

The Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Reagan's budget cuts inflict 'political pain'

By OWEN ULLMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials on both ends of the federal funnel — giving and receiving — predict the deep budget cuts sought by President Reagan will create political pain in Congress and economic suffering for Americans.

Among the targets reported under consideration by Reagan budget-cutters are such politically popular programs as Social Security, food stamps, child nutrition and economic aid to farmers and cities.

"We begin what may well turn out to be the most painful political process through which any of us will ever go," Rep. James R. Jones, D-Okla., said Tuesday as the House Budget Committee he heads began studying its own list of potential program cutbacks.

At the White House, meanwhile, big-city mayors received the bad news from Reagan about his plans for sharp reductions in urban aid. New York Mayor Edward Koch said the president promised "those who are truly in need will not be asked to suffer, but all others, hopefully, will suffer equally."

Reagan, who must persuade a reticent Congress to support the reductions, was to meet with congressional leaders in the Capitol this afternoon to discuss his economic proposals.

The president also plans to make a televised address to the nation Thurs-

day night to spell out his general view of the economy's problems and why his proposed cures are necessary to lower inflation and unemployment and restore healthy economic growth. He is to submit a package of tax cuts, offsetting budget reductions and regulatory changes to Congress Feb. 18.

Getting Congress to enact the budget cuts, however, will not be easy, Jones said as the Budget Committee reviewed 105 suggestions from congressional economists on how to prune billions of dollars from the budget.

"We leave behind the easy talk and get down in the trenches with 105 specific items, every one of which will do some damage to some people somewhere," he said.

Black leaders in Congress, who met with Reagan Tuesday, emerged from their White House meeting saying they feared Reagan's budget cuts will come down hardest on their constituency.

"We told the president we are gravely concerned that policies devised to rein in inflation do not disproportionately burden the poor, the elderly and moderate income people," said Rep. Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Even as the administration worked on its spending cut proposals, Reagan's chief economic spokesmen urged Congress Tuesday to raise the national debt limit by \$50 billion to finance the current budget deficit.

The House Ways and Means Committee voted to raise the debt ceiling from \$935 billion to \$985 billion after Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan

and budget director David A. Stockman said the government would reach the current limit in only a few days. Without an increase, the government then would lose its borrowing authority.

Stockman, who consistently voted against raising the debt limit during his four years as a Republican House member from Michigan, said he had no choice but to seek an increase now because "the bills are coming due and they must be paid."

"I voted against those debt-ceiling bills (in the past) because I had no confidence anybody was developing a plan to control spending," he said. "I have confidence that such a plan is being developed now because I am writing it."

Reagan is setting his sights on reducing the 1981 budget at least 2 percent, or about \$13 billion from a total of \$663 billion in estimated spending.

For 1982, Reagan's economic advisers are looking to eliminate between \$35 billion and \$40 billion from a \$739 billion budget proposed by the Carter administration, congressional sources said.

A list of potential cuts drawn up by Stockman and circulated through Congress suggests major reductions in a variety of aid programs.

The proposals include eliminating Social Security survivor benefits for college-age students and reducing Social Security disability payments,

Tax appraisal board sets audit of tax rolls

By ED TODD
Staff Writer

Midland's tax rolls, which last year unraveled into a "horror story" that put the city's public school system in borderline dire straits, will be undergoing an audit to bring the rolls to a "zero starting point."

A "computer error" that resulted in the loss of \$840,000 in revenue put the Midland Independent School District into a cut-out-the-excesses money bind and prompted the school district's trustees to seek out a fail-safe system to accurately compute incoming revenue and to accurately reflect property assessments.

"I hope that we're not particularly interested in looking back (at mistakes) except as a guide in taking future action," Ed Runyan, the Midland ISD's board of trustees president, told the six-member Midland County Tax Appraisal District's board of directors on Tuesday.

Runyan's concern was to prevent another "big shortage" that took \$840,000 out of the school system's \$33 million operating budget for 1980-81. The Midland ISD gets about \$17 million via local taxes and \$16 million from state and federal sources.

