National

Charges judicial system failing

Reagan calls for law reforms

United Press International WASHINGTON — President

Reagan says the criminal justice system "just plain isn't working" and advocates legislation that would provide swift retribution for those who prey on innocent Americans.

Reagan's proposals include permitting judges to order offenders to make restitution to their victims, revising the federal criminal

allow judges to keep some defendants off the streets

In addition, Reagan says he will support mandatory prison terms for those who carry guns while committing felonies Reagan unveiled his anticrime

program Monday in an address to International Association of Chiefs of Police in New Orleans. 'All too often, repeat offenders,

raping and beating with impunityand quite literally getting away

"It's time for honest talk, for plain talk," he said. "There has been a breakdown in the criminal justice system in America. It just plain isn't working." In his New Orleans speech,

Reagan ruled out poverty and "so-cial ills" as the basic causes of crime "The truth is that today's cri-

minals, for the most part, are not desperate people seeking bread for their families," he said. "Crime

code and reforming bail laws to career criminals...are robbing, is the way they've chosen to live." Recalling his days as governor of California when 12 criminals, with 34 victims among them, were up for parole, Reagan said, "I think if we had capital punishment in the beginning, we would have re-duced that figured considerably." Reagan was criticized for com-

ing out in favor of reforming the judicial "exclusionary rule" — a provision he said allows cases to be thrown out of court on technicalities, "no matter how guilty the defendant or how heinous the crime.

The 'rule' provides for the ex-

clusion of evidence obtained through illegal searches. Murray Janus Jr. of Richmond, Va., newly elected President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said: "Those technicalities the president is talking about are not technicalities at all.

"They're called the Bill of Rights under the Constitution. And, yes, some criminals do get off because of technicalities, but the whole purpose is to protect you or I in our homes from illegal searches and we're protected from being interrogated by the police."

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Bess Truman's condition better

United Press International KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Former first lady Bess Truman, showing the resilience that carried her through previous illnesses, has responded so well to treatment for a stroke that hospital officials upgraded her condition to fair.

Truman, 96, suffered what her physician termed a "mild stroke" Saturday night and was transferred Sunday morning to Research Medical Center. Since then she has been treated with a "mixture of different body nutrients.

A nursing supervisor said Truman's favorable response to the nutrients prompted her personal physician, Dr. Wal-lace Graham, to take her off the serious list Monday and declare her in fair condition.

Graham said he continued to be optimistic for Truman's complete recovery. He said her vital signs were stable, her heart appeared strong and she was thinking clearly when he spoke to her Monday

Truman, the widow of the

late President Harry S. Truman, was still having trouble swallowing, so the extra nut-

rients were being fed to her through a tube inserted in her shoulder, Graham said.

Examinations Sunday and Monday showed that a mild spasm of a blood vessel in Truman's brain caused the stroke, but that it was very shortlived. It was not believed that she suffered any permanent damage. It was the second time in less

than a year Truman was hospitalized. Truman fractured her hip in a fall at her home last May and was hospitalized for six weeks after doctors rebuilt the hip. She experienced various complications after the surgery, including pneumonia, kidney dysfunction and heart irregularities

Even before breaking her hip, Truman had been confined largely to a wheelchair because her arthritis prevents her from walking without assistance. While at her home, Truman has 24-hour nursing care.

Attorneys claim Hinckley insane at time of shooting

United Press International WASHINGTON — The case against President Reagan's ac-cused assailant, John W. Hinckley Jr., will likely become a battle among psychiatrists over the college dropout's mental state when

the shots were fired. Attorneys for Hinckley said Monday they are willing to con-cede the evidence shows Hinckley shot Reagan and three others on March 30, but maintain their client was insane at the time and should not be held criminally responsible

The offer of a concession of fact in the case marked the first time Hinckley's lawyers had disclosed their intention of using insanity as

a defense at his upcoming trial. Under the laws of the District of Columbia, where Hinckley will be tried, mental disturbance is a basis for acquittal, but only if the jury finds the defendant "lacked substantial capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law.

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If convicted, Hinckley, 26, District Judge Barrington Parker could be sentenced to up to life in prison. He is being held at the Army stockade at Fort Meade,

Md. Hinckley was taken into cus-tody March 30 moments after Reagan, White House press secretary James Brady and two law enforcement officers were gunned down outside a Washington hotel. Hinckley's lawyers offered to admit he shot Reagan and the

three others. Government prosecutors rarely agree to such a sti-pulation of the facts in cases involving insanity defenses.

In legal papers filed with the U.S. District Court, Hinckley's lawyers said:

"The only real issue in this case (is) the defendant's mental state at the time of the shooting. That these four men were shot and grievously wounded is not in any dispute. That the defendant held the gun and fired the shots that wounded these men is similarly not in any dispute.

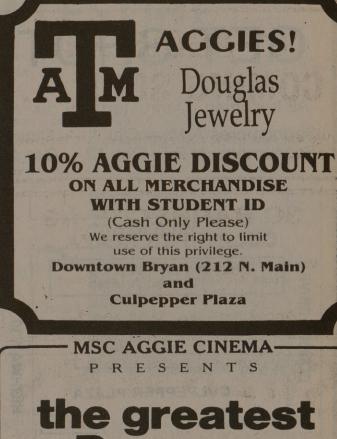
to hold a two-part proceeding with two juries to consider separate issues — first, Hinckley's guilt or innocence, and second, his state of mind at the time.

