

News in Brief

Demos urge freeing of Port Authority money

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York City Democrats in the state legislature urged, Malcolm Wilson Wednesday to support a measure that would free Port Authority money for public transportation.

Assemblyman G. Oliver Koppell, D-Bronx, said he and other Democrats were introducing legislation that would permit the annual Port Authority surplus of \$100 million to go to mass transit purposes.

Senate oks payment of escrow account interest

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The Senate gave final legislative approval Wednesday to a bill requiring the payment of interest on mortgage escrow accounts—a step that will save the average homeowner about \$7 a year.

The measure is the first important consumer bill on which the legislature has completed action during the 10 weeks it has been in session.

Court says bridgetenders should face trial

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The state's highest court ruled Wednesday that three bridgetenders should face their role in the 1971 public employes' strike that shut down New York City drawbridges.

The workers, Daniel Siciliano, Daniel Gibson and Victor Echavarry Jr., members of Public Service Employees, Teamsters, Local 80, were originally charged with criminal tampering for allegedly making bridges impassable during the June 7, 1971, walkout, which caused a major slowdown in traffic into Manhattan.

Monticello voters elect first woman mayor

MONTICELLO, N.Y. (AP) — Voters in this Sullivan County village have a mayor.

Mrs. Anne Kaplan, 52, a Democrat, defeated Republican Thomas Belmont 896-834 in an election Tuesday.

Mrs. Kaplan, who operates a delicatessen shop with her husband, had been a village trustee and later became acting mayor when David Kauffman was elected town of Thompson supervisor last November.

Agnew's Baltimore, Md. successor convicted

BALTIMORE (AP) — Dale Anderson, the Democrat who succeeded Spiro T. Agnew as the Baltimore City mayor, was convicted Wednesday of 32 counts on income tax evasion and extorting kickbacks from consultants.

The jury of six men and six women returned the guilty verdict on all counts after slightly more than eight hours of deliberation. They received the case Tuesday night following 10 weeks of testimony and legal arguments.

Draft lottery 'plain insurance'

By JERRY T. BAULCH
Associated Press Writer

If an emergency requires resumption of the military draft next year the first to be inducted will be men born Feb. 28, 1955. They drew No. 1 in the standby draft lottery Wednesday.

But John D. Dewhurst, deputy director of Selective Service, began the two-hour-long ritual of mating numbers and birthdates by saying "there is no intention" by President Nixon or congressional leaders "to restore induction authority."

The purpose of the annual lottery for young men becoming 19 is "insurance — plain and simple," Dewhurst said.

"The great experiment of maintaining a military force in peacetime of 2.2 million by volunteer means alone shows signs of achieving success," he said.

Dewhurst presided over the lottery in place of draft director Byron V. Pepitone, who had heart surgery last Friday.

The plucking of capsules out of two separate plastic drums — black ones showing birth dates and white ones showing the 365 days of the year — was performed by four local high school students.

No. 1 was picked when there were only 84 capsules left in each drum.

Before that, all the other low

numbers had been assigned: No. 2, Jan. 5; No. 3, Feb. 16; No. 4 Sept. 24; No. 5, June 27; No. 6, March 13; No. 7, March 6; No. 8, March 24; No. 9, Oct. 22; No. 10, Oct. 13.

The highest number, 365, was given to April 29. The Christmas birthday drew No. 163 and New Year's No. 70.

Authority to draft men expired last June 30, but remaining sections of the draft law remain in effect. Nobody has been drafted in 18 months, however.

Those involved in this year's lottery registered last year at their 18th birthday and were placed in a holding "H" classification.

Those who received numbers 1 through 95 will be reclassified, according to their current civilian status, to provide a standby pool of "readily inductible" men during 1975. None, however, will be given physical and mental exams or otherwise processed.

Those with numbers over 95 will remain in the holding classification. Unless there is a national emergency, they will not likely hear from their draft boards again.

The 1974 standby pool consists of 20-year-olds who received their number in last year's lottery. A man drops into a less vulnerable group each succeeding year until he reaches age 26, when his draft liability normally expires.

Cypress firemen pray for rain

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Forest rangers riding bulldozers battled a 30,000-acre fire Wednesday that consumed stands of cypress and pine trees and threatened wildlife in Florida's Big Cypress Swamp.

