World and Nation

Landis admits he broke law when filming 'Twilight Zone'

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Direcor John Landis, defending him-elf in the "Twilight Zone" movie set deaths of actor Vic Morrow and two children, testified Wednesday he knowingly broke he law by hiring the youths with-

ut permits.
The bearded, bespectacled diector, telling his story publicly or the first time, also said no one arned him the scene in which a rashing helicopter killed the hildren and Morrow was dan-

"Did anyone suggest using ummies or puppets because of anger to the children?" defense torney James Neal asked in the ushed, packed courtroom.

"No," said Landis, who, along ith four associates, is charged ith involuntary manslaughter. Landis claimed a suggestion to t use the children was made nly to avoid having them work fter dark in violation of the labor

He said he did not apply for ermits for the children because

The testimony came as Landis escribed a meeting with asso-ates in which they talked of usg children in a scene to be med after dark and about the striction on using children late

"Our state of mind was (that) his didn't meet our needs,'
andis said.

"What was your decision?" eal asked.

"We decided to break the law," said. "We decided wrongly to plate the labor code.'

Weinberger: Information secretly given to Iran, Iraq

dent Reagan refused to answer questions Wednesday about the Iran-Contra scandal, while Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the administration secretly had provided intelligence information to both identifications.

both sides in the Iran-Iraq war. Reagan maintained his 21/2-month silence while Robert Gates was undergoing a second, tough day of questioning at his Senate confirmation hearing to take over as CIA di-

Elsewhere in Congress, the Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted narrowly to cut off further aid to the Contra re-bels fighting the Nicaraguan govern-

Reagan seemed in no mood to field questions on the controversy Hawaii and Rep. Lee Hamilton, Dwhen reporters were permitted into

WASHINGTON (AP) - Presi- the Oval Office before his meeting sional committees investigating the with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

> "I'm not going to take any questions on that situation" until after a presidential commission files its re-Feb. 26, Reagan said.

> Reagan consistently has defended his decision to sell arms to the Iranians, and said he knew nothing of the apparent diversion of profits to the Contras until Attorney General Edwin Meese III unearthed evidence of it last November.

House and later travelled to the Capitol, where he agreed to meet briefly with Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-

Israelis played a major role in facilitating the sale of weapons to the Iranians, according to previous in-vestigations, but their role in funnelport on the Iran-Contra affair on ling funds to the Contras is less clear.

Weinberger, testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, defended his decision not to notify Congress about the transfer of arms to Iran. He said he had no obligation to do so because the only role the Pentagon played in the transfer was to provide the weapons to the CIA.

For his part, Shamir left the White have charged that by withholding ouse and later travelled to the Ca-word of the secret sale from the House and Senate for more than 10 months, the Reagan administration violated the law requiring timely notification of covert activity

Shiite, Druse gunmen still battling for control of Moslem west Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Druse main commercial street. That raised gunmen hurling grenades stormed the Commodore Hotel and drove out Shiite militiamen Wednesday in one of the fiercest fights of a four-day battle for control of Moslem west Beirut.

Both sides ignored threats by Syria to send in troops with shoot-to-kill orders unless Shiite and leftist

gunmen stop their struggle for dom-ination of the city's Moslem sector. Police said at least 25 fighters were killed and 80 wounded in street battles around the Commodore and the American University of Beirut just off Hamra, the Moslem sector's

the toll since Sunday to at least 65 killed and 280 wounded.

Some of the fiercest combat swirled around the Commodore and the annex that houses offices of the Associated Press, CBS and NBC television, and the Kuwaiti newspaper

The fight for west Beirut pits the Shiite militia Amal, led by Nabih Berri, against an alliance of Walid Jumblatt's Druse fighters and gun-men of the Moscow-oriented Lebanese Communist Party.

They are nominal allies in nearly 12 years of civil war with Lebanese

Christians, but periodically turn on each other in west Beirut territorial disputes.

Wednesday's fighting broke a cease-fire arranged by Syria that was called at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday but did not take hold until midnight.

People had just emerged from basements and bomb shelters in the morning to assess the damage when the new battle began.

Police said Druse also besieged the Amal-held government television station in the Tallet Khayyat district and were trying to push toward the airport, which is adjacent to Shiite slums on Beirut's southern outskirts.

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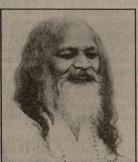
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