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# U.S. wins NATO jet order

BRUSSELS (UPI) — The United States won "the arms deal of the century" Saturday when Belgium picked the General Dynamics F16 fighter jet over the French Mirage for its air force—a choice worth $2 billion now and perhaps $20 billion in all to the United States.

The decision paves the way for The Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Belgium to purchase 334 F16s from the Fort Worth, Tex., corporation to replace their obsolescent F104 Starfighters.

The three other NATO countries earlier had said they would buy the American plane on the condition that the Brussels government do the same, but Belgium, with half its population French-speaking and with a prime minister deeply committed to a united Europe, had delayed its decision since January.

"The government decided to proceed with the ordering of 102 YF16 planes destined to replace 116 F104s," Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans told newsmen following a lengthy cabinet meeting.

Tindemans said he regretted Belgium could not purchase a European plane, but said the government "doesn't want to be responsible for a considerable weakening of European security."

Tindemans said Belgium would continue its efforts to create a unified European aeronautic industry and would set aside the value of 14 F16— about $94 million—for a research and development fund leading to such an endeavor.

A spokesman for the Dassault company, which makes the Mirage F1E, said in Paris, "We are not surprised. It was a political choice. We are just sorry Belgium did not make a European choice."

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, playing host to hundreds of distinguished guests on the next-to-last, and most important, day of the 11day annual Paris air show, called the decision "profoundly regrettable."

"In my opinion the debate was not a technical one, since all observers and technicians considered the quality of these planes, American and French, to be technically identical."

Chirac's luncheon audience at Le Bourget air field included Soviet Aviation Minister Pyotr Dementiev, Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres, Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak, Spanish Defense Minister Cuadra Medina, scores of ambassadors and both Soviet and American astronauts.

One minister in the 39-member Belgian cabinet said the vote was not unanimous, but he did not give figures.

General Dynamics said the contracts will double its payroll in the Fort Worth assembly plant to about 15,000 men by the early 1980s and will create 15,000 additional jobs in the company's other plants.

In addition to the $2 billion aircraft sale, the firm stands to take in up to $15 to $20 billion over the coming years in sales of spare parts. The sale also boosts the F16 in the eyes of other NATO members.

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# For rent: no Indians need apply

By ROGER CLAWSON
Of The Gazette Staff

Discrimination against Indians flourishes in Billings.

Crow Indians, whose tribe sold this valley to the whites for a nickel an acre, find it difficult to locate housing at any price.

Sometimes discrimination has professional help.

Rental Housing Directory is a firm with branches in 16 states that finds apartments and homes for paying customers and tenants for landlords. It is the only service of its kind in Billings.

**"I'M AN INDIAN** myself," said Mrs. Oleva Pribe, manager of the local Directory office. "But," she told a Gazette reporter posing as a prospective client, "I wouldn't rent to Indians."

Mrs. Pribe doesn't consider such discrimination racial. She complained that Indians were wont to bring large numbers of friends and relatives into a rental unit.

A landlord who also denied any racial prejudice agreed. "I don't rent to Indians anymore," said the landlord. "You rent to a couple and they bring in the whole damn tribe."

**BARBARA RIGHTMIRE,** Community Action Program staffer, says such selective discrimination in Billings is common.

"Everyone talks about it, but no one does anything," she says.

Greg Osborne, past president of the local American Civil Liberties Union, would like to do something but does not know where to start.

"There is a cultural problem," Osborne admits.

"Indians have traditionally shared in times of plenty. One who has left the reservation and is making it in the city will help others trying to do the same thing.

"Once it was 'My tipi is your tipi.'

"Now it is 'My house is your house'."

**OSBORNE SAYS** the exclusion of Indians from apartment buildings is "rank discrimination," but adds, "you must look at the landlord's side, too."

Legislator Roberto Federico believed he had the solution to both sides' problems when he introduced the Landlord-Tenant Act this year.

"Realtors beat it down because they thought it gave the tenant too much protection," Federico recalls.

"But it was a two-way plan. It would have allowed landlords to limit occupancy and enter their rental units if they had just cause to believe their property was being damaged."

Osborne, too, believed the Landlord-Tenant Act was the solution.

But the bill died when legislators with clout joined the realtors. Rep. Harold Gerke (D-Billings), director of the Billings Housing Authority, was among them.

With the bill dead, the discrimination continues.

**KATHY KING,** a former employe of the Rental Housing Directory, explains how discrimination works.

She said the Directory will cooperate with landlords who ask not to be sent Indians, Mexicans, welfare recipients or single women.

