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Reagan sets conference in Chicago

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan will hold a prime-time news conference next Tuesday in Chicago, the White House said.

In an unusual presidential news conference away from the White House, Reagan will select questions from members of the traveling White House press corps and from Chicago-area reporters, spokesman Larry Speakes said Tuesday.

The news conference will be held at 8 p.m. EDT.

Reagan's news conference will come at the end of a day in which he will speak at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and then travel to Chicago to appear at fund-raising events on behalf of Republican Gov. Jim Thompson and Judy Koehler, the GOP candidate for the Senate.

World and Nation

Parched Southeast reports first drought-related layoffs

Low water in the drought-seared Southeast is forcing a slowdown in papermill production, killing thousands of pine tree seedlings and cutting into the Tennessee Valley Authority's hydroelectric generation.

A 71-car train with 1,440 tons of hay donated by Vermont farmers for cattle in dusty pastures arrived in Georgia on Tuesday, with distribution planned on Wednesday, and a 94-car train of fodder from Wisconsin and Minnesota arrived at Birmingham, Ala.

But in the drought region one enterprising Georgia town is selling hay irrigated with water from its waste treatment plant.

Agricultural losses are estimated at \$2.3 billion from the Mason-

Dixon line to northern Florida. Heat-related deaths have mounted to 104.

Champion International said Monday that 25 employees at its paper mill in Canton, N.C., took unpaid leaves or vacations and 41 were shifted to maintenance.

Up to 100 or more could be laid off out of a work force of 1,983 once the maintenance work is finished, said plant Manager J. Oliver Blackwell.

The plant is reducing pulp production by half and papermaking by 35 percent.

Blackwell said Champion's water shortage became critical when a lake

on plant property dropped to use to supplement intake of the Pigeon River, which is at half normal flow.

In South Carolina, Bower the nation's largest producer of newsprint, is avoiding production cuts at its Catawba plant by holding a 1.4 billion-gallon holding tank. The Wateree River is too low to allow the waste to water quality standards, said public relations manager Edward Haws.

The TVA, which operates dams for flood control and hydroelectricity, has lowered the drought to affect production on the Tennessee River.

Taxes take \$22 of every \$100 earned

WASHINGTON (AP) — For every \$100 earned by an American family, the four largest taxes gobble up \$21.90, according to a new government study.

And while that's only a dime more than a year earlier, the report on taxes and income for 1984, the last year for which such a detailed analysis has been made, found the bite rising for those least able to pay, while upper-income Americans had falling tax rates.

The Census Bureau study of after-tax income found that 92.4 percent of all U.S. households paid at least one of the four major taxes —

federal income, state income, Social Security and real estate.

That was up from 92.1 percent who paid at least one of those taxes in 1983.

And while most of those taxes are progressive — meaning they increase according to rising income — Americans at the lowest end of the income scale found their tax burden rising while those earning more paid a smaller share, the study disclosed.

For example, for those households earning under \$10,000 that paid any taxes at all, the share was 9.8 percent of income in 1984, up from 9.3 percent a year earlier.

Households in the \$10,000 to

\$14,999 income bracket saw their tax burden rise from 11.5 percent to 11.6 percent over the year. Those earning \$15,000 to \$19,999 were unchanged, paying 14.5 percent each year.

From \$20,000 on up, however, the tax burden declined.

Households with incomes of \$50,000 and over fared best in year-to-year terms, even though they also paid the most.

That group paid 28.1 percent of income in taxes in 1984, down from 29 percent a year earlier.

Households earning \$30,000 to \$34,999 also did well, with their tax share falling from 21 percent to 20.4

percent, and the tax burden on \$35,000-\$39,999 households dropped from 22.2 percent to 21.7 percent.

There were these other changes for households earning \$24,999, tax share fell from 17.2 percent to 17.2 percent; \$29,999, from 19.2 percent to 19.2 percent; \$40,000-\$44,999, from 23.1 percent to 22.7 percent; \$45,000-\$49,999, from 24.1 percent to 23.6 percent.

The main culprit in the increase seems to have been Social Security. Not only is the tax rate higher in past years, it is being applied gradually-increasing income.

Waste

(continued from page 1)

commission showed traces of PCBs, benzene, toluene, lead and four types of phenol compounds in water samples taken from various spots at the school including the top of the landfill.

Low levels of PCBs were found in each of three samples but in concentrations well below the 50 parts per million the EPA allows.

Investigators were unable to remove the cap of the monitoring well at the landfill and they were unable to find a port in the 25,000 gallon tank filled with contaminated soils dredged from the ponds in 1981.

The investigators recommended that the EPA conduct further investigations of the site by specifically testing soil around the toxic waste landfill and testing soil and water at the drainage ponds and landfill.

Brown said the EPA contracted another Dallas firm to perform additional tests. Samples were made at the school in January and the results will be issued within a month.

Brown says that the large demand for environmental testing, coupled with the limited number of firms capable of performing such tests, accounts for the two-year gap between the water commission's request for an EPA investigation and the issuance of the EPA report.

The hazardous chemicals buried in the landfill were contained in waste oils donated by various Gulf Coast refineries and chemical plants. Throughout the 1970s, donated waste oils were used to fuel training fires at the school.

Department of Water Resources officials said in 1979 that the refineries may have illegally donated the oils to avoid paying waste disposal fees.

