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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, February 15, 1989

Page 10

The Batta

White House: Congress will shape spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration. saying its 1990 budget speaks for itself, declined Tuesday to provide additional details on spending cuts and insisted they be shaped through negotiations with Con-

"This budget is alive and is an active force subject to change in negotiation and discussion," presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters.

He said the administration would have no separate proposal for filling a spending gap estimated at \$9.6 billion to \$11 billion to help pay for expanded social programs Bush advocated in his \$1.16 trillion spending

"We'll be providing details as we go along. Everybody knows cuts have to be made," Fitzwater said

Congressional Democrats have complained that Bush's budget allows him to claim credit for proposing more spending on social programs, such as those affecting the homeless, child care and education, while making sure Congress shares responsibility for coming up with unpopular cuts in other programs.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Jim Sasser, D-Tenn., the budget committee chairman, told Bush in a letter Tuesday that if he failed to provide more detail, Congress would "have no alternative" but to assume he endorses the program cuts proposed last month by then-President Reagan.

Bush budget director Richard G. Darman, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and congressional

New Orleans

moves focus

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — For one

week, this jazz 'n' roll city put aside

its problems, polished away its tar-nish, set aside its bickering, dug deep into its threadbare pockets and

put on a party for the Republican National Convention.

It was also a symbolic move for

'We saw what happened during

"The Big Easy," which now, more than ever, sees its future in tourism

the Republican convention. New Or-

leans was by far one of the premier cities in America," Mayor Sidney Barthelemy said. "That gave me a little glimmer of what the future of

But the present is one of crisis. The city budget is in such shambles Barthelemy said he had to cut city

funding for the courts by 40 percent

this year. Unemployment remains at

nearly 9 percent. A real estate group labeled New Orleans a place to avoid

bleak that some worry that New Or-

leans may be headed for a crisis simi-

And finances at City Hall are so

'The more likely situation is a de-

Ryan of the University of New Or-leans said. "But I don't think that's

overhaul the tax structure for all of

Louisiana, including New Orleans.

New Orleans draws 5 million visi-

Family attractions are needed to off-

And if it all works, there will be

more than enough business to offset the collapse of the highflying oil in-

done for that city," Barthelemy said.

French Quarter, the mayor said.

because of falling home values.

rather than oil.

New Orleans could be.

to tourism

budget leaders met Tuesday afternoon. Sununu was coy with reporters regarding how much new informa-tion he would provide the Congress before leaders agreed to full-scale negotiations.

"It's not a question as to whether the detail is available, it's a question of whether you do it a step at a

Bush plans to travel around the country to build pub-

lic support for his budget plan.
He travels to Columbia, S.C., on Wednesday to highlight the budget measure in an appearance before the state legislature. Bush spoke Monday to business and civic leaders in Manchester, N.H.

Fitzwater denied Bush's budget road show was an effort to make an end-run around Congress, as Reagan had done in building public support for some of his ini-Instead, the spokesman said, the trips were just "an

opportunity for the president to discuss his priorities" and an attempt to stress his intention "to work with Congress."

Bush's budget, which he unveiled Thursday in his first major policy speech before Congress, called for expanded spending to cover a host of campaign promises.

Other than calling for freezing military spending at the level of inflation, the spending outline was vague on where other specific areas of spending would be re-

Bush, S&L adviser work for passage of thrift proposal

Bush administration vowed Tuesday to fight any effort by savings and It was a celebration amidst a de-pression, a \$150 million economic surge in the middle of a financial criloan lobbyists to preserve a close relationship with federal regulators and said it's ready to work with Congress to gain speedy passage of the president's plan to deal with the in-

dustry's crisis.

Richard C. Breeden, Bush's top adviser on S&Ls, said the president's proposal to restructure the thrift regulatory system is inseparable from any infusion of taxpayer money

And, in an interview at the White House, he vowed to "spare no effort" in helping Congress meet Bush's challenge to pass the S&L program in 45 days.

If we have to burn the midnight oil and work late and work hard, then we'll do it," Breeden said.

Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr., D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and Sen. Jake Garn of Utah, the committee's senior Republican, have already agreed to in- nounced the restructuring plan as a lar to New York City's several years ago — knocking on bankruptcy's gram. troduce the administration pro-

An inch-thick draft of the bill was sitting on Breeden's desk Tuesday, and he said it likely would be submitted to Congress next week. He described the tone of discussion on the issue between the administration and legislators as excellent.

"I hope things will go smoothly, but I don't want to be unrealistic," he said. "We are proposing some pro-found long-run changes in the regu-

Last week, Bush proposed spending \$126 billion over the next decade to close or sell failed thrift associations, \$40 billion of it a direct charge against the taxpayers and the federal

He also would wrap the indepen-dent Federal Home Loan Bank Board, which regulates the nation's 3,000 S&Ls, into the Treasury Department and merge the staff of the S&L deposit insurance fund into the larger Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which guarantees commercial bank accounts.

Thrift industry officials have depower-grab by the Treasury Department and have vowed to fight it.

