

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## House appropriates \$3.5 million to Contras

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday approved \$3.5 million in new "humanitarian" aid to the Nicaraguan Contras, and House Speaker Jim Wright said he expects it to be the last U.S. aid ever sent to the rebels.

The money was part of a stopgap spending bill to keep the government running after the current fiscal year ends Sept. 30. The measure, approved 270-138 after little debate, was sent to the Senate, where it is not expected to encounter major opposition.

The Contra aid money had been worked out in a bipartisan agreement between Wright, D-Texas, and House Republican leaders Robert Michel of Illinois.

The \$3.5 million represents the proportion of this year's \$100 million in Contra aid money that has been used for food, medical supplies and uniforms and would be needed to sustain the rebels into November in their battle against the leftist Sandinista government in Managua.

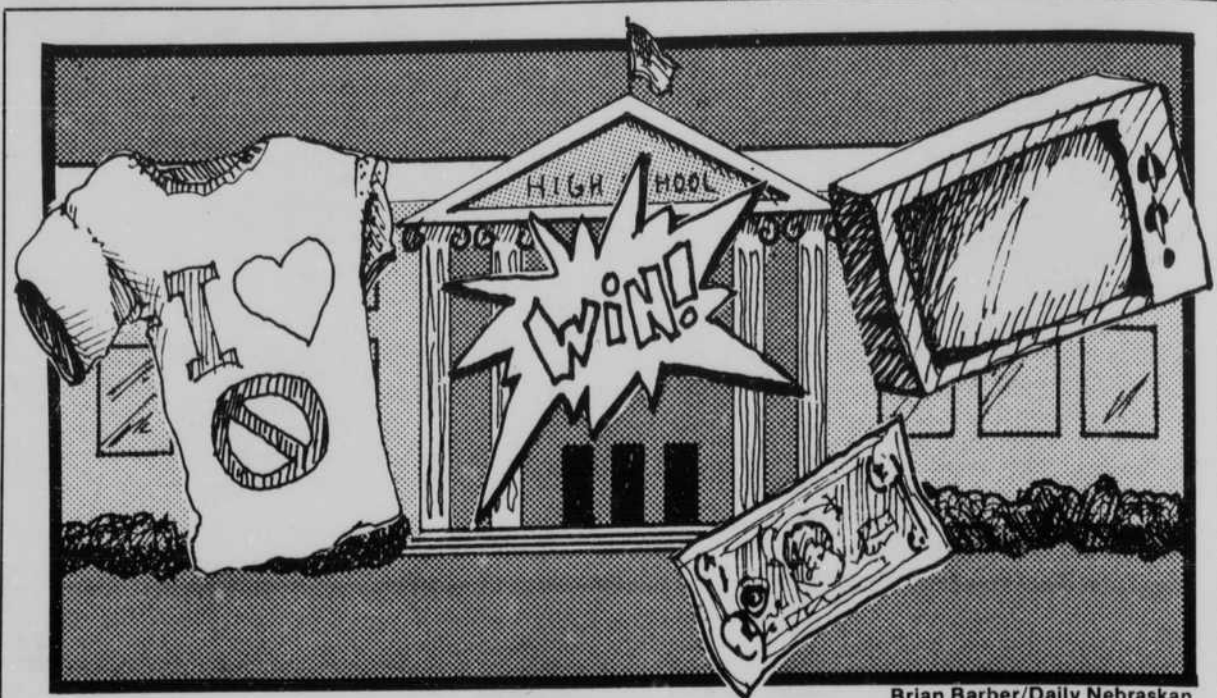
The vote came a day after President

Oscar Arias of Costa Rica traveled to Capitol Hill to appeal to lawmakers to "take a risk for peace" and eschew further military aid to the Contras at least until Nov. 7, the target date for a regional cease-fire.

Asked whether he believed the new money would be the last U.S. aid to flow to the rebels, Wright said, "Yes, unless some drastic change were to occur in the situation in Central America. The evidence indicates to me more reason to be optimistic — still guardedly, but less guardedly than before."

The Reagan administration has signaled its intention to ask for \$270 million in new military aid for the Contras over 18 months if the peace plan fails.

Wright cited as signs of progress the pledge by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to begin a partial, unilateral cease-fire, the reopening of the opposition newspaper La Prensa, the resumption and the appointment of a reconciliation commission led by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, a leading government critic.



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

TVs, cash and clock radios

## Students profit from school

School children are being offered scholarships, cash, even stereos and fast food to entice them to do what was once expected for free — studying hard and staying in school.

A growing number of school systems, businesses and philanthropists are appealing to students' profit motives to get them to apply themselves in their studies and continue on to college.

"I have found in today's society kids are not ready to accept anything but a tangible kind of reinforcement," said Principal Dennis Martin of Barker Junior High in Michigan City, Ind., where for the past two years students have earned \$50 savings bonds and free trips to an amusement park for good attendance, grades and citizenship.

Such tactics can bring short-term results. Average attendance rose from 85 percent to 90 percent in the

two years since Pittsburgh's Peabody High School started its program of awarding students portable televisions, stereos, clock-radios, gift certificates, T-shirts, hats and a grand prize of \$100 cash for good attendance. The prizes are donated by local businesses.

But some critics term such measures "gimmicky" and say they miss the complex heart of the dropout problem: alienation from school and adult values.

The more effective incentives, said educator Ernest L. Boyer, are tied directly to education — scholarships, for example, as opposed to free stereos or hamburgers. And the reward should convey the message that the adult world cares and that school work pays off tangibly in the short- and long-term.