THAT "SUDDEN LOSS" of reve-

nue was discovered last year when Midland ISD Business Manager Don Furgeson uncovered a discrepancy in property valuations and assessments.

The upshot was the reduction in the actual revenue. And the school's administration staff and trustees had planned the budget based on the reasonably anticipated income.

The culprit was "probably an error in computer programming," surmised Runyan, who was seated next to Virgil Jones Jr., the district's \$40,000-a-year chief appraiser and the tax collector-assessor for the Midland ISD, city of Midland, Midland College and Midland Memorial Hospital. Midland County Tax Assessor-Collector Frances Shuffield and her staff take care of the collection of taxes for Midland County and the Greenwood ISD.

Runyan had proposed the audit. And City Attorney Joe Nuessle, another member of the appraisal board, questioned its effectiveness.

"What good is another audit going to do?" he had asked.

RUNYAN INDICATED his concern simply was fair taxation.

"None of us likes to pay taxes," he said, "but we want them assessed fairly and collected fairly."

"I'm not being critical of anybody

or anything," he said, but he said that he is eager to get to the "zero starting point" and to get the tax rolls balanced.

"You shouldn't operate a business if you can't balance the books," said Runyan, who noted that the "tax rolls have not been balanced since 1977."

Midland City Manager Jim Brown reckoned that it's been longer than that since the tax rolls were balanced.

"I suspect that it hasn't been balanced for 15 years," Brown said. He said that the city was "smarting" from the short-change, which was but a "small amount" to the city; the schools suffered far more, he implied.

Trustee Parker Humes was critical of the balance-less situation.

"It's downright frightening to me," he said. "We're trying to plan for the good of our children, and this is not political rhetoric."

"In private business, you just couldn't operate this way," he said.

Humes said he doesn't "know what the answer is," but seemed certain that "you shouldn't operate a business if you can't balance the books."

SINCE THE DISCREPANCY was

(See AUDIT, Page 1A)

Texas senators pass pardons issue to House

By GARTH JONES
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The legislative hot potato of reorganizing the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles Board is in the House now.

Senators passed on voice vote Tuesday the measure aimed at ending bickering among those who recommend clemency for state prison inmates.

"This is the heart of the governor's anti-crime program," said Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls, author of the measure.

The administration of the pardons and parole system presently is made up of a three-member board plus six parole commissioners, appointed equally by the governor, the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court and the chief judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The governor has the final say on all pardons and paroles, after receiving recommendations from the board and parole commissioners.

In recent months there has been a continuing controversy about the large number of parole recommendations turned down by Gov. Bill Clements.

Farabee explained his bill would make the six parole commissioners regular state employees controlled by the board, instead of appointed officials, subject to senate confirmation. The governor would have a new power of selecting the chairman and vice chairman of the three-member board.

He said the bill also provided authorization to spend \$4.5 million the next two years for halfway houses where prison inmates nearing the end of their terms could be eased back into civilian life.

"In the past there have been controversies and it was difficult to know who was boss, who was in charge," Farabee said. "This really is an attempt to clarify the responsibilities of the commissioners, it will not take away their power."

MidTran marks first anniversary

By LANA CUNNINGHAM
Staff Writer

Riders of bus 1610 seem to do a little celebrating every day. But it was different this morning as MidTran marked its first anniversary "on the road again."

To get the morning rolling, there was a ceremony for MidTran employees at its headquarters in the Municipal Garage area. Danny Kilgore received a trophy for being Driver of the Year. Debra Mast was recognized as Driver of the Month and Buck Buchanan received a certificate for his year-long service.

Buchanan was seriously injured several months ago when an automobile collided with his bus. After hospitalization, he's back on the job, driving the Midland National Bank shuttle bus.

