

Red Cross leaving town hit by poison

TIMES BEACH, Mo. (AP) — The Red Cross on Friday ordered its workers out of this flood-stricken town because of the threat posed by the toxic chemical dioxin.

River levels rose again but many of the 600 or so remaining residents refused to leave despite the back-to-back disasters of the flood three weeks ago and confirmation of the chemical contamination.

"This is really cutting our throats now," said Marshal Ralph Case when the Red Cross ordered its workers to leave on the advice of the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

"We will continue to assist people from outside the area," said Red Cross spokesman Frank Byrne. "But we will stop our home visits until we get a ruling on the situation. We will not intentionally jeopardize any of the personnel on our staff."

Ed Daniel, director of the state Department of Public Safety, said Friday that residents who wish to move would be given temporary housing for up to a year. He said the state was "certainly not recommending any major evacuation."

"But if I lived here, I would move out," Daniel added. "I wouldn't want to subject myself and my family to the potential dangers of the dioxin."

"We recommend that people stay away until we know more," Daniel said. The temporary housing would be paid for beginning Monday by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, which is working out

of a relief center in Fenton, considers the dioxin problem a temporary one connected with the flooding, he said.

The Salvation Army said it would continue to bring food into Times Beach during the weekend.

Red Cross workers had been visiting homes in this St. Louis suburb to help residents and to assess damages from the "once-in-a-century flood" of the Meramec River. Before the flood, the town was home to 2,400 people.

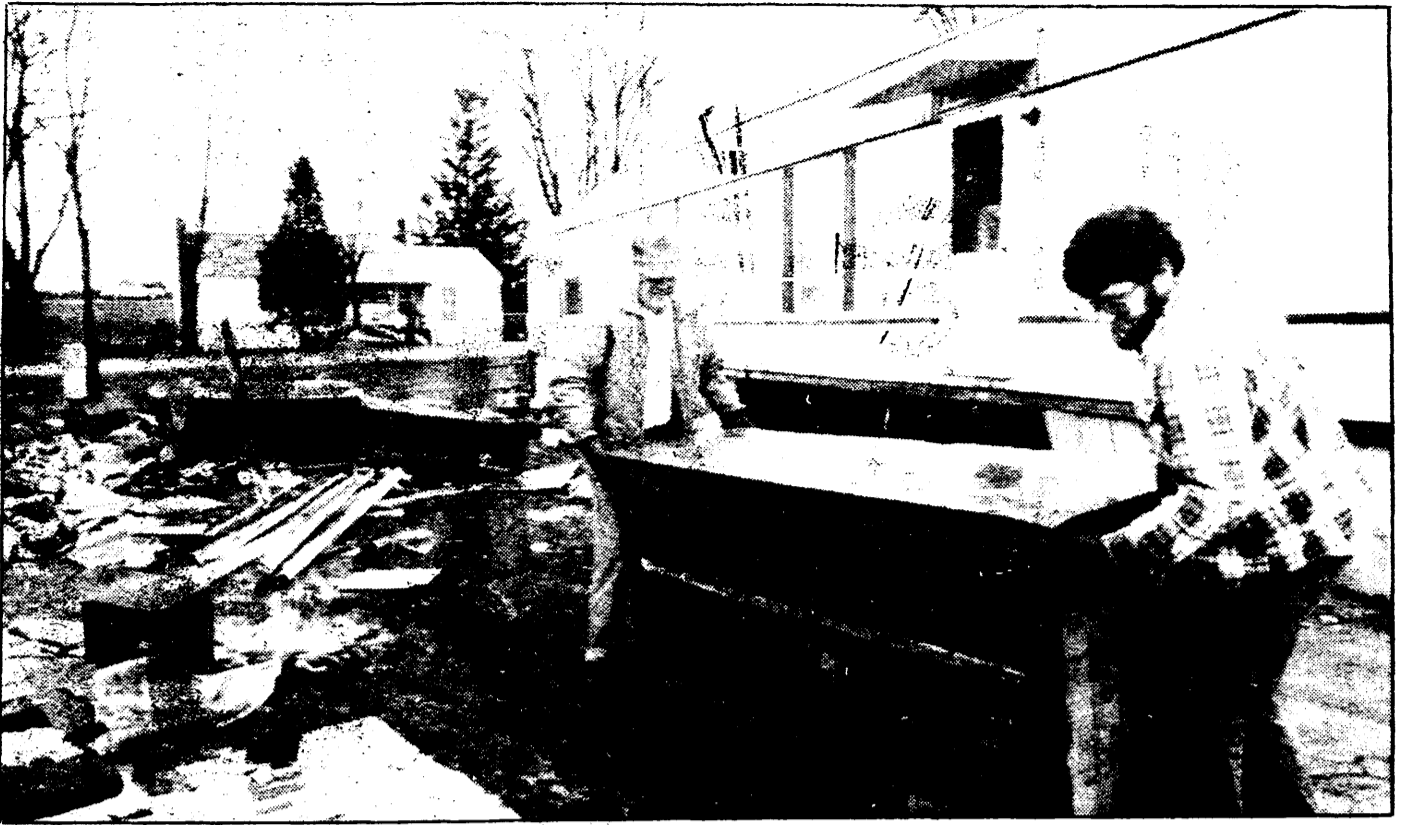
But on Thursday the CDC issued a warning based on preliminary Environmental Protection Agency test results that showed dioxin levels of up to 100 parts per billion in the town. The CDC has tentatively ruled that levels exceeding 1 part per billion can be hazardous to human health.