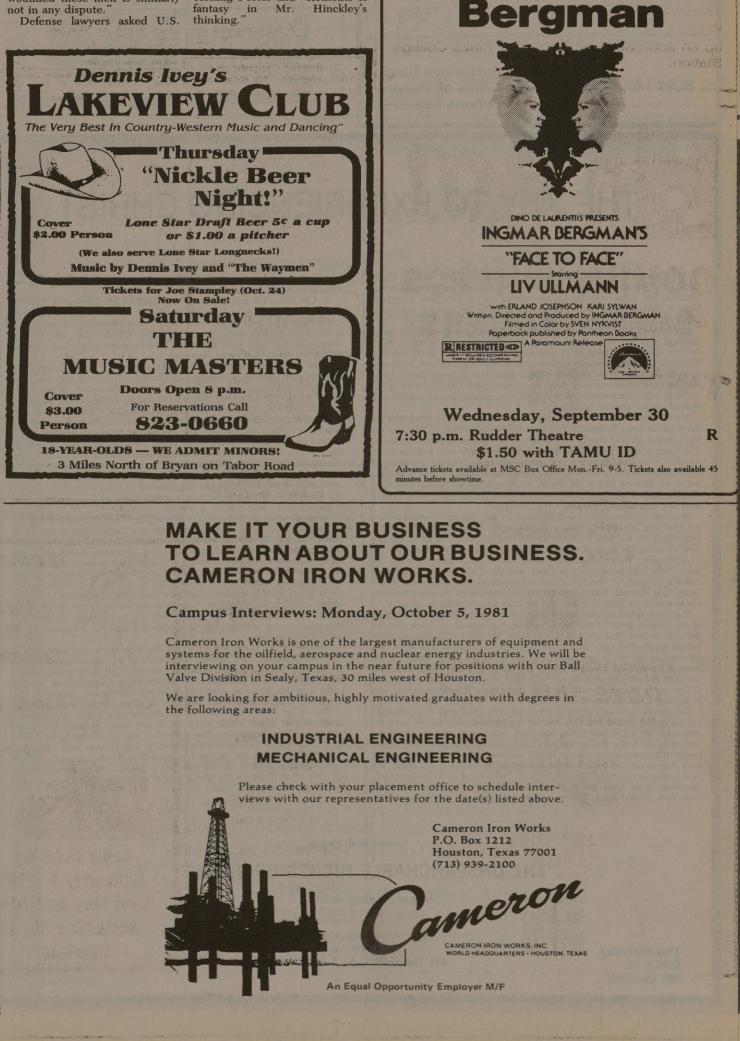
"If the same jurors who are exposed to the evidence are also the jurors who decide the question of John Hinckley's mental state at the time of the shooting, the prejudice to Mr. Hinckley will be massive," his lawyers said. Law enforcement officials sear-ched Hinckley's Washington hotel

room within hours of the shooting and found an unmailed letter to actress Jodie Foster.

Officials believe Hinckley may have been motivated by a crush on Foster, a student at Yale Univer-

Earlier this month, Hinckley's lawyers unsuccessfully sought access to any statements he made to government psychiatrists concerning Foster and "elements of fantasy in Mr. Hinckley's thinking."





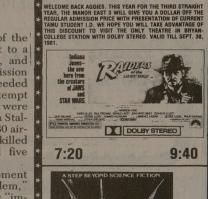
U.S. team ready to aid hostages

United Press International WASHINGTON — America now has a rescue team ready to respond quickly to hostage situaions similar to the seizure of U.S. diplomats in Tehran, the comnander of ground forces in the ill-fated Iran rescue mission said *luesday*

Beckwith said the United States was not prepared to move fast to rescue the Americans captured in the Nov. 4, 1979, Tehran embassy seizure "for two reasons — a lack

planners figured six were needed to go on to Tehran, so the attempt was scrubbed. As the aircraft were withdrawing, an RH-53 "Sea Stalsoday. Soon-to-retire Col. Charlie craft, and the ensuing fire killed eight soldiers and injured five others.

'In my view, the equipment was 98 percent of the problem," said Beckwith, adding it was "impossible to do the job with five" helicopters because he expected to lose some as the mission unfolded. And, he said, there has been a lot of "what iffing" about the numbers, but it was difficult to hide more helicopters aboard the aircraft carrier launch site without raising suspicion.



So

fintelligence, and we didn't have a team put together.

'And now I'm happy to say will not discuss any of the details of this—I'm happy to say we've got a team together now," Beckwith said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America.

"Now we've got a team of aviators. Of course the Delta force his always been cocked and laded, among others, and we lave a team ready to go. So now ort of the ball's in the intelligence ourt," said Beckwith, who led the "Delta force" unit of the Army's little talked about "Blue Light" team stationed at Fort Bragg,

Beckwith, 52, revealed the existence of the new team when asked if civilians have misconcep-tions about the April 24, 1980, raid

He also defended the decision by former President Carter to rescue the hostages as "a prudent decision

"I think any president would do the same thing," he said. "I think that it pointed out that when something like that occurs that time is of the essence and you should move very quickly. Unfor-tunately we couldn't do that" because of the lack of both intelligence and a standing rescue team. The hostage rescue mission was





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