MidTran, a public transportation system which operates on a subscription service in the early morning

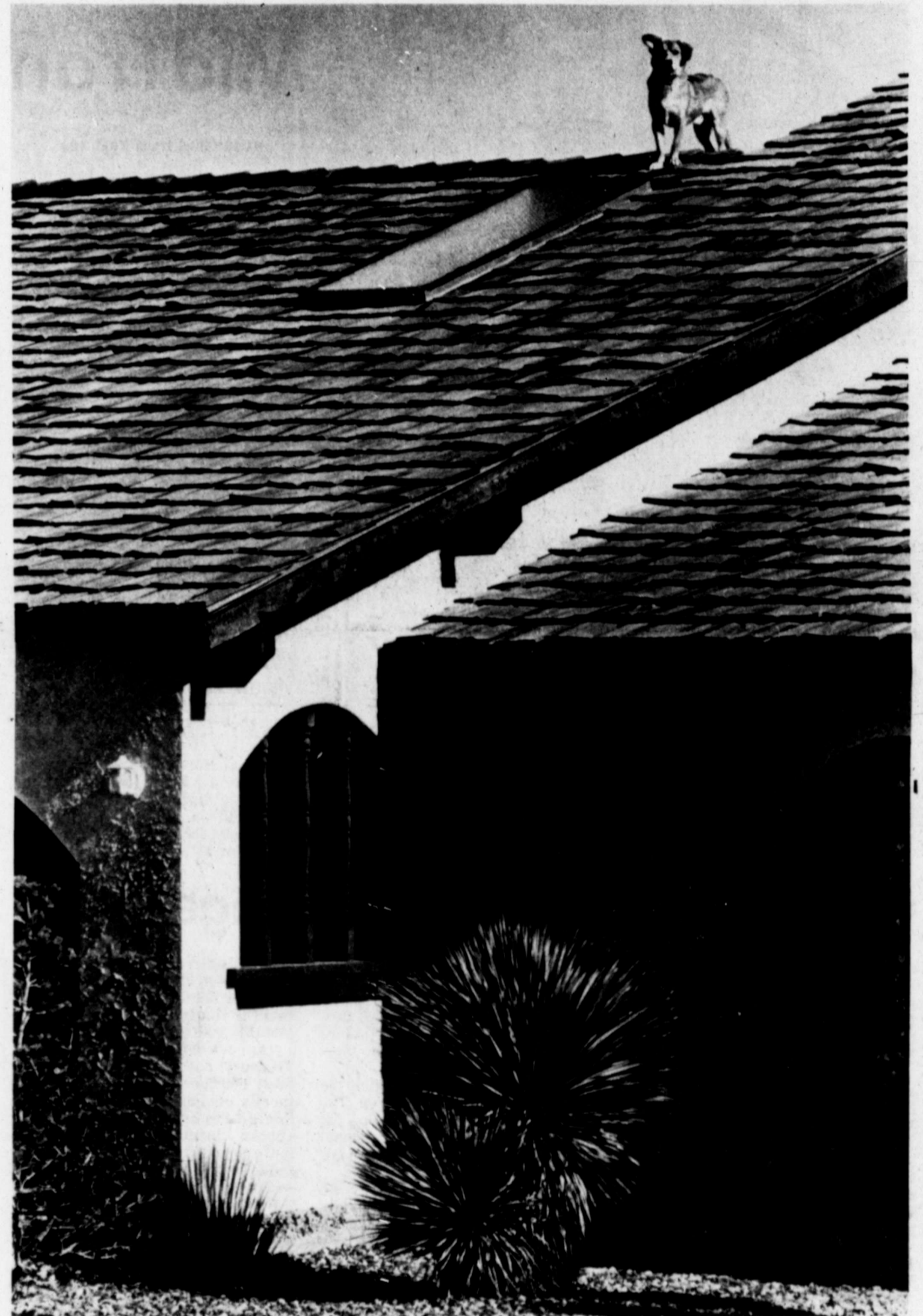
and late afternoon hours for downtown and Industrial Park employees, began Feb. 4, 1980, after two years of planning.

Kilgore and Ms. Mast were on No. 1610 this morning, with Ms. Mast driving and Kilgore observing as he will be taking over her route. She is moving up to dispatcher.

