

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"This one guy has insisted that he help me with my studies, but I'd like it better if he were passing himself."

Terrorists claim mining

United Press International

CAIRO, Egypt — Iran Tuesday said the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad terrorist group has claimed responsibility for mining the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez and praised the campaign to disrupt shipping as "part of the bitter struggle" against the West.

The Iranian report came as U.S. mine-sweeping helicopters headed for the Mediterranean to join patrols by Egyptian and French ships in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. Britain also was considering sending minesweepers to the region.

Fourteen ships have been hit and damaged by the mystery mines in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea since July 27, according to the Pentagon. Lloyd's of London, the world's foremost shipping insurer, lists 12 ships hit.

Tehran radio, in a broadcast monitored in Kuwait, reported that the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) terrorist group said it had planted the mines that damaged the ships.

Islamic Jihad is the same pro-Iranian terror group that claimed responsibility for the October, 1983 twin suicide bombings in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers.

The radio praised the mining as "part of the bitter struggle against the forces of enslavement and domination."

"All the arrogant powers are helpless, unable to save the dozens of ships facing destruction in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea every day," the radio said.

But Iranian Prime Minister Hus-

sein Musavi denied at a news conference in Tehran that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic regime was involved in the mining and protested the search of two Iranian ships in the Suez Canal.

The searching of the two Iranian ships could not be confirmed immediately in Cairo, but the Egyptian newspaper Al Gomhourisy said "some ships" traveling through the Suez Canal have been searched.

Musavi said that although Islamic Jihad claimed to support the Islamic revolution its nature was unknown to the Iranian government, a dispatch of the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

"I will not go into discussion about the nature of this organization," IRNA quoted Musavi as saying.

Sakharov on hunger strike still

United Press International

MOSCOW — Letters from Andrei Sakharov's wife indicate the Nobel laureate had not ended a hunger strike he was reported to have started three months ago, a Soviet dissident said Tuesday.

The dissident, who asked to remain unidentified, said reports earlier this week that Sakharov had ended his hunger strike may have been planted by the KGB.

The dissident said those reports were contradicted by two letters from the dissident physicist's wife.

Tax streamlining discussed

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., said Tuesday simplifying the federal tax system sounds good to almost everyone, but the real test of support will come when taxpayers find out how much they have to pay.

The Senate Finance Committee chairman's comment came at the first of a series of hearings by his committee on proposals to streamline federal taxes, including modifi-

cations of the "flat tax" idea under which tax rates would be equalized and lowered and deductions would be severely limited.

While there was general agreement that tax reforms would be desirable, the hearing foreshadowed likely discord next year on how to go about it.

Underlying the discussion is the problem of whether to raise taxes to cope with the monstrous federal deficit, forecast at around \$180 billion

next year and in the future.

Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., and Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., who met with Mondale Monday, are sponsoring a simplified tax system — dubbed the "Fair Tax" — that puts all Americans into three tax brackets, with four out of every five taxpayers in a 14 percent bracket, and a top bracket of 30 percent. It retains the most widely used deductions, such as the interest on home mortgages.

North Texas rain won't end drought

United Press International

Parched north central Texas towns soaked up several inches from heavy showers and thundershowers Tuesday, including 4 inches that fell on McKinney in as many hours, but it won't be enough to relieve the summer-long drought, forecasters said.

The band of rain was brought on by a wide band of extremely unstable and moist air and extended from Cooke and Grayson counties along the Red River to just north of Dallas and Collin counties.

The storms grew out of a surface area of low pressure that drifted slowly into the northwestern corner of the Texas Panhandle.

Low clouds dotted parts of south and central Texas.

The Bryan-College Station area received no rain Tuesday, but has gotten 1.13 inches during August, and 17.29 inches so far during 1984.

Despite the welcome rains, Joe Kopecek of the National Weather Service in Fort Worth said the entire state is a long way off from ending its drought.

The worst water shortages have gripped much of south central Texas, including Austin and San Antonio, where water rationing was in effect for several days. Corpus Christi also has had water rationing.

Accuses president of 'voodoo economics'

Mondale pressures Reagan to be 'honest'

United Press International

PHILADELPHIA — Walter Mondale kept the pressure on President Reagan Tuesday to be "honest" and questioned whether Reagan will be truthful in his assessment of how fast the budget deficit is growing.

"You've heard the story of Pinocchio, you know why his nose kept getting longer all the time," Mondale said.

