

Morgan out of governor's race

RALEIGH — Pleading unfinished business in his present job, state Attorney General Robert Morgan announced Wednesday he will not be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor next year.

"The polls show that is we should determine to seek the governorship, we could win," Morgan said at a news conference. "But there are other considerations which I, in good conscience, cannot ignore."

Morgan, 45, said his present intent is to seek re-election to the attorney general's post, but he also left the door open for a race for the U.S. Senate if incumbent Sen. B. Everett Jordan decides not to seek re-election.

Morgan's announcement was kept secret until copies were distributed at the news conference. His wife, Katie Morgan, said the decision not to run for governor had been made "just a little while ago" that day.

His announcement ended months of speculation about his gubernatorial plans and left three announced contenders in the Democratic race for governor — Lt.

Gov. H. Pat Taylor, Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles and Dr. Reginald Hawkins.

In addition, East Carolina University President Dr. Leo Jenkins said Wednesday he would reassess his political plans in light of Morgan's announcement and possibly would seek the gubernatorial nomination.

Morgan, who was surrounded by his wife, two daughters and political associates at the news conference, said the 1972 election campaigns had gotten underway unprecedently early in North Carolina and he said "quite frankly, I have felt all along that we are rushing the season."

But he said it was now obvious to him that "in this year's peculiar political climate, I cannot delay a decision" until his unfinished work in the attorney general's office is done "as I had once hoped I could."

"My first duty is to the office to which I already have been entrusted," Morgan said. "I will honor that trust. I shall not be a candidate for governor of North Carolina in 1972."

Morgan said the "unfinished business" he referred to included a "multitude of rate cases pending before the state utilities commission," the newly-organized crime council which "is just beginning to function and needs direction and assistance" and the police information network.

Morgan was careful to restrict his news conference to the announcement about the governor's race and he said "some time early next year, I will make a formal announcement concerning re-election and then get down to the serious business of another campaign."

"In the meantime," he continued, "I know that some speculation will continue. I cannot help that. I do think it only fair that any person who seeks the Democratic nomination for attorney general at this early date know there is the distinct probability that I shall be a candidate for that office also." His wife told a reporter by this statement, Morgan was "leaving the door open in case Jordan steps down."

Jordan, a 75-year-old three-term

senator, has said he intends to seek re-election but there has been speculation he might step down in light of a recent operation for cancer.

Real estate developer Hugh Morton, still an unannounced candidate, was first to respond, issuing a statement from Wilmington in which he said Morgan's withdrawal was "as big a surprise to me as it was to everyone else."

He added Morgan "has a large and enthusiastic following in North Carolina. I am hopeful that many of Robert's supporters for governor will recognize that I will be the kind of candidate for governor who will represent fairly all portions of the state and all of the people in the state."

"I solicit the support of Robert Morgan's many friends," Morton added.

Bowles said "Of course, I am delighted anytime any possible opponents drop out of the race." Bowles told UPI that Morgan's withdrawal would not change his own plans: "I am running for the office of governor and not against anyone."



Thailand government suspends constitution

BANGKOK — A new revolutionary party headed by Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn Wednesday suspended constitutional rule and seized full power in a bloodless coup to deal with "the increasing threat to national security."

Radio Thailand said the move, similar to one taken last month by Prime Minister Lon Nol of Cambodia, had the approval of the Thai monarchy.

Field Marshal Thanom, 70, will remain prime minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Radio Thailand said. His party, including civilians and members of the army, navy and air force, suspended the constitution, abolished parliament and the cabinet and imposed martial law throughout the kingdom.

The new party also said political gatherings of more than five persons were now prohibited.

Nixon 'won't be bound' by troop withdrawal act

WASHINGTON — President Nixon signed into law today a \$21.3 billion procurement bill but said he would not be bound by a section calling on him to set a "final date" for the total U.S. withdrawal from Indochina.

In a strongly worded statement, Nixon said, "To avoid any possible misconceptions, I want to emphasize that Section 501 of this act — the so-called 'Mansfield amendment' — does not represent the policies of this administration."

The amendment requests that Nixon set a final withdrawal date subject only to the release of American prisoners of war and an accounting of GIs missing in action.

This was a dilution of the original wording of the amendment, sponsored by Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, which would have set next spring as the timetable for total withdrawal, provided POWs were released.

Even without a specific time, however, Nixon refused to be bound by the amendment.

He said the amendment "expresses a judgment about the manner in which the American involvement in the war should be ended."

"However," Nixon added, "it is without binding force or effect, and it does not reflect my judgment about the way in which the war should be brought to a conclusion."

"My signing of the bill that contains this section, therefore, will not change the policies I have pursued and that I shall continue to pursue toward this end."

India claims intrusion; Pakistan installs curfew

NEW DELHI — Indian government spokesmen said Wednesday that Indian civilians had been killed and wounded in two Pakistani artillery intrusions by Pakistani troops and "saboteurs."

Dacca, the capital of East Pakistan, is reported to have been placed under tight curfew Wednesday while troops and police searched for illegal weapons.

The Indian government gave no details on the casualties suffered by either side in the alleged Pakistani incursion and the Pakistani government refused to comment on either the alleged incursion or the curfew.

Pay Board will review new coal miners contract

WASHINGTON — The Pay Board Wednesday ordered operators and mine workers to defend their new contract that ended a 48-day strike in the soft coal fields.

The contract, signed Saturday in New York, calls for a 10 percent increase for miners during the first year and, according to management spokesmen, would amount to a 39 percent increase over its three-year life.

The Pay Board last week set a 5.5 percent per year wage increase standard. The board ordered the review under terms of its regulation which permit a review of existing contracts if five or more of the 15 members of the board ask for it.

The Pay Board did not say how many had requested the review.

Price Commission okays automobile price rise

WASHINGTON — The Price Commission Wednesday approved a 2.5 percent average increase requested by American Motors for its 1972 automobiles.

The commission said it was considering two other requests for automobile price increases — a 5.9 percent boost by the Chrysler Corporation and a 2 percent boost by Ford.

The commission said the American Motors increase "was justified by allowable costs, taking into consideration productivity" and a statement by the manufacturer that it would not increase its profit margin over a three-year base period level.

Irish youth wounded

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland — A 14-year old boy, playing hookie from school, was shot and seriously wounded Wednesday when a sniper with a machinegun opened fire on British troops who were clearing away Roman Catholic-built barricades, the army said.

An army statement said the soldiers did not return the fire but angry crowds from the Roman Catholic Bogside district shouted "murderers" at the troops.

The soldiers used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse them.

Hawkins knocks Scott

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Reginald Hawkins, black candidate for governor of North Carolina, accused Gov. Bob Scott Wednesday of giving concessions to special interest groups at the expense of the public.

In a telegram to Scott, Hawkins said, "You and the Council of State continue to give special concessions to the special interest groups in this state, such as banks, public utilities and insurance companies, at the expense of the public interest."

"The lowering of the interest rate paid by banks on public tax monies is unexplainable while we refuse to raise teachers and other state employees' salaries and make Medicaid cutbacks to the poor."

"I call upon you for a full explanation of this action," Hawkins said in the telegram.

Hawkins said the state lowered the interest rate to five and one-quarter per cent Tuesday for a one-half percent drop since October.

"This means the state is losing money and giving these special breaks to the special interest groups," Hawkins said.

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