Reagan OKs changes proposed for welfare

WASHINGTON (AP) — President agan on Thursday signed the first mar overhaul of the nation's welfare sysm since it was created in the Great Deession. He said the new law is a message of hope" to those mired in a ife of dependency and destitution.

But that message to welfare recipiits, said the president, also contains a mand from the citizens who pay the

"For too long the federal government, ith the best of intentions, has usurped responsibility that appropriately lies ith parents," said Reagan at the sign-g ceremony in the Rose Garden. "In so ing, it has reinforced dependency and arated welfare recipients from the instream of society.

The legislation contains the most weeping revision of the nation's princial welfare program — Aid to Families al welfare program — Aid to Families chief architect of the bill, Sen. Daniel

with Dependent Children - since it was Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y created in 1935.

Under the agreement reached after two years of legislative struggle, the government has pledged to provide training and support systems to destitute parents if they take steps to become independent.

Each state must operate a Jobs Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program to educate, train and find employment for the AFDC recipients. Over

The president touted the measure's work and education requirements, as well as its provisions increasing pressure on absentee parents to pay child support.

programs have differing starting dates.

Under the bill, states are required for the first time to offer people on welfare a broad variety of education, training and work programs.

Mothers of young children are required to participate. They retain medical coverage for a year after they find a job, and they will be far more likely to

For the first time, the federal government will require all states to pay cash benefits to two-parent welfare families.

Non-custodial fathers will face new pressure for child support payments, with states required to identify more of them and automatically withhold payments from their wages.

Those most likely to feel the immediover. They are the prime targets of the

Authorities charge teen in arson case

JEFFERSON, N.H. (AP) - Police arrested a teen-ager and charged him with setting one of two dozen fires that have plagued the White Mountain area recently. The arrest came one day after a former firefighter was accused in several

son, was charged with setting a fire earlier this month at a vacation home in Dalton, two towns away from Jefferson, the scene of most of the fires, police said.

Someone at a neighboring home saw a man walking from the house about the time of the fire and took down the man's license plate number, but state Police Lt. Gary Sloper declined to say if the plate

one fire in Jefferson and said they will seek indictments charging him with 15 others. LaLumiere was charged with setting fire to his brother's house in August.

Jefferson has been plagued by 21 arson fires since May. During the period, there have been at least three suspicious fires in nearby towns — the one Coulter is charged with setting and two in August

seven years, states will be entitled to recieve \$6.8 billion in federal matching funds to pay for employment and train-

nus in royalties and prestige. Sigrid

Kahle, a Swedish specialist in Arabic

literature, said Mahfouz could proba-

"Still, at his age, he can't support himself as an author, and he's not lacking for enemies," she said.

The Egyptian laureate said his frail

condition might keep him away from

the Swedish capital, and one of his

two daughters or another representa-

The academy commented his work for contributing to "a powerful up-

swing for the novel as a genre and for

the development of the literary lan-

guage in Arabic-speaking cultural cir-

Though widely read at home, Mahfouz's realism and his reputation as a

"free thinker" have dampened his

Egyptian censors banned his 1959

touched on religious themes not ac-

ceptable for publication in Egypt. The book was printed in Lebanon,

and is still banned in Egypt. A 1967

novel, "Mirimar," took aim at Nas-

ser's domestic policies and politics.

But President Hosni Mubarak and other officials sent congratulations

Some of Mahfouz's earlier novels

were set in ancient Egypt, but had

sidelong looks at modern society, the

The academy also cited "God's World," a collection of stories. "The

artistic treatment of the existential

questions is forceful and the formal

solutions often striking," the an-

novels and collections of short sto-

ries, many of them available in En-

than 30 screenplays, about a dozen of

In all, Mahfouz's works include 40

Mahfouz also is credited with more

academy said.

nouncement said.

glish and other languages

them based on his novels.

"Children of Gebelawi,"

tive may accept the prize.

Arab storyteller receives Nobel for literature

bly use both.

Naguib Mahfouz of Egypt, an Arab storyteller who chronicled the search for human values from the Nile delta of the Pharaohs to the back alleys of modern Cairo, won the 1988 Nobel Prize for literature Thursday.

Mahfouz, the first Arab writer to win the award in its 87-year history, has been compared to Charles Dickens for his vivid portrayals of pov-

One book of his was banned in Egypt, and another attacked former President Gamal Abdel Nasser's donestic and pan-Arabist policies.

The Swedish Academy honored nim for advancing the art of the novel, a relatively new genre in Arabic literature.

