Reagan doesn't believe in equality, says King

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Coretta Scott King said Thursday she considered it an insult when President Reagan expressed doubts about the newly passed bill to establish a holiday honoring her late husband.

"It's hard for me to see that someone like that really believes in equality," King said in an interview with United Press International. "What kind of America does he want it to be? He doesn't represent America."

The Senate voted 78-22 Wednesday to approve legislation designating Martin Luther King Jr. Day as the third Monday in January, beginning in 1986.

Reagan said at his Wednesday night news conference he will sign the bill as a "symbolic" tribute to the slain civil rights leader.

But Reagan said he would have preferred an informal observance for King. He also said he was sympathetic to Sen. Jesse Helms' demand that sealed records of 1960s FBI wiretaps of King be divulged.

"He had a great opportunity to be a statesperson," King said. "He didn't have to say what he did."

She said Reagan's administration has "written the black community off."

"It's been so obvious (since) his election that he has systematically ignored the concerns of black people," she said. "And then to top it all off, to insult us with the statement he made yesterday after the Senate overwhelmingly voted for the bill."

Helms has said the FBI documents, sealed by court order for 50 years beginning in 1977, would show King was influenced by communism.

Asked if he agreed with the North Carolina senator, Reagan said, "We'll know in about 35 years, won't we?"

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., called Reagan's remarks "reckless."

King has lobbied for the holiday bill ever since it was introduced in Congress 15 years ago, shortly after her husband was assassinated at the age of 39 in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Nominee for EPA water programs pledges access

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's nominee to head the EPA's water programs pledged Thursday to give critics of ocean burning of toxic wastes the same access to agency documents as proponents of the plan.

Jack Ravan, the Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator-designate for water, told Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said he knew nothing about charges that proponents of ocean incineration of toxic wastes had fuller access to records than opponents.

Bentsen said there was considerable public controversy in Brownsville because of the issuance recently of two permits to allow burning at sea of toxic wastes, including PCBs.

"Yes, sir," Ravan replied after Bentsen asked if Ravan would allow equal access to agency documents to all sides in the controversy.

"I know nothing about the allegations, but that's not any way to run the office," Ravan said during a public hearing by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee concerning his nomination.

Bentsen said EPA "should have just as tough requirements for ocean incineration as land incineration" of toxic wastes.

Ravan, a former EPA regional administrator in Atlanta and former administrative aide to Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said he did not know if the same scrubbers used on smoke stacks during the burning of toxic wastes should be required on smoke stacks at sea. "There may be some good reason for not doing so," Ravan said.

He promised to involve himself in further consideration of the public comment and hearing process before a final policy on ocean incineration of toxic wastes is made.

"My commitment is to assist in the clean up, protection, and making safe for consumption, waters of the United States," he said.

"My faith is in the tr[illegible] Godhead who has richly [illegible]sed our nation with an ab[illegible]ance of natural resou[illegible] which we perhaps took [illegible] granted in our 'Westward [illegible] free American spirit of ad[illegible]ture," Ravan said.

Courtney Price, E[illegible] assistant administra[illegible] designate for enforcem[illegible] and compliance monito[illegible] told the committee "we[illegible] going to get money [illegible] dumpers" of toxic waste[illegible]

Price said she would [illegible] to reach out-of-court s[illegible]ments in such cases, but w[illegible] not hesitate to prosecute [illegible]

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Golden Arches may serve beer

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The McDonald's Corp., the nation's fast-food giant, has applied for a license to sell wine and beer at one of its California stores, the first attempt in the United States to put booze under the Golden Arches.

Spokesman Steve Leroy, from McDonald's headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., said Thursday the owner of the store in the Sierra resort community of Mammoth applied earlier this month for a beer and wine license from the state Alcohol Control Board.

"Basically, the application was made in Mammoth because of the unique demographics in the area," Leroy said. "It's an adult recreation location and a large number of tourists are in the area."

Leroy said there are no implications at this time that the same service might be offered at the chain's other 6,000 restaurants nationwide.

"It's not going to be experimental," he said. "It's our intention to take care of that area and the people who go through that restaurant.

"There is no similar se[illegible] the McDonald's in the [illegible] States, but outside the [illegible] have served both beer a[illegible] in our restaurants in Ge[illegible] and France since we beg[illegible] ations in those countries."

