



staff photo by Eileen Manton

sailing

Former aggie Kevin O'Connor, of Kingsville, enjoys an outing with his catamaran on Lake Somerville. O'Connor graduated last spring with a degree in architectural design and lives presently in Bryan.

Reagan claims no retreat from tax cuts or defense

United Press International
CHEYENNE, Wyo. — President Reagan said Tuesday there will be no retreat from the scheduled tax cuts due every American or from the military buildup needed to keep the nation from becoming a "second-rate power."

In remarks prepared for delivery at a political fundraiser for Sen. Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., the president leveled another blast at critics of his austere 1983 budget and its projected \$91.5 billion deficit.

The president repeated his position that he is open to suggestions and alternatives from Congress.

"But as the volume of voices rises in debate, there is one thing I want to make very plain: My commitment to cutting taxes and rebuilding our defenses is every bit as strong today as it was the day I took office," Reagan said. "There must be no retreat in these areas."

His remarks came on the first day of a weeklong stay in California. Reagan will divide his

time between Los Angeles and his ranch in Santa Barbara.

"Listening to the born-again budget balancers moan about deficits is kind of like hearing a mugger in Central Park complain about crime in the streets," scoffed Reagan, who campaigned with a promise to balance the budget by 1983.

A brief stop for another fundraiser, in Albuquerque, N.M., for Republican Sen. Harrison Schmitt, was to follow the Cheyenne stop.

Reagan's Cheyenne remarks were laden with tough-sounding talk aimed at critics on Capitol Hill who publicly fret over growing government red ink.

"Listening to the born-again budget balancers moan about deficits is kind of like hearing a mugger in Central Park complain about crime in the streets," scoffed Reagan, who campaigned with a promise to balance the budget by 1983.

He said the nation "has turned away from the dizzying years of tax and spend, tax and spend," but he insisted that spending for defense must be increased.

"We dare not reduce our defense budget," Reagan said. "I don't think Americans want their armed forces held together with chewing gum and baling wire, unable to move for want of spare parts. We must not resign ourselves to life as a second-rate power, tempting aggression with our weakness."

As he has in the past, Reagan buttressed his call for higher de-

fense spending by explaining he is "practically the only one who has all the facts with regard to our national security."

Additionally, he said most of the money for defense is for basic essentials now in dangerously short supply, such things as manpower, maintenance and troop readiness.

Critics have charged Reagan must accept reductions in defense spending, propose new taxes or delay scheduled tax cuts to reduce the deficit.

Although publicly Reagan is saying he'll accept no changes, privately what he is saying may be somewhat more flexible, however. Every time he meets with various congressional allies, they troop before reporters' microphones to say that Reagan may yet accept some changes in the fiscal plan he deems so essential.

Senator asks U.S. pull out of NATO

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A leading Republican senator Tuesday threatened to introduce a resolution to withdraw the nation's 337,000 troops from Europe because of a West European decision to buy natural gas from the Soviet Union.

"I might do it, I want you to know," Sen. Ted Stevens from Alaska, the assistant GOP leader, told Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger at a hearing. "It's time to look after our interests."

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. David Jones, said. "Our troops are over there to defend the United States. If we lost them, it would be a tragedy for the United States. I'd much rather defend Europe than from some-where back from Europe."

The administration opposes construction of a Soviet gas pipeline leading to Western Europe because it would make West Germany dependent on the Kremlin for what is estimated to be 5 percent of Germany's natural gas needs. The valve for the pipeline would be in Soviet territory.

Weinberger agreed with Stevens, but said the United States does not have the power to stop its allies from buying the gas and the 337,000 U.S. troops in Europe should not be withdrawn.

He said the defense costs to the American taxpayer would rise if American troops were brought home and "if we didn't have the opportunity to defend

from forward areas."

Stevens said Americans are paying in part for the defense of Western Europe while at the same time supporting the Soviet Union with the decision to buy Soviet natural gas. The pipeline is being built largely of materials made in the West.

Mississippi Sen. John Stennis, the ranking Democrat on the Senate defense subcommittee, agreed with Stevens and said the pipeline "is one of the most likely things" to spark a resolution in Congress to withdraw U.S. troops from Europe.

He recalled that the U.S. ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, a former Democratic senator, unsuccessfully introduced a resolution in the early 1970s to withdraw U.S. troops from Europe.

Kidney failure deaths linked to burn creams

United Press International
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The Food and Drug Administration is reviewing a report that burn cream was a major factor in the kidney failure deaths of burn patients, the University of Virginia says.

Dr. Benjamin C. Sturgill said Monday the patients, who died at the university's burn center had burns over 15 to 64 percent of their bodies, suffered a syndrome similar to that introduced by drinking antice-

The toxicity of Furacin Soluble Dressing was a major factor in the deaths," he said in remarks prepared for delivery in Boston before the United States Canadian Division of the International Academy of Pathology. The dressing contains 99.8 percent polyethylene glycol, a highly soluble alcohol that carries the active ingredient deep

into burned tissues, Sturgill said. The alcohol base, he said, is suspect in the deaths.

The deaths occurred between July 1978 and July 1980 after treatment with Furacin Soluble Dressing. The center no longer uses the dressing, Sturgill said.

Autopsies showed the dead patients' kidneys were damaged, blood-acid levels were high, and blood-serum tests showed the presence of an antifreeze, Sturgill said.

No patients who died at the center five years before the cream was used showed similar symptoms, he said.

"It's not uncommon for burn patients to develop (kidney) failure due to loss of fluids," Sturgill said, "but it is very unusual for burn patients to develop this kind of established acute (kidney) failure."

The National Center for Burn Medicine in Ann Arbor, Mich., estimated 4 percent of all burn patients are treated with Furacin Soluble Dressing.

The Food and Drug Administration is reviewing the school's report, the university said in a news release.

The manufacturer, Norwich-Eaton Pharmaceuticals of Norwich, N.Y., has mailed a form

letter to doctors with the warning, "Furacin Soluble Dressing should be used with caution in patients with known or suspected (kidney) impairment."

William Kenney, public relations manager for Norwich-Eaton, said the findings were the same as those released by the university about a year ago.

He said the company responded to the situation by writing burn-center administrators and changing the package warning. He described the cream as an effective product that should be available if people understand the warnings.

Kenney said he had not reviewed the latest report.

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