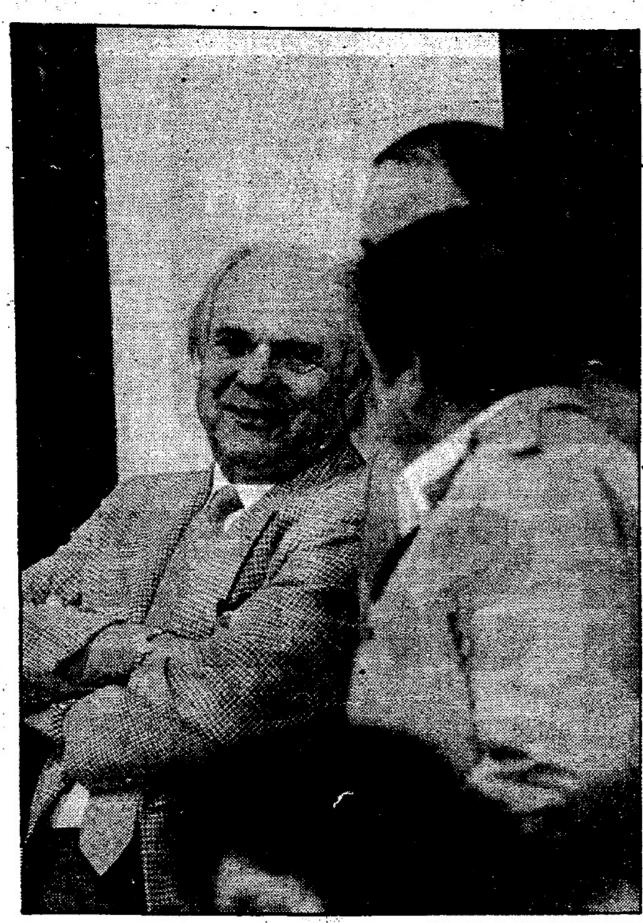
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Gary Hunter/Morning Advocate Attorney Camille Gravel listens at Edwards' press conference

Edwards-

(Continued from 1A):

question." "If I do get indicted, I am going to let the lawyers handle the case, although I intend to participate in the trial as an attorney by making some portion of the arguments to the jury, if it gets that far," Edwards said.

Edwards said his attorneys will be James Neal, a prominent Nashville, Tenn., attorney, and Camille Gravel, a long-time associate of Edwards' who

previously served as executive counsel. The governor also revealed that his brother, Marion, owns a 46-foot luxury boat that has been the subject of grand jury scrutiny of late. The relationship of the boat to the probe has not been made

clear. Edwards said he continues to work on state business amid all the grand jury activity including preparation of a balanced budget to present to the

llausen

(Continued from 1A)

this fall. At half the schools, teachers would start work a month early to meet with their colleagues and with parents, coming up with ways to improve the

education of each child. At the other schools, teachers would stay at school longer during the school year - about 40 hours a week - to plan, meet with parents and perhaps help slow students catch up with their

studies. "We know to be a good teacher takes more than 40 hours" a week, Stephens said. "We're talking about 40 hours

actually at school." Either schedule would amount to about 18 percent more work. Clausen wants to pay the teachers 20 percent more money - 10 percent at the start of the school year and another 10 percent in the spring if their school meets its

Stephens said the program, if successful, could be extended to all schools in the fall of 1986 for under \$200 million a year — far less than the \$300

million estimate sometimes mentioned again next month.

for Gov. Edwards' merit pay plan. Stephens said Clausen hopes the plan will help unite BESE, teacher groups and other organizations that influence

Legislature; "a very far-ranging and

well-reasoned program on education"

and prison reform and prison

The governor said he is also working

on bringing the U.S. Navy port to

Louisiana, now that Lake Charles has

the Saints" in efforts to keep the NFL

Edwards said he sees the moves as

important to the economic well-being of

"embryonic stage" of enticing another

"All of these things I tell you so that you will recognize that there is not any

paralysis in government. Admittedly,

there are extra burdens I have to deal

with but I'm perfectly prepared to deal

with them and will continue doing so,"

General Motors plant to the state.

construction legislation.

team in New Orleans.

education policies. Edwards has said he will include the idea in his 1985 educational improvement package to be presented

to the Legislature, which convenes Stephens said the leaders of the state's two largest teachers' groups have expressed a personal interest in the plan, although their organizations

have not yet taken a position on it. Some members of the BESE committee wanted to endorse the idea, at least in concept, but others want to know more details before placing the board's backing behind it. Board member Milton Hamel of

Shreveport and others are especially concerned about how each school's goals would be set. "I think the concept is good. I think we need a whole lot more specifics," said

Board chairman Claire Landry of The committee will consider the issue

Hatch Act violations charged

By DAN CARMICHAEL

UPI labor reporter WASHINGTON (UPI) - The government Tuesday formally charged the presidents of the three largest civil service and postal unions, who opposed President Reagan's re-election, of violating the law by supporting Walter Mondale.

