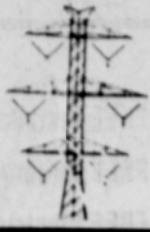


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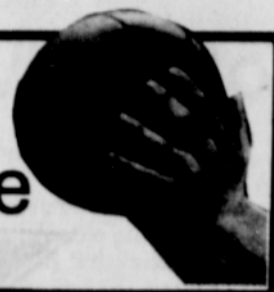
Utility help
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Reagan cuts food, health; raises military budget

President Ronald Reagan has submitted a 1984 budget to Congress that contains a \$189 billion deficit and a 14.2 percent increase in military spending, making the military budget 28 percent of the budget. The budget is based on the assumption that the depression hit bottom in late 1982 and will recover during the first half of 1983. The budget projects a real annual GNP growth rate of 4 percent in the second half as opposed to no growth in 1982.

The budget has already hit major opposition from members of both parties who seek to protect social programs already deeply cut.

Some of the major features of the \$848.5 billion budget follow:

Urban assistance:

Under pressure from suffering cities and states the President seeks to continue federal aid to states and local governments at the 1983 level.

The plan continues nearly two dozen programs into four block grants to the states. These would be: 1) a revenue-sharing grant that includes the current community de-

velopment block grant; 2) a block grant consolidating rural housing programs; 3) a transportation block grant; 4) consolidation of 17 other programs.

Housing

Reagan wants to replace most subsidized housing construction with direct cost or vouchers for 80,000 families. A projected 10,000 subsidized units for the elderly poor and handicapped, renovation of 30,000 existing units, and 1,500 units for Indian families are requested.

Medicare

Reagan requested an increase in the premium the elderly and disabled pay for supplemental, or Part B, that covers physicians' charges. This premium, now \$12.20 per month, will increase to \$14.20 on January 1, 1984, with increases to \$31.60 by January 1, 1988. By then the insurance would cover 35 percent of the cost rather than the current 25 percent.

The plan would also increase the amount the elderly and disabled pay for hospital care. Patients now pay \$304 for the first day of hospital

care for each illness. This payment is projected at \$350 for fiscal 1984. The next 59 days are without charge to the patient; then the patient pays a percentage of the original deductible.

Reagan would require the first day payment for only two hospitalizations in a year but for the second through the 15th days they would be charged 8 percent of the deductible (the \$304) and for days 16 through 60 would pay 5 percent. After two hospitalizations the 8 percent would be collected beginning the first day.

The patient would not pay after the 60th day; however, the average hospital stay is only 11 days. This charge would cost the patients an estimated \$663 million in fiscal 1984 and \$1.2 billion in fiscal 1985.

There would be a one-year freeze on physicians' rate increases. Also being considered are ceilings on hospital charges.

Health care

States with Medicaid for welfare recipients would be required to charge \$1 a day for hospital care (Please turn to page 2 column 1)

Depression hits African nations

Africa is going through its worst economic crisis since World War II. African nations are highly dependent on raw materials exports and their products have undergone the most service price drops since the nations became independent in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The income from exports of many African nations has reached such a low point that these countries are nearly bankrupt and cannot cope with their growing foreign debts. Imports are being reduced to a minimum of essential products.

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, had a \$9.6 billion income in 1982 from oil exports, but sales and prices are down due to the surplus of oil on the world market. In November, President Shehu Shagari said Nigeria will have to incur an added debt of \$4.5 billion in 1983 to make capital investments. Also, the country will need \$2 million to

cover the expected deficit in balance of payments.

Because of its depressed economy and unemployment problem Nigeria is expelling two million refugees who had come from neighboring nations to look for work. About one-half are from Ghana.

Ghana has no foreign currency reserve and spends \$400 million a year on oil imports. This equals one-half of what the country earns from exports of cacao and gold. The Ghanaian foreign debt stands at \$2 billion and payment on that debt will amount to \$900 million in 1983, which is more than half of the country's total annual income.

Zaire has rich mineral deposits but prices and exports are diminishing and income from copper, cobalt, diamonds and coffee was less than \$600 million in 1982, compared to \$1.9 billion two years earlier. Zaire's foreign debt is \$5.8 billion

and annual interest is over \$900 million.

Zambia gets 90 percent of its income from copper exports. The economy has dropped about 2 percent per year since 1978, resulting in a serious drop in the standard of living.

Kenya's main exports are coffee and tea. Kenya has been forced to reduce its imports to a minimum because lack of foreign exchange and reserves on hand will cover imports for only one month.

There have been drastic cuts in government training in Ivory Coast. Economic growth, which averaged 7 percent for the last 20 years, plummeted to zero in 1982, largely due to the drop in coffee and cacao prices. Ivory Coast has a \$6 billion foreign debt with \$1 billion due in 1983, nearly 40 percent of its total export income.

Banks case tests sovereignty

by Jon Stewart,
Pacific News Service

Native American activist and fugitive Dennis Banks has pulled off a neat bit of Indian magic: he has become invisible in an invisible nation. He is, or is not, taking sanctuary within a land which may, or may not, be a sovereign nation.

This invisibility suddenly has raised into stark relief two rather obscure issues: Banks' guilt or innocence, and the reality or illusion of Indian sovereignty within the United States.

Banks is the subject of a warrant issued by South Dakota authorities who want him returned to that state to serve a sentence for a 1975 conviction on riot charges. Banks fled South Dakota and took refuge in California, having convinced Gov.

Jerry Brown that his life would be endangered were he returned to South Dakota. He was forced to leave California when new governor George Deukmejian agreed to comply with the extradition.

