

THE LINCOLN STAR

44 PAGES

LINCOLN, NEB. THURSDAY MORNING APRIL 27, 1978

15 CENTS

News Digest

COLOR

Business pleads guilty
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Control Data Corp., one of the nation's largest computer firms, pleaded guilty Wednesday to three criminal charges involving the bribery of foreign officials and was fined \$1.38 million, the largest such fine in history.

Fewer oil imports help
WASHINGTON (UPI) — A large drop in oil imports helped the United States reduce its worst trade deficit in a move that should mean a cheaper cup for the American consumer.
Although last month's performance was a vast improvement from February's record \$4.52 billion deficit, the red ink in March still was considerably above 1977's monthly average of \$2.2 billion. The United States recorded its worst trade year in history during 1977.

Coffee may cost less
United Press International
Two more of the nation's major coffee roasters lowered wholesale prices on ground coffee Wednesday in a move that should mean a cheaper cup for the American consumer.

Streamlining proposed
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon on Wednesday proposed streamlining the military base structure by closing, cutting back or combining operations at 107 installations from coast to coast to save an estimated \$337 million a year.

Handwriting cost \$70,000
NEW YORK (UPI) — The expense account submitted by Paul Revere for the first of his famous rides was auctioned Wednesday for \$70,000 — the highest amount ever paid for any autograph or even any example of American handwriting.

Tickets, fuel cost more
PARIS (UPI) — The French government increased the price of rail and subway tickets, stamps, cigarettes and fuel Wednesday in a belt-tightening move designed to cut \$420 million from its \$4.6 billion annual deficit.

Pilots begin combat
NAIROBI, Kenya (UPI) — Cuban pilots have begun flying combat missions against Eritrean guerrillas, marking Cuba's first direct involvement in the 17-year war, a rebel spokesman said Wednesday.

1839 murder solved
MELBOURNE, Australia (UPI) — Australian homicide detectives solved a murder Wednesday that took place 139 years ago.
Last week a skeleton was found in a shallow grave at Bendigo, 100 miles north of here, and with the help of a local historian, police identified the dead man as James Hall, a shepherd who was speared to death by native aborigines on a nearby sheep ranch on May 22, 1839.

Partly cloudy
LINCOLN: Partly cloudy Thursday with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Highs in 70s with southerly winds 15 to 20 m.p.h. Considerable cloudiness Thursday night with possible thunderstorms. Lows near 50. Mostly cloudy and chance of showers Friday.
More weather, Page 36

Today's Chuckie
The trouble with resting temptation is that it might never come your way again.

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Average family needs \$17,106 income

WASHINGTON (AP) — The average urban family of four in the United States must earn \$17,106 a year to maintain a "middle-level" standard of living, the Labor Department said Wednesday.
In its annual report on urban family budgets, the department said the typical four-person family would have to make \$10,481 a year to maintain the government's hypothetical "lower-level" standard of living, and \$20,502 to enjoy a "higher-level" standard.
The income levels represent the cost of three hypothetical lists of goods and services, including taxes, that were drawn up in the mid-1960s to portray the three relative standards of living.
The department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said its new figures are the result of a survey conducted each fall. The new income levels reflect rising prices and changes in taxes since the last survey in 1976.

The typical family of four needed to earn 5.4 percent more since 1976 to maintain a middle-level standard of living, the government said. Earnings had to go up 4.4 percent to maintain the lower-level standard and 6.1 percent to keep up a higher-level standard.
The rate of inflation for 1976 was 4.8 percent and for 1977 was 8.8 percent. Consumer prices rose 1.4 percent in January and February, which translates into an inflation rate of 4.4 percent in 1978.
In 1976, the government estimated it cost \$10,041 a year to maintain a lower-level standard of living, \$16,236 for a moderate standard and \$23,759 for a high standard.
The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the median income for a family of four in 1976 was \$17,353.

Figures for 1977 are not yet available, but they are expected to rise.
This means earnings of a typical American family have been increasing enough for the family to maintain a moderate standard of living, said G. Jacobs, who heads the living conditions studies division at the bureau of statistics.
"But it's been pretty close from year to year, with costs and income rising together," she said, adding that the typical family does not have much money left over for savings.
The fastest rising item in family budgets since 1976 was medical care, which rose 9.4 percent for all three standards of living. Medical costs ranged from \$880 for a lower standard family to \$1,827 for a family living on a higher standard.
The family income levels are based on the

hypothetically typical family that includes a 30-year-old husband who is employed full time, a non-working wife, a 13-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl. After 15 years of married life, the family has settled down in a community and the husband is an experienced worker.
The budgets needed to maintain the three living standards include expenditures for food, housing, transportation, clothing, personal care, medical care, recreation, education, entertainment, miscellaneous expenses and taxes.
The lower-level budget does not represent a minimum level of income needed to avoid poverty. The poverty level for a family of four is defined at an annual income of under \$6,200.
The survey provided a breakdown of family income needs for 39 metropolitan areas.



House named historic spot

The National Register of Historic Places will add the William H. Tyler house, 808 D St., to its list of historic spots, according to Marvin Kivett, State Historical Preservation officer.
The house, built in 1880-91, represents a modest interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Tyler, who came to Lincoln in 1871, founded the W. H. Tyler Stone Co. which provided materials and masonry work in many Lincoln buildings, including one of the early State Capitol buildings and the state penitentiary.

