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**World and Nation**

**Contra-aid opponents unable to stop filibuster, will try again**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate opponents of aid to the Nicaraguan Contras failed again Tuesday to shut down a filibuster and move toward a vote on a six-month halt in military assistance to the rebels.

The vote was an evenly divided 50-50, or 10 votes short of the 60 needed to end a filibuster.

Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said another attempt would be made today and possibly yet another on Thursday. "It depends on how much gain we make," he said.

A first attempt to choke off the filibuster failed on Monday, with 46 senators favoring it and 45 voting against it. Texas senators Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm voted against shutting off the filibuster.

However, Byrd said the real goal now is merely to rally a "constitu-

tional majority" of 51 votes, all that would be required to kill President Reagan's request for an additional \$105 million in aid to the Contras when that request reaches the Senate floor later this year.

The filibuster by Contra-aid supporters is aimed at blocking action on a proposed six-month freeze in the flow of aid to the rebels. During those six months, according to the legislation, the Reagan administration would be required to account for millions of dollars in private and public assistance provided earlier to the Contras.

Forty-three Democrats were joined by seven Republicans in voting to end the filibuster. Thirty-nine Republicans were joined by 11 Democrats in voting to permit it to continue.

Contra-aid opponents lost a bid last week to kill outright a \$40 million aid installment originally approved last year.

In another development, the Justice Department repeated denials that Attorney General Edwin Meese III intervened at the request of then National Security Adviser John Poindexter to block indictments against smugglers shipping guns to Nicaraguan rebels.

The latest denial came after the *Village Voice* said Tuesday in a story that Meese blocked the indictments after responding to a request from Poindexter that the investigation could imperil the Contras' efforts against the leftist government of Nicaragua.

Patrick Korten, a Justice Department spokesman, said the story "in-

sofar as it purports to make any representation of Meese's actions utterly, completely false."

Senate Democratic leaders said Tuesday that the Contra-aid vote this spring are just the opening of a legislative battle that will climax this fall in a struggle between the White House and Congress over the president's \$105 million request.

Those votes will be taken in a different legislative climate, Democrats said.

"At that time it will only take votes in this body and a majority in the other body and we will offer the money to the Contras, cutting back a terrorist war and steps that could lead to American military involvement and American fighting in Nicaragua," said Alan Cranston, D-Calif., the top Democratic leader.

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**TOPIC:** CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY SYSTEMS

**WHERE:** ROOM 601 RUDDER TOWER

**WHEN:** MARCH 27, 1987 1:30 P.M.

**Retired general enters bid for presidential nomination**

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexander M. Haig Jr. entered elective politics Tuesday with a bid for the presidency, refusing to rule out a tax increase and warning against "arms control for arms control's sake."

Declaring his candidacy for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination at a news conference in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Haig emphasized his experience as a former secretary of state, NATO commanding general and White House chief of staff.

Haig and former Gov. Pete du Pont of Delaware are declared candidates for the GOP presidential nomination. Rep. Jack Kemp of New York plans to join them April 6.

Also considered certain to enter the race are Sen. Robert Dole, Vice President George Bush, the Rev. Pat Robertson and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

marked by clashes between the strong-willed retired general and White House aides.

He made leadership the theme of his campaign but offered few specifics of how he would deal with national problems or where he would differ with the Reagan policies.

He cited the federal budget deficit as the biggest domestic problem and, when pressed on whether he would rule out a tax increase to help lower it, replied:

**Witnesses say corporations strip pensions**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Corporations have stripped employee pension plans of nearly \$16 billion in excess assets since 1980 while making \$145 billion in empty promises of retirement to come and health care to workers without setting aside money to pay for them, Congress was told Tuesday.

A growing corporate practice of terminating retirement plans — often using surplus assets to take over wars and sticking the government with unfunded liabilities — is putting at risk millions of Americans who look to defined-benefit pensions to take care of them in their old age, witnesses said.

The Labor Department, in a 1984 study, concluded that workers in terminated plans lose about 45 percent of benefits they otherwise could anticipate.

The dimensions of the problem and proposed solutions were outlined Tuesday in a day-long joint hearing before the Senate labor and House labor-management relations subcommittees.

While the Reagan administration was applauded for coming up with a set of proposals intended to make pension promises more secure, business, labor and retirement groups all found fault with various aspects.