Although its impact on humans is in dispute, dioxin — a byproduct of herbicide production — is one of the most toxic substances known, the CDC says. Tests on laboratory animals have linked dioxin with cancer, birth defects and liver damage.

A waste hauler is known to have sprayed oil possibly contaminated with dioxin on the town's roads to control dust in the early 1970s. The EPA tests — all done before the flood — were concentrated on the roadways, which since have been paved.

The CDC recommended that residents leave Times Beach and that all non-emergency cleanup efforts be halted to prevent workers from coming into contact with dioxin.

"It is possible that much of the con-



Frank Welch, left, and Ted Goodman live close to baseball field that may contain dioxin

—UPI telephoto

taminated soil has been diluted or spread around by the flood waters," the CDC said. "It is also possible that isolated, highly contaminated areas still exist or have been shifted to new areas."

Undaunted, about 300 of the remaining residents attended a Christmas party Thursday night in a community center reclaimed from the flood waters. Santa Claus passed out gifts to children.

Mayor Sid Hammer said he believes the dioxin was washed down-

stream by the flood. He said he isn't advising anyone to move, and hasn't been told of anyone leaving.

But some people were pulling out. "This was enough for us," said Paul Mansker, 39, a laid-off ironworker. "It's more than we can handle. The dioxin had a lot to do with our decision — and then the floods came."

As he spoke, heavy rains fell across the eastern part of the state and a flash flood watch was in effect. The Meramec had risen more than 6 inches

overnight, and forecasters predicted heavy rains through Saturday.

Other residents resolved to stay.

"Move?" said Joe Caskey, standing on the second-story porch from which he had been plucked by boat three weeks ago. "That would be fine and dandy if the government made it possible. I've got every dime I have in this place and I can't go anywhere."

Caskey echoed many others in his belief that the federal government is trying to frighten residents.

"If they can browbeat us enough, they get more of us to leave," he said. "And then there would be less of us to deal with."

Across the street, Carolyn O'Leary stepped from a camper in her front yard and said she is determined to rebuild her home of 11 years. "I don't want to go somewhere else and owe money," she said.

"It's mind boggling," said Myron Jennewein. "They ought to do something about it. Repair the town or destroy it. One of the two."

Speak out on rights, Korean urges

By The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae Jung thanked President Reagan for his freedom Friday but called on America to speak out on human rights rather than pursue the "quiet diplomacy" that may have won his release from prison.

