

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Arms controversy continues

Reagan: NSC operations will halt during review

WASHINGTON — President Reagan ordered his National Security Council staff Monday not to conduct diplomatic, military or intelligence operations while a review board investigates the agency's role in the secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

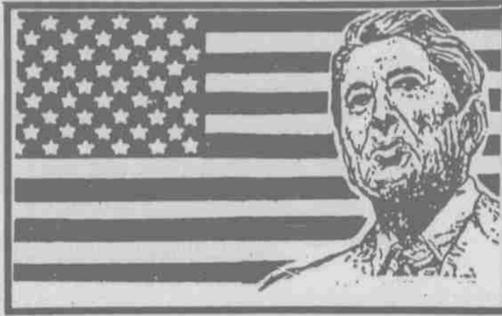
Asserting that "I want all the facts to come out," the president also said he would welcome appointment of a special prosecutor if recommended by the Justice Department to investigate possible wrongdoing.

As he reiterated that he had known nothing about the secret transfer of up to \$30 million to the Nicaraguan rebels, known-as Contras. In a statement to his press spokesman in response to questions from reporters, Reagan said: "You can tell them flat out that I had no knowledge whatsoever of it until (Attorney General) Ed Meese briefed me on it Monday afternoon" — Nov. 24.

Meanwhile, the Senate Intelligence Committee went behind closed doors to begin its own investigation of the Iran-Contra affair.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the administration "has raised no objection" to key figures in the case testifying before Congress. However, he said information the constitutes advice to the president "could come under the claim of executive privilege" and might be withheld.

White House and congressional leaders debated a proposal from Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of



Kansas for the president to call Congress back to town to form a Watergate-style investigative committee.

Reagan said the idea was "under discussion and there's been no decision yet. But we want to work with the Congress."

Democrats, who will take control of the Senate in January, appeared cool to the idea.

Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the incoming majority leader, said a special session "would be an overreaction." House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, in line to become speaker in the new Congress, said any congressional probe should be undertaken "in an orderly manner, carefully and deliberately by the regular session of Congress."

In Brief

Soviets test space shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Soviet Union has completed the first tests of its space shuttle on a launch pad and plans to begin manned flights in early 1988, the same time U.S. shuttle flights are to resume, an aerospace industry magazine reported Monday.

Aviation Week & Space Technology said pictures taken by U.S. reconnaissance satellites showed the shuttle mounted piggy-back on its booster rocket for a series of fit checks. It said the vehicle was removed from the pad following the tests.

The magazine said U.S. intelligence officials believe the Soviets will attempt the first launch of the booster, unmanned, in 1987, and the first manned launch of the shuttle in 1988, about the time the American shuttle returns to flight for the first time since the Challenger disaster that killed seven crew members.

Spy's property to be sold at auction

NORFOLK, Va. — Convicted spy John A. Walker Jr.'s house, two boats, a car and other property will be sold at public auction Dec. 10, the Internal Revenue Service announced Monday.

The IRS seized Walker's property in June 1985 for non-payment of taxes. Walker lived in the two-story brick and frame house until he was arrested on espionage charges in May 1985.

The retired Navy chief warrant officer recruited his brother, son and former Navy buddy to sell secrets to the Soviet Union in what Navy officials said was the most damaging spy ring in U.S. history.

Other items to be auctioned include an 18-foot sailboat and trailer, a 34-foot houseboat, a 1980 Chrysler sedan, tools, a coin collection, electronic equipment, silver bars and household items.

Witness changes testimony in 'Twilight Zone' case

LOS ANGELES — A key witness in the "Twilight Zone" manslaughter trial reversed himself Monday and supported a prosecution theory that a last-minute change in a helicopter's course preceded the crash that killed actor Vic Morrow and two children.

The reversal came early in afternoon testimony by James Camomile, a special-effects technician whom the defense blames for the crash.

The prosecution claims the helicopter's course was changed to bring it closer to the explosives for increased dramatic effect.

Attorneys for director John Landis and four other defendants maintain that Camomile was not paying attention to the Vietnam War scene being shot and fired his bombs before Morrow and the children

were out of the line of fire.

Several other witnesses have said the helicopter was lower and closer to a cliff than it had been during previous flights.

Morrow, 53, Myca Kem 7, and Renee Chen, 6, were killed when the chopper crashed atop them. Landis, associate producer George Folsey, production manager Dan Allingham, special effects coordinator Paul Stewart and pilot Dorsey Wingo are charged with involuntary manslaughter. Prosecutors say they behaved recklessly, failing to consider safety.

Camomile has admitted he fired a series of explosions which engulfed the helicopter before it went into a spin.

National Archives plans to release Nixon documents, tape recordings

WASHINGTON — Former President Richard M. Nixon was counseled by a top aide in 1969 to avoid a visit to Mrs. Martin Luther King on the first anniversary of her husband's assassination because "it would outrage many, many people."

The aide, Patrick Buchanan, was a speechwriter in the Nixon White House. He is the director of communications for President Reagan.

Buchanan's memo was among 1.5 million documents from the Nixon administration made public Monday by the National Archives. It was the first release of textual material from the more than 40 million documents Nixon left behind when he resigned Aug. 9, 1974.

