

STATE AND NATIONAL

MONDAY
IN THE NEWS

Top stories from state, nation and world

Clinton proposes \$1.6 billion in aid for Russia

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The Clinton administration on Sunday announced a \$1.6 billion aid package for Russia, almost half in agriculture credits that will give Russia quick access to food without adding to its massive debt.

The plan, outlined on the final day of President Clinton's two-day summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, provides \$700 million in grain and other food credits as well as \$690 million in direct grants and \$230 million in other aid.

Clinton's package — designed to help maintain political and economic reforms in Russia — would establish a "Democracy Corps" of Americans to engage in "people-to-people" contacts with Russians.

The administration said the package used funds that already had been appropriated by Congress but had been bottled up. No further congressional action is needed.

Demonstrators move toward Indian border

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan — Hundreds of anti-Indian demonstrators defied army warnings and pressed toward the disputed Kashmiri border Sunday, clambering over rubble in a mountain pass that was dynamited in an attempt to stop them.

The government, fearing another confrontation with India, vowed to halt the demonstrators and sent troops to block their way. But the organizer of the march said, "We will continue until death stops us."

Two wars have been fought over the predominantly Muslim Kashmir region since it was divided between Pakistan and India in 1947. The Indian portion makes up part of the state of Jammu-Kashmir, the country's only Muslim majority state.

But Pakistani authorities oppose an incursion by protesters into Jammu-Kashmir.

Cambodian guerrillas kill U.N. peacekeepers

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Khmer Rouge guerrillas shared a meal with Bulgarian peacekeepers just before rebel gunmen opened fire, killing three of the foreigners, a U.N. mission spokesman said Sunday.

The comments by the spokesman, Eric Falt, are the most complete account so far of the late Friday attack in the western province of Kompong Speu. Falt said the Bulgarians welcomed three of the guerrillas when they dropped by the U.N. unit and invited them to eat with the platoon of 20 peacekeepers.

Near the end of the meal, one guerrilla left the dining tent, and another soon followed. The second man returned with 10 armed guerrillas and began to act threateningly, Falt said.

The Bulgarians' leader ordered his soldiers to get their weapons outside the tent. But just after they left, the guerrillas fired on the six Bulgarians still inside, Falt said.

Three were killed, and three others were seriously wounded.

—The Associated Press

Hemlock Society director calls for 'right to die' laws

By Alia Smith
Staff Writer

John Pridonoff, executive director of Hemlock Society USA, stressed the need for laws to permit medically-assisted suicide before an audience of about 50 in a forum Sunday at the Chapel Hill Senior Center.

"We're taught to deny death from the time we are born," he said. "If we deny the reality and finality of death, then we can never come to terms with it. No matter how much we deny it, it doesn't go away."

The Hemlock Society is a nonprofit,

grassroots organization that advocates the right for terminally ill people to "reject medical treatments that only prolong dying," Pridonoff said.

"The Hemlock Society is committed to changing the face of how living, dying and death is handled in the community," Pridonoff said. "We want the medical profession to deal with us on our terms."

Pridonoff said many terminally ill patients and society in general refused to deal with the issue of death. "We have to accept that if a loved one has Lou Gehrig's disease, if a loved one has cancer, if a loved one has AIDS, if a

loved one is aging, that loved one is going to die," Pridonoff said.

He added that the cosmetics and automobile industries used society's fear of aging to sell their products, touting them as a cure for the effects of aging. "Where would these industries be if we didn't deny the aging process?" he asked.

He then turned to what he called the medical profession's aversion to medically-assisted suicide. "Most physicians are dedicated professionals who want to do what's right, but they need permission to do it," he said. "We've got a very important mission to aid physicians to help terminally ill patients. And

we have to get society to talk about it."

He added that patients should make sure their doctors promised to carry out their wishes because some doctors were afraid of being sued or might attempt to impose their theological beliefs on patients. Pridonoff said that if a doctor refused to carry out the patient's wishes or to discuss the subject, the patient should switch doctors.