Engineer: diversion feasible

By Lynn Zerschling
Staff Writer
A consulting engineer said Wednesday the proposed Platte River diversion project is both technically and economically feasible.
That assessment came not unexpectedly from the man who was manager of the project, Leslie Schardt, who was hired by the Little Blue Natural Resources District to do the study.
A preliminary engineering and economic report from Boyle Engineering Corp. of Newport Beach, Calif., was completed in September, 1975.
Schardt's testimony came during the second week of hearings on the diversion plan before the State Water Resources Department. The hearing on the controversial proposal to divert water from one river basin

to another will continue the rest of this week, and in May and July.
If the Water Resources Department grants a permit to divert the water, Schardt estimated that irrigation of part of farmland in six Nebraska counties could begin by 1984.
However, he pointed out, additional studies would be needed if the Little Blue-NRD gets a green light to proceed. The project is being sponsored by the district to provide water to irrigate 60,500 acres which now is mostly dryland farming. A reservoir would be built near Campbell, in Franklin County, to store the water, brought in by canal.
Schardt testified that the project area doesn't receive enough rainfall to impound the amount of water needed to irrigate the farmland. The project would be designed to minimize loss of water through seepage into

a well, he said.
"To my knowledge there is no other project constructed in the state with a higher efficiency," he asserted.
Attorneys representing more than 50 opponents began cross examination late Thursday and will continue their questioning Thursday.
Schardt will testify at a later date on the effect the project would have on downstream land users. The opponents are arguing that there is not enough excess water in the Platte River for diversion to the Blue River basin. The City of Lincoln is one of the objectors because Lincoln gets most of its water from the Platte River.
The hearing is being held in the Supreme Court hearing room at the State Capitol Building.

Flood plain law receives planners OK

Enactment of new flood plain zoning laws was recommended Wednesday by the City-County Planning Commission.

The law dissenter from the recommendation was Marice Demberger, who farms near Malcolm. Demberger said he voted against the measure because he thinks the people involved were not adequately notified. Speakers last week at a public hearing on the proposal complained that cardboard signs posted to inform residents and landowners were warped into a roll that made them difficult to see.
One sign was posted for every square mile in the rural portions of the county and one sign per square block in Lincoln.
Enactment of the new laws comes because of a threat to withhold disaster funding if the law is not passed.
In addition, flood insurance premiums would rise and lending in situations supervised by the federal government would be prohibited from

making loans for construction in the flood plain.
Regulation of construction in the 100-year flood plain, which includes much of downtown Lincoln, is now handled by state government.
The only major change from existing regulations is that all floors of homes built or undergoing substantial remodeling must be above the level of the 100-year flood.
On another matter, the commission recommended that a request for G Street

be tried to leave, but because of its intersection he had to use both hands to open the door.
He said Mrs. Brooks tried again to grab the gun. "I know her down and just started shooting," Williams testified.
The next morning Williams said he woke at 1 a.m. from a bad dream, about killing his wife. "I smelled a funny odor and looked down and saw my gun. I thought maybe it was true."
Williams said he left Lincoln because he believed he had killed his ex-wife the divorcee (find at the time). He said he came back when he learned from his mother that two people were

He said he had no reason to kill either of the women. "I sh, if it was possible, I'd take their place," he said.
Library Book Sale
Fri & Sat, April 28, 29, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 1401 & N - Adv.

Williams testifies he was hallucinating during Killings

By Gordon Winters
Staff Writer
Robert E. Williams pictured himself Wednesday as hallucinating because of drug use and contemplating suicide when he killed two Lincoln women last August.
Williams spent more than five hours on the witness stand testifying in his defense during the eighth day of his trial.

He has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to charges of the first degree murder of Patricia McGarry and Catherine Brooks and the first degree sexual assault of Catherine Brooks.
Questioning by defense attorney Tom Hagel appeared aimed at raising a doubt as to whether the shooting was premeditated, a necessary element in proving first degree murder, and at countering testimony from prosecution witnesses that

Williams was functioning normally shortly before and after the crime.
Testifying in an even tone, Williams said he had been drinking heavily, smoking marijuana sprinkled with "angel dust" (an animal tranquilizer) for two days when he went to Patricia McGarry's duplex at 140 N. 4th.
Shortly before he arrived at her house, Williams told the jury, he also swallowed a "micro dot" of LSD.
He said that while he was at the home he visited an upstairs bathroom. As he came down the stairs, he said, he thought he saw his ex-wife standing in the living room of the home.
"I looked up again and it was Patty," he said. Williams described his relationship with Ms. McGarry as close, but platonic. He said they confided in each other and bolstered each other's spirits.
He said Ms. McGarry was trying during the evening to talk him out of shooting himself, and that although his memory was vague, she apparently

had taken his gun at one point in the evening and then given it back.
After the hallucination in which he thought Ms. McGarry was his wife, Williams said he tried to leave the home because he didn't want Patty to see him in his condition.
But Catherine Brooks, who Ms. McGarry had apparently called for help, was standing by the door blocking his way, Williams said.
He said Ms. McGarry grabbed for the gun and he pushed her away. "That's when I told them to endures. I knew then they couldn't come out for me," he said. Ms. McGarry complied, but Mrs. Brooks did not, he said.
Williams said he tried to ease by Mrs. Brooks and she grabbed for the gun. Meanwhile Ms. McGarry ran for the kitchen, Williams said. He thought she was running for a knife he had advised her to use for self defense if she was ever attacked.
"I just automatically shot," he said.
He said he pointed the gun at Mrs. Brooks and ordered her to strip. After she complied, Williams