





# Bush says his budget proposal will still include a tax cut

AUSTIN (AP) — While lawmakers are looking at budget numbers and a somewhat smaller than expected surplus, Gov. George W. Bush says his budget proposal still will include a tax cut.

The Republican proposed \$2.7 billion in tax cuts during last year's campaign. He says those figures were based on a \$6.3 billion budget surplus being projected at the time.

But even with the extra revenue now estimated at \$5.6 billion, Bush said Wednesday, "I'm still going to introduce a budget that prioritizes public

education and that will cut taxes."

Bush earlier had called for a \$2 billion school property tax cut, \$400 million in sales tax reductions and \$300 million in business tax cuts.

"I can tell you I was going on a set of numbers," the governor said of his campaign proposal. "It's going to be changed somewhat, like everybody's else's numbers will have to be." But he didn't say what changes might be made.

Introducing a \$91.7 billion spending plan Wednesday, the Legislature's top budget writers warned colleagues there isn't

enough extra money to fund every tax cut and spending idea that has been proposed.

"There is not enough money to do everything that every politician has promised they would do to the extent they promised," said Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Added his Senate Finance Committee counterpart, Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant: "My job and Junell's job is to bring a little sobriety to the party."

The 2000-2001 budget plan the two introduced — which will serve as the blueprint for leg-

islative deliberations — includes about \$3.3 billion more than current spending, which the Legislative Budget Board puts at \$88.4 billion.

More than three-fourths of that increase would go to public and higher education.

"I think that properly reflects the priorities of the people of the state and of the legislators," Ratliff said.

Beyond the \$91.7 billion total budgeted, the bill proposes another \$1.8 billion in spending of money that will come from the state's lawsuit against the tobacco industry.

The plan calls for devoting

those funds to health care programs and health education endowments. If adopted, that would bring total spending to \$93.5 billion, a \$5.1 billion hike.

The budget bill introduced leaves about \$2.5 billion in what Ratliff termed "discretionary"

funds to be spent as lawmakers see fit. Ratliff noted a long list of proposals, including tax cuts, higher spending on public schools, more for colleges, and higher spending on the state's Child Protective Services program.

# House managers start presenting evidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four months after Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr brought the impeachment drama to Congress, House prosecutors seeking President Clinton's removal are getting to make their case in a Senate trial.

The House managers start presenting their evidence today without knowing whether the Senate will accede to their request for witnesses, including former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and, perhaps, Clinton himself.

The lead prosecutor, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and the rest of the House managers have discussed calling Clinton but have

made no final decisions, according to prosecution officials. Under Senate rules, Clinton is the only witness who could not be subpoenaed to appear.

Ms. Lewinsky's lawyers rejected a House request to interview her.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said his opening statement on behalf of the prosecution team would focus on "laying out the case and showing very clearly that the president committed an impeachable offense."

The House case will continue Friday and possibly Saturday. Clinton's lawyers will follow next week with a vigorous

defense contending he is not guilty of perjury or obstruction of justice and that the charges, even if proved, do not rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors" warranting removal from office.

In a preview of the White House rebuttal, a trial brief submitted Wednesday asked, "If the Senate removes this president for a wrongful relationship he hoped to keep private, for what will the House ask the Senate to remove the next president, and the next?"

Whatever the senators decide is perfectly acceptable to me. I won't lose sleep over either ... verdict. But I will lose

sleep if we lay down on the job and didn't do our level best," Hyde said on ABC.

The White House lawyers and the House prosecutors each can make arguments for 24 hours spread over three days, if all the allotted time is used.

The charges relate to Clinton's attempts to cover up his sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

In addition to prosecution staff members contacting Ms. Lewinsky's attorney, two House prosecutors joined staff members in speaking with another potential witness, Kathleen Willey, legal sources said on condition of anonymity.

# Bipartisan panel urges overhaul of vets programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressionally appointed commission recommended today the first major overhaul in veterans benefits since World War II, including improvements in two of the most popular of all government programs: the GI Bill's educational program and home loan guarantees.

