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Rescuers struggle toward trapped miners

REDSTONE, Colo. (AP) — Rescue crews inched their way along a 7,200-foot sloping mine shaft early today, trying to reach 15 miners trapped by an explosion that swept through the lower limits of the Dutch Creek No. 1 coal mine on Colorado's Western Slope.

Seven men came out of the mine in two groups after the blast Wednesday afternoon. Four were uninjured, but three were admitted to Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs for treatment of burns, bruises and shock, officials said.

One of those who escaped unhurt, David Chiarello, said that when the explosion occurred, "air came at me sort of like a hurricane. It didn't

knock me over but there was so much dust I turned around and tucked my head in."

Company rescue teams making their way toward the 15 men, estimated to be as far as 7,000 feet into the mine, were having to stop occasionally to test the mine's air for deadly gases, a spokesman said.

By 10 a.m. EST, rescuers were less than 1,000 feet from where the men were believed to be, but progress was slow.

"We're praying that there will be 15 men coming out today," one miner who declined to give his name said early today. "There's a bunch of good men down there and a lot of good friends."

"We're like a family up here.... At times like this, everybody bands together. There are about 400 people waiting at home to hear what's happened."

One mining official, who asked not to be identified, said there appeared to be no methane in the chambers where rescue teams were working. But that could mean a buildup of the gas on the other side of the rubble that trapped the miners, he speculated.

Methane is a colorless, odorless, toxic and highly explosive gas similar to propane and natural gas. It occurs naturally underground and tends to form in pockets.

Five people identified as relatives of the trapped men sat in parked cars

at the foot of the 4½-mile entrance road to the mine. They avoided reporters, but rushed to hear any scraps of news from officials coming from the mine.

"We tell them to go home," said a mine security guard. "We tell them there's no use staying here. But when something like this happens, and it's someone in your family, you don't stop to think about things. You just get in your car and drive up here."

One woman in her 20s, who asked not to be named, spent the night in a lonely vigil in the lounge of the nearby Redstone Inn.

"They keep telling me to go home," she said, "but I can't go home. I'll stay here until we get word on wheth-

er they are all right."

The blast also knocked out the communications system in the mine, slowing the rescue attempt, authorities said.

The cause of the blast was not known.

Attorney Robert Delaney, a spokesman for Mid Continent Resources Co., operator of the mine, confirmed there was an explosion and said it occurred at about 4:15 p.m. MST, when 22 workers were in the mine.

A short time later, he said, three men emerged uninjured. Then a rescue team came out with four men who had been working as far as 5,000 feet from the mine entrance, he added.

Chiarello said he was working alone

at the time of the explosion and afterwards walked 1,000 feet into the mine where he found three men down but conscious.

He said he administered first aid and then attempted to go deeper but turned back because of heavy gas buildup.

"As far as methane is concerned," Chiarello said, "if you try to go in where methane just exploded, you'll just die yourself."

Chiarello estimated that the 15 men were trapped up to 2,000 feet beyond the point where he turned back.

Delaney said tests of mine air right after the explosion indicated a carbon monoxide buildup which later dissipated.



Not fit for man nor beast

This stray, wet pooch seemed to be looking for a home as he wandered through the rainy streets and sidewalks of downtown Midland Wednesday afternoon.

The rainfall (1.07 inches of it in the last three days) is expected to taper off tonight, with warming temperatures and clearing skies expected for Friday.

'Tax Day' talks lead sessions on economy

By LANA CUNNINGHAM
Political Writer

WASHINGTON — The battle plan was obvious. It was Tax Day 1981 — the annual nail-biting and wall-pounding event that sends many Americans into hysterical fits as Uncle Sam pulls out what he thinks is due him.

On this one day out of 365 in which taxes seem to be foremost on Americans' minds, President Reagan's planners initiated the first in a series of meetings with regional print and broadcast representatives to send the message that Tax Day need not always be that painful — that is, if the president's proposed economic plan makes it through Congress in one piece.

About 55 media representatives from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Georgia, Alabama and Florida answered Vice President George Bush's mailgram to attend a "briefing at the White House" in which "key administration officials will join me to brief you on President Reagan's economic recovery program."

Throughout the five-hour session, the emphasis was placed on those final three words — "economic recovery program." And it was as if all forces had been gathered in one spot to fight off opposing troops that had announced alternative plans last week, primarily those put forth by U.S. Rep. Jim Jones of Oklahoma.



Management and Budget; and Donald Regan, secretary of the Treasury.

Regan was the surprise of the day. He popped into the briefing room, normally used by the national media when President Reagan holds a news conference, to read a prepared statement from the president. This, too, reminded the taxpayer that they "pay too much of their earnings to the federal government. And Americans will continue to pay too much money...until the Congress acts on our proposals to reduce tax rates across the board. It's time to stop stripping bare the productive citizens of America and funneling their hard-earned income into the federal bureaucracy."

The battle plan for the day featured David Gurgen, assistant to the president and staff director, setting up the attack; Bush mustering all the forces together

Reporter-Telegram political writer Lana Cunningham is in Washington, D.C., for special briefings of selected newspaper representatives by Vice President George Bush and other administration officials. Today's report deals with the Reagan economic plan.

SPEAKERS INCLUDED Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary, substituting for James Brady, who is still recovering from a gunshot wound to the head suffered on March 30; Vice President Bush; Murray Wiedebaum, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; Norman Ture, undersecretary of the Treasury; David Stockman, director of the Office of

for a head-on attack which he directed; and Wiedebaum, Stockman and Regan fighting the minor skirmishes and completing a clean-sweep of the battleground.

GURGEN OPENED his comments by saying, "Happy Tax Day," and went on to explain that a "Reagan Revolution is trying to change the direction of the country."

But a critical time will hit Capitol Hill after the Easter recess, which will come about April 28, he said. At this point, congressmen will have returned from talking to their constituents and will begin to solidify their votes on the proposed budget and tax

(See BRIEFINGS, Page 2A)

Testimony for THFC completed

By SUE FAHLGREN
Staff Writer

AUSTIN — Testimony at the third and final day of the Texas Health Facilities Commission hearing here was anti-climactic compared to the previous testimony for Medical Center Hospital's application for a 6 Million Electron Volt Linear Accelerator.

Although testimony wrapped up just before 2 p.m. Wednesday, a decision on the application may be months in coming.

Kevin A. Reed, hearing officer for the THFC, said there would be "a month's delay between today and when I could look at this again." Reed explained that because of other postponed hearings, the THFC is behind in its decisions by at least a month.

After Reed goes through testimony again, he will send materials to a three-member board of commissioners, along with his recommendation. After that, the commissioners have an unlimited amount of time in which to make their decision.

chose May 8 as the date to submit their final proposed findings of fact on the case and Reed said he would submit his recommendation to the committee by mid-May. However, commissioners could take up to mid-June for their decision.

Dr. James W. McGee, radiologist for Midland Memorial Hospital, said "time becomes the ally of the Allison Center." He explained the delay would allow the Allison Center to open and begin operation before any decision would be rendered.

Forcing a delay of delivery to Odessa of the already ordered Atomic Energy of Canada Limited 6MEV linear accelerator, the delayed decision would seem to improve the Allison Center's standing, whether it would be for or against Odessa's application.

