

World and Nation

Representative dies from AIDS; blood transfusion caused illness

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Stewart B. McKinney, 56, a nine-term Republican congressman from Connecticut, died Thursday from a bacterial infection brought on by AIDS contracted from a blood transfusion, his office said.

A statement issued by his office, quoting McKinney's personal physician, Dr. Cesar Caceres, said the congressman contracted the disease from blood transfusions he received while undergoing heart-bypass surgery in 1979.

The statement said: "Stewart McKinney died of pneumocystis pneumonia, a bacterial infection brought on by acquired immune deficiency syndrome."

McKinney had suffered two heart attacks. After one in 1977 he underwent double bypass heart surgery. He also had bouts with pneumonia, psoriasis, hepatitis and mononucleo-

sis. In November 1985 he was hospitalized for double pneumonia.

There was speculation that he would not seek re-election last year because of his health, but he vowed to run again and win "the way it's been done, with an enormous amount of vigor."

"I love my job," he said in an October interview. "I've been asked to run for senator, for governor, and I don't want to."

"I know every church, every synagogue, many of the people. I want to represent Fairfield County."

McKinney, a millionaire real estate developer who represented the affluent Fairfield County suburbs north of New York City, was hospitalized April 22 after suffering from food poisoning irritated by a chronic bronchitis condition.

Caceres, in the statement, said the transfusion "was during the window

period between 1978 and the spring of 1985 when no testing of blood bank donors for HTLV-III was done.

"In recently reviewing his medical charts, I found that when he first came to see me in 1980 and 1981, there was evidence of increased globulin (blood levels important in antibody production)," Caceres said. "We now know this can be evidence of AIDS-related activity."

Caceres said McKinney had tested positive for HTLV-III, the virus which produces AIDS, some 18 months ago.

"However, he was not diagnosed as having developed AIDS until after he entered the hospital April 22," Caceres said. "The congressman said he wanted the cause of his death known after he passed away, in hopes that this information might help others deal with what is becoming a national crisis."

"However, he asked me not to release any information until that time so that he and his family could deal with his passing privately."

AIDS is a contagious disease that attacks the body's immune system, rendering it incapable of resisting other diseases and infections.

The incurable condition is believed caused by an unusual virus, now called human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, discovered in France and the United States. The virus, previously termed HTLV-III or LAV, is spread through contact with blood, semen and other bodily fluids from infected persons.

McKinney concentrated on housing, energy and banking issues during his more than 16 years on Capitol Hill, often breaking ranks with the Reagan administration over topics ranging from foreign policy to the homeless.

Stock prices experience fluctuations

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices fluctuated in a narrow range Thursday as traders awaited the outcome of the Treasury's quarterly financing.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial, which had climbed 61.79 points in the week's first three sessions, dropped back 7.53 to 2,334.66.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange reached 215.20 million shares, up from 196.56 million in the previous session.

The Treasury wound up its refunding Thursday with the sale of \$9.25 billion in 30-year bonds.

If buyers — in particular, Japanese investors — were to bid for the bonds in force, observers believed, it might signal a stabilizing dollar in foreign exchange and relief from the recent upward pressure on interest rates.

Traders in the stock and bond markets will keep an eye on the employment situation report. The data are usually a good measure of the economy and an influencing factor in the Federal Reserve's credit policy.

Secord denies profiteering under Senate questioning

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iran-Contra hearings turned combative Thursday with leadoff witness Richard V. Secord snapping, "I didn't come here voluntarily to be badgered," as he was peppered with questions about profiteering in secret arms sales to Iran and to Nicaraguan rebels.

The nationally broadcast House-Senate inquiry was transformed from a relaxed proceeding to a confrontational session as first Senate chief counsel Arthur I. Liman pressed Secord repeatedly on his financial interest in the deals. Secord insisted he did not profit.

Secord also echoed statements he made Wednesday about White House involvement, saying, "It was my belief that the president of the United States was well aware of what we were doing."

But President Reagan reiterated that he was unaware of any covert airlift of arms to Nicaraguan rebels.

Secord testified on Wednesday that fired White House national security aide Lt. Col. Oliver North told him the president knew of the diver-

sion of Iran arms sales money for that purpose.

"I did not know about it and I did not know, and I am still waiting to know, where did that money go," Reagan said in response to questions from reporters.

Reagan said he knew that Secord, "as a private citizen, was engaged with other private citizens in trying to get aid to the Contras."

But, Reagan said there was nothing illegal in that, and he added, concerning citizens making such efforts, "I'm very pleased that American people felt that way."

Under questioning on Capitol Hill, Secord said Thursday he was skeptical about the truth of a North comment to the effect that North had told Reagan it was ironic that Iranian money was going to the Contras.

While saying he had no way of knowing whether North had really made that remark to Reagan, Secord said, "It doesn't sound like the kind of story one would hear in the office of the commander-in-chief."

Secord said Thursday that North

once joked that if the secret Contra supply activities were revealed, he (North) would be pardoned.

"I laughed at him (North) and I said, 'That's ridiculous. What are you talking about? ... No laws are being broken. We're doing everything we can to live within the law.'"

But Sen. David L. Boren, D-Okla., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, pointedly asked Secord about a private citizen carrying out foreign policy activities with Iranian officials.

"We're in the bicentennial year of the Constitution," Boren said. "Do you think it's appropriate that important foreign policy decisions of this country should be made by Mr. Richard Secord, private citizen, instead of by the Congress of the United States, the secretary of state and the president of the United States?"

Secord replied, "I must tell you, sir, that I was doing the best I could under the circumstances. And I thought I was carrying out the president's policy."

Wright sees no growth in 'Star Wars' spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Jim Wright predicted Thursday that next year's "Star Wars" budget will be frozen, but his chamber abruptly delayed a decision on the issue to debate a variety of other programs in a \$288 billion defense bill.

Instead, the House began trying to decide whether to approve a down payment on two aircraft carriers, costing \$6.9 billion, the Navy says it will need in the next decade.

House Majority Leader Tom Foley, D-Wash., said the Star Wars decision was suddenly pushed back to next week because the debate was likely to be lengthy and take most of a full day.

Debate on the bill has been slower than ex-

pected, and the House is likely to spend most of the rest of May on it, Foley told his colleagues.

Shortly before the session began, Wright, D-Texas, said the Democratic-controlled House was sure to reject President Reagan's proposal for a steep increase in money for the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars.

"We're likely to adopt the \$3.1 billion level" that the House voted last summer for the current fiscal year, Wright said. Reagan had sought \$5.8 billion for the program in the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

Although the House approved \$3.1 billion last summer, the final Star Wars budget was raised to \$3.5 billion by a House-Senate conference com-

mittee that resolved discrepancies between the differing Pentagon budget bills passed by the two chambers.

A similar conference will be called later this year to reconcile the bills that will be separately enacted by the House and Senate. Even though Democrats control both chambers, there are numerous differences and Reagan's Pentagon budget request generally fared better in the Senate.

The SDI fight was one of a number of major issues the House has to resolve among more than 200 proposed amendments. Still pending were fights over the MX nuclear-tipped missile, nuclear testing, the Stealth bomber and U.S. policy toward Nicaragua's leftist government.

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