"Mrs. Pribe (the manager) marks such rental listings with a shorthand form that reads: 'No mi,' Miss King said.

"No mi," she explained, meant "No minorities."

In a recent Gazette report on substandard housing, Miss King commented that there was discrimination against Indians in her agency. Neither her name nor the name of her employer was printed, but the next day she was fired.

Testing Miss King's allegations, a pair of single women — one of them a Gazette reporter — called the Rental Housing Directory's house hunting service.

**CARLENE PLAINFEATHER,** an Eastern Montana College Student, told the RHD clerks she wanted a place near Eastern.

She was given a list of three apartments. None were near the school. All were below the rent level she had offered to pay. Two were rented and the remaining unit was "rundown and dirty," she reported.

The Gazette reporter, a non-Indian, applied minutes after Carlene left the RHD office. She asked for an apartment in the same area.

She received a list of three apartments. All were in the area requested. All were more expensive than the amount she had offered to pay.

When one landlord on the list was called by a man identifying himself as "Eldon Old Elk," he said the apartment was rented.

But minutes later, when the white woman called, she was told.

"It's a beautiful place. We are very careful about who we rent it to."

The apartment was vacant.

**MRS. PRISBE** denied participation in housing discrimination, when asked by a Gazette reporter.

But, when a prospective landlord-client called, Mrs. Prisbe assured him:

"If you don't want Indians, we won't send you any."

Asked about this screening process, Mrs. Prisbe's employer denied any knowledge of discrimination.

"It's against the law," said Lawrence D. Beslanowitch, Rental Housing Directory owner. "If Mrs. Prisbe has done this, she did it totally without my knowledge."

**JUSTIFYING** the exclusion of Indians from certain apartments, Mrs. Prisbe said:

"Most of those people would rather live on the southside."

Myrtle Ballecourt at the Indian Center.

"Most of us people would like to live someplace decent."

Indians report using subterfuge to rent apartments.

A young Indian construction worker asked his boss to rent an apartment for him. The landlord registered anger and later refused to

(Turn to Indians, P-8A)

# 2 Bozeman girls drown in creek

By RICK FARRANT
Special To The Gazette

BOZEMAN — Searchers recovered the body of a young woman from the surging waters of Bozeman Creek here Saturday morning and are continuing the hunt for a second victim.

Authorities said the body of Cynthia Sue Williams, 19, of Bozeman was taken from the creek around 10:30 a.m. Saturday after she and a 17-year-old girl had apparently fallen into the creek shortly before 2 a.m. the same morning.

Bozeman Creek runs south through the city and empties into the East Gallatin River.

Bozeman Police Capt. Harold Veltkamp said his office received a phone call at 2 a.m. Saturday.

The caller, according to Veltkamp, told police officers that a girl had fallen into the creek behind the Eagles Club on Main Street.

The other girl, Veltkamp said, "jumped in to pull her out and they were sucked in."

The girl who is yet to be found was identified as Mary Folda, 17, of Belgrade.

County Coroner Rob Myers said that although Miss William's death has been tentatively attributed to drowning, he has sent a blood sample to Helena to be tested for alcohol content.

Searchers from the city fire department, the sheriff's office, and the Police Department were hampered in their efforts throughout the morning by high water along the creek.

Ontad said that volunteers, one private aviator, and National Guard helicopters also aided in the search efforts.

Local officials set up two hook lines in the creek and also walked along the creek's banks with grappling hooks.

Miss Williams was discovered beneath a large log about one quarter of a mile north of the city limits.

Patrolman Mike Hunter said the creek has been the subject of some controversy for a number of years.

"This isn't the first time this has happened," remarked the father of one of the victims. "They should cover the creek up."

# Southsiders patch their own roads

GOOD FOR YOU

By FLYNN J. ELL
Of The Gazette Staff

A massive street program to fill chuckholes on the southside was conducted Saturday.

Not by city street crews, but by concerned residents of an action group called the Southside Guild.

"We've got holes big enough to bury people in," declared Carl Ennis, director of the local, office of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, (ICA), who helped organized the guild in December.

"Holes as big as the Berkeley Pit," added Walt Blackledge, a resident and guild member.

About 40 persons were busy in the morning preparing holes for 40,000 pounds of fill material trucked in and owned by Barry O'Leary Construction.

Ennis said he expected over 200 persons, children, teen-agers, middle-aged and senior citizens, to participate throughout the day.

