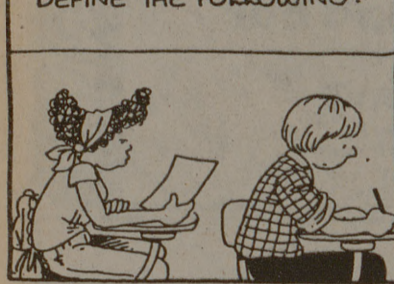


WORLD AND NATION

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING:



(I.) FURLOUGH



The height of a mink stole when it's still on the mink!



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



History today

Associated Press

Today's highlight in history: On February 25, 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was declared in effect, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes.

In 1793, the various department heads of the U.S. government met with President George Washington at his home for the first "cabinet" meeting on record.

In 1870, Hiram R. Revels, a Republican from Mississippi, became

the first black to serve in the U.S. Senate. He was sworn in to serve out the unexpired term of Jefferson Davis.

One year ago: The first full combat unit of the U.S. Marine force in Lebanon withdrew to ships offshore.

Soviet leader emerges to vote for parliament

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko, looking frail, broke a two-month absence Sunday with a television appearance in which he was shown casting his vote for deputies to the Parliament of the Russian Republic.

The 73-year-old Soviet leader, who missed a key election speech only two days earlier because of illness, murmured only a few words

during the less than two minutes of film shown on a news brief.

Chernenko's surprise appearance was strictly managed and limited to a handful of Soviet photographers. It contrasted sharply with the election day coverage of Mikhail Gorbachev, who, in the eyes of many Western observers, has emerged as the ruling Politburo's number two man.

Chernenko and the other 10 Politburo members were all nominees for parliamentary seats, among the dep-

uties being elected to parliaments in the 15 republics of the Soviet Union.

There was no film of him marking his ballot and he did not take out his customary glasses to look at it. The next sequence was of Chernenko standing over the ballot box and depositing his vote. He was not shown getting up from his chair.

Chernenko reportedly suffers from emphysema, and his condition had been said to be worsening.

Agriculture secretary vows to help farmers secure loans

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary John Block pledged Sunday to aggressively aid farmers in securing loans in time for spring planting, and denounced a four-day filibuster by Senate Democrats demanding such action as merely a "political game."

"The public knows we mean business," Block said. "We will implement these programs aggressively, immediately. There will be adequate funding for guaranteed loans and direct loans.

"The short term is right now, between now and planting season. We need quick action. That's why I want the banks to go to work and make these loans and get the farmers in the field."

Block's comments, on NBC-TV's "Meet The Press," came one day after Senate Democrats ended a filibuster that had blocked a vote on confirmation of Edwin Meese as attorney general. The Democrats, having won the right to try to amend an Ethiopian famine bill to

ease credit terms for U.S. farmers, permitted the vote and Meese was confirmed 63-31.

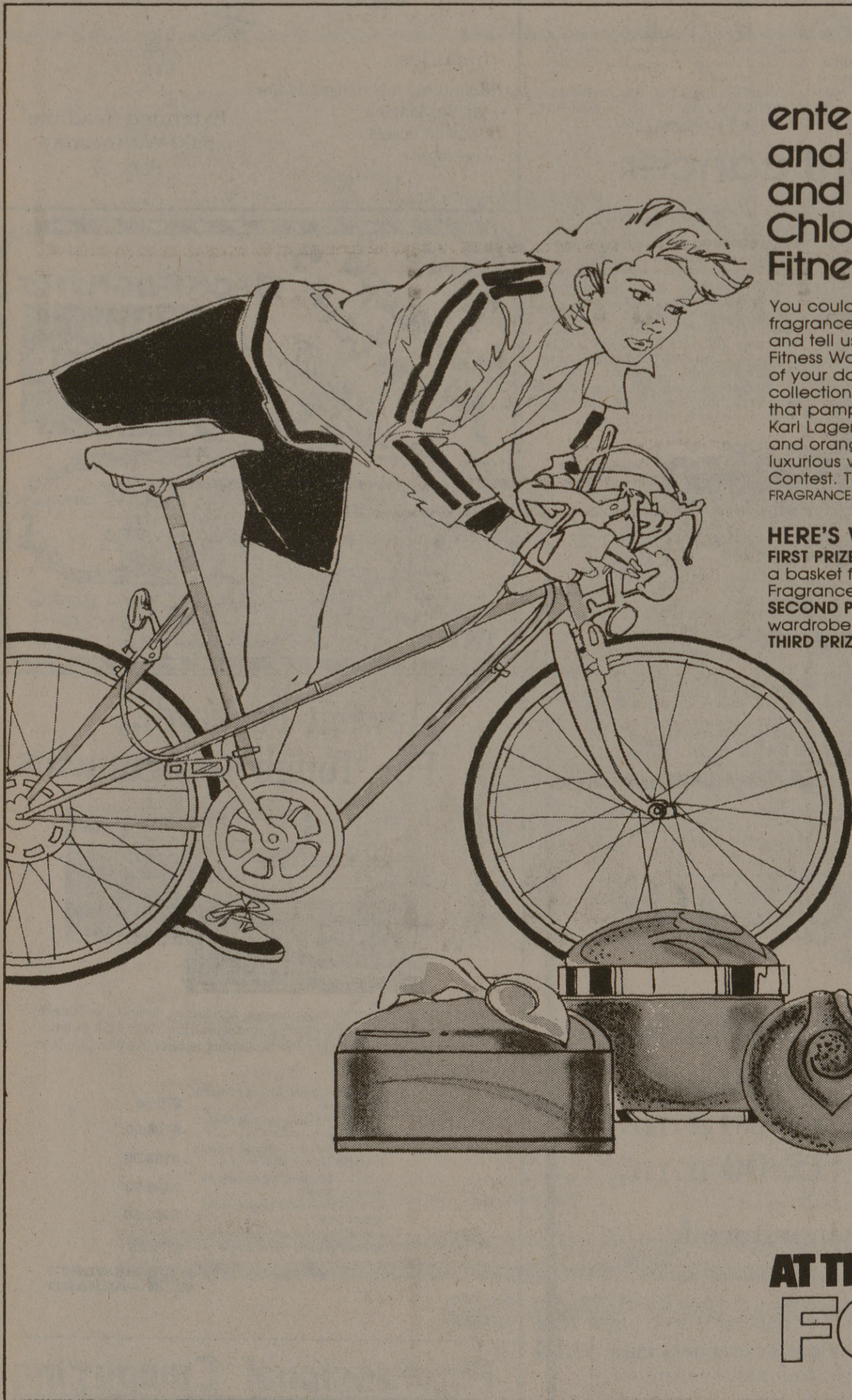
The changes in the credit-aid package are designed to put more government weight behind farm loans that bankers might otherwise find shaky. The program permits guarantees for farmers whose income is barely enough to cover expenses, rather than requiring a 10 percent cash cushion, as previously stipulated.

After the Senate fight, Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan. said, "We haven't got to the main event yet"—the battle over President Reagan's efforts to reduce farm spending as part of an overall attack on the budget deficit.

Block said, however, that the administration would move forward on its plan to reduce the federal level of support for farmers.

Block also said the president is deeply concerned about the plight of farmers. "There isn't a person in this town more sensitive and has greater love for rural America than President Ronald Reagan," Block said.

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