

Houston explosions

United Press International

HOUSTON—Fearing new explosions, firemen Sunday refused to let 1,500 residents return to their evacuated homes on the south side of the Englewood trainyard, ripped apart Saturday by chemical explosions and scorched by a raging fire.

The explosion and fire injured at least 70 persons. All but nine had been treated and released from hospitals Sunday. Officials Saturday ordered 3,000 residents from the area, north and south of the yard.

Fire Capt. James Carroll suffered a heart attack fighting the fire Saturday night. Another fireman ruptured himself and a third suffered an eye injury.

"It was unbelievable that no one was killed," fire department information officer Paul Carr said as he helped federal investigators begin an inquiry.

One fire department dispatcher said it might be three days before all the area persons return home.

"If we knew what was in those tanks and boxes, we might know how to handle it," the dispatcher said. "It's just a mass of confusion inside that yard. You know that is the same stuff that went up in Texas City."

April 6, 1947, a ship anchored in Texas City's harbor just south of Houston blew up, igniting a devastating fire that killed 576 persons, injured 4,000 and caused \$67 million in damage.

The Englewood yard blast was not nearly as severe.

"It looked like Korea in there," Sheriff's Major J.J. Klevenhagen said after flying over the yard. "There's cars and buildings lying all over."

There was no official explanation of the blast which rocked a 20-block area at noon Saturday. But one switchman said he was suspicious of a coupling operation between two Shell Chemical Co. cars filled with butadiene, a flammable hydrocarbon used in making synthetic rubber.



Rescue workers in Honduras man a lifeline to aid refugees during Hurricane Fifi

Chavez charges 'breaking' tactics

by Charles Flinger
United Press International

WASHINGTON—Cesar Chavez said Sunday his United Farm Workers union must overcome a "mammoth conspiracy" among the federal immigration service, crop growers and the Teamsters union to survive.

"The Teamsters in agriculture—I'm not talking about truck driving—is a company union. They were brought there by the growers to break our union," Chavez charged in an interview.

He said workers are recruited in Mexico, illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico border and go to work under Teamster contracts with fruit and vegetable growers, while the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service stands by.

"There is a mammoth conspiracy with the Immigration Service and the growers and the Teamsters to break the farm workers union, no question about that," Chavez said. "The corruption and the deception and the getting together with the Immigration Service is so entrenched and has been going on for so many years that it is going to take a full scale investigation in the level of Watergate to get down to the whole rotten business of why those illegals are being brought in," he said.

"We have to go further. You see the growers and the Teamsters are paying professional recruiters to go into Mexico to get the people and bring them across. The grower is up to his neck in it."

The result from this combination, Chavez said, is that the Farm Workers Union loses ground and farm workers generally are denied improvements in their standards of living.

"There is a law that prohibits the importation of illegals, period, not for strike breaking, but for any purpose. But the Immigration Service is just not doing its job," he said.

He said it is because of their inability to wield economic power by keeping laborers out of the fields that the farm workers have turned to the boycott, particularly against table grapes and lettuce not picked by UFW members and against Gallo wines made from grapes picked by other than UFW members.

Rescue efforts continue in hurricane's aftermath

by J. Paul Wyatt
United Press International

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras — Rescue officials Sunday ordered mass incineration of bodies to prevent epidemics in the festering devastation wrought by Hurricane Fifi. Floodwaters brought out hundreds of poisonous snakes.

The Honduran army information service said more than 2,700 bodies were burned or buried at Choloma, 12 miles north of San Pedro Sula, and another 1,000 at La Ceiba, a banana port of the coast.

"Five thousand persons died, 10,000 homes were destroyed, damages to crops, public property and private industry is estimated at \$250 million," an army spokesman told UPI. "We have not even begun to assess the value of damage to private property."

UPI correspondent Jonathan Roussel flew over Choloma, once a city of 12,000 inhabitants 12 miles from San Pedro Sula, and saw dark clouds of smoke rising from bodies being incinerated in huge funeral pyres.

"I saw men in red and white Red Cross vests crawling across the mud, retrieving bodies from protruding roofs or treetops," he said. "Sometimes they found a survivor."

Capt. Luis Discua, a spokesman for the government's central information agency in Tegucigalpa, said the decomposed bodies were burned to prevent epidemics. "So many bodies have been exposed to the elements since Thursday that in many cases they are being burned on the spot instead of being brought out for funerals," he said.

Officials said that receding floodwaters had loosed hundreds of poisonous snakes which added to the health hazard.

Hurricane Fifi roared up the coast of Honduras Wednesday and Thursday but lost its force sweeping through Belize and southern Mexico, and was downgraded to a tropical storm by Friday. The skies were clear in San Pedro Sula Sunday and the flood waters were receding. The U.S. Southern Defense Command in the Panama Canal Zone flew shuttles of planes to the coastal zone with water purification units, vaccines and medicine. Refugees were plucked from rooftops.

U.S. Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez, helping coordinate

American aid, warned that epidemics could bring further disaster. "The immediate problem is the health hazard from contaminated water," he told UPI. There was no electricity and running water in San Pedro Sula, Honduras' second largest city with a population of 150,000. Long lines of people with buckets, pots, pans, and plastic containers lined up at three hand-pumps in the town to draw water.

