

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Congress may oppose plans

Reagan's fall agenda full

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With few big victories under his belt this year, President Reagan faces more tough battles with Congress this fall on everything from taxes and trade to sanctions against South Africa, topped off by a summit showdown with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

It is a challenging autumn agenda for anyone, much less a 74-year-old president who underwent major surgery for colon cancer just seven weeks ago. The difficulties are compounded by a sluggish economy, a simmering White House feud with Republicans in Congress and the GOP's nervousness over next year's congressional elections.

Given Reagan's mixed record of achievements and setbacks this year, his performance in the final four months of 1985 could determine how much steam is left in the "Second American Revolution" he proclaimed or whether his administration is losing its political muscle.

"I am feeling fine and when we get back to Washington it's going to be full steam ahead," Reagan promised in his only public appearance during his 23-day California vacation that ends Monday. He returns to work with his popularity at an all-time high, according to a poll published by Time magazine in August.

Administration strategists believe the chief measures of Reagan's success or failure this year will be his meeting in Geneva with Gorbachev in November, and the progress of his plan for sweeping changes in the tax code.

Already, the administration has dampened expectations of any breakthrough in U.S.-Soviet relations at the summit, saying it may be difficult to achieve even incremental improvements without some change in the Kremlin's approach to arms issues.

A White House official, speaking on condition he not be identified, suggested the summit could boil down to a public relations test between Reagan, the "great communicator," and "Gucci" Gorbachev.

On Reagan's tax plan, a senior White House official said the administration would be entitled to proclaim victory if a bill "that bears the clear imprint of Ronald Reagan's paternity" clears the House and is sent to the Senate before year's end.

To refocus public attention on the subject, Reagan will tout his tax-overhaul plan in Missouri on Labor Day and in North Carolina on Thursday. After that, plans call for one trip a week out of town for the next two months to sell the program.

Already, the tax plan is changing.

The Treasury Department is sending Congress a set of revisions to make up a \$25 billion loss in revenue that the Joint Committee on Taxation says it would cause as written. Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said the alterations do not represent substantial changes.

Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III and his top deputy, Richard Darman, will huddle with members of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee Sept. 7-8 at a "retreat" in the Virginia horse country to discuss possible alterations.

A major fight looms over sanctions against South Africa that are nearing final approval in Congress. The lawmakers view sanctions as the best way to press the Pretoria government to change its system of racial segregation, but Reagan is sticking by his strategy of seeking change through dialogue and persuasion.

Reagan is believed likely to veto the sanctions, setting up a critical test of strength on an override attempt. White House officials concede the president would not win at this point.

With the nation facing a \$150-billion trade deficit this year, there is a groundswell of support in Congress for protectionist legislation, beginning with import curbs on textiles and certain goods from Japan.

Train engineer charged with involuntary manslaughter

Associated Press

CHATEAUX, France — A judge charged locomotive engineer Jean-Yves Brisset with involuntary manslaughter Sunday for failing to slow his express train in a construction zone prior to a wreck that killed 42 people.

Conviction could mean a prison term of three months to two years and fines ranging from the equivalent of \$575 to \$3,600.

No Americans were known to have been on the train, but many British

and Spanish tourists were among the casualties.

Police quoted Brisset, 37, as admitting he was traveling too fast in a 20 mph zone early Saturday. He was released Sunday pending trial.

Brisset left the Chateaux courthouse by an underground exit after appearing before Magistrate Marc Baudot.

Brisset's southbound Paris-Port Bou passenger express derailed before dawn Saturday after passing through the station at Argenton-sur-

Creuse, and was hit by a mail train traveling in the opposite direction on another track.

Forty-two people were killed and dozens injured. Thirty-eight of the injured were hospitalized, 10 in critical condition.


The federal prosecutor in Chateaux, Andre Loubes, quoted Brisset as telling him he looked for a speed limit sign, but did not see one and kept going 62 mph. When he saw his mistake, he slammed on the brakes, but it was too late.

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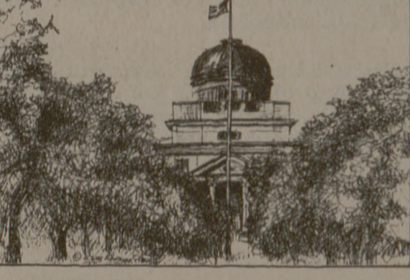
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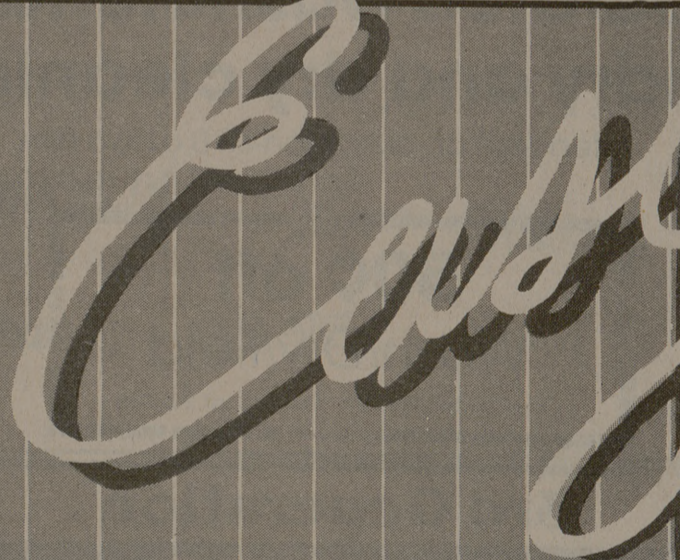
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