Several Ford decisions, and they're all tough

VAIL, Colo. (UPI) — President Ford pondered today decisions on an amnesty for Vietnam draft evaders and deserters, lifting federal control on gasoline prices and raising the pay of congressmen, federal judges and government executives.

Ford faced those and other decisions on the 12th day of a two-week skiing vacation. The President told reporters at the foot of Vail's 10-acre skiing mountain Wednesday, when asked if the amnesty decision would come within a week or so, "I think that's a fair time span."

Ford said he did not believe he would have reconsidered the amnesty program if Mrs. Janie Hart, whose husband, Sen. Philip Hart, died on the day after Christmas, had not asked him to.

"She made a specific request as the widow of a dear friend of mine, and at her request I thought it would be appropriate to do so," Ford said.

He said his decision on whether to grant the amnesty would follow his judgment of its effect on military morale, public opinion and "equity" to 21,000 Americans who cleared their Vietam records by performing "alternative service" under his 1974 clemency program.

He said it was a good program. "I regret that many, many more did not participate," he said.

Asked about lifting gasoline controls, Ford said, "it is highly likely." Aides have recommended he abolish federal controls before he leaves office.

A White House spokesman said removal of the controls would not effect gas pump prices immediately, since the fuel is currently being sold at less than the permitted limit.

$1 misprints bringing $50

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Check that bill you're about to spend. It may be worth more than you think — maybe $49 more.

The Treasury Department is cracking down on a rash of errors in the printing of dollars which have led to misprints prized by collectors.

Kenneth DeHart, deputy director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, said Wednesday faulty dollars have been found in various places around the country.

"We are tightening up on our quality control," DeHart said.

In the past, the accuracy of the printing presses has been examined by controllers on a spot check basis, he said. Additional inspectors will be hired.

He said human error as well as mechanical mistakes were responsible for allowing the misprints to reach the public.

In some cases, the serial number, treasury seal and district seal was printed on the wrong side of the bill. In other cases, they were printed upside down.

"We can only assume there are a few more out there," DeHart said.

Collectors estimate the misprints have pushed value of the bills to between $50 and $60.

FRB says lender has to explain 'no'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starting March 23, any lender will be prohibited from arbitrarily denying credit to an individual because of race, sex, marital status, age, or being on welfare. And persons who are denied credit will be entitled to know why, in writing.

That is the heart of group of final federal regulations issued Wednesday by the Federal Reserve Board.

The regulations will enforce the 1976 amendments to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which previously banned credit discrimination only on the basis of sex or marital status. They will apply to any creditor, including banks, savings and loan associations and department stores.

A board official, Neil Butler, said the regulations limit the creditor's ability to be entirely arbitrary. He must fix the reason that credit is denied.

There are several changes in the final regulations from the tentative regulations published earlier, including:

—The right of a credit applicant who is denied credit to have the reason spelled out in writing.

—A requirement that on applications for home mortgage loans, the creditor inquire as to the sex, marital status, race or national origin and age. But the applicant may refuse to provide the information without being penalized.

—Special rules to prevent arbitrary discrimination against elderly persons, defined for purposes of the regulations as persons age 62 and older.

Janet Hart, director of the board's division of consumer affairs, said at a news conference that 62 was largely an arbitrary choice of age, but was picked since it is the age at which eligibility for Social Security benefits begins.

She said the regulations prevent a creditor from giving any negative weight to the age of an elderly person in determining credit eligibility, although it may be permissible to insist on such things as a higher down payment on a loan.

Earth's spin slows

BOULDER, Colo. (UPI) — The earth is spinning one second slower this year, and the National Bureau of Standards said it will have to make a correction on its atomic clocks on New Year's Eve.

To compensate for the slowdown, the bureau will insert an extra second Friday to keep its atomic clocks up to date.

"The earth is slowing down enough that the extra second is needed to keep the atomic clocks synchronized to the spin of the earth within one second," a bureau spokesman said.

Verdict may lower 1st class mail rate

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The U.S. Appeals Court has raised the possibility of lower first class mail rates and higher levies for other types of mail.

In a 69-page unsigned opinion, the court vetoed the method used by the U.S. Postal Rate Commission for setting the 10-cent rate for first class mail that was in effect from March 1974 through December 1975. A footnote mentioned that the method used to calculate the current 13-cent rate was "significantly similar."

Since the 10-cent rate is no longer in effect the court did not order any rate changes. The National Association of Greeting Card publishers, which won the ruling, is challenging the 13-cent stamp rates as well.

Asked what would happen to postage rates, a U.S. Postal Service spokesman said today, "we are currently studying the decision."

The panel said the Postal Service failed to direct the court's attention to rate matters that came up after the 10-cent stamp case was argued, an action "difficult to explain and hard to excuse."