As the white bus with a single orange stripe pulled up to each house, the passengers climbed aboard — some joking, some bleary-eyed, some barely awake. By the time the bus finished its route and delivered the riders downtown, the passengers were wide awake and laughing — acting much like a close-knit family.

"Good morning Mario," cried the riders as one rider hopped on. And the greeting was similar for each passenger. The busload of riders know each other, where everyone works and even some background about their families.

And no one is exempt from the



A perching pooch

Jake the dog might take offense at the idea he resembles a "cat on a hot tin roof," but he definitely enjoys his perch on top of a home on Saddle Club Drive. His owner explains that Jake gets to the roof

through an upstairs window and keeps an eye on intruders from his high angle. (Staff Photo by Bruce Partain)

\$2,000 REWARD

Kristy Booth

Silent Witness of Midland reminds the public that a \$2,000 reward exists for information leading to the recovery of Kristy Booth or her body.

The 19-year-old Midlander has been missing for a year.

Silent Witness, sponsored by The Midland Reporter-Telegram and Midland County Sheriff's Department, with the cooperation of the Midland Police Department, offers rewards for information needed in major cases.

Callers may remain totally anonymous. They are given a code number and are known, identified and paid, in the event their information is helpful, by that number.

The Silent Witness number is 685-1190.

SILENT WITNESS
685-1190

INSIDE TODAY

✓ HOSTAGES: William Royer Jr. says he, three others missed escape chance..... 7A	✓ PEOPLE: Jurors debate Garwood's fate in collaboration trial..... 7B
✓ IN THE NEWS: Nissan to go ahead with Tennessee truck plant, despite protests..... 5C	✓ POLLUTION: Texas A&M researchers find pollutants over remote island..... 12A
✓ SPORTS: Midland High Bulldogs storm Lee High Rebels, 80-57..... 1C	✓ AGRICULTURE: Will Reagan reverse himself, retain grain embargo?..... 5B

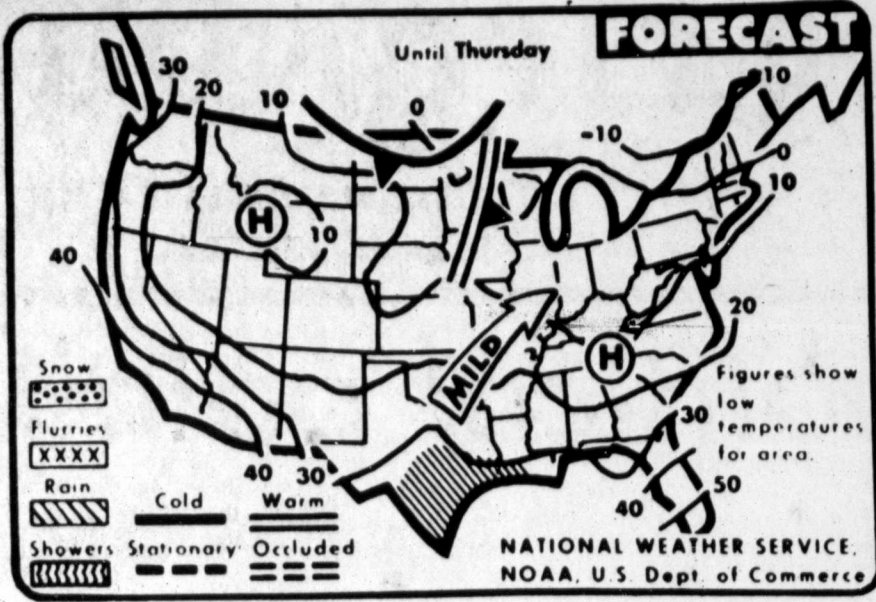
Agriculture..... 4B	Dear Abby..... 1B	Obituaries..... 5A
Bridge..... 11C	Editorial..... 4A	Oil & gas..... 10C
Classified..... 1D	Entertainment..... 7B	Solomon..... 10A
Comics..... 11C	Lifestyle..... 1B	Sports..... 11C
Crossword..... 11C	Markets..... 9C	TV Schedule..... 11C

Weather
Partly cloudy through Thursday. High Thursday low 50s. Details on Page 2A.

