

British government may reverse policy and vaccinate livestock

INTERNATIONAL
By the Associated Press
LONDON — Determined to stem the tide of foot-and-mouth, the British government said today it may reverse a long-held policy and vaccinate livestock against the disease.

"A few days ago even, this was generally regarded as anathema to very large parts of the farming community," Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

"As you track the disease and see how it spreads, things that may have seemed utterly unpalatable a short time ago have to be on the agenda," he told the British Broadcasting Corp.

The government has sought to avoid vaccination because it would keep other nations' doors shut to livestock exports. But with the number of confirmed cases in Britain at 634, the government is increasingly desperate to halt the spread of the disease — and salvage elections.

On Monday, contractors supervised by the army began burying thousands of slaughtered sheep in a pit on a dis-used airfield in Cumbria, the northwestern English county worst hit by the outbreak. Thousands of apparently healthy animals are to be slaughtered in a bid to create a "firebreak" around heavily infected sites.

NATIONAL
HEBRON, Ky. — A walkout by pi-

lots of the nation's second-largest regional airline showed no sign of ending soon, with no new talks scheduled between Comair and its pilots union.

The airline's 1,350 pilots set up picket lines Monday at the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International, where the airline is based.

Comair officials canceled all flights scheduled through 11 a.m. Wednesday, and said they would not attempt to offer any flights while pilots are on strike.

The airline, which also flies under the name Delta Connection, has been trying to transfer many of its passengers to other airlines, including Comair's parent company, Delta Air Lines.

Pilots are seeking increased pay, company-funded retirement plan, more rest between flights and pay for all hours they are on the job, not just actual flying hours.

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. — Double-murderer Robert Lee Massie was executed by injection early today after spending 28 years as a condemned man, longer than any inmate now on death row in California.

Massie, who had spent 21 years seeking to overturn his convictions, formally dropped his appeals last year to protest what he called the snail's pace of the California death penalty

system.

Massie, 59, pumped his fist to help his executioners find a vein, and told the warden he was ready to die. "Forgiveness: giving up all hope for a better past," were his last words.

Massie was sentenced to death for the 1979 murder of a San Francisco liquor store owner. He had been paroled a year earlier after serving 13 years in prison for the shooting death of a woman during a robbery in the Los Angeles area.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday night affirmed that Massie was competent to drop his appeals.

WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain's campaign to take unlimited soft money out of American politics reaches a turning point today: the Senate is taking up an alternative that would limit but not ban it.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., is sponsoring the legislation to cap what are called the soft money donations that corporations, unions and individuals can make to national political parties.

He also would triple to \$3,000 the hard money contribution limit on what individuals can make directly to candidates from the \$1,000 level set in 1974.

"We must look to expand, not restrict, opportunities for people to partici-

pate in our democratic process," Hagel said Monday in defense of his approach.

McCain, R-Ariz., who with Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., is trying to ban soft money donations, contends the measure offered by Hagel, a close friend, would make the current system of money politics even worse by reaffirming the legality of soft money. "I don't think Americans want us to do that," McCain said.

A vote on the Hagel proposal is expected midday today. The Senate is now in its second week of debate on the McCain-Feingold bill, with a goal of coming to a final vote by the end of the week.

WASHINGTON — The latest surgeon general's report gives dire new meaning to that old cigarette ad "You've come a long way, baby." Women now account for 39 percent of smoking-related deaths, a proportion that has more than doubled since 1965.

Worse, more teen-age girls are smoking, and increased tobacco industry marketing threatens to derail recent progress in fighting the killer habit, concludes Surgeon General David Satcher in a report released today.

The government urged a new push to fight female smoking, citing as role models a California program that cut

lung cancer among women there even as it rose in other parts of the country and a Florida program that has reduced smoking by middle-school girls by 40 percent in just two years.

WASHINGTON — The crash of a U.S. Army reconnaissance plane in Germany and the disappearance of two U.S. Air Force fighter jets over Scotland are the latest in a string of tragic military mishaps in recent weeks.

An Army RC-12, a twin-engine propeller aircraft used to detect, identify and locate enemy radar and electronic communications, crashed Monday in a forest about eight miles from Nuremberg, killing the two pilots on board, Army spokeswoman Hilde Patton said from 5th Corps headquarters at Heidelberg.

There was no initial indication of what caused the crash, Patton said. The plane and pilots were assigned to the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade at Wiesbaden, Germany.

At roughly the same time Monday, the Air Force disclosed that two F-15C fighters were overdue on a return flight to their home base at Lakenheath in southern England after conducting low-level flight training in Scotland.

Hours later the Air Force said a search and rescue mission had been suspended due to a snow storm; there

was no word from the two pilots nor any confirmation of their fate. The lack of communication suggested a strong possibility that they had crashed in the mountainous terrain, officials said.

WASHINGTON — Americans are sleep-deprived workaholics, with only about a third sleeping the recommended eight hours a night, and about 40 percent say they have trouble staying awake on the job, according to a poll released today.

The survey by the National Sleep Foundation said Americans are spending more time working and less time having sex than they did five years ago.

"Instead of working to live, they are living to work, a shift that has had a profound impact on their personal lives," the foundation said.

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