

# national Senate cuts defense budget plans

## New EPA head lauded at talk

**United Press International**  
ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The director of the Environmental Protection Agency under President Reagan says the new EPA chief has polished the agency's tarnished image if President Reagan lets him.

Douglas M. Costle, EPA director from 1977 to 1981, was the main speaker at the annual convocation of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources Friday.

In naming William Ruckelshaus to replace Anne Gorsuch Ladd as EPA administrator, President Reagan has taken a giant

step toward restoring the EPA's credibility," he said.

Costle characterized Burford's tenure at the EPA as a series of backroom deals in which too much consideration was given to the wishes of big business.

Ruckelshaus now needs the power to appoint his own officers and report directly to the president to get the EPA back on track, Costle said.

He said it is especially important Ruckelshaus be allowed to bypass Interior Secretary James Watt, who was Burford's mentor.

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Despite the uproar over defense spending cuts, the Senate Budget Committee actually sliced only \$3.3 billion from President Reagan's plan to spend \$244.7 billion on the military in fiscal 1984.

The Republican-led committee this coming week will begin drafting domestic spending and tax levels and, combining them with defense, send the entire 1984 budget resolution to the full Senate for approval.

The panel Thursday cut in half Reagan's proposed 10 percent increase in defense spending authority, which allows the Pentagon to enter into long-term contracts and spend money allocated to it for one year over several years.

But in actual money that can be spent in fiscal 1984 alone, the committee approved \$241.4 billion for defense spending.

He had asked for a 10.1 percent increase, adjusted for inflation, in actual defense spending for 1984. The Senate committee actually gave him an 8.3 percent increase.

What received the most attention from the news media, however, was the long-term defense spending authority for 1984, where Reagan's requested

9.9 percent increase was cut to 5 percent.

Reagan's request for \$280.2 billion in spending authority was pared by only \$13.2 billion, to \$267 billion.

In comparison, the Pentagon this year was given \$243.9 billion in spending authority and \$214.2 billion that can be spent in this fiscal year alone.

The committee's action was called a major defeat for Reagan, and White House press secretary Larry Speakes blamed the news media for spreading negative opinions about the Pentagon budget.

The question of whether to

raise taxes next year is the only major hurdle left for the panel.

Democrats on the committee are expected to propose repealing the third year of the tax cut and

tax indexing that compensates for inflation.

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## Missile approval delayed

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan will delay endorsing any plan for the controversial missile until after the House votes on a nuclear freeze resolution, according to a White House timetable announced Friday.

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan will receive support Monday from his bipartisan commission studying ways to delay making his own decision known until the following week.

The president will study the report, and when he is ready to make a recommendation to Congress, he will do so. It may take several days," Speakes said. Speakes refused to say whether the delay was because of the scheduled House vote Wednesday on a resolution calling for immediate negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union to seek a mutual verifiable freeze and reduction in nuclear weapons.

House Republicans were urged to urge such a delay on MX plans so as not to give the freeze forces additional ammunition against Reagan.

On all accounts, the report by the President's Commission on Strategic Forces will recommend deploying 100 of the new MX intercontinental ballistic missiles in existing Minuteman missile silos.

## Fleming files for new trial

**United Press International**  
SANTA MONICA, Calif. — David Fleming, who maintains a trust for the late actor Paul Robeson, was wrong in ordering her to pay nearly \$500,000 to Robeson's estate for taking advantage of the late actor's will, a judge has ruled.

The court document filed Friday was not immediately available, but Fleming's attorney, David Sabih, earlier accused the Superior Court jury of misconduct claiming one of the jurors failed to disclose he is married to a longtime Bank of America employee.

The bank, as executor of Robeson's estate, claimed Fleming, a former actress and the comedian's companion in the six years before his death, beat Fleming and threatened the actor into giving her cash gifts.


Sabih has contended the damages levied by the jury were consistent with the evidence presented in the 10-week case. Sabih said one of Marx's witnesses, called by the bank as a witness, possessed a diary kept by Marx which Sabih felt would have had a big bearing on the case. He charged the diary was withheld by the bank because it would have been favorable to Fleming.

Fleming denied the charges and insisted she had resurrected Marx and his career.

The jury ruled there was no evidence Fleming defrauded Marx but said she exploited him for her by taking advantage of him for her personal gain.

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