

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Fiscal history

Reagan presents nation's first \$1 trillion budget

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's Cabinet was presented Wednesday with the first \$1 trillion spending outline in history, a fiscal 1988 budget proposal that the president's chief economist says will be "accompanied with a lot of pain."

More detailed information on individual cuts recommended by the president's Office of Management and Budget was being sent to each federal agency, according to OMB spokesman Edwin Dale.

With a month to go before the president's budget is put in final form, the broad outlines of the spending plan for the fiscal year that begins next Oct. 1 showed:

- An overall budget document citing anticipated revenues of approximately \$900 billion and outlays a shade over the \$1 trillion mark, but less than \$1.1 trillion.
- Roughly \$25 billion in spending cuts and program eliminations and another \$25 billion in proposed new user fees and the sale of federal assets, including loan portfolios.
- A dramatic overhaul of the government's credit programs.



- Another attempt at dropping most of the 40 programs the administration has sought to eliminate, unsuccessfully, in previous budget plans.
- A proposed increase in defense spending of about 6 percent — made up of 3 percent in "real" increases on top of projected 3 percent inflation — to a spending level of \$308 billion.
- No higher taxes and no decrease in Social Security benefits.

Court: Law may affect people with AIDS

WASHINGTON — In a case that may affect the rights of AIDS victims, the Supreme Court was told Wednesday that a federal law banning bias against the handicapped does not protect people with the contagious disease.

"This cannot be what Congress had in mind," Solicitor General Charles Fried, the Reagan administration's top courtroom lawyer, said in urging the

justices to rule that people with contagious illnesses are not covered by the 1973 anti-bias law.

With a nationwide debate over AIDS discrimination as a backdrop, the court must decide whether all recipients of federal aid — including virtually all public schools — are barred from discriminating against people with contagious diseases.

Gay rights activists say the decision may affect the national debate on AIDS even though the Supreme Court case does not involve a victim of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a deadly disease that to date mainly has afflicted homosexuals.

The U.S. Public Health Service says there are no known cases of anyone getting AIDS through casual contact.

Scientists report blanket of soot raising temperatures in North Pole

WASHINGTON — A warm blanket of soot may be raising temperatures around the North Pole by absorbing newly arriving sunlight as well as light reflected from the icecap below, government scientists reported Wednesday.

"One pollution plume we encountered on a flight over the icecap off Barrow, Alaska, last March was the equivalent of five or six large power plants putting all their effluents in a single plume," said Dr. Russell Schnell of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The NOAA report was based on a five-nation study of the haze that has been observed over the Arctic region in the last three decades.

This haze layer has been reported as much as 18,000 feet thick and scientists have expressed concern about its warming the Arctic climate, although they remain unsure of the exact effects as yet.

The Arctic pollution probably moves north from industrial and chemical complexes in eastern Europe and Asia, NOAA said.

Crash delays "nuclear winter" test; pilot survives, escapes serious injury

SAN DIMAS, Calif. — A long-awaited experimental brush fire to study whether smoke and dust from an atomic war would trigger a "nuclear winter" was scrubbed Wednesday after a helicopter crashed while igniting a test burn.

The chopper was dumping thickened gasoline to start a 5-acre preliminary burn when the cable suspending the torch from the bottom of the aircraft snagged on telephone lines, causing the crash, county fire Capt. Garry Oversby said.

About 200 scientists and firefighters had

gathered near Johnstone Peak, 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, to observe the burn. The controlled fire, which was to have consumed 320 to 480 acres, had been expected to create a 10,000-foot-tall smoke plume for study, said Philip Riggan of the U.S. Forest Service.

The fire was meant to be a first step toward resolving uncertainties in the nuclear winter theory, said atmospheric scientist Richard Turco, who proposed the theory in 1983 with astronomer Carl Sagan and other researchers.

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Correction

A story in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan incorrectly stated the damage to residential hall windows from Monday's snowball fight. The actual amount was between \$200 and \$250. Sorry about that folks.

Police end boys cross-country spending spree

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Two California teen-agers took off on a cross-country binge of fancy meals and new clothes after finding a suitcase stuffed with about \$8,000 in drug money, but their spending spree attracted police, who arrested them five days later.

Raymond Salter, 13, and Marc Hairrell, 14, were picked up Sunday at Port Columbus International Airport with nearly \$5,000 and a bag containing less

than a gram of cocaine.

"They were buying fine dinners, riding in taxis and limousines," Wise said. "They just got mixed up in something that they shouldn't have," Columbus police officer Floyd Wise said.

Wise said the boys told police they left California Nov. 26 after Hairrell found a suitcase that had been tossed out a window during a police search at a Petaluma home. It contained an

estimated \$8,000 in cash and a bag containing less than a gram of cocaine.

"They didn't even realize it was cocaine," Wise said.

The youths were arrested after police were told of two teen-agers leaving \$100 tips with airport concessionaires.

He said he charged the boys with delinquency counts of drug abuse and was going to hold them until their parents could be contacted.

Nancy Reagan says staff changes not her doing

WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan said Wednesday she had made no recommendation to her husband regarding further staff changes at the White House.

The first lady, who is regarded by White House insiders as having extraordinary influence over her husband's staff choices, told reporters it is up to President Reagan to decide whether to keep embattled Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan.

Responding to the questions at a brief, impromptu news conference in the driveway of the executive mansion as she accepted the traditional White House Christmas tree, Mrs. Reagan said that deciding whether Regan has best served the president "has nothing to do with me whatsoever."

"I have made no recommendations at all," she said.

She added she had "no idea" whether there might be further changes in the administration as a result of the uproar over Iranian arms sales that so far has brought down national security adviser John M. Poindexter and one of his deputies, Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North.

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