

National

Reagan recuperating privately

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, who has not been seen in public for nine days, has "always been a pretty good judge of himself" and is setting his own work and rest pace during his recuperation, a White House aide says.

Acting press secretary Larry Speakes described as "totally untrue" reports the president's recovery from a bullet that pierced his lung will take much longer than originally anticipated.

Reagan has remained in the family quarters since returning to the White House and there have been reports he tires easily and has some discomfort at times in breathing.

"He's doing extremely well," said Speakes, who reported Reagan has regained five of the 10 pounds he lost during his hospital stay.

"The color has come back to his cheeks and there is a spring in his step," Speakes said.

"I think he has always been a pretty good judge of himself," said an aide.

Speakes said there was a "security factor" in Reagan's failure to make an appearance from the balcony of the White House, as expected, at the Monday Easter egg roll on the South Lawn.

He explained the possible appearance had been publicized and with thousands of people on

the White House grounds, it was decided he should not come out.

There also were indications Nancy Reagan was keeping a watchful eye on her husband and does not want him pushed before he is up to par.

Visitors who have seen Reagan recently depict him as "presidential" and bouncing back. At the same time, Vice President George Bush indicated last week Reagan's convalescence may go on for some time.

Reagan was shot by a would-be assassin March 30 as he was emerging from a Washington hotel.

Aides cite an intensification of his official activities as proof of his

steady improvement.

Reagan was briefing a group of friendly governors on his economic recovery program, including Democratic Gov. Fob James of Alabama and Republican Govs. William Clements of Texas, Robert Orr of Indiana, Pierre du Pont of Delaware, James Rhodes of Ohio and David Treen of Louisiana.

"I don't think any of them are wavering," Speakes said, referring to the governors' support of the Reagan plan.

The session was part of a new "blitz" the White House is launching to "heighten awareness" of Reagan's sweeping budget and tax cut proposals.

One White House aide conceded Reagan's convalescence was the "spark plug."

"With the president down, you have got to make sure you're doing everything you can," he said. "We were going to do all this anyway, but I think we're doing it a little harder, more aggressively, to make sure we're touching all bases."

"We hope to expand our base of support," he added.

Reagan put in a five-minute telephone call to former President Gerald Ford Monday as Ford was departing Palm Springs, Calif., on a speaking tour and lined up the ex-president to put in a good word for his economic package.

Sub collision causes uproar in Japan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy will pay damage claims for the collision in which a nuclear submarine sank a Japanese freighter, but a Navy investigation will determine the American crew's responsibility in the accident.

Navy Secretary John Lehman Jr. in a two-paragraph announcement Monday, said U.S. liability for the collision was accepted to avoid lengthy court battles and to permit the prompt start of negotiations on a settlement "with all involved parties."

The Navy said it expects to pay about \$4.2 million in damages.

The submarine USS George Washington, operating below the surface, collided with the freighter Nissho Maru April 9 in the East China Sea. The Japanese freighter sank and two of its crew members were killed.

The Navy said its decision was not the result of pressure from the

White House or the State Department.

"This was not a political decision," the statement said.

The collision caused an uproar in Japan because of charges the sub left the scene without picking up survivors and U.S. authorities failed to immediately notify Tokyo of the crash.

The Navy did not address that charge Monday, but said the admission of responsibility "is limited to liability for the collision. Any negotiated settlements would address only actual damages."

Japanese attorneys advised the Navy they estimated damages for the loss of the freighter, its 1,200 tons of raw cotton and claims for the deaths of two crew members and survivors would total about \$4.2 million.

The Navy probably will have to ask Congress for most of the money, the Navy said. Lehman's

settlement authority is limited to \$1 million for a single claim and amounts in excess of that must be certified by Congress.

Lehman's statement said the decision did not mean the commander of the submarine, Cmdr. Robert Woehl, 41, or members of his crew were responsible for the collision. Woehl, who first went to sea on a nuclear sub in 1966, is a 20-year veteran and a recipient of four medals.

