

## Tutu and other leaders arrested

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other religious leaders from all races were arrested Monday while kneeling near Parliament with a petition against government bans on anti-apartheid groups.

Colleagues of procession Tutu and his colleagues had led Tutu the Lord's Prayer as police sprayed them with jets of water and loaded them into vans.

All the detainees were freed in a few hours and the churchmen said they would continue protests regardless of the consequences. Their petition referred to an order last Wednesday prohibiting political activity by 18 major anti-apartheid organizations.

Riot police blocked Tutu and two dozen other clergymen, wearing robes and holding Bibles, as they tried to march toward Parliament from nearby St. George's Cathedral, the main Anglican church in central Cape Town.

They knelt and linked arms as a policeman called through a bullhorn that the gathering was illegal. Officers escorted the protesters into vans as others aimed jets from water cannons at scores of protesters who remained on the sidewalk praying and singing an African hymn.

After being told at a police station that charges might be filed later, the white, black, mixed-race and Indian clergymen were freed. They held a news conference at St. George's,

which was surrounded by policemen.

"We are not defying the law," said Tutu, the black foe of apartheid who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. "We are obeying God. We also obey God every day."

"In the past, it was possible for people to say it was the usual rabble rousers doing this. It's the church."

The Rev. Allan Boesak, mixed-race president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, said the white authorities would view the protest as "an act of subversion."

"We told the South African government that we had decided we would be obedient to God," he said. "That is a higher law to us."

## Nebraska land values up in 1987

The value of all types of Nebraska agricultural land rose 8.3 percent during 1987, according to year-end estimates issued Monday by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. The value of land in the bank's 10th District, which includes all or parts of Nebraska and six other states, rose an estimated 5.1 percent.

Bank analysts think the increase in land prices may mark the end of a seven-year crash in rural real estate, the worst decline in a half-century.

"We think there's room for some optimism, not wild optimism, but I think we've seen the bottom," said Lynn Gibson, assistant economist at the bank. "1988 may be about the same — nothing wild and crazy, but fairly steady."

The bank's latest statistics are based on a survey of 151 bankers in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and portions of

Missouri and Wyoming. In Nebraska, 51 bankers reported. The survey asked bank officers familiar with the land market in their area to estimate the value of farm and ranchland at the end of the fourth quarter of 1987.

The survey breaks land into three categories: non-irrigated cropland, irrigated cropland and rangeland. Throughout the district, land values rose in all three categories to the fourth quarter of 1987. It also rose between the third quarter of last year and the end of the year. The same trends showed up in Nebraska, where the increase in land values from the end of the third quarter to the end of the fourth was 3.14 percent.

Late in 1986 is when things seemed to bottom, at least in Nebraska, Gibson said. The low point in non-irrigated Nebraska cropland

occurred during the third quarter of 1986 when prices hit \$429 an acre. The state's irrigated cropland bottomed out during the fourth quarter of that year at \$763 an acre. Nebraska ranchland hit bottom at the same time at \$120 an acre.

Gibson cited several reasons for the gradual improvement in land prices. The number of farmers and ranchers going out of business and selling land has slowed, she said. And those who did not have high debts have begun to buy land as the prices approached a level they considered reasonable.

"When land got low enough that it could begin to pay for itself, people started coming back in," she said.

Federal commodity programs provided income subsidies that helped maintain producers' cash flow, Gibson said. And livestock prices remained strong through 1987.

### In Brief

#### Anti-Noriega strike stumbles in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Panama — A general strike called by opponents of Panama's military regime faltered Monday, with transportation and most commerce proceeding uninterrupted.

But the strike, called to pressure the resignation of strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, appeared somewhat more effective in industry.

Intimidation, censorship and an apparent lack of faith in the effectiveness of mass action conspired against the strike's success. The fact that Monday was payday also hurt the strike call.

#### Reagan to ratify existing Panamanian sanctions

WASHINGTON — President Reagan plans no new economic sanctions against Panama, even though he has determined that Panama has not been cooperating in curbing drug trafficking to the United States, a U.S. official said Monday.

The official said that penalties to be announced on Tuesday had already been applied against Panama and thus would have no material impact on that country.

A 1986 U.S. law decreed that countries which do not take steps to halt drug trafficking to the United States are no longer eligible for U.S. aid and are not entitled to U.S. support for their assistance requests to international lending institutions.

