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Latin policy criticized by ex-diplomat

America's Latin policy has come under criticism by a senior foreign service officer who served as a diplomat to several Central and South American countries.

M. Gordon Daniels, now serving as diplomat-in-residence at Texas
A&M University, called the deterioration of political and social systems in Central and South America

"very dangerous to us."
"The odds are greater for chaos than for peaceful and orderly development," the diplomat said.

"I am not optimistic for the future. America is so mesmerized by the Middle East, I am not even sure it is aware of Central and South

Daniels served for 25 years with the American Foreign Service in

Colombia, Bolivia, Panama, Chile and Saudi Arabia and will retire at the end of his current assignment. Daniels expressed his "personal frustration" in a speech to a Texas A&M student group

He said the United States has a five-point Latin American foreign policy although at times "it might

appear otherwise."
The Carter administration policy statement includes respect for national sovereignty; support for economic development; acceptance of ideological pluralism; commitment to encouraging the democratic process and respect for human rights; and support for multilateral and regional cooperation.

"You cannot really quarrel with these goals," Daniels said, adding

that he "did not question the good will and intentions of the govern-

He said it might seem "strange that the United States had to state explicitly its respect for national sovereignty, but it was precisely this point — the long history of American intervention both militarily and ecnomically — which causes such deep resentment and suspicion in Latin America with respect to our intentions

A recent "lapse of memory" in suggesting a multinational force be put together to intervene in Nicaragna did not help the U.S. standing, he pointed out.

Other points of tension include statements of acceptance of ideological pluralism, meaning the administration recognizes "Cuba is here to stay" and that Latin American countries may choose to align them-selves "politically, socially and eco-nomically in ways alien to U.S. tradi-

He called the government's support for regional cooperation shor-thand for "we wish these countries would do more to help themselves."

Daniels said the United States "has clashed head on with old friends, especially Brazil and Argentina, over policy differences relating to nuclear energy development and, in addition, the vigorous attention given to human rights as a foreign policy objective has succeeded in further alienating these two coun-

Food price hikes seen to year's end

United Press International
DALLAS — A Michigan supermarket chain owner reiterated Tuesday the Agriculture Department's prediction that retail food price increases at an annual rate of up to 11 percent would continue through the

end of this year.

Bernard Weisberg of Warren,
Mich., said the largest part of such
increases cannot be controlled by re-

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tailers because the marketing costs that will lead to the increases represent 60 percent of all retail food

Weisberg spoke at a food editors' workshop at the Food Marketing Institute's 43rd annual meeting.

He said marketing costs include wage and fringe benefits to super-market employees — and two-thirds of the market owners' gross margin goes to pay for those items.

Gross margin is the difference between what the retailer pays for merchandise and the price he sells it

for," Weisberg explained.
"During the '70s labor and fringe costs rose by an average of 10 percent each year, and there is no end in sight," he said.

"If present rates continue, by the end of the '80s the minimum wage will be \$6," he said, quoting figures from FMI's research department.

Supermarket checkers in metropolitan areas who now average \$7 an hour will be making \$15.68; meatcutters who average \$9 now will be making \$20.16. There is no indication that the demands of labor will be

Weisbert quoted Cornell University's annual grocery chain survey showing supermarket utility costs have risen 225 percent during the past 10 years; labor costs 171 percent, and supplies 166 percent.

During the same period sales rose only 125 percent.

"Last year's surge in oil prices is just now beginning to work through the economy," he said, "and experts say the explosion in energy prices is expected to continue through 1980 with no relief in sight.

Weisberg sees consumers benefit-ing from the predicted slow growth of the industry in the '80s because competition for customers will continue to be fierce

'Competition benefits the customer with lowest possible prices and best possible service," he said. He said food retailers will have to innovate, following examples set in the 1970s when companies began to diversify and to open super, com-bination warehouse and limited

assortment stores. He said scanning checkouts are teaching better inventory control and better methods of controlling theft by employees and customers. Weisberg expects retailers to use such scanning information to introduce money-saving practices and procedures, a part

Japan's example of encouraging employees to assume responsiblity for the quality and quantity of their work.

Brilab 'spy' gets 2-year prison term

United Press International PHOENIX — FBI informant chief witness in the "Brilab" investigation of Southwest labor leaders and politicians, including Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton, has been sentenced to two years in prison in a plea-bargaining arrangement.

At the urging of a federal prosecutor, U.S. District Judge William Copple Monday ruled Hauser could serve his term concurrently with a California bribery sentence he now is serving.

Hauser's sentence was for helping swindle \$5.5 million in union funds. He conspired with three other men to misapply funds of various labor unions throughout the country, including \$750,000 from the Arizona Laborers', Teamsters' and Cement Masons' Health and Welfare Fund.

"I realize I made some mistakes," Hauser told the judge. "I got a tiger by the tail and I couldn't get off. I want to repay my debt to this

Hauser's well-guarded court appearance was a rare public outing since his role in Brilab was made known. He supposedly gave Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton \$5,000 and promised \$600,000 more for help in landing a state insurance con-

The grand jury investigating Clayton and the Texas Brilab scandal reconvenes June 2.

Prosecutor James Henderson of the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section in Los Angeles, said Hauser exposed himself to danger by being the "principal operative" in the investigation, nicknamed Brilab for bribery-labor.

The indictment alleged this occurred between 1973 and 1976.

Charges have been dismissed against two of Hauser's codefendants and the third was given a 10-year prison sentence concurrent with a Florida sentence.

Of the Brilab case, Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said it was a "classic example of how labor union trust funds can be defrauded by modernday labor racketeers Nunn chaired a U.S. Senate sub-

committee investigating the situation for three years. Hauser also reportedly led authorities to New Orleans crime figure Carlos Marcello and is a key figure in

the Brilab investigation in Louisiana.

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