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R. A. Lacey
Registrar

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Food

African harvest better, distribution poor

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Most African countries severely hit by famine last year can expect decent harvests this season, but poor distribution of food aid is still costing lives, a United Nations agency reported Sunday.

In Sudan, in particular, people are bound to starve in coming months even though the government and foreign donors are trying to speed up food delivery, the Food and Agriculture Organization said in its latest monthly report on Africa's food situation.

"Internal logistic bottlenecks, exacerbated by recent heavy rains, are preventing the distribution of the aid already received and causing severe port congestion," the FAO said of the plight of Sudan and some other countries.

"Thus, stocks held in port or at anchorage total 350,000 tons in Sudan and 200,000 tons in Ethiopia, while serious backlogs of food aid

continue to be reported for Mali and Niger," said the report, released in Nairobi and based on information received up to Sept. 2.

The FAO said food supply has returned to normal in eight of the countries —Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — and that overall "the harvest prospects are much better than last year in most" of the 21.

But it added: "Despite the generally favorable outlook for 1985 crops, the . . . food emergency continues to worsen in several countries where port congestion and internal distribution constraints are preventing the delivery of food to needy populations."

The FAO said recent heavy rains have impeded distribution in some countries and cited Sudan as "a cause for particular concern." The agency said the huge northeast Afri-

can country needs 1.4 million tons of food aid during the current year, but only 1.1 million tons had been received as of the end of August.

"Of this, some 350,000 tons were stored at Port Sudan or at anchorage," the report said.

The United States has provided three military helicopters to help clear the backlog, and the European Community seven C-130 transport planes.

In Ethiopia, the FAO said, "the food supply situation remains critical," with an estimated 7.9 million of the population of 42 million affected by famine.

"This situation will not improve until the main season harvest becomes available for consumption towards the end of the year," the agency said. "Although food distribution to vulnerable groups has improved during the past months, an estimated 20 to 25 percent of the affected population in the northern provinces are still not receiving regular food rations."

PACS spent millions in 1984

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political action committees and individuals spent nearly \$23 million on the 1984 election, much of which was disbursed by conservative groups for what turned out to be a sure thing — Ronald Reagan's re-election.

The biggest individual spender was Michael Goland, a rich California businessman who staged a one-man advertising campaign to help unseat former Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., and spent \$419,573, according to a report on independent expenditures released Sunday by the Federal Election Commission.

The National Conservative Political Action Committee, which won a Supreme Court victory over the FEC last March ensuring its right to spend unlimited amounts independently, shelled out \$9.8 million for President Reagan.

NCPAC also spent \$289,995 against Democratic challenger Walter F. Mondale and \$116,000 against 14 other Democrats and Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut, a liberal Republican.

All told, conservative PACs spent \$15.8 million promoting Reagan's re-election, while liberals spent only \$803,923 on their own trying to elect Mondale. There was \$343,835 worth of negative expenditures against Reagan and \$445,240 against Mondale.

A campaign expenditure is considered independent if the activity it finances is not organized by or coordinated with a candidate's campaign.

James C. Moore, a real estate investor from Dripping Springs, Texas, was the second biggest individual spender by virtue of the \$79,934 he spent in a losing cause: the U.S. Senate race of former Democratic State Sen. Lloyd Doggett against Phil Gramm, the Democrat-turned-Republican winner.

Another Texan, Houston businessman Cecil Haden ranked third in individual expenditures by spending \$40,386 to promote Reagan's re-election.

It was widely reported last year, based on reporters' scrutiny of FEC records as well as a statement by Goland's attorney, that the California developer had spent more than \$1 million on negative commercials, mailings and billboards against Percy, then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Goland, a staunch supporter of Israel and pro-Israeli politicians, accused Percy of being "a chameleon."

But Sharon Snyder, an FEC spokeswoman, said the \$419,573 "was all the man reported." Goland could not be reached for comment Friday at his construction company in Chatsworth, Calif.

The FEC said that \$17.4 million of the \$22.8 million in independent expenditures in 1983-84 went to the presidential race. Four years earlier, when NCPAC began flexing its direct mail fund-raising muscle to oppose the Carter-Mondale ticket, some \$13.7 million of \$16.1 million

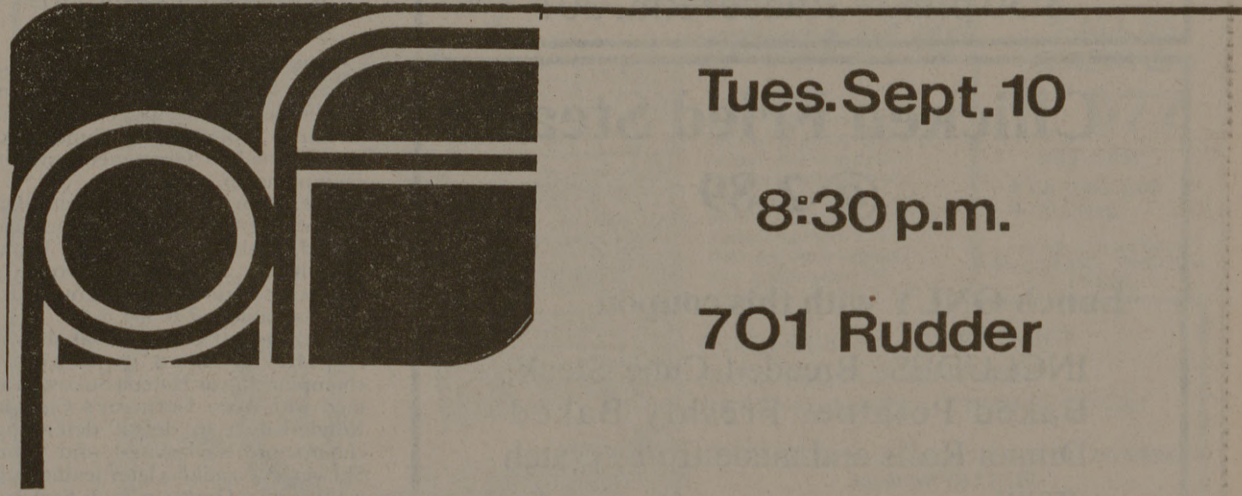
in independent expenditures was spent on the White House race.

Independent expenditures in congressional races actually fell, from \$5.75 million spent in the 1982 elections to \$5.3 million in 1984. But that was still more than double the \$2.3 million spent independently in the 1980 House and Senate race.

In past elections, the bulk of independent expenditures in congressional races was spent on negative campaigns. But in 1983-84, almost two-thirds of the money was spent to promote favored sons and daughters, from Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., to Gramm in Texas to such successful Republican challengers for House seats as Robert Dornan in California, Jim Kolbe in Arizona and Helen Delich Bentley in Maryland. Dornan and Kolbe each had \$54,000 spent on their behalf; Bentley had \$50,000.

Helms had \$583,310 spent independently for him and \$812,590 against him. The North Carolina Campaign Fund, a group hoping to see then-Gov. Jim Hunt overcome Helms, accounted for \$765,936 of the negative expenditures.

The National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund, the American Medical Association PAC and the Realtors PAC — all longtime major direct contributors to congressional campaigns — each rang up hundreds of thousands in independent expenditures, free of the \$5,000-per-election limit on direct PAC gifts.



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