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The Des Moines Register

The Newspaper Iowa Depends Upon

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GAS TESTS AT SITE OF BLAST

IRS WAR ON IOWA DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Using Tax Laws on Possible Dealers

By Charles Harpster
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Suspected drug traffickers in Iowa were hit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with nearly \$400,000 in income tax assessments and another \$67,000 in cash and property seizures in 1972, according to previously undisclosed IRS figures.

The assessments were made under the nationwide Narcotics Traffickers Project, designed to disrupt illegal drug traffic through the application of tax laws, says John Jojnt, chief of the IRS intelligence division in Des Moines.

22 Targets
Last year, IRS agents moved against 22 suspected "middle-echelon" drug dealers in metropolitan areas such as Des Moines, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Davenport, and in smaller towns such as Fairfield and Fort Madison, Jojnt said.

The assessments are up six-fold over 1971, when half as many suspected pushers were assessed only about \$65,000, the IRS said.

In addition, the IRS here is investigating several suspected "upper-echelon" drug financiers and dealers in Iowa for possible tax evasion charges, even though the suspects may never be charged with drug-connected offenses, Jojnt said.

Tax laws are used because the upper-level pushers detach themselves from the daily operations of drug traffic through intermediaries, making prosecution under drug laws difficult, IRS officials say.

Still Vulnerable
But because the suspected pushers "handle large amounts of cash, live beyond their stated incomes and engage in many financial operations," Jojnt said, they are vulnerable to prosecution under tax evasion laws.

The IRS joined the fight against drug trafficking under a June 17, 1971, order by President Nixon. Congress has appropriated several million dollars to finance the program nationwide.

In Iowa, IRS agents work closely with local, state and federal drug enforcement authorities so the IRS can move against pushers as soon as they are arrested. IRS agents often participate in raids, but always remain "in the background," Jojnt said.

Any cash found by raiding officers immediately is claimed by the IRS. The tax assessment against the pusher, according to Jojnt, can be set from several angles:

IRS — Please turn to Page Three

15 Join New Iowa Union Of Doctors

A spokesman for the newly formed Iowa doctors union said that 15 physicians signed up for the organization at a meeting Sunday night.

Dr. Wayne Sands, a Des Moines psychiatrist, made the announcement after two meetings held Sunday to recruit members for the Union of Iowa Physicians.

Approximately 30 medical doctors and osteopathic physicians from outside Polk County attended a 5:30 p.m. meeting, and 70 Polk County doctors attended an 8 p.m. meeting at the Iowa Medical Society, Sands said.

"We signed up about 15-17 new members," he said, "which was quite encouraging."

Both meetings were closed to the public and each lasted about two hours.

Before the Sunday recruitment meeting, the union's membership consisted of 18 Des Moines physicians.

Recruiting Effort
One of the guests at the meeting was Dr. John L. Holmes, a Las Vegas, Nev., physician who is president of a doctors' union there.

Dr. Sands said the primary work before the union now is recruiting more members in Iowa. All 2,300 Iowa physicians had been invited to the Sunday meeting, he said.

"We're not a reactionary group saying there shouldn't be socialized medicine," Dr. Sands said, explaining the group's purpose. "We're saying we'll try to live with it but we want to be sure a"

DOCTORS — Please turn to Page Eight

Curb Tampering With Odometers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Senator Philip Hart (Dem., Mich.) has one word of advice if your used car obviously has more mileage than shows on the dashboard.

"Sue!" says the author of a law that prohibits tampering with used-car odometers. Bringing legal action is relatively easy under the law, and with some brief spadework it should be successful, he maintains.

If the odometer has been tampered with, the minimum damage award is \$1,500, the maximum, \$4,500. For proof, the word of the previous owner will do. His name usually is on the title or bill of sale. After Mar. 1, all dealers and persons selling cars privately must provide in writing a statement of their car's true mileage.

Change in Zoning Voted To Make Violation Legal

By Kathryn Christensen

When a mobile home dealer made an application for rezoning at a hearing last week, it was revealed that he had been using the land without the proper zoning permit for at least a month and that some city officials knew about it.