According to Mickey Cappadonna, MMH trustee who also is president of the Regional Advisory Council for the

Allison Center, the commission's finding may not be the final word on whether or not Odessa gets its cancer machine. After the final ruling is announced, it can be appealed in district court, Cappadonna pointed out before the hearings.

Both sides seemed to be optimistic about the outcome, however, in off-the-record comments.

Attorneys for both parties opted to discontinue questioning of H.L. McKenzie, facilities planning consultant for the Allison Permian Basin Cancer Therapy Center, who became the object of lengthy questioning at the completion of Tuesday's hearing.

TESTIFYING IN Wednesday's proceedings were Medical Consultant Jack Massimino of Salt Lake City, Utah, Dr. McGee and Cappadonna.

Massimino, who is vice president of health services with John Short and Associates, Inc., presented a study he

had completed for MMH in February on the financial impact of Odessa's receiving the 6MEV.

Under cross-examination by Odessa attorney Joe Webber, Massimino said he was not hired merely to substantiate Midland's case. "They assumed there would be some financial impact and they hired me to determine whether there would," Massimino said.

According to his findings, Massimino said the facility (Allison Center) could lose \$261,000. Massimino said he based his findings on "the financial impact that would be due to additional loss from 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 procedures" at the Allison Center because of a second 6MEV in the area.

In a heated exchange, Webber accused Massimino, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in hospital administration, of not being an expert witness and spent time looking through Webster's Dictionary for the name of the college (California Western University) from which Massimino received

(See TESTIMONY, Page 2A)

Rancher, 76, indicted in deaths of fishermen

MERTZON — A 76-year-old rancher, described by sources as rich and eccentric, has been indicted in the shooting deaths of two fishermen on Spring Creek March 22.

Mortimer "Bubba" Hall was arrested on a warrant signed by State District Judge Earl Smith, following a lengthy special session of the Irion County grand jury Wednesday. Bonds of \$50,000 were set on each of the murder charges.

Hall was under guard at a San Angelo hospital this morning. He had checked into the hospital Wednesday afternoon for treatment of high blood pressure and alcoholism, according to Sheriff Delmon West.

The two fishermen were 34-year-old John Bernardon of Midland and David Adams, 32, of Rollin Acres. Their bodies were discovered about 8 p.m. March 22. Bernardon was found sprawled in a rowboat, while Adams was found in four or five feet of water. They had been fishing since early that morning and had been shot numerous times with a small caliber weapon.

Several small caliber weapons were found near the scene, which was on a portion of the creek that wound through Hall's property.

Sources say Hall was a wealthy Mertzson rancher "with odd ways." Several complaints had been made about him to local authorities over the years, but only one of them resulted in court action, according to West.

In 1976 he was fined \$200 on a disorderly conduct charge. The other complaints were either dropped by the complaining parties or ignored by local officials, according to sources. The complaints stemmed from similar shooting incidents which, however, did not injure anyone.

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Weather

Cloudy tonight with a slight chance of showers. Warmer Friday. Details on Page 2A.

Service

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

SILENT WITNESS

685-1190

(Note: An illustration of a person with a hand raised is visible in the background of the ad.)

El Salvador characterized by confusion

By ED TODD
Staff Writer

El Salvador, the troubled Central America republic beset by a teeming population and the classic wealth vs. poor struggle, is "one of the most confused populations anywhere in the world," said a Baptist missionary who recently returned from the so-called "Banana Republic" that produces no bananas.

The country is controlled "by the wealthy and by the military...and the others just sort of stand around," said the preacher, E. Hoyt Eudaly, who first visited the country of volcanic plateaus and political turmoil in 1956 and returned for a 2½-year tour in 1979.

"Why did the lid blow off?" the 68-year-old minister asked rhetorically.

He responded: "They (revolutionaries) wanted to improve the lot of the extremely poor

people," he said. "It (the war) is not political. It's economic, psychological and (then) political."

After the insurrection, land was taken from the wealthy landowners and re-distributed to the workers — to those who had tilled and toiled over the land," the missionary told the Midland Downtown Lions Club on Wednesday noon in the Midland Center.

Banks were nationalized, and so were plantations and the coffee, cattle, cane, corn and cotton industries.

Eudaly said that the reported 10,000 to 15,000 people killed by the new leftists most likely is a low count; an accurate one may never be made.

The massacres might be considered warring among so-called Christians.

"Nearly everyone considers himself a Christian," said the minister, whose principal duty was distributing Spanish-language literature in the country of 5 million mostly-hungry people who are starving for a direct-

ion in life, a new spirituality and for physical sustenance.

"It's just teeming with people," the preacher said.

And most Salvadorans claim allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church, although they are increasingly skeptical of the church's leadership and intentions.

"When you hear of 'Christians fighting Christians,' that doesn't mean anything," Eudaly said. "It's people fighting people."

Eudaly, who now is a missionary-in-residence at The First Baptist Church of Midland, said that the United States "talk about military advisers" in El Salvador certainly is not novel. Military "advisers" from throughout the world have been in this small (about the size of Massachusetts) nation of 5 million people. He said that 53 countries are represented by military advisers in the weary nation.

While living in San Salvador, the

country's capital, Eudaly said he and his wife, Marie, "lived as low a profile as possible."

"We were very careful," he said, and honored the curfew, which ordered people off the streets between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The guerrillas are the leftists, who make up 10 to 20 percent of the population.

The rich, very much in the minority, are far from popular.

"Who loves a rich man?" he posed.

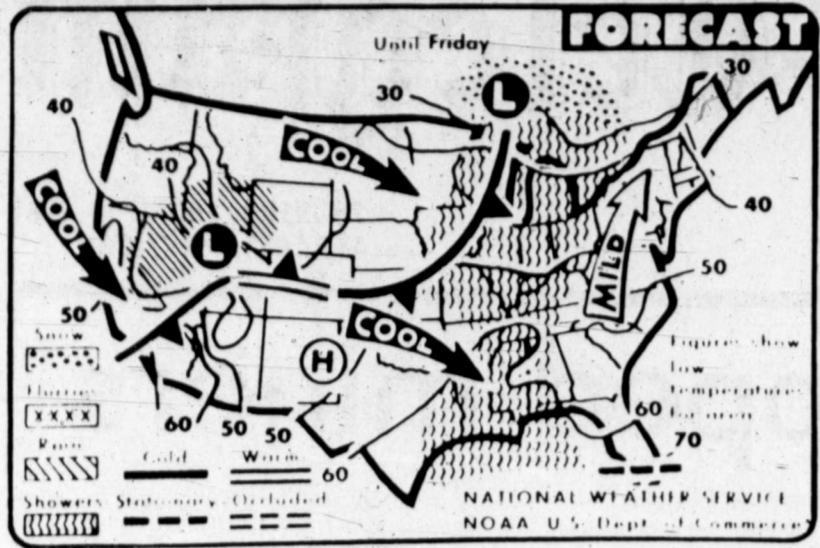
The spiritually-adrift majority just stands around and waits for change.