"It's the largest concentrated blaze we've had in the Big Cypress Swamp," one forestry official said.

mostly in Collier County in south-west Florida and serves as a watershed for Everglades National Park. It is also the home of a number of rare and endangered species, including the alligator, Southern bald eagle and Everglades kite.

"All we can do is pray for rain," said Jane Behr of the National Audubon Society, adding that

March was the nesting season for the kite, eagle and other birds.

Forestry officials said the fire first broke out about 85 miles west of Miami on March 8 due to extremely dry conditions. The blaze was quickly controlled but was rekindled by arsonists Saturday.

Scorching a path through cypress, pine and open prairie, the blaze headed toward the Florida

Everglades saw between this Gulf

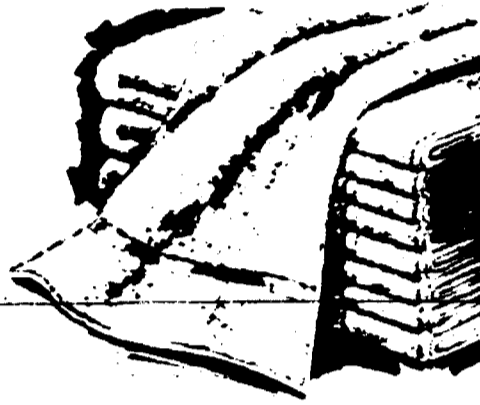
Miami. Smoke from the east coast from Fort Miami before being afternoon winds. Southeast winds fighters, who fought a 12-mile line north Highway 41 east



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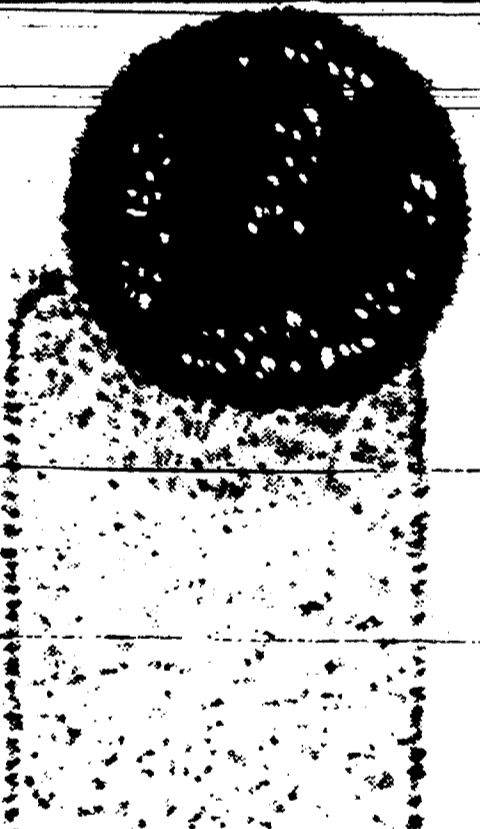
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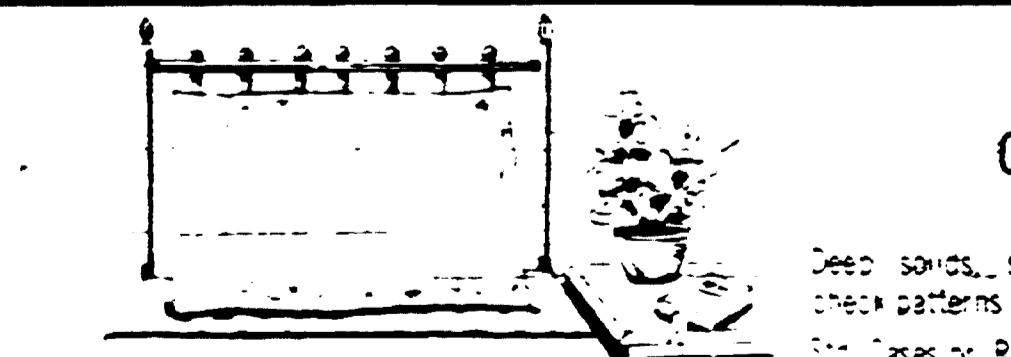
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