Gordon Kelly, assistan[illegible] tor for the southern dis[illegible] the Alcohol Control Bo[illegible] McDonald's applied for [illegible] and wine license Oct. 1[illegible] normally takes from 4[illegible] days to process an appli[illegible]

"If they qualify unde[illegible] zoning ordinances an[illegible] qualify under our rules, [illegible] have a license to sell be[illegible] wine in McDonald's," Ke[illegible] "The only problem we [illegible] is whether or not the p[illegible] serves the type of food [illegible] tute a bona fide eating [illegible] under our regulations [illegible] probably do."

Kelly said opposition [illegible] Mammoth residents co[illegible] block the license.

"If they meet the food [illegible] tions," he said, "there is [illegible] anything, we can do st[illegible] from getting a license [illegible] there are protests from [illegible] dents or from nearby ch[illegible] schools or hospitals. As of [illegible] we have not received a[illegible] tests."

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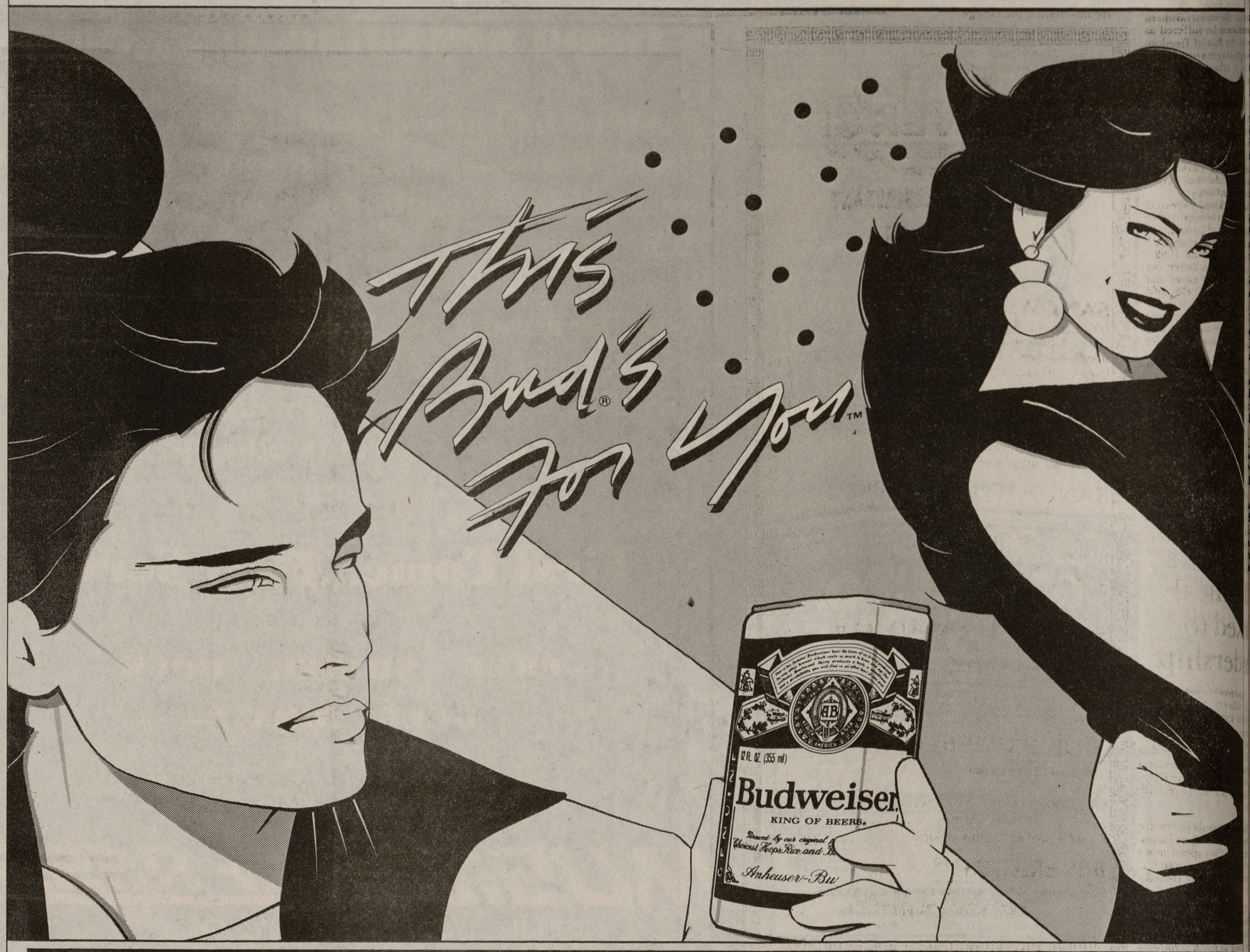

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