

**Oscar Winning Producer Dead At 77**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Film producer Richard Zanuck, who won the best picture Oscar for "Driving Miss Daisy" and was involved in such blockbuster films as "Jaws" and "The Sting" after his father, Hollywood mogul Darryl F. Zanuck, fired him from 20th Century Fox, died Friday. He was 77.

Zanuck's publicist says he died of a heart attack at his Beverly Hills home.

The production company the younger Zanuck founded with David Brown produced "The Sting" in 1973, as well as Steven Spielberg's first feature film, "The Sugarland Express," in 1974 and Spielberg's first blockbuster, "Jaws," in 1975. "The Sting" also won the best movie Oscar, although Zanuck and Brown were not listed as its producers. "Jaws" was nominated for best picture, as was the Zanuck-produced "The Verdict."

**U.S. Audit: Billions Likely Wasted In Iraq**

WASHINGTON (AP) — After years of following the paper trail of \$51 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars provided to rebuild a broken Iraq, the U.S. government can say with certainty that too much was wasted. But it can't say how much.

In what it called its final audit report, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Funds on Friday spelled out a range of accounting weaknesses that put "billions of American taxpayer dollars at risk of waste and misappropriation" in the largest reconstruction project of its kind in U.S. history.

"The precise amount lost to fraud and waste can never be known," the report said.

The auditors found huge problems accounting for the huge sums, but one small example of failure stood out: A contractor got away with charging \$80 for a pipe fitting that its competitor was selling for \$1.41. Why? The company's billing documents were reviewed sloppily by U.S. contracting officers or were not reviewed at all.

**Olympics Chief Defends Security Measures**

LONDON (AP) — When a private firm failed to meet its promise of providing enough guards for the Olympics, the British military was called in to "mind the gap" — in security.

But even though the government is bringing in those troops — as well as RAF Typhoon combat jets, surface-to-air missiles on rooftops and an aircraft carrier on the River Thames — organizers say it will still look like the Summer Games, and not war games.

"I don't think anyone will go feeling anything other than safe and secure and probably quite charmed by what they witness," London Olympics organizing chief Sebastian Coe said Friday.

Two weeks before the games begin, Coe found himself dealing with the revelations that 3,500 British troops — some of them just back from tours in Afghanistan — would need to step in and help guard Olympic venues.

The private security contractor, G4S, failed in its promise to deliver more than 10,000 security guards — and didn't let anyone know until the last moment.

**Romney: No Role In Bain After 1999**

BY JIM KUHNHEIN AND PHIL ELLIOTT  
Associated Press

LACONIA, N.H. — His credibility under attack, Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney said Friday that he had "no role whatsoever in the management" of a private equity firm after early 1999, and demanded President Barack Obama apologize for aides who allege otherwise.

"This is simply beneath the dignity of the presidency of the United States," Romney said in an interview on ABC, one of several he granted to network and cable stations in hopes of extinguishing the controversy.

Romney said after he left the firm that he retained ownership "until we were able to negotiate a departure" from the company he had founded. "I had no role whatsoever in the management of Bain Capital after February of 1999," he said, adding that officials at the company and independent fact-checkers had said the same thing.

Obama himself had stepped into the controversy a few hours earlier, citing the inconsistencies over the date of Romney's departure from the firm and allegations that it

had invested in firms that outsourced jobs to low-wage nations overseas. Some Security and Exchange Commission documents have surfaced suggesting Romney played an active role through 2002.

He said the questions, raised in numerous media reports and highlighted by his own campaign aides, were a legitimate part of the race for the White House.

"Ultimately, I think, Mr. Romney is going to have to answer those questions because if he aspires to being president, one of the things you learn is you're ultimately responsible for the conduct of your operations," the president said in an interview with WJLA-TV in Virginia as he campaigned across the battleground state.

Romney said that was "Chicago-style politics at its worst," and an attempt by the president and his campaign to detract from the persistently sluggish economy and unemployment that has been over 8 percent for more than 40 months.

One Romney aide said earlier in the week that any suggestion that Romney had shipped jobs overseas was a lie, and the campaign has said repeatedly the break with the private eq-

uity firm came in 1999.

Yet documents surfaced for the second straight day that seemed to indicate Romney played an active management role in Bain Capital after that date, when he says he and company officials say he left the firm to become head of the Olympic games in Salt Lake City.

Beyond raising questions about Romney's truthfulness, the discrepancy in dates may be important because of accusations that Bain invested in companies that outsourced jobs overseas after 1999.

That, in turn, goes to the core issue of the race for the White House in dreary economic times, Romney's claim that as a former businessman, he has the ability to create jobs and finally pull the country out of a downturn that has lingered throughout Obama's term.

Obama spent much of his day challenging Romney over taxes and spending, telling one audience that if Republicans are unwilling to let tax cuts lapse for the wealthiest Americans, they're "not serious" about reducing the deficit.

Romney and other Republicans argue that raising taxes on anyone would be a mistake given the fragile state of the recovery.

**U.N. Chief Threatens For Deaths In Syria**

BY EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and international envoy Kofi Annan increased pressure on the divided U.N. Security Council on Friday, urging that it demand a halt to the escalating violence in Syria and promising "consequences" if the conflict doesn't end.

The U.N. chief and the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria renewed their appeals for action following Thursday's attack on a poor farming village in Hama province, which rebels claim was among the worst single events in the 16-month uprising.

They strongly condemned the attack on Tremseh that killed scores of people and accused the Syrian government of violating Se-

curity Council resolutions by using heavy weapons, including artillery, tanks and helicopters.

Ban sent a letter Friday to the Security Council, which was obtained by The Associated Press, and enclosed a separate letter from Annan urging Security Council action to help end the 16-month conflict.

Under Annan's six-point peace plan — which was endorsed by the council but never implemented — the Syrian government was to withdraw troops and heavy weapons from populated areas and halt all violence, to be followed by a cessation of hostilities by the opposition.

"There will be serious consequences for continued non-compliance," Ban said in a statement Friday.

The council is debating a new

Security Council resolution on Syria, spurred by the July 20 expiration of the mandate for the U.N. observer force there and the failure of the Annan plan.

Russia and Britain have circulated rival texts, and Ban and Annan's comments indicated a strong preference for the Western-backed British draft.

It threatens non-military sanctions against President Bashar Assad's government if it doesn't withdraw troops and heavy weapons from population centers within 10 days. The proposed resolution is under the U.N. Charter's Chapter 7, which can be enforced militarily.

Russia said Thursday it will oppose any resolution on Syria that is militarily enforceable, calling it "a red line."

Moscow's draft resolution

calls for the "immediate implementation" of the Annan peace plan and the guidelines for a political transition approved at a meeting in Geneva last month, but makes no mention of sanctions, saying the council will assess implementation and "consider further steps as appropriate."

Annan's letter recalled that when he briefed the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday he stated that "the government has increased its operations — with shelling, mechanized infantry, and the use of helicopter gunships, including in population centers."

He said the attack on Tremseh is "another grim reminder that the council's resolutions continue to be flouted."

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Prior to final approval of the STIP by the Transportation Commission, public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations to receive public comment on the tentative program.

July 17, 2012	Ramada Convention Center	Aberdeen	7:00 PM
July 18, 2012	Ramkota Hotel	Sioux Falls	7:00 PM
July 19, 2012	MTI Tech. Center (1800 E. Spruce)	Mitchell	7:00 PM
July 24, 2012	Ramkota Hotel	Pierre	7:00 PM
July 25, 2012	Ramada Hotel	Rapid City	7:00 PM

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