Pridonoff then listed a series of questions each patient should ask himself before being committed to a hospital or convalescent home: "Do you have a durable power of attorney for health care?" "Do you have a living will?" "Do

you have pre-made arrangements with the memorial home of your choice?" and "Do you have someone you trust who can speak for you if you are unable to speak for yourself?"

Pridonoff said all patients should be able to answer yes to each question before undergoing treatment.

"The Hemlock Society wants to help you deal with fear," Pridonoff concluded. "We want you to be able to have respect, dignity, and integrity. In living, dying and death we want to be able to maintain those elements. We want legislation passed so we can have those things in final end-of-life decisions."

Preponderance of legal jargon hereby placed under fire

By Brad Williams
Staff Writer

A movement to end the use of confusing legal jargon has gained momentum in Michigan, but N.C. lawyers say there has been no clamor for more user-friendly language in state legal documents.

"Legalese," which appears in courtroom documents and legislation, connotes what some consider superfluous wording, such as "preponderance of," "hereby" and "now comes."

"Legalese is the wordiness on the part of judges and lawyers," said Tony Worden, an intern at the Communications Department of the State Bar of Michigan. "Lawyers feel they sound more intelligent if they use this type of wording."

Although the drive to rid legal writing of legalese has become a full-fledged movement in Michigan, it has not yet become an issue among N.C. lawyers.

"Those who teach legal writing are looking for precision in the use of language in general," said Thomas M. Steele, a Wake Forest University professor of law. "However, there is no organized plain-language movement in North Carolina, as far as I know."

Allan Head, executive director of the N.C. Bar Association, said he thought legalese was necessary to clarify a topic and that misinterpretation was due to a lack of understanding of the terms.

"All professions, whether academia, medical or the law community, have terms which do not mean a thing to those not schooled in those professions," Head said.

Week from page 3

keynote address by Huerta at 8 p.m. Huerta, a known proponent of workers' rights, will speak about a variety of social movements.

Huerta also will speak Wednesday afternoon about working class struggles. School of Social Work students will hold a bake sale Wednesday to raise money for UNC housekeepers.

Wednesday's activities also will include an open discussion of the University's response to demands for diversity in the curriculum. The Carolina Indian Circle sponsored forum will focus on a lack of black and Native-American faculty at UNC, a proposed cultural diversity requirement and student demands for a Hindi language class.

The week ends Thursday with a showing of the movie "Stand and Deliver."

He attributed the "plain English" movement to changes in the law profession and society. "Limiting legalese is a response to a trend in society to be consumer friendly," he said.

Richard Singer, a Raleigh lawyer, said possible changes in the wording of legal documents did not concern him and added that he thought lawyers could conform to any system used to write them.

"The legalese debate doesn't matter

to me one way or the other," he said. "I can adapt."

George Hathaway, chairman of the Plain English Committee of the State Bar of Michigan, said legalese prevented precision. "Legal writing should be clear writing," he said. "Eliminating legalese helps to clarify legal writing."

Hathaway said he promoted his plain English agenda through a monthly article in the Michigan Bar Journal. "The article promotes plain English by iden-

tifying legal writing that is already in plain language," he said.

The Plain English Committee also has encouraged lawyers to use plain English by giving a clarity award to those who do not use legalese, Worden said.

Last year one award was given, but this year an award will be presented each month, he said. "The awarding of the clarity award is seen as an improvement in the decreasing use of legalese."