Specifically, the court found that the five-member Postal Rate Commission and the Postal Service did not follow a 1970 law, which requires every class of mail to bear all direct and indirect postal cost attributable to it, plus the portion of other costs "reasonably assignable" to it.

The commission attributed about 50 percent of the service's total costs directly to lower classes of mail, such as second-class mailings of newspapers and magazines, third-class direct mail advertising and parcel post.

Much of the remaining costs were placed on first class mail, and the court said a far higher percentage of total costs should have been attributed to the various classes.

L.A. 'slasher' faces life term

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vaughn Orrin Greenwood faces possible life imprisonment when he is sentenced Jan. 19 for eight of the "Skid Row slasher" murders that terrorized Los Angeles transients two years ago.

After six days of deliberations, a Los Angeles Superior Court jury Wednesday found the 33-year-old drifter guilty of nine counts of murder.

Originally, prosecutors had indicated they wanted the death penalty, but California's capital punishment law was declared unconstitutional while the trial was under way.

Greenwood was convicted of eight of the nine killings attributed to the "slasher." He was also convicted of a 1964 murder and one count of assault with intent to commit murder.

The jury failed to reach a verdict on two other murder counts, and Superior Court Clerk Steve Brown said a mistrial would be declared in those cases.

Greenwood was indicted for 11 murders, including two in 1964 and the nine "Slasher" killings between Dec. 1, 1974, and Jan. 31, 1975. All victims had their throats slashed from ear to ear down to the spine.

PEOPLE



Foxx finds his 'Joi'

Combined wire services

"Do you want a marriage license," asked the clerk. "I don't, but I think she does," said a beaming **Redd Foxx**, gesturing toward the lady he calls "**Joi.**"

Foxx showed up at the Las Vegas license bureau with his prospective bride and stayed just long enough to purchase a license.

Foxx, 54-year-old star of television's "Sanford and Son," plans to marry **Yun Chi Chung**, 34, a Korean native who lives in Los Angeles. It will be Miss Chung's second marriage, Foxx's third.

At the bureau Wednesday, Foxx said they would decide later where the ceremony would be. He indicated it would be sometime today.

Extension granted

John N. Mitchell, who was **President Nixon's** attorney general, and **H.R. Haldeman**, Nixon's White House chief of staff, have been granted 29 more days to appeal their Watergate convictions to the Supreme Court. Chief Justice **Warren E. Burger** on Wednesday granted the extension after their new lawyer, **Eugene Grossman**, said he needed the time.



Ellen Clark, 21, a blue-eyed blonde from Memphis, Tenn., and a senior at Vanderbilt University, was named 1977 Maid of Cotton Wednesday.

Eric Roberts, 82, a retired Australian Air Force flier who flew in WWI, does his daily 30 push-ups, left, before taking off in a Tiger Moth recently from Point Cook, RAAF Base, Australia.





Zero Mostel, who plays Tevye again in the Broadway revival of "Fiddler on the Roof," plants a slightly misguided kiss on actor Jack Gilford during an opening night party in New York, Tuesday.

Political newcomer

Charles S. Robb, who married **President Lyndon B. Johnson's** daughter **Lynda Bird**, is entering politics himself. Robb, 37, has become the third announced candidate in next June's primary for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor of Virginia.

Boyle ailing in jail

Ailing former United Mine Workers president **W.A. (Tony) Boyle**, convicted of ordering the 1969 Yablonski murders, said he is not pampered at Western Penitentiary nor is he addicted to any drug. Boyle, 75, who receives about six daily injections of a synthetic morphine, said in an interview with the Pittsburgh Press, "I do here what the doctors tell me.

Marriages dissolve

After a marriage of 35 years, U.S. **Sen. Herman Talmadge**, D-Ga., has asked for a divorce from his wife, **Betty**. The petition, filed Wednesday at the Henry County Court House in nearby McDonough, says the marriage is "irretrievably broken," and that the couple has been living apart.

In Stamford, Conn., **Mary Louise Weicker**, claiming that her marriage to **Sen. Lowell P. Weicker** "has broken down irretrievably," has filed for divorce.

Chiang criticized

Mao Tsetung's widow, **Chiang Ching**, was described today as so haughty she would not allow taller people to look down on her. The accusation was made by **Teng Ying-Chao**, 72, widow of Chinese Premier **Chou En-Lai**, Tokyo newspapers said in dispatches from Peking.

"She would not let anybody occupy a position higher than her own eyes," Madame Teng was quoted as saying. "The officials either had to walk in a stoop or genuflect when they came near her."