The Navy is investigating the collision and said the decision has no bearing on Woehl's legal rights. Japanese authorities have demanded to see a Navy report on the collision, but it might take months for the Navy to conclude its investigation.

Navy officials said shortly after the collision neither Woehl nor the crew of a P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft called to the scene by the sub was aware the

freighter was in danger. The sub surfaced after the accident but lost sight of the Japanese ship because of bad weather, the officials said.

The legal basis for the decision to accept liability is a 1974 federal court ruling involving a surfacing nuclear submarine and a merchant vessel. The court ruled a sub operating below the surface must "give way" to a surface ship.

The sub is at its base in Guam, although its home port is Pearl Harbor, a Navy spokesman said.

Former yippie to begin 3-year prison sentence

United Press International
NEW YORK — A wisecracking Abbie Hoffman, the ex-Yippie leader who eluded a seven-year police dragnet, surrendered today to begin serving up to three years in prison for selling \$36,000 worth of cocaine to undercover agents.

Hoffman, 44, dressed in a denim shirt, slacks and a down vest, carried the book "Fire in the Minds of Men: The Origins of Revolution," and he was using a pocket knife to mark his place.

"You think they'll let me in with my bookmark?" he asked as he arched outside the 11th floor courtroom in state Supreme Court in Manhattan.

"I was angry for the first day

(after the sentence), but I'm not angry now," Hoffman said before settling into a seat to await formal surrender.

"You know how it is when you get old and the press stops paying attention to you," he joked as he and his female companion, Johanna Lawrenson, were hemmed in by dozens of reporters, photographers and television crews.

Asked how he felt about the prospects of prison, Hoffman said "I ran in the Boston marathon and I was tempted to run again last night."

The former Yippie, who masqueraded as "Barry Freed" during

his years underground, arrived at the court at about 10 a.m. and took the occasion to protest U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

"If every inmate in the U.S. penal system isn't opposed to U.S. policy in El Salvador, I'll ask for another three years (in prison)," Hoffman said, adding that jail "is a new experience for me."

He was sentenced earlier this month to three years in jail for selling \$36,000 worth of cocaine to undercover agents in 1974.

"We're still considering an appeal, but we're not making an announcement yet," his lawyer Gerald Lefcourt said Monday.

Chimney in store traps burglar for nearly a week

United Press International
TRENTON, N.J. — Police say Glenn Clark attempted to break into a clothing store but instead got caught in a chimney for six days.

Clark at first told authorities he climbed onto the roof of Reiss' Men and Boys Shop on April 13 to commit suicide, and wound up in the store's chimney. But police said Clark was one of two men who tried to break into the store that night. They caught one suspect, and another was last seen running across rooftops.

A woman, who was walking her dog on Easter Sunday, past the store and heard muffled calls for help then notified police. Clark

was found on his knees, stuck inside the chimney.

He was taken to the Mercer Medical Center, where he was given his first meal in nearly a week.

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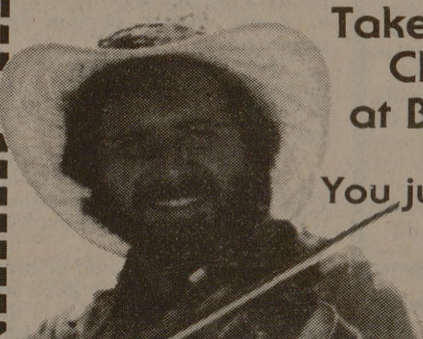
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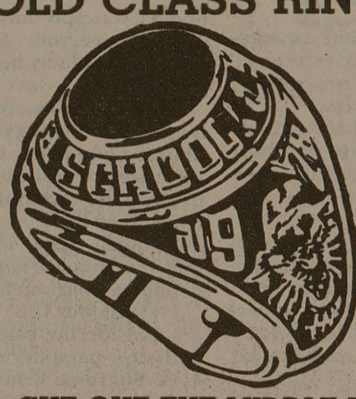
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