

Around the Nation

U.S. to Clean Up Chemicals At Private Site in Michigan

MUSKEGON, Mich., Nov. 11 (AP) — The Federal Government will attempt to clean chemicals from the soil and ground water at a private dumping site, a job the present owners of the site refused to do, a Federal official said today.

Dozens of compounds, including some known to cause cancer, are to be removed from 1.2 billion gallons of ground water at the site of the former Story Chemical Company plant north of Muskegon. Federal officials said that there were 2,000 barrels of waste chemicals underground at the dumping site on the plant grounds.

No date has been set for the project, which was announced by Robert Hartian, spokesman for the United States Environmental Protection Agency office in Chicago.

The agency's decision follows the refusal last month of the Cordova Chemical Company to clean the site. Cordova officials said that the site's former owners were responsible for the pollution.

Woman Awarded \$325,879 For Swine Flu Shot Injury

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Nov. 11 (UPI) — A Virginia woman who contended that she was permanently injured by a swine flu shot has been awarded \$325,879 by a Federal judge in a case her lawyer said "turned the corner" for others who suffered from the vaccine.

The award, granted yesterday by District Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr., was said

to be the first time the Federal Government had lost a case involving so-called "delayed" reactions to the vaccine.

The Federal Government inoculated an estimated 46 million Americans in the expectation of an outbreak of swine flu in 1976. Few actual flu cases were reported, but lawyers said that the vaccine itself caused widespread side effects, including paralysis and death.

Judge Bryan ruled that Shirley K. Thompson, 45 years old, of Stafford County, had undergone a drastic change in "her whole life style" because the 1976 vaccination caused her to be stricken with the disabling Guillain-Barré syndrome. In a 17-page decision, Judge Bryan said that Mrs. Thompson was unable to work or drive a car and had lost the use of leg and facial muscles.

1,400 at Williams College Discuss Racial Incidents

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Nov. 11 (AP) — About 1,400 students jammed a meeting at Williams College today for a discussion called in the hope of easing racial tensions on the campus.

The gathering at the college, which has increased its black enrollment from 30 to 130 students within a decade, was arranged after a cross-burning on Halloween weekend and recent racial threats.

"This is the first time there has been a concerted effort to get some sort of black-white discussion going," said Darrell McWhorter of Cincinnati, the student government president, who is black.

Williams, formerly an all-male school, dominates life in this predominantly white town of 4,300 people in northwestern Massachusetts.

All but about 500 of Williams's students attended the discussion, where the topics ranged from criticism of the college's investments in companies doing business in South Africa to threatening phone calls and letters received by some black students and John W. Chandler, president of the college. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been called in to investigate the threats.

Court Upsets Death Penalty, Ruling Crime Not 'Heinous'

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 11 (AP) — Saying that the crime was not sufficiently "heinous," the Louisiana Supreme Court has overturned the death sentence of a New Orleans man convicted of killing a woman by stabbing her five times.

The 6-to-1 ruling written by Chief Justice John Dixon spared the life of Walter Culberth Jr., who was condemned by a New Orleans jury in the Nov. 5, 1979 slaying of Annie Simms. The court, in its ruling yesterday, said the overriding issue was whether the crime was heinous enough to warrant the death penalty.

"We have stated that the concept of heinousness must necessarily include 'some idea of torture or the pitiless infliction of unnecessary pain on the victim,'" the court said. "In this case, the defendant did not torture or abuse the victim. The wounds were inflicted to kill, not to maim or to inflict pain."

In his dissent, Justice Walter Marcus said he found the slaying sufficiently heinous to warrant execution. "While the victim's wounds later proved to be fatal, she did not die instantly but rather suffered until she expired en route to the hospital," Justice Marcus wrote.

Talmadge Bars a Recount, Promising to Help Victor

ATLANTA, Nov. 11 (UPI) — Senator Herman E. Talmadge decided today against seeking a recount in last week's election, which propelled a Republican challenger into the Senate seat that Mr. Talmadge has held since 1956.

In brief statements issued by his campaign office, Mr. Talmadge said that he had already congratulated Senator-elect Mack Mattingly and promised "to work with him to insure that the people of this great state receive the best possible representation in the Senate as we accomplish the transition before us."

Selby McCash, a spokesman for Georgia Secretary of State David Poythress, said that Mr. Talmadge would probably lose by about 26,000 votes, or 1.7 percent of the total ballots cast.