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Good Morning! It's Friday, February 9, 1979

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Marchers call for Bakhtiar's resignation

© New York Times

TEHRAN — More than a million Iranians marched through Tehran Thursday, calling on Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar to resign in favor of the Islamic government proposed by Ayatollah Rohallah Khomeini.

But Bakhtiar vowed not to be pressured out of office by the religious leader whose political programs he denounced as "medieval."

Thursday's march in Tehran coincided with similar demonstrations in most of the country's major cities and towns. They generally were peaceful except for those in the northeastern city of Gorgan, where nine people were killed

and 26 wounded in clashes between security forces and demonstrators.

The nationwide marches were staged to dramatize Iranian people's preference for Mehdi Bazargan, Khomeini's choice for prime minister, over Bakhtiar, who was appointed by the shah shortly before going into self-exile.

In sheer number, the marches made their point. They were as large as those held in early December that helped drive the shah from the country, and they bolstered opposition claims that Bakhtiar enjoys little mass support in the country. The demonstrators, however, did not appear as impassioned as in December's marches. This was the sixth massive demon-

stration held in the capital in the last two months.

Bakhtiar vowed at a news conference Thursday morning not to be forced out of office by pressure in the streets and he dismissed the significance of the demonstrations.

"Since movie houses, sports stadiums and universities have been closed, demonstrations have become a form of recreation," he said.

However, he went further than ever before in expressing willingness to reach a compromise with his opponents, particularly his old friend Bazargan, with whom he acknowledged having had close contacts in recent days. Bakhtiar said he would accept a referendum on Iran's future

form of government, early elections and even changes in the constitution provided that calm prevailed in the country and that the changes were made through lawful constitutional amendments.

"Democracy, yes," he said. "Terror, never, never, never."

Demonstrators scathingly attacked Bakhtiar, the shah, the United States and the Soviet Union Thursday while enthusiastically praising Khomeini and Bazargan. Moving in columns, one group would chant curses against Bakhtiar and then allow the group behind to extol his rival: "Bazargan! Bazargan! He is our own prime minister, chosen by God."

One huge poster read: "Who takes our oil? — The U.S. Who takes our gas? — The Soviets, our great enemies. Who is their puppet? — The Shah."

The waves of people moved down the main avenues of southern Tehran toward the modernistic archway near the airport, built in 1971 as a monument to 2,500 years of Persian monarchy and given the name Shahyad — "Remembrance of the King."

Leaders of the march said that several thousand military personnel were among the demonstrators, but Western reporters counted only about 200 men in uniform, grouped together in the vanguard of the march.

She knows the woes of others

By Lynn Kahn
Missourian staff writer

Betty Pangborn, an X-ray technician and nuclear medicine technologist at Boone County Hospital, was injecting a patient when the phone rang. The patient was in the hospital for a liver scan. The doctors suspected cancer.

"It was 10 o'clock on a Monday morning," she recalled. "I knew from the tone of my doctor's voice that I'd better grab a pencil and paper and write down what he was saying. It wasn't hospital business, but I had a feeling that it was something I would want to refer back to later."

The doctor said that her pap smear was abnormal and that he'd like her to check into the hospital for further testing. The next day Ms. Pangborn was told that she had cervical cancer.