"Most of the people are spectators," he said. "They don't talk about 'we,' " Eudaly said. "They talk about 'them.'"

"There's an aspect of resignation among the helpless majority," he surmised. "There's a revolution going

(See MINISTER, Page 2A)

WEATHER SUMMARY



Showers are expected today until Friday morning, from the Gulf to the Great Lakes. Rain is expected for the central Rockies. Mild weather is forecast in the East but most of the nation is expected to be cooler.

Midland statistics

Table with weather forecast, national weather service readings, local temperatures, and southwest temperatures.

The weather elsewhere

Table listing weather conditions for various cities including Albany, Albuquerque, Amarillo, and others.

Texas temperatures

Table showing high, low, and precipitation for various Texas cities like Abilene, Alice, Alpine, and Amarillo.

Texas area forecasts

West Texas: Decreasing cloudiness north today, becoming partly cloudy tonight and Friday. Mostly cloudy south with widely scattered showers of thundershowers through tonight. Highs 65 to 78. Lows 45 to 58. Highs Friday 75 to 88.

Border state forecasts

Oklahoma: Considerable cloudiness central and east with widely scattered showers and thundershowers through tonight, otherwise partly cloudy and warmer through Friday. Highs 70s. Lows 40s and 50s. Highs Friday 80s.

Probability of more rain to drop to 20 percent tonight

Portions of the Permian Basin continued to receive long-awaited spring rains early this morning, although by tonight the probability for additional precipitation will drop to only 20 percent.

Midland received an official .42 inch in a 24-hour period beginning early Wednesday, while a location near Garfield and Neely recorded .21 during the night. Midland's three-day total stood at 1.07 inch, while the 1981 precipitation rose to 3.51.

Daniel, sister relationship called 'weird'

LIBERTY, Texas (AP) — Jean Daniel Murph, accused of having a "weird" relationship with her brother, Price Daniel Jr., said those accusations are the product of an "overactive imagination and a 'sick mind.'"

of her husband, hotly denied there was anything abnormal about her relationship with her brother. "... that is insanity," she said outside the courtroom. "It never occurred. It's just indicative of all the other stories she told. It's just imagination ... it's indicative of a sick mind."

Briefings concentrate on economy

(Continued from Page 1A)

cuts. Meanwhile, during this break, the alternate plan offered by Rep. Jones will be publicized widely, according to Gergen.

Gergen was the first in the long line of Wednesday's speakers to deny that the president is willing to even think of a compromise on his economic package, and primarily the tax cuts of 30 percent.

Bush, formerly of Midland, said the public "has a tendency to hyperanalyze every decision of this process." He pointed out that Reagan has made progress in that "no one has said that taxes shouldn't be cut at all."

Reagan's four-part package calls for budget cuts, tax cuts, reduction in excessive regulation and accelerated capital recovery.

QUESTIONED ABOUT the negative effects of the plan on already-strapped Americans, Bush replied, "When conditions are not rosy, people hurt. They're already hurting today. Yes, it's possible to hear more squealing when programs are cut."

However, if passed in its current form, Bush predicted the country would be seeing an upswing in the economy by the end of the year.

A packet given to each media representative contained a fact sheet showing the differences between the budget proposed by Reagan and the recent proposal by Rep. Jones. According to that fact sheet, Reagan calls for spending to hit \$695 billion by fiscal year 1982, \$732 billion by fiscal year 1983 and \$770 billion by fiscal year 1984.

Jones' budget, however, has spending at \$714 billion in 1982, \$778 billion in 1983 and \$837 billion in 1984.

Tax levels in Jones' budget also run higher, according to the fact sheet. While the Administration

calls for \$650 billion in tax levels for 1982, \$778 billion in 1983 and \$865 billion in 1984, Jones proposes \$689 billion in 1982, \$778 billion the following year and \$865 billion the year after that. According to Reagan's staff, by 1984, that would mean an additional \$94 billion in taxes over what Reagan is wanting.

Weidenbaum, an economist, criticized former President Jimmy Carter's economic policy, calling it a "stop and go" plan with inflation highlighted one year and unemployment the next. Reagan's plan, he stated, "will fight both simultaneously. It's not a quick fix."

FOLLOWING REAGAN'S plan and referring to the current Administration as having a life of eight years, Weidenbaum predicted that by 1986 the U.S. would have a low inflation rate and a high growth economy.

The effect of this program, he claimed, would "reduce the role of government in our daily lives. Small businesses will be a special beneficiary of it. It's small business that has been hurt by big government."

Hopefully, he added, inflation will drop to 8 percent by 1982 and 6 percent by 1983.

Looking at Jones' suggestions for the budget, Weidenbaum chortled that "he is a fine gentleman. We'll be glad to explain this program to him again, and I think he'll come closer to agreeing with us." Shortcomings in his budget, said Weidenbaum, are in the defense area.

Reagan's proposal would eliminate double taxation of dividends, he said. And, if history repeats itself, tax cuts should stimulate savings, thus increasing jobs in the private sector by 12 million.

On the international level, these effects within the U.S. will translate into increased productivity,

more competition from American industries and an increase in exports.

TURE REPEATED much of what Weidenbaum said, and dwelled on income tax brackets.

"We're trying to fine-tune the economy. What we've done in the past is inhibit growth. The name of the game here is to turn the economy back to the people," said the undersecretary of the Treasury.

The current depreciation policy of businesses, he charged, is antique, and Reagan's proposal changes that. "Expansion of productivity in the manufacturing sector is slowing" as a result of that current depreciation policy.

The man who is called the "architect" of the president's economic plan, David Stockman, dug into the proposal deeper than preceding speakers, with figures flowing off his tongue as easily as the alphabet.

In battling with Jones' plan, Stockman accused the congressman of "using gimmicks to make his totals look good. We believe the budget is a pretty darn serious matter. Savings won't materialize under Jones' plan."

And while Jones defers his tax cut until 1982, Stockman claimed, "We feel the economy needs a boost and stimulus today" with Reagan's program. "The purpose of this economic program is to change the course of the country. We wouldn't go to all this trouble if by 1982 inflation is the same as it is today, or if the interest rates were only 1/2 of 1 percent lower."

"This policy is designed to produce results," Stockman said.

And that's just what the White House staff hopes the Wednesday briefing will achieve — results on the local front.

House tentatively OKs bill on teacher insurance

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A group insurance bill for school teachers, which one legislator said would "subsidize" insurance companies, has gained tentative House approval.

Final action, which would send the measure to the Senate, was expected today.

The Texas State Teachers Association, which backed the bill, said 555 of

the state's 1,000 school districts do not provide group insurance for their teachers.

Group life and health insurance generally is cheaper than individual policies.

If the bill passes, there would be both local group insurance plans and a statewide plan. Teachers in school districts without a local plan could

belong to the state plan.

The state would be authorized to pay part of each teacher's premium, at a cost that could run as high as \$64 million next year and over \$200 million annually if teachers get the same \$40 a month for insurance as state employees.

Rep. Foster Whaley, D-Pampa, objected to the bill, saying many teach-

ers already are covered by their spouses' group insurance. He said that when a claim is filed, it probably would be paid by the spouse's insurer rather than the teachers'.

