

**WORLD AND NATION**

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk



**Committee votes to freeze military budget**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Senate Budget Committee, in a sharp rebuff to President Reagan, voted tentatively Tuesday in favor of a \$79 billion reduction in his military buildup over the next three years.

On a bipartisan vote of 18-4, the committee proposed freezing defense spending authority at current levels after adjusting for inflation for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. That would be followed by after-inflation increases of 3 percent for each of the two subsequent years.

The action Tuesday was the first formal indication of the widespread dissatisfaction in Congress over the president's proposed fiscal 1986 budget, which includes a \$30 billion increase in defense spending and nearly \$40 billion in cuts in domestic programs.

The vote came a few hours after Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., said the administration must be prepared to negotiate with House and Senate leaders to get a "consensus" budget that will reduce federal deficits.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan "stands squarely behind his budget."

The vote on defense spending marked the beginning of the Budget Committee's efforts to draft an alternative to the president's spending blueprint.

The Budget Committee considered five plans, all of which would have allowed defense spending to rise each year, but by less than the amount Reagan wants.

The president has called for increases in defense spending authority of 5.9 percent after inflation in 1986, 8.2 percent in 1987 and 8.5 percent in 1988.

The plan that won tentative committee approval, sponsored by Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., would hold the increase far below the range proposed by Reagan.

In terms of actual estimated spending, if Hollings' proposal were implemented by Congress, the Pentagon would have \$10.9 billion less in 1986 than Reagan proposed, \$25.3 billion less in 1987 and \$43 billion less in 1988, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Sen. Dan Quayle, R-Ind., argued for after-inflation increases of 4 percent a year, saying that "one of the reasons the Soviets are back at the negotiating table is because we have shown the willingness" to provide for large defense increases in the past.

**Deductions**

IRS asks Congress not to repeal new tax law

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers are claiming well over \$3 billion a year in excess tax benefits by overstating deductions for business use of automobiles, the Internal Revenue Service said Tuesday in urging Congress not to repeal a new law requiring better recordkeeping.

But as IRS Commissioner Roscoe L. Egger Jr. appealed to the House Ways and Means Committee to support the stiffer rules, nearly two dozen members of Congress testified repeal was the only way to provide relief for paperwork-weary farmers and businesspeople.

"Joe and Martha Six-pack should not have to hold degrees in accounting just to be able to file their taxes properly," said Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va.

The Treasury Department

pledged to work with Congress to refine the disputed rules, which affect as many as 30 million vehicles. And Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the committee, cautioned against a headlong rush for repeal.

While repeal would satisfy demands for simplicity, Rostenkowski said, "It also raises serious doubts about Congress' resolve in pursuit of" overhaul of the tax system.

Egger said the old rules for proving claimed business use of vehicles were widely abused. He cited a case involving 937 employees of a big corporation who were furnished cars by the company and kept no records of personal and business use of the vehicles. After auditing the employees, the IRS last year demanded additional taxes averaging

\$846 per person — a total of \$800,000.

Until this year, the law required only that a taxpayer keep adequate records to support a deduction for local (as opposed to away-from-home) business use of a car or truck. It did not specify the type of record, so if the IRS challenged a deduction it often was required to estimate mileage by consulting an appointment calendar or other records.

Last year, Congress ordered that contemporaneous records be kept, and the IRS issued regulations on Jan. 25, 1985, explaining what was expected. Three weeks later, the IRS watered down those new regulations in response to complaints from Congress and the public. But lawmakers testifying Tuesday said those changes are inadequate.

**Defense contract payments to General Dynamics halted**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department suspended part of its huge annual payment to General Dynamics Corp. on Tuesday, citing evidence that the largest U.S. defense contractor billed the government for unauthorized expenses — such as caring for the company's pet dog.

Pentagon spokesman Michael I. Burch said "we found that General Dynamics' testimony was nauseating" when the contractor tried to explain the problem to Congress last week.

Burch said \$35 million in monthly payments for administrative expenses would be halted for 30 days while the department investigates whether General Dynamics wrongly billed the government for advertising, entertainment and other unauthorized expenses.

He said that if the inquiry is not completed in 30 days, the suspension will continue.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who an-

nounced the decision in a speech to an American Legion convention, said "it came out in our audits that they were billing us, as part of their overhead costs, a lot of expenses that did not benefit the government."

Among them, he said, were charges for "when a company-owned dog was put in a kennel." He did not give details.

