Mandel tours prison facilities

HAGERSTOWN (AP)—Gov. Marvin Mandel paid not-so-surprise visits to Maryland penal facilities Tuesday in what an aide said was part of his continuing review of state efforts to deal with crime problems

The governor toured two facilities at Hagerstown in the morning and was slated to visit the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore and the House of Correction in Jessup in the afternoon

The trip was supposed to have been a surprise, but word of it reached the media Monday night, four or five days after the heads of each institution were tipped off by a leak in the Mandel administration

Accompanying Mandel on the helicopter-and-motorcade trip were Robert Murphy, chief judge of the Court of Appeals, Mark Levine, state corrections commissioner, and Alan Wilner, Mandel's chief legislative officer

The morning stops at the maximum-security Maryland Correctional Institution and the nearby Correctional Training Center, a 1,085 inmate, light security facility where Mandel spent an hour and where, he said, "morale was high."

Reporters were not permitted to accompany the governor into the center or the 900-inmate institution where he spent two hours

While Mandel was inside the facility, inmates chanted through the bars with reporters waiting outside

Rowan Scarborough, a reporter for the Hagerstown Daily Mail, said inmates who refused to identify themselves called the tour a "sham" because the place had been specially cleaned and the schedule rearranged for the governor's visit.

A man who said he was serving 15 years for armed robbery yelled out that the prison, hoping to impress the governor, was operating education classes on a day not scheduled for such activity, according to Scarborough, who said the report was seconded by a teacher who wished to remain anonymous

Other inmates complained to reporters that sanitary conditions at the prison were "real bad" and that the food was "slop," the reporter said

One of the inmates also said that Mandel had met with Thomas Goodman, a prisoner who heads the inmate council Mandel later acknowledged meeting with Goodman

"I found on the whole the operation of the institution fairly high, and the morale of the inmates and the staff was high," Mandel said.

Asked about the through-the-bars complaints from inmates and his meeting with Goodman, Mandel replied: "Of course, some prisoners had individual gripes."

Mandel told reporters at Hagerstown the tour was to have been a surprise and that "it was, until you guys heard about it."

Later, after visiting the penitentiary in Baltimore, the governor claimed there had been no intention of surprise and that he had been able to see what he wanted to see anyway.

An aide to the governor said, however, that "somehow, someone inside the (penal) system warned the heads of the institutions well in advance."

Gowon ousted as ruler in Nigeria

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Gen Yakubu Gowon, who led Nigeria through a bitter civil war and into oil-based prosperity, has been ousted as military ruler of the West African nation, diplomats in Kampala reported Tuesday

The reportedly bloodless coup occurred as the 40-year-old Gowon, who ruled black Africa's richest and most populous nation for 9 of the 17 years since its independence from Britain, was attending the summit in Kampala of the Organization of African Unity.

A transcript of a Radio Lagos broadcast quoted Col. Joseph Namvan Garba, identified as the 32-year-old head of Gowon's personal bodyguard, as announcing Gowon's overthrow "in view of what has been happening in our country in the past few months."

U.S. sources in Washington said there was no immediate indication that Garba himself had replaced Gowon.

Diplomats said the coup was apparently led by "a group of colonels and majors" following months of military dissension and student unrest

There has been pressure for a return to civilian rule in Nigeria Gowon had promised it for 1976 but recently changed his mind. Observers also cited the country's continuing tribal differences

Gowon came to power in an army coup in July 1966 and went to war to prevent the Ibos of western Nigeria from breaking away from the rest of the country The 30-month Biafran conflict ended in 1970.

There were no communications out of Nigeria except for reports by Radio Lagos, which said that a dusk-to-dawn curfew had been imposed and anyone breaking it risked being shot. All airports and borders were reported closed and private cars banned, but civilians were allowed to work as usual.

Gowon, a mild-mannered, friendly man with broad respect across Africa, had addressed the OAU assembly Monday night on the responsibilities of African leaders and was still in the conference hall when an aide brought the news

"I have a clear conscience. There is nothing to worry about," he declared, then returned to his hotel room, smiling and looking calm.

Diplomatic sources said Gowon was trying to assess the situation in Nigeria and had not ruled out the possibility of attempting to return to power. Other sources said he was trying to contact military commanders at home to determine if he retained any support.

There was also a report that Gowon might fly to a country neighboring Nigeria, possibly Cameroon, from which he could re-enter his country.

Astronauts will rest in seclusion

HONOLULU (AP) — A sunny hideaway was being readied Tuesday for the Apollo astronauts' convalescence and a reunion with their wives.

On their release from Tripler Army Hospital, where they were treated for inhalation of rocket fumes, the three men will rest in seclusion for 10 days.

Space agency officials indicated that preparation of the military housing would probably delay release of the ailing crewmen from the hospital until Wednesday, a day later than had been planned. The astronauts' wives and children — a party of about 15 persons — were to arrive here from Houston at 6 p.m. Wednesday, the officials said.

Officials have not yet revealed the whereabouts of the hideaway.

During their recuperation, astronauts Thomas P. Stafford, Donald K. Slayton and Vance D. Brand will continue to tape record their account of the nine-day Apollo-Soyuz mission.

Of special concern is their version of the last few minutes before splashdown last Thursday, during which a slipup caused poisonous rocket fuel fumes to be sucked into the Apollo cabin.

A momentary distraction of the crew, perhaps caused by an electronic squeal in their headphones, was given as the probable cause of the astronauts' failure to throw a necessary pair of switches.

