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\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area.

75 CENTS

Late Edition

New York: Today, rain arriving midday, high 48. Tonight, rainy and windy, low 47. Tomorrow, rain ending late, high 54. Yesterday, high 39, low 32. Weather map is on Page C15.

SAYING DOWNTURN IS POSSIBLE, BUSH TRUMPETS TAX CUT

CONCERNS OVER ECONOMY



CITY SCHOOL CHIEF PROPOSES CHANGES IN BILINGUAL STUDY

among Services, need only consult with his father, Kenneth (Buster) Martin, who once placed his last \$5,000 on his banker's desk as collateral to keep the company running. The senior Mr. Martin cut wages, sold equipment for 20 cents on the dollar and recalled that his company

maybe not ready to buy a Lear. There is a custom-made motorcycle in the window of Cycle City, a local Harley Davidson store. It is painted orange and costs \$60,000.

The buyer, by the way, is in the oil and gas industry.

sumers into whatever private deals the utilities arrange with the private power generators."

Such contracts would take the pressure off the Independent System Operator, which is run largely by engineers who have been reduced, in

the commission's order than Governor Davis. A news release from Pacific Gas and Electric said the commission's order, "leaves California electric customers exposed to price gouging and future electric supply reliability uncertainty."

Cancer List

be made for a year or more, Dr. Fortier said.

About 16 million American women take estrogen replacement therapy to ease symptoms of menopause like hot flashes, and to reduce the risk of the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis. Millions of others take birth control pills that contain estrogen.

Various forms of estrogen are already on the list of substances that are either known or "reasonably anticipated" to cause cancer. The new recommendation would add steroidal estrogens, which are similar to the ones that occur in the body and are found in many prescription drugs that contain estrogen.

Dr. Michelle Warren, a professor of medicine and obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University and the medical director of the university's Center for Menopause, Hormonal Disorders and Women's Health, said that the panel's recommendation should not frighten women.

"There are so many who need the therapy and benefit from it, that it could be a real shame," she said.

Dr. Clifford Hudis, chief of the breast cancer medicine service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, said: "With estrogens, the risk of taking them has to be weighed against the benefits. For many women, the risk is outweighed by tremendous benefits. Whatever risks there are, they are very small." He added that the data suggesting a link to breast cancer was mixed.

F.B.I. Agents Rally Against Possible Clemency

By DAVID JOHNSTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 — About 500 active and retired F.B.I. agents and employees marched to the White House today in a highly unusual protest, angered that President Clinton might commute the life sentence of an American Indian activist convicted of killing two F.B.I. agents 25 years ago.

Many agents wore their F.B.I. badges pinned to their coats as they walked two-by-two in a long, silent protest around the Ellipse, the park immediately south of the White House, to the presidential mansion. A banner held by agents at the front of the line said, "Never Forget."

For a civilian agency steeped in paramilitary tradition, the protest was a serious break from discipline, reflecting the deep resentment many of agents feel toward Mr. Clinton over the case of Leonard Peltier.

Mr. Clinton has never been widely popular among agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in part because of what agents believe is his scarcely concealed disdain for F.B.I. Director Louis J. Freeh.

The march was not officially sanctioned, but many senior officials, including Mr. Freeh, quietly expressed approval even as they stayed away from the protest. The F.B.I. marchers took vacation leave to join in the demonstration, said Susan Lloyd, an agent who is a spokeswoman for the F.B.I.'s Washington field office.

Mr. Clinton, who wields the sole discretion on clemency actions, has not said whether he will commute Mr. Peltier's sentence. But he told a radio interviewer in November that he would consider Mr. Peltier's request along with other clemency applications.

Mr. Freeh wrote to Mr. Clinton last



Ting-Li Wang/The New York Times

Eddie Woods, an F.B.I. agent, held a picture of Agent Jack R. Coler in a march to the White House yesterday. Coler and Agent Ronald A. Williams, pictured right, were killed in 1975. Demonstrators urged the president not to grant clemency to the man convicted of the killings.

week expressing his "abhorrence" over the possibility that Mr. Peltier, who is 56, might be freed. Today, Mr. Freeh spoke at a memorial service before the march that was held for the two murdered agents, Ronald A. Williams and Jack R. Coler.

Mr. Peltier's supporters expressed indignation that F.B.I. employees would try to influence a clemency decision.

Jennifer K. Harbury, a lawyer for Mr. Peltier, said, "I think it's inappropriate and very disturbing for members of our government's armed police forces to march through the streets of Washington, D.C., to block the correction of the violation of rights that they inflicted not only on Mr. Peltier but on Native Americans throughout the Pine Ridge reservation."

At the time of the shootings, the two agents were searching for a robbery suspect on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. The agents, in separate cars, came under fire from assailants several hundred yards away and were wounded.

The agents were later killed by a gunman who stood over the men and fired into their heads. The government said at Mr. Peltier's trial that

only he had a weapon of the type that investigators believed was used in the killings.

Mr. Peltier has unsuccessfully appealed his conviction and has said that he did not shoot the agents. In recent years, an effort to free him has gained momentum. Last Sunday, supporters held a march near the United Nations in New York that attracted several thousand people.

Supporters of several controversial clemency applicants regard Mr. Clinton's final days in office as their last chance to obtain a presidential grant of leniency.

The peaceful protest today prompted anti-F.B.I. demonstrators to gather in small numbers near the march, holding signs criticizing the F.B.I. over several controversial operations, like the tear gas assault on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Tex., in 1993.

Another anti-F.B.I. demonstrator held a sign that said "Free Peltier, Jail Horiuchi," referring to Lon Horiuchi, a member of the bureau's hostage rescue team who shot and killed the wife of a white separatist during a stand-off at remote cabin at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in 1992.

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