He said some billings "may have involved criminal matters, and they are being investigated by the Department of Justice."

General Dynamics spokesman Peter K. Connolly said that if the Pentagon investigation shows any wrong billings, the company will return the money immediately.

Weinberger announced that in the future, all defense contractors would be required to certify, "under penalty of perjury," that their claims for payment do not include expenses "not made directly for the benefit of the government."

**Italian leader supports 'Star Wars' defense**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan won a qualified vote of support but not a ringing endorsement for his "Star Wars" space-based defense plan during talks Tuesday with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

The president, praising Italy as

"an ally second to none," said he and Craxi did agree on the "potential benefits" of the proposal and the need for NATO solidarity in light of arms negotiations beginning in Geneva next week.

The Italian leader called the talks "fruitful" and said they convinced him that "the basic goals of United States policy remain defense and

peace based on a balance of forces."

Craxi added that Reagan "has assured me that these same goals will be pursued" through the president's Strategic Defense Initiative — the formal name for the Star Wars plan.

He added that the two countries "will draw mutual advantages in the scientific and technological field" from research into the futuristic de-

fense, but he sidestepped a full-fledged endorsement of the plan.

U.S. officials were anxious to allay any worries Craxi might have had about such a defense system. It is not an allied project, and some NATO leaders have expressed concern that it would cause America to shift its focus from a defense of European nations.

**Life In Jesus Spring Revival**  
 March 4-6, 1985  
 BSU (behind Loupot's)  
 Featuring: David George Arlington, TX  
 Kathy Baum Richardson, TX  
 7:30 p.m.

**The College of Liberal Arts Humanities Resources Group**  
 Announces  
 The Annual Humanities Lecture  
**Dr. William Bedford Clark**  
 "Like Death and Dying:  
 The Humanities in a Technetronic Age"  
 Rudder Tower Wednesday, March 6  
 Room 601 8 PM

**Tommy's**  
**Second Annual Pool Tournament**  
 w/cash prizes  
 Every Wednesday night at 9 pm.  
**\$1.00 Bar Drinks all night**  
 Skaggs Shopping Center 846-4234

**Annual CLEARANCE SALE**  
**up to 50% OFF**  
 Entire Stock  
 30% off  
 Goggles, coats, Bibs  
 Some 50% and more  
 Wool stretch pants & Bibs  
**50% off**  
**Tri-State Sports Center**  
 2023 Texas 779-8776

**AVAILABLE**  
 Friendly roommate. Quiet — and smart. Able to sort through complicated issues. Will share workload. Problem solving is my specialty. Supportive and dependable. Flexible. Clever. Fun. Good looking.  
 See the IBM PC Family on Campus at The Pavilion, March 4-8.

**Announcing**  
 Texas A&M University  
 Faculty, Students, Staff  
**Computer Discount Plan**  
 from  
**ComputerLand**  
**38% Discount on**  
 IBM, AT&T, Compaq complete systems  
 Also printers, modems, and software  
 Pick up a price list and order form at our store.  
 Ask for Cindy  
**ComputerLand**  
 There's only one Number One.  
 Post Oak Village Hwy 30, College Station

**U.S. tov of f**  
 WASHINGTON — The Repre approval of nancially tro lenders dur By doing House also frontation w dent Reagan As severa bled on Cap erment a leaders prec relief bill w ments attac and go to R or veto. Reagan "c ers to cry them the House Spea Jr. O'Neill o mal procedu passed versu the White H He said t the farm bil problem. If of billions ground, we to put seed in The bill sions easin

**Illegal**

**MIAMI** — federal pris by a double ro 523 people fr Known as land," this fac who have tr United States York Ever glish-speaking for painting held at the Processing Ce "America is "I left my cou dom."

The innat fraction of South Florida The U.S. E about 9,000 " in Florida ea them pass thr More than their homela Florida" from 1980, and are have entered the past five gues.

When it wa the site of a was called Camp." Abou around in H and-white-str of them cam dent Carter's heart" for Cuba. Five years been replac painted past And the car

**Police to b**

**BOSTON** — appear red-ey little "out of it urine tests in kind in the nar illicit drug use partment ann "We're not the station hot Line up. Eve test." said O'Toole. "It w someone is ac it, and we've know what to asked for a ur Gerald Aren tor of the An Police, called i and said he h thing similar tion. Boston pol 1,800-member set by a major new program, idea of new O Roache, whose tegrity." "We're not driving aroun O'Toole said.