Banks now is widely assumed to be hiding out on the Onondaga Reservation in upstate New York. His attorney, William Kunstler, will admit only that his client is somewhere in New York, and Onondaga attorney Steven Tullberg, of the Washington-based Indian Law Resource Center, avers that "as far as I know Banks isn't there." Onondaga tribal leader Irving Powless, Sr., claims he doesn't know, either.

Since at least six state governors have indicated they might be willing to provide sanctuary for Banks, the question of his guilt or innocence (Please turn to page 11 column 3)



Portland march protests Reagan Administration's certification of human rights improvement

in El Salvador to justify additional aid to that government. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Battles intensify

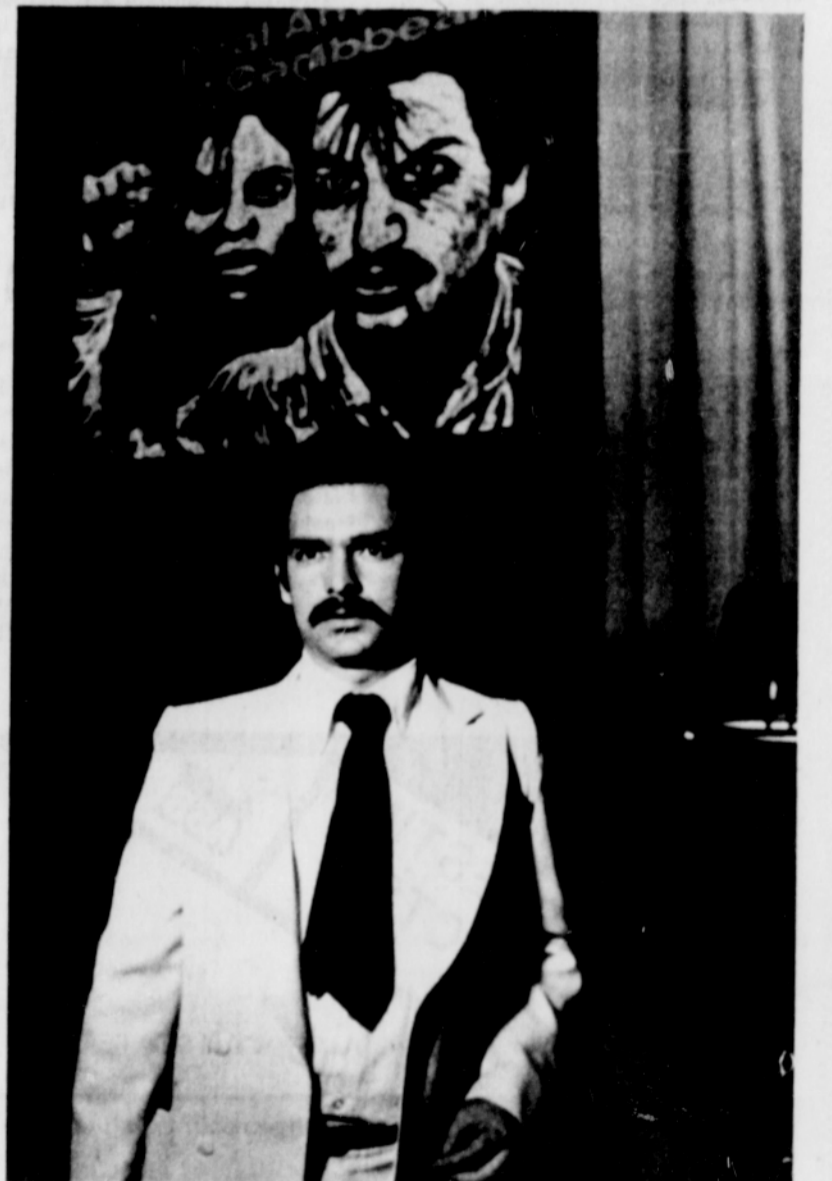
Calling the certification by the Reagan Administration of human rights improvement in El Salvador a sham, Jose Escobar, representative of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) of El Salvador, thanked the people of Portland for passing an initiative calling for a U.S. pullout.

Escobar emphasized the need for medical supplies and support of people's medical clinics in his country.

A guerrilla offensive launched in early January has spread to three provinces. With the capture of Berlin, a city of 35,000 Tuesday, the guerrillas control one-third of agriculture-rich Usulután Province. A railroad bridge over the Lempa River was destroyed calling the main supply route from San Salvador to Usulután. The highway bridge had been destroyed in 1981.

More than 6,000 U.S. trained government troops are engaged in Morazan Province and heavy fighting in Chalatenango Province continues. Sporadic fighting is taking place throughout the country including the capital, San Salvador.

Tuesday a right wing death squad machine-gunned a meeting of "moderate" politicians who had stripped Assembly President Robert d'Aubuisson, himself a death squad leader, of much of his power.



Jose Escobar of El Salvador's FDR asked for medical supplies and funds for the people of El Salvador, who are being killed, injured, starved and left exposed to disease by an oppressive government. (Photos: Richard J. Brown)

U.S. troops at Nicaraguan border

More than 1500 U.S. soldiers will participate in joint military maneuvers with Honduras during the first days of February.

These maneuvers have the object of developing the defensive capacity of the Honduran forces, to test in the field the techniques of deployment and logistics, the U.S. Department of State said.

More than 900 U.S. military personnel are joining the 700 already in Honduras. The Honduran Armed Forces will contribute 5,000 soldiers to the maneuvers, which will culminate 15 kilometers from the Nicaraguan frontier.

U.S. helicopters and airplanes will be utilized to transport the Honduran troops to the area.

Christened "Big Pine" by the Pentagon, the maneuvers were initially planned for early December and were postponed so it would not coincide with Ronald Reagan's visit to Latin America.

Six months ago the armed forces of the United States and Honduras took part in an operation the results (Please turn to page 2 column 3)



DENNIS BANKS