

The Weather

Today—Partly cloudy, high near 50, low in mid 30s. Chance of precipitation is near zero through tonight. Saturday—Partly cloudy, high in mid 50s. Yesterday—3 p.m. AQI: 8, temp. range: 45-32. Details on B2.

The Washington Post

FINAL

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See Box A2 15c

Conferees On Energy Quit for '77

Senators Reject Compromise on Natural Gas Pricing

By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

House-Senate energy conferees quit for the year yesterday unable to settle the natural gas pricing issue.

They recessed for at least a month after the Senate members rejected 16 to 2 a natural gas compromise supported only by the two senators who negotiated it with House conferees, Sens. J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) and Wendell H. Ford (D-Ky.).

The plan would have continued price controls on gas but let them move up to free market level over six years. It was denounced by right and left as hurting producers and consumers and by some in the middle who called it too complicated to vote on right away.

Johnston had held out hope on Wednesday that his colleagues would support the plan when they understood it. But yesterday he abandoned the "turkey" as both ends of the political spectrum dug in hard against it. He said someone else would have to try to settle the gas issue.

In Plains, Ga., President Carter called the decision to adjourn "regrettable." The nation's energy problems, Carter said in a statement, "will not go away between now and Jan. 23 [when the conferees will reconvene]. They will simply continue to get worse."

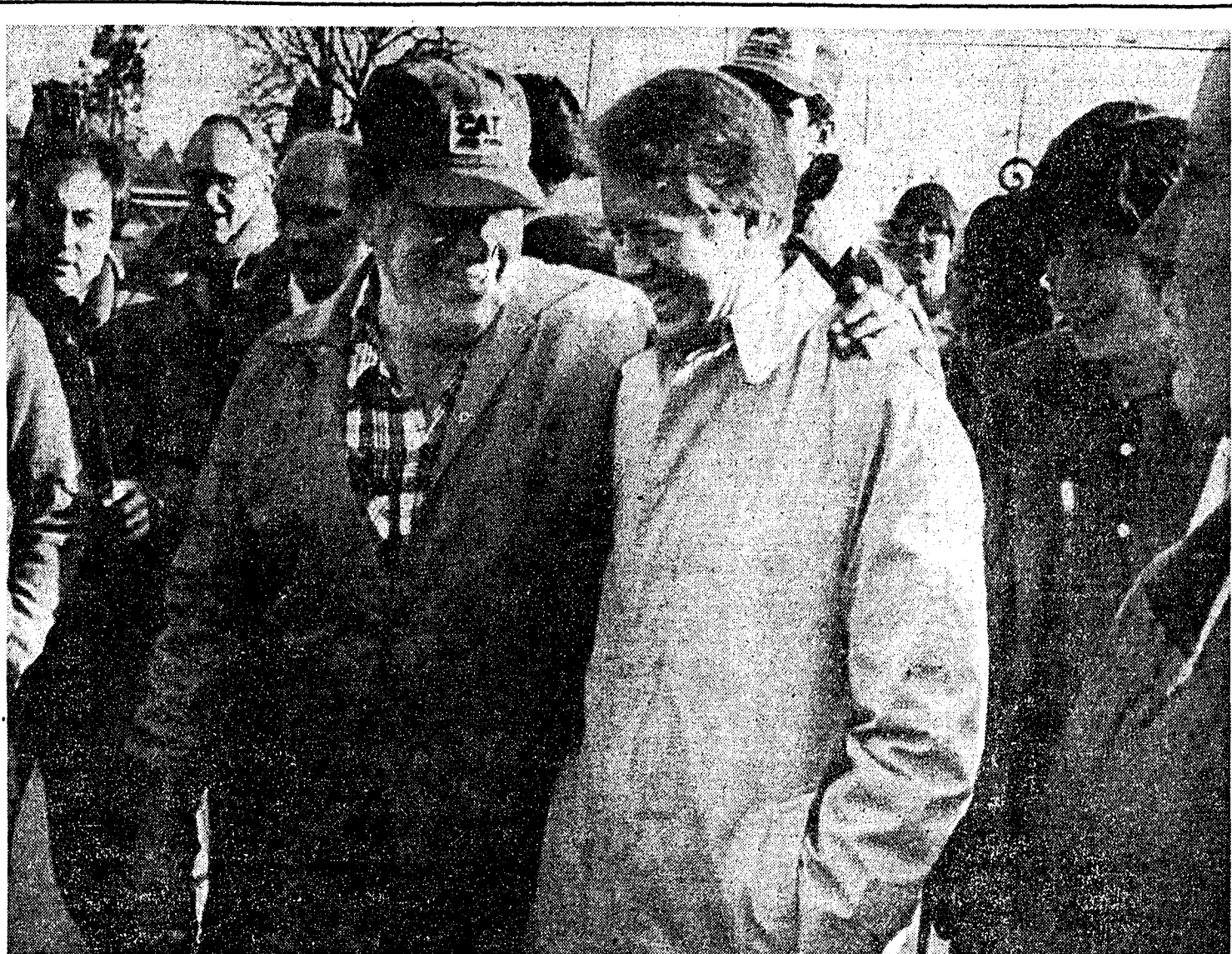
The natural gas pricing issue has eluded satisfactory solution for 23 years since the courts ruled that the federal government had the power to regulate gas piped across state lines. Carter wants to continue controls at a higher price than now and extend regulation to intrastate gas. The House went along, but the Senate sided with producers and voted to deregulate new gas after two years.