The charges were filed by K. William O'Connor, a Reagan appointee, who is special counsel for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board. O'Connor accused the union leaders of violating the Hatch Act, which generally prohibits federal employees from engaging in partisan political activities.
The leaders are Kenneth Blaylock of

the American Federation of Government Employees, Moe Biller of the American Postal Workers Union, and Vincent Sombrotto of the National Association of Letter Carriers. All three are vocal critics of Reagan and endorsed Mondale's presidential

campaign. The three said they will fight the charges to the Supreme Court, if necessary. They said the Reagan administration, in a political vendetta, is attempting to stifle their right to free speech and their duty to represent and inform their members on public issues. All three have been on leaves of absence from their government jobs without pay - for many years. A key

Hatch Act applies to union officials who are on leave.

The union leaders say the statute does

not apply to federal employees on leave. O'Connor says it does. The controversial Hatch Act prosecutions have been denounced by virtually every major union in America as well as a number of congressmen. On Feb. 11, the three union presidents were given an opportunity to resign to avoid prosecution. They declined and the formal charges were filed Tuesday. Asked whether the charges are a vendetta against Reagan critics, as the three have charged, Alma Hepner, a spokeswoman for O'Connor, said: "That's a ridiculous assertion."

"The law as enacted and interpreted provides no exemption from the Hatch Act for employees who are union officials," O'Connor said. Biller has been on leave without pay

since 1959; Blaylock since at least 1971; and Sombrotto since 1971. In his charges, O'Connor asked that the complaints be consolidated into a single hearing, and that the board hear the evidence without assigning the case to an administrative law judge.

Blaylock sent O'Connor a letter saying the attempt to get him to resign in return for the dropping of charges is "tantamount to blackmail, and I refuse

"I will be fighting your abusive actions at every step of the proceedings contention in the case is whether the to come," he told O'Connor.

Radiation-salt dome study need cited

By ALLAN PURSNELL Capitol news bureau

Chemical reactions, accelerated by high level radiation, might cause unexpected corrosion at a nuclear waste repository should geologic sites such as North Louisiana's Vacherie salt dome be used to store radioactive waste, an LSU professor said Tuesday. Chemistry Professor Joel Selbin told U.S. Department of Energy officials that they should determine the chemical effects of high level radiation on salt and its constituent chemicals before they go ahead with a salt dome repository project.

"The history of nuclear energy is a history of miscalculations," Selbin testified at a DOE hearing on the environmental effects should the Vacherie salt dome be selected as a nuclear waste repository.

No final decision has been made yet, but DOE doesn't favor the Vacherie site for the first proposed nuclear waste repository. However, even if the Vacherie dome is bypassed the first time, it still could come under consideration for a second proposed site in the 1990s.

have made' gross miscalculations before, but they involved economics," Selbin said referring to the discovery that nuclear reactor vessels become brittle because of stress from radiation. Selbin said that, although the proposed storage system is supposed to encapsulate the

long-lasting radioactive waste for 10,000 years, he doesn't believe it will last that long due to accelerated

He said the problem from heat due to radiation might be aggravated if cannisters of nuclear waste become concentrated because of movement in the salt dome material which is elastic. "I don't see this as something that is going to ultimately prevent geological

Meanwhile Hall Bohlinger, representing the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, testified that selection of the Vacherie salt dome as a site would be against the interests of the state. He reminded DOE officials of 1978 agreement Gov. Edwards worked. out with the secretary of DOE giving the state veto power of an use of any site in Louisiana as a nuclear waste

host rock," said Selbin.

Bohlinger said the state is preparing a study to present its position in the matter, but he said the state needs an extension of the March 20 deadline for comment set by the DOE.

Frank Kendorski, president of Terraform Engineers, hired by the state as consultants, said the draft of the environmental assessment provided by DOE doesn't contain enough facts to support the DOE's conclusions on the geologic structure.

"There's so much unknown, that the environmental

freezing Social Security cost-of-living

there was "a large element of political

gamesmanship" in how Reagan was

dealing with the governors on the deficit

He added that "the president has

conclusions are not supportable at this time." he said. A.N. Turcan, a groundwater expert under contract to the state, said there's

not enough data in the DOE draft of the assessment to say for sure that risk factors would be minimal with use as the Vacherie dome for such a site. Allen Benson, a program analyst for DOE, said DOE provided the states with money to study and prepare their waste disposal, but I want to see it done positions on the proposed sites. The right. And I want to see it in the right states were also provided with the data

developed by DOE, he said. Although a final decision hasn't been made on DOE's recommendation, Louisiana's Vacherie salt dome in North Louisiana has fallen into disfavor by DOE officials as the best possible repository. But Vacherie could be reconsidered in the 1990s when it comes time to build a second nuclear waste

repository. The DOE in effect has selected finalists. The agency plans to recommend that sites in Deaf Smith County, Texas, Hanford, Washington and Yucca Mountain, Nevada be considered for \$500 million worth of detailed tests and investigations so that one can be selected as the best possible site. The final selection for the more detailed investigations will be made by

the president. DOE has also listed the Richton salt dome in Mississippi as a possible site, but it has not recommended it for the detailed tests that would be another phase in the

selection process. The Richton salt

dome is located in the southeast corner of Mississippi.

