

## Reagan girds for budget fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan, standing firm against major cuts in military spending plans, is stepping up the pace of his meetings with lawmakers one week before he submits a budget aimed at slashing the federal deficit by \$50 billion.

Reagan will kick off a busy schedule by conferring Monday with Republican members of the tax-writing Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees, and then with members of the House Republican whip organization.

On Tuesday, he has private meetings with members on his schedule and will dine with freshmen members and their spouses in the evening. Wednesday and Thursday, he has sessions planned with members of congressional committees, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

Speakes declined to name the committees, saying the schedule might change, but he said, "Mostly he is meeting with money committees to talk about the budget."

Reagan's budget is scheduled for submission to Congress on Feb. 4, and is expected to contain a deficit of about \$180 billion after \$50 billion in spending cuts.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has agreed to trim \$8.7 billion from a proposed \$286 billion Pentagon budget, but many Senate Republicans say this is not enough.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., said last week that Weinberger's unwillingness to compromise was jeopardizing efforts to come up with significant deficit reductions. Dole said many Senate Republicans felt it would be almost impossible to win support for freezing such domestic programs as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, so long as Weinberger chose to "sit out" the budget trimming negotiations.

Reagan, asked about Dole's statements during a radio interview at the White House on Saturday, said: "I think he was calling attention to what could be a fact within the Congress — that consistently, over the years, the Congress have, when they've needed money for some other program, they have thought, well, defense is the place we can get it."

But, Reagan added, "when they see, and when we have a chance to explain, how much the Department of Defense has come down from its original projections for this period, and for '86, I think they're going to see that there isn't much more to get there. We've squeezed that apple pretty good."

## CIA has rebels on long leash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reagan administration officials say the limits of CIA control over the rebels it backs in

Nicaragua have been made evident by Honduras' charges that the rebels have murdered political dissidents in Honduras.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said the Honduran allegations caught the CIA off guard. They said rebel leaders had assured the CIA that a key military officer allegedly implicated in the abuses had been expelled two years ago from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

Another official said the incident showed that while the CIA had direct command and control over certain operations, such as the mining of Nicaragua's harbors, the agency had only limited influence over the FDN's internal operations.

The FDN officer's name surfaced inside the administration this month in connection with a Honduran military investigation of the killings and disappearances of about 250 opponents of the pro-American Honduran government.

Honduran sources close to the investigation have told the AP and other news organizations that since 1980, Nicaraguan rebels had killed 15 to 18 dissidents on behalf of the Honduran military. One source said

the officer was involved in some of those actions.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said last week that the administration had "no information which would substantiate" the Honduran charges. Last Wednesday, the CIA circulated a secret report disputing the press accounts and quoting some Honduran military officials as denying their investigation would implicate the FDN.

FDN spokesman Bosco Matamoros also denied the allegations.

Congress cut off covert CIA funding for the Nicaraguan rebels last year, but President Reagan is expected to push for new assistance after the congressional ban expires Feb. 28.

## Officials urge penal reform

(AP) — Oregon's parole and probation system "is out of balance" because of too many prisoners, too little prison space, and too little money to deal with the problem, two parole and probation officials say.

"We're right now running

about 1,200 over our design capacity" in state institutions, said Larry Daniels, parole and probation chief for the seven-county Southwest Region.

"If we decide that all felons go to prison, then the place is going to get (even more) full, and we'll have to appropriate funds to build more," Daniels said. "Where those funds would come from is questionable. Twice we've gone to the voters with bond issues and twice they've gone down."

But Daniels said the solution isn't necessarily more prisons. "People don't get better in prison — they get older and give up," he said.

"We need to develop a criminal justice policy for the state with all alternatives — prisons, house arrest, regional jails, just a whole variety," he said. "Other states have tried to build their way out of the prison-bed crisis and have not been able to do it."

Ted Long, Eugene-area parole and probation manager, said the situation has produced frustration among both parole officers and jail officials.

"The pressure out here is to keep them (criminals) in, and the pressure inside is to get

them out," Long said. He told of speaking with his own former boss, now working in a prison: "He said, 'You can't believe it in here, Ted — it's really bad.'"

Long and Daniels said criminals are serving far less time in prison because of the state Parole Board's "matrix" system for computing parole dates and because prisoners are released six months earlier than even the parole date under the Corrections Division's temporary leave program.

They said officers are nearly powerless to deal with violations of temporary leave or parole restrictions, and the public doesn't know how bad things really are.

The temporary leave program was established to save money and relieve overcrowding. Prisoners are eligible for up to six months temporary leave, but Corrections Division statistics show the average time to be about half that, Long and Daniels said.

Under the matrix, the parole board uses a mathematical formula that rates the severity of the crime committed and a prisoner's past offenses in calculating a parole date.

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