

Meese out, Mondale in, Newsweek reporters say

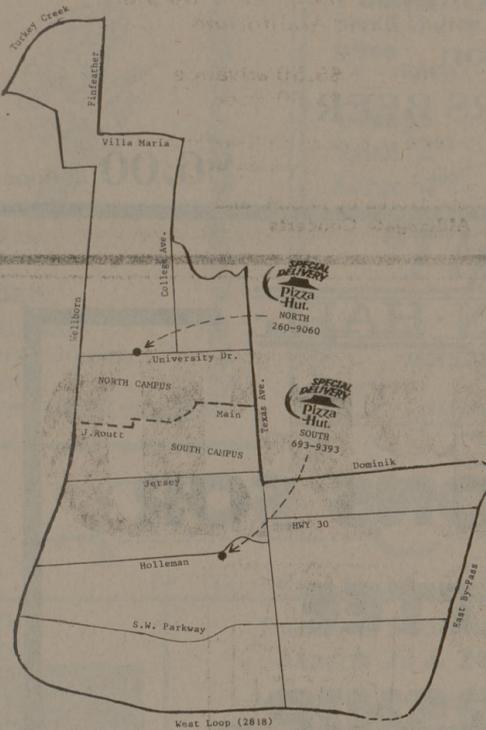
United Press International
PITTSBURGH — Meese will be out, Mondale will be nominated, and the Iraqis and Iraqis will be at odds for another 13 centuries, a panel of Newsweek journalists predicts.
 Four correspondents fielded questions at a luncheon Tuesday before 265 members of the non-profit World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.
 The journalists also criticized the format of the presidential press conference.
 Nicholas Horrock, national security correspondent, said, "You can't make it in that (presidential press conference) environment with serious questions."
 In agreement, foreign correspondent Elaine Sciolino said, "Press conferences nowhere in the world are real press conferences."
 In most worldwide news centers journalists must submit questions in writing. Then a top official says, "I've got 10 questions on the Middle East," and then gives a 10-minute speech with no follow-up questions, she said.
 Horrock predicted Edwin Meese, President Reagan's nominee, will not become attorney general.
 Horrock said the nomination may have become a "politically

damaging issue." Meese's apparent failure to make required reporting of all his loan and stock activities, he said, is a liability even if it can't be proven he intended to defraud the government.
 "For the chief law enforcement officer in the country, if you have this kind of hole in your background it can really be devastating," Horrock said.
 Gloria Berger, Capitol and political correspondent, said Meese lacks popularity even among Republican leaders, who may withdraw their current support.
 "There are 19 Republicans up for re-election and control of the Senate is very close, so people are watching their senators' votes," Berger said. "The Republicans do not want a political embarrassment, so we may see them tell the White House to drop it."
 Berger predicted former Vice President Walter Mondale would win the Democratic presidential nomination with a Southern running mate such as Lloyd Bentsen, Jim Wright or Dale Bumpers.
 If Sen. Gary Hart wins the nomination, she predicted, he probably will pick "an ethnic," such as Gov. Mario Cuomo or U.S. Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, both of New York.

On the 3½-year-old Iran-Iraq war, Sciolino said no one is going to win on the battlefield.
 "You have two really stubborn leaders committed to keeping the war going... I don't see an end until one of them is out of power," she contended.
 "The Persians and the Arabs have been fighting for 13 centuries and I see no reason they will not be fighting for 13 more centuries, if not on the battlefield, at least in their rhetoric."
 Horrock said President Reagan's vow to keep the Straits of Hormuz open to allow 20 percent of the free world's oil to keep flowing from the Middle East is of great concern to Pentagon officials. He said they fear the United States might have to do battle alone because U.S. allies could provide little military support if Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini carries out his threat to close the Straits.
 Lewis D'Vorkin, Newsweek's senior business editor, said there is a "good chance" the proposed merger of LTV Corp.'s Jones and Laughlin Steel Co. and Republic Steel Corp. will be finalized, and predicted National Steel Corp. will be bought by another steel-maker once officials see how the former merger shakes out.

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Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Wednesday.
MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
 • A blue White's one-speed bicycle was stolen from the Hughes Hall bike rack.
 • A maroon Schwinn ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Hobby Hall bike rack.
 • A burnt-orange Sears ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Aston Hall bike rack.
 • A Hewlett-Packard calculator was stolen from the Placement Office in Rudder Tower.
 • A student's backpack containing a Casio calculator, a bug containing potassium cyanide and several textbooks was stolen from outside the base-building bookstore in the Memorial Student Center.

Scandals

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