Service
Delivery..... 682-5311
Want Ads..... 682-6222
Other Calls..... 682-5311

(See MIDTRAN, Page 2A)

WEATHER SUMMARY



Mild temperatures are expected for much of the nation. Below-freezing temperatures are expected for the Northeast. Rain is forecast for southern Texas. (AP Laserphoto Map)

Midland statistics

Table with columns: WEATHER FORECAST, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE READINGS, LOCAL TEMPERATURES, SOUTHWEST TEMPERATURES.

The weather elsewhere

Table with columns: Wednesday, Hi, Lo, Prec, Othk. Lists weather for various cities like Albany, Albuquerque, Amarillo, etc.

Extended forecasts

Friday Through Sunday. West Texas: Partly cloudy. Turning cooler over the weekend. Lows 26 north and mountains to near 10 extreme south.

First YMCA camp March 2

The first in a series of five "Caravan Camps," sponsored by the Midland YMCAs, will be March 2 through March 7 at Big Bend National Park.

Texas temperatures

Table with columns: High, Low, Precip. Lists temperatures for cities like Abilene, Alice, Amarillo, Austin, etc.

Confidence in Reagan changes vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The last time the Carter administration asked Congress to raise the government's borrowing authority, every Republican member of the House Ways and Means Committee said no.

plan is being developed now because I am writing it. The bill approved by the panel would raise the limit on federal debt to \$985 billion.

Midland officers injured

Two Midland police officers were injured in a car-pedestrian accident in the 300 block of South Terrell Street shortly before 4 p.m. Tuesday.

and Garden Lane about 7:45 p.m. Barber was released from Midland Memorial Hospital after treatment for a facial laceration. Three passengers in Barber's vehicle escaped injury, as did Bautista.

Police Roundup

officers were standing between two parked pickup trucks on the east side of Terrell Street about 3:50 p.m. Tuesday when the second pickup was struck by a third truck, pushing it into the rear of a trailer on the first pickup.

Police said Walling was westbound on Highway 80 and attempting to turn left on Eisenhower when the accident occurred. Thomas was eastbound on Highway 80 at the time.



Alan Larsen, a professional skier from Zephyr Cove, Nevada, bends into the wind as a speeding compact car goes recently. Larsen, currently in third place in the Pacific Western Airlines pro-ski tour in Canada, is simulating wind conditions to build up endurance on the slopes of Edmonton. (AP Laserphoto)

MidTran marks first anniversary

remarked, "We just can't keep drivers on this bus." The appearance of No. 1610 also drew remarks from almost every passenger. "Different bus to keep us on our toes, huh?" they said.

driving." Mario Salazar has moved several times to various spots in Midland. And each time, MidTran has found a spot for him. "I think I've ridden every bus they have," he said with a laugh.

walk to work, it's ridiculous. The city fathers should have done better planning on these downtown office buildings." OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR Doris Carter will mark her anniversary with MidTran on Feb. 25.

Subscription rates for the service which picks up the people at their door, delivers them downtown and back home in the evening costs \$21 a month. Ruth Meyers, a passenger, said she hadn't figured out if it was cheaper to take MidTran than her own car.

Jay Schuermack has been on the bus about 1 1/2 months. The family's second car was sold when he recently moved here from Austin. By taking MidTran, it would leave a car for his wife.

Georgia Beauchamp sees a definite need for MidTran because of the downtown parking problem. "When you have to park in Crane County and

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan's Cabinet is debating whether to keep or lift the Soviet grain embargo amid indications there will be little effect either way on American farmers.

The 1980 farm-income figure of \$24 billion — for all farm products — represented a drop of more than 22 percent from 1979's \$31 billion, but Agriculture Department economists say the tailspin was due mainly to leftover supplies from bumper 1979 harvests.

"MIDTRAN GETS ME to work early," he said. "It's pretty reassuring when they pick us up at our front door."

