

Slapstick star dies of cancer

HOLLYWOOD—William Bud Abbot, 75, the skinny straight man to Lou Costello in one of the most famous comedy teams of the 1940s, died Wednesday.

Death was attributed to cancer, a family spokesman said. Abbott's widow Betty was with him when he died at 7 a.m. PDT.

Abbott had been in poor health for more than a decade after a series of strokes.

He finished his life living on Social Security after his savings from the huge sums he earned as a star were stripped from him by the government in a tax action in 1959, the year Costello died.

Abbott and Costello made more than 50 movies and were together for 21 years. Abbott once said he made \$400,000 a year at the height of his career in the 1940s.

Abbott was born into show business in Atlantic City, N.J., on Oct. 2, 1898. His mother was a circus bareback rider and his father was an advance man for the show.

Apartheid policy faces voter test

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa's white voters chose a new parliament Wednesday in a national election called by Prime Minister John Vorster to seek a mandate for continuation of his racial apartheid policy. Results are expected Thursday.

Vorster, head of the ruling National Party, said the policies of the opposition United Party could eventually bring the 16 million blacks to power in the racially-divided country.

"I will never allow the sharing of our white sovereignty," Vorster said during the campaign.

The United party, which traditionally has drawn its support from the English-speaking section of South Africa's white population, plans to share power in a federal structure with the country's 16 million blacks, who do not have the right to vote.

Ecology-crusader back on the job

ROCKFORD, Ill.—The Fox is back! That courageous crusader against air and water pollution, that mysterious scourge of environment-soiling industries has surfaced again after an absence of more than two years.

It was a milder-mannered, perhaps more

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compiled by Tom Scarratt and Walter Colton
Wire Editors

Fighting continues over Golan Heights

TEL AVIV—Israeli and Syrian fighter-bombers Wednesday flew raids along the Golan Heights where tanks and artillery dueled for the 44th consecutive day. An official Syrian newspaper warned the fighting could escalate into the fifth Middle East War.

Israeli security forces on the front lines were reported on heightened alerts on the eve of Israel's Independence Day celebrations Thursday, as a precaution against the possibility of another surprise attack by Arab armies similar to that which triggered the fourth Middle East war last Oct. 6, Yom Kippur.

43 bodies recovered from jet crash

TINGA TINGA, Bali—Indonesian army rangers scaled a sheer mountainside Wednesday and located 43 bodies of the 107 persons killed when a Pan American Jetliner crashed and burst into flames Monday.

But commanders at this base camp at the bottom of the 3,000-foot mountain said the grim task of removing the dead would be delayed.

Col. Umar Said, head of the ranger unit, said the remains of the other 64 persons lay in deep gullies and ravines accessible only by rope climbers. He estimated it would be four to five days before the remains could be recovered and brought down the mountain for identification.

Student strike broken up in Beirut

BEIRUT—Lebanese security forces occupied the American University of Beirut at dawn Wednesday and ejected students who had occupied the administration building in a strike against higher tuition.

Interior Minister Bahij Takleddin said police arrested 61 students on the campus and others in various parts of Beirut when they tried to block roads by setting fire to old automobile tires to protest the police action at the university.

Police said none of those arrested were Americans.

Lawyers battle as trial closes

NEW YORK—Government prosecutor John R. Wing, striking back at the defense contention that John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans were innocent of criminal conspiracy and perjury, charged Wednesday that the former Nixon cabinet officers felt they were above the law.

Beginning a lengthy summation, Wing told the Federal Court jury that former Attorney General Mitchell "had no right to lie under oath and if he gets away with it, what man in this country will have any respect for law?"

Earlier Wednesday in his half of the defense summation, Mitchell's attorney, Peter Fleming accused the government of a shameful and immoral abuse of power and said the case "is not even closed to proved."

In a reference to Watergate, Fleming told the jury the criminal conspiracy case against Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans was "a prosecutor's vision, engendered in the heat of a terrible national trauma."

"It's amazing," the Fox said, "how many people can be brought into compliance with the law. You don't have to take them into court. They stop polluting immediately."