'His work speaks to us all,' the academy said

Mahfouz, 76, was awakened from an afternoon nap at his Cairo home and told the news. He said he was very happy and thankful for the Arab world and added:

"I congratulate the Egyptian people that one of its small people won a big award, (but) it's not too big for Egypt. I hope this will be the first step for our literary generations. We have taken a lot and must now give."

The award continued a recent trend of the 18-member body to seek laureates outside the mainstream of Euopean and American literature.

Wole Soyinka of Nigeria was honored in 1986. Exiled Russian poet Jo-

Mahfouz, the son of a Cairo civil servant, has shown little admiration for contemporary Arab writers, in-

cluding himself. Once asked to appraise his work. he said: "Probably like the rest of modern Arabic literature, fourth or fifth rate."

The 1988 prize is worth \$390,000. but it inevitably brings a further bo-

"I've been waiting 20 years for this day," Patrick said. He added that he hoped its features would take hold fully by the end of the century. Under the complex piece of legislation, various

get child support payments.

Only 27 do so now

Starting in 1994, one adult in each two-parent welfare household must par-ticipate in a job search and, if it fails, work 16 hours a week in a state-organized work activity. A young parent may work instead toward a high school di-

All states will be required to provide at least some cash benefits to families with unemployed fathers living at home.

ate effects of the welfare bill are able-bodied women with children aged 3 and new JOBS programs to be developed by

Lawrence Coulter, Jr., 19, of Jeffer-

was traced to Coulter.

On Wednesday, police charged Lance Lalumiere, 23, of Jefferson with setting

Senate OKs death penalty for drug-related killings

w capital punishment for drug-related killings, as lawmaklurched past procedural snarls and finally began debating a 6 billion drug bill.

The capital punishment language, retained in the legislation a 64-25 vote, was just one of many provisions in the 600c, campaign-season measure that would strengthen the ernment's arsenal against drug offenders.

The lawmakers easily defeated two other efforts to weaken death penalty language, and then adopted by an 88-0 vote ovision that would allow fines of up to \$10,000 against ple who possess even small amounts of illegal drugs

The failed effort by liberals to strip the death penalty lange from the bill was a major step toward extending federal tal punishment statutes because there is similar language the harsher, House-passed version of the legislation. Congressional leaders want to send the drug legislation to President Reagan before adjourning for the year in the next few

"The death penalty is necessary and long overdue as a weapon in the incredible butchery that is taking place on America's streets," said Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y

Liberals from both parties, however, derided capital punishment as an ineffective vestige of less enlightened times. "The desire for vengeance, for eye-for-an-eye justice, is a

principle and a mentality unworthy of civilized government and of this body," said Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. The bill would allow capital punishment for drug traffickers who kill civilians or law enforcement officers. Hatfield's amendment, which was defeated 64-25, would have removed

the death penalty from the bill and replaced it with mandatory

life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

Iranians agree with U.S. leaders on issue of hostage negotiations

United States it is not interested in ing with unauthorized individuals r the release of American hostages, a diplomat said Thursday.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard

phy said the Iranian message had part of communications between two countries conducted through tzerland and other countries that have omatic ties to Iran

he United States has not authorized individuals to strike deals with Iran the release of the hostages, held by Iranian militants in Lebanon, he

We have made sure through those

VASHINGTON (AP) — Iran has told same channels I referred to that the government of Iran has received that same message, and they realize our position and they affirm they are not interested in dealing with private citizens and unauthorized individuals," Murphy said in testimony before the House subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

> Murphy did not say when that communication took place.

Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr said earlier this month that an emissary for Vice President George Bush had negotiated the release from Lebanon of Mithileshwar Singh, a U.S. resident from India. Secretary of State George Shultz last week denied that and

other reports about negotiations with

Murphy said the United States has repeatedly made clear to Iran that the continued detention of Americans in Lebanon would preclude any improvement

in relations between the two countries. There will be no deals made for their ' he said. "They must be returned forthwith.'

Asked about reports that the hostages may be held by Palestinian groups, Murphy said the United States did not have any evidence that the Americans are in the hands of anyone but Lebanese faithful of the Hezbollah, or Party of God. Hezbollah is closely allied with Iran.

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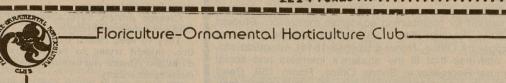
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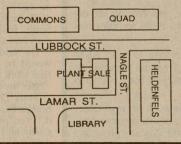
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