

WORLD AND NATION

Funky Winkerbean



by Tom Batiuk

MX missile

Senate approves financing by narrow margin

Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — The Senate endorsed the MX missile for the second day in a row Wednesday, but a narrow anti-MX vote by a House committee signaled another lengthy, battle next week over future financing for the weapon.
 The House Appropriations Committee voted 28-26 to recommend against spending another \$1.5 billion for 21 MXs, and Democratic Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. predicted there would be an extremely close vote on the House floor next week.

Under an agreement established last fall, two votes are required in both houses of Congress, one on an authorization bill and the second on a spending bill. The two House votes are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday of next week.

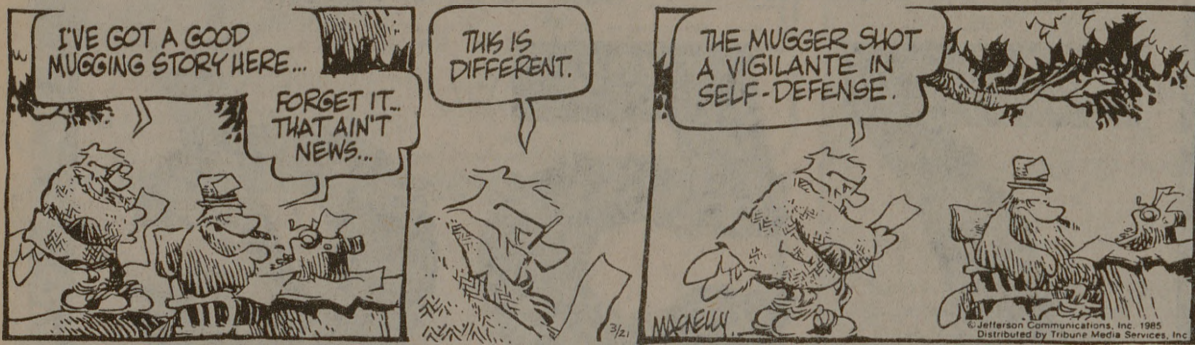
The panel led by Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., has consistently recommended the MX, and its members represent a strong, pro-defense voice in the Democratic House.

While President Reagan and MX supporters seemed to hold the edge, the House Appropriations Committee vote indicated the congressional fight is not over.

An MX supporter, Republican Rep. Trent Lott of Mississippi, said the committee vote "shows that our work is still cut out for us over here (in the House)."

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Brazil prison inmates start revolt

Associated Press
 SAO PAULO, Brazil — About 3,500 prison inmates rebelled Wednesday evening, taking hostages, setting fires and occupying four wings of the facility, guards said.
 Plainclothes guards carrying iron bars patrolled the perimeter of the run-down Central Prison, backed up by riot policemen with dogs and helmeted state troopers with machine guns.
 Some of the guards, who would

not give their names, said about 3,500 of the prison's 6,200 inmates were participating in the rebellion and had taken over four of the building's nine wings.
 The guards, interviewed outside the prison walls, said "four or five" guards were being held hostage inside.
 One guard was taken out, with blood on his head, and driven to a hospital. Sao Paulo state Justice Department spokesman Silvio Monteiro said there were no reports of any deaths.

Smoke rose from the roof of the prison. Sgt. Jose Nunes, a state police spokesman, said it was from mattresses set on fire by the prisoners.
 Two fire trucks were outside the prison walls.
 The prison, located in a lower middle-class part of this city of 9 million, has been the scene of frequent violence. Prisoners often have complained of overcrowding, bad food and cell conditions and rough treatment by guards.

New labor secretary named

Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — President Reagan tapped U.S. Trade Representative William E. Brock on Wednesday to take over the Labor Department and immediately instructed the new secretary to begin repairing the administration's tattered relations with labor organizations.
 Brock, described by associates earlier as not being interested in the job, called it "a challenge that is impossible to resist."

The AFL-CIO welcomes the nomination of Bill Brock to be secretary of labor. We have worked with him in many areas over the years. While we have not always agreed, he has earned our respect. We look forward to a new and constructive relationship with the Labor Department.

The president said Brock's main tasks would be "rebuilding and maintaining the ties with labor, organized and unorganized, attacking the serious endemic problem of youth unemployment, in particular minority youth."
 Among major labor groups, only the Teamsters supported Reagan in the 1980 and 1984 campaigns.

Extending a quick olive branch, Brock called Lane Kirkland, president of the 13.7 million-member AFL-CIO, to tip him off that Reagan was about to announce his nomination as secretary. Brock called Kirkland "an old friend" that he could "work very comfortably with."

Brock, 54, a Republican moderate who served in Congress and as chairman of the national Republican Party, will succeed Raymond Donovan, who resigned last Friday after being ordered to stand trial on 137 counts of grand larceny and fraud.
 The nomination must be confirmed by the Senate.

The AFL-CIO has charged that the Labor Department, under Reagan and Donovan, drastically weakened enforcement under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Mine Safety and Health Administration and other branches of the agency.

Kirkland issued a statement say-

ing, "The AFL-CIO welcomes the nomination of Bill Brock to be secretary of labor. We have worked with him in many areas over the years. While we have not always agreed, he has earned our respect. We look forward to a new and constructive relationship with the Labor Department."
 With Brock at his side, Reagan announced his selection during a hastily arranged visit to the White House briefing room.

Brock readily confessed he did not know about Labor Department controversies. "I don't even know what the budget of the department is," he said. "I have a lot to learn."

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