

Reagan asks for 'best of eight' in '88

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Monday night in his final State of the Union message that the United States was "strong, prosperous, at peace," and he asked Congress to help make his last year in office "the best of the eight."

"I don't buy the idea that this is the last year of anything," Reagan said.

The president said he has a full agenda for his final months in power: keeping the economy strong, maintaining peace, attacking social prob-

lems, particularly in education, and promoting the spread of democracy worldwide.

Without specifying a figure, Reagan urged Congress to approve more aid for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. He also called on the Senate to ratify the recently signed agreement with the Soviet Union to abolish intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

Striking a bipartisan theme, Reagan told the lawmakers, "yes, we will have our differences. But let us

always remember: What unites us far outweighs whatever divides us."

Leaders of the Democratic-run Congress served notice that the legislative branch, not Reagan, would control the national agenda this year.

The president's "technicolor view of America and our people sought to make us feel good with images of 'morning in America,'" said Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va. in the official Democratic response.

300,000 sign for Mecham recall

PHOENIX, Ariz. — State officials Monday certified that more than 300,000 people signed petitions demanding Gov. Evan Mecham's recall, and he will officially be told Tuesday he has five days to resign or agree to run in a recall election.

Secretary of State Rose Mofford, in a news release, said her office had officially tallied 301,032 petition signatures raised by the Mecham Recall Committee — much more than the 216,746 needed to force a vote.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Mofford plans to notify Mecham by hand-delivered letter that he must either resign by Saturday or run in a recall election, said state Elections Director Jim Shumway. If he does not resign, Mrs.

Mofford is expected on Feb. 1 to order a recall election for May 17, when a number of other local elections are planned.

Mrs. Mofford, a Democrat, would replace the governor if he resigned or were removed from office.

Mecham has repeatedly said he has no plans to resign, when the recall petition campaign kicked off in early July, the Republican governor questioned whether "a few homosexuals and dissident Democrats" could raise enough signatures.

When it became clear months later that a large number of signatures were being gathered, Mecham and his supporters claimed there appeared to be fraud in the petition process.

Bush would Rather not talk

WASHINGTON — Vice President George Bush, in a combative interview broadcast live on the CBS Evening News, dismissed questions about his role in the Iran-Contra affair and repeated his statement that he voiced private concerns about the sale of arms to Iran.

"You know what I'm hiding? What I told the president — that's the

only thing," Bush said.

Bush responded angrily to questioning on the affair by anchor Dan Rather, saying, "I have respect for you but I don't have respect for what you're doing here tonight."

"Everybody's admitted mistakes. I've admitted mistakes — and you want to dwell on them," Bush said.

Shultz: U.S. will respond to violations

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George P. Shultz assured conservative critics Monday the United States will respond vigorously if the Soviet Union violates the new arms reduction treaty in Europe, but Sen. Jesse Helms declared the Soviet union already is exploiting an "enraged invitation to cheat."

As Shultz led off the administration's campaign for Senate ratification of the treaty, Helms, R-N.C., waving a document marked "TOP SECRET" in bright red, contended he had obtained classified information proving the Soviets already have violated the pact which

In Brief

Gunmen kidnap and kill chief prosecutor in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia — A band of gunmen Monday abducted and murdered Carlos Mauro Hoyos, the government's chief prosecutor, and killed his two bodyguards. Police searching for Hoyos found a Bogota mayoral candidate who was kidnapped a week ago.

Medillin Mayor William Jaramillo Gomez said the mayoral candidate, Andres Pastrana, was found unharmed. He was discovered in a farmhouse near Retiro, about 10 miles outside Medillin, the mayor told the radio network Caracol.

Hoyos, 45, investigates wrongdoing in the government and judiciary and recently ordered an inquiry into last month's release from prison of reputed cocaine baron Jorge Luis Ochda Vasquez, who the United States has been trying to extradite. The government blamed the attack on Hoyos on drug traffickers.

Body of unidentified woman found in Grand Island

GRAND ISLAND — The body of an unidentified woman was found Monday in front of a business near the airport, the Hall County Attorney said.

Bill Shreffler said the woman was wearing only jeans and a denim top when she was found. She was not wearing a coat or shoes, he said.

The woman was described as Hispanic and in her 20s. Shreffler said the body would be taken to Omaha for an autopsy and that the cause of death was not known.

Scheduled execution halted by U.S. Supreme Court

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The U.S. Supreme Court Monday agreed to halt the scheduled execution of Florida death row inmate Willie Jasper Darden, whose innocence has been proclaimed by death penalty opponents from New York to Moscow.

The stay will remain in effect at least until the court can hear Darden's latest appeal, but there was no indication when that would happen.

Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., and rock star Peter Gabriel have joined Amnesty International in asking Gov. Bob Martinez to grant clemency to Darden.

They cite affidavits from a minister and a woman that Darden could not have been at the scene of the murder of a Lakeland furniture store owner during a September 1973 holdup.

Grand Island man confesses in 1951 killing

CHESTER, Pa. — A Nebraska man has confessed to strangling an 8-year-old girl whose body was found at a Pennsylvania carnival 37 years ago, the Delaware County district attorney said Monday.

William Henry Redmond, 66, was arrested Friday in Grand Island by Pennsylvania Trooper Malcolm Murphy, according to the Hall County sheriff's office.

Redmond was a concessionaire with the carnival, according to news clippings from 1951.

Corrections

The Daily Nebraskan erred in Friday's story concerning the ASUN budget request at the Committee for Fees Allocation meeting.

ASUN requested \$86,721 for salaries in the coming year, up from \$81,772 the previous year, a 6 percent increase. The request was reported as \$87,805 for the coming year, up from \$51,372, a 71 percent increase.

Also, ASUN poll workers are considered a one-time expense, not regular employees.

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly stated that 250 people attended the Walk for Life rally Saturday. The correct number is 2,500. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

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calls for the elimination of medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

Helms, an outspoken conservative, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he had received confirmation of the document's authenticity — its contents still undisclosed — from CIA Director William Webster.

But Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., complaining that Helms had not read aloud from a key section of a letter from Webster, quoted the CIA director as saying that while the document represented excerpts from a draft of a CIA national intelligence estimate, it did not tell the whole story.

Margaritaville

Tuesday is Margaritaville. Half price Margaritas-all day!
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