Missing from the newly released documents are the most sensitive of the Nixon files — those relating to the Watergate scandal that drove him from

office. The National Archives once before tried to release those but was stopped by 29 lawsuits filed by former Nixon associates.

The Archives, which has custody of the Nixon materials, is expecting to try again next month to open the papers to public scrutiny. The law requires that a notice of such release be published in the Federal Register and that any persons who object have 60 days to do so.

Buchanan's memo, written on April 1, 1969, said Nixon should observe the first anniversary of the civil rights leader's death by doing no more than issuing a statement.

On July 20, 1971, Jeb Stuart Magruder, then with the Committee to Re-elect the President, suggested that the president make plans to attend the baseball game when Oakland A's pitcher

Vida Blue would go for his 30th victory.

In February of 1970 V. L. Nicholson, director of information for the President's Council on Physical Fitness in Sports, advised strongly against Nixon sending a message of commendation to the Harlem Globetrotters. "Many black people, particularly the young, are strongly resentful of the Globetrotters and feel they help perpetuate the image of the Negro which is highly unfavorable and even insulting," Nicholson said in a memo.

The documents also revealed that Nixon astonished some aides by meeting with Elvis Presley on Dec. 21, 1970. Presley had written to Nixon saying he wanted to be named a federal drug agent. According to a memo, "an arrangement was worked out where Presley would receive a specially prepared badge . . . with his name on it."

Court to decide future of South Dakota's federal highway funds, drinking age issue



WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it will decide whether states may be denied some federal highway money if they fail to adopt a minimum drinking age of 21.

At issue in the drinking-age case is the constitutionality of a 1984

federal law aimed at reducing drunken driving by teen-agers, a major cause of death among that age group.

The law requires the secretary of transportation to withhold part of the federal money otherwise available to a state for highway construction if the state permits "the purchase or public possession . . . of any alcoholic beverage" by someone under 21.

Under the law, those states with a minimum drinking age under 21 lose 5 percent of the highway funds otherwise due for fiscal year 1987 and 10 percent of such funds during fiscal year 1988.

South Dakota, which permits people 19 and 20 years old to purchase and publicly possess beer containing a low percentage of alcohol, sued Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth H. Dole shortly after the law was passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan.

Lower courts ruled against South Dakota, discounting its argument that the 1984 law infringes constitutionally endowed state power to set drinking ages. The lower courts said states remain free to set those ages — at the risk of losing federal highway money.

Hindus riot over Sikh killings; Gandhi pledges to deter terrorism

NEW DELHI, India — Hindus rioted and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi pledged "tough and strong action" against Sikh terrorists Monday, the day after four gunmen pulled Hindus off a bus in Punjab and killed 24 of them.

Police said Sikh militants killed eight more people in Punjab state Monday.

Sikh extremists, who want independence for Punjab, killed 14 Hindus in a similar bus hijacking July 25.

Paramilitary troops were ordered to patrol New Delhi during a general strike called for Tuesday by an opposi-

tion Hindu political party. Strikes also were scheduled in the Hindu-dominated states of Haryana and Kashmir next to Punjab, which has a Sikh majority.

Shops were closed Monday by general strikes in towns and cities throughout Punjab. Clashes between Sikh and Hindu youths were reported in Jalandhar, but police said no serious injuries resulted.

About 3,000 Hindus rioted and threw stones on the edge of New Delhi. Police fired shots and tear gas into the air to scatter the crowds.

Officers said they arrested 100 peo-

ple for trying to block traffic on the main ring road around the capital.

Gandhi appealed in Parliament for all Indians to "be careful and hold tempers down." He said "a concrete plan" of strong action had been devised to combat Sikh extremism, but did not elaborate.

The political turmoil is the greatest faced by the 42-year-old prime minister since he assumed power in 1984 during anti-Sikh rioting caused by the assassination of his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, by Sikh members of her personal bodyguard.

Storm socks western plains; strands travelers

Wind-whipped snow drifted across the western Plains on Monday in the wake of a storm that dumped 2 feet of snow on the Rockies, closed more than 360 miles of interstate highway and stranded thousands of travelers.

"Roads are treacherous," said Tripp County, S.D., highway superintendent Marty Anderson.

Several thousand homes in rural northwestern Kansas were without electricity after ice accumulations snapped power lines, said Bill Ohlmeier of the Kansas Electric Cooperative in Topeka.

The National Weather Service posted advisories warning of blowing and drifting snow from northern New Mexico across eastern Colorado into parts of Kansas, and rain, some of it freezing, fell to the east across the Plains.

Snow blown by wind gusting to 48 mph cut visibility to near zero over much of western Kansas on Monday, the weather service said, and snow had piled up in drifts 4 to 6 feet high in parts of southeastern Colorado.

Colorado's Winter Park ski area reported two feet of snow in two days, said meteorologist Keith Williams, and the Denver suburb of Littleton got 14 inches.

A 360-mile section of Interstate 70 between Denver and Hays, Kan., was reopened Monday after being closed for up to 20 hours, and many other highways in western Kansas also had been closed.

Icy weather also sidetracked travelers along Interstate 80 in western Nebraska.

Correction

In Monday's Letter to the Editor "Drunk Native American Image is Unfair" (Daily Nebraskan, Dec. 1), the writer's name was misspelled. Her name is Lakota Harden. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

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