Nation

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the use of parathion by the Drug Enforcement Administration for eradication of marijuana crops. Individual states will make the final decision on the matter. The EPA has expressed concern about possible adverse health effects on potential smokers.

Surgeon General's report hits smoking — Dr. C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General, declared "Cigarette smoking is clearly identified as the chief preventable cause of death in our society." A new report from his office named additional cancers linked to smoking. The Tobacco Institute, an organization representing cigarette-manufacturers, claimed that "the question is still open."

Haig fears refugee flood — The United States could be faced with a high influx of refugees if revolutions in El Salvador and other Central American nations were not stopped. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. told the nation's governors. Haig said that major economic aid is needed for the Caribbean region.

Williams testifies — Wayne B. Williams, accused of killing two children in last year's Atlanta child murders, claimed "I'm innocent, and that's all there is to it." Williams told questioning prosecutors, "I'm about in guilty as you are."

Amish must pay tax — The US Supreme Court unanimously ruled that an Amish farmer must pay Social Security taxes for his workers, even though he is opposed to taxation on religious grounds. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger wrote "because the broad public interest in insurance rates..."

$1000 insurance surcharge for drunken driving — A new merit rating plan for Massachusetts drivers adds a $1000 annual surcharge for those drivers convicted of drunken driving within three years. Effective March 8, the new plan also increases charges for drivers who violate any motor vehicle law more than once in a three year span. $12 million are expected to be collected through these additional surcharges and will be distributed in the form of premium reductions to other policy holders.

MTBA to close two rapid-transit stations — A unanimous vote of the MTBA Board of Directors has called for the closing of the Bowdown and Ises stations as well as the curtailment of service at the Bowdown station. Additional maintenance and personnel cuts were made to keep MTBA out of a $6.5 million cashcrack. $33 million in long-range cutbacks were proposed for the future if no further operating money appears to be forthcoming from the T.A. Advisory Board or Legislature.

Weather

Sunny, breezy, and cold today with highs near 25. Some clouds will move in overnight ahead of a cold front, and overnight lows will be near 17. A mixture of clouds and sunshine on Saturday but chilly with highs near 30. Sunday should be a little milder with some sun and highs near 35.

James Franklin

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