The GI Bill proposal is the most dramatic of the 100 recommendations by the 12-member bipartisan panel. If adopted by Congress, the government would pay for full college costs for veterans who served at least four years on active duty, regardless of the cost of the college or university, plus travel in a \$400-a-month stipend.

"So many youth today see the military as a detour, not as a path to a college education," said chairman Anthony J. Principi in an interview.

The bipartisan panel also recommended combining some military and veterans' health-care benefit programs and allowing those in the military to invest in tax-deferred retirement accounts, similar to 401(k) accounts available in the pri-

vate sector. Principi said the panel's recommendations would help reverse a long slide in morale in the military and to help personnel retention.

While conceding that the legislative package cuts across the jurisdiction of many congressional committees and federal agencies, Principi said: "I think it will fly."

The 12-member Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance was created by Congress in 1997.

"The system is broken, and the commission took a no holds barred approach to fixing it," Principi, a San Diego lawyer who was deputy director of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Bush administration.

Youthful veterans of World War II and Korea used the education and housing provisions of the GI Bill to put themselves through college and buy homes.

Although the programs remain on the books, they have become less generous and effective in the face of rising tuition and real estate costs.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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Bill McClellan, News Editor

OUR VIEWS

'Hammer' does a bang up job with our youth

As the school year moves along, we take this opportunity to remind our readers that one of the best educational and most unconventional programs we've seen in many years is available right here in Big Spring.

"If I Had A Hammer," a program designed by Tennesseean Perry Wilson and targeted for fifth-grade students, is offered to local and area students through Howard College and is drawing rave reviews.

The program brings together a class of about 20 students as a "work crew" building a house. There are four adults who serve as crew leaders and the job boss, who oversees the project.

What "Hammer" does is make the students aware of the fact there is very little we can do alone. It builds teamwork skills.

It also shows students how important all aspects of an education is in life through hands-on examples using math, language arts and other courses to be able to complete the project.

Those lessons are driven home time and again through the discussion of a strong foundation being required for a successful building project — just as a strong foundation is required for a successful educational and life experience.

Howard College was a bit of a guinea pig, if you will, in that it was the first community college in the country to host the program. Prior to that, Wilson was successful in taking the program to museums in large cities, but the community college in small town America was something entirely different.

Today, Perry Wilson is back in Big Spring to visit Howard College as educators from Angelina College in Lufkin and Tyler Junior College join representatives from Howard College's San Angelo campus as well as South Plains, Midland and Odessa colleges in viewing and considering "If I Had A Hammer."

Through the Herald's participation in the program, we can tell you we believe you can make no better decision than to associate your college and community with Perry Wilson and "If I Had A Hammer."

YOUR VIEWS

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
I believe John Walker's column on Sunday concerning chicken processing plans was "Right On."

For years, poultry processors have defied all laws they could that pertain to pollution, both air and water.

Most jobs that would be created would be minimum wage jobs. The industry has a very high injury and accident rate and many of its employees suffer from repetitive task injuries. It is an industry that apparently places more emphasis on getting the job done than it does on the welfare of its employees.

The processors use tremendous amounts of water in their day to day operations. I wonder if West Texas could spare that kind of water.

The water that is then released is contaminated with chicken fat, entrails, fecal matter, etc. Do we

think we could handle millions of gallons of such waste water every year? I don't think so.

In the state of Arkansas the industry has been cited for contaminating whole rivers.

If you have any doubts about the smells that would be generated just drive by a processing plant in Arkansas or East Texas and take a whiff. You'll be convinced.

And what would the farmers do with hundreds of tons (yes tons) of chicken manure? That's not a very appetizing smell either.

I realize our farmers need a means to diversify to be able to make a living in our harsh climate. But I hope the Moore Board and our City Leaders don't think this is the way to do it.

Let's look for more viable alternatives that won't spoil our community.

CLEM JONES  
BIG SPRING

LETTER POLICIES

The Big Spring Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter. Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters, which become the property of the Herald.
- Send to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Oddball survivalism at the South Pole

It's summer in Antarctica, but it's not balmy.



JACK ANDERSON  
JAN MOLLER

Life for the 1,000-plus Americans who spend the austral summer there is no walk on the beach in constant below-zero temperatures. An independence, eccentricity and oddball survivalism tends to infect those who live and work at the bottom of the earth.