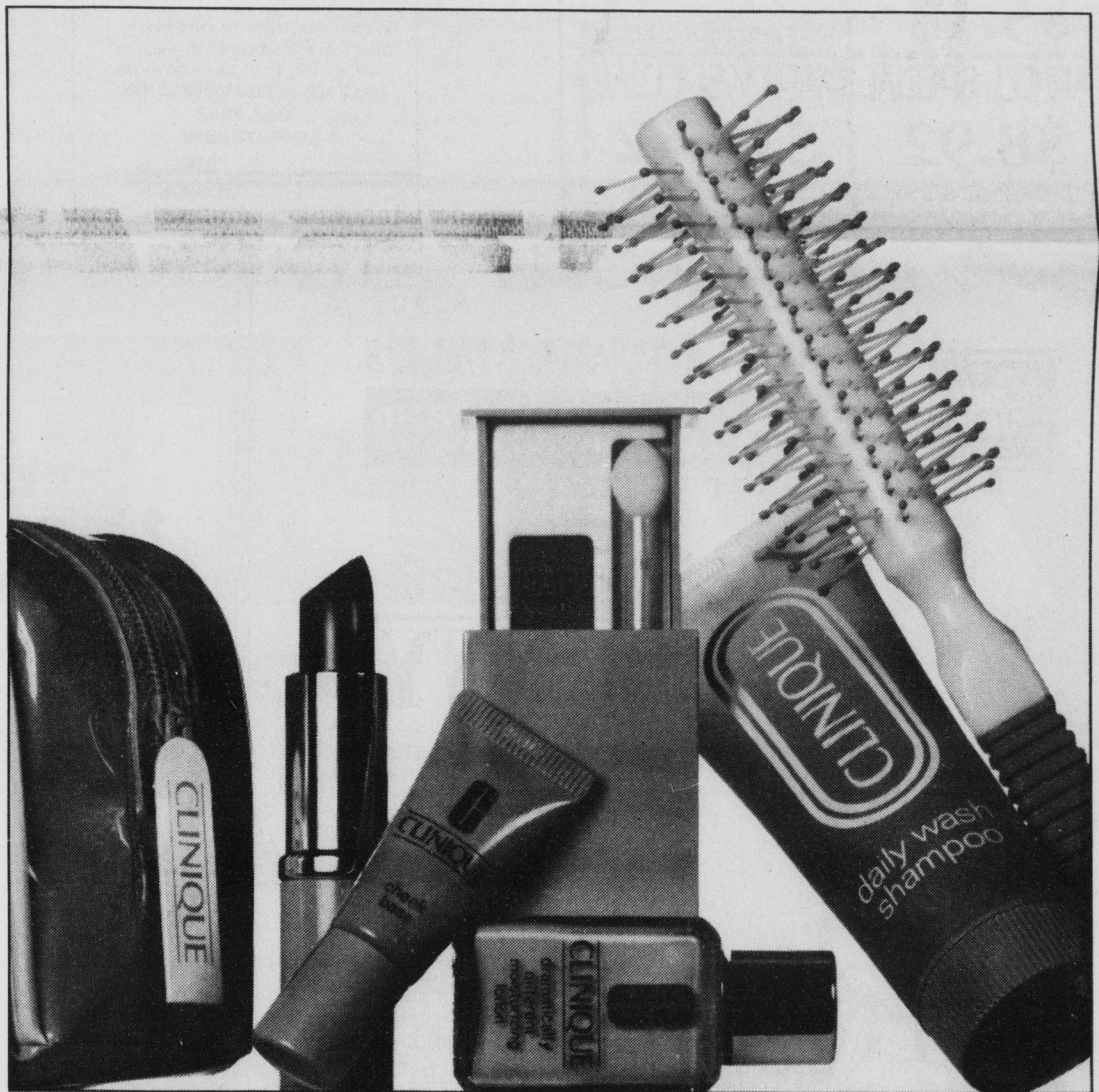
Hathaway said he did not advocate state laws to promote use of plain English and that change should be voluntary. Currently, Michigan prohibits use of legalese in insurance contracts.

He said "true legal terms of art," such as "plaintiff," "defendant" and "negligence" should not be banished.

"We want to keep the true legal terms of art which give the legal language precision," he said. "Legalese is the non-terms of art."

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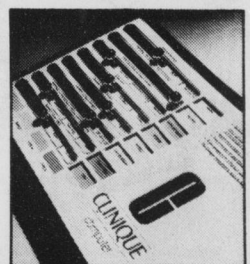
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