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4 SECTIONS, 28 PAGES

Governors asking for say in federal budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Governors, agitated over the financial state of their states, were taking their case for better management at the top to President Reagan and Federal Reserve Board Chief Paul Volcker today.

State chief executives attending the annual winter conference of the National Governors' Association planned a breakfast meeting with Volcker and then were traveling to the White House for a private session with Reagan.

Certain to come up was the governors' effort to gain a voice in the overall design of the federal budget, including demands for less defense spending and more taxes if necessary to restrain booming deficits.

A first-time resolution giving governors a say in budget decisions was approved by the executive committee Sunday with one dissenting vote, despite doubts expressed by all sides.

Some Republicans were concerned that the resolution might be seen as an attack on the president. But Democrats said it should be tougher. And some governors said they had no business dictating to Washington on such things as defense spending.

In the end, seven members of the executive committee voted for it with only Gov. Joseph E. Brennan, a Maine Democrat, dissenting. And even Brennan said he saw some merit in its assault on federal deficits.

The resolution, a blueprint for a national budget and recovery, called for action to hold any deficit to 2 percent of the gross national product.

To achieve this, the governors would allow slight additional cuts in domestic programs cut over the past two years, and would absorb one-fourth of the impact of inflation on their own federal grants.

But they would hold growth in defense spending to 4 to 6

No federal aid for border planned

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration has no plans for providing special economic assistance to areas bordering on Mexico whose economies have been jolted by devaluations of the peso, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said.

Baldrige told Texas Gov. Mark White Sunday that "I don't have any specific remedies for that one section" of the country, beyond the administration's overall economic recovery and jobs programs.

Baldrige acknowledged the economic problems of the border areas but said it would be difficult to solve them "without some kind of (economic) recovery" in Mexico.

His comments came at a committee session on agriculture and trade issues during the winter meeting of the National Governors' Association here.

White said that in the Rio Grande Valley along the Mexican border unemployment ranged from 20 percent to 50 percent and that businesses had suffered sales reductions of up to 80 percent.

He asked Baldrige what plans the administration had to help alleviate the suffering in the area.

Baldrige said the problem was the result of Mexico's failure to keep down inflation and interest rates, saying "things got out of control."

However, Baldrige said the United States has taken steps to try to help Mexico overcome its economic problems.

Baldrige and Agriculture Secretary John Block addressed a joint session of the NGA's Committee on Agriculture and Committee on International Trade and Foreign Relations.

percent over the next two years and 3 to 5 percent over the entire 1984-88 span. They also want some restraints on the so-called untouchable parts of the budget, including government-funded pension programs.

The package goes before the full conference in the closing

general business session Tuesday, where it will require the vote of two-thirds of the governors present to carry.

Gov. Scott Matheson, a Utah Democrat and chairman of the association, predicted it would be approved, but only after some changes.

"We've got to fiddle enough with it to get some Democratic votes," Matheson said. "But I think we have a good chance of resolving it with the Democratic governors."

If Matheson's Democrats can be held in line, the measure would be assured of passage, since Democratic governors outnumber Republicans by 34 to 16 following last fall's election sweep.

But some of the most formidable supporters of the measure are Republicans who support President Reagan and share his fear of rising deficits.

Although the Congressional Budget Office forecasts the deficit will rise to \$267 billion by 1988, the White House wants it kept to \$116.7 billion.

The governors' target is a \$90 billion deficit by 1988.

"In my view this resolution is not an attack or a criticism of any particular administration, or any party, or any house or committee of Congress," said Republican Gov. James Thompson of Illinois.

"The difference between the president's budget proposal and this budget proposal is how you get to the bottom line," Thompson said.

Anthony S. Earl, the new Democratic governor of Wisconsin, said he couldn't support the resolution.

"We truly ought to go after the federal deficit," Earl said. "But to endorse policies which say the way for us to get well is to continue to cut social spending and to continue to increase defense spending at a level of 4 to 6 percent is not a very good prescription."