#### 'Hooligans' go on rampage in Soviet City

MOSCOW — "Hooligans" went on a rampage in a city in Azerbaijan, Tass reported Monday. An Armenian dissident said "thugs" beat and knifed Armenians as the ethnic hatred kindled by a territorial dispute spread in the Caucasus republics.

A Soviet deputy prosecutor general said over the weekend that two people in another region of Azerbaijan had been killed in "disorders" sparked by Armenian demands that a part of Azerbaijan be reattached to their republic.

#### Mecham impeachment trial begins in Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The Arizona Senate on Monday opened the first impeachment trial of a U.S. governor in six decades, and within hours an attorney for Gov. Evan Mecham lost a plea for dismissal of the charges against the first-term Republican.

"This man hasn't dipped his hands into public funds," attorney Jerris Leonard said. "He hasn't ripped off the treasury. He hasn't committed high crimes in office, and I urge you to dismiss these articles of impeachment."

But the 29 voting senators gave Mecham an overwhelming rejection. On 11 different motions to dismiss portions of the charges, the largest number voting for Mecham was seven and the smallest was two.

## First lady attacks casual drug use

WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan said Monday that casual users of drugs are an "accomplice to murder" because they help finance traffickers willing to commit brutal crimes to keep supply lines open.

Kicking off a White House Conference for a Drug-Free America at which the federal government's anti-drug efforts were criticized, Mrs. Reagan dramatized her "just-say-no" campaign with a speech focusing on those whose lives have been ruined by drugs.

With President Reagan serving in the unusual role of warm-up speaker, the first couple talked about the drug problem from both the supply and demand vantage points.

"With all the headlines about how we're losing the drug war, let's keep in mind the progress we've made," the president told conference participants at a local hotel. He ticked off statistics he said show the United States is making headway, saying "drug seizures are at an all-time high."

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"But as significant as stopping smugglers and pushers is, ending the demand for drugs is how, in the end, we'll win," the president said.

Mrs. Reagan picked up the subject there, saying that while progress has been made, "many ignorant ideas persist. And one of the worst is that drugs don't hurt anyone except the person who's using them."

She audience who lost loved ones because of drug abuse and cited the murder of Colombia's chief prosecutor, Attorney General Carlos Hoyos, whom the government accused of working for local cocaine barons.

## Panel will not hear pregnancy case again

OMAHA — A federal appeals court has refused to rehear a case in which an Omaha woman said she was discriminated against because she was fired for being pregnant out of wedlock.

The U.S. Eighth Circuit court of Appeals decided it would not as a group hear the lawsuit brought by Crystal Chambers, who lost her job as an arts-and-crafts teacher at the Omaha Girls Club in 1982.

The Girls Club fired Ms. Chambers under a rule barring pregnant workers who are single because, the club said, such workers would not be good role models.

Ms. Chambers sued, but a federal court ruled in favor of the Girls Club. Ms. Chambers appealed, but the Eighth Circuit sided with the Girls Club last year in a 2-1 decision. Ms. Chambers then asked the court as a whole to hear the case, but the request was denied last week.

A copy of the decision arrived at the court's Omaha office Monday. It was accompanied by a dissent by Chief Judge Donald Lay and joined by two other judges.

Lay said the Girls Club's firing of Ms. Chambers because she was pregnant "is the most blatant form of sex discrimination that can exist."

Ms. Chambers does not have a telephone and could not be reached for comment.

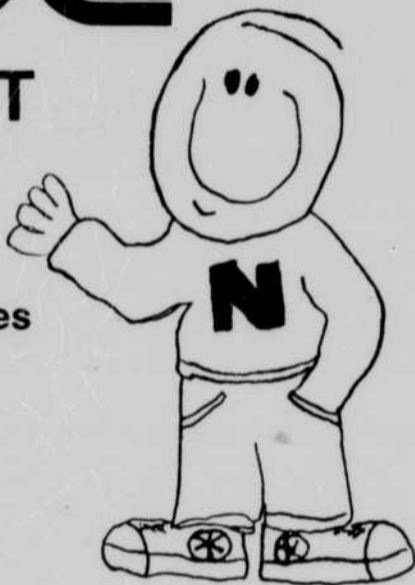
Lawyer Robert D. Mullin Jr., who represented the Girls Club, said he and the club were pleased with the ruling.

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