The United States has several science stations and "camps" on the icy continent under the aegis of the National Science Foundation, with American taxpayers footing the bill. The science is solid, but the expense is exorbitant. It requires about four support staff for every scientist.

The support staff does everything from construction work to cooking and cleaning, and inevitably get involved in some madcap "MASH"-type antics to combat the hostile working conditions. The same kind of Yankee ingenuity and insanity evidenced on that long-running television show relieves the boredom and tension at these isolated outposts.

Our associate Dale Van Atta once had the privilege of going there on an NSF-sponsored journalism look-see. He spent a week longer than expected, because the weather was so bad his ski-equipped U.S. Navy transport plane couldn't fly out.

Unexpectedly spending Thanksgiving there — the summer runs from November to March or so — he participated in several make-do manic

diversions.

Without a slope to slalom down, he "skied" behind a truck on a tow rope across an ice sheet named for a bulldozer operator whose machinery crashed through it, plummeting driver and bulldozer to an icy death. This was at 3 a.m., bright and sunny because during the summertime, the sun never sets — it just goes slowly around the horizon in a circle.

Then there was the Penguin Bowl, a football game arranged on short notice, but featuring everything a fan could want.

The night before, a king and queen were chosen to reign over the next day's festivities. The pre-game parade was a little ragged, but the marching band performed admirably under the circumstances.

With temperatures hovering around zero, the musicians had to keep heating the mouthpieces of their instruments at a large hot-air blower to keep from losing their lips. The quality of the music wasn't up to symphony standards, though a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was genuinely moving.

A field had been laid out on the frozen ground, and goalposts erected. Female cheerleaders in long underwear exhorted the crowd on the sidelines and in makeshift grandstands.

There were, of course, certain drawbacks traceable to the environment, like a lot of slipping and sliding on the blinding white Antarctic-turf. And the skuas, the scavenger birds of the frozen continent, occasionally intruded, mistaking the pigskin for a morsel of raw meat.

The birds downed more than a few potential touchdowns passes.

Life on the ice has not changed since our visit, according to several folks who have been there this summer and last winter.

For example, the "300 Club" we first exposed at the South Pole is still going strong. The rules are simple: When the temperature gets down to 100 below, a sauna is stoked up to 200 degrees.

The participants run from the sauna, clad only in boots, to have their pictures taken at the pole.

Because women have long since joined the ranks of the club, the official scrapbook of the birthday-suit club members is kept under lock and key.

Scrapbook voyeurism is not the only problem the 300 Club has created, though.

A former base doctor told us that one gentleman experienced "a very unusual case of frostbite in a protruding part." An alleged problem with the film in the camera occurred,

"so the guy waited around too long — frostbite on the nose, the ears, the fingertips and, uh, one other place."

At the South Pole station, which is currently being rebuilt, there have also been golf tournaments — using black balls and spray-painted greens that keep blowing away in the sub-zero winds.

It seems American workers in Antarctica can abide just about any behavior — except tourism. Despite the antics described above, the Americans are generally respectful of Antarctica's pristine environment. But tourists are not so observant.

Thousands come now every summer on cruises and, sometimes, lone-adventure ships, expecting warm greetings, food and other supplies from the budget-strapped scientific stations.

Worse than that, some fly or travel by other means (like dog sled) to the South Pole station — without permission.

Since the continent is owned by no nation, there's no real way to stop them. And once they've made it, the code of the ice means no American is likely to turn them away without some warm food, respite and perhaps some supplies.

For all their hijinks, the Americans who serve at the Pole and elsewhere respect and understand the hostility of the environment and are prepared for it — minimizing injuries and deaths over the years. But tourist and tourist-adventurers out for a lark often underestimate it, and expect the U.S. to pick up the pieces.



Education important, even for college athletes

Want to try an easy test of your state legislator's backbone?

Just ask your legislators to pass a law which says simply: "No athletic scholarship shall be given by any state university to any academically unqualified student."

At the present time, the National Football League and the National Basketball Association, both big, cold-hearted businesses, are using America's colleges and universities as a free minor league in which to develop talent for their businesses. If they want minor leagues, let them pay for it.

