

Stock market falls slightly in light day

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market declined slightly Monday, giving up an early gain as interest rates resumed their recent rise.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, up more than 12 points in the early going, closed with a 5.39-point loss at 2,270.60.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 139.07 million shares, down from 189.57 million Thursday and the lightest total since a 134.93 million-share day on March 16.

Trading had been expected to be quiet after the long Easter holiday weekend, and analysts said many investors were cautious.

A recent rise in interest rates threw a scare into the stock market, raising questions about the outlook for the economy and Federal Reserve policy.

Nationwide turnover in NYSE-listed issues, including trades in those stocks on regional exchanges and in the over-the-counter market, totaled 162.85 million shares.

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Published letter from former prisoner openly criticizes Soviet labor camps

MOSCOW (AP) — A paper has published a letter from a former prisoner criticizing Soviet labor camps and asking that more information about them be released.

Western diplomats said it may be the first letter published in official mass media criticizing the camps, about which almost no official information is available.

The letter was signed by former convict V. Stavrovsky of Smolensk and said the camps, estimated to hold at least one million prisoners, turn people into hardened criminals.

"It is high time to say what is going on in the corrective labor camps," the weekly *Literary Gazette*, which published the letter in its current edition, said in an accompanying commentary.

Publication of the letter appears to be part of a review of the criminal justice system. Soviet media have published examples of miscarriages of justice over the past year, and some high-ranking officials have called for better protection of citizens against false arrest and imprisonment.

"It's possible something like this appeared before in legal publications, but that something with a critical tone of the camps should show up in the *Literary Gazette* is astonishing," a Western diplomat said privately.

Literary Gazette is one of the country's largest newspapers, with a circulation of 3 to 4 million.

Its commentary said some readers probably would be upset by publication of a convict's letter, but "the rules of glasnost (openness) tolerate no exceptions." The reference was to Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's program of publicizing some social problems.

Stavrovsky's letter said little about camp conditions, which have been described in detail by former political prisoners freed in a recent review of dissident cases, but he wrote of the inability of a common criminal to reform himself in the camps.

"The development of vicious inclinations in the individual flourishes," he said. "They say this is a formal re-education, but in reality it is a con-

tinuation of the process in which one constantly feels suspicion and mistrust, either in himself or others. The so-called political and education work is just wretched.

"Having served his term, the person is simply incapable of keeping to the norms of life common in society."

He did not say where he was imprisoned or for what offense. Stavrovsky said he had "several convictions" and believes repeat offenders are much more numerous than those serving first terms.

"A letter like mine can't be sent from the camps," he said. "I learned from my own experience. The rules say you must be sent to a punishment cell for 'illegal mailing of letters containing slanderous statements about the administration.'"

According to Western estimates, there are more than 1,000 prisons and labor camps holding between one and two million inmates.

Oil drilling on refuge suggested

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing benefits to national security from possibly vast pools of oil to be found, Interior Secretary Donald P. Hodel recommended Monday that Congress open an Alaskan wildlife refuge to oil drilling.

The recommendation to open 15 million acres of the 19 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on the Arctic Ocean along the Yukon border was no surprise. Hodel, a former energy secretary, has long sought ways to increase domestic oil and gas production.

But he will likely face long odds in getting Congress to approve his recommendation.

Hodel said he firmly believed the successful development of the Prudhoe Bay field 100 miles to the west of the refuge showed that "oil and gas activities can be conducted on the coastal plain of the arctic refuge in a manner consistent with the need to conserve the area's environmental and wildlife values."

The chief environmental threat has been seen as disturbance to preferred calving grounds of the 160,000-strong Porcupine caribou herd.

"If you're sensitive in the way you proceed, there doesn't have to be any adverse impact," Hodel said in an interview before his announcement.

Network says Army helped fund Contras through Swiss account

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army was involved in funneling money to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels through a secret Swiss bank account set up in 1983, CBS News reported Monday.

CBS said Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, then a White House aide, and retired Air Force Maj. General Richard Secord were among those authorized to make withdrawals from the account.

Congress banned U.S. military aid to the Contras in 1984. The Swiss account was set up in 1983 by a secret Army unit operating out of a suburban Washington office building, the network reported.

"Two years later, \$2.5 million was withdrawn from the Army secret account in just one day; \$75,000 of that was used to charter (a) tramp

steamer which carried arms to the Contras at a time when U.S. military aid was barred by law," CBS said.

The network quoted two unidentified sources as saying the account at a Geneva bank evidently was established in anticipation of the congressional aid cutoff.