House conferees have a comfortable majority for the President's position, but the Senate conferees are split 9 to 9. And since it takes a majority of the conferees from each chamber to agree, they have remained deadlocked on the issue. Johnston, a strong supporter of deregulation, bargained with House Democrats who support the President in hopes that they could fashion a proposal that a majority of the Senate group would support. It only alienated both factions.

Natural gas has proved the toughest part of Carter's energy package to move through Congress. The entire package will remain alive in its present form for the second session, which begins Jan. 19. But if natural gas pricing proved impossible to resolve this year, it may face an even more unfriendly climate in the election year of 1978.

If there is no natural gas solution, that would probably make more difficult enactment of the crude oil equalization tax which Carter calls the centerpiece of his energy-saving package. If there is to be no deregulation or higher price for gas, there will be more pressure to give a big chunk of

See ENERGY, A4, Col. 1



President Carter is accompanied by a family friend, Frank Chappell, during walk through Plains, now without much of tourist hoopla. Details, A6.

U. S. Encouraged, but Wary on Mideast Talks

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Carter administration is newly encouraged that Egypt and Israel are headed in a direction that can broaden their peace talks to include other nations, a senior official said last night.

At the same time, U.S. officials expressed concern that expectations are building up too high, too fast about what can be achieved in "a one-day meeting" between Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian

President Anwar Sadat this Sunday, in Ismailia.

This dual assessment appeared to be mirrored in reports from Jerusalem yesterday. The reported acceptance by Begin of the need for a link between "self-rule" in the West Bank region, and Jordan, matched the American concept. So did the reported Israeli acceptance of the necessity for careful diplomacy to surmount the many obstacles still ahead for any peace settlement.

However, an American source said it cannot be assumed that Begin and Sadat in a single day will be able to conclude an agreement in principle for a basic Arab-Israeli settlement.

Sadat, it is known, wants to reach a swift accord in principle on two basics: Israeli withdrawal from war-occupied territory and settlement of the Palestinian issue. Egyptian sources in Cairo during the past two days have been raising great expectations

for the Begin-Sadat meeting. The momentum that Sadat has generated has aroused expectations for either an agreement in principle, or something equally dramatic, out of the Ismailia meeting.

What U.S. officials are suggesting strongly is that something less than a broad agreement on principles for a settlement may emerge. It was unclear last night, however, if American sources were being protective on behalf

See STRATEGY, A10, Col. 1

Nobody Can Explain Those Mysterious Booms

By William Claiborne
Washington Post Staff Writer

A series of unexplained massive, high-altitude "explosions" that has alarmed residents along the New Jersey shore and in South Carolina for several weeks were reported again yesterday as government and scientific authorities shrugged their shoulders in bafflement over a possible cause of the phenomenon.

