

Health Care battle expected

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Carter's proposal to limit a family's annual health-care bill to \$2,500 appears destined for an election-year congressional struggle with overtones of presidential politics.

Influential Democrats who would guide health insurance legislation are, for the most part, cautiously critical of the latest in Carter's national health insurance plans.

Most appeared unwilling to pick a direct fight with the president over Health Care, as his proposal is called. But Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who introduced his own version of national health insurance last month, labeled Carter's plan "inflationary and too inequitable."

"The bottom line is...we can't afford it," Kennedy told a news conference.

Carter's limited health care plan would combine Medicare and state-run Medicaid plans for the poor in a program estimated to cost \$23 billion to \$25 billion in 1983, the first year it would be in effect. The bulk of that would go for the federal takeover of Medicaid plans.

Carter's plan would also protect everyone against the costs of catastrophic illness by ending limits on Medicare payments and requiring private health insurance plans to limit a family's liability for hospital and medical bills to \$2,500 a year.

Kennedy's plan would insure everyone against most health care costs and impose strong cost controls on both hospitals and physicians. Private insurers would provide improved coverage for working Americans while Medicare-Medicaid programs would expand services to the elderly and poor.

The nation's 1979 health care bill is estimated to total \$206 billion. The \$23 billion to \$25 billion cost of Carter's plan would be in addition to that, while Kennedy says his proposal would add only about \$5.4 billion.

Hearings on the various national health insurance proposals including Carter's and Kennedy's, will run most of the year and may come up for a full House and Senate vote in 1980.

Carter: 'I'll whip his ass'

WASHINGTON (AP)—If Sen. Edward M. Kennedy makes a run for the 1980 Democratic presidential

nomination, President Carter is quoted as saying he will "whip his ass."

Two congressmen who attended a White House dinner earlier this week said Tuesday night that Carter made the remark after being asked about a possible challenge by Kennedy.

Reps. William Brodhead, D-Mich., and Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., said they both heard Carter reply, in answer to the question, "If Kennedy runs, I'll whip his ass."

H-bomb article still pending

MILWAUKEE (AP)—At a hearing attended only by persons who had obtained security clearance from the government, a federal judge heard arguments on whether he should lift a preliminary injunction preventing publication of an article on the hydrogen bomb.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Warren said Tuesday he would rule in a few days on the motion by *The Progressive* magazine asking him to vacate his March 26 order granting the government's request to block publication of the article.

The magazine, which has appealed to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, also asked the lower court to vacate the order after attorneys said recent disclosures showed information in the article was on a library shelf open to the public at Los Alamos, N.M.

"Our affidavit said that because this information is out in the open anyway, it is pointless for the court to enjoin us," said Sam Day, the magazine's managing editor.

The Justice Department contends information in the article is restricted under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

Man flies across Channel

CAP GRIS NEZ, France (AP)—The first human aircraft engine to conquer the English Channel says he did it to prove there are still "pleasing, challenging, physically strenuous" goals that "add to rather than subtract from the whole human experience."

Bryan Allen, the 6-foot, 137-pound Californian whose pedal power turned the propeller that pushed the wide-winged, 70-pound Gossamer Albatross across the 22-mile channel in 2 hours 49 minutes Tuesday, said maybe he will make a movie demonstrating his craft in flight.

It was the longest man-powered flight in history, winning

\$200,000 for Allen and the designer of the plane, Dr. Paul MacCready of Pasadena. It far outdistanced the 1.15-mile figure-eight flight they made with a similar but heavier plane, the Gossamer Condor, in August 1977. That won them \$100,000.

Hunt to curtail smuggling

RALEIGH (AP)—Gov. Jim Hunt ordered state revenue officials Monday to crack down on cigarette smuggling out of North Carolina, he said in an interview Monday.

"I have told them that it is a primary responsibility of the Revenue Department to help reduce cigarette smuggling," Hunt said.

Revenue Secretary Mark G. Lynch should assign a higher priority to enforcement of laws affecting North Carolina distributors who sell to smugglers, he said.

"He needs to know the priorities that I, as governor, have set," Hunt said in the interview with the *News and Observer* of Raleigh. "If it wasn't clear before, that's not his fault." At Hunt's request, Lynch met with the governor Monday to discuss steps his department might take to curtail smuggling.

At 2-cents a pack, North Carolina has the lowest per-pack tax in the nation on cigarettes, making state-bought cigarettes attractive items for smugglers.

Nicaragua fighting continues

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Sandinista guerrillas held control of slum districts in Managua Wednesday, firing at President Anastasio Somoza's national guardsmen from behind barricades despite rocket and strafing attacks by government planes.

Somoza reported heavy fighting also in the northern cities of Matagalpa and Leon, but a photographer who arrived from Leon said it was almost completely under guerrilla control and fighting had subsided.

Widespread looting broke out in Managua, and the U.S. Embassy prepared another airlift of Americans following the evacuation of 61 Tuesday from Somoza's private airstrip. An embassy source said five or six flights were being planned because of requests from frightened Americans trying to flee Nicaragua's civil war.

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Taylor improves

UNC Chancellor N. Ferebee Taylor was released Monday from the N.C. Memorial Hospital coronary care unit and is reported to be resting comfortably at the hospital. Taylor was hospitalized last week after suffering a mild heart attack.

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