Mondale, speaking to an enthusiastic crowd of more than 3,000 assembled for a Communication Workers of America Convention, questioned whether the administration will make an honest assessment of how large the deficit will grow in coming years when it releases figures Thursday.

Mondale used as his benchmark a Congressional Budget Office estimate released Monday which projects \$263 billion deficit by 1989.

"Let's see on Thursday whether this is an honest, solid reflection of the facts that we face or if it's what you might call a Pinocchio projection."

Administration sources say the estimate is expected to be tens of billions of dollars lower.

Earlier, at an appearance in Toledo, Ohio, Mondale accused Reagan of practicing "voodoo economics" and jokingly suggested Reagan debate his own vice president, George Bush.

"Just yesterday Mr. Reagan said that I wasn't telling the truth," Mondale told a crowd of Democratic Party workers and elected officials at the Port of Toledo. "Well, who is telling the truth?"

Mondale used Bush's catchy phrase from the Bush-Reagan battle for the 1980 Republican nomination against the administration on a three-day, five-state campaign trip.

After traveling to Pennsylvania, he was set to concentrate on pivotal Southern states — North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama.

Mondale again demanded that the president "tell the truth" by making public his economic plans for next year.

Mondale, waging a concerted attack on the administration's economic policies, has said he will reduce the federal deficit and that Reagan, despite what he says, will do the same if re-elected.

Reagan said Monday he had no plans to raise taxes and that Mondale was not telling the truth to sug-

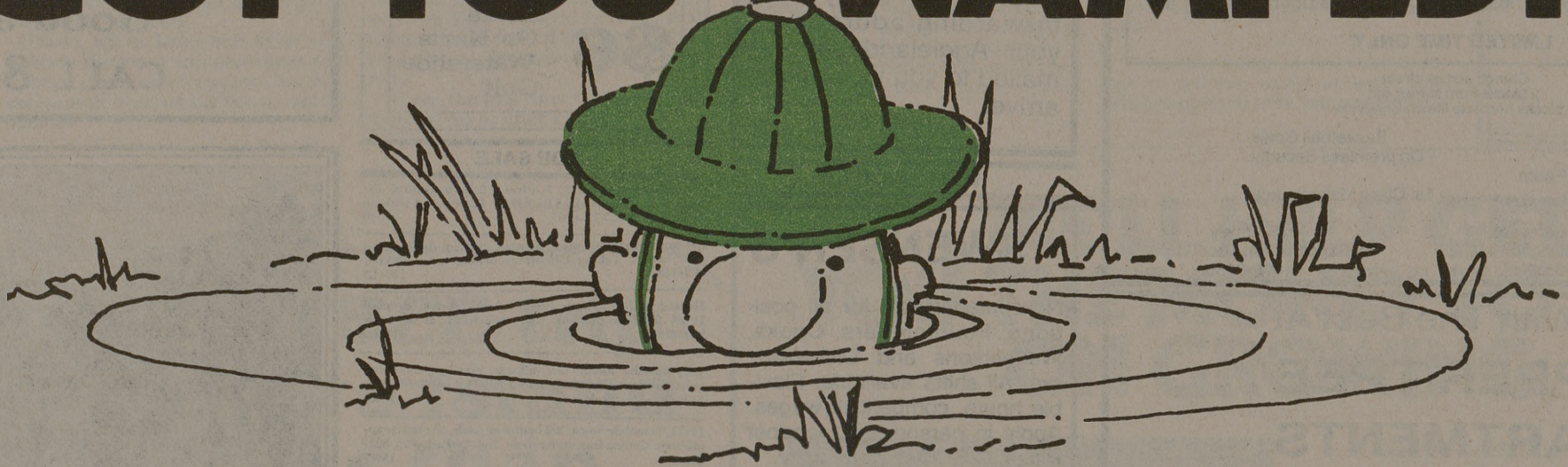
gest otherwise. But in Santa Barbara, Calif., where Reagan was vacationing, White House spokesman Larry Speakes refused to say Tuesday whether the president's vow to not "allow any plans for a tax increase" next year slammed the door on any revenue increases.

"Just yesterday Mr. Reagan said that I wasn't telling the truth," Mondale told a crowd of Democratic Party workers and elected officials at the Port of Toledo. "Well, who is telling the truth?"

He told the crowd of Bush's statement, made after meeting with Reagan in California Monday, that the door was still open to a tax increase.

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