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The Battalion

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Senate passes Salvadorian aid

WASHINGTON — The Senate Thursday gave President Reagan what he wanted for Central America, approving \$62 million in emergency aid for El Salvador and another \$21 million to back a right-wing revolution in Nicaragua.

The Senate rejected a pair of key amendments that would have restricted U.S. activities in Nicaragua and Honduras, then voted 76 to 19 to approve a bill containing the aid to El Salvador and the Nicaragua.

The Senate has voted for wider aid in El Salvador, secret war in Nicaragua, and the brink of war in Honduras," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who has fought the measure for two weeks.

He said its approval was "one of the most fateful votes" the Senate could take.

Sen. Bob Kasten, R-Wis., supported the president's plan and said, "The administration has repeatedly stated it has no intention of producing U.S. troops in El Salvador."

But Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., said, "We can see where this fellow is going... I believe the day after he is reelected you will see American troops fighting in Latin America."

The proposal now goes to the House, which is likely to oppose many of the amendments and seek a House-Senate conference to work out the differences.

The aid was part of a catchall bill that started out as a measure to provide aid to drought-stricken African nations.

On a 51-44 vote the Senate defeated an amendment by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., that would have barred aid to any group trying to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government.

Reagan has repeatedly told Congress that U.S. aid to Nicaraguan insurgents is intended only to discourage Nicaragua from helping leftist guerrillas in neighboring countries such as El Salvador and not to overthrow the Sandinista government.

Some of the Nicaraguan rebel leaders have said, however, that their aim is to oust the Sandinistas.

Earlier in the week the Senate approved an amendment that would halt U.S. aid to El Salvador if the army overthrows the embattled country's duly elected president.

The Senate killed an amendment by Sen. Jim Sasser, D-Tenn., who sought to ensure that military facilities in Honduras be used only for training, that they not be made permanent and not be turned over to any other military or paramilitary group.

Sasser's amendment was rejected on a 50-44 vote despite his warning the Pentagon is building facilities "capable of supporting a major armed intervention by U.S. troops in the region."

Reagan had asked for \$93 million in emergency military aid to El Salvador but agreed to a bipartisan compromise trimming the amount to \$62 million.

Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee continued work on the 1984-85 foreign aid package, which includes Reagan's request for a long-range economic and military aid for Central America.

Democrats on the panel indicated willingness to withdraw a highly restrictive proposal on aid to El Salvador if Republicans accept tighter reins on the aid.

Chairman Charles Percy, R-Ill., delayed a vote until Friday morning to permit time for negotiations involving both parties and the administration.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker pushed the Senate to finish the bill.



Andaya hums, but Ags lose 3-1

Photo by DONN FRIEDMAN

Pitcher Shawn Andaya gave up only 3 hits and struck out six, but the Ags still lost to No. 1 ranked Cal State-Fullerton. The

women have a chance to redeem themselves in the Texas A&M invitational tournament here this weekend. See story page 14.

Stocks plunge to 12-month low

NEW YORK — The stock market plunged to its lowest level in a year Thursday after the nation's major banks raised their prime lending rate for the second time in less than three weeks.

Analysts bitterly attacked the Reagan administration and Congress for failing to come to grips with the federal budget deficit that has kept interest rates historically high for two years.

The Dow Jones industrial average, up six points at the outset after slipping 0.20 Wednesday, plunged 18.01

to 1,130.55, the lowest level since it finished at 1,124.71 on April 8, 1983.

An initial buying surge fizzled after most of the nation's major banks, headed by First National Bank of Chicago, raised their prime lending rate to a 17-month high of 12 percent from the 11.5 percent level adopted March 19.

The hikes, while expected by many experts, had an unsettling effect on an already nervous market. Megabuck institutions, seeing no letup in sight, threw in the towel as the day wore on and averages sank.

"Wall Street is saying interest rates

are too high to support the market," George Keith, of Paine Webber, said. "President Reagan could change this format tomorrow but it apparently is too early in the election process for him to act. The budget deficit must be cut."

William Gillard, of Kidder Peabody, said, "I think Congress is fooling around because the White House is not taking the leadership role in pushing through legislation to reduce the budget deficit."

"If you step back and look at this, the market slump has been under way for nine months. It is a whistle

blowing and it is getting louder and louder."

Reagan said nothing at his Wednesday night news conference about plans to cut the federal budget. The House continued work on several budget measures, most of which contain proposals to cut the deficit.

After the market closed, the Federal Reserve reported the nation's money supply rose \$2.2 billion. Many on Wall Street were waiting to see if the Fed would raise the discount rate it charges member banks for loans.

A&M attracting internationals in all areas

By MELISSA ADAIR
Reporter

When Qadeer Qureshi came to Texas A&M, he was in for a big surprise.

