

Peres says U.S. acting as mediator in Israel, Jordan peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres told parliament on Tuesday that the United States was acting as go-between in peace talks between Israel and Jordan to pave the way for face-to-face negotiations.

In a final policy statement before swapping jobs next week with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Peres called on Shamir to maintain the momentum toward peace in the Middle East when he becomes prime minister.

Peres made Middle East peace efforts the centerpiece of his two-year government and said repeatedly he will break up the coalition if Shamir fails to pursue efforts to start negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Peres told parliament that although he had not achieved his goal of talks with King Hussein, Jordan had agreed to direct negotiations.

"Between Israel and Jordan, negotiations are under way, via the United States," to prepare future peace talks, he said.

U.S. officials have gone back and forth between Israel and Jordan in recent years in an effort to launch peace talks, but Peres' speech was the first time he has publicly indicated the Americans were succeeding in bringing Israeli and Jordanian officials together.

Peres will step down Friday to clear the way for Shamir to become prime minister Oct. 14.

Hospital use in U.S. dropping, home care up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hospital use by Americans has plummeted to its lowest level in 15 years, as clinics and outpatient programs serve a growing number of people, according to statistics released Tuesday.

There were 148 hospital stays for every 1,000 Americans last year, the first time since 1971 that the rate has dropped below 150, the National Center for Health Statistics reported.

Growing use of outpatient services and introduction of the Diagnosis Related Group method of payment were among the reasons for the decline, said health statistician Edmund Graves.

Under the DRG program, federal payments to hospitals are set at a flat fee based on the patient's illness rather than on the length of stay or services performed. The program is designed to encourage hospitals to control costs.

In addition, the average length of stay for hospitalized patients is continuing to drop; the average stay in 1985 was 6.5 days compared with 7.7 days a decade ago.

Warped



by Scott McCullough



LaRouche issues response to charges against followers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political extremist Lyndon LaRouche, his inner circle penetrated by indictments and a sweeping federal fraud investigation, declared Tuesday that he has committed no crime and will not submit to an arrest.

LaRouche, who was not indicted, responded to the charges against 10 of his followers and five of his organizations after a massive raid seeking records at his headquarters.

"I will not submit passively to an arrest, but in such a scenario I will

defend myself," LaRouche said in a statement read by Warren Hamerman, head of LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee.

LaRouche's "personal message" to President Reagan included charges that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "demanded my head, as a price" for the Iceland summit with Reagan this weekend.

LaRouche espouses bizarre theories of global conspiracy involving the Queen of England, the Soviet KGB and prominent Americans.

Judge claims innocence as trial continues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Judge Harry E. Claiborne, saying he feels like "a piece of meat that is thrown out to a couple of dogs," told his Senate impeachment trial Tuesday he did not violate federal tax law.

Offering perhaps the most important summation of a legal career, the Nevada judge came alive at a lecture

in the Senate well, after listening for hours while others argued the case.

The convicted tax evader depicted himself as the victim of a vendetta by vengeful prosecutors and vowed he would fight until his name was cleared.

Claiborne said tax errors that led to his conviction were caused by hired tax preparers.

"I have not defrauded my government. I have not been corrupt in my office. As long as that is so, I could not walk away" and resign, Claiborne said.

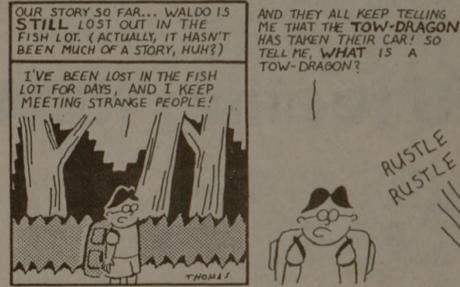
Responding to the House charges, Claiborne attorney Oscar Goodman said his client may have been "grossly negligent" about his tax returns but was not foolish. He said it

is unbelievable to suggest that Claiborne would deliberately try to defraud the government.

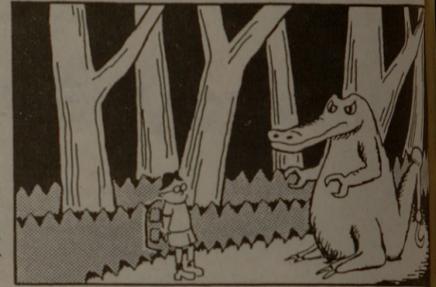
Goodman said the judge's under-reporting of income was not willful and therefore not a criminal act.

"You owe him the obligation, judge him fairly and not rush judgment," Goodman said.

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas



Report: U.S. spy-catching improved, technology lags

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has improved at catching spies but has neglected defensive technology and personnel policies that could put more obstacles between spies and the nation's secrets, the Senate Intelligence Committee said Tuesday.

"The hostile intelligence threat is more serious than anyone in the government has yet acknowledged publicly," the panel said in a 141-page staff report, "Meeting the Espionage Challenge."

The product of 16 months of investigation, the report recommended 95 changes to bolster the nation's protection against spies.

Among the top recommendations were:

- Reducing the number of Soviet diplomats in this country.
- Expensive encoding of government and private telephone calls and data transmitted by satellite.
- A new system for authorizing leaks of classified information by

government officials who are not publicly named.

- New secret warrants for FBI counterintelligence break-ins, for which no court review is now provided.
- Clearing the backlog of reinvestigations of employees with access to secrets.
- Establishing government-wide standards in a presidential executive order for protecting secret data and screening employees who handle it.

Committee Chairman David Du-

renberger, R-Minn., said spies have provided the Soviet Union and others "billions of dollars in benefits."

The report estimated that the West's lead over the Soviets in high technology had been whittled by spying from 10-12 years a decade ago to about half that today.

Durenberger said the panel found "too many secrets, too much access to secrets, too many spies, too little accountability for securing national secrets and too little effort given to combating the very real threat."

Despite prodding from Congress, the administration is incapable of coming up with a budget for its security programs, Durenberger said. "That's more than an embarrassment," he said. "It's a giant barrier to effective security."

The Intelligence Committee's vice chairman, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said, "Complacency really existed in both Democratic and Republican administrations. There was a feeling that people somehow would keep

the secrets." He said the spate of cases in 1985 proved they would not.

The administration's final proposals are to be supplied in secret next week to Congress.

Among a wide range of examples of defensive security lapses, the panel highlighted a little-publicized incident which allowed the Soviets to get access to electric typewriter shipped to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and plant electronic bugs on them.

Freshmen & Sophomores RE: YearBook Photos

Photos for freshmen and sophomores will be taken until Oct. 31 at AR Photography II at 707 Texas Ave. (across from the A&M Polo Field).

Do it now and avoid the lines