"You are going to be subsidizing the insurance companies," Whaley said. "... The insurance companies are going to be the beneficiaries of this plan."

Minister sees El Salvador as 'confused'

(Continued from Page 1A)

on for people who are spectators."

Eudaly said that the increasing disillusionment with the Roman Catholic Church in the predominantly "rural" country is due to the church's favoritism with the wealthy and the government. And he perceives that more and more Salvadorans are seeking a spiritual life outside of the traditional church.

"How can I find out about Jesus?" Eudaly said more and more people are asking. "How can I get Christ in my soul?"

Answers to those questions may be gleaned in literature published by the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso and distributed by the missionary in El Salvador.

"There's a spiritual gap of people looking for something," Eudaly said. "Death is not the answer."



"It (the war in El Salvador) is not political. It's economic, psychological and (then) political."

Staff Photo by Chad Poirier — E. Hoyt Eudaly

Judge refuses to reduce bail

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — A Municipal Court judge refused to reduce a \$10 million bail for a Texas man suspected of dealing cocaine and pointing a gun at a car repossessor last week.

"It looks like the defendant is prepared to flee ... in fact I'm not convinced that with \$10 million he will appear," said Judge Joseph Lodge at the conclusion of a bail hearing that lasted about one hour.

Lodge had set the bail at \$10 million for Michael Bickers, 40, of Dallas, in an informal hearing Sunday after speaking with jail personnel on the telephone.

Testimony closes Wednesday

(Continued from Page 1A)

his bachelor's degree. Spending at least 15 minutes on the matter, Webber finally challenged Massimino to compute an additional loss statement while on the stand.

MASSIMINO FOUND that if the Allison Center were to lose 6,137 radiation procedures and 75 chemotherapy procedures to MCH, the center would have an additional loss of \$59,144 before depreciation and contractual agreements.

Dr. McGee gave a brief summary of the history of the Allison Center's development. "Initial studies at the HSA (Health Systems Agency) level showed that there could be two viable centers in the area. However, that was based on a no-growth level in Odessa at the time the Allison Center was a viable entity," McGee said.

He admitted that there was an opportunity for Odessa to upgrade its services to include a linear accelerator. However, he pointed out, it should be after "the Allison Center has been in operation and develops a track record."

McGee continued, "I don't believe there is any need for them (Odessa) to change those services. Right now, the Allison Center is a fledgling operation. He explained two 6MEVs in the area would "hurt both institutions. However, it will do more damage to the fledgling Allison Center."

McGee said later "the whole point is that the Allison Center needs to be established. (Right now) it doesn't have any past history." He said the Center had no way of knowing what a second 6MEV would do to its operation financially.

IN ADDITION, McGee said when MMH applied for the Allison Center it was understood the cobalt machine in Odessa would be available for area use. "The idea was to provide within the HSA 12 a comprehensive program" so that patients would not necessarily

have to leave the area," McGee said.

Without the Odessa machine, the closest cobalt radiation machine for superficial or palliative radiation treatment would be in San Angelo, he said.

The most contested testimony of the day came when Cappadonna took the stand. Cappadonna, who has been involved with the Allison Center project since its inception, explained that from the outset "we have had a lot of cooperation of good people from Odessa to get our center. This was a regional effort and not the Midland-Odessa conflict you've been hearing for the last few days."

However, Webber challenged Cappadonna, reading earlier testimony at the THFC during the Allison Center application hearing in late 1979. Quoting MMH Board of Directors President Ed Magruder, Webber read that "even if the Allison Center did not get a penny of income, the hospital district would only have a "13 to 16 percent increase in taxes."

WEBBER ASKED Cappadonna how Midlanders could be upset about funding the center with taxes if Magruder had testified of the triviality of

the matter in an earlier hearing. "That may have been Mr. Magruder's feeling," Cappadonna said, "however, he is certainly not in the same economic strata as the rest of us. I am concerned about what this will cost."

Cappadonna testified that he had no idea MCH would seek to upgrade its radiation services when an application was made for the Allison Center. "What we didn't realize was that they (MCH) would be putting in a 6MEV before we could even get our feet wet at the Allison Center," Cappadonna said.

Again reading from earlier testimony, MMH attorney Fred Davis cited a statement from MCH administrator Sam Glenney, who said the cobalt unit in 1979 was "considered the workhorse of many radiation centers."

"That's what had been represented to us," Cappadonna said. "The machine only got bad in the last few days," he added sarcastically.

Webber had pointed out earlier in Glenney's statement at that hearing MCH had agreed to keep its cobalt machine and would be upgrading its services.

'Macho Bandit' is a real steal

HOUSTON (AP) — A polite, good-looking robber authorities have nicknamed the "Macho Bandit" has teamed with two other men and struck eight Houston savings and loan offices since mid-March, police say.

"We call him the Macho Bandit because the tellers say he is so polite and so good-looking and apparently isn't concerned he might get caught," said robbery detective O.G. King.

Fort Bend Savings and Loan Association on Wednesday and fled with an undetermined amount of money. No one was injured, King said.

Authorities suspect the "Macho Bandit" is a 27-year-old convict who escaped March 18 from the federal prison at Bastrop where he was serving time for a conviction connected with a 1976 bank robbery in Arkansas.

King says the bandit dresses in a suit and carries a pistol and a shoulder holster.

"He comes into the savings and loans, always talks politely to the girls and tells them to go ahead and take his picture while he is there," King said.

Police have described the "Macho Bandit" as 6-feet-4, weighing 220 pounds, with brown hair and a "good talk."

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Judge permits introduction of evidence at AT&T trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors have succeeded in introducing into evidence a document designed to show that American Telephone & Telegraph Co. destroyed documents it feared would be used against it.

The document also contains unsubstantiated hints at bribery and maintenance of an "enemies list" of economists by "Ma Bell," owner of 85 percent of the nation's telephones.

The document admitted over the company's objections Wednesday was part of a deposition taken from Leigh Tripoli, an AT&T employee,

last year in a private anti-trust suit against the giant utility by MCI Communications Corp., operator of a competing long-distance service.

A deposition is a statement made under oath to attorneys in a lawsuit. Ms. Tripoli's had been referred to in MCI court filings but its contents had not been known until the ruling Wednesday made a partial transcript available.

U.S. District Judge Harold H. Green, who is hearing the government's case against AT&T without a jury, said the deposition contained "matters ... scandalous to a number of individuals, as well as being prejudicial to Bell, and a jury would be very likely to be prejudiced and misled."

He said he had not decided what weight to give the document and admitted it as "relevant to proof of the state of mind of the defendants at the time the events at issue occurred." He noted it "failed to generate an indictment" after a long investigation.

According to the deposition, Ms. Tripoli said another AT&T official had told her not to report the destruction of documents to federal prosecutors because AT&T would simply "paint the

grand jury ... green."

Asked what she understood that comment to mean, Ms. Tripoli replied: "I understood him to mean bribe."

Federal prosecutors in New York investigated the alleged destruction of documents in the mid-1970's, but a grand jury declined to return any indictments. The Justice Department raised the allegations in the current trial aimed at breaking up AT&T after calling William McGowan, the founder and chairman of the MCI Communications Corp., to the witness stand.