Laneita Bingham prefers not having to do the driving downtown, and especially during bad weather. "Riding MidTran gives you time to relax and unwind before you get home. I'd rather sit back and let them do the

The American Agriculture Movement, meanwhile, is reminding Reagan of his campaign promise to end the embargo. A White House official, who asked not to be identified, said a decision today is doubtful because it "is so tough."

The department had predicted weeks before Carter announced the embargo that 1980 net farm income would be down sharply, probably about 20 percent, because of inflation.

Rep. James Shannon, D-Mass., said GOP opposition in the past had been totally irresponsible and bordering on demagoguery. Democrats who voted for giving the government authority to borrow to pay its bills were branded by conservative organizations as fiscally irresponsible, Shannon recalled.

"Obviously, the bugs and the procedures were not ironed out (in the conversion), and we were caught in a trap," said the city manager. Jones, the man in charge of tax rolls for the city, school, college and hospital, implied that the computerized system could be beneficial.

Within weeks, however, farm support began to crumble as grain prices dropped. That slide occurred, many believed, because Carter had deprived producers of a lucrative foreign market.

Department analysts dispute that assessment of the embargo's effect. "Certainly," they said, "the suspension presented Soviet planners with a troublesome element, and even cautious inferences suggest that the impact has been more than trivial."

Rep. L.A. Bafalis, R-Fla., said Republicans have voted against debt-ceiling bills in the past "because we didn't vote for the spending" that forced the government to borrow.

Dr. James Mailey, the Midland ISD superintendent, appeared somewhat disturbed over the outcome of the computerized tax rolls. "I'll say very bluntly," he said, "there have been some changes, and it hasn't been for the better."

How much has the embargo affected American farmers and consumers financially? "Not enough to measure," says Bob Bergland, Carter's agriculture secretary. "When you take the total into account — the corn growers as well as the cattle feeders, hog producers, the dairy industry and the chicken people — I think that the final accounting will show the grain embargo will have no economic effect of consequence one way or another."

IT was did the Brown hitting 17 of his second round the game more play in scored field, dunks

Typically, the party hands out a small card bearing an appeal for contributions. The card also contains the statement: "I am a deaf person." The reverse side of the card bears the sign language alphabet.

Runyan suggested that the shortage was due to a lack of a "series of checks and balances." IN A RELATED discussion, Jones and Walt Holton, appraisal board member who represents the hospital, got off on the rising valuations of property in Midland.

It's inflation, plain and simply," Holton said. "It's supply and demand," countered Jones. "Supply and demand is causing inflation," suggested Holton.

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Jim Trot, 2810 Goddard Place, told officers a gold ring worth \$800 was taken from his residence, and David Williams of 4700 Boulder St. said miscellaneous clothing valued at \$150 was missing from his home.

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Sheriff's deputies today were checking into the shooting of two dogs Tuesday. Cathy McCorkle lodged the complaint. Further details were not available at press time.

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The Better Business Bureau is warning local residents to be leery of persons who seek handouts on grounds that they're deaf.

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Today's opening stock market report

New York Exchange table showing various stock indices and their values.

Stock market mixed

NEW YORK (AP) — A late rally in oil issues and a renewed Reagan administration commitment to tax cuts sent stock prices surging in the final half hour of trading Tuesday after inching up and down for most of the day.

Stock market mixed table showing various stock prices and market activity.

Value of gold drops sharply

NEW YORK (AP) — The gold bugs of the world have undergone a severe test of faith lately. Over the past 12 months the price of gold has taken its sharpest drop in six years — from a peak of \$875 an ounce in January 1980 to under \$500 early this week.

As happens with most market convulsions, a wide variety of explanations, ranging from the simple to the abstruse, has been offered for gold's decline.

High interest rates are one of the first factors mentioned. At the moment, money-market investments are yielding considerably more than the rate of inflation.

Nonferrous metal

LEAD 33 cents a pound, up 1/2 cent. ZINC 41 1/4 cents a pound, delivered. ALUMINUM 76 cents a pound, N.Y. Gold \$424.25 per troy ounce, Handy & Harman (only daily quote).