The request for rezoning then was granted by the Plan and Zoning Commission, but must be approved by the City Council before becoming final.

The case involves Ronald L. Woods, who is the part-owner of Easter Lake Mobile Homes Sales at 1925 S.E. Fourteenth St.

Woods, also the owner of eight lots at S.E. Fourteenth Street and Granger Avenue, last Thursday asked the zoning commission to change zoning on those lots from residential to commercial use.

Zoning regulations on the vacant lots specifically prohibit commercial uses, but a written report on the matter by the zoning staff said Woods has been using three of the lots

NIXON, ERVIN COLLISION ON ISSUES SEEN

Senator to Direct Watergate Probe

By Clark Mollenhoff
(The Register's Washington Bureau Chief)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The most formidable foe of the Nixon administration in the year ahead probably will be a shaggy gray-haired bear of a man whose political philosophy on most issues is not far from that of President Nixon.

Senator Samuel J. Ervin, Jr., has been named by Majority Leader Mike Mansfield to conduct the congressional investigation of the burglary and bugging of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate.

But that is only one of a number of points where the 76-year-old North Carolina Democrat will be on a collision course with the President on major issues.

Heads Subcommittee
In addition to his role as chairman of the Special Select Committee to follow up the criminal trials of the Watergate matter, Ervin also is chairman of the judiciary subcommittee on the separation of powers that is already deeply into two other highly controversial areas:

1. The dispute over President Nixon's impoundment of funds that have been authorized and appropriated by Congress for specific programs. The President has explained these actions as a proper constitutional use of his power to avoid inflation, tax increases and deficit spending.

Ervin and other critics contend that it is an unconstitutional and arbitrary disregard for the laws of Congress to permit the President to exercise "priorities" inconsistent with the will of Congress.

2. The controversy over President Nixon's widespread use of executive privilege to bar Congress from even questioning witnesses on the administration of federal programs or the enforcement of federal laws.

Ervin contends that President Nixon has expanded the claim "to a ludicrous point" that would amount to "executive dictatorship" and would

ERVIN — Please turn to Page Four

Change in Zoning Voted To Make Violation Legal

commercially to store mobile homes.

City zoning enforcement officer Lou Halden was not at the Thursday meeting, but when he was informed of it Friday he called Woods' use of the vacant property "illegal."

Commission member Don Beal indicated that he had known about the situation.

"Ron's using that land as commercial now so we might as well make it legal for him," said Beal, recommending commission approval of the zoning change.

After listening to the staff report and Beal's comments, the commission agreed to rezone the three lots Woods is using for the mobile home storage, but denied commercial zoning of the other five vacant adjoining lots.

Woods conceded Sunday that he has been violating the city's zoning ordinance for the last month.

"When we decided to ask for the rezoning and had no pro-



REGISTER PHOTO BY FRANK FOLWELL

Cleanup Continues in Eagle Grove

Firemen hose down Broadway in Eagle Grove Sunday as the massive cleanup operation continues after an explosion and fire Friday night leveled three

buildings and took 13 lives. Blast scene is at upper left in this picture. Cause still is unknown. MORE PICTURES: Page 8.

Banks Told To Justify Rate Boost

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — In an unusual Sunday statement, the Nixon administration's Committee on Interest and Dividends decried an increase in the prime lending rate by four large banks, and called for economic data to justify the rise.

The committee, a unit of the Cost of Living Council, said that it "notes with regret" the increase in the prime lending rate to 6 3/4 per cent from 6 per cent.

The committee said it has requested each of the banks to provide "full information on costs and earnings," along with any calculation they may have used to justify the increase in the lending rate.

The prime lending rate is the interest that commercial banks charge their most credit-worthy customers, and consumer interest rates are scaled upward from the prime rate.

The committee, headed by Arthur F. Burns, Federal Reserve Board chairman, said "higher marginal costs of funds from sensitive market sources should not unduly influence sensitive interest rates."

This statement applied to banks' cost of federal funds and certificates of deposit, among other things. The panel said it is convening a group of technical experts to monitor the costs influencing institutional lending rates.

It is the most far-reaching step taken by the committee since it was established by the President during the wage-price freeze to keep watch on interest rates, which have never been controlled under the President's economic programs.

