

Bills . . .

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Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln introduced LB1011 which would establish uniformity in criminal laws relating to banks, credit unions, industrial loan and investment companies, building and loan associations, and cooperative credit associations.

The bill would require state examiners and financial institution officers to inform the state banking

director of insolvencies and of potential criminal activities. The state banking director would be required to inform the county attorney and the attorney general. An officer of a financial institution who knowingly accepted deposits after the institution became insolvent would be guilty of a felony.

Beutler said the violations found in an examination of a financial institution would be reported to prosecutors, and they would decide if the violations should be prosecuted.

"The complex of regulations and statutes are so complex that no banker could be expected to comply with them all," Beutler said.

Roger Beverage, state banking director, introduced LB1039 which would grant the state banking director new authority to order corrective action through a cease-and-desist order when a financial institution appears to have violated banking statutes or regulations. The bill would create an appeals procedure for the institution.

Beverage said if the procedures outlined in LB1039 had been in effect during the Commonwealth problem, they would have aided the department's ability to deal with the situation. The cease-and-desist order would require the employees and officers of a financial institution to follow a specific set of regulations.

Beverage said procedure is essential for him to carry out his statutory charge.

Beverage said now there is no authority between the minimum response of do nothing, and the maximum response of close the institution.

"Paul Amen did not have the regulatory tools that he needed," Beverage said.

The public hearing for the major Commonwealth bill of the 1984 session, LB1028, will take place Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the O'Donnell Auditorium at Nebraska Wesleyan University.



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Reagan's '85 budget calls for more defense

WASHINGTON — President Reagan Wednesday presented Congress with an election-year budget that seeks to continue his arms build-up, promises no new taxes and carries the third largest deficit in the nation's history.

The record \$925.5 billion spending plan, with its \$180.4 billion deficit, drew predictable partisan reaction in Congress. Republicans generally approved and Democrats were highly critical.

The budget, for fiscal 1985, beginning October has held few surprises since most of its contents had been leaked to the press or announced by the administration earlier.

Reagan asked congress to approve a 9.3 percent increase in offense spending, bringing it to a record \$264.4 billion.

At the same time the president sought to cut spending on social programs by \$4.6 billion. Reagan's backers pointed out that the cuts were significantly less than those he has requested for these programs in the past.

'Tip' gives endorsement to 'Fritz'

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Thomas O'Neill endorsed former Vice President Walter Mondale for the Democratic presidential nomination Wednesday.

O'Neill is the highest elected Democratic official to announce his support for Mondale, current frontrunner among eight Democratic presidential hopefuls.

"I will do everything I can to make sure that Walter Mondale is elected president of the United States," O'Neill said at a news conference.

O'Neill, who will be honorary chairman at the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco in July, said Mondale was the "Best Man" for the job.

Norway expels Soviet diplomats

OSLO, Norway — Norway Wednesday ordered five Soviet diplomats expelled and barred four others from re-entering the country, apparently for spying.

The Soviets were officially accused of activities incompatible with their diplomatic status, a common government euphemism for espionage.

The expulsions follow the arrest two weeks ago of a high-ranking Norwegian official on charges of being a Soviet agent.

In addition to the five who must leave immediately, four other Soviet diplomats who have served in Oslo will not be allowed to re-enter the country, Foreign Minister Svinn Stray told a news conference.

Shultz attends informal talks

CARACUS, Venezuela — Secretary of State George Shultz, in Venezuela for the inauguration of President Jaime Lusinchi, Wednesday held informal talks with a number of Latin American leaders on the conflicts in Central America.

Shultz arrived in Caracas this morning after a brief visit to El Salvador. He leaves Friday for Brazil before flying to Grenada and Barbados.

No formal agenda has been set between Shultz and the 16 Latin American leaders in Caracas for the inauguration, but the presence of the heads of state of three of the four nations in the Contadora Group of nations was expected to prompt renewed discussions on Central America, the sources said.

Shcharansky's release urged

ROME — The wife of imprisoned Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky said Wednesday she was launching a new campaign for her husband's release.

Avital Shcharansky, who arrived in Rome Tuesday from Israel, told a press conference the possibility of a reduced sentence had been mentioned in a letter a year ago from Soviet President Yuri Andropov to French Communist leader Georges Marchais.

Shcharansky, 35, a former member of a group monitoring Moscow's adherence to European security conference accords and a champion of Soviet Jews rights to emigrate, was imprisoned on espionage charges.

His wife said another factor which led her to resume campaigning was what she described as her husband's worsening health at Chistopol Prison, 500 miles east of Moscow.

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