"Even if I couldn't come out, America should justly defend the principle," Kim said in an interview in a suburban Washington hotel after being released from a Seoul hospital ostensibly to receive medical treatment in the United States.

"Human rights issues should not be a

transaction between governments but should be supported by the voice of world consciousness and by the power of our people. I would like to see an America which defends the principle even if I were not released."

Kim, 57, became a symbol of opposition to military rule in South Korea following his kidnapping from a hotel in Tokyo in 1973 by the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency. He has spent much of the past decade under house arrest or in prison and escaped a death sentence for sedition only when it was commuted in January 1981, before the visit to Washington of South

Korean President Chun Doo Hwan.

He indicated he does not consider himself under any constraints while in the United States but avoided major world issues, saying he has been free only a day and has not had an opportunity to fully study developments since he was last imprisoned in 1980.

He spoke at some length, however, about human rights, on his plans for his stay in the United States and on the life he led in prison.

"The main object of my stay is treatment of my illness and then later, if I have time, I will study, but I will

attempt to go back. I don't have a plan to stay here for long," he said.

Kim is known to suffer from an ailment similar to arthritis that afflicts his legs, and he said he will seek treatment at a hospital somewhere in the Eastern United States. He also has been invited to take up a fellowship at Harvard University.

Asked if he will be allowed to return to South Korea, he said, "On future events, I cannot say, but there are things I cannot control."

Kim's wife, Lee Hee Ho, who left South Korea with him as did two of his three sons, said last week that South Korean authorities were forcing him into exile against his will.

That he was allowed to leave at all he clearly attributed to the efforts of the Reagan administration, however, and the State Department already is pointing to his release as an example of how "quiet diplomacy" can work in contrast to a more outspoken approach to human rights.

The State Department also welcomed the amnesty granted Friday to some 1,200 prisoners, including a number of other dissident figures.

Officials said at the very least the recent actions by the Chun government appeared designed to improve the political atmosphere when Secretary of State George P. Shultz visits South Korea Feb. 6-8.

The Reagan administration, in a distinct turnabout from U.S. policy under former President Carter, has avoided public criticism of countries with which the United States has a close strategic relationship.



Kim Dae-Jung South Korea's leading dissident

Date refused; dad is killed

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A 21-year-old man who wanted to ask a 15-year-old girl for a date stabbed her father to death after the father refused to let him talk to her, police said Friday.

Police are looking for a suspect. Thomas R. Powell, 40, of Indianapolis' east side, was killed Thursday night, police said.

The attack occurred after Powell refused to let the man talk to his daughter, police and relatives said.

Powell's brother, Lonnie D. Powell, 30, said his niece knew the man wanted to ask her for a date and she did not want to go out with him.

When Thomas Powell told the caller he could not talk to his daughter, witnesses said the man threatened to come over with a shotgun.

Shortly after, they heard gunshots next door. The man apparently had mistaken a neighbor's house for Powell's home and fired shots into the upstairs and downstairs of the house.

Thomas and Lonnie Powell and Lonnie's wife, Vickie, 27, jumped into a pickup truck and chased the man and one or more people with him as they fled in a car.

During the brief chase, Detective Sgt. Thomas E. Carr said, someone inside the car fired shots at the pickup.

The chase ended when the car spun at an intersection, a tire blew out and the car lurched to a stop.

Powell was stabbed after he jumped from his truck and caught up with the people in the car, his brother said.

Police found a shotgun in the back seat of the abandoned car.

Secret Service may use computers of FBI to keep track of suspects

By The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Attorney General William French Smith has approved a plan that would allow the Secret Service to use a large computer system of the FBI to keep track of people it believes may pose a threat to officials who are guarded by the Secret Service.

The FBI computer until now has been mostly limited to holding information about people who have been officially accused of a crime, not those viewed as potential suspects.

The Justice Department's plan to broaden the computer's scope without the approval of Congress has come under criticism from the Democratic chairman and senior Republican of the

House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

The criticism of the project came in a letter sent to Smith by Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., and Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

While praising the goal of improving the protection of the president, the two congressmen said they had "serious reservations" about the proposal and questioned the Justice Department's legal authority to begin the operation "in the absence of specific legislation."