Nothing more was said about hydraulic cement, but listeners noted it's the kind that hardens under water.

Tuesday night's return of the Fox may have carried a threat.

Doubts spread quickly through the city room that this was the real Fox. Belief grew that it must have been some lily-livered imposter.

The real Fox was noted for his 1971-72

mature Fox who turned up in Rockford Tuesday night, about 90 miles north of his usual haunts closer to Chicago. This time, he offered only advice.

A man who said he was the Fox called *The Rockford Morning Star* and talked about hydraulic cement, "one of the best friends a conservationist ever had." He also touched on House members opposing a scenic rivers bill.

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Simon—tax cut inflationary

WASHINGTON—William E. Simon, apparently assured of Senate confirmation as Treasury secretary, said Wednesday a tax cut would only add to the country's rate of inflation.

Simon told the Senate Finance Committee, considering his nomination, that he would give top priority as head of the Treasury Department to "getting the inflation dragon back in the cage."

"We just feel a tax cut at this time would be highly inflationary," said Simon, the former head of the Federal Energy Office whom President Nixon chose to take over the Treasury when Secretary George P. Shultz' resignation becomes effective next month.

Sens. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and other Senate Democrats are pushing for an across-the-board tax cut for individuals through an increased personal exemption or optional tax credits for taxpayers in the lower brackets.

The measure is expected to pass the Senate, possibly as early as next week, as an amendment to a minor tariff bill.

At a news briefing, John T. Dunlop, director of the Cost of Living Council, indicated he doubted there would be any quick victory over inflation.

"The problem ain't going away," he said. Dunlop said there would be another bulge in prices after April 30, when the last of the economic controls are lifted. He said farm prices could decrease by late summer only if

weather conditions foster bumper harvests worldwide, while inflation remained acute in the steel, copper and health services industries.

Simon generally followed the standard administration economic line during a morning of mostly friendly questioning. But he emphasized repeatedly that the government must halt huge budget deficits, some of the largest of which have occurred during Nixon's administration.

Charges may be deleted

WASHINGTON—The House Judiciary Committee's lawyers have recommended dropping as many of 30 of the 56 potential impeachment charges against President Nixon, including questionable financing of his California and Florida homes, it was learned Wednesday.

John M. Doar, the committee's chief impeachment counsel, and Alfred Jenner, his Republican counterpart, will make their recommendations Thursday morning when the committee meets in public session to hear the results of its legal staff's preliminary investigation.

According to the lawyers' draft proposal, which Jenner read to GOP committee members Wednesday, he and Doar would continue to investigate a large number of other allegations against the President, notably obstruction of justice in handling of the Watergate cover-up.

The recommended narrowing of impeachment charges would leave only allegation of criminal action and drop all non-criminal items, but one Republican present at the caucus said this was a coincidence that "just worked out that way."

One of the original controversies surrounding impeachment concerned whether a president could be impeached for anything that did not violate a criminal statute.

FBI finds cars used in holdup

SAN FRANCISCO—The FBI today announced that two cars used in a San Francisco bank holdup in which Patricia Hearst participated have been located in a parking garage.

FBI special agent in charge Charles W. Bates said the two automobiles used in the April 15 robbery of a Hibernal Bank branch were found in the garage at the Japanese Cultural Center near San Francisco's downtown.

Federal bank robbery warrants have been issued against the four who accompanied Miss Hearst inside the bank, and Miss Hearst is being sought as a material witness.

EPA halts pesticide sales

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wednesday issued a rare emergency order to halt the sale of thousands of cans of pesticide sprays containing vinyl chloride—a chemical linked to a rare form of liver cancer.

The order, which takes effect immediately, covers 28 aerosol products intended for use in the home, hospitals, where food is handled or other enclosed areas. Outdoor sprays are not affected but the EPA said manufacturers are recalling them anyway.

An estimated 19,000 cans covered by the ban are believed to be on the market, and an unknown number of others are likely to be in the hands of consumers.

The industry was already in the process of recalling the sprays but EPA administrator Russell E. Train said the process was not moving fast enough.



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