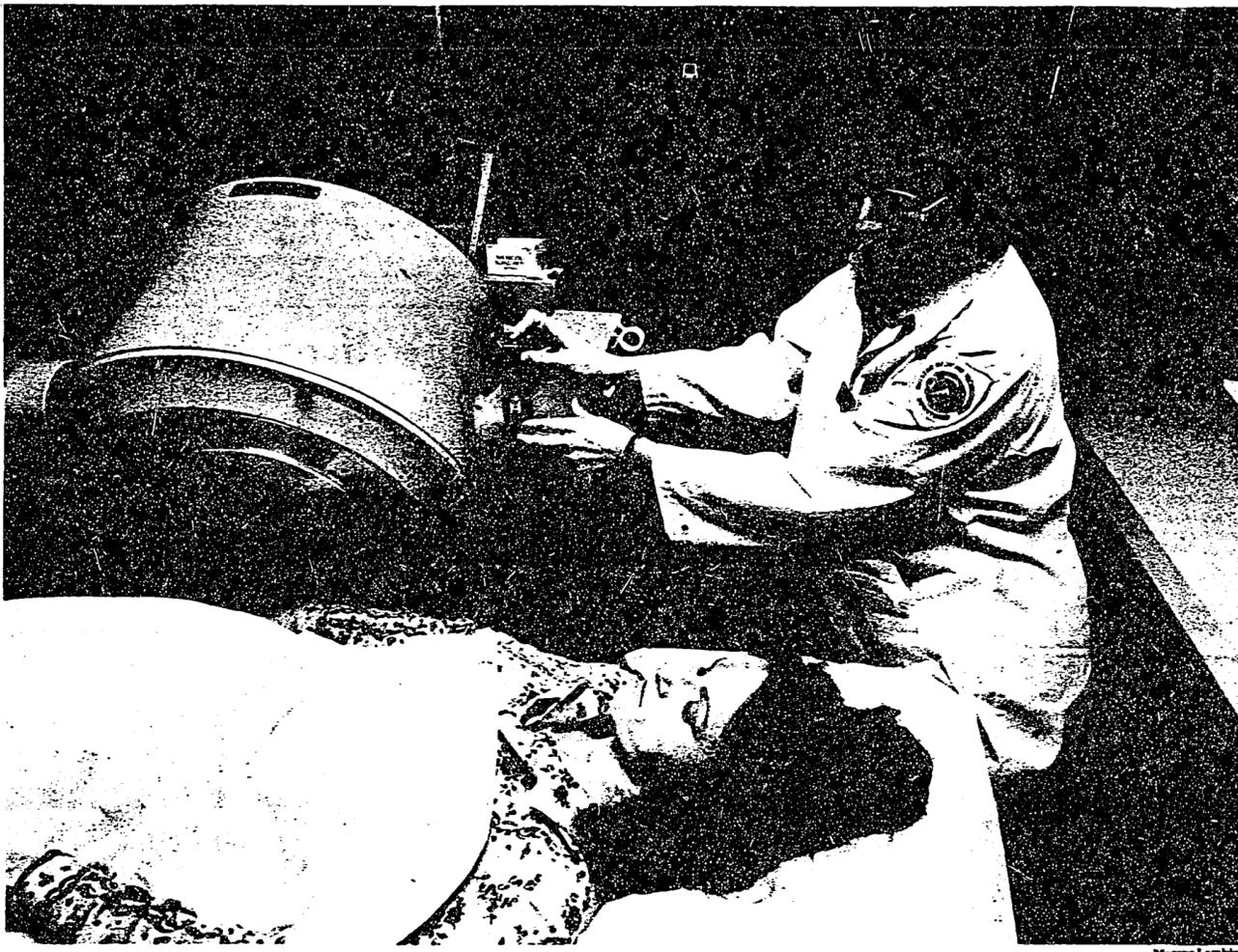
It was ironic. She had worked in the department of nuclear medicine for the past three years. Every day she came in contact with countless numbers of cancer victims — some on the road to recovery, others not as lucky. Now, the nightmare was her own.

Twenty-nine months later, 38-year-old Ms. Pangborn's cancer appears to be arrested. Her nightmare has turned into an optimistic reality. And her fresh outlook on life touches cancer victims she encounters in a way that no surgery or radiation can.

But Ms. Pangborn's optimism was slow in coming and was preceded by weeks of emotional turmoil. No longer was she dealing with patients' anxieties and bitterness, but trying to cope with her own jumble of emotions.

"One of the best things that happened to me before I started treatment was a talk I had with a nurse at the hospital. She explained to me that I would experience anger, denial and depression. She assured me that these feelings weren't unusual and I shouldn't be frightened. Hearing this made it easier to accept these feelings when they did occur," Ms. Pangborn said.

She learned, as time went on, that she wasn't the only one who had trouble accepting her illness. Her family and most of her friends were supportive, but there were some people who backed off when they learned that she had cancer. At the time she felt hurt and confused. Today, she understands.



Technician Betty Pangborn locates a radiation implant in Karen Copenhaver, a patient at Boone County Hospital

"They were afraid of getting any closer to someone who might not be around for very long — they didn't know how to deal with it," she said.