The prosecutors assert it was a threat by McGowan in 1973 to file an antitrust suit against AT&T that touched off the destruction of internal documents. MCI did sue in 1974 and last year, a federal jury in Chicago awarded the company a record \$1.8 billion in damages. The Chicago judge did not permit Ms. Tripoli's deposition to be used.

AT&T attorney George Saunders received permission after Wednesday's ruling to take depositions of his own to counter Ms. Tripoli's allegations. Charles Dynes, an AT&T spokesman, said the company had no immediate comment on the allegations.

Buildings burn as firefighters strike

YONKERS, N.Y. (AP) — As striking firefighters looked on, a few civilians and the mayor tried to contain fires that destroyed at least six buildings and damaged several others in this industrial city early today, officials say.

Scores of people were driven from burning apartment buildings into the chill night. There were no reports of injuries.

Some firefighters and equipment coming from other Westchester County cities and towns under a mutual aid agreement were stopped by strikers, according to authorities.

Yonkers, the state's fourth largest city with a population of 204,000, was left without fire protection Wednesday when the city's 300 firefighters and 127 uniformed fire officers walked off their jobs.

The strikers firefighters are members of United Firefighters Association Local 628. The striking officers belong to the Fire Officers Association.

Those unions and two others — Teamsters Local 456, representing public works and parks workers, and the Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants Association,

representing ranking police officers — have been bargaining with the city over fringe benefits to be included in new contracts retroactive to last July.

A tentative agreement on a wage package was reached last September, but failure to agree on the fringe benefits prevented the contracts from being ratified.

Meanwhile, the unions representing the 85 police officers and 420 Department of Public Works and Department of Parks workers scheduled membership meetings today, presumably to decide whether to join the firefighters' walkout.

Police Lt. Joseph Messina said he had no reports of arson in the blazes, which destroyed four apartment buildings, a furniture warehouse with a bar on the ground floor and an appliance store.

Initially, firefighters from Dobbs Ferry and Hastings refused to answer alarms in Yonkers. Later, trucks arriving from Dobbs Ferry and Mount Vernon were surrounded by pickets who convinced the firemen to return home, officials said.

A fire company com-


ing from Arsdley was turned back by Yonkers Fire Commissioner Richard Smith who apparently feared for their safety.

Earlier, Mayor Gerald Loehr had said firefighters from other towns would be willing to help out in Yonkers and would be allowed to help.

"We have indications they will not be interfered with if they do respond," Loehr had said, several hours before he and other civilians tried to help stem the spread of the fires.

Loehr helped Smith stretch a hose from a hydrant to wet down a burning apartment building.

The firefighters, who earn an average of \$17,400 a year, have been trying to win a shorter work week. Loehr said



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A unifying flight

When the space shuttle Columbia touched down on Rogers Dry Lake in California Tuesday, a feeling like a charge of electricity raced the length and breadth of the United States. The flight of Columbia was important for the American people because of what it represented.

Battered and tossed by the increasing waves of anti-American sentiment in recent years, Americans have seen their technological "hedge" undermined, their hard-earned glory tarnished. There was a need for reassurance.

The success of Columbia provided a unifying force for Americans much akin to the emotions experienced when Ronald Reagan was elected president and when, just after he was inaugurated, the 52 Americans held illegally by Iran for 444 days were released and returned to the nation.

That feeling of unity is a mixture of joy, confidence, self-assurance, pride and infallibility. It is the reawakening of our confidence in ourselves and our technological abilities; that feeling that surely must have surged through the Wright brothers when their fragile aircraft initiated flight. It is the feeling generated by doing the impossible or the unbelievable.

The future of the nation's space program may not be assured by the success of Columbia, but at the very least it is greatly en-

hanced. The United States once again has assumed the leadership role in the exploration of space, a role that had been questioned in recent years.

But the space shots by the Soviet Union and the other nations around the globe take a back seat when viewed after the excitement of the world's first shuttle flight.

The race for space is no longer a race; it really never has been. With only one virtually perfect flight the United States assumed the commanding role. It will remain in that role as long as the people of the nation are willing to devote the financial and scientific emphasis necessary to keep it there.

In this time of economic belt-tightening Americans are weighing each expenditure on a cost-benefit yardstick. That doesn't mean we should not continue to have a space program; rather, it means we should spend our dollars earmarked for space research carefully. We should get the most for our money.

Shuttle flight is one means of stretching our dollars committed to space research. We are confident that future flights will reinforce that view.

Judging from the technological advances experienced following the commitment given the space program in years gone by, it would be unwise to fail to give it a reasonable priority.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 16, the 106th day of 1981. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On April 16, 1917, the Communist leader Lenin returned to Russia after years of exile to assume leadership of the Russian revolutionary movement.

On this date: In 1906, the Pacific cable was completed between the United States and China.

In 1945, U.S. troops entered Nuremberg, Germany, during World War II.

In 1947, more than 500 people died in fires and explosions at Texas City, Texas, when a French freighter loaded with nitrate blew up.

In 1972, the Apollo 16 astronauts

were launched toward the moon from Cape Kennedy, Fla.

Ten years ago: President Richard Nixon said the United States would not halt air raids in Vietnam until North Vietnam released all American prisoners of war.

Five years ago: India announced a new birth control plan to slow the nation's population growth.

One year ago: Iran announced the formation of an "Islamic Revolutionary Army" and called for a Holy War to overthrow the secular government of Iraq.

Today's birthdays: Conductor-composer Henry Mancini is 57 years old. Singer Dusty Springfield is 42. And entertainer Bobby Vinton is 46.

Thought for today: One great use of words is to hide our thoughts — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778)

HEMISPHERE REPORT

Promise of triumph seen in Central American countries

ST. PHILIP, Barbados — Central America depends on one's point of view.

Visitors from the United States mostly seem to see Central America through dark glasses and to take a dim view of the area's future.

Central Americans themselves readily acknowledge the problems they face but generally are much less pessimistic, even hopeful.

From north and west to south and east, which is the way Central America runs, the panorama varies considerably.

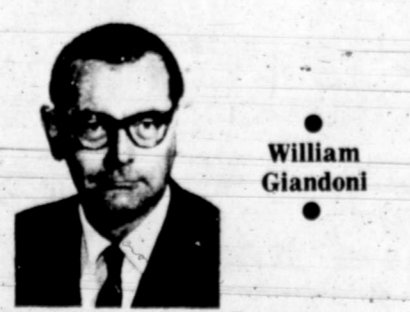
As Rodrigo Madrigal of the newspaper La Nacion, San Jose, Costa Rica, told the recent Inter American Press Association meeting here, Guatemala is politically and socially the most unstable of the Central American countries.

Although Guatemalans are hard-working, social and class distinctions there are the greatest in Central America. Sixty percent of the people have no access to education.

That favors subversion, and long has.

President Romeo Lucas, an army general elected in 1978, and his government have been fighting Marxist guerrillas all the way, just as the military and civilian presidents before him have had to do since the overthrow of the left-leaning regime of President Jacobo Arbenz in 1954.