The department in 1983 identified nine possible sites, in states including Louisiana, for the repository project. Even though the list has been narrowed down on the first project, the department is going ahead with assessments of the environmental assessments on all nine sites which could come under consideration for the

second site. Two reasons why the Vacherie dome isn't favored by the DOE is the fact that it exists in an area that would flood at least every 100 years and there is evidence that some of the salt is dissolving. But a summary of a report on the Vacherie dome said the rate of sald dissolution is so slow that the dome should remain intact for 100,000 years.

The site selection is being conducted under the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act of Congress. Location and construction of two nuclear waste repositories is expected to cost somewhere between \$20 billion and \$25 billion, department officials have said The president, by fall of this year, is expected to make the choice of which three sites will be subject to detailed investigation, something DOE calls

"site characterization." Meanwhile nuclear waste is being stored temporarily on the sites of various nuclear reactors around the country but the various local sites are running out of space. Nuclear waste is being stored on the sites of 70 reactors in 27 states, he said.

Governors

administration," Carlin, a Democrat, said after the group voted 27-9 for a compromise resolution that also endorses constitutional amendments requiring a balanced federal budget and empowering the president to veto individual items in appropriations bills. Reagan has supported the balanced budget and "line-item" veto

been selected as a finalist in the competition; and he is continuing to Much of the debate as the governors negotiate with "a number of people on concluded their three-day winter meeting was over an amendment by Democratic Gov. Richard W. Riley of South Carolina challenging Reagan "to immediately demonstrate his the state, just as efforts that are in the commitment to a balanced budget" by sending Congress a new spending plan

that states how he would balance the The governors voted 26-14, primarily along party lines, in favor of the amendment, but that fell short of the two-thirds majority necessary for adoption. Carlin was the only Democratic governor to oppose it.

The budget Reagan sent Congress earlier this year projects a deficit next year of \$180 billion, dropping to \$144.4 billion by 1988. The governors also rejected an

amendment by Florida Gov. Bob Graham, a Democrat, to exempt Social Security from their call for a one-year freeze in the federal budget. Graham's motion also received

majority support but it, too, fell short of the necessary two-thirds vote. The vote was 26-17.

Republican Gov. Dick Thornburgh of Pennsylvania defended Reagan's refusal to touch Social Security. "What the president did say yesterday (Monday,) in my view, is that he did not want to be set up on this question as he felt he had been in 1981," when the issue of possible Social Security cuts became a major political argument, he said. "He (Reagan) did say, as I recall, that if there was evidence of bipartisan support to put this question on the table," the president would be willing to

Thornburgh said. New York Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, a Democrat, replied, "Not only did the president not say what Gov. Thornburgh says he said, and perhaps should have

said, he went further "He (Reagan) said, 'When I told the American people that I was against the Social Security cut, I didn't really mean the COLA (cost-of-living adjustment), I thought I was talking about cutting basic Social Security. However, the American people misunderstood me

and I'm going to go with their interpretation.' "That's what the president of the United States said yesterday," Cuomo said. "This president intends to do

nothing on Social Security." Reagan was asked during a Jan. 9 news conference whether he still considered the annual cost-of-living adjustments in the retirement and disability program untouchable as he pledged during the presidential

He replied: "I never specifically mentioned that. I did say, however, that I would resist anything that would reduce the payments and the benefits." Riley drew up his balanced budget

China strengthens militia forces

PEKING (AP) - China will strengthen its nationwide militia forces by establishing training centers in each of the nation's 2,000 counties, a military

official said Tuesday. He said the move was part of a plan to improve defense strategy. The state news agency Xinhua carried the official's comments, but did not identify

China's militias are civilian units that receive some military training, and ware organized before the Communists drove the Nationalist Chinese off the mainland to Taiwan in 1949.

Many of the governors and members one interest group or section of the resolution a day after Reagan left many of the governors frustrated and angry after a meeting at which the president flatly rejected requests that he consider deficit-reduction package this year for any action. trimming military spending and unless there are no items left out of

bounds for consideration. The argument is that if there is an Gov. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, appearance of unfairness by exempting modified flat tax. chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, had told reporters that

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of Congress have said it will be federal government from the budget ax, impossible to enact a comprehensive it will be impossible to build a consensus

Meanwhile, the governors also went on record in favor of reforming the federal tax system and instituting a

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