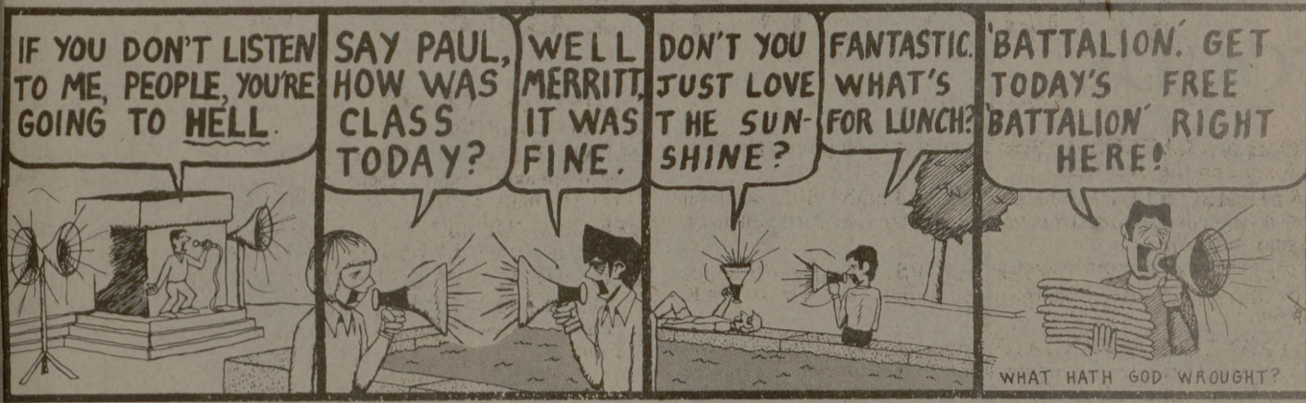


Warped

By Scott McCullar



\$5 million in gold stolen from plant

United Press International
HARTFORD, Conn. — A special police unit working on a major narcotics investigation has uncovered a theft ring involving at least \$5 million worth of gold stolen from a major defense contractor, authorities say. Three people were in custody Sunday, and the FBI sought additional suspects in the thefts, which occurred at the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Group plant in East Hartford, Hartford Police Chief George Sicaras said. He said the gold powder was taken from the jet-engine manufacturer over approximately the last two to three years at the rate of 25 to 50 troy ounces a week, then shipped out of state in

attache cases and sold. The gold powder, used for industrial operations by Pratt & Whitney, had a value of \$5 million at a minimum, Sicaras said, who said he couldn't compare the scope of the thefts with similar incidents investigated by the FBI. "I know it's the largest this town has seen and this part of the state," the police chief said, adding the theft operation could have international ties because "it's a gold commodity we're dealing with and the defense industry." Pratt & Whitney manufactures jet engines for military and civilian aircraft and is a division of the giant United Technolo-

gies Corp., one of the nation's top three defense contractors. Sicaras said the Hartford Police Department's Crime Suppression Unit came across the operation at the start of this year while working on a major narcotics investigation. The department immediately informed the FBI, which then launched a covert operation with local police and security personnel at Pratt & Whitney. Both the FBI and Pratt & Whitney declined comment on the matter Thursday, but Sicaras said Pratt & Whitney officials "were surprised when we brought it to their attention along with the FBI."

Congress sees more red ink

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's budget would lead to a deficit of \$121 billion next year, then steadily increasing deficits in later years — a trend directly opposite of the president's projection — the Congressional Budget Office says. House Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois said Thursday he agreed with the CBO estimate that the fiscal 1982 deficit will be about \$111 billion, rather than the administration's projection of \$98.6 billion. Michel also told reporters he expects members of Congress to try to attach deficit-reducing measures such as tax hikes or defense cuts — forming perhaps an entire budget resolution — to debt ceiling legislation that must be passed by mid-May. "By May 1, something's got to give," Michel said. The budget office, which Thursday issued its analysis of Reagan's budget, said the 1983 deficit under the president's spending plan would be nearly \$30 billion more than the administration projection of \$91.5 billion. Michel's announcement was the strongest confirmation to date, from a top Republican, the deficit is heading into a deepening spiral and seemed likely to fuel calls for defense cuts and tax hikes to curb the rising debt. The budget office report said it expects deficits would climb steadily from \$111 billion in 1982 to \$140 billion in 1985, rather than decreasing as the administration projects, trailing down to \$71.9 billion in 1985. Overall, the administration is

underestimating the total deficit during the next three years by some \$140 billion, budget office director Alice Rivlin said. "This is a very grim outlook for the budget," Rivlin told the Senate Appropriations Committee. "To reduce the risk of continued economic instability, the Congress may wish to consider possible alternatives to the president's budgetary proposals." Rivlin testified as debate continued on Reagan's \$757 billion spending proposal to boost Pentagon spending, cut back the growth of social programs and resist additional taxes to cover expected red ink. At the White House, chief spokesman David Gergen said administration officials believe additional savings — beyond the \$56 billion Reagan has asked — can be achieved "with the cooperation of Congress." He added: "And we think the economic growth can be achieved, again with the cooperation of Congress." The darker deficit view put forward by the budget office, a non-partisan agency created by Congress to help it do economic calculations, said revenue would be slightly lower than estimated by the administration for 1983-85, mainly because of different estimates of the effects of the sweeping tax-cut program enacted last year. Also, it estimates higher federal costs than Reagan foresees for farm-price supports, defense procurement, a plan to accelerate leasing of offshore oil land and the net cost of interest paid by the government. The budget office believes the