College athletes ought to be college students first and college athletes second. It's embarrassing to hear alleged college student athletes barely able to



CHARLEY REESE

talk. Nor does it speak well of the present state of college athletics that stories of college athletes being arrested for various thug-type crimes have become all too common.

Nothing, it seems, can escape the corrupting influence of money and greed. Universities want winning teams in order to attract TV coverage and big TV fees. Many alumni, it seems, care nothing about sports except winning.

Not all colleges and universities hand out scholarships to the academically unqualified, but far too many do. It's time to put a stop to a practice that causes injuries to two groups of student athletes.

One group injured by this sordid practice is those academically qualified student athletes who are not quite as fast of foot or as strong as the unqualified player who gets waived on his academic incompetence.

The second group injured is those very athletes who are given scholarships despite being academically unqualified.

Listen, it's a rule of human nature that humans will do what they have to do to get what they want — but no more. By rewarding academically unqualified athletes, colleges are sending the wrong message to high-school students: "Hey, if you are good enough on the field, we'll find a way to get around the academic stuff."

The right message that should be sent to high-school athletes is: "If you want to play college sports, you're going to have to hit the books as hard as you hit the tackle dummy."

That's a hard sell to youngsters who see functional illiterates become millionaires by playing hoops or football. Nevertheless, even if a kid has the potential to make millions, he still needs an education.

There are three reasons. One, the number of positions in pro sports is very limited compared with the population of wannabes. Most college varsity athletes are not picked up by the pros. They just aren't good enough, fast enough or big enough.

Too, every athlete, amateur

ADDRESSES

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Mallard Fillmore  
by  
BRUCE TINSLEY

**K**

All-  
Two

By DEBBIE L. J.  
Features Editor

If you want to take to become high school m state, ask Du Matt Holt.

The two Big Spring High School seniors earned the right to play in the Class 4-A All-State Band at auditions last weekend.

Dusty, on trombone, and Matt on trumpet, will band Feb. 6 Texas Music Association Co.

"These are t from all over Rocky Harris, School band di

Can yo  
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WASHINGTON national spell innocent as app has spawned an incident of sorts.

Young spellers home of the re have been ban year's competit nation is in spelling coach i ture in his def. Rev. Jesse Jack the fray.

And it does! Some people i land wonder wh is drilling stud spellers to beat "The idea th crop of kids minds out in a is not accurat O'Neil Hamilt for Jamaica's Washington.

It all started 249 spellers fr States and a h countries trav annual sp Washington. T sored by Scrip of the Cincin E.W. Scripps eates newspaper stations.

Worried tha sters might b time to study, s cials imposed a eligible for thi competition, win a qualify local contest than this Feb require a cha which for near has held its s August before t Jamaica's be held again in Howard then s sponsor, Phil Stationery Sup sending spelle competition.

"Some peopl action as an have not bann says Paige Kir the spelling be move against country."

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THURSDAY

JAN. 14

Table with 33 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their times.

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B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

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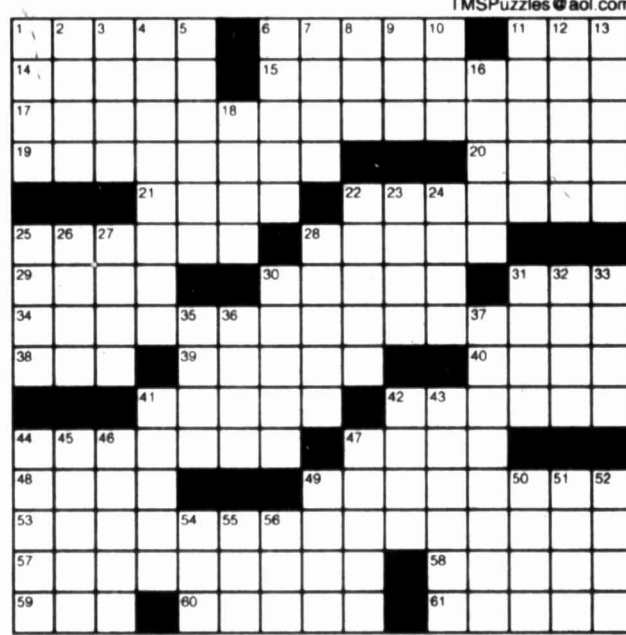
Today is Thursday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 1999. There are

