

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

North refuses to testify privately about role in Iran-Contra affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, in a surprise move that sharpened the adversarial nature of the Iran-Contra probe, refused Wednesday to undergo private congressional questioning that was to set the stage for later public testimony.

Leaders of the Senate investigating panel said there would be no effort to cite North for contempt of Congress as a way of forcing him to testify now. Such a move, they said, could delay North's public appearance, expected in mid-July, or even mean he would never tell his story to Congress at all.

However, Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the House committee, said at a news conference that his panel has yet to decide whether North should be cited for contempt at this point. He said a vote on that could come Thursday.

Rep. Richard Cheney, R-Wyo., the House committee's vice chairman, said legal papers filed with

committee by North's attorneys "reiterate North's desire to testify in public session."

"I take them at their word," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, in an interview, Hamilton said it is too early to conclude that President Reagan is in the clear in the Iran-Contra affair, as Reagan suggested on Tuesday with a declaration that "there ain't no smoking gun" linking him to a diversion of Iran arms-sale profits to the Nicaraguan rebels.

"We don't understand things like whose idea it was to start the diversion," Hamilton said. "Everybody's against it, but it happened. Somebody had the idea. Somebody pushed it through."

"We certainly don't know the answer to the question the press has been most interested in, and that's the president's knowledge. We've got a lot of things we haven't resolved at this point."

And Hamilton, following up on

comments he made last weekend, said there are "multiple possibilities" that could lead to congressional pressure for impeachment, other than the discovery of diversion evidence that would constitute a "smoking gun." He declined to elaborate.

As for North, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Iran-Contra panel, said concern about long delays would keep him from recommending a move to force North to submit to private questioning.

Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., the Senate committee's vice chairman, said one reason for North's action might be to lure Congress into voting contempt, purposely causing delays.

"If you delay it long enough, you might never appear before Congress," Rudman said.

He said North's action will change the nature of the investigation when he does appear, probably in mid-July.

"It becomes in my view a

rial," Rudman said. North, a Marine officer and former official on the staff of the National Security Council, is also under investigation by Lawrence, the independent counsel, on attempting to determine whether he had been broken.

Rudman said that if the Senate cited North for contempt, it would have the right to pass a matter at various court levels, which could take months to complete.

And he and Inouye said they are determined to complete their hearings before Congress's scheduled summer recess.

A delay, Rudman said, could make it possible for North to "string it out so that it's impossible for the independent counsel to delay any action he wishes to take."

Reagan chooses professor to fill chairman's post at SEC

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Wednesday chose David S. Ruder, a business law professor, as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and said the nation can expect a continued crackdown on insider trading and securities fraud.

If confirmed by the Senate for the \$82,500-a-year job, Ruder would succeed John Shad.

Shad resigned after six years as chairman to become ambassador to the Netherlands.

After meeting with Reagan in the Oval Office, Ruder, a faculty member and former dean of Northwestern University law school, told reporters: "I would continue the Securities and Exchange Commission's strong enforcement policy against insider trading."

"My view is that as long as there are people, there will be people that have criminal motives and that insider trading will be a problem for

years to come and it needs to be addressed," he said.

But he added that the SEC already is "doing a great deal" to combat it.

Reagan hailed Ruder, 58, as one of the nation's foremost experts on securities regulation and corporate finance.

Ruder, discussing his qualifications, noted he had taught securities law for 25 years and said, "I believe myself to be as well informed in a large number of areas as almost anyone in the country."

As the government's chief watchdog over securities markets, the SEC has become deeply involved in recent months in the insider trading scandal on Wall Street and has stepped up its pursuit of other abuses in trading.

U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, the New York prosecutor handling the criminal side of the insider trading cases, was the White House's first

choice for the SEC post but turned it down.

Ruder was dean of Northwestern's law school for eight years, until 1985.

He helped found Northwestern's Corporate Counsel Center, which provides legal research and continuing professional education for corporate lawyers. He has been president of the center since 1983.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Williams College in Massachusetts, Ruder earned his law degree at the University of Wisconsin, graduating with honors in 1957.

From 1978 to 1982, he was a member of the legal advisory committee to the board of the New York Stock Exchange.

He also has served on the advisory board of the Securities Regulation Institute and has been a frequent contributor to legal journals on issues involving securities law.

Official: 27 cities near Chernobyl will remain deserted indefinitely

KIEV, U.S.S.R. (AP) — The explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant left at least 27 nearby cities and villages too contaminated for people to live in for the foreseeable future, a government official said Wednesday.