Gov. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, a Democrat, wanted any recovery program endorsed by the governors to be based on "progressive principles to protect lower income Americans and eliminate, terminate, the process of loading budget cuts on those who can least afford to bear the burden."

Mugabe under scrutiny following alleged killings

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (AP) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe is under growing pressure to allow an independent investigation of claims that his troops have killed up to 3,000 civilians in the stronghold of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

Nkomo, who contends that the civilian death toll is mounting, says he has been placed under "virtual house arrest" at his bungalow in Matabeleland province.

Today, police agents arrived at the house to question relatives, friends and staff, Nkomo said. "I told them to get out and they left... They just keep harassing."

Villagers fleeing the province, home of Zimbabwe's minority Ndebele tribe, have told of massacre, rape, looting and torture by the troops — most of them members of the dominant Shona tribe.

The government says the claims are vastly exaggerated, but church leaders, relief agencies and human rights groups are calling for an independent investigation of the situation.

The refugees say the atrocities were committed by North Korean-trained soldiers of the 5,000-strong Fifth Brigade — a force formed by Mugabe to combat rebels and guard against invasion from white-ruled South Africa.

Foreign reporters have quoted sources ranging from relief workers to civil servants as estimating the death toll at up to 3,000. Other sources say the figure is about 1,200.

But Information Director Justin Nyoka, who escorted journalists on a tour of the western province last week, told The Associated Press on Sunday:

"Everyone we spoke with said there was no conceivable way of arriving at even a figure of 100. These reports are based on the wildest of speculation and not an ounce of fact."



Mugabe

The government concedes some civilians have been slain in Matabeleland by crossfire during clashes between security forces and the "dissidents" they are hunting.

It says the dissidents are supporters of Nkomo, the president of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union, and that they deserted from the army after Nkomo was fired from the coalition government a year ago for allegedly plotting against Mugabe.

Nine days ago, police barred Nkomo, 65, from leaving the Matabeleland capital of Bulawayo for a World Peace Council conference in Czechoslovakia.

They seized his passport and said he was under investigation for sedition and for trying to smuggle currency out of the country. Nkomo said today he has been ordered to notify police if he intends to leave his bungalow.

"This is an impossible order," said Nkomo in a telephone interview. "I have told my lawyers to say I'll comply for any trips out of Bulawayo, but not just to leave my house."

Police officers would not comment on Nkomo's statement.

Mugabe and Nkomo commanded separate guerrilla armies in the war that led white-ruled Rhodesia to independence as black-governed Zimbabwe in 1980.

They have headed toward a confrontation since the 58-year-old prime minister fired Nkomo from the coalition government.

Nkomo denied he was plotting a coup and was never detained by police until he tried to leave the country Feb. 19.

However, more than 400 Nkomo supporters have been detained on charges of subversion and sabotage. His two guerrilla commanders from the seven-year independence war are on trial for treason.

The government said police stopped Nkomo from leaving Zimbabwe because evidence at the treason trial linked him to a coup plot.



Swing time

Billie Jo Sharp and two-year-old Nick took advantage of San Angelo's warm Sunday weather to sharpen their duo

swinging skills. Warm weather is expected in the Midland area through Tuesday. See story, Page 2A.

Improvement program making child care center possible



Debora Phillips

By ED TODD
Staff Writer

A child care center designed for the safety, health and education of infants, toddlers and school-age children will open April 4, said Debora Phillips, executive director of the new Taylor Park Child Care Center.

"It's an educational program from birth all the way up through 10-year-old children," Ms. Phillips said. "It's not just strictly babysitting."

The public center will be the third-largest child care center in Midland. Currently, the city's working parents — both single and married — take their children to 30-35 child care facilities, which range in capacity from 15 to 238 children.

"We will be really involved in the safety and health of the children, as well as their education," Ms. Phillips said.

