent the study "out to the world." But he denied pressuring anyone to soften the study's conclusions.

That argument was contradicted Friday in dramatic testimony by officials from EPA's Chicago office who worked on the dioxin report. Valdas Adamkus, head of the Chicago office, said he was "disturbed and almost distraught" about pressure from Hernandez to revise the study.

The chief author of the dioxin study, Dr. Milton Clark, said it was inappropriate for Hernandez to let Dow comment directly on the draft report. Dow officials argued their review was done under normal procedures.

Still more controversy involving Hernandez surfaced Friday when a former EPA toxicologist charged Hernandez ignored a 1981 warning on lead contamination in Dallas.

Former EPA scientist Bill H. McAnalley said he advised agency officials that the condition of areas around three lead smelters warranted immediate cleanup. Hernandez contended that in 1981 there was no proof of lead contamination in neighborhood residents, and that comprehensive blood tests were needed.

## Airlines cut overseas fares

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — April in Paris can be had for a song this year — relatively speaking.

The same goes for May, June and the rest of the summer, be it Paris, London, Rome or a number of other tourist capitals in Europe.

Airlines have cut transatlantic fares for the peak spring and summer vacation seasons to levels far below last summer's fares. Combined with

the strong U.S. dollar and a broad array of discount tourist packages, travel to Europe this summer can be a tantalizing bargain.

A number of major U.S. and foreign carriers have cut round-trip fares by as much as one-third from last summer's levels.

For example, roundtrip fares to London from New York on regularly scheduled flights have been reduced to \$549 from \$770

last year; from Chicago \$699 vs. \$990 last year; from Los Angeles \$849 vs. \$1,070.

But some fares go up on certain weekend flights and during a few peak travel weeks. And, as usual, all are subject to change.

The major regularly scheduled airlines, all suffering from effects of the world recession on passenger traffic, decided to trim fares to boost traffic and win back some of the market share they lost last summer to

charter operators.

After Sir Freddie Laker's low-cost, no-frills British airline went bankrupt last year, major airlines were able to increase summer fares. But that led many vacationers to seek cheaper charter flights.

According to the European Travel Commission, charters more than doubled their transatlantic market share to 10 percent from 4 percent in 1981.

## Poll: women outnumbering men in college enrollment

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Women are going to college in increasing numbers, expanding their enrollment lead over men, and the average age of college students is creeping upward, the Census Bureau report said Sunday.

Women began to outnumber men on college campuses in 1976. By 1981, there were 108 women in college to every 100 men, the report said. In 1972, there were 74 women per 100 men in college.

The survey showed most college students were over 21, and more than one-third were 25 and older.

Enrollment in colleges rose one-third from 1972 to 1981, to a total of 12.1 million, with the number of men in college up 12 percent and the number of women up 63 percent. Total enrollment among those 14 to 34 years of age was 10.7 million, meaning 1.4 million people 35 years of age and older were attending colleges.

Women, the report said, com-

prised half the full-time undergraduates under the age of 35, and 45 percent of the graduate

students. They also accounted for a majority of the part-time and two-year college students.

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