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Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Window seal

Dub Pierce seals a water leak under the windows in the walkway by the Engineering Building on

Thursday. The repairmen use scaffolding to reach the windows.

Thornburgh confirmed as new attorney general

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate unanimously confirmed Richard L. Thornburgh as attorney general on Thursday, sending him to take command of a Justice Department wracked by turmoil over his predecessor's ethical conduct. The vote was 85-0.

Thornburgh succeeds Edwin Meese III, who quit after pronouncing himself exonerated by an independent counsel's report that concluded he "probably" broke the law.

The Senate also was ready to confirm other key department nominees who, along with Thornburgh, will form the team that will shape Justice Department policy for the remainder of the Reagan administration.

The three already are serving in acting capacities: Harold Christensen as deputy attorney general; Francis A. Keating II as associate attorney general; and Edward S.G. Dennis Jr. as chief of the criminal division.

All four were recommended

unanimously for confirmation by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which acted on Thornburgh's nomination Wednesday by voice vote, without debate. The other three were cleared by the panel Aug. 3.

"Clearly, we have a superior nominee here," Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., said of Thornburgh as members of both parties praised the former Pennsylvania governor.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said Thornburgh has demonstrated the characteristics needed for the job: "character, integrity, good judgment, competence and independence."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., praised Thornburgh but also criticized Meese as one willing to "roll back decades of progress on civil rights."

Kennedy predicted Thornburgh "will do as much as he can to repair the damage of the Meese regime."

Meese has strongly disagreed with such comments, contending his conduct was ethical and that department morale remained high while he was investigated.

Thornburgh, 56, a former two-term Pennsylvania Republican governor, promised senators last week that he would run the department with the "highest ethical standards." He pledged not to interfere with an ongoing internal department investigation of Meese.

The predecessors of Christensen and Dennis — former Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns and ex-criminal division chief William Weld — announced their resignations last March to protest Meese's continued tenure in the face of the investigation by independent counsel James McKay.

McKay concluded in an 800-plus page report that Meese "probably" broke two tax laws and twice violated a federal conflict-of-interest statute.

Senate military budget sends allies message

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted 90-4 Thursday to pass its second Pentagon budget bill, which includes an election-year message to Japan and Western Europe to pay more for allied defense and sets new restrictions on defense consultants.

President Reagan last week vetoed the Democratic-controlled Congress' first defense bill because he objected to its cuts in his proposed Star Wars budget and restrictions on nuclear arms control policy.

The \$282 billion defense budget bill was the last major item keeping

the Senate from starting a nearly four-week recess.

When Congress returns after Labor Day, House and Senate negotiators will meet to iron out differences between the defense bills passed separately by each chamber. The House version approved two months ago contains neither of the major provisions voted Thursday.

One difference will be the allied "burden-sharing" measure endorsed Thursday on a voice vote by the Senate as part of the defense spending

bill. No similar measure was part of the companion bill approved by the House two months ago.

The Senate provision orders a major review of U.S. overseas commitments, a limit on American troop deployments to Japan and South Korea, and a ceiling on spending for U.S. military personnel stationed overseas. The last provision requires the allies to pay the difference if deployment costs of U.S. troops rise above 1988 levels.

The Senate rejected, 59-36, another provision calling for a 10 percent cut in the total of American dependents living overseas with servicemen.

Later, the Senate gave voice vote approval to an amendment by Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., providing strict new reporting requirements for private consultants to the Pentagon and defense contractors.

Restaurant owner Ninfa will support Bush nomination

HOUSTON (AP) — Ninfa Laurenzo, the Houston businessman who parlayed a small Mexican restaurant into a multimillion dollar enterprise, said she plans to speak some Spanish when she seconds the nomination of Vice President George Bush next week at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

"I think it's a great honor, especially for a woman — a Hispanic woman," said Laurenzo, who has known Bush for years.

"I am absolutely excited. I feel very honored to be able to be in such great company and to not only represent my people but all the people of this great nation of ours," she said.

She will give a 90-second speech Wednesday night after U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas gives his nomination speech. Laurenzo said she still is working on what she will say, but she plans to give a bilingual address in English and Spanish.

"I've done so many 30-second commercials, I am sure I can do it in 90 seconds," she said.

Observers say the selection of Laurenzo, 64, is further evidence of the importance of Texas and its 29 electoral votes. Bush calls Texas home, but Democratic presidential

nominee Michael Dukakis raised the stakes by choosing U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas as his running mate.

Laurenzo dreamed of starting a restaurant after her husband, Tommy, died in 1969. Fifteen years ago, with the help of her five children, she opened her first eatery — a 10-seat restaurant.

Since then, she has become a Houston household name through her chain of 11 Ninfa's Mexican food restaurants and eight Italian eateries.

Laurenzo said she has known Bush and his wife, Barbara, for many years and considers them personal friends. She also supports the Republican Party.

"I believe in what the Republican Party represents and what they can do," she said. "I like their philosophy and especially the things the Reagan administration has done for the Hispanics, like the amnesty (for illegal aliens)."

Laurenzo said she does not believe the Democratic Party philosophy is as beneficial to Hispanics as that of the Republicans.

"What we need is great jobs from better opportunities for small businesses," she said.

Reagan signs relief bill to provide \$3.9 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commending "the indomitable spirit" of drought-stricken farmers, President Reagan on Thursday signed America's largest-ever disaster relief bill.

