

Slouch

By Jim Earle



JIM EARLE
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"How did you get 'em printed so fast?"

Budget freeze

Big spending cuts included

United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Reagan neared decisions Monday on elements of a 1986 budget "freeze" amid further signs his proposed lid on federal spending will require deep cuts in domestic programs to slash the deficit in half.

Reagan met with his advisers for three hours to discuss sharp reductions needed to hold fiscal 1986 spending to about \$968 billion — the same level as this year — and offset growth in such areas as defense and Social Security.

While military spending looms as the big variable in the budget equation, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the president and his aides focused on domestic areas.

As the budget work progressed, the idea of a spending freeze came under further scrutiny on Capitol Hill, where figures provided by budget director David Stockman showed a simple freeze of spending on selected programs would produce only \$8.9 billion of the \$42 billion in savings needed to meet a target of \$170 billion deficit in fiscal 1986.

Stockman also indicated the administration is considering Medicare cuts of \$7.9 billion over three years.

"They are using the word 'freeze,' but it's not a freeze at all," said a GOP senator's aide. "It's a cut."

A spokesman for House GOP leader Robert Michel said the Stockman report was not presented as a recommendation, but to illustrate what a freeze would entail.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes asserted a freeze would "go a long way toward our goal" for deficit reduction.

Reagan told reporters late in the day he was "in no position" yet to discuss the Pentagon budget.

Speakes said Reagan hopes to wind up work on domestic portions of the budget by today and issue budget-cutting instructions to the Cabinet during a meeting set for Wednesday.

Still to be decided, Speakes said, is whether Reagan will bow to pressure from Capitol Hill and some of his own advisers by agreeing to a smaller increase in the Pentagon budget than the double-digit boost sought by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Speakes also hinted Reagan might be more amenable to compromise than he himself suggested last week, in warning a military cutback could send a wrong signal to Moscow about United States resolve.

The superpowers are preparing to renew arms control talks next month.

Republican congressional leaders said last week Reagan would have to trim his projected military budget by \$8 billion to \$15 billion next year to meet his fiscal target with a plan that could be sold to Congress.

The Stockman-Reagan blueprint calls for overall reductions of \$42 billion next year, \$85 billion in 1987 and \$110 billion in 1988.

Speakes said Reagan wants Congress to devote primary attention to the budget and secondary attention to the tax simplification plan he expects to send to Capitol Hill early next year.

Suspected New Orleans arsonist held

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — A female former mental patient from Houston was booked for a 1983 arson that destroyed a three-story building in the French Quarter, police said Monday.

Catherine Christley, 22, was arrested and charged with setting the fire that destroyed the Mad Mad World of T-Shirts on Bourbon Street. Police said the building burned to the ground after a woman began burning T-shirts on the racks with a cigarette lighter.

According to the police officers, a woman they knew only as Cathy also crossed the street on the night of the fire and began burning T-shirts in another shop.

The woman then fled to a bar near Bourbon Street, where she caught a ride to Baton Rouge. Police said they identified her after learning the name of the man who drove Christley.

Police said Christley had been a patient at the Houston International Hospital but escaped, and later went back to the hospital.

Study says less attractive women have top job edge

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The more beautiful a woman, the less likely she is to land a corporate management position and the more likely she is to be put in a "pink collar" job, the author of a new study said Monday.

Thomas Cash, writing in the December issue of Psychology Today, said studies show that when women tried for corporate management jobs — a male-dominated field — the more attractive women were discriminated against relative to less attractive women in those managerial applications.

Cash, associate professor of psychology at Virginia's Old Dominion University, said in an interview that attractive women are at a real disadvantage when they aspire to occupations in which stereotypically masculine traits — such as being strong, independent and decisive — are

thought to be required for success.

The flip side, said Cash, is that beautiful women more often get the "pink collar" jobs, ones traditionally dominated by females.

"When the job was non-managerial ... a clerical position, nursing, receptionists, teaching — in that case, when it is perceived as requiring feminine traits for success — attractive women are at advantage," Cash said.

The choices made by male and female corporate personnel consultants at more than 200 corporations on the basis of photographs suggest that the less feminine the appearance, the more competent the woman, even though the candidates were considered equally qualified.

Playboy channel subject of protest

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — The Playboy Channel, which offers R-rated movies and other adult programming on cable television, will go on the air despite protests and boycott threats from a fundamentalist minister, cable officials said Monday.

About 200 people led by the Rev. Joe West staged a demonstration Sunday outside Rogers Cablesystems of Texas Inc., which is offering the cable channel to San Antonio subscribers for the first time.

The Playboy Channel is already available to Bexar County residents through a different company.

West, calling the channel the granddaddy of the pornographic movies, vowed his group will boycott Rogers unless the company drops the channel.

"We are against all forms of pornography, including the movie cable channels," West told supporters outside the company's office in downtown San Antonio. "We're going to keep on protesting until they pull the channel out."

Protestors waved Bibles and carried homemade signs in a protest that briefly interrupted traffic. West vowed that the group would return Monday, but no demonstrators appeared.

World's Fair cost overruns boosted by consultant fees

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — Hundreds of people were paid just under \$6 million by the World's Fair to serve as consultants for everything from attracting visitors to the Fair to picking up trash, records revealed.

The consultants helped decide how the fair would look and who would help it look that way.

Expo president Peter Spurney said many consultants were hired to guard against financial problems and also get experienced people to improve the fair's staff. But the exposition ended up with debts between \$100 million and \$140 million.

Spurney said the \$5.9 million was somewhat higher than the amount originally anticipated because some expo employees were listed as consultants.

One of the highest paid consultants since January was Barry Howard and Associates Inc., according to fair records made public after several newspapers sued for access.

Howard, who has worked with Spurney on other expositions, designed the Petroleum, U.S. and European Economic Community pavilions at the New Orleans fair.

The Europeans paid him \$20,000 for his work, and the oil industry paid him at least \$55,000 for designing the Petroleum Pavilion. In both cases, the money was funneled to Howard through the fair.

While records on Howard's work for the U.S. Pavilion were not included in the documents made available to reporters, Spurney said the federal government reimbursed the fair for the fee.

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