Even Labor Secretary William Brock, chief architect of the administration proposal, was hesitant to say its emphasis on discouraging terminations of underfunded and underfunded pension plans effectively addresses the issue.

"The problem is awesome and I don't know that any of us has the answer," Brock said.

But he conceded he is a longshot in the political battle to succeed his former boss, Ronald Reagan.

Marlin Fitzwater, Reagan's chief spokesman, reiterated that "the president is neutral in the primary contests for the Republican nomi-

nation for president and welcomes all candidates as being healthy and constructive for the party."

Haig flew to New Hampshire to campaign in the state that will hold the first presidential primary next year.

Haig's 18-month career as Reagan's first secretary of state was

marked by clashes between the strong-willed retired general and White House aides.

He made leadership the theme of his campaign but offered few specifics of how he would deal with national problems or where he would differ with the Reagan policies.

He cited the federal budget deficit as the biggest domestic problem and, when pressed on whether he would rule out a tax increase to help lower it, replied:

"No, I would not rule out a tax increase. I would rule out going immediately to a tax increase so that the heavy-spending ways of the Congress — the Democratically controlled Congress now — can continue."

**Former Marine embassy guard arrested on espionage charges**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Marine Corps has arrested a second former embassy guard on suspicion of espionage as a result of a continuing investigation of Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, the service disclosed late Tuesday.

The former guard was transferred from the Marine base at Twentynine Palms, Calif., to Quantico, Va., Tuesday night and will be held in confinement pending an appearance before a military magistrate.

Lt. Col. John Shotwell, a Marine spokesman, identified the man as Arnold Bracy of Woodside Queens, New York City, a 21-year-old corporal "whose tour of duty overlapped Sgt. Lonetree's at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow."

Shotwell had said earlier Tuesday the Marine Corps would not release the man's identity before today because it wanted to make sure his next-of-kin had been notified of his arrest and transfer.

Bracy "has been apprehended for possible involvement in espionage-related activities (as a result of) the continuing investigation of the Lonetree case by the Naval Investigative Service," Shotwell added.

The 25-year-old Lonetree was arrested in December and transported to Quantico, where he has been held in detention ever since. Lonetree served as an embassy guard in Mos-

cow and Vienna, Austria, before his arrest.

On Jan. 30, the Marine Corps announced it would ask a military lawyer to approve the start of court-martial proceedings against Lonetree on 19 different charges, including a single count of espionage.

The corps has charged that Lonetree, from September 1985 to December 1986, provided the Soviet Union the names and photographs of American intelligence agents attached to the embassy staff. It also has alleged he provided the Soviets with descriptions of the floor plans and office assignments for the U.S. embassies in Moscow and Vienna.

**Pentagon: Soviets building weapons supply**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union continues to deploy new models of nuclear missiles with an eye toward achieving military superiority while conducting laser experiments against U.S. airplanes, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Russia is also devoting almost three times as much of its gross national product to weapons purchases compared to the United States. And it shows no signs of slowing that build-up, "no matter who is general secretary; no matter what proposals are made, no matter what public relations activities are undertaken," said Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger.

The Soviet weapons drive also extends to its conventional arsenal, with dozens of new MiG-29 Fulcrum jet fighters along with tanks, artillery

pieces and ships having been produced over the past year.

This grim assessment of Moscow's military might was released by Weinberger in the form of the Pentagon's annual publication, "Soviet Military Power." Now in its sixth edition, the magazine-size, glossy booklet has become the Reagan administration's primary vehicle for releasing information about Russian force developments and, in turn, buttressing calls for higher Pentagon spending.

"We must realize that we are competing with a dynamic, and an expanding, Soviet military threat," Weinberger said.

Overall, the booklet concludes that Soviet military expenditures are consuming between 15

percent and 17 percent of Russia's gross national product. By comparison, Pentagon spending consumes about 6 percent of America's GNP.

The report was released hours before Weinberger went to Capitol Hill to push for the administration's request for a 3 percent increase in inflation in the defense budget for the fiscal year.

Weinberger referred to the booklet on several occasions, telling the House Armed Services Committee that it outlined the "very real threat" presented by the Soviet military machine. That threat, rather than domestic considerations, should be used as the basis for the Pentagon's budget, Weinberger told the panel.

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A General Information meeting will be held Wed. April 1 at 8:00 p.m. in room 301 of Rudder Tower

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