A&M now purchases commercial-grade fuels from regular distribu-

tors, Charles Page, head of the fireman's school says.

As a result of the investigation, the state required A&M in 1981 to dredge 9,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from one of three drainage ponds and bury it in a landfill.

A&M received special permission to build the landfill at the site because ground tests at the school determined its clay base would prevent seepage. Water resources officials now say they're not sure if the clay base is enough to prevent chemicals from leaking into the soil.

The water commission recently named the fire school as one of 14 state Superfund clean-up sites. The school was also recognized in November 1985 as one of the ten worst polluters in the state.

The state Superfund was initiated in 1985 and investigations into possible clean-up sites began in January 1986.

A hearing will be held in Austin Aug. 28 to determine if the A&M site should be placed on the final Superfund list. Radke said the school does not belong on the list and intends to challenge the proposal at the hearing.

But regardless of the results of the hearing, there may not be enough Superfund money to initiate clean-up operations.

In a letter dated July 9, 1986, the water commission informed the training school it may have to pay for cleaning up the landfill.

The letter says, "Based on an investigation of the site, the TWC has information which indicates that (the training) school may be a responsible party. . . . Responsible parties may be responsible for all monies expended by the state should the state take corrective action at the site."

World Briefs

Oil prices rise after OPEC cutbacks

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude oil, gasoline and heating oil prices moved sharply higher on world markets Tuesday in reaction to OPEC's endorsement of its production cutback agreement.

Trading was volatile, however, reflecting questions over how long the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would be able to keep the promise made in Geneva, analysts said.

Other analysts attributed swings in Tuesday's market to profit-taking, but predicted the cartel's action had stopped the crash in oil prices. They said the agreement would hold because it is OPEC's self-interest.

Tisch named new Postmaster General

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hotel magnate Preston Robert Tisch was selected on Tuesday as the next Postmaster General, sources said.

Tisch was picked by the Postal Board of Governors. Sources associated with Congress, the postal board and a postal employees union identified Tisch to The Associated Press, on the condition they not be identified.

Tisch, 60, is president of Loews Corp. which, besides hotels, owns the Lorillard cigarette business, most of the CNA Financial insurance company and the Lova watchmakers.

Near miss in shuttle launch revealed

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA came within 31 seconds of launching the shuttle Columbia last January without enough fuel to reach its intended orbit because of human error caused partly by overwork and fatigue, the Rogers Commission disclosed Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Jan. 6, just 22 days before the shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after launch, killing its seven crew members.

Columbia was successfully launched on Jan. 12, after a record seven delays.

Oil issues raise Dow Jones slightly

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market closed higher Tuesday in active trading, buoyed by the strength of oil issues, but worries over a sagging bond market kept prices from surging ahead.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, up 18.84 points at its midsession high, closed with a 7.03 gain at 1,777.00.

Traders said oil issues of stocks of banks that have been cured by energy collateral have been the most after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on Tuesday endorsed a month plan to cut production, thus lifting sagging oil prices.

U.S., Soviets announce exchange agreements

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union on Tuesday announced the signing of 13 exchange agreements that officials said could restore cultural, health and educational contacts between the two nations to the levels of the 1970s.

Under the agreements, worked out during a one-week visit by a Soviet delegation, Soviet and American art exhibits will be exchanged, more students will study in each other's

countries, and joint research and programs will be undertaken.

"This is just the beginning," said Stephen H. Rhinesmith, coordinator of the U.S. exchange initiative.

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed at their summit meeting in Geneva last year to renew cultural exchanges, which had proliferated during the days of detente in the 1970s but had been cut drastically after the Soviet

invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979.

Though the United States has continuously condemned the invasion and supported rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan, Reagan said in proposing the renewal of the exchanges last year that they would help "promote openness, honest communications and opportunities for the two peoples to get to know each other directly."

Rhinesmith told a news conference that in addition to the agreements signed during the week, both sides identified international areas for continued development.

He said he envisioned an increase in the number of performing exchanges compared to the roughly the same level of cultural exchanges and perhaps negotiations not undertaken in the past.

Reagan agrees to release Rehnquist memos

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration agreed late Tuesday to show the Senate Judiciary Committee memos dealing with William H. Rehnquist's role in controversial Nixon administration policies from 1969 to 1971.

Senate Democrats said the agreement would head off a constitutional confrontation that threatened to delay action on President Reagan's nomination of Supreme Court Justice Rehnquist to be chief justice.

"We are getting access to all we asked for," said Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee.

The eight Democrats on the 18-member panel were joined by two Republicans in requesting the documents.

The memoranda were written by Rehnquist when he was chief legal adviser to then-Attorney General John Mitchell under President Richard Nixon. They involve domestic wiretapping and the administra-

tion's plans for dealing with Vietnam war protesters.

The White House and Justice Department balked last week at providing the memos.

But Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., a Judiciary Committee member and a close friend of Reagan, helped work out the compromise.

Laxalt said the administration "wanted to cooperate" and it was only a matter of agreeing on which documents would be provided.

He said it will be "a limited release."

But Democrats said they are satisfied they will be able to examine relevant documents.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Mass., said he was happy that the administration no longer is "stonewalling."

The Judiciary Committee scheduled to vote Aug. 14 and full Senate on Sept. 8 on the nomination of Rehnquist to be chief justice.