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Room #216
Reed McDonald
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reagan likes MX plan utilizing existing silos

United Press International
WASHINGTON — As expected, President Reagan Tuesday endorsed a recommendation that the United States put MX missiles in strengthened existing silos, saying the move will "preserve stable deterrence and thus protect the peace."

Reagan made a formal statement accepting the recommendations of the Commission on Strategic Forces, a panel he named to come up with yet another way to handle basing the controversial missile after he rejected one earlier proposal

and Congress rejected another. He spoke after briefing congressional leaders.

The panel, headed by retired Gen. Brent Scowcroft, a former national security affairs adviser, recommended putting 100 of the 10-warhead intercontinental missiles in specially hardened Minuteman silos in the West.

It also recommended a new approach to arms control, counting warheads instead of launchers, to discourage building multiple-warhead missiles. And it suggested development work on a small, mobile single-

warhead missile. Reagan said the proposed actions will add solid incentives and credibility to our efforts to negotiate arms reductions that can pave the way to a more secure and peaceful future.

"These actions (the panel proposes) will preserve stable deterrence and thus protect the peace," said Reagan.

Congress has 45 days — starting Tuesday — to act on funding legislation for the controversial MX missile.

In his remarks, Reagan took a swipe at the nuclear freeze

movement, which is pushing freeze resolution on Capitol Hill and has the votes to win passage in the House.

"The history of American involvement in arms control shows us what works and what does not," Reagan said. "The fact that, in the past, our one-sided restraint and good will failed to prompt similar restraint and good will from the Soviet Union. They also failed to produce meaningful arms control."

Reagan said arms control can be achieved by the United States having the resolve to remain strong.

Supreme Court takes case

Out-of-state libel labels debated

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, taking up a \$20 million case against the National Enquirer, will consider whether journalists must be prepared to defend libel suits from around the country.

The justices specifically will examine whether reporters working out of the Enquirer's Florida headquarters may be sued in state court by Hollywood actress Shirley Jones.

The weekly tabloid maintains that the First Amendment's free press guarantee should be considered before allowing reporters to be sued by a person residing

in another, distant state. Allowing journalists to be sued for stories appearing far away hampers reporting, and can cost newspapers substantial legal fees, the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press told the court Monday.

"This puts an awesome financial and psychological threat in the hands of any person who wants to intimidate an out-of-state newspaper merely by threatening to sue personally all the individual reporters and editors involved in the news articles," committee spokesman Jack Landau said.

Under a California court's

ruling, reporters and editors must be prepared to travel perhaps thousands of miles to defend themselves individually, hire out-of-town attorneys and conduct their defense far away from their homes and offices.

Jones and her husband, theatrical producer Marty Ingels, sued for an Oct. 9, 1979, Enquirer article.

They asked \$20 million for a story that said Ingels had "terrorized his staff, cheated stars, outraged advertisers and scandalized Hollywood," and his wife "has been driven to drink by his bizarre behavior."

They sued the newspaper's Iain Calder, an editor and president of the Lantana, Fla., Enquirer; and John Sorenson, a reporter who wrote the article.

Lawyers for the defendants claimed since both men lived in Florida, they did not have sufficient contact with California to enable them to be served the necessary legal papers.

But a state appeals court agreed, noting the tabloid's "extensive, wide-ranging, substantial, continuous or systematic" contact with California. Enquirer distributes more than 30 million copies in California each year.

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Building down, factories busier

United Press International
WASHINGTON — New housing construction slowed in March, but not enough to spoil the best first quarter in four years, the Commerce Department says.

The March report of a 9.2 percent decline in the annual rate of housing starts was regarded by leading analysts more as a sign of the strength of the housing boom than of a setback.

It made the January-March quarter's beginning of 321,800 housing units the best first quarter since 1979, the department said.

The report helped fuel Wall Street's optimism as Monday's eighth straight gain lifted the Dow Jones industrial average to still another record high.

The blue-chip average climbed 11.90 points to a record 1,183.24, making the current rally the biggest since a 76-point jump during April 1975.

Federal Reserve Board economists reported earlier Monday that the housing boom was spilling over into the industrial sector as demand for construction materials mounted.

