

# World and Nation

## Reagan proposes help for elderly on Medicare

### Navy secretary will resign post later in year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Navy Secretary John F. Lehman Jr., the hands-on executive who oversaw a big peacetime buildup of the fleet, has decided to resign his post later this year, a Pentagon spokesman said Thursday.

Robert Sims, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said Lehman, 44, informed Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger of his decision last week.

Sims said he did not believe Lehman had yet set a date for his return to private life.

Lehman was out of town Thursday on personal leave, but Sims said he had discussed the matter with the secretary by phone this morning, "and he tells me that he met with Secretary Weinberger last Friday and told the secretary that it is his desire to return to private life later this year."

"He has not resigned (yet)," Sims said. "Any announcement about his plans should be made by him, and we will leave that to him."

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan proposed Thursday that Congress protect 30 million elderly Americans "from the worst fear of old age" by enacting insurance covering the devastating costs of catastrophic illness.

Overruling conservative opposition, Reagan recommended that the government cover all hospital and doctor expenses under Medicare after a patient had paid \$2,000 out of his own pocket. The extra coverage would add \$4.92 a month — \$59 annually — to Medicare recipients' \$17.90 monthly "Part B" premium.

The program, the result of more than a year's debate within the administration, would not cover long-term nursing home care or expenses such as prescription drugs and eye or dental care.

Reagan's announcement provided momentum for an issue with widespread backing on Capitol Hill.

the Reagan plan will be the basis for that legislation."

Sen. David Durenberger, R-Minn., the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee's health subcommittee, said, "This is by far a better way for people to protect themselves from catastrophic expenses. . . . The most serious criticism that can be offered of this proposal is that it is far too little."

Conservatives, led by Attorney General Edwin Meese and the budget director, James Miller, had fought against the plan as it was being developed, arguing that it relied too much on the government and not enough on the health industry.

In the end, Reagan sided with Otis Bowen, the secretary of health and human services and author of the plan.

"The proposal I'm announcing today is a giant step forward in helping those who before now would have had to make a choice between financial ruin and death," Reagan said.

"With the protection that this plan would provide, senior citizens will now be safe from the worst fear of old age — having their life savings

taken away to pay the costs for an acute care due to a catastrophic illness," he said.

In a separate, written statement, Reagan said his proposal would "help give Americans that last full measure of security."

Of the 30 million older Americans covered by Medicare, only 1.4 million people have medical expenses costing more than \$2,000 a year, Bowen said.

"But it is a big worry to all of the people," Bowen said. "The older people worry about two things: their health and their finances, and which one is going to run out first."

He said many people had written to him, saying, "For \$5 a month — I would be glad to pay that just so I don't worry." The additional premium — \$4.92 — would increase annually, based on the inflation rate of health costs.

Fitzwater maintained that the proposal would pay for itself through the higher premiums. And Bowen said, "The total cost to the government would be nothing."

## Marine embassy guards in Moscow recalled on 'good conduct' violation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Marine Corps has recalled at least five of its U.S. Embassy guards in Moscow in the two months since another guard was charged with spying for the Soviets, Pentagon sources said Thursday.

The transfers do not involve allegations of espionage, but rather charges that certain military "good conduct" regulations were violated, officials said.

One source, who demanded anonymity, said the recalls had been prompted by allegations that some of the guards had allowed an unauthorized visitor into their barracks.

That report could not be immediately confirmed, however.

The sources were also unable to say precisely how many Marines had been transferred, putting the number at between five and eight.

The sources said the Marines had been transferred to the Quantico Marine Base in northern Virginia pending completion of an "administra-

tive inquiry" that bore no relation to the probe of Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, the former Marine guard who is now being held at Quantico on espionage charges.

"The Marines are looking into some violations of military regulations," one official said. "No charges have been filed against anyone yet and nobody is being confined to quarters."

Robert Sims, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, declined to discuss the transfers Thursday or say how many men had been moved. But he said none of the moves involved allegations of espionage.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur A. Hartman, in an interview with the *Washington Post*, said the investigation of Lonetree "had revealed that other things were happening," requiring that several other Marines be sent to the United States.

The Marine Corps has charged that Lonetree, while an embassy guard in 1985 and 1986, provided Soviet agents with the identities of U.S. in-

telligence officials on the embassy's staff along with floor plans of the U.S. embassies in Moscow and Vienna, Austria.

Sources have said Lonetree became involved with a female Soviet translator who worked at the embassy.

Lonetree, 25, was returned to the United States in December. If court-martialed and convicted on the espionage charge, he would face a possible death penalty.

The Marines assigned to the Moscow embassy live and work under strict conduct rules, including regulations barring females from entering their quarters and discouraging contacts with the Soviets.

The Marine Corps refused to discuss the matter Thursday.

## Family awarded \$7 million from Klansmen

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — A federal jury Thursday night awarded \$7 million in damages against the United Klans of America and six past and present Klansmen in the 1981 slaying of a black teen-ager whose body was left hanging in a tree.

The verdict was awarded to the family of Michael Donald, 19, who was beaten and strangled in Mobile in April 1981.

No decision has been made on whether to appeal, Klan attorney John Mays said.

Earlier Thursday, Morris Dees, an attorney for Donald's family, compared Donald to martyrs of the civil rights movement, such as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"They sacrificed a human being to get some publicity for the Klan," Dees said.

"He died because the Klan killed him," Dees said of Donald. "He'll go down in civil rights history in the fight for black rights. I hope your verdict goes down in history right beside him."

In a summation that lasted more than an hour, Dees told the jury the Klan was not a group of "good old boys" but a corporation that is "very complex, highly financed," and should be held responsible for Donald's death.

Mays said in his closing argument that the murder was a "gross and horrible atrocity," but he said the jury should not hold the organization responsible.

The lawsuit mainly sought monetary damages from the Tuscaloosa-based United Klans of America Inc.

In addition to the organization, the suit named six present or former Klan members from the Mobile area as defendants. All told the jury they were not involved in any conspiracy to kill Donald.

The United Klans of America, incorporated in 1961, presented no witnesses during the trial. Robert Shelton, the organization's chief officer or Imperial Wizard, sat with the defendants in the suit, but he was not being held liable for Donald's death.

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