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INS's financial problems blamed for freeze of border patrol hirings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Specially equipped aircraft remained in their hangers more than usual this summer and Border Patrol agents cruised a rugged stretch of the Rio Grande four or five to a vehicle because money had become so tight within the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an agent says.

Although gas rationing has been lifted, the agent says, financial troubles within the INS linger and are responsible for a hiring freeze on Border Patrol agents that may continue through the remaining 10 months of the fiscal year.

At the same time, apprehensions of illegal aliens have increased, likely reflecting a surge in illegal border crossings three years after Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) to seize control of the border.

The INS said it arrested 89,290 illegal aliens on the Southwest border in September, compared with 65,809 in September 1988.

For the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, however, apprehensions were down from the prior year — totaling 854,939 in 1989 compared with

943,063 in 1988 and 1,122,067 in 1987. Some stretches of border, the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and near Laredo, saw increases for the year, INS figures show.

Under IRCA, employers were prohibited from hiring undocumented aliens and the number of Border Patrol agents was to double to 5,000. Yet today there are just 4,100 agents, said Rep. Lamar Smith, ranking Republican on the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration, refugees and international law.

"It's a disaster," said Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "At a time when the Border Patrol was finally getting up to speed, the funding base collapsed. At a time when we need them most, we're losing people."

"We are looking down the barrel of a massive movement from Mexico," Stein said. "Any major economic downturn could set off a crisis along the border and there's not the manpower down there to take care of it, and by all accounts Congress and the administration are asleep at the

wheel." An agent on the Texas-Mexico border believes the Border Patrol's presence has weakened by manpower and vehicle shortages and gas rationing over the summer.

"They're not rationing fuel now, but the ration's not better because we're losing people's retirement and to other areas," said the speaking on condition of anonymity. "It takes sources here to do the job, it takes equipment, manpower, and we're certainly short on both."

INS spokesman Duke Austin said Commissioner Gene McNary's staff is making a comprehensive review of agency operations. However, he refused to discuss the situation.

"Freezing hiring in the Border Patrol is a ble response to the problem," House immigration subcommittee Chairman Bruce Morrison said. "They need to look at more appropriate ways to save money if they have a budget squeeze. How do they have a budget squeeze in the month of the fiscal year?"

おまたせしました。

第3回
セルネット合同就職セミナー
TOKYO
12/27

留学生の皆さんにご好評いただいておりますセルネット合同就職セミナー。今回はいよいよ東京で開催です。皆さんにおなじみの一流企業が、熱いメッセージを送ります。応募は右記の通り。日本までの交通費も実費払戻の予定です。日本企業で活躍を希望するあなた……これは絶対見逃せません。

(セミナー内容) 参加企業(25社)の説明会、並びに個別面接
(対象) 米国の大学及び大学院を1991年6月までに卒業(Bachelor以上の学位取得)予定の留学生
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Speakes

(Continued from page 1)

and discussed who would go with the president that day. Brady decided to attend the event with Reagan.

"Not a day goes by that I don't think of what that decision meant,

and how fate played its hand," he said. "I still think there is no substitute for being with the president at all times. It's a responsibility and a privilege as press secretary."

On the lighter side, Speakes said the White House staff would sometimes make jokes about how tough reporters are.

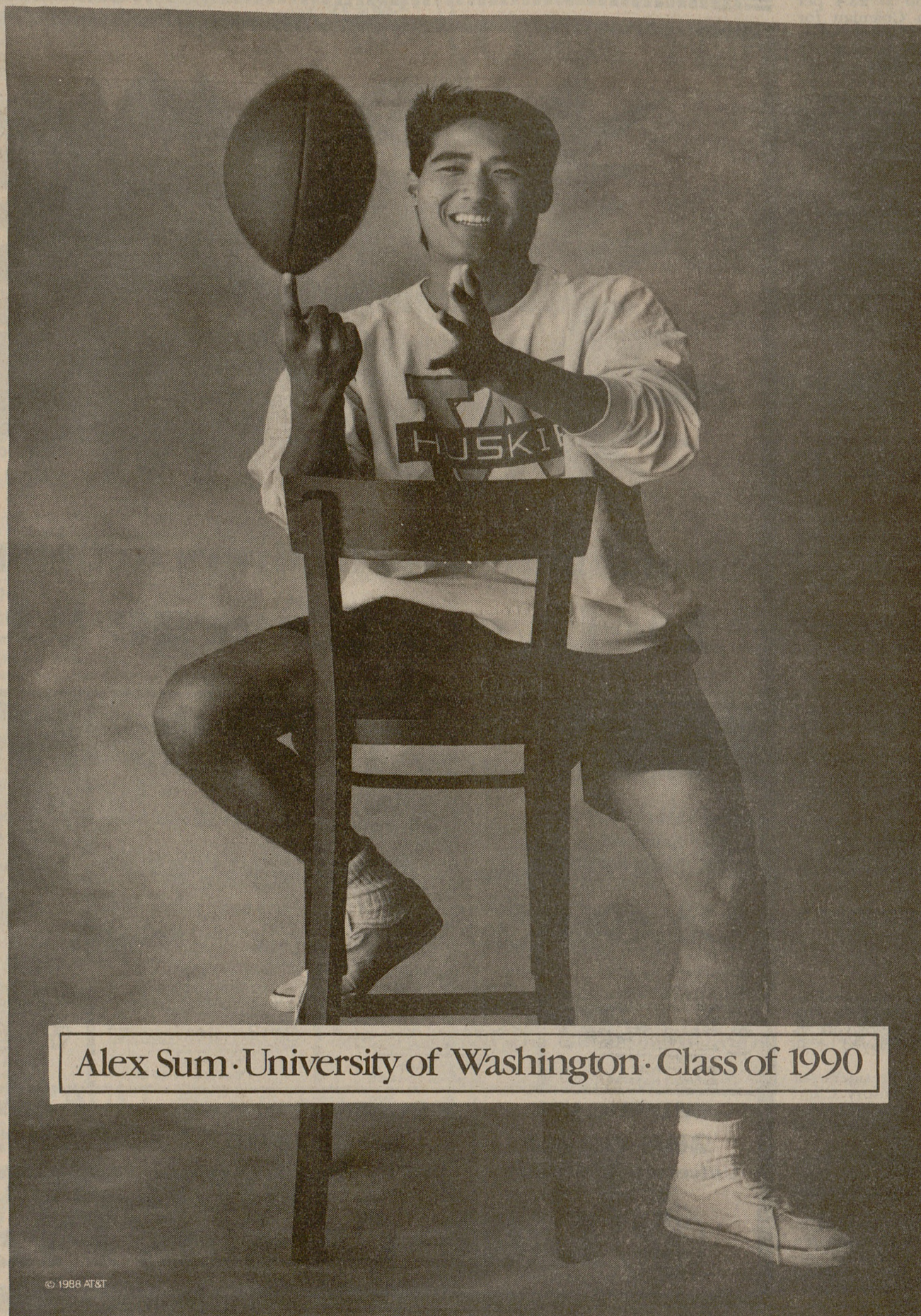
"Ronald Reagan and I watched ABC news with Sam Donaldson, and it was a night when Sam had done a particularly tough piece," Speakes said. "After it was over, Reagan turned and remarked to me, 'You know, if TV hadn't been invented, Sam would probably go door to door.'"

He said he had to stay on top of the news because the press could hit him about anything at anytime.

"You're in the hot seat 24 hours a day," he said. "It was very tough, an enjoyable tough. I'm very proud to have had the privilege to serve in that position."

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