BRIEFIN

From Associated Press reports

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WASHINGTON—Interior Secretary James Watts first area-wide offering of oil and gas tracts in the South Atlantic, including North Carolina, brought a meager response Tuesday from the oil industry as only 11 of 3,582 tracts received bids.

The tracts brought in high bids of \$13.36 million, far below the record of \$3.4 billion received for 623 tracts sold in the Gulf of Mexico last May.

But Interior Department officials said the lack of industry interest was not surprising since the area from North Carolina to Florida has no proven commercial-size deposits of oil and gas.

The department has estimated there are 228 million barrels of oil and 860 billion cubic feet of gas in the South Atlantic, but six wells drilled so far have been dry.

Only seven oil companies participated in the biding and only one of the tracts attracted bids from more than one company. The largest price—\$2.02 million—was paid by Shell Oil Co. for a nine-square-mile are about 50 miles off the North Carolina coast.

Ten of the 11 tracts were located 40 to 50 miles off North Carolina and the 11th was off the South Carolina coastline.

Watt, bowing to pressure from the governors of North Carolina and Florida, deleted 12 million acres, including tracts closest to North Carolina and all 11 million acres off the Florida coast.

NEW YORK—The editors of a sex magazine say they will publish nude photos of Yoko Ono and John Lennon in love-making poses despite threats of legal action by the wife of the late musician.

Elliot Mintz, a spokesman for Ono, said Monday that the pictures obtained by Swank magazine "came from Yoko's personal collection and may have been stolen" from the apartment where the couple lived before Lennon's murder in 1981.

Swank, which received the photos from a man who claimed to have found them in a trash can, does not have permission to use the photos, Mintz said.

"As the executor of John's estate, Yoko will use any legal measures available to protect the estate's interest," he added.

The photo editor of *Swank* magazine said the pictures would be printed in the October issue, which goes on sale in about three weeks.

LONDON—The world's first two pregnancies resulting from the transfer of an embryo from one woman to another were reported by a team of American doctors in a British medical journal published Tuesday.

Embryo transfer has been used in cattle breeding for many years. But the report in *The Lancet* is the first account of the technique being successfully employed in test-tube baby research involving humans.

The team of obstetricians and gynecologists from the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center at Torrance, Calif., led by Dr. John I. Buster, said in a letter in the journal that one of the women involved is expected to have her baby in four months and the other is more than five weeks pregnant.

Under what have now become conventional test-tube baby techniques—known as "in vitro" fertilization—an egg is taken from the woman's body and fertilized with the intended father's sperm in a glass dish. It is then implanted in her womb, where, as in a normal pregnancy, it grows into a baby. The California team has taken the technique a step further by fertilizing the egg inside the donor woman's body by artificial insemination, using the sperm of the infertile woman's husband.

After about five days, it is removed and implanted in the infertile woman. She then has a ormal nine-month pregnancy, provided, of course, that as in the case of any other pregnancy, all goes well with her and the growing baby.

ATLANTA-Residential telephone customers served by BellSouth Corp., the new parent company for Southern Bell and South Central Bell, can expect their rates to increase "about 50 percent" within the next few years, the chief executive officer of the new company said Tuesday.

Wallace R. Bunn said the higher rates would be "the impact of bringing competition into what was a natural monopoly."

A federal judge last year ordered American Telephone & Telegraph Co. to divest itself of its regional telephone companies. Southern Bell and South Central Bell were joined under BellSouth, which will be the largest of seven regional companies created by the divestiture.

RALEIGH—North Carolina's ports showed a \$1.8 million profit during fiscal 1982-83 despite economic setbacks which have affected all ports along the U.S. seaboards, the comptroller for the state Ports Authority said Tuesday.

In a report to the authority's Board of Directors, Ruff A. DeVane said revenues at Wilmington and Morehead City ports totaled more than \$14.5 million, resulting in a net profit of about \$.8 million.

WARSAW, Poland—Overriding objections from the Roman Catholic Church, the Polish government said Tuesday that it was going ahead with legislation to toughen laws on censorship, demonstrations and anti-government activity.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban said parliamentary approval was expected Thursday of the bills to restore powers the government relinquished when it lifted martial law Friday.

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger will visit China for the first time in September, the White House announced Tuesday.

During the Sept. 25-29 visit, Weinberger will meet with his Chinese counterpart, Zhang Aiping, "and other Chinese leaders on matters of mutual interest," said Lawrence M. Speakes, deputy White House press secretary.

ROME—The alleged kidnappers of schoolgirl Emanuela Orlandi threatened Tuesday to kill Pope John Paul II, claiming they were behind the 1981 attack on the pope by the Turkish terrorist they want released from jail.

"John Paul is a subversive servant of the CIA," said a telephone caller to a Roman Catholic magazine. "John Paul II is a political instigator."

TEL AVIV, Israel—The Jerusalem Post said Friday there had been speculation that Prime Minister Menachem Begin might resign over the weekend.

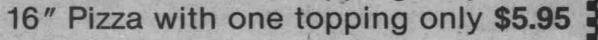
In a front-page article the paper said, "speculation abounds over Begin's next move." It quoted political observers as expecting "a dramatic move by Begin, perhaps a retirement announcement" this weekend. The *Post*, which has opposed Begin's Likud bloc government, did not name any sources.

Similar speculation has made the rounds in Israel since Begin on Tuesday announced cancellation for "personal reasons" of a planned visit to Washington next week.

Begin's spokesman Uri Porat has repeatedly denied that Begin intends to resign. Begin celebrates his 70th birthday on Saturday and it was recalled that he once said he would leave politics when he reached that age.

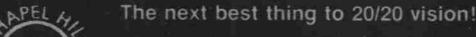






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