The Pentagon has said previously its only role in the Iran-Contra affair was to provide the weapons which were sold to Iran.

CBS said the Army initially denied knowledge of the account, but began an inquiry once the account number was provided. It said the investigation is now being conducted by the special prosecutor appointed to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

A Pentagon spokesman said late Monday that Defense Department

officials were "looking into the issues that were raised in that report."

"The bottom line is that we were unaware of any such activities, but we are cooperating fully with the special prosecutor and congressional investigators," said Lt. Col. Bob Taylor.

Two Army "intelligence operatives" were named on the bank account in addition to North and Secord, according to CBS. The network identified them as William Golden, an Army intelligence officer who worked for Business Security International, which the network said was a front company used by the Army to support secret operations; and Joel Patterson, a civilian who also worked for the firm.

Patterson denied any knowledge of the account.

Report seeks rights for some birth parents

CHICAGO (AP) — Unfit parents are more likely to surrender their children for adoption if they can maintain some contact, says a task force report urging Illinois lawmakers to give birth parents rights in some adoption cases.

"This is no crusade... and it's not as new as it sounds," Wedgie Schultz, president of Illinois Action for Children and one of a group of experts who helped draw up the recommendation, said Monday.

Contracts allowing birth parents rights ranging from awareness of their children's whereabouts to reg-

ular visitation are "already arranged between consenting groups of adoptive parents, birth parents and the children themselves, when they are old enough."

"All we propose is that such (arrangements) be given legal standing," she said. Informal arrangements for visitation, unlike a legal contract, can be terminated if things don't go well, without the birth parents' having any recourse in the courts.

But William Pierce, president of the National Committee for Adoption, argued the proposal amounts

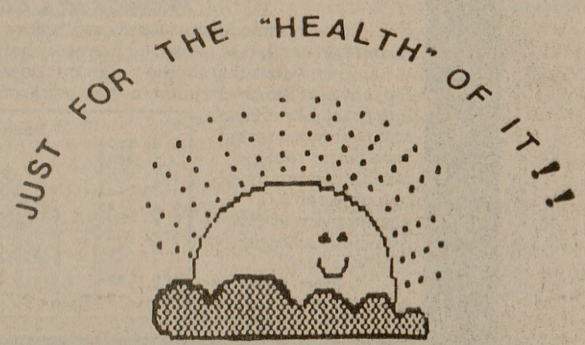
to "kind of plea-bargaining with abusive and neglectful parents... by offering the carrot of continued contact."

"The child would be told his parent is not fit to be a parent, but society and the court requires that this unfit parent would have access to him."

The report containing the proposal for limited "open adoption" was prepared by the Illinois Task Force on Permanency Planning and distributed to state lawmakers beginning Monday.

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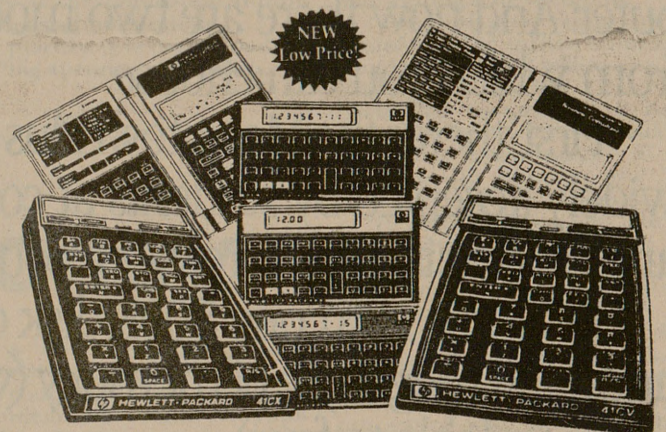
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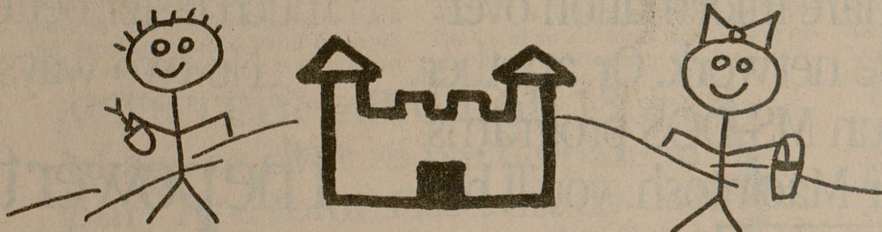
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