Ennis said the group planned to work on 25th and 26th Streets South from 2nd to 4th Avenue and 5th, 6th and 3rd Avenues from S. 27th Street "as far as we can go." He expected the project to be finished in one day.

Morning work was centered around Taft public school at 515 S. 26th. The workers broke for lunch on the school lawn.

The guild was formed at a town meeting Dec. 7, 1974, after southside residents determined to improve their neighborhood by working together, Ennis said.

It has no formal membership but its ranks vary from 10 to 15 neighborhood residents as projects are developed, said Mrs. Walt Blackledge.

"They kind of come and go," she explained.

The residents are doing the job with the blessing of City Engineer Ken Haag.

According to Ennis, streets in the area suffer more than most because east of 27th Street there are no storm drains and water erodes and settles in pockets.

Add heavy truck traffic on a thinly surfaced street and you end up with giant chuckholes.

Jimmy Rodriguez, 12, a volunteer shoveler, said he was helping to save his head.

"Everytime you take a drive and hit a hole, you hit your head on the ceiling. The bumps hurt," he said.

Val Deorila, 16, said, "Something's got to be done. I wouldn't even drive my car on these streets."

Deorila said he saw the front end of a car fall off Thursday after an unwary neighborhood visitor smacked into a hole.

Ralph Walker complained that the city misspent funds on the new one-way street system which could have been used to repair street chuckholes.

But he diligently pitched into a mound of black street fill and tossed shovel full after shovel full into cavities.

"I haven't worked this hard since I was 15-year-old," he said.

Laura Walker sweeps a chuckhole

# Nixon plans to tour Europe

(C) N.Y. Times News Service

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — Richard M. Nixon is making tentative plans to visit Europe, possibly next year, for talks "as a private citizen" with political leaders of several countries, close friends of the former President reported last week.

He was said to have in mind a leisurely tour with Mrs. Nixon "combining pleasure and fact finding."

A former White House associate, who is in frequent touch with Nixon, said that the former President recently had spoken to him of a desire to go abroad "and do what I can as a private citizen to help solidify the cause of peace."

A San Clemente friend who often chats with Nixon, who has been reclusive in the ocean bluff Casa Pacifica here, also reported that Nixon had stressed that his plans were tentative because of other commitments.

Those commitments, Nixon reportedly said, include the completion of memoirs that he hopes to have ready for publication by year-end or early next year, and his pending legal efforts to obtain custody from the government of his presidential papers and tapes.

The European trip, according to the informants, would mark Nixon's emergence from his self-imposed seclusion to assume what he has for some time believed would be his eventual role in public life, as an unofficial ambassador or Republican elder statesman, particularly in the field of foreign affairs.

Given another year, and the appearance of his book, he is said to believe that his administration will have been brought into what he considered to be a truer historical perspective, with his achievements in world affairs overshadowing the "misjudgments" of Watergate.

Calling the "large stacks of encouraging mail" to the former President "a tremendous factor" in his continuing recovery from his illness and last November's blood clot operation, one friend said Nixon was experiencing a "new exhilaration."

The former White House aide said that, aside from working on his memoirs, Nixon's main interest lay in keeping abreast of foreign leaders as well as assiduous study of briefing reports sent to him each week by the White House.

Asked what countries Nixon would like to visit and whether he had received invitations from any foreign leaders, the former White House official said that "matters have not progressed to the point of an itinerary or formal invitations certainly will be forthcoming, as is usual in the case of any ex-President."

The informants said that Mr. Nixon had not indicated where he planned to travel.

# VA runs out of school money

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Up to a half million veterans on the GI bill could miss their checks this month because the Veterans Administration has run out of money to pay educational benefits while the House and Senate have been haggling over how much to spend for railroad bed improvements.

The VA Saturday confirmed a statement by Rep. Lester Wolff, D-N.Y., who told the Veterans of Foreign Wars in New York that thousands of veterans will not get their education benefits this week.

"This situation is intolerable," Wolff said, "because the government is failing to meet its obligation to young men and women who have served their nation in wartime."

The House and Senate for weeks have been at odds on the appropriations bill —the House is expected to deal with it again Monday —disputing how much money should be included for rail bed improvements. The House has offered $5 million and the Senate wants $175 million.

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**Showers**

Scattered showers and colder through Sunday night. High Sunday 56 to 66. Low Sunday night 34 to 44. More weather on Page 8A.

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