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From Associated Press reports

Reagan hits road to sell new budget

WASHINGTON

Pres. Reagan headed for Minnesota on Monday in the kickoff of a series of trips aimed at selling his budget and new federalism programs and shoring up Republican chances in the fall elections.

Having signed and sent to Congress a fiscal 1983 budget forecasting a \$91.5 billion deficit, the president planned a speech at a political rally for Republican Sen. David Durenberger in Bloomington, Minn., Monday night. Today he is scheduled to visit legislatures in Iowa and Indiana to boost his plan to transfer more than 43 social programs to the states.

The trip was the first of several planned for the president as he assumes the role of chief salesman for his programs, hoping to stir up grassroots pressure to bring a reluctant Congress into line.

Durenberger, up for re-election in November, is chairman of the Senate intergovernmental relations subcommittee, which will handle much of the legislation dealing with Reagan's new federalism.

Before leaving Washington, the president, using a felt-tipped pen with heavy black ink, signed his 1983 budget request of \$757.6 billion. Responding to Democratic criticism, he said, "It is not true it is balanced on the backs of the needy."

The president, bringing in a common theme likely to echo throughout his coming travels, said the budget was "the second step... in our program to try and bring government spending back in line with

government revenues."

Earlier in the day, he met with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders, outlining briefly for the Democrats the budget plan he was signing and then discussing it in greater detail with the Republicans.

Chinese scrapping old bureaucracy

HONG KONG

China plans an extensive governmental retrenchment that includes cutting the number of vice premiers from 18 to two or three and scrapping a system that allows most bureaucrats to keep their jobs for life, an authoritative leftist Hong Kong newspaper reported Monday.

It was the most detailed report yet on the Communist leadership's plan to cut down China's monumental bureaucracy, which many senior Chinese officials blame for stalling the country's drive to modernize by the year 2000.

The Hong Kong Chinese-language daily newspaper Ta Kung Pao, which reflects the official Communist Party line in Peking, said the program was "revolutionary" and of paramount importance to the "fate of the country and the party."

Ta Kung Pao said the number of vice premiers, who make up the State Council or executive organ of government, will be cut from 18 to two or three, but it did not specify who would be forced out.

The paper also said the number of central government officials will be cut by a third to 200,000, and that many ministries and bureaus will be combined, reduced or abolished.

Under the new plan, the paper said, officials holding ministerial

rank must retire at 65 and those with divisional or bureau rank must retire at 60. It said women officials must retire at 55, but did not explain why. Exceptions will be granted for those with specialized skills, the paper said.

At present, China has no definite retirement age for top officials, many of whom are in their late 60s and 70s.

In the years since the Communists took power in 1949, China's bureaucracy has grown to more than 20 million people, which one Western diplomat described as "mind boggling."

NATO allies plan conference strategy

MADRID, Spain

Western allies planned strategy Monday for a looming battle over American plans to condemn Poland's military regime and its Soviet backers at the 35-nation European security conference.

U.S. officials said Secretary of State Alexander Haig "wouldn't stand for it" if the East bloc tried to prevent his Tuesday speech accusing Poland and the Soviets of violating the Helsinki accords on human rights.

If the speech was blocked, the officials said, Haig very likely would walk out.

U.S. officials said the American delegation would not be surprised if the Soviet and Polish representatives tried to prevent the issue of martial law in Poland from being raised, possibly through a filibuster.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Josef Wieszaj chairs the opening session under an alphabetical rotation rule. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilychev said on arrival Sunday he will oppose attempts to bring up Poland.

One U.S. official said "with a Pole in the chair, we don't know what he is going to do."

Haig said Monday he expects "everything will go like clockwork" at Tuesday's session, which reconvenes the conference after a six-week recess. Aides said Haig's intention is to "highlight the violations" of the Helsinki accords and "if he doesn't here, he will do it somewhere else."

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