Eugene Lang, a millionaire in-

dustrialist, is perhaps the most celebrated example of this new breed of school philanthropist. Six years ago, Lang offered sixth graders at the Harlem school he once attended a free college education if they would stay in school.

The resulting "I Have a Dream" foundation now has 100 sponsors and is helping an estimated 4,000 students nationwide. In Dallas, where nearly 29 percent of ninth graders fail to graduate on time and get accepted in a post-secondary institution can qualify for up to \$2,000 scholarships financed by private donations.

Last year in Baltimore, a private consortium created the "Commonwealth Agreement" under which anyone graduating from high school with good attendance and an 80 average can get a job or financial help for college.

## Persian Gulf conflict continues to escalate

### U.S. warships sweep mine area

MANAMA, Bahrain — American warships swept a strip of the central Persian Gulf on Wednesday to recover mines believed planted by the Iranian ship that U.S. helicopters attacked this week.

Commercial ships were warned away from the waters about 50 miles northeast of Bahrain and there were reports that some mines had been found.

Five Iranians were reported killed and 26 were captured in the helicopter raid on the Iranian vessel Monday night. It was the first direct American

attack on Iranians in the two months since the United States began protecting shipping in the gulf.

Despite the increased tension and the possibility of more floating mines, gulf-based shipping sources said a reflagged Kuwaiti gas carrier had begun a southbound voyage under U.S. escort.

The reported departure of the Gas Prince from Kuwait would be the 10th convoy since President Reagan's program of escorting Kuwaiti tankers went into effect in mid-July.

# Biden withdraws 'with incredible reluctance'

WASHINGTON — Sen. Joseph Biden ended his quest for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination "with incredible reluctance" on Wednesday, saying the "exaggerated shadow" of mistakes made it impossible to continue his candidacy.

Biden withdrew from the campaign after a week in which his campaign was rocked by admissions of plagiarism and false claims about his academic record.

The Delaware Democrat is the second candidate to be forced from the race by questions of character and integrity.

"I made some mistakes," Biden, his wife at his side, told a room crowded with reporters. "Now the exaggerated shadow of those mistakes has begun to obscure the essence of my candidacy and the essence of Joe Biden."

Biden said he had to choose between continuing his presidential campaign and chairing the

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork.

"And although it's awfully clear to me what choice I have to make, I have to tell you honestly I do it with incredible reluctance and it makes me angry. I'm angry with myself for having been put in the position — put myself in the position — of having to make this choice," he said.

"And I am no less frustrated at the environment of presidential politics that makes it so

difficult to let the American people measure the whole Joe Biden and not just misstatements that I have made."

Biden refused to take reporters' questions and returned to the Judiciary hearings, where he was lauded by his fellow senators.

"I would like to say the Democrats have now lost their most articulate spokesman," said Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, the ranking Republican on the committee.

### In Brief

#### Senate approves Gramm-Rudman revision

WASHINGTON — Senators voted Wednesday to restore the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing law, renewing the threat of across-the-board spending cuts unless Congress and the president reach a compromise on reducing the deficit.

The bill was passed 64 to 34 and sent to President Reagan, whose support for Gramm-Rudman has wavered recently. Administration officials said no decision had been made on whether Reagan should veto the bill.

#### Consumer prices climb by half a percent

WASHINGTON — Consumer prices rose 0.5 percent in August, their biggest increase in eight months, as still-rebounding energy costs and higher housing expenses swamped a tiny decline in grocery prices, the government reported on Wednesday.

The increase in the Labor Department's consumer price index — equivalent to an annual rate of inflation of 5.8 percent — followed a modest 0.2 percent rise in July.

#### Nebraskans' productivity measures up

OMAHA — Nebraska workers in the Japanese-owned Kawasaki motorcycle plant in Lincoln are just as productive as Japanese workers in a similar plant, said Japanese state official Masami Ishida.

Ishida, director of the labor welfare division of the Shizuoka Prefectural Government, also said workers he saw during a brief tour of American Telephone & Telegraph's Omaha works seemed to be engaged in tasks similar to those at a Japanese electronics plant where he used to work.

## Bork no extremist, retired chief says

WASHINGTON — Retired Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, stirred by what he called unprecedented disinformation, declared on Wednesday that Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork is not "an extremist any more than I'm an extremist" and deserves confirmation.

Burger, in an extraordinary appearance for a sitting or former member of the high court, told the Senate Judiciary Committee, "If Judge Bork is not in the mainstream, then neither am I. It would astonish me to think he's an extremist any more than I'm an extremist."

In particular, he criticized paid newspaper advertisements that have suggested dire consequences for the nation if Bork's nomination is confirmed.

The hearings, despite Burger's appearance and a heated exchange later between committee chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, were overshadowed to some extent by Biden's midday announcement that he was withdrawing from the presidential race.

At the hearings, Burger reiterated his previous endorsement of Bork as among the best qualified court nominees in the past 50 years.

Acknowledging that his testimony was unusual, Burger said he was prompted to speak up because "I don't think there has ever been more hype, more disinformation" spread by opponents of a high court nominee.

He specifically mentioned "full-page newspaper ads" opposing the nominee but gave no further details and was not questioned on the point by the committee.

Later, Burger was asked by Biden about a Supreme Court opinion the former chief justice wrote granting the public a right to attend criminal trials even though such a right was not spelled out in the Constitution.

Biden asked whether Bork, a proponent of judicial restraint and strict construction of the Constitution, would agree with that opinion.

"I'd be astonished if Judge Bork would not subscribe to it," Burger replied.

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