Factory managers used 69.4

percent of their capacity in March, the fifth month of improvement. Yet the figure is still very low, especially when compared to the last reported high of 88 percent in 1973.

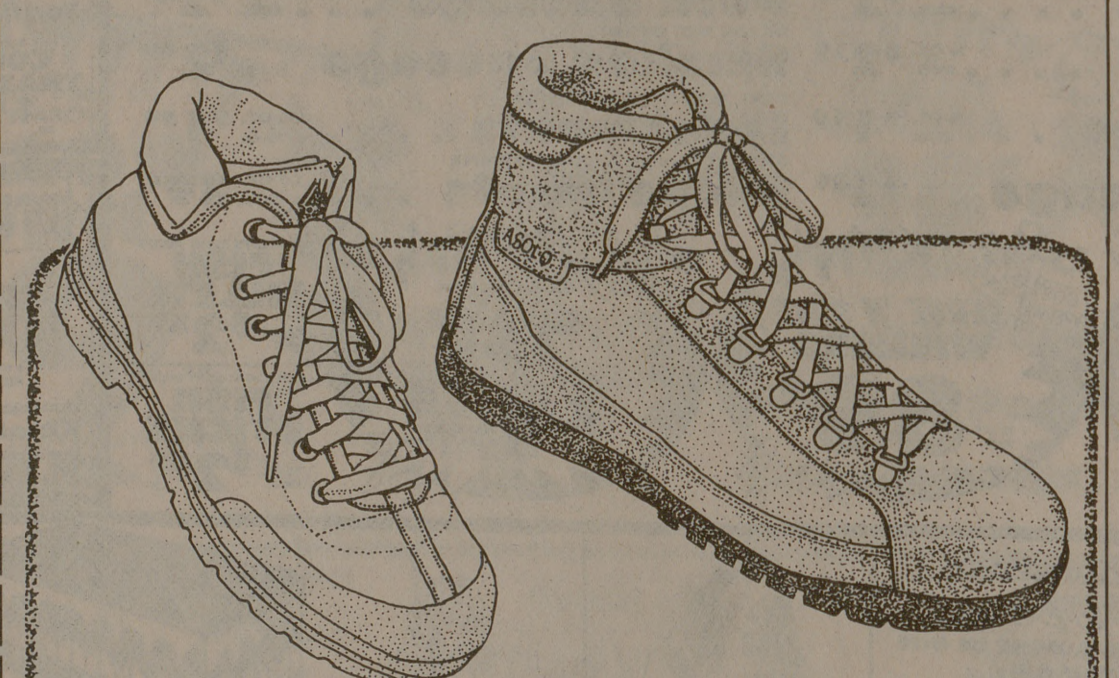
Building permits were down 4 percent in March, an annual rate of 1.4 million.

Economist Sumichrast said the National Association of Home Builders probably will revise its 1983 production forecast to over 1.3 million.

Last year the industry started 1.06 million housing units, its worst performance in more than three decades.

One additionally encouraging factor for the housing industry is the record rate of new deposits in savings and loans banks across the country. Depositors are taking advantage of newly available high interest savings, check and retirement accounts.

As a result conventional mortgage rates are not quite a percentage point above federally guaranteed FHA (Federal Housing Administration) rates, now around 12.25 percent. Fees are included.



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7 killed, 19 alive after fire

United Press International
WORCESTER, Mass. — Flames leaping through windows and doors gutted a town halfway house for patients early Tuesday, killing seven people and forcing others wearing nightclothes to jump to safety in the rain.

Six of the victims were instantly and a seventh died later at a city hospital, Worcester Police Lt. Reg Needham said.

Fire Chief James Mally said all 26 people who lived in the four-story wooden-frame building were accounted for and the survivors were given temporary shelter by the Red Cross. They went to the homes of family friends.

Needham said the survivors many of whom were staying outside the building in the wearing nightclothes and sheets, were taken to a downtown hospital and were released for minor injuries. At least one resident leaped from a second-story window, landed on top of a fire truck, Mally said, but it was unknown either was injured.