Baker plans to sell stock fault by the city," economist Tim going to happen." Part of that effort is a move to in response to questions about conflict of interest And part of it is Barthelemy's push for tourism development.

tors a year, and that number is ROME (AP) — Secretary of State climbing, according to the tourist James A. Baker III announced bureau. Tourism-generated jobs Tuesday he will sell his holdings in a have grown 38 percent over the last four years, from 37,000 to 51,000. New York bank and all his other publicly traded stock, a move prompted by questions from President Bush's ethics chief about poten-The city is doubling the size of its convention center, building a new aquarium and looking at developing tial conflicts of interest. European-style botanical garden.

Baker said the decision went "well beyond" what was required by law or set the adults-only image of the had been recommended to him by government lawyers.

Baker's decision, which a spokesman said had been reached Saturday but was announced only Tuesday, came as Senate Foreign Relations "If you ever doubt that, go to Or- Committee sources said the panel lando and see what the tourism has had asked Baker more than a week ago for additional detailed informa-

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tion about his holdings. The controversy revolves primar-

around Baker's holdings in Chemical New York Corp., which has lent \$4.5 billion to Third World As Bush's chief adviser on foreign

policy, Baker is certain to be confronted by the nagging problem of the indebted nations and their staggering loans to Western and other commercial banks.

While heading the Treasury Department under President Reagan, Baker developed the so-called Baker plan, which called on Third World nations to make good on their debts as they restructured their sagging

Union Carbide agrees to pay \$470 million

NEW DELHI, India (AP Union Carbide Corp. a Tuesday to pay \$470 mili the government of India court-ordered settlemen resing from the 1984 gas lak Bhopal that killed more if 3,300 people in the world's windustrial disaster.

Activists in Bhopal denoun the settlement as a betrayalof 20,000 victims who still su from exposure to the deadly that escaped from a pesus plant on Dec. 3, 1984. The sernment had sought \$3 billion damages. Chief Justice R.S. Pathakine

rupted a government prose tor's routine argument when the court reconvened after lun and ordered the U.S.-based tinational company to pay to damages by March 31.

Attorneys for the governm and Union Carbide promp agreed.

"It was apparent that there an out-of-court agreement tween Union Carbide and the court agreement in the court agr government," said a court off who spoke on condition of an nymity. "For such an order than should have been excitement, there was no murmur even."

"It wasn't entirely out o blue," said another source also spoke on condition of a nymity

Pathak, citing "the enominal human suffering," said a tlement was needed to "proimmediate and substantial More than 2,000 people

killed almost immediately the white vapor of methyl isonate seeped from a storage at the plant operated by U Carbide's Indian subsidiary drifted over nearby shantyte and into Bhopal. The leak occurred shortly after

midnight, and some victims de in their sleep. Others, blinded tears and gasping for break tried to flee but collapsed in the collapsed in death.

More than 20,000 peoplest suffer from exposure to the p and victims continue to die a rate of at least one a day, acco ing to a government gas red board. It says the death toll is reached 3,329.

Pathak, speaking for a five judge Supreme Court panel, o dered Union Carbide to pay \$4 million to the Indian government in full and final settlement of claims, rights and liabilities is ated to and arising out of the Bhopal gas disaster.

Bhopal gas disaster.

He also ordered all civil proceedings transferred to the street preme Court, and quasted preme Court, and quasted their own fate. criminal charges, including of culpable homicide filed 1987 against former Union bide chairman Warren Ander Pathak gave no details of how

the money should be paid to victims, but he directed gov ment prosecutors and attorner for the Danbury, Conn.-ba company to submit a detail agreement Wednesday.

"This is a fair and just so tlement," Gopal Subramanism one of the chief governments torneys, told a reporter.

In New York, Union Carbin

spokesman Earl Slack said Pa thak's order was based on its review of all pleadings in India the U.S., applicable law and factors of the U.S., applicable law and factors of the unit of the uni and the enormity of human su fering that requires substa and immediate aid.

Union, Carbide's stock prosoared \$2.12-and-a-half to \$31. a share in early trading on New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, and analysts said approved of the settlement.

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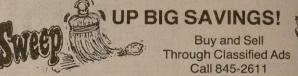
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lem for the colle "Quite hone: not being able problem we h year," he said. concerned, but cern we've had pring as well. Students atte in August are o

he liberal arts Although the will be limite doesn't foresee delay graduation Preside

to dem Contra

(AP) — Preside Nicaragua, Jo Honduras, Os Rica, Vinicio ind Jose Napo agreed to deve days to demob 11,000-strong Ortega also vember 1990 ear and oper to the oppositi permit United

Nicaragu Wednesday re Central Ar dents still face rebels and the along with the ing Nicaragua tions. Contra

"A lot of p out on a limb accord were agreements. I hold elections

tras, although made it clear tras to be gon eform begins Neither the rebels are pa though neithe "We are ne Calero said.

ers and sev members are them vowing

An estimat

on Wednesd nentary elec One victir other was a shot from a p unfire, wou

eported. The gove vernight cu Election o .3 million e ese and Tan

n the presid Nine pol groups com arliament. Police bla ority for 47 Mallimarach Colombo su

minister.