A spokesman for the Justice Department said there would be no immediate response.

Under the proposal, the Secret Service would be allowed to place into the

bureau computer the names of those it decided might present a threat to the president, vice president, presidential candidates, visiting heads of state and others for whom the service is responsible. The FBI computer, known as the National Crime Information Center, is the heart of one of the largest and most elaborate communication systems in the world. It now links 64,000 federal, state and local justice agencies.

According to William H. Webster, director of the FBI, the Secret Service receives 9,000 reports a year about people who might represent a threat. But only 300 to 400 of these at one time, he said, are determined to be dangerous.



NEELA the Siamese cat sports a gold tooth fitted by Dr. Bryan Parker after she suffered a broken tooth and an infection in British Columbia. The work cost \$400, but owners Margaret and Daniel Brescham say it's worth it. —AP wirephoto

Visions of food are dashed as plan to sell kidney fails

By The Los Angeles Times

DOWNEY, Calif. — Darlene Vanderpool said she wanted to sell one of her kidneys so she could buy food. The day before Christmas Eve, the 50-year-old Downey woman called the classified ad departments of several newspapers asking if they would accept an ad for her kidney.

Except for a can of tomato soup, she said, she and her husband, Gerry, had not had a meal for a week.

Walking is difficult for the Vanderpools, both of whom suffer from emphysema. With the tires of their car worn to the rim, they have been confined to their home, a cramped trailer, getting by on oatmeal and soup until they ran out of everything last week.

"I thought if I could sell one of my kidneys I could at least get some groceries and, maybe, some tires for the car," she said.

There are so many people without kidneys, I thought I could surely sell one. Of course, I've been sick a lot myself and I don't know how much one of mine would be worth," she said.

Vanderpool said she had thought about donating a kidney for several years, ever since a younger sister had one removed.

"I told her when she lost it, I would donate one to her. She said, 'No, you won't.' She would never allow it."

"Then, when things kept getting worse and worse and worse for me and my husband, I thought, well, Jesus,

there are so many people who need a kidney, maybe I could sell one of mine. I could solve someone else's problem and my own at the same time."

But the newspapers refused to place her ad.

They told her a California law prohibits the sale of human organs from live donors.

"Even if she wanted to give it away, it would not be accepted unless it was meant for a relative with the same blood and tissue type," said Barbara Schulman of the Southern California Regional Organ Procurement Agencies.

Vanderpool took the news glumly. She said her kidneys are about the only things of value she and her husband could afford to sell.

The Vanderpools live in a small trailer park where they said they are

allowed to park free in return for looking after the property.

In addition to emphysema, Darlene Vanderpool said she has high blood pressure and a painful hernia, the product of a gallbladder operation, that did not heal properly.

She is given to violent trembling and has difficulty walking.

Yet, she said she worries more about her husband's health.

Gerry, 47, has been disabled since 1974, when he was injured while employed as a mechanic in a bowling alley. He said a pin-setting machine fell on him, crushing several ribs and breaking a leg.

Hollow-eyed and cadaverous, Vanderpool said he has lost nearly 46 pounds during the last year.

Up to now, the Vanderpools said, they have survived on his monthly Social Security allotment of \$447.

Salvation Army commander arrested

MONROE, La. (AP) — The commander of the Salvation Army here was freed on \$1,500 bond Friday after his arrest for the felony theft of \$2,700 in food stamps, authorities said.

Capt. E.C. Gould Jr. was named in warrants that also sought former Monroe commanders Capt. and Mrs. Daniel New, who now head the Salvation Army in Lake Charles.

"I have been made aware of the

arrest warrant," Gould said Thursday. "I don't even know what it's about."

Fourth District Attorney Johnny Carl Parkerson said the arrest warrants stem from a seven-month investigation.

Parkerson the probe began after complaints that the Salvation Army was fraudulently obtaining food stamps. He said additional charges were expected against the three next week, but would not elaborate.