But nobody was at a loss for theories. Explanations offered—and quickly denied—included meteor showers, thunderclaps, sonic booms, offshore oil rig explosions, top secret military experiments, Soviet submarines testing Polaris-like missiles, re-entry of a satellite, a prelude to a devastating earthquake and pranks

with huge helium-filled balloons that explode.

One government scientist said, "Maybe Steven Spielberg is putting together a new movie," referring to the director of the currently popular science fiction film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

The Federal Aviation Administration all but ruled out sonic booms caused by aircraft, and defense officials denied that any secret military experiments were being conducted in the atmosphere.

Scientists dismissed meteor showers or thunderclaps as a possible cause of the mysterious atmospheric disturbances, pointing out that the explosions were so intense they were recorded

simultaneously on seismographs as far apart as Boston and Charleston, S.C.

A seismologist at Boston College's Weston Observatory, Edward Chiburif, said he had recorded ground waves immediately following some of the atmospheric disturbances, and that the tremors were equivalent to a Richter Scale reading of between 3 and 3.3.

The Richter Scale is used to measure the intensity of earthquakes. The 1906 San Francisco quake registered 8.3 on the scale.

"I think, personally, that they are sonic booms. I cannot for the life of me propose any explanation," said Chiburif.

But FAA officials in Washington said none of the listening devices the agency monitors along

See BOOM, A6, Col. 1

Cost of Hospital Death

Shooting Victim's Bill Totaled \$5,107

By Lynn Darling
Washington Post Staff Writer

On a Friday night, late in October, a stranger shot 17-year-old Christian Karotsch in the stomach. He was rushed to Fairfax Hospital and lived for five hours before he died on the operating table.

The day after they buried him, his mother, Lilliane Williamson, received a letter from the hospital administrator. It was a form letter, expressing sympathy about the death of her "daughter."

Another form letter arrived a few days later, asking her to make arrangements within 72 hours to replace the 15 units of blood used for her son before he died.

Two weeks later, she received a bill from Fairfax Hospital for the 4½ hours her son was there before he died. The total bill came to \$5,107.67.

Williamson remembers well her reactions when the bill came. "I thought to myself, 'This is impossible,'" she said. "I went back to the beginning of the bill and yes, there was Chris' name, but my own name was wrong and so was the admission date."

"They charged me for two operating rooms," she said. "But he died in the first one." There was a charge as well for an intensive care unit, for which, she said, he had never had any use.

There were 22 charges for "blood bank products," ranging in price from \$12 to \$126. There were 15 charges for "blood processing" at \$22 apiece. There were 15 charges for whole blood at \$25 a unit. Altogether, there were 27 "services rendered," which were listed as being delivered Oct. 24, two days after her son had died.

There were seven pages to the bill.



LILLIANE WILLIAMSON
... bill seemed 'impossible'

"I kept going through it," Williamson said. "I kept seeing that date, two days after he died, and I kept seeing the blood, all that blood and I yelled, I just really yelled. I said, 'My god, this can't be true.'"

In fact, said the hospital spokeswoman, the total bill was not "unusually high for a case like that. Sometimes," she said, "it's a lot more."

Nevertheless, when Williamson called to ask about the bill, a corrected statement was sent to her. The hospital changed the dates, dropped a \$330

See HOSPITAL, A8, Col. 1

3 Diplomat Bank Directors Favor New Role for Kim

By Ronald Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer

Three of the six directors of Diplomat National Bank here are attempting to continue the bank's association with its former chairman, Charles C. Kim, who has been charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with aiding a secret takeover of the bank by South Korean interests.

Last week, the three directors mailed documents asking stockholders of the bank to elect two new directors who they said would also be favorable to allowing Kim, who now is a consultant to the bank, to perform unspecified functions for the bank.

Kim was barred by a court order in September from performing managerial functions for the bank after the SEC charged that he had fraudulently helped South Korean agent Tongson Park and an aide to South Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon secretly obtain more than half of Diplomat National Bank's stock.

