

World and Nation

House Budget Committee approves spending plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled House Budget Committee, pushing aside Republican complaints, worked Thursday toward approval of a fiscal 1987 budget that would slash military spending, freeze or trim most domestic programs and embrace a tax increase to reduce the deficit.

The \$1 trillion spending plan released by committee Chairman William H. Gray III, D-Pa., would reduce the deficit next year to \$136.6 billion.

Gray said, "It would result in a lower deficit than the Senate plan, and achieves this by spreading the cuts more equitably. Spending cuts are divided almost equally between defense and domestic programs."

House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, a member of the committee, said, "Contrast that with the Senate budget, which places 86 percent of the cuts on the non-military side of the budget."

The Democratic plan would cut military budget authority next year to \$285 billion, \$1.8 billion below the current level, and \$3 billion of that would be held in abeyance until the Pentagon agrees to an audit of how past years' increases were spent.

The Senate approved a \$301 billion budget for the military, while President Reagan requested \$320 billion in budget authority that includes some money actually spent over several years.

The low House figure would constrain new military programs but actual outlays of cash during the year would rise \$6.7 billion to \$276.2 billion.

Rep. Marvin Leath, D-Texas, said controls over the military spending buildup of the past few years were weak and Congress has not been told where large inflation have gone.

Gray's proposed budget accepts the full \$13.2 billion in new taxes passed by the Senate, but Democratic leaders remained wary. House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. has warned that Democrats would be blamed for any tax increase above the \$6 billion proposed by President Reagan unless it passed without Republican support.

'Night Stalker' links devil to murders, rapes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A drifter facing trial on 14 murder counts in the "Night Stalker" case said, "Of course I did it," and linked Satan to the string of slayings, rapes and beatings, according to newly unsealed testimony.

Police said El Paso native Richard Ramirez, 28, told them just after his arrest that he wanted to die for the crimes that terrorized much of the state last summer.

"I want the electric chair. They should have shot me on the street," Officer George Thomas quoted Ramirez as having said. "I did it, you

know. You guys got me, the Stalker." Thomas' testimony, given late last month during a closed court session, was unsealed Wednesday by Municipal Judge James F. Nelson, who a day earlier had ordered Ramirez to stand trial on 14 murder counts and 36 other felony charges.

According to Thomas, Ramirez at various times said: "Of course, I did it. You know that I'm a killer. So what. Give me your gun. I'll take care of myself. You should. I'm a killer. So shoot me. I deserve to die."

According to the testimony, Ramirez also pointed to his shoulder,

where a faded pentagram was scrawled in ink. Witnesses have testified that Ramirez was a devil worshiper, and at his arraignment he shouted "Hail, Satan!" and flashed his palm, inked with a pentagram.

Ramirez is to be arraigned May 21. He was arrested last Aug. 31.

Thomas testified that he took notes while sitting with the handcuffed Ramirez in an interview room at the Hollenbeck police station.

"I'd rather die than spend the rest of my life in prison," he quoted Ramirez as saying.

Radiation detected in 3 cities

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first airborne radioactivity at ground level from the Soviet nuclear accident has been detected in concentrations at three western cities, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday.

The EPA said its monitoring stations detected 0.012 picocuries per cubic meter of iodine-131 in a sample taken on Tuesday in Cheyenne, Wyo.

At Denver, sampling showed 0.0057 picocuries per cubic meter of iodine-131 and 0.0002 picocuries per cubic meter of cesium-134.

At Richland, Wash., on Monday and Tuesday four samples taken by the Energy Department showed iodine-131 in concentrations ranging from 0.003 picocuries per cubic meter to 0.015 picocuries per cubic meter.

"These levels are barely detectable and represent no danger to area residents," the EPA said in a statement on behalf of the inter-agency task force monitoring Chernobyl developments.

On Tuesday, Energy Department sampling at Idaho Falls, Idaho, detected 62 picocuries of iodine-131 per cubic liter in rainwater.

The agency has said that drinking a liter of water — about a quart — contaminated at 500 picocuries per liter produces radiation levels comparable to about one-third those produced by a chest X-ray.

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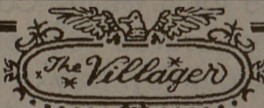
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11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 15, 1986
Room 204C, Evans Library

Evans Library Council invites interested faculty and students to hear recommendations regarding the Library's proposal to stop filing cards in the author/title card catalog, with microfiche backup of the online author/title catalog when needed. Dr. John Corbin, Asst. Dir., Administration and Systems, Univ. of Houston Library, invited consultant, will present his recommendations.



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