One of the major frustrations of her illness, Ms. Pangborn recalled, was not being able to express her feelings. She hesitated to burden her family with her fears or to vent her anger. Consequently, she often found herself either striking out at her doctor or keeping these feelings to herself.

Realizing that others with serious illnesses probably were experiencing similar frustrations, Ms. Pangborn, along with her friend Joyce Schulte,

organized a local chapter of Make Today Count. It is a nationwide organization of support groups for persons with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Today, the local chapter meets on alternate Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 to 9, in the Boone County Hospital conference room.

"It's really hard to talk about anger, hostility and depression. There were times when I tried to block out those feelings. But it's better to be open — it reduces the anxiety. That's one reason I felt an organization like MTC would be beneficial," Ms. Pangborn said.

Ms. Pangborn returned to work with mixed feelings a month after her treatment was completed.

"In some respects, I feel this whole thing has given me better insight into my patients. On the other hand, it's sometimes very difficult on me," she said. One of those times is when she sees patients with the same type of cancer that she has. Sometimes the prognosis for them is less than encouraging.

While she doesn't always find it easy to be in the hospital environment, there is no doubt that she's a source of encouragement and inspiration for the

patients she encounters.

Ms. Pangborn is a medical technologist with the spirit of a camp counselor. She has a husband and three teen-aged sons to care for and a job that demands a minimum of 40 hours a week. Although she claims she has slowed down since her illness, her energy seems boundless.

"You look at life a lot differently after something like this. I remember shortly after I'd finished my treatment, I came to work one day and took the elevator up to the top floor, just to see the sun rise. You just want to cram as much into every day as you can," she said.

Toxin levels in Sturgeon no problem

By Steve Williams
Missourian staff writer

STURGEON — A panel of experts met with residents of this community Thursday night to assure them that the acid spilled on Jan. 11 is below the dangerous toxic level.

Dr. John Dulles of the University of Kansas Medical Center said that, according to air sampling data, the amount of the chemical phenol was less than one part per million. He said the federal standard of toxicity for phenol is five parts per million.

"Since the level of toxicity is far below the dangerous level, residents can be exposed to the chemical continually," Dulles said.

The acid, spilled when a Norfolk & Western train derailed, is made up of one-fourth phenol and three-fourths chlorophenol, a less toxic chemical. "Chlorophenol is used for preservation in industry," said Dr. William Dikeman, a University of Miami professor of pharmacology and toxicology. Dikeman said chlorophenol causes irritation in the upper respiratory tract.

The chemical is metabolized into the body and excreted in the urine. Dr. Joseph Seifter, adviser to the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., said the two organs which should be analyzed are the liver, which changes the chemical into excretion, and the kidneys, which excrete it.

The panel agreed, however, that the amount of the chemical is not dangerous at the level present in Sturgeon.

"If you touch it, you'll get local burns," Dikeman said. "However, they will heal with no lasting effect."

Harry Gilmer of the Kansas City EPA office said the cleanup effort should be completed in two weeks. More than 3,500 drums, filled with the acid, are on their way to be dumped and buried at a site in Wichita, Kan.

"The air tests detect no hazards," said Gilmer. "The problem is that the nose is more sensitive than the instruments."

Residents still are complaining of the chemical odor, but most of the questions they asked Thursday dealt with how the chemical would affect their personal health conditions.

Report criticizes Fischel practices

By J. Russell King
Missourian staff writer

A Missouri Senate committee may act next week on a proposed report critical of practices at Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital.

The draft report states, "The quality of patient care administered at Ellis Fischel has suffered because of the failure by high-level personnel to follow written hospital procedures and to effectively supervise and perform administrative duties."

Sen. Harry Wiggins, D-Kansas City, chairman of the Committee on Public Health, Welfare, Medicaid and Consumer Protection, said Thursday the panel probably will consider the report Tuesday.

The draft report was prepared by Truman Allen of the Senate research staff following committee hearings in September. The committee investigated Ellis Fischel Hospital in connection with the treatment of Martha McClaskey.

Mrs. McClaskey, a Kirksville teacher who died July 18 of cancer, was a patient at the hospital when doctors inadvertently left four radioactive "seeds" embedded in her body during surgery in December 1977.

The proposed report criticizes the handling of radioactive material at the cancer hospital and states that certain

incidents "indicate that problems may exist with Ellis Fischel's methods for ensuring that care rendered to patients consistently meets a high standard."