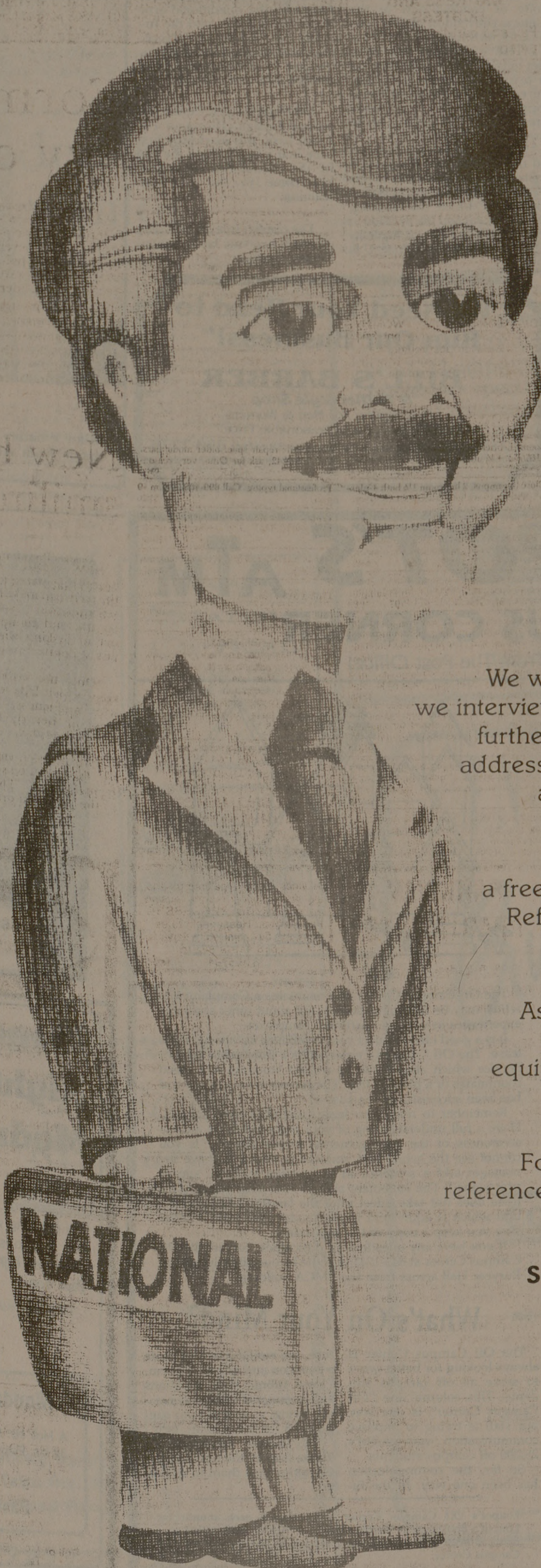
gross national product will grow at an average annual rate of 3.5 percent a year between 1984 and 1987, while the administration assumes a GNP growth rate of 4.6 percent annually.

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Governor's dinner seats contested

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A state legislator who was told he cannot bring a prison inmate as his guest to dinner at the executive mansion says he now may see how the governor likes dining with a gay rights activist instead. Delegate David Shapiro, D-Baltimore, had hoped to bring a prison inmate as one of his six guests to a legislative dinner tonight at Gov. Harry Hughes' official residence, but Hughes scotched the idea Thursday. "If he doesn't seem to feel comfortable with having an inmate with him, then I have several other alternatives, including one guy who is interested in gay rights," Shapiro said. "Maybe he (the governor) will be more comfortable with talking about reforming the laws on sodomy." Hughes opened his regular weekly news conference Thursday by criticizing Shapiro for turning the dinner invitation into an essay contest. Shapiro, at 26 the youngest member of the General Assembly, said anyone wishing to be his guest at the mansion could apply by writing in 100 words or less what they would like to say to the governor over dinner. "I think it was rude," the governor said. "I think it did not show proper deference for his colleagues who were extended an invitation to come to the house and to bring guests with

them. And, to turn it into a contest such as this is obviously a play for publicity without any regard for politeness or courtesy." From more than 100 applicants, Shapiro selected six: a first grader, a handicapped veteran, an unemployed unemployment officer worker, a teacher, a reformed drunken driver and a prison inmate. Hughes had remained silent about Shapiro's contest until Thursday's news conference, which he opened by reading aloud a letter from Corrections Secretary Thomas Schmidt explaining why the prison inmate, Robert E. Wechsler, would not be released from the Brockbridge Correctional Facility. The Schmidt letter said Wechsler had a criminal record dating back to 1948, including two escapes, and he was currently serving a 12-year sentence for nighttime burglary. "We simply are not going to have in attendance this man who has a long criminal record, which involves escapes, housebreakings, a concealed deadly weapon — we are simply not going to permit that," the governor said. Hughes said others invited for Monday evening's dinner have said they may not attend if Wechsler does and the governor said he wanted to make it clear the inmate would not be among the diners.



Thank you, Aggies!

We were impressed by those of you we interviewed last week. If you have any further questions, just write us at the address below. If we didn't talk to you at all, please send us a resume.

And if you'll include a note requesting it, we'll send you a free copy of our "Oil & Gas Pocket Reference 1981." It's a compilation of facts about the U.S. petro-energy industry.

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We'd like to hear from you. For your free copy of the pocket reference, if you have some questions, or you'd like to send us your resume, write to:

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