In Honduras, a junta headed by Gen. Policarpo Paz Garcia runs the country. His administration is taking steps to return Honduras to constitutional government with free elections expected to be held. According to Madrigal, Honduras enjoys consider-



William Glandoni

able stability but the country borders on both troubled El Salvador, with which it now enjoys relatively good relations, and on Nicaragua, with which it has had some border encounters. Sooner or later, Marxist violence can be expected to erupt there, too.

Costa Rica is, as it has been for three decades, the oasis of democracy in Central America. Politically and socially, Costa Rica is the most stable of the countries in the region.

According to Madrigal, the only cloud on its horizon would seem to be the "economic crisis" through which the nation is passing. But, because of Costa Rica's otherwise good record, the World Bank is helping the country correct its economic problems so that it can resume paying its foreign debts.

The Costa Rican newsman said Panama, which generally prefers not to be numbered among the Central American countries, is moving toward a "pseudo-democracy." Although Panama is nominally headed by a civilian president, Aristides Royo, Gen. Omar Torrijos, head of the National Guard, the man with

whom President Carter negotiated the treaties that will return the Canal to Panama the end of this century, has actually run the country most of the time since the coup of 1968. Nevertheless, Panama enjoys economic stability and the confidence of international bankers who have made it an important financial center.

The two Central American countries that are the focus of most tension are El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Nicaragua has been under the rule of the Marxists who head the Sandinista National Liberation Front since the ouster of Gen. Anastasio Somoza in July 1979.

The struggle against Somoza united virtually the whole Nicaraguan people — priests, laymen, students, peasants, everyone. But after Somoza was forced into exile, the Marxists ended up in control and have tightened their grip on political power since then to the exclusion of the non-Marxists.

Madrigal voiced the opinion that the Sandinistas "know they cannot go far."

Although he did not say so, the Sandinistas obviously recognize that they can count on Cuba and the Soviet Union only for moral support, but that they must rely on the United States for food to feed their people and dollars to finance their reconstruction.

El Salvador, in Madrigal's informed opinion, is one of the most dynamic Central American countries in the matter of industrial and urban development. He pointed to the growth of the middle class there in recent decades, and credited the managerial and industrial sectors

with having slowed the attempt "to insert a Marxist wedge in the heart of our America," Madrigal said.

He also said that recent U.S. military assistance to El Salvador, which had been denied the country and its government since 1977, was decisive.

Nevertheless, Madrigal, like most other observers of the Central American scene, insisted that "the solution in El Salvador, as eventually in Guatemala and also Honduras, is not military."

"The solution is economic."

At the moment, Central America appears to be the weakest link in the chain of Latin American countries. But if the vicious circle of underdevelopment can be broken, and the middle class stands firm against Marxist subversion, Madrigal seemed to be saying, democracy in the Western world and in the Americas will triumph.

'YOU WILL HANDLE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS — NYET?'



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ART BUCHWALD

President's 'safety net' won't catch all who fall

When the new administration first came into office, they put bids out on a safety net that would take care of the really underprivileged, and disadvantaged, when David Stockman and his budget cutters pushed most of the government social programs out the window.

Originally, the specifications called for the safety net to be large enough to save all the needy in the United States.

It has not been constructed yet, and I went over to the contractor to find out why.

The vice president of the project said it wasn't his fault. "We had the thing built," he said. "But every time we were ready to deliver it, we got a call from the Stockman people saying we had to make it smaller. Originally, the safety net was designed to save needy people on welfare, those suffering from hunger, lack of shelter, as well as the unemployed, Vietnam veterans, minority youths and senior citizens. It was a pretty good net, if I must say so myself.

"But then someone from OMB came over to look at it and said, 'We're going to have to make some changes. We've decided the safety net will catch too many people. Could you make it lighter and narrower?'"

"I told him we could, but I wasn't too sure how safe it would be.

"If we cut out school lunches, education benefits, and public housing, you won't need such heavy rope will you?" he asked me. I said, "No we



Art Buchwald

won't. But what happens if the people who benefited from those programs fall?"

"He said, 'They'll just have to pick themselves up from the sidewalk and walk away.'"

"So we went back to the drawing boards, and came up with a net that would only be able to catch the absolutely down and out, who had no other place to go but in the net.

"We were testing it when we got a call from the budget cutters, who said they had miscalculated on their figures and wanted us to reduce the size of the safety net by another 20 percent. 'We can no longer catch the people on food stamps, and we've eliminated the legal-aid programs for the poor, and we're cutting out mass transportation grants, day care centers, and job employment training projects, as well as veterans benefits,' they told us. 'By doing this we can cut down on the number of people holding the net. It has to be done if we want to get government spending in line.'"

The project vice president said, "I told them I'd make any net they wanted, but I wouldn't take the responsibility for what happened when the people walking a tight rope in America realized there was nothing underneath them. They said it wasn't my responsibility.

"I thought I had it just the right size, when I got another call from the OMB asking me if I could make the net slightly bigger. I asked them 'How big?' and they said, 'Big enough to catch all the tobacco farmers.' It seemed that Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina, who has a lot to say about what the administration does, wanted to make sure the tobacco interests had a place to jump if they had to.

"So we made the net large enough to catch the tobacco farmers, but small enough so no other farmers would be able to use it. I've made a lot of safety nets in my time, but this one really was a lulu.

"Well, we had it all ready to ship over to Stockman when the phone rang again, and the voice on the other end said, 'By the way, is your safety net strong enough to catch the military industrial complex?'" I said, "Are you crazy? It can hardly hold six ghetto people in Chicago."

"Well, we have to have a net that will catch the contractors who are making all the new weapons for the Pentagon."

"What for?" I wanted to know. And he replied, "We think we've given them enough rope but they insist on a net to protect them against inflation, cost overruns and stuff that doesn't work. They say they won't build military hardware unless they have a safety net under them, so they won't get hurt!"

"I told them, 'Do you realize how big a net you're going to need for that?' and all the guy said was 'Don't worry about it. Money is no object.'"

MARK RUSSELL SAYS

In an unemotional spirit of non-combative compromise, I propose that since the gun laws probably won't change, the least the National Rifle Association could do is to pay for the get-well and sympathy cards.

The NRA could work out a deal with a greeting card company. Whenever you purchase a card to send to a friend winged by a handgun, the company could validate the card like a parking-lot ticket and send the bill to the Rifle Association.

I know this won't stop the daily shootout, but at least the NRA will demonstrate that it "cares enough to send the very best."

Compared to the profits from handgun sales, the cost of greeting cards is a mere pittance. Perhaps if we ease up on them, the NRA might even go for the flowers.

BIBLE VERSE

Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. II Tim. 3:16

the small society



Zimbabwe observes anniversary

Black-governed nation making stride

By JOHN EDLIN
Associated Press Writer

SALISBURY, Zimbabwe (AP) — A wholesale exodus of whites didn't materialize, as predicted. Farmers are growing so much food that they may soon be exporting to neighboring black countries. The economy is picking up.

As Zimbabwe observes its first year as an independent, black-governed nation Saturday, the country is a bigger success than many predicted. But it still has a way to go before it can sever all its trading links with South Africa, the last country on the continent to be run by a white minority.