"This bill isn't as good as rain," Reagan said. "But it'll tide you over until normal weather and your own skills permit you to return to your accustomed role."

The president signed the measure just hours before the Agriculture Department issued a new crop forecast that said production of the nation's No. 1 crop, corn, would be down more than a third from last year. The drought will cause consumer food prices to go up an average 3 percent to 5 percent from 1987.

Reagan, standing before several farmers invited to the Rose Garden signing ceremony, said the \$3.9 billion aid package "expresses a distinctly American tradition . . . of lending a helping hand when misfortune strikes."

Reagan praised Democratic and Republican congressional leaders for putting aside partisan differences to speed act on the bill, and the heads of the House and Senate agriculture committees returned the compliment.

One of the farmers, Herman

Drought shrivels harvests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drought and high temperatures have shriveled this year's corn harvest to an estimated 4.48 billion bushels, down 37 percent from 7.06 billion bushels harvested in 1987, the Agriculture Department said Thursday.

The new figures were based on field surveys as of Aug. 1. In May and June, before drought had made its biggest impact, USDA projected the corn harvest — based on trends and an assumption of normal weather — at 7.3 billion bushels.

But those projections were revised downward a month ago to

Krone, who gave Reagan a tour of his ravaged corn and soybean crops last month near Du Quoin, Ill., said: "I think that Washington has done one of their better jobs right here."

"It's a good buffer, and it's probably enough to get most people over the hump this year," said Keith Salter, who is struggling

5.2 billion bushels, assuming farmers got normal weather the remainder of the season.

Corn is the largest and most important crop grown by American farmers and, as a feed ingredient, is essential to the production of meat, poultry and dairy products.

The soybean harvest was estimated at 1.47 billion bushels, down 23 percent from 1.9 billion bushels produced last year. Prospects last spring called for about 1.88 billion bushels, and the July projection was 1.65 billion bushels.

with his drought-baked wheat, barley and oat farm near Menoken, N.D.

"It won't be like a crop, but it's better than nothing," he said.

Reagan said the legislation, which also provides assistance to dairy cattlemen and ethanol producers, "represents the largest disaster relief measure in history."

'Satellite' parking lots option in fall

By Alan Sembera
Staff Writer

This fall Texas A&M students, faculty and staff will have the option of parking their cars at off-campus "satellite" parking lots and catching the shuttle bus to campus.

The two lots, at K-Mart and Post Oak Mall, are part of a plan by the new Parking and Transit Department to help alleviate the campus parking shortage.

Thomas G. Williams, head of the department, said the lots will be served by existing bus routes.

The parking lot at K-Mart will be in the northern part of the lot next to Valley View Drive, and will be part of the FM 2818 bus route.

The buses on this route stop at the South Stop on campus, which is near Joe Routt Boulevard and Throckmorton Street.

The Post Oak Mall lot will be west of the J.C. Penney Co. store and will be part of the Dartmouth route.

The Dartmouth route buses stop at the East Stop on campus, near the intersection of Lubbock and Bizzell streets.

Williams said plans also are underway to create a Bryan satellite lot in the 29th Street area.

Parking permits are not required to park at the satellite lots, but riders must buy a \$46 bus pass each semester.

The buses run about 15 minutes apart from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and run every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Williams said no plans have been made to expand the bus fleet because of the new lots.

"If it's successful and we get more riders than we've got buses, we might do something," he said. "But we'll do with what we've got right now."

Lubbock church prepares for gathering

Thousands of worshippers to share messages from Virgin Mary

LUBBOCK (AP) — Volunteers at St. John Neumann Catholic Church busily answered telephones and finished banners Thursday as church officials planned how to handle as many as 20,000 participants in a weekend feast day celebration.

Parishioners claiming to have received messages from the Virgin Mary during weekly rosary recitations predict miracles of physical and spiritual healing will occur at the celebration.

Worshippers from across the country have chartered buses and booked hotel rooms for Monday's Feast of the Assumption, the day Roman Catholics celebrate Mary's assumption into Heaven.

Electric saws buzzed as volunteer carpent-

ers hurried to finish an altar and pulpit being constructed on the roof of the underground church.

Although the church's sanctuary seats 850, Monday evening's Mass and rosary will be outside to accommodate the throngs of pilgrims, said the church's pastoral assistant, Cynthia Wynn.

"We feel like people will be all over that field and spread across the parking lot," she said, surveying a large grassy area beneath the rooftop altar.

As word has spread in the past month about the "messages" from Mary, the church office was forced to install four new phone lines to handle the flood of inquiries.

However, church officials remain unsure how many people will attend the four days of worship highlighted by the Monday evening service.

Confessions will be heard all day Saturday, and three rosary services and two Masses will be held Sunday.

On Monday five rosary services are planned, capped by the main evening Mass and rosary.

Parishioner and Lubbock attorney David Garza said trying to plan the event without knowing how many will come hasn't been easy.

"We are one of the smallest parishes in town. We don't have a lot of money, but people have been very generous," he said.

Ideas for how to accommodate the crowd were based on his trip last September to see Pope John Paul II in San Antonio, Garza said.

"I started writing in my notebook all the things that I remembered from the pope's visit — medical tents, water, ambulances," he said.

St. John Neumann will have 20 portable toilets, two medical tents, two first-aid stations, and drinking water will be available, he said.