For most banks, the prime lending rate is still 6 per cent. At 6 3/4 per cent, it would be above the level that existed just before the freeze.

Changing their rates to 6 3/4 per cent were the Franklin National Bank, First Pennsylvania Banking & Trust Co., The Bank of New York, and the Girard Trust Bank of Philadelphia. The First National City Bank of New York, the nation's second largest, announced it was keeping its basic lending rate unchanged at 6 per cent.

ABORTIONS IN BRITAIN
LONDON, ENGLAND (AP) — Britain's population could be stabilized quickly with a liberal abortion policy, Dr. Michael Smith, chief medical officer of the Family Planning Association, wrote in the medical newspaper Pulse.

500 IN SEARCH FOR C.R. BOY

By A Staff Writer

TODDVILLE, IA. — About 500 persons, including volunteers, law enforcement officials and Civil Defense personnel, searched a heavily wooded area along the Cedar River north of here Sunday for a boy missing following a weekend outing with some Boy Scouts.

Authorities identified the missing boy as Guy Heckle, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Heckle of Cedar Rapids.

Authorities said the boy was among a group of Boy Scouts who went on a camping trip Saturday north of Toddville, in northern Linn County.

Officials said the youth was reported missing when he failed to show up at the campground during roll call at 8 p.m. Saturday after the day's activities.

The searchers, most of them on foot, some using a Civil Defense plane, a Cedar Rapids Municipal helicopter, all-terrain vehicles and horses, combed the area Sunday, but failed to turn up any clue of the missing boy, officials said.

The search was called off at dark, Sunday, but will resume today.

Pope: Viet Peace Is Ambiguous

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Paul VI said Sunday — the "Help-Vietnam Day," designated by his Italian bishops — that Vietnam faces "an ambiguous peace full of wounds."

"We see in the result of the conflict, which luckily seems ending, the necessity for all men to live together in harmony," the Pope said.

The Italian Episcopal Conference had designated Sunday as the day for aid to Vietnam. Churchgoers were asked to pray and make donations for Vietnam.

Winter's Hand Is Stayed Again

Winter's hand was stayed again Sunday, enabling Des Moines to enjoy another unseasonably warm day.

The city's high reading was 44, the low 32. The state high was 55 at Burlington. Ottumwa recorded 52, and Cedar Rapids 51. The low was 20 at Sioux City.

The National Weather Service forecasts cloudy weather today with highs in the mid to upper 30s.

Cotton Sale to Peking Spurs U.S.-China Trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) —

A hefty Peking order for American cotton has spurred prospects for a substantial jump in U.S.-China trade beyond previous forecasts for this year.

Laurel C. Meade, the Agriculture Department's general sales manager, said he had confirmation from a Texas firm — the Plains Cotton Co-operation Association — of a 400,000-bale cotton sale to the Chinese.

The transaction, estimated here at \$78 million, tops total U.S. exports to mainland China in 1972 of about \$60 million. With Boeing's sale of its 707 jets to Peking and other items, U.S. specialists now figure American exports to China in 1973 could climb to \$300-\$400 million.

This is well above the \$200-million, two-way trade total for 1973 suggested by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in mid-January. In 1971, before the February, 1972, summit opening between the two nations, U.S.-Chinese commerce amounted to only \$5 million.

Trade is one topic expected to be on Henry A. Kissinger's agenda when he calls on Peking leaders next week. That and expanding cultural exchanges come under his trip's announced purpose to "further the normalization of relations" between the two countries.

Postwar Vietnam arrangements loom as Kissinger's most pressing item with Premier Chou En-lai. China is one of 13 parties going to the Feb. 26 conference on guaranteeing an Indochina peace.

A U.S. trade mission in Peking is among possibilities being considered here pending full diplomatic relations, a step rated as still years away because of Washington-Peking differences over Nationalist China.

U.S.-Chinese trade spurred toward the end of 1972. U.S. officials say more orders may grow out of visits by 150 American businessmen to the Canton spring and fall fairs last year.