The three directors said in their mailing to the bank's stockholders that Kim should be permitted to continue with the bank because he is "important for the economic well-being and continued growth of the bank."

At the same time that the three directors were appealing to the stockholders on Kim's behalf, the bank received a \$2 million deposit—equal to about one-fourth of the bank's present total deposits—from Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. According to one informed source, the three directors supporting Kim have cited this large deposit from the Unification Church as evidence of Kim's effectiveness on behalf of the bank.

See DIPLOMAT, A12, Col. 1

Taking Goodwill to Capitol Hill

By Ward Sinclair
Washington Post Staff Writer

Chocolate bonbons are spilling off the desks, arms are locked around bottles of gift booze and more pocket calendars than you've ever seen are coming out of their ears.

It is Christmas season on Capitol Hill, the one time of the year when the flow of goodies is reversed. Instead of dishing it out, the legislature scoops it up.

The special pleaders, the vested interests, the people who want to be remembered are once again turning the halls of Congress into a veritable bazaar.

Wreaths and flowers, liquor, cheese, pens, 1978 datebooks and calendars, small appliances, glasses and ashtrays,

playing cards and even—now, get this—toilet paper are among the holiday remembrances flooding the Hill.

Just as no one is thought capable of selling his or her soul for an expense-account luncheon, no one is thought capable of treachery in exchange for the miscellanea of consumerism that falls from these skies.

Perhaps the most popular item this year is the pocket datebook. They come in by the score. The Southern Railway won critical acclaim for its choice of leather, made-in-England datebooks, personalized with the legislator's name.

The goodwill factor has a reverse side, however.

Velsicol Chemical Corp., whose pesticide products have made it a subject of regulatory controversy, sent around

datebooks embossed with the company name. They weren't popular.

Typically, the trade associations and companies with an interest in the affairs of state send around low-cost samples of their products.

An example is Crown Zellerbach Corp., which is in the paper business. Crown's Christmas package sent to some legislators included sample rolls of toilet paper, paper towels, cups and a holiday wreath.

"Why do they do it?" "It's goodwill, nothing more," said a company spokesman. "It is to appreciate people of the fact that we appreciate the work they do, and it has nothing to do with the way they voted. The packages have no intrinsic

See GOODIES, A4, Col. 1

Suspect on Bond in 2d Murder

Off-Duty Detective Shot Dead

By Alfred E. Lewis
and Martin Weil
Washington Post Staff Writers

On Dec. 6, Charles Alexander Phillips, 26, pleaded guilty to going to the apartment of a former girl friend, forcing her to summon her new boyfriend, and, after his arrival, stabbing him to death.

Yesterday, 16 days after Phillips pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was freed on personal bond to await sentencing, he was arrested again, charged this time in the early morning fatal shooting of an off-duty D.C. police detective in the same woman's apartment.

Police said Det. Michael K. Riley, 30, and Carolyn Radford, 23, were in the bedroom of her apartment at 3417 Minnesota Ave. SE shortly after

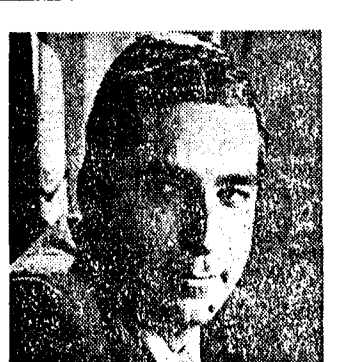
midnight when a man kicked in the back door.

Riley, an eight-year veteran of the police force who was highly regarded by his superiors, confronted the intruder. A struggle ensued during which the detective's gun was taken and he was shot, police said.

Authorities said that Phillips, the suspect, was arrested in an auto shortly after 5 a.m. in Hillcrest Heights, just across the District of Columbia line in Prince George's County, and subsequently charged with second-degree murder.

Following his arrest, a rehearing was held in D.C. Superior Court on the conditions of Phillips' release in the earlier case. His personal bond was revoked, according to the U.S.

See SHOOT, A7, Col. 1



Dr. Bertram S. Brown, head of the National Institute of Mental Health, was praised—and fired—this week by Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr.

Details on Page A6