Carter kin report

"Miss Lillian" **Carter** remains in satisfactory condition at Americus-Sumter County Hospital, where she is recuperating from a leg ailment. The president-elect's mother was admitted to the hospital a week ago when she suffered a muscular spasm in her left leg. She is undergoing physiotherapy and is not expected to go home until Monday.

Teen swims strait

California teen-ager **Lynne Cox** has become the first person to swim across the treacherous Strait of Magellan, the windswept icy passage connecting two oceans at the southern tip of South America. Miss Cox, 19, a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a veteran distance swimmer, took one hour, one minute and 29 seconds to cross the 2.6 milestrait Wednesday from the island of Tierra del Fuego to the South American mainland.



Cox

She emerged from the 44-degree water "completely healthy and wearing a smile of happiness," one witness said. "I had been told that the waters here were freezing", she said. "It's not so much. The waters are a little cold, but that doesn't scare a swimmer."

Miss Cox made two transits across the English Channel.

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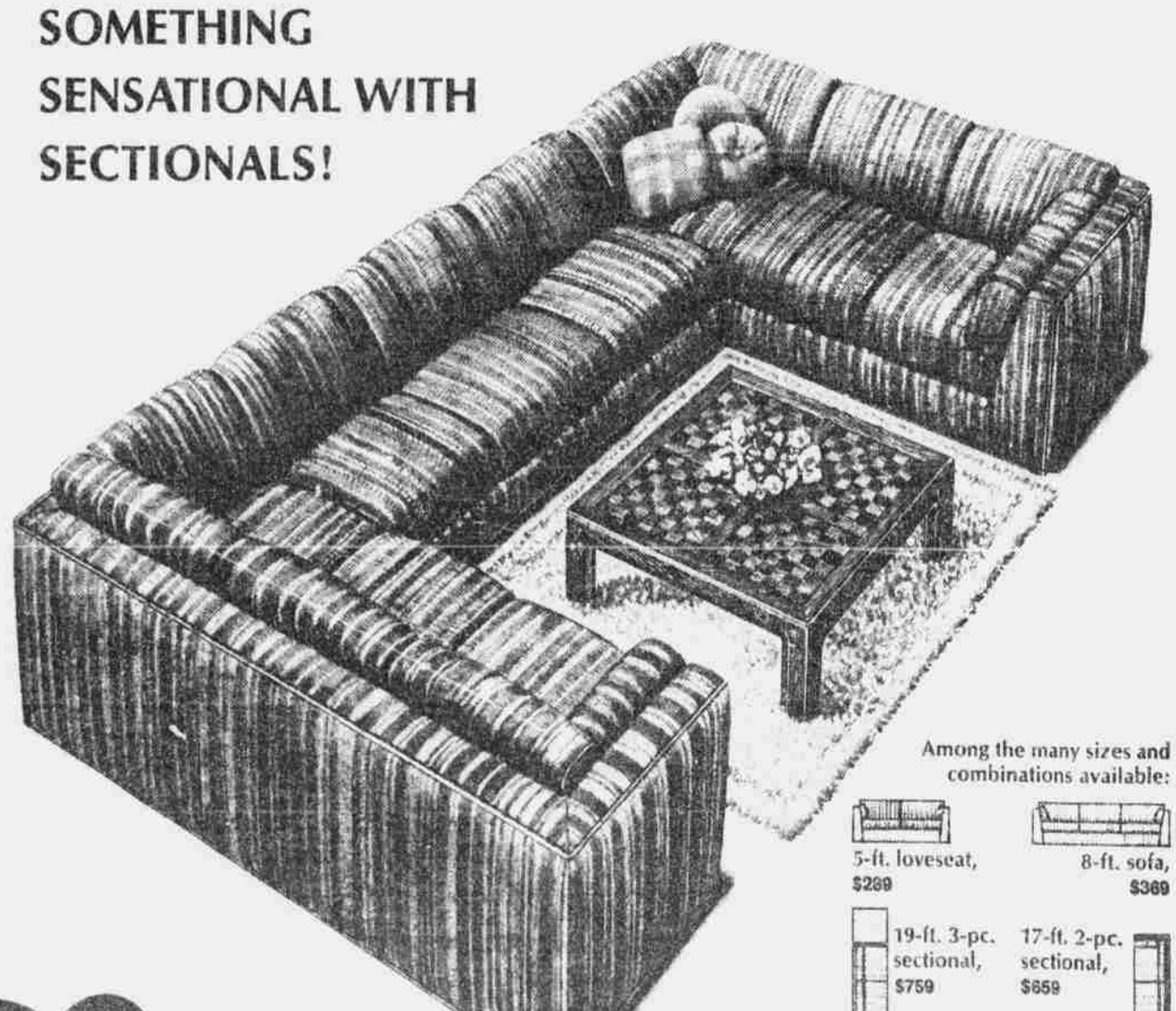
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