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*Enquirer*

# Ford, Carter clash on proposed debates

By DAVE RILEY

WASHINGTON (AP) — The status of the proposed presidential debates has itself become something of a debate. Jimmy Carter says plans for the televised confrontations are almost set, but a spokesman for President Ford says no agreement is in sight.

Even before the Federal Election Commission gave approval Monday to sponsorship of the debates by the League of Women Voters, Carter announced that negotiators for both sides had reached a tentative agreement on the form the sessions will take.

The Democratic presidential nominee said the negotiators had agreed to match the candidates in a series of three debates, each lasting an hour and 15 minutes, beginning the third week in September.

But Ford's spokesman, Ron Nessen, denied there was any agreement on the debates. "There's just no agreement," he said.

Nessen refused to discuss Ford's view of the negotiations, saying representatives of both nominees had agreed to keep the talks secret.

Meanwhile, Carter told AFL-CIO leaders here today that the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board should be un-

der closer presidential control. Carter said the president should have the right to fire the board chairman, who now serves a 14-year term and can only be removed for wrongdoing.

"While maintaining the board's independence, the chairman would consult more closely with the president, other executive leaders and the members of Congress in developing a consistent economic policy," Carter said.

He told the union leaders a Carter administration would give the nation firm economic control, free from "wild, roller-coaster dips of the last eight years."

AFL-CIO President George Meany, who called the union leaders to Washington to discuss campaign strategy, said Ford runs a government "by veto, by stalemate, by inaction, by deceit and by pardon."

Ford spent Monday in Washington where he met with his Cabinet and heard glowing reports on the state of the nation and the economy.

Carter spent the day beating the campaign carpet for votes, speaking of his dedication to Israel before Jewish leaders, about voter registration to black leaders and rapping dishonesty in the Medicaid program and resulting inadequate care given to the elderly.



In Atlanta, Carter said the nation has not had a president in the foreign policy area because Henry A. Kissinger "is, in effect, both the secretary of state and the president at the same time."

In a speech to a group of Jewish community leaders from throughout the country, Carter said he is committed to the right of Israel "to exist as a Jewish state permanently and in peace."

And, he said, "as a Christian myself, I think the recreation of the state of Israel is a fulfillment of biblical prophecy."

Later, Carter accused Ford and former President Richard M. Nixon of ignoring charges of illegality in the Medicaid system.

Commenting on a report by Senate investigators, who said they found widespread abuses by health service providers and Medicaid recipients in a 10-city study, Carter said Medicaid's record of fraud and poor care is "a terrible example of federal bureaucratic indifference."

The Senate investigators said they found that as much as half of the \$15 billion spent annually on Medicaid is wasted.

(Turn to A-2)

CHICAGO (AP) — The early  
breaks through dark clouds han

# Deaths of two bring area r

By STAN KAUFMAN

The deaths of two Battle Creek men Monday near Union City brought to six the number of persons killed in auto-related accidents in three days on highways in three area counties.

Stanley Michael Kreger, 23, of 163 College St., and his passenger, Joseph Walter Wolney, 21, of 21 E. Pitman Ave., were killed Monday in a two-car crash when their car slammed into two trees and was split into two pieces on Eight-Mile Road near T Drive S. in Calhoun County's Burlington Township.

# Phone custo

HICKORY CORNERS — Seventy-five customers of Hickory Telephone Co. have been ordered to pay overdue bills or have their service disconnected.

The bills cover the period from last November, when the phone company increased the rates 54 per cent. The 75 customers continued to pay the old monthly rate of \$10.60 instead of the new rate of \$16.35.

According to Robert Wilder, regional