

National

Gas pipeline bid passes first test

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A House energy subcommittee Tuesday narrowly approved President Reagan's request that specific laws be waived to encourage private financing of the 4,800-mile Alaskan natural gas pipeline.

By a 12 to 9 vote, the panel recommended the House Energy and Commerce Committee approve the legislation.

The pipeline, whose cost has been estimated from \$40 billion to as much as \$57 billion, would carry natural gas from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay through Canada to the San Francisco and Chicago areas for nationwide distribution.

The administration's waiver package would allow consumers to be billed for some costs before the pipeline is completed, permit the cost of an expensive gas treatment plant to be included in the rate base charged consumers and allow equity participation by producers.

"What we have here is a Trojan horse," Rep. Edward Markey, D-

Mass., said, adding, "That is an overused metaphor, but not inappropriate." He noted major industry and banking officials testified the pipeline might not be built even with the waivers.

Markey predicted the project's sponsors later would ask Congress for federal loan guarantees.

But Rep. Phil Gramm, D-Texas, said the waivers should be granted with the understanding that if free market forces then decided they still could not build the pipeline "it's not going to be done."

Gramm said he would oppose committing any federal funds to the project. He agreed consumers were put at some risk, but said the advantage of the waiver package was that it doesn't put the taxpayer at risk.

Rep. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., said he originally was strongly opposed to the waiver package, but now felt it was in the best interests of the nation.



Staff photo by Greg Watermann

Just looking

These two freshmen have found a unique way of visiting residents of Moses Hall. Sue Gibbs (left) is an mechanical engineering major from Midland, and Mary Ann Young is an accounting major from Houston.

Report says French plotted to kill Khadafy

United Press International
NEW YORK — A high-ranking official of the former French government proposed an assassination plot and coup against Libyan strongman Moammar Khadafy to the Reagan administration, Time magazine says.

Attributing its report to unidentified sources in Washington, Time said in its current issue that the official of former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's government proposed at a White House meeting last February that

the assassination be carried out by Libyan exiles.

The magazine said the official proposed the exiles be trained and controlled by the French and that the United States not be directly involved. But the unnamed official wanted a general expression of American support and assistance in the aftermath of the coup.

Time said he specifically wanted assurances the United States would speedily recognize Khadafy's successor and be prepared to stop Moscow from moving on Libya to protect Soviet-supplied weapons there.

The official said the assassination plot would have to wait for the re-election of Giscard, but he suggested that planning begin, the report said.

The meeting — chaired by Richard Allen, the National Security Adviser, and attended by State Department officials — ended with no decision although the Americans agreed to keep talks going, the article said.

The government of Giscard lost the election, however, and the plan was halted, Time said.

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The 2000 Year Old Man

By Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner

Every immortal word of the recorded 2000 YEAR OLD MAN legend is preserved for Eternity—and whatever happens after that. THE 2000 YEAR OLD MAN, transformed from records which have sold 1 million copies since the first album was released in 1963 to an illustrated book, is the result of a perfectly meshed partnership that began at a Hollywood party when Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner were recent alumni of Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows." That partnership continues today after each has earned his individual claim to superstardom.

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