

World and Nation

Republican governors meeting to discuss Iranian arms deals

PARSIPPANY, N.J. (AP) — Republican governors, the big winners in the 1986 election, kicked off a three-day meeting Sunday, but their recent success was tempered by the Iran-Contra disclosures shaking the Reagan administration.

"Everybody is waiting for the other shoe to drop," said Michelle Davis, executive director of the Republican Governors Association.

Eight newly elected governors and 14 incumbents plan to attend the conference with an agenda tilted heavily toward politics.

They also are scheduled for a closed session with former President Richard M. Nixon. The subject was foreign policy, although memories of Watergate were being stirred by the troubles of the Reagan administration.

In the 1986 elections, Republicans picked up eight governorships to bring their total to 24 when all the new chief executives take office.

Offering an assessment after the GOP lost eight Senate seats and saw the Democrats regain control of the chamber, Republican Chairman Frank F. Fahrenkopf Jr. noted a "re-sounding Republican success in governors' races."

He said the GOP gains "will provide a significant boost to Republican efforts toward fair and honest redistricting and reapportionment in the next decade."

Among the governors-elect planning to attend was Guy Hunt, the first Republican to be elected governor of Alabama in this century.

Other governors-elect expected to attend were Evan Meecham of Arizona, Mike Hayden of Kansas, John R. McKernan Jr. of Maine, Kay Orr of Nebraska, Gary Carruthers of New Mexico, George Mickelson of South Dakota and Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin.

Sunday's agenda was strictly social with formal sessions Monday to feature by two political discussions.

Political consultants Charles Black, Roger Ailes and Edward Rollins were to discuss the impact of the 1986 election. Rollins was manager of President Reagan's 1984 re-election campaign. Black is running Rep. Jack Kemp's exploration of a possible 1988 candidacy, and Ailes is a veteran media consultant.

Later in the day, Fahrenkopf was to join pollsters Lance Tarrance, Robert Teeter and Louis Harris to discuss the elections and the future of the GOP.

Davis said the political impact of the disclosures of secret arms sales to Iran and the channeling of money to the Contra forces in Central America is "something the governors will be talking about constantly."

She added that "the Teeters of the world will be telling us how this im-

pacts us for the next two-year election cycle."

Two national polls taken since the disclosures said Reagan's approval rating had dropped — in one survey by 21 points — and that a majority of

people believed they weren't getting the full truth about the affair.

In addition to the political talk, the Republicans will hear panel discussions on drugs, America in the 1990s and education.

2 build Statue of Liberty as 17-story balloon replica

JEWETT CITY, Conn. (AP) — Two self-taught balloon makers have learned the high price of Liberty, devoting their savings and hundreds of hours of labor to build a 17-story balloon that is a flying replica of the Statue of Liberty.

Gerard Lefevre, 26, designed the hot-air balloon without benefit of engineering background or college degree. He and his brother Mark, 28, sewed "Free Lady" out of 2,200 yards of green nylon and 12 miles of thread in a rented three-car garage.

Tom Hamilton, editor of Balloon Life magazine, notes that most of the special-shape balloons in the world are designed by engineers and factory-made.

"With the Lefevre brothers, it's very interesting that they did it

themselves and they did it without the great expertise others have," Hamilton said from Sacramento, Calif.

Gerard, who took up ballooning in high school, designed and built four standard hot-air balloons before hitting upon his first idea for a specially-shaped project — a hammer.

For the Statue of Liberty, he had to use his imagination to solve several problems. To keep the lady's torch held high and her arm upright, he put 300 cubic feet of helium in the flame to supplement the hot air inflating the rest of the statue.

He declined to disclose how he got the spikes in the crown to stand at the correct angle; he's seeking a patent for the technique.

45-minute ceremony marks anniversary of Pearl Harbor

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — Four F4 Phantom jets in the symbolic missing man formation screamed overhead Sunday, ending a minute of silence on the 45th anniversary of the Japanese attack that brought the nation into World War II.

Top military officers, representatives of veterans' and patriotic groups and local dignitaries gathered on the USS Arizona Memorial for a 45-minute ceremony to observe the anniversary of the sneak attack.

One by one, representatives of the five military services and more than a dozen civilian groups pulled individual blossoms from floral wreaths and dropped them through the memorial's well onto the harbor's still water.

The tribute to the 2,403 Americans killed in the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and other military installations on the island of Oahu included a warning that the United States must never again allow itself to be caught off-guard.

