The Nation In Brief

McCarthy makes Bay State ballot

BOSTON (UPI)— The State Supreme Court Tuesday paved the way for placing the name of independent presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy, a former Minnesota senator, on the Massachusetts ballot.

The action in Massachusetts, and similar rulings in Maryland and Utah, brings to 30 the number of states where McCarthy's name will appear along with Democratic Jimmy Carter and Republican Gerald Ford.

Challenges still are pending in 10 other states which have refused to put McCarthy on the ballot.

Missile sale gets Kissinger boost

WASHINGTON (UPI)— Secretary of State Henry Kissinger succeeded Tuesday in turning back a Seante effort to block the sale of $30 million worth of Maverick misiles to Saudi Arabia before Congress adjourns Oct. 2.

In a hastily arranged apperance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Kissinger asked the panel to reconsider its 8-6 vote of last Friday recommending the 650 missiles not be sold.

Economic forecast shows decline

WASHINGTON (UPI)— The government said Tuesday its crystal ball of future economic activity - the composite index of leading indicators - registered a sharp decline in August, the first such falloff in the index since the current economic recovery got underway.

The Commerce Department reported that the index fell 1.5 per cent last month.

This marks the first decline in the index since February 1975 and the largest decline since January of that year when it fell 3.4 per cent.

In the past, the index has risen before each economic expansion anddropped before each downturn.

The stork now delivers requests

WASHINGTON (UPI)— A new human artificial insemination method has been developed which produces a 90 per cent chance of male babies being born, a population organization said Tuesday.

While the main goal of the method is to increase the chances of pregnancy for childless couples, some clinics 'have just begun to entertain requests for male selection,'' said the Population Reference Bureau, a nonprofit educational institution.

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Blitz on Ford covers crime, housekeeping

By United Press International

Democrat Walter Mondale, saying serious crime has gone up 60 per cent since Republicans took over the Oval Office in 1968, told supporters Tuesday the Ford administration should take care to "keep its own house in order."

President Ford focused his White House activities on foreign policy, the topic of the next campaign debate, while running mate Bob Dole described Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter as a puppet of labor and AFL-CIO President George Meany.

Carter is taking two days off from campaigning to rest at his Plains, Ga., home before campaigning in the Northeast.

Mondale, addressing about 200 leaders of the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federaton of Labor in Ohio Tuesday said Democrats will reorganize law enforcement efforts if elected.

There has been a 60 per cent rise in the rate of serious crime in America since the start of the Nixon administration, and enforcement of federal laws is "in a shambles," the Democratic vice presidential candidate said.

The administration should "keep its own house in order," he added, and chided Ford for "ducking" news media questions about his past campaign financing and allegations of accepting favors from lobbyists.

Carter "sometimes gets in trouble doing it, but at least we answer questions," Mondale said, apparently referring to the Democrat's interview about adultery in Playboy magazine.

Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nessen, meanwhile, told reporters Tuesday Ford let at least four corporations treat him to golf outings during his years in Congress and stopped the practice after he became vice president, even though he saw nothing wrong with it.

He said Ford had been the guest of friends representing Bethlehem Steel, the Aluminum Corp. of America and the Firestone Rubber Corp. The White House earlier acknowledged U.S. Steel paid for some Ford golf games in New Jersey.

Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss assailed Dole in a statement for saying an investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor's office involving Ford congressional campaign finances appeared to be nothing but "election year politics."

Corporation guest

Ford's golf outings defended

By RICHARD E. LERNER

WASHINGTON (UPI)— President Ford played golf as the guest of at least four corporations when he was in Congress and saw nothing wrong in such outings, a White House spokesman said Tuesday.

Responding to news reports and a swipe from Jimmy Carter on the issue of coziness with lobbyists, press secretary Ron Nessen said Ford stopped accepting such hospitality when he became vice president in 1973.

"As an avid golfer, the President over the years has accepted invitations to play with friends at different clubs around the country and has invited friends to play at his club," the Burning Tree course in suburban Bethesda, Md., Nessen said.

He said the President, while he was a Michigan congressman, attended golf outings as the guest of corporate officials of Bethlehem Steel Co., the Aluminum Corporation of America, the Firestone Rubber Corp. and U.S. Steel Corp.

He said he did not know who paid Ford's expenses, although U.S. Steel lobbyist William Whyte said last week his firm footed the bill for three such golfing vacations between 1964 and 1973.

Nessen said Ford would not have accepted the golfing invitations "if he thought there was anything wrong with it" and believes he has "lived up to the spirit" of the 1968 congressional ethics code.

"The President does not consider a golf game to be a gift of substantial value," Nessen said.

Gifts of substantial value from lobbyists could be regarded, under congressional ethics codes, as posing a conflict of interest. Lobbyists are supposed to list them in the reports they file with Congress.

Controversy over the golf issue arose last week when Whyte, U.S. Steel's chief Washington lobbyist, disclosed his firm treated Ford to expense-paid trips to its lodge at Pine Valley Golf Club in New Jersey in 1964 1969 and 1973.

The World In Brief

Pilot's family pleads for return

MOSCOW (UPI)—Choking back sobs, the wife and mother of a Soviet lieutenant who flew a top-secret plane to Japan earlier this month appealed Tuesday to President Ford "as the father of a family" to permit the pilot to return home.

The women said at an emotionally charged news conference that they are convinced Lt. Viktor I. Belenko fell victim to misfortune and did not intend to defect.

"I am absolutely certain that he did not want to go abroad," said Mrs. Ludmilla Petrovna Belenko.

Mrs. Belenko released a lengthy letter she wrote to her husband, saying "I was officially reassured at the highest level here that you will be forgiven.

British pound falls to new low

LONDON (UPI)— The British pound crashed to a new low of $1.63 Tuesday despite intervention by the Bank of England from its meager reserves and a desperate speech by Prime Minister James Callaghan aimed at restoring world confidence.

The pound has lost 15 cents in value in little more than one week.

Syrian offensive to oust guerrillas

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI)— Syrian troops and tanks launched a major two-pronged offensive against Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon's central mountains Tuesday in what Christians called "the most decisive battle" of the Lebanese civil war.

Christian forces joined the attack from the north and east, opening a third front, in a drive to rout the guerrillas from their last important countryside entrenchments and at the end of the first day had pushed the Palestinian defenders from some positions.

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