351 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 14, 1784, the United States ratified a peace treaty with England ending the Revolutionary War. On this date: In 1639, the first constitution of Connecticut, the

'Fundamental Orders,' was adopted. In 1742, English astronomer Edmond Halley, who observed the comet that now bears his name, died at age 85. In 1858, French emperor Napoleon III escaped an attempt on his life. In 1900, the Puccini opera 'Tosca' received a mixed reception at its Rome world premiere.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS 1 Wanderer 6 Brush collection 11 Three in Trieste 14 'Christ Stopped at...' 15 Codgers 17 Old-time radio hero 19 Joint protectors 20 Gratis 21 Attorney General 22 Sets of principles 25 Stitches 28 Hen homes 29 In a tizzy 30 Bart Simpson's mom 31 'Pygmalion' writer's initials 34 Entertainment draw 38 Old name of Tokyo 39 Mutual good will 40 Taj Mahal city 41 Overgrown 42 Vexing 44 One of the Redgraves 47 Dunfermline dagger 48 Saudi 49 Wrote 53 Postal address 57 Sparsely populated 58 Spanish lariat 59 Compass pt. 60 Feudal lord 61 Goofed



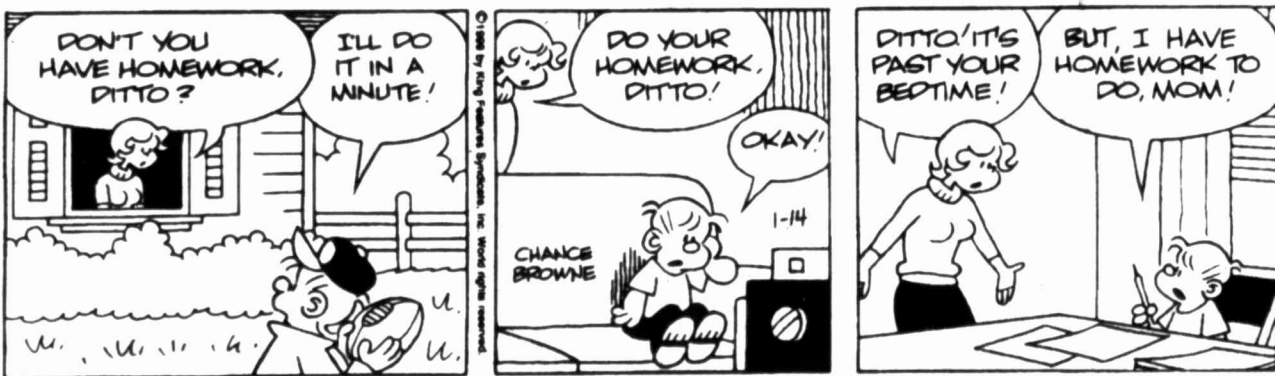
By Gerald R. Ferguson Portland, OR

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

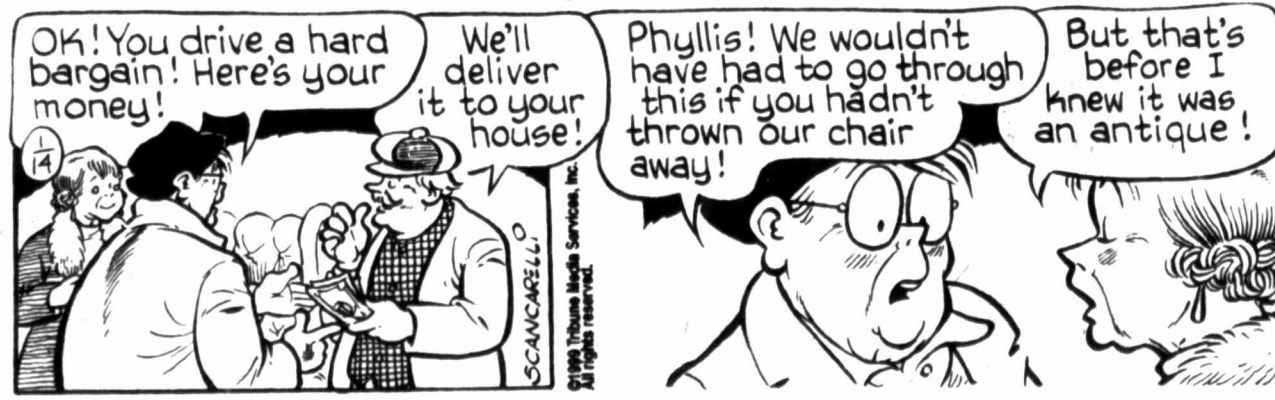


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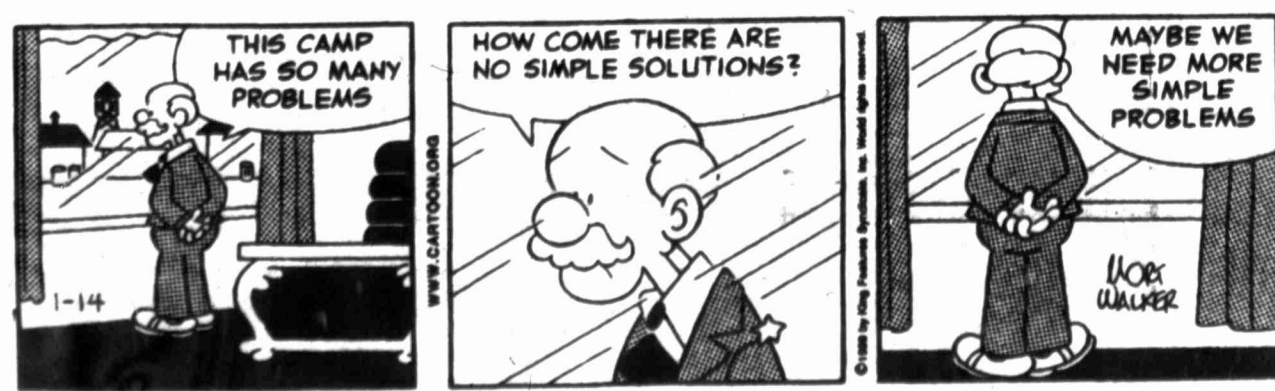
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In 1943, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill opened a wartime conference in Casablanca.

In 1952, NBC's 'Today' show premiered.

In 1953, Josip Broz Tito was elected president of Yugoslavia by the country's Parliament.

