Legal aid for poor leads to dispute among agencies

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Leg-al Services Corporation is taking steps to curb local agencies from keeping large amounts of money in reserve to be used as a hedge against President Reagan's effort to end the law

program for the poor.
According to a staff memorandum, 26 field programs carried more than 50 percent of their grant funds for 1981 — a total of \$10.3 million — forward

Another 64 local programs had balances higher than 25 percent and they are being required to justify the balance and outline plans for reducing it.

'They should be dealt with swiftly and definitively," the memorandum said, announcing

national staff will cut off future funding for the 26 programs starting Aug. 27 until they spend a major portion of their

Although the local programs will be allowed to appeal the decision, the memo made clear it will no longer allow the local programs to carry much more than a 10 percent reserve balance forward.

Much of the reason for the high reserves stems from uncertainty about the future of the

Reagan, an opponent of free legal services for the poor since he was governor of California, has twice tried to end all federal funding for Legal Services Cor-

"In that context, legal services programs faced a number of problems that affected their plans for fund balances and in some cases increased those balances," according to an analysis by Clint Lyons, acting vice president of the corporation.

"Programs were understandably reluctant to implement long range plans for the utilization of fund balances when the future of the federally funded Legal Services program was in serious

He said many of the programs shifted to the use of fund balances "to ensure continuation of current levels of opera-tion as far as possible into 1982."

Uncertainty caused by the future of the program also created according to Lyons, as employees looked for more certain

The unusually high balances, he said "occured as either a conscious plan to maintain a reserve for case completion in 1982 — if there was no more money from the corporation — or as a result of unplanned attrition coupled with difficulty in attracting replacement staff."

He said a positive feature of the high reserves were that "a number of programs are able to maintain offices that otherwise would have been closed and retain staff whose employment would have been terminated at



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Civil rights rule allegedly broken

United Press International BOSTON — Police say they are shocked by a judge's decision white teenager arrested for violating the civil rights of a black family in a racially tense neighborhood.

"I cannot believe the court would treat a felony complaint so lightly," Police Commissioner Joseph M. Jordan said, after Michael Gaine, 18, was released without bond following a court appearance on charges of exposing himself to a black woman and her family in their Hyde Park neighborhood.

Associate West Roxbury District Court Judge Augustine Gannon said he made the release Monday because he had received only a misdeameanor complaint - not a felony as police had said.

Gaine, who had been held Sunday night in lieu of \$100,000 bail, went before Gannon on the lewdness charge and was re-leased without bail pending a

hearing Sept. 7.

"If the proper complaint has been brought before me, he (Gaine) would have been arraigned and a trial date set," Gannon said.

But a police spokesman said, "As far as we know, that's how it went in (as a felony) and that's why the commissioner made his

Gaine faces up to three years for a felony lewdness conviction. Police said Gaine and another youth, David Gilligan, 20, violated a landmark civil rights order signed by them and six other youths last week in Suffolk

Superior Court.

The order, which resulted from the first use of a state's civil-rights act, banned youths from harassing blacks in the neighborhood and specifically prohibited them from congregating in a playground across the street from the home of a black family, which has been repeatedly harassed.

Police said the two youths were spotted in the field Sunday after Bertha Brooks complained. Gaine was arrested and charged with open and gross lewdness for allegedly exposing himself and urinating in front of the woman and her child.

The office of state Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti was investigating the incident to de-termine if the two young men can be cited for contempt of the court order.

Suffolk Superior Court Judge James Lynch who issued the court order did not specify what penalties would be handed down for violations, but said any violators would be sure to see the "inside of Deer Island" jail. But officials at Deer Island,

where the inmate population is nearly 50 percent black, said if Gaine is ordered there they would seek to have him transferred to another jail because his presence might trigger prob-lems.

Inflation rate falls to 7.3 percent

United Press International WASHINGTON — Consumer price inflation moderated to an annual rate of 7.3 percent in July after two previous months of double digit increases, the Labor Department Tuesday.

Housing, fuel and medical care costs were the big gainers during the month while food and beverage prices, in the best performance since a March decline, held steady, the department said.

It said the Consumer Price Index rose at a monthly rate of 0.6 percent in July, compared to 1 percent increases in May and June that now appear to have been temporary surges primarily caused by climbing gas and housing prices.

The inflation rate since the beginning of the year through July climbed 0.3 of a point to a moderate 5.4 percent, compared to the rate for all of last year of 8.9 percent. All figures were adjusted for seasonal price patterns. Favorable trends already de-

veloping in fuel prices and mort-gage rates, combined with steady food prices, seem to promise continued moderation in overall retail prices for at least the next several months, most analysts say.

The month's CPI, before seasonal adjustment, was 292.2, equivalent to a national average July cost of \$292.20 for the government's sample "market basket" of goods and services that cost \$100 in 1967.