Soviet officials have halted decontamination work in these areas, said Konstantin T. Fursov, deputy chairman of the Kiev regional government committee in the Ukraine.

Fursov told a group of Moscow-based reporters that the areas include the city of Pripyat, which was home to more than 50,000 people before the April 26, 1986 disaster.

Pripyat is only two miles from the nuclear power station, where an explosion and fire tore apart the No. 4 reactor, spewed radioactivity that killed 31 Soviets and eventually spread around the world.

Regional officials contend most of the 69 cities and villages evacuated will eventually be resettled, but said they could not predict when the process will be complete. All the towns were in an 18-mile danger zone around the plant.

"There are 27 populated points that will not be resettled in the foreseeable future," Fursov said.

The others will be repopulated gradually, he said. Fursov said two towns in the 18-mile danger zone, Cheremoshnya and Nevitskoye, had returned to normal with fully operating schools, stores and public transportation.

Some residents have returned to another 16 towns that have been decontaminated but still lack many public services, he said.

"People are returning there without permission, mostly elderly people," Fursov said during a meeting

with reporters at the regional government headquarters in Kiev.

"Conditions there are safe, but the social services are not ready yet," he said. "These people are coming back of their own volition. It's their home."

The reporters, on a trip organized and controlled by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, also visited the new village of Tavriya, built last year to house 205 families evacuated from the "Path of Communism" collective farm 17 miles from the accident site.

Many of the evacuees told reporters they were satisfied with their new home but would prefer to live in the towns and villages where they grew up and raised their children.

Officials have said 135,000 people were evacuated from the northern Ukraine and southern Byelorussia after the Chernobyl accident. Fursov said 91,000 of them were from his Kiev region.

Another deputy chief of the regional government, Anatoly Duda, said the two towns that have been completely resettled account for only about 500 of the evacuees.

Fursov said 52 new towns like Tavriya have been built in the Kiev region, but he did not say how many evacuees have been housed there or how many of the settlements are temporary.

Two of Chernobyl's four nuclear reactors have been brought back on line since the accident and are working at full capacity.

The 2,000 workers who operate the station are based in from Zelyony Mys, a collection of temporary dwellings 35 miles southeast of the power station.

Fursov said an investigation into the accident was continuing and at least two former plant officials, the director and chief engineer, would stand trial.

Korean officials close down 28 universities

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Masked students held off police from behind street barricades Wednesday and officials began closing universities, the spawning grounds of anti-government violence.

Opposition leaders called for new protests in their drive to oust President Chun Doo-hwan's military-backed government.

The students in Seoul shouted "Down with the military dictatorship!" and "Revolution!" as they bombarded police with gasoline bombs and rocks.

Battles were reported in at least four other cities. Protesters attacked police stations and burned vehicles in the eighth day of South Korea's worst political violence since Chun, then an army general, rose to power

after President Park Chung-hee was assassinated in 1979.

Officials shut 28 universities Wednesday to stop campus protests, and dozens more were expected to close.

Police firing tear gas dispersed protesters chanting slogans in the downtown districts of several cities.

Students in Chinju blocked a highway and seized two liquefied gas tankers. Police recaptured the trucks before the students could carry out threats to blow up the tankers. Other youths blocked railway tracks and seized a train.

About 6,000 people battled police in Taegu. Protesters attacked two police stations in Taejon and three in Pusan.

The U.S. Consulate in Pusan was closed as a precaution on the advice

of police because it is in the area affected by the demonstrations, American diplomats said. Protesters often accuse the United States of keeping Chun in power with its support.

Thousands of students battled riot police around several major universities in Seoul, pelting police with gasoline bombs and other missiles from behind their street barricades.

At Inchon, a western port, 1,200 Roman Catholics led by priests and nuns held a candlelit procession and sit-down strike in front of the city's cathedral.

Violence was less widespread than in recent days, perhaps because tens of thousands of students attended university rallies in preparation for major protests Thursday. Students marched on campuses with flags and banners, singing protest songs.

Riot police surrounding campuses, in an unusual show of restraint, allowed students to peacefully demonstrate. They removed their tear gas masks. Area University to show they did not attack and waved to who applauded them.

A new alliance of political groups and dissident groups, the National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution, has called for a "Tear Gas Day" on Thursday nationwide protests demanding police stop using the weapon.

The alliance, which pledged a founding statement to the "power of the masses" against organized the June 10 rally, began the current wave of political violence.

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