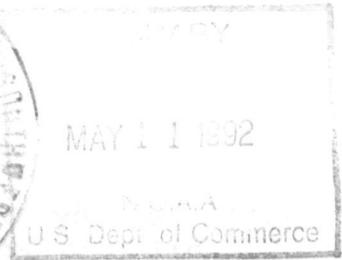




NOAA REPORT



NOAA Report is an administrative document, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the information and use of agency personnel.

November 16, 1987

COMING UP

Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research in Rockville, Md., Nov. 17.

3rd Biennial Exclusive Economic Zone Symposium in Reston, Va., Nov. 17.

International Forum for Earth Observation Using Space Stations in Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 17-18.

National Weather Service Deputy Regional Directors Conference in Silver Spring, Md., Nov. 18-19.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Research of Mesoscale Convective Systems:" Dr. John B. Cunning, NOAA Weather Research Program, Boulder, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Nov. 20.

An International Flavor for NOAA Satellites:--Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom will contribute meteorological instruments for flight on the U.S. and European polar spacecraft and space platforms under plans discussed in Tokyo late last week. NOAA chaired the meeting of the International Polar Orbiting Meteorological Satellite (IPOMS) group Nov. 12-13. IPOMS was formed in 1984, largely at the urging of NOAA, to help defray the cost of the NOAA polar meteorological satellites through international cooperation in the development of instrumentation. The group represents operational meteorological agencies from Australia, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Communities.

MARPOL Ratified:--On Nov. 5, by a vote of 93 to 0, the Senate ratified an International Convention for the Prevention of

Pollution by Garbage from Ships (MARPOL). The treaty would prohibit the sea-borne disposal of plastics and restrict other refuse from member-nation ships. United States ratification provides the necessary votes and tonnage requirements to allow the Convention to enter into force one year after the instrument of ratification is deposited by the State Department.

Clifford Heads Wave Propagation Laboratory:--Dr. Steven F. Clifford has been named director of the NOAA Wave Propagation Laboratory in Boulder, Colo. Dr. Clifford joined NOAA in 1969, serving as a project leader, program chief, and, most recently, acting director of the laboratory. The laboratory is known internationally for its pioneering work in developing cost-effective new methods for remote sensing of atmospheric and ocean parameters such as winds, temperatures, currents, and the like. The laboratory also conducts studies on the interaction with the atmosphere and oceans of visible, infrared and radio frequency electromagnetic waves and acoustic waves.

Winter Poses Threat to Elderly:--This winter the elderly should take special precautions to protect themselves against the often-fatal effects of hypothermia, even in the home, a NOAA news release issued Nov. 16 cautions.

"The greatest risk facing the elderly is prolonged exposure to cold temperatures in their homes - just a small drop in the indoor temperature can lead to accidental hypothermia, according to Weather Service Director Richard E. Hallgren.

The release quotes Dr. Keith Siverton, director of emergency medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md., who says most elderly victims of hypothermia, the deadly drop in deep body temperature, become ill at temperatures between 50 and 65 degrees as a result of relatively mild exposure which would only produce discomfort in other people. He goes on to give the signs of hypothermia and suggestions for senior citizens to reduce the risk of hypothermia.

Copies of the release are available from the National Weather Service Public Affairs Office (301) 427-7622.

On the Air:--NOAA's monthly taped radio program, The Sea and the Air, has been issued to 650 radio stations across the nation. The current tapes feature Dan Albritton, head of NOAA's Aeronomy Laboratory, discussing ozone depletion over the Antarctic; and John Robinson, Director of the Hazardous Materials Response Branch, describing CAMEO, the National Ocean Service's newly-developed system to alert disaster workers to the nature, extent and danger of oil or chemical spills. Upcoming: interviews with Weather Service specialist Steve Harned on coping with the dangers of winter weather.

New Jersey Gets NOAA "Geodetic Advisor:"--The National Geodetic Survey recently signed a cooperative agreement with the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation to provide the services of a Geodetic Advisor to the state. Bernard Putziger has been assigned to the position. His duties include coordination and enhancement of the State's charting, geodesy and survey programs; ensuring that surveys performed meet Federal Geodetic Control Committee standards and specifications; and transfer of various technologies to the state.

NMC Global Forecasts May Be Expanded:--The National Meteorological Center soon may be issuing computer-based global forecasts of significant weather elements in addition to the global wind and temperature forecasts already prepared at the Camp Springs, Md., facility. The National Weather Service recently hosted a meeting with representatives of the United Kingdom Meteorological Office to plan for the implementation of the final phase of the World Area Forecast System. When the system is in place, two world area forecast centers (London and NMC) would prepare and issue the additional significant global weather forecasts. Satellite communication is expected to be a key ingredient in forecast distribution. The World Meteorological Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization provided expert guidance and assistance to the informal discussions held at NWS headquarters.

Paper Product Testing:--The National Climatic Data Center recently provided assistance to the 3M Company with a paper product it is testing. The paper may be susceptible to high and low extremes in relative humidity, so the company consulted the Asheville, N.C., facility in a search for test sites that are very dry and very humid during the month of November.

Barometer Standards Discussed:--The mercury barometer, a standard instrument of air pressure measurements for many years, may be on the way out. At an interagency meeting in the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology, a major issue of concern to the National Weather Service dealt with the use of precision aneroid barometers and digital altimeter setting indicators in place of mercury barometers as the station standard pressure instrument. Some agencies are beginning to discard mercury barometers, citing new technology. As a result of the discussion, the National Bureau of Standards will be asked to assess the new technology and develop a standard that newer instruments must meet if mercury barometers are to be replaced.

Data Base Sold To Oil Company:--The National Geophysical Data Center recently sold an entire data base - 4.9 million records derived from National Ocean Service hydrographic data to Marathon Oil of Houston, Tex. Value of the data base was set at \$7,545.

Undersea Habitat Promotion Planned:--Early in December, the news media will be invited to the site of the world's most advanced (and only functioning) undersea habitat, NOAA's newly-launched Aquarius, off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. NOAA-certified divers from the media will be able to tour the habitat, 50 feet under water. The Aquarius, which can accommodate a six-person crew for up to three weeks, brings a new dimension of time to subsea research. For the next two years, its Caribbean Basin missions will include fisheries studies, physical oceanography, and marine engineering research.

Constitutional Vignette:--The following item is based on an article by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, entitled "How Much Is That In Virginia Dollars?"

One of the major accomplishments of the Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 was the establishment of a single U.S. currency. The fact that each of the 13 states had its own method of printing money was one of the major flaws in the Articles of Confederation. Each state having its own money, valued differently from that of its neighbor, caused major problems in interstate commerce. Since no state was totally independent, there had to be some flow of goods across state borders. In fact, it became almost a contest among the states as to who could issue the most currency, resulting in most of the state-issued money being worth next to nothing.

Judge Roger Sherman, a Convention delegate from Connecticut, was responsible for the resolution prohibiting the states from issuing their own currency. Like many other provisions of the new Constitution, the prohibition was opposed by some delegates. They felt if the states were prohibited from coining money-leaving it up to the Federal government only - that the state would oppose ratification of the whole Constitution.

Following the debate, Judge Sherman's resolution was approved by eight state delegations, with Maryland's delegation evenly divided. Only Virginia, the most populous state at the time, and probably the richest, was opposed to the idea that only the Federal government could make money.

While the idea seems ludicrous today, the states having to give up their own money production was a major step toward a strong national government in 1787. For us in 1987, exchanging Maryland money for Virginia money seems ridiculous, but 200 years ago it was a state right that ended when the Constitution was ratified.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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