Officials said that because the switches weren't activated, a small steering rocket kept firing when it should have stopped. As a result, a cloud of nitrogen tetroxide vapor was sucked through a nearby air inlet.

The gas sent the astronauts into a coughing spell. Stafford was able to unpack oxygen masks after the spacecraft landed, and officials said if he hadn't acted so quickly, the damage to the mens' lungs might have been very serious.

As it was, the corrosive gas had a delayed reaction from which the three men were still feeling effects. Doctors said infection-fighting lung cells were disabled, leaving the trio susceptible to disease germs that healthy persons could resist.

PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

The Carroll County Philatelic Association announces that beginning in August they will hold meetings in Frederick on the fourth Thursday of each month. Interested persons should contact Ron Beck in Frederick or Herman Beck, Jr. in Mt. Airy. More details will be announced later. Watch your newspapers or listen for radio announcements.

Tories want to return America to Queen

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Now, upon ground once trod by Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, comes a counter-revolutionary band of loyalists who would finally return prodigal America to the forgiving arms of Mother England.

Already these latter-day Tories have collecteed $83 and the support of 150 U.S. citizens who envision a happier life in a colony restored. If only another 200 million or so sign up, their petitions may be ready for the queen when she arrives for a Bicentennial visit next July.

Otherwise, the Bicentennial will be nothing but "a big fake, a piece of propaganda trying to cover up the mistakes we've made," says John T. Ambrose, co-founder of the Committee for Reunion with England

"It's time we realized that the Revolution was nothing more than the self-serving acts of a bunch of hotheads and caused a lot of problems for this country which now can be corrected only by reunion."

According to the committee's Declaration of Reunion, the corruption and injustice which have troubled America's 199 years could have been avoided if the rebels had only been patient enough to work within the system.

It noted, for example, that slave trade was abolished in the British Empire "two score and 16 years" before the Emancipation Proclamation.

If only the colonies had stayed in line, there would have been no Civil War, no Reconstruction and no Ku-Klux-Klan, it adds.

"World War I and II would never have occurred. Germany would never dare attack a British Empire that included both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The American Revolution not only betrayed America, but also Mother England, nay the entire civilized world," it says.

Not that Ambrose and his collaborators are looking for revenge.

"Mother England is kind and just," the declaration says. "If we apologize now and promise not to rebel any more, she will go easy on us. Amnesty will be offered to the rebel leaders and the present officials of this rebel government. There would be no fear that President Ford, members of Congress or the Supreme Court will be sent to prison."

Little people face tough job problems

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Steve Nerden hopped onto a sofa with its legs cut off and said the only problem with being 4 foot 2 is getting a job to support your family.

"We don't figure we're handicapped ... we just figure it's harder'n hell to get a job," Nerden said about himself and his 4-foot-tall wife of three months, Patricia.

"You have to prove yourself to everybody. Most people won't give you a chance," he said.

Nerden is 21 years old, 10 days older than his wife. He's working as a janitor at the Boulder County Human Resources Department, earning $16 a night with the promise of morning work in the future. Mrs. Nerden can't find work, although she was trained as a pediatric nurse's aide in her home town of Rawlins, Wyo.

"She wants to get something working with kids. Like she says, kids are scared of a big lady in white but not of a little person," Nerden said. "The problem is that apparently not many people agree with her."

The Nerdens have had trouble holding jobs in the past. He was trained as a jeweler, like his 4-foot-tall father in Denver, but he says he had difficulty polishing silver without burning his fingers and lost that job Both Steve and Patricia once worked on a ski manufacturing assembly line, but those jobs disappeared because their small arms didn't adjust to the line and they couldn't work as fast as their coworkers.

Market rally sidetracked

NEW YORK (AP) — Inflation worries sidetracked an early rally in the stock market Tuesday and drove prices lower again in moderate trading.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, up more than 8 points in the first half-hour, wound up with a 2.97 loss at 824.86.

The closely watched average now has fallen 56.95 points over the past two weeks.

Declines outpaced gainers 949 to 455 among the 1,811 issues traded on the New York Stock Exchange after trailing by more than 3 to 1 earlier.

Big Board volume increased to an even 19 million shares from Monday's 2½-month low of 14.85 million.

The NYSE's composite index dropped .31 to 47.20.

The market's sharp but shortlived early rally followed the government's report that its index of leading economic indicators climbed 1.9 per cent in June for its fourth consecutive monthly rise.

Adding to the favorable outlook was an assertion by Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that there appeared to be a broad base in the economy for a recovery from the recession.

But the session's course seemed to turn on a later remark by Burns during his appearance before the joint economic committee of the House and Senate.

Burns said he was concerned that recent purchases of U.S. grain by the Soviet Union would lead to substantially higher food prices in this country.

Brokers noted that the market already was edgy about inflation prospects Last week White House economist Alan Greenspan said the government's wholesale price index would probably show a goodsize increase for July because of higher grain prices.

On the American Stock Exchange, the market value index gave up .65 to 89.69.

The NASDAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market closed at 82.67, off .42.

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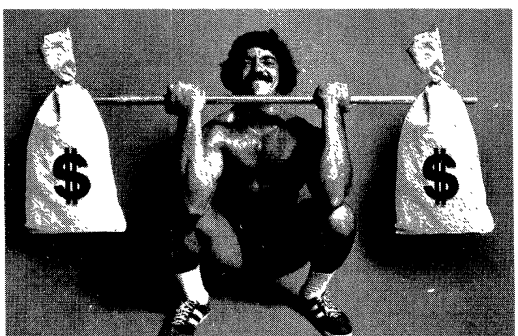

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