Wiggins would not comment on the content of the draft report, a copy of which has been obtained by the Columbia Missourian.

Robert E. Lee, the hospital's administrator, said Thursday he had not seen the proposed report.

"It's hard to react without the report," Lee said. "All I can say is that all those items brought to our attention during the hearings have been acted upon."

In the area of "quality control measures," the proposed report discusses three incidents, including the presence of a fragmented surgical needle in Mrs. McClaskey's body. The needle apparently was left behind after surgery at the hospital.

"The fact that there is no report of a lost needle," the report reads, "raises the question of whether elementary medical procedures are neglected."

The draft report also criticizes "the inadequate supervision of a resident's removal of the radioactive material" implanted in the treatment of Mrs. McClaskey.

Residents are doctors pursuing an advanced program of study in a medical specialty, supervised by specialist physicians and surgeons on

Insight

the hospital staff. They have completed medical school and an internship.

Ellis Fischel Hospital's radiation therapy department includes several residents, and it was a resident who performed the surgery removing the radioactive "seeds" from Mrs. McClaskey.

Dr. Oscar Guerra, a dentist who is chief of staff at the cancer hospital, said Thursday, "There has been, in some instances, a lack of adequate supervision in the radiation therapy department."

Guerra said a hospital committee formed to oversee the radiation therapy department until a new director is hired has studied the problem of resident supervision.

"Dr. Wagner assures us that Dr. Canoy is now aware of what supervision is and that there is now proper supervision of residents in radiation therapy," Guerra said.

Dr. Charles Wagner is chairman of the radiation therapy committee; Dr. Nestor Canoy is acting director of that department. Canoy was the supervising doctor in the removal of the radioactive material from Mrs. McClaskey.

A report to the Missouri Division of

Health by Dr. William Powers, a radiologist formerly on the Ellis Fischel Hospital staff and now in Detroit, stated in October that "the quality and competence of radiation therapy residents at Ellis Fischel was inadequate."

A major portion of the proposed report concerns the handling of radioactive material at the cancer hospital. The report discusses four specific areas:

— The procedures to ensure that all radioactive material implanted in a patient is removed, as in Mrs. McClaskey's case.

— The practices involving keeping records accounting for radioactive material.

The proposed report implies that a satisfactory inventory system would have detected the missing "seeds" that were found in Mrs. McClaskey.

— The security measures to ensure that only authorized persons have access to radioactive material.

— The documentation of the use of radioactive material in patients.

The report states that some of the documentation of Mrs. McClaskey's care is inconsistent with other notes concerning her care.

allegations concerning Mrs. McClaskey's care.

In a cover memo to Wiggins that accompanied the report, Allen mentioned three proposals for legislation to be implemented as a result of the committee's work. Among those recommendations is that an advisory board similar to the University Board of Curators be set up for the cancer hospital. Currently, the hospital is administered directly by the Missouri Division of Health.

It notes some progress made by the hospital in revision of its policies, and states a willingness to allow the hospital and the Division of Health time to implement reforms. The report states the committee will review progress by the hospital in a year.

One change at the cancer hospital since the draft report was prepared is the reorganization of the radiation therapy department and the search for a new director to replace Canoy. Canoy then will become associate director of the department.

Eliminated in the reorganization was the position of Dr. Clifford Richter, a physicist who had been chief of medical physics and radiation safety officer. He has filed a complaint with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in which he claims the job was eliminated in retaliation for his notifying the commission of the McClaskey incident.

Inside today

Missouri farmers

A group of Missouri farmers — some whose voices shook with emotion — failed to persuade Sen. Thomas Eagleton to favor raising the federal loan price for grain. Details on Page 12A.

Student aid

A bill increasing the number of students eligible for assistance under the Missouri Student Grant Program was approved by the Missouri House. See the story on Page 10A.

In town today

7:30 p.m. Hickman High School Talent Night, Hickman auditorium.

7:30 p.m. "An Evening of One-Acts," Stephens College Warehouse Theater.

7:30 p.m. "The Lady's Not for Burning," University Studio Theater.

8 p.m. "Country Disco for Cancer" Panhellenic Dance, Stephens College LRW ballroom.