

## WORLD AND NATION

### Debate begins on funding for Star Wars

**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON — The Senate returned Monday from a week-long holiday recess to a debate about how much money to spend for President Reagan's "Star Wars" research program against nuclear attack.

"We ought to have at least a little increase over last year for Star Wars," Senate Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd told reporters before the start of the Senate session.

The Pentagon currently is spending \$1.4 billion for Star Wars, known formally as the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Reagan sought \$3.7 billion for next year but the Senate Armed Services cut that to \$2.97 billion.

The debate over Star Wars is the latest fight in the attempt by the Republican-controlled Senate to write a bill authorizing most of the Pentagon's budget for next year.

Before leaving on a Memorial Day recess, the Senate made decisions on most of the bill, including cutting Reagan's overall MX nuclear missile program in half.

The Senate is working on a budget permitting the Pentagon to spend \$302 billion in fiscal 1986, which would permit defense spending to rise at a 3 percent inflation rate. Reagan originally sought a 5.9 percent hike after inflation but has reluctantly supported the lower figure.

The Democratic-controlled House is considering an even lower defense budget, which would spend \$2.4 billion on Star Wars and limit overall defense spending to current levels with no increase for inflation. Differences between the two chambers eventually will be ironed out in a conference committee.

Byrd said the Star Wars program "ought to proceed" because "it will be good for the Soviets to see we're standing strong and firm" on the program.

### Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk



### Export subsidies panel

## Advisers nominated

**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary John Block Monday announced a list of eight nominees for an advisory panel to oversee the administration's new \$2 billion export subsidy program.

The proposed panel includes five officials of commodity or general farm organizations, two from the grain export industry and a farmer.

"Members of the committee will represent the people most affected by the program — farmers and the trade," Block said in a statement.

The nominees are Varel Bailey of Iowa, president of the National Corn Growers Association; Harry

Bell of South Carolina, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau; Richard E. Bell of Arkansas, chairman of the trade policy committee of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; and Don Butler of Arizona, president elect of the National Cattlemen's Association.

Also, T.L. Irmen of Ohio, first vice president of the National Grain and Feed Association; Myron R. Larson of New York, president of the American Export Grain Association; Ervay Friehe of Nebraska, secretary-treasurer of U.S. Wheat Associates; and Fred Kerr, a Kansas state senator and farmer.

The panel is to oversee implemen-

tation of the program, known as "Export PIK," for payment in kind, which offers to give away surplus government commodities as bonuses to exporters who arrange sales to certain targeted foreign markets.

The group is intended to allay fears that the program could become a giveaway that enriches large grain trading companies while not significantly helping financially ailing farmers or boosting sagging export sales.

Block announced the program last month after it was promised to farm-state senators in return for their votes on President Reagan's budget package.

## Israeli prime minister ready for negotiations with Jordan

**Associated Press**  
 JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Monday he is ready to negotiate peace with King Hussein "right away," but opposes prior talks between the Jordanian ruler and the United States.

Peres told an audience of 1,000 at Jerusalem's Hebrew University that his coalition government is "ready to consider any proposal put on the ta-

ble by a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

It was the prime minister's first public reaction to a message he received over the weekend from Secretary of State George P. Shultz indicating that Hussein was ready for direct peace talks.

"If the king and the Palestinians want peace, let's come straight ahead in direct negotiation, put all the is-

ues on the table, negotiate, solve it and make peace," he said, to loud applause.

However, Peres also reaffirmed Israel's rejection of Hussein's proposal that negotiations lead to an international conference.

"We believe that an international conference without any direct discussion . . . would not serve a purpose," he said.

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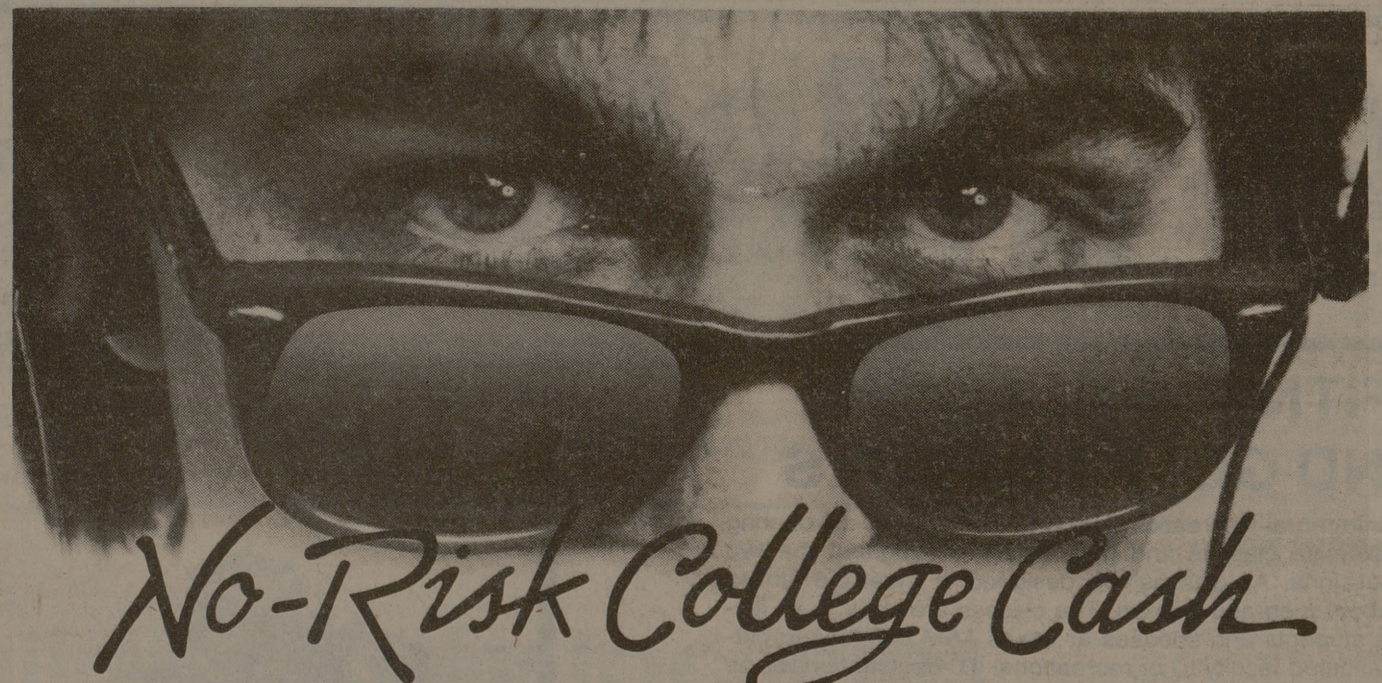
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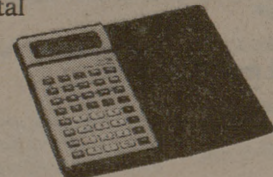
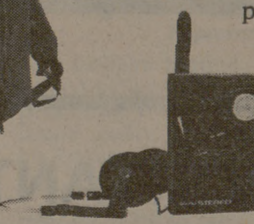
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