"We do not have enough food, medicine and clothing and our motor fuel supply is running out," the city mayor, Henry Holst, told UPI.

In New York, the director of the Honduras Information Service, Gwendolyn Bennaton, issued an appeal for U.S. contributions of food, medicine, blood, plasma, water purification tablets, antibiotics, clothing, bandages, tents, blankets, and plastic dishes and containers.

"We need just about everything for a catastrophe," she said. The American Red Cross announced Sunday it is sending disaster specialists to Honduras to help with relief operations.

U.S. Red Cross officials announced that Americans wishing to help with relief work may send fund contributions to their local Red Cross chapters, marked for Central American hurricane relief.

Funds are needed for local purchases of supplies and to support the mammoth relief program with which it is assisting the Honduran Emergency Relief Committee run by the Honduran which has set up supply centers in major U.S. cities to gather donated goods.

"Three planes and five or six ships are standing by to take the goods to Honduras," a spokesman said.

An international rescue effort of medical and aid teams from the United States, Mexico, Venezuela and other countries was hampered by a general breakdown in communications.

San Pedro de Sula had only one telephone in working order. Planes landing at the airport were warned to bring their own fuel because there was none at the airport.

The American-owned United Fruit Company and Standard Fruit company used their own helicopters to rush aid to survivors in rural areas.

Huston Lacombe, of Alexander, La., manager of United's Honduran subsidiary, said helicopters were dropping food packages to survivors stranded on rooftops in the flooded areas.

Albert criticizes Ford economics

United Press International

WASHINGTON—House Speaker Carl Albert said Sunday that President Ford has been a "little slow" in making economic decisions and warned that Ford had better act before the Nov. 5 elections "if he wants to save some Republican congressmen."

"The administration, in my opinion somewhat erroneously, is trying to pin the whole solution to inflation onto monetary and fiscal policy and I think many more factors are involved," Albert said.

"I think he'd better not let himself get hemmed in too much by the 'old time religion,'" a reference to economic policies favored during the Nixon administration of tight monetary policy and federal budget reductions. "He'd better look and listen in all directions," Albert said.

"I think the President has been a little slow in moving in economic fields," the Oklahoma Democrat said.

When asked if the President must come up with some solutions before the fall elections, Albert responded: "I think he would do well to do so if he wants to save some Republican congressmen."

Albert, who was interviewed on NBC's Meet the Press, said that during Ford's first six weeks in office he has "done well" in some areas. "He gave us a new breath, which we've been looking for, a new lease on life which everybody was calling for. And he's a very pleasant type person. In that area I'd give him high marks."

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Award-winning actress Cicely Tyson will appear in Memorial Hall on Wednesday, September 25, in "An Evening with Cicely Tyson," a program of dramatic and poetic readings. Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.00. Miss Tyson is best known for her award winning roles in "Sounder" and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."

Nixon enters hospital today

United Press International

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif.—Former President Richard Nixon spent a quiet day Sunday on the eve of hospitalization whose duration may be tested by court orders to appear at the Watergate coverup trial scheduled to begin Oct. 1.

A 10-room section was sealed off the sixth floor of Long Beach Memorial Hospital, two for use by Nixon and his family and the remainder set aside for the Secret Service and other use.

The length of Nixon's stay was indefinite. One hospital official said Saturday it would be at least three days.

The former Chief Executive is to undergo tests and received treatment for phlebitis, painful blood clots in his left leg which have worsened since his resignation Aug. 9 and subsequent seclusion at his San Clemente estate.

Dr. John Lungren, former chief of staff at Memorial, was the doctor in charge of the former President's treatment.

Lungren was scheduled to hold a news conference Monday morning shortly after Nixon enters the hospital. He will also issue daily medical bulletins.

It was anticipated that Lungren would give a prognosis of Nixon's case and possibly some indication of the length and type of treatment, including the use of coagulants to disperse the blood clots.

Nixon has been served with two subpoenas ordering him to be on hand as a witness at the opening of the trial a week from Tuesday of John Ehrlichman, H.R. Haldeman, John Mitchell, and three other former aides.

One was issued by special prosecutor Leon Jaworski, calling for Nixon's appearance as the star prosecution witness.

Jaworski subsequently asked U.S. District Court Judge John Sirica to appoint a team of medical experts to examine Nixon and see if he is too sick to testify. Sirica has yet to rule on the motion.

A second subpoena was served on behalf of Ehrlichman, calling for Nixon's appearance in Washington as a defense witness.

The former President was examined about 10 days ago by Lungren and Dr. Walter Tkach, his personal physician in the White House. Tkach was expected to fly here this week to join in consultation on the treatment.

They reported that the original blood clot in the lower left leg was still present and that a second clot had formed in the same leg above the knee, causing pain and posing the possibility of serious complications if the clot should break and pieces course through the arteries.

An attempt made in vain at the time to persuade Nixon to enter the hospital for treatment. Tkach quoted him as saying, "If I go into a hospital, I will never come out alive."

Hospital spokesman Karen Krantz said Nixon's bedroom would be like all the others on the floor. It will have a custom made recliner so he can elevate his leg. A direct telephone line to his San Clemente office was being installed.

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