In Pakistan, he had seen movies that portrayed the United States as a country where every city is a huge, fast-paced, glamorous metropolis.

When he came to College Station, "I was somewhat disappointed," Qureshi said. "Not to imply that I don't like it here, but it just wasn't what I expected."

Qureshi's initial reaction to College Station and Texas A&M is only one of the responses that might be heard from almost 2,200 international students at Texas A&M.

Of the students in the international program here, 555 are immigrants and 1,618 are non-immigrants. The immigrants are planning to stay in the United States after they graduate. The non-immigrants plan

to return to their country as soon as they finish school.

Even though the non-immigrants and the immigrants are classified differently, their needs and their newness to the United States make them virtually the same.

The international students here major in everything from liberal arts to engineering and they represent 109 countries from Mexico to Saudi Arabia.

Many internationals come here because Texas A&M is well-known for the area they want to study.

Tina Watkins, international student adviser at Texas A&M, said that in many countries a list ranking U.S. universities is available for students considering studying here.

For the past few years, Watkins said, Texas A&M has been ranked number one in petroleum engineering and in the top five in other engineering fields.

Her-Juan Chen, a graduate student in petroleum engineering, said, "Most Taiwanese students study agriculture and engineering. Texas A&M is well-known for that in my country."

Chen is part of the largest international group at Texas A&M. The Taiwanese make up 9.7 percent (210) of the international student population here. Nationwide, however, Taiwanese make up only 6.3 percent (20,520) of the international student population.

And even more surprisingly, at Texas A&M, Iranian students make up only 2.2 percent (44) of the international student population, but nationwide, they are the largest group, comprising 10.9 percent (35,800) of the overall international student population.

Texas A&M has a good name in other countries. But what are some

other reasons why internationals come here?

Perhaps one of the most obvious reasons is the same reason many Americans come here. Someone in their family came here before — it's a tradition.

Monica Castro, a junior theatre arts major, is the fifth person from her family to come to Texas A&M from Ecuador. She also has a younger sister who just came here this semester.

"It has become a tradition for us," Castro said.

Another reason internationals come to Texas A&M is strictly financial. The tuition here, in Texas, is lower than most other schools.

Jose Luis Rivera, an industrial engineering graduate student from Honduras, said he saw many cost advantages in coming to Texas A&M.

"A&M is known in my country, just as Harvard, Yale and other

Allergist says misery is in the air

By HELEN DE LA ROSA
Reporter

Allergy sufferers beware! There's more misery in the air this spring than usual.

Dr. Ted Haywood, allergy specialist at McGovern Allergy Clinic in Houston, says the severe winter can be blamed for the increased suffering of those with allergies.

"Plants seem to come out more profusely and pollinate higher after a cold winter," Haywood said.

The typical pollen or mold count for this time of year is less than 100 particles a cubic meter.

"(April 2) we had a count of 123 pollen grains a cubic meter, 198 mold spores a cubic meter and 14 grass pollens a cubic meter," Haywood said.

The seasonal culprits for this allergy time seem to be the oak, elm and pecan trees because they produce the most pollen. The allergens are always around, but they're most noticeable during the spring and fall. Household dust and mold spores also present a year-round problem for allergy sufferers.

Haywood says a sufferer can tell whether he has an allergy or just a seasonal cold by his sinus drainage, which is clear with an allergy and discolored with a cold. Also, a cold usually is accompanied by a low-grade fever.

Allergic symptoms can include clogged mucus membranes; a swelling of the entire upper respiratory tract; popping or roaring ears; and itching, watering, burning eyes.

Other allergy discomforts are coughing, asthma, or skin rashes such as eczema.

Some relief is available to the sufferer in the over-the-counter antihistamine or decongestants. However, anyone with high blood pressure or hyperthyroidism should be careful to read the label.

If the condition is severe or year-to-year, the sufferer might choose to have a clinical study made to identify the allergy and take medications to control the problem. Haywood says he also recommends that his patients try to avoid whatever it is that is causing the allergic reaction, if possible. He says that during peak allergy season, sufferers should not ride in convertible cars or do yard work and should stay in an air conditioned environment as much as possible.

Dr. Claude B. Goswick Jr., director of the A. P. Beutel Health Center, says there has not been a disproportionate increase in allergy patients seeking health center care.

"There's a real increase, but I think it's because of an increase in the number of students," Goswick says.

Texas A&M students who are allergy sufferers can't go to the Health Center for allergy tests or medications. The health center will, however, administer allergy shots for \$1 a shot if the student does not provide a syringe, and free if the syringe is provided. The health center also will store allergy medications for dorm students who don't have refrigerators.

In Today's Battalion

State

• U.S. Senate candidate Phil Gramm criticizes attendance records of two of his colleagues. See story page 3.

National

• Soviets say Reagan is trying to cover up U.S. plans to stockpile chemical weapons. See story page 3.