U.S. sales to China in 1972 were primarily in farm goods — wheat, corn and some soybean oil. For 1973, U.S. specialists expect another \$80-\$90 million in grain exports, plus the cotton shipments and about half the \$150-million Boeing transaction.

They anticipate around \$8 million in sales of electronic gear, much of it in connection with China's linking into the international telecommunications satellite system. And they say many other

deals are likely during the year.

Estimating a surge of U.S. exports to China to \$250-\$300 million in 1973, the specialists calculate that up to \$100 million more could be added if the Chinese buy U.S. industrial products their economy seems to need. Examples cited include machine tools and mining equipment.

Meanwhile, Chinese exports to the United States are expected to perhaps double during the coming year, while remaining well below trade in the other direction. Chinese goods bought by Americans in 1972 totaled about \$30 million. Products ranged from pig bristles and canned food to handicraft items, jewelry and textiles.

The cotton sale is unlikely to boost American prices, as did the Soviet Union's \$1-billion order for American wheat last year. Officials said U.S. cotton is in plentiful supply. The 400,000 bales would come to about 10 per cent of estimated U.S. cotton exports worldwide in the coming year.

Italian Must Prove That He Is Alive
ROME, ITALY (AP) — When 75-year-old Rodolfo Macone went to the Social Security office, he was told, "You died last August. No pension for you." Officials said he would receive no money until he presented a notarized document certifying he was still alive.

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Spent Son's Insurance-- Now Told He Is a POW

HOUSTON, TEX. (AP) — A Houston woman who was notified in 1968 her son was killed in South Vietnam, but now recently learned he is a prisoner, said she already has spent insurance money paid upon his "death."

Mildred Ridgeway said she was reluctant to take \$5,000 in insurance on her son, Marine Pfc. Ronald L. Ridgeway, because she couldn't believe he had been killed.

She received half of the \$10,000 from the National Servicemen's Life Insurance Group, and her son's father — Lewis Ridgeway of Shepherd, from whom she is divorced — received the other half. Ridgeway could not be reached for comment.

"It's all gone," Mrs. Ridgeway said of the money. "When they gave it to me I told them,

POWER FIRM OFFICIAL: NO LEAKS FOUND

Expect State Probe To Take Week

By Stephen M. Johnson
(Register Staff Writer)

EAGLE GROVE, IA. — The Iowa Public Service Co. (IPS) official in charge of investigating the cause of a blast here Friday night that left 12 persons dead and one presumed

dead said Sunday "all tests indicate that there are no leaks in the IPS gas system."

E. R. McCann issued a statement at 5 p.m. Sunday, summarizing the results of several days of testing by IPS officials of their natural gas facilities in the vicinity of the building that housed the Chatter Box Cafe and the Coast to Coast Store here.

Both buildings were demolished in the explosion at 6:18 p.m. Friday. Twelve bodies have been recovered from the wreckage and a thirteenth victim still is missing and presumed dead.

Declines Comment
State Fire Marshal Wilbur Johnson, who is in charge of investigating the cause of the tragedy, declined Sunday to comment on his opinion on the cause.

Johnson told Mayor Kenneth Brauman Sunday evening that he expected the official investigation of the blast to continue for at least one more week.

The mayor said Sunday that he will accept the findings of the fire marshal's office and the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). Officials of both state agencies have been here since arriving at the disaster scene within an hour of the blast Friday night.

National Guardsmen were still on duty here Sunday night, patrolling the streets and guarding a huge pile of rubble near the National Guard Armory. Every piece of debris removed from the site of the blast is being taken to the site near the Armory, where officials will sift through it this week to seek clues as to the cause of the disaster.

IPS engineers conducted extensive air pressure and flame ionization tests on gas mains and service lines in the area of the explosion.

McCann said all evidence "upholds the condition of the natural gas equipment owned and maintained by IPS."

State officials in charge of the investigation are now concentrating on possible causes arising somewhere within the two-story building at the corner

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INSIDE THE REGISTER

'I Am Not A Hermit'

MARGARET Chase Smith grants first interview since her electoral defeat last November; says: "I am not a hermit." Page 6

SMUGGLING of most heroin-producing morphine out of Turkey is run by 52 little-known Turks, says a New York newspaper. Page 2