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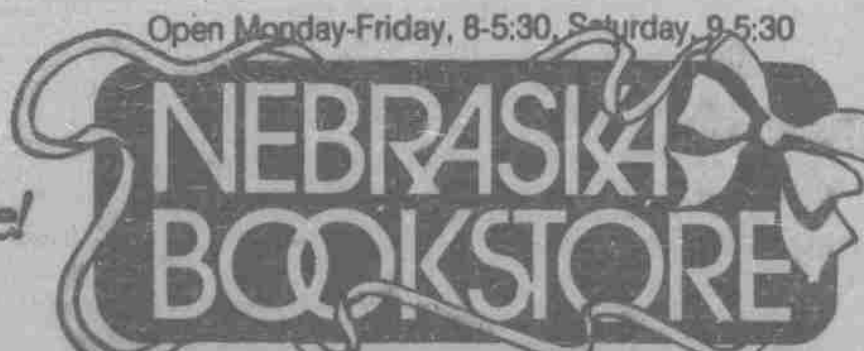
It's a December Autographing this Saturday, Dec. 1:

12:00 to 1:30 at Nebraska Bookstore
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Wire Report

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Stockman seeks to cut \$240 billion in spending

WASHINGTON — White House economic policymakers Thursday outlined to congressional leaders a plan to reduce massive federal budget deficits by cutting government spending by \$240 billion over the next three years. A senior administration official said Budget Director David Stockman proposed spending cuts of \$45 billion in fiscal 1986, \$85 billion in 1987 and \$110 billion in 1988.

Spending reductions of that magnitude, which would amount to seven percent of total government spending over those three years, would require elimination of entire programs and would also mean large cuts in proposed military spending, the official said. The official, who spoke on condition he not be named, told Reuters the outline would cut military spending by \$58 billion over the three years from the \$998 billion now being sought by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The spending cuts are intended to pare the deficit from about \$210 billion in the current fiscal year to about \$100 billion in 1988. President Reagan repeatedly has rejected tax increases as an alternative means of cutting the deficit.

Stockman's plan, which has not been approved yet by Reagan, proposes spending rollbacks in farm price supports, government pensions and health care for the elderly, elimination of the Export-Import Bank and an end to new purchases to fill the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The congressional leaders said there was some interest in Congress in an across-the-board spending freeze as an alternative to the program-by-program cuts suggested by Stockman.

Arafat scores personal triumph

AMMAN, Jordan — Yasser Arafat was reelected head of the Palestine Liberation Organization Thursday night and vowed to fight on to establish a Palestinian homeland. His reelection was a personal triumph after 18 months fighting a mutiny that has divided the PLO and brought him into conflict with Syria. For the first time in Arafat's 15 years as PLO leader he achieved his ambition of personally being elected chairman of the PLO by the council, reinforcing his status. Normally, his name is included in a list presented to the council and other members of the committee, the PLO's cabinet elect him chairman.

Syria, which wants Arafat's resignation, said the resolutions passed by the PNC Thursday were null and void. The official Syrian news agency Sana said the PNC had "crowned the deviationist trend" of Arafat and accused him of joining "U.S. plans" in the Middle East.

Apartheid attitude may harden

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's ultra right-wing conservatives cut deeply into the ruling National Party's majority Thursday night after a special election in a constituency considered a Nationalist stronghold. They reduced the National Party's majority to less than 1,000, Radio South Africa said. The radio said the Nationalists' majority of 4,400 at the last election in the suburban Johannesburg seat of Primrose had been cut to 748 in a two-cornered fight with the Conservatives.

The Conservatives had fought the campaign with an attack on government moves to modify the country's apartheid laws. Political analysts predicted before the poll that a big cut in the Nationalists' majority could alarm the government into hardening its attitude against further changes in its racial segregation policies.

German booby traps removed

BONN — East Germany has dismantled the last of its scatterguns from the northern sector of the border with West Germany, the Interior Ministry said Thursday. Removal of the scatterguns was one of Bonn's conditions for authorizing a major financial credit to East Germany from West German banks last year.

The SM-70 devices, which once lined long stretches of the fenced and heavily-guarded frontier, were intended to deter escapes to the West. They sprayed anyone who touched the trip-wires with a blast of shrapnel. The Interior Ministry statement said the last of the SM-70s on the Lower Saxony section of the frontier were dismantled by East German border guards Thursday. The southern and middle sections of the border already have been cleared, and only a few SM-70s remain in the coastal sector, it added.

Dinosaur demise explained

MOSCOW — Dinosaurs may have been killed off by radiation due to a sharp increase in the uranium content in the lagoons where they lived, according to the findings of a Soviet scientist published Thursday. The weekly Moscow News cited geologist Sergei Neruchev as saying his theory was based on research showing that the extinction of the prehistoric creatures coincided with a period of high natural uranium levels in rocks and water.

Biologists already have shown that living cells "soak up" uranium and it is plausible that the dinosaurs gradually absorbed so much radiation that it killed them, he said. Neruchev said his theory was supported by analyses of dinosaur fossils that showed they had an unusually high uranium content.

It appears that natural uranium levels reach a peak every 30 to 40 million years, causing extinction among animals and plants, he said.