Vice Adm. Huntington Hardisty,

deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said, "With all the keen vision imparted by hindsight, we may rightly marvel at the complacency we showed then in a world aflame with war and with a deteriorating diplomatic situation."

"We consistently underestimated the potential enemy's willingness and ability to do us harm."

Soviet military doctrine relies on getting "a quick decisive blow struck before the adversary can fully collect his forces or even his thoughts," Hardisty said.

"It is not a new idea, as this memorial attests," he said. "Our Pacific strategy of ready forward-deployed forces demonstrates that we will not be caught off guard."

On that Sunday morning 45 years ago, more than 100 Japanese planes were launched from six aircraft carriers in a naval task force that had made its way undetected to a position 240 miles north of Oahu.

The surprise was complete as 24 torpedo planes and dive bombers in the first wave swept across the island

from the north. In less than two hours, the U.S. Pacific Fleet was devastated with 18 major warships either sunk or seriously damaged.

Among them was the 608-foot battleship Arizona, which was hit just forward of the bridge by a bomb that penetrated several decks before exploding in a fuel storage area.

Fire quickly spread to the powder magazines and, 15 minutes after the attack began, the Arizona exploded. It sank in less than nine minutes.

Of about 1,500 sailors and Marines aboard the Arizona that morning, 1,177 were killed. More than 1,000 men remain entombed in the ship.

A memorial built in 1962 spans the encrusted hulk of the dreadnought, from which oil still seeps to cast a rainbow-like sheen on the harbor.

At one end of the 184-foot-long memorial is a white marble wall on which the names of the sailors and marines killed aboard the Arizona are engraved.

Israeli troops fire on Palestinian protesters

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian youth Sunday as protesters pelted soldiers with rocks in a dozen towns and refugee camps, military and Palestinian sources said.

The clashes, marking the fourth day of violent unrest, marred Christmas preparations at Manger Square in Bethlehem, where soldiers fired into the air to disperse a handful of Palestinian protesters.

Israeli soldiers have killed three Palestinian youths since Thursday.

Violence spread Sunday to four Israeli universities, where Jewish and Arab students protested in solidarity with Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The largest protest was at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, where soldiers

used tear gas to quell the demonstration.

Five Israeli buses were stoned in Jerusalem and the West Bank, with four Israeli passengers injured, the army said.

Palestinian teen-agers blocked main roads with burning tires, threw stones and waved PLO flags in demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home for 1.4 million Palestinians and more than 50,000 Jewish settlers.

In the Gaza town of Khan Yunis, soldiers wounded a 19-year-old in the knee when they fired on dozens of Palestinian demonstrators, Palestinian news reports said. The army said it could not confirm the reports.

Palestinian journalists say the protests were triggered by fighting between Shiite Moslem and Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon. Palestinians

have blamed Israel for aiding the Shiites in south Lebanon.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government faced a growing outcry from opposition legislators about the army's handling of the protests. The Cabinet on Sunday endorsed the soldiers' actions and vowed that the troops would keep using force to maintain order in the territories captured by Israel in 1967.

The violence began Thursday with a protest at Bir Zeit University against army roadblocks on the access road to the campus. Two students were killed and more than 20 were wounded. On Friday, soldiers killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, the West Bank's largest city.

The violence spread Sunday to within 100 yards of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Death rate for cancer decreases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The death rate from cancer is decreasing for Americans under age 55 despite a slow increase in the incidence of the disease in this age group, reports the National Cancer Institute.

The agency, in its annual statistics review to be issued Monday, attributes much of the 7 percent decline in the death rate for the group from 1975 to 1984 to advances in cancer treatment.

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, director of the institute, said the death rate drop from 38.2 per 100,000 population to 35.7 per 100,000 is evident for every age group under 55. About 24 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers occur in these age groups.

At the same time, the incidence of cancer among the under-55 population increased by two-tenths of 1 percent annually during the 1975-1984 period, with the incidence rate reported at 99.8 per 100,000 in 1984, DeVita said.

DeVita, who was to present the report at a meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board in New York City, said in a statement that another measure of treatment success is survival rates, which also are going up.

"People under 55 have a higher overall five-year relative survival rate for cancer than older patients, indicating that we're being particularly successful in treating these patients," he said.

The institute said the latest data on cancer incidence and deaths are now available through 1984, and survival statistics are available through 1983.

The report said the five-year survival rate for the entire population, regardless of age and other factors, was almost 49 percent.



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