In 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with a pledge of 'segregation forever.'

In 1969, 25 crew members of the U.S. aircraft carrier Enterprise were killed in an explosion that ripped through the ship off Hawaii.

Ten years ago: President Reagan delivered his 331st and last weekly radio address, telling listeners, 'Believe me, Saturdays will never seem the same. I'll miss you.'

Five years ago: In post-Cold War breakthroughs, President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed Kremlin accords to stop aiming missiles at any nation and to dismantle the nuclear arsenal of Ukraine. In Phoenix, Ariz., Shane Stant, who admitted to being the 'hit man' in the clubbing assault on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan, surrendered to authorities.

One year ago: Whitewater prosecutors questioned Hillary Rodham Clinton at the White House for 10 minutes about the gathering of FBI background files on past Republican political appointees. (Sources quoted Mrs. Clinton as saying she knew nothing about any such collection of files.) NBC agreed to pay Warner Bros. \$13 million per episode to retain the highly-rated TV show 'ER.'

Today's Birthdays: CBS commentator Andy Rooney is 80. Former CBS newsmen George Herman is 79. Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., is 71. Country singer Billy Walker is 70. Blues singer Clarence Carter is 63. Country singer Billie Jo Spears is 62. Singer Jack Jones is 61. Singer-songwriter Allen Toussaint is 61. NAACP Chairman Julian Bond is 59. Actress Faye Dunaway is 58. Actress Holland Taylor is 56. Actor Carl Weathers is 51. Singer-producer T Bone Burnett is 51. Movie writer-director Lawrence Kasdan is 50.