Robert Mugabe, the former guerrilla leader who is now prime minister, watched proudly last April 18 as the multicolor flag of the new nation of Zimbabwe rose over a Salisbury soccer stadium for the first time, symbolizing the end of white rule.

Former Prime Minister Ian Smith's

white supporters were saying that Mugabe was a Marxist terrorist who would seize their land, homes, jobs and bank accounts. They said the more than 200,000 whites would be forced to flee, and the economy would founder.

They predicted civil war between the guerrilla armies that, although rivals, were allied in the seven-year guerrilla war to end white rule — the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA), drawn from Mugabe's dominant Shona Tribe, and the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), made up mostly of Joshua Nkomo's Matabele tribesmen.

A year later, the whites still have their houses, savings and jobs. The economy, still mainly in private hands, is enjoying a modest boom.

A record 17,240 people, mostly whites, did emigrate in 1980, but 6,407 new settlers arrived. Most of the 36,000 guerrillas who fought the war and

might have posed a threat to peace have been disarmed and integrated into a new national army. And Nkomo is still the junior partner in Mugabe's coalition government.

"Peace and reconciliation have replaced war, racial hatred and confrontation," President Canaan Banana said in an interview to mark the first anniversary of independence.

"All our people, notwithstanding the racial and ethnic heterogeneity, have accepted to live together as Zimbabweans, united by the common desire to rebuild and develop our beautiful country."

Much of the rebuilding has been done.

Exports of minerals, cotton, tobacco, corn, sugar and other commodities have increased from \$1 billion in the last year of the war, 1979, to \$1.4 billion.

With the help of some \$1.8 billion in foreign aid pledged last month, more than a million war refugees are being resettled, some 2,000 black farmers have bought unused white land to grow crops, and engineers and carpenters are busy building bridges, railroads, schools, hospitals and clinics.

But there are some minuses: — Lawlessness still stalks the land. At least 500 people were slain in the year since independence, usually in fighting between the rival guerrilla armies and their militant supporters.

Most of the 26 Cabinet ministers still move around Salisbury with armed bodyguards. But the new leaders argue that, by comparison, up to 100 people were killed daily in the seven-year war that took more than 20,000 lives, and in the past year 1,000 people

have been killed on the roads.

Some 5,000 armed guerrillas loyal to Nkomo are still dug in at Gwaai River, an abandoned copper mine in western Zimbabwe. They refuse to give up their weapons and threaten to fight it out with anti-aircraft batteries, SAM-7 ground-to-air missiles, light artillery and heavy machine guns unless they are given key posts in the new army.

Nkomo himself, the grandfather of black nationalism in Zimbabwe, is still bitter because he lost the British-supervised, pre-independence elections in February 1980 that brought Mugabe, his former protege, to power. Some of his militants urge him to quit the coalition government. But he would have less influence than he has now, since his party holds only 20 of the 100 seats in the Executive National Assembly while Mugabe's has 57, and a majority of 14.

South Africa — the neighbor to the south — is expected to remain Zimbabwe's economic lifeline for at least a decade. Virtually all of landlocked Zimbabwe's trade is handled by South African railways and ports, the South African cities of Pretoria and Cape Town control its overseas communications links, and South Africa is Zimbabwe's biggest single trading partner.

Many businessmen fear that if Mugabe supports proposals for United Nations sanctions against South Africa or backs black guerrillas from South Africa training in African or Soviet-bloc countries to wage a new African war, South Africa will sever the lifeline.

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DEATHS

Mrs. D. Mayberry

Services for Mrs. Dallas Mayberry, 72, of 2601 Terrace Ave., were Wednesday in the Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home chapel. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

Mrs. Mayberry died Tuesday in a Midland hospital following a brief illness.

She was born Oct. 12, 1908, in Colgate, Okla. She grew up in Seminole and Oklahoma City, Okla., moving to Midland in 1964 from Oklahoma City. She was a member of the Methodist Church. She was a patron member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Fraternal Order of Eagles and a member of Midland Chapter of Women of the Moose.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Speight of Midland, and five grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Robert L. Dickey, Charles McGaff, Carl T. Speight, J. Michael Speight, Paul E. Speight and Phillip T. Speight.

Gordon Roach

BIG LAKE — Gordon Roach, 84, a Big Lake rancher, died Wednesday in a Big Lake hospital following an illness.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in the First Baptist Church in Big Lake. Burial will in Glen Rest Cemetery. Services will be directed by Johnson Funeral Home of Big Lake.

W.S. Pope Jr.

Will Sanders "W.S." Pope Jr., 48, of Los Angeles, Calif., and formerly of Midland, died Sunday at his home in Los Angeles after a brief illness.

Services are pending in Midland with Roscoe V. Jackson Mortuary.

'Jack' Garner

FRISCO — G.G. "Jack" Garner, 67, of Frisco and formerly of Midland, died Tuesday in a Frisco hospital after a long illness.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Pemberton Funeral Home in Frisco. Burial will be in a Frisco cemetery.

Garner lived in Midland 21 years, moving to Frisco two years ago.

Survivors include his wife, Lucille Garner of Frisco, and several children.

Fountain Smith Sr.

Fountain Smith Sr., 59, of Midland died Monday in an Odessa hospital after an illness.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church with the Rev. J.F. Cambell officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home. He was a member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

He was born Aug. 3, 1921, in the Long Branch Community of Marlin, Texas. He moved from Marlin to Midland in 1946.

Survivors include his wife, Thelma Smith of Midland; three sons, Fountain Smith Jr. and Anthony Smith, both of Midland, and another son in Houston; five daughters, Mary L. Jones of South Carolina and Dorothy Taylor and Betty Smith, both of Los Angeles, Calif.; and two daughters of Houston; and seven grandchildren.

Bill Newby

Bill Newby, of 3120 W. Illinois Ave., died Tuesday in a Fort Stockton hospital.

Services are pending at Newnie W. Ellis Funeral Home.

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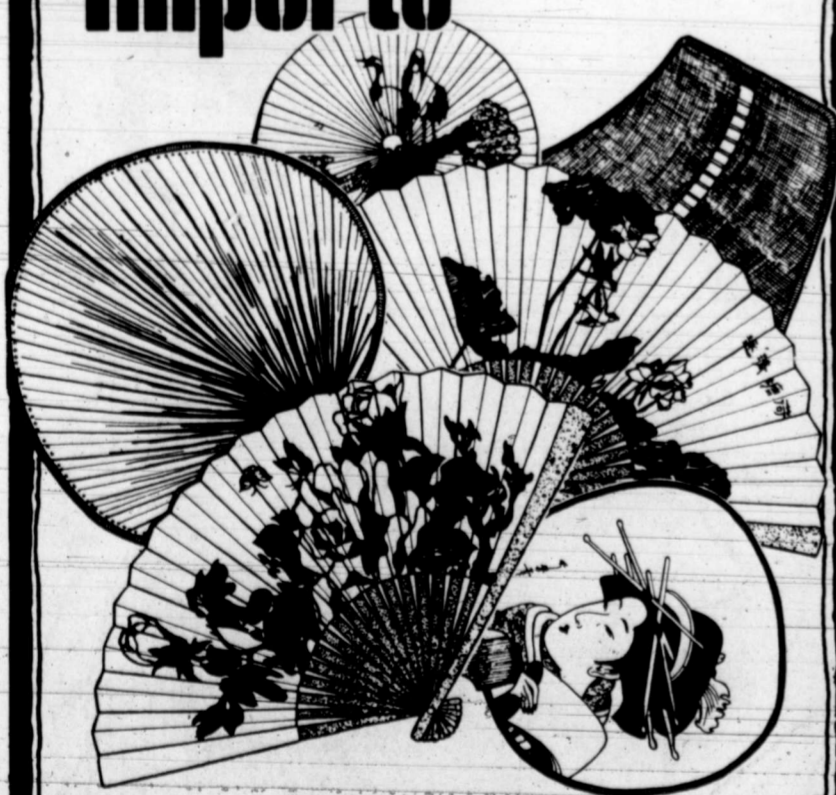
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Terrorist dies after long hunger strike

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Convicted West German terrorist Sigurd Debus has died in a local hospital after a two-month hunger strike, authorities and Debus' attorney said today.