Gold Futures

LONDON: morning fixing \$482.00, off \$7.50. afternoon fixing \$486.25, off \$11.25. Frankfurt: fixing \$483.40, off \$11.31.

Mutual funds

ABLE 21.31, up .01. PWT 12.88, up .01. AIV 21.56, up .01. TFP 21.83, up .01. AMFUND 11.48, up .01.

Additional listings

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF NEW YORK AND AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE LISTINGS ARE NOT REPRODUCED IN THE REPORTER-TELEGRAM'S REGULAR DAILY POSTINGS FOR THE EXCHANGES.

Commodities

PEPPER CATTLE. Mar 74.65, 71.35, 70.35, 70.47. Apr 71.70, 72.50, 71.70, 71.85. May 70.00, 71.30, 71.45, 72.15.

Over the counter

Quotations from the NASD are representative interdealer prices as of approximately 11 a.m. Interdealer markups change through the day.

American Exchange

NEW YORK (AP) — Today's selected national prices for American stock exchange issues.

ADM 10.80, up .01. AMT 21.80, up .01. AXP 46.75, up .01. BAC 42.50, up .01.

IBM 100.00, up .01. JNJ 55.00, up .01. KO 28.00, up .01. MCD 30.00, up .01.

PFE 25.00, up .01. SBC 25.00, up .01. VZ 25.00, up .01. XOM 42.00, up .01.

YAL 32.00, up .01. ZTC 32.00, up .01. AIG 32.00, up .01. FMC 32.00, up .01.

GS 32.00, up .01. HON 32.00, up .01. LDC 32.00, up .01. NIS 32.00, up .01.

RTI 32.00, up .01. VFC 32.00, up .01. WY 32.00, up .01. XEL 32.00, up .01.

XOM 42.00, up .01. YAL 32.00, up .01. ZTC 32.00, up .01. AIG 32.00, up .01.

FMC 32.00, up .01. GS 32.00, up .01. HON 32.00, up .01. LDC 32.00, up .01.

NIS 32.00, up .01. RTI 32.00, up .01. VFC 32.00, up .01. WY 32.00, up .01.

Business Mirror

NEW YORK (AP) — A late rally in oil issues and a renewed Reagan administration commitment to tax cuts sent stock prices surging.

Analysts also said a mass move by major banks to lower their prime lending rates to 19 1/2 percent from 20 percent, matching the level set last week.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 9.13 to 941.38 after plunging 15.02 points Monday.

Advances outnumbered declines by a 3-2 margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

Big Board volume reached 44.95 million shares, against 44.07 million in the previous session.

The nation's largest refiners, including Mobil, Standard Oil (Indiana) and Texaco, boosted wholesale prices of gasoline, home heating oil and diesel fuel as much as 5 cents a gallon Tuesday.

That helped the rally, said Eldon Grimm of Birt, Wilson & Co. An earlier selling wave among oil issues had been based, in part, upon investor concern that a glut in oil inventories would prevent companies from raising prices enough to offset increased costs.

Grimm also said bargain hunters began buying oil and blue-chip issues, which have fallen sharply in recent weeks.

On the American Exchange, Champion Home was the most active issue, up 1/4 at 2, and Dome Petroleum gained 2 to 67 3/4, after dropping 4 points Monday.

The NYSE's composite index of all its listed common stocks rose 0.81 to 73.48. At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index was up 1.84 at 335.87. The NASDAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market closed at 193.56, up 0.47.



Amex sales

Table with columns for stock symbols and sales figures.

UV

Table with columns for UV stock symbols and values.

W

Table with columns for W stock symbols and values.

XYZ

Table with columns for XYZ stock symbols and values.

Commodities

PEPPER CATTLE. Mar 74.65, 71.35, 70.35, 70.47. Apr 71.70, 72.50, 71.70, 71.85.

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page.

Dennis the Menace cartoon strip with dialogue and illustrations.

TODAY'S ANSWER grid for a crossword puzzle.