The 38-year-old Debus was serving a 12-year prison term for bank robbery. He was one of 26 jailed members of the leftist Red Army Faction or the affiliated Second of June Movement who joined in a hunger strike to protest prison conditions and to demand treatment as prisoners of war.

Debus, who had been in prison since February 1975, was kept alive by force feeding and a respirator for several days.

His attorney, Ranier Koch, said Wednesday that Debus was "clinically" dead, although his brain waves were still registering on a hospital monitor.

Debus had been refusing food since Feb. 9, authorities said. Debus was the second member of the Red Army Faction, also known as the Baader-Meinhof Gang, to die in a prison hunger strike. Holger Meins, one of the first members of the gang, died November 9, 1974 after a two-month fast.

Police have blamed the strikers' sympathizers for more than a score of firebombings, street disturbances and vandalism across West Germany in recent weeks as the hunger strike continued.

Authorities in several cities had prepared for even more violent disturbances in the event of Debus' death. Rumors that he and Andreas Vogel, another jailed terrorist, had died set off a riot in West Berlin last Sunday.

Vogel, reported to be in "continually improving condition," was moved Wednesday from a university hospital into West Berlin's Steglitz Prison Clinic, a spokesman for the Berlin Justice Department said.

Balloon-borne guerrillas shot down

EDITOR'S NOTE: Israel's military censor ordered some material deleted from this report.

By MARCUS ELIASON
Associated Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli anti-aircraft gunners shot down a hot-air balloon carrying two Palestinian guerrillas on a cross-border raid into Israel today, the Israeli military command said.

The raiders survived a crash from several hundred feet and landed inside Lebanon, but Israeli ground troops pursued them and killed them in a firefight, a military spokesman said. No Israeli casualties were reported.

Witnesses said the guerrillas appeared to be about 17 years old and wore green fatigue jackets. One wore a flower-print shirt under his jacket, a witness said.

The military said they carried submachine guns, grenades, maps and leaflets.

Israeli Radio said without elaboration that the guerrilla-ballooning was on a hostage-taking mission.

The infiltration attempt came as Israel was filling with Christian and Jewish pilgrims coming to commemorate this weekend's Easter and Passover holidays. Israeli forces traditionally step up security precautions to head off any guerrilla effort to sabotage holiday celebrations.

The balloon drifted into the border area of the Upper Galilee panhandle just before dawn and was spotted by an army patrol, the spokesman said, adding, anti-aircraft guns opened fire and the balloon crashed near Manara, a frontier kibbutz, or collective farm.

Israeli deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zippori claimed Syria was behind the operation. He specu-

lated it may have been timed to impress representatives of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian Parliament-in-exile, now meeting in the Syrian capital.

In Beirut, the Palestinian Liberation Front, a small guerrilla group in the radical wing of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, claimed responsibility for the infiltration attempt and said it would "release details in a communique later in the day."

It was the second Palestinian attempt in nine months to cross the border by balloon and the second

try in five weeks to infiltrate by unconventional aerial means.

The wreckage of a helium balloon was found in southern Lebanon last July, and investigators concluded the guerrillas were resorting to this unusual tactic to try to get past U.N. peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon and Israeli border defenses.

A guerrilla flew a flimsy, motor-equipped glider across the frontier on March 7 and was captured by Israeli police. Another glider pilot came down on the Lebanese side of the border and was captured by Lebanese Christian militiamen.

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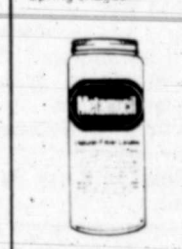
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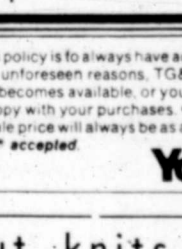
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Reagan insists alternatives are tax-cut problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, beginning to re-emerge as chief fighter for his economic program, insists that congressional alternatives to his embattled three-year tax cut plan "are not the answer, they are the problem."

"Taxes are much too high to deal in half-measures," a convalescing president said in a written statement issued Wednesday, the deadline for filing personal income tax returns.

Reagan said Americans "are victims of inflation which pushes them into higher tax brackets."

"I ask all Americans to join me in changing our tax system so that next April 15 we shall begin to celebrate tax reductions instead of simply one more predictable and painful tax increase," he said.

The one-page statement was issued as Reagan continued his recuperation in the White House living quarters from a bullet wound inflicted in an assassination attempt March 30.

White House officials say Reagan is the administration's most effective salesman for its economic program.

And in the weeks before the shooting, the president spoke out frequently in defense of his plan of budget and tax cuts.

But Reagan has been seen in public only once since the shooting — when he returned home from the hospital last weekend.

Other administration officials, primarily Vice President George Bush, have been substituting for Reagan at appearances he might ordinarily be making to pitch for his economic program.

Aides say Reagan almost certainly will focus on his economic program when he delivers his first broadcast message since the assassination attempt.

A radio or television broadcast is possible, perhaps as early as the end of next week, the aides say. Another possibility is a nationally televised appeal for his economic program on April 27, a date that would coincide with the end of a two-week congressional recess.

Reagan's written statement Wednesday appeared designed to prod Congress into approving his tax cut plan, which has run into strong opposition in the Democratic-controlled House.

The Washington Post reported today that a new study by the Congressional Budget Office estimates the president's proposed budget cuts in four programs alone would mean less after-tax income for 20 million to 24 million people.

Those four programs — welfare, school lunches, public service jobs and food stamps — are targeted for \$5.3 billion in cuts.

istration. The budget office said it was unable to estimate the effect of \$10.1 billion in proposed cuts in Medicaid, Social Security and other programs.

The 20 million to 24 million people are 51 percent of an estimated 16.5 million families with incomes below 150 percent of the government's official poverty line, \$6,570 for a family of three and \$8,410 for a family of four. Most would lose only a little, but 4 percent of the total would lose as much as 16 percent of their incomes, the report said.

The CBO said 14 percent of the 16.5 million families would gain slightly.

The study was commissioned by two prominent Democratic opponents of the president's plans, House Budget Committee Chairman James Jones of Oklahoma and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

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