The 12,000-square-foot center, in the southwest corner of Taylor Park at Goode Street and Griffin Avenue, is a project of Midland County's \$1.6 million federal rehabilitation program for an economically-depressed windowpane area on Midland's south side. That windowpane area is unincorporated but is bordered by the city limits and is without city services. Site of the center was leased to Midland County by the city of Midland for \$1 a year.

The center is being operated by the non-profit Midland County Child Care Corporation and is funded through private donations and children's fees and tuitions.

"IT'S FOR CHILDREN all over the community," said Ms. Phillips, and not just for children from low-income families.

At present, about 50 children, including some unborn, are enrolled.

"We have one set of twins enrolled, and they are not even born yet," Ms. Phillips said.

The center's "very highest" weekly tuition per child will be \$42, which is a "competitive fee," she noted. The lowest fee, to be offered on a scholarship basis, will be about \$20 and will be for children of low- and moderate-income parents. Parents who wish to enroll their children in the program may telephone Ms. Phillips at 687-2330. "We'll cater to anybody on a first-come, first-serve basis," she said.

Ultimately, the center is to employ about 30 staffers, including three department heads who will direct the nursing, pre-school and school-age departments.

THE CENTER'S programs and services will include:

—Breakfast, mid-morning snacks, lunch and afternoon snacks for the children. "We'll have really nutritious, family-styled meals."

—Eight classrooms. "We'll have 'caregivers' in each classroom, and we'll have teachers for each department."

—Educational, cultural and just-for-fun programs within and without the center. For example, the center's staff will be showing movies, conducting singing, teaching games, offering arts and crafts and imparting other educational activities and programs.

In addition, pre-school and school-age children may sign up for extra-curricular activities such as creative dramatics, dancing, gymnastics, music and swimming outside the center. "We'll do the running for them (parents)," she said of transporting the children to classes.

—Outdoor sports. The city's Taylor Park has baseball and softball diamonds and a soccer field.

IN THE EVENINGS, the child care center will be transformed into a community center for town-hall meetings, instruction on language skills, organizational meetings for groups such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, and for how-to sessions, including budgeting and "how to feed a family on X-dollars per week."

Idea for the day care center came out of 1981 neighborhood public meetings. These were conducted by Betty Sheeler, former coordinator of the county's \$1.6 million federal Community Development Block Grant program, and consultant Barbara Ellis of the engineering firm of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper.

(See CITY'S, Page 2A)

Three dead after Odessa gunbattle

'It doesn't make much sense,' official says

From Staff and Wire Reports

ODESSA — Police here are searching today for witnesses or clues to a bloody gunbattle at a high-stakes poker game that killed three people and wounded two others.

Odessa Police Detective Jerry Smith said the cardplayers began shooting at each other about 3 a.m. Sunday at the La Cosita Apartments on the west side of Odessa.

As of early today, police listed five victims in the fracas. Three of them were dead as a result of the shootout

and the others were hospitalized in Odessa and Midland. Names of all the victims are not being released pending further investigation.

Police Lt. Rusty Baker said detectives are investigating a possibility that there may have been more men involved in the poker game and in the shooting.

"Right now it doesn't make much sense except that we've got three people dead over a poker game," Baker said. "It's all still very confusing. Sometimes it doesn't take much to cause a shooting."

Smith said police would be trying to piece together more details, including how many guns were involved, when the investigation continued today.

When police arrived at the apartment complex, they found one man — identified as Robert Notley lying outside on the ground. He was shot more than once, police said.

Another victim who had been shot was found in the apartment's kitchen area. He was transported to Medical Center Hospital and died during surgery at 6:48 a.m., Baker said.

The third man to die as a result of

the incident had run to a nearby residence at 1304 N. Whitaker and was reportedly threatening a woman with a pistol when the woman's husband shot him. That man was taken to Medical Center Hospital where Peace Justice Jimmy Harris pronounced him dead at 3:25 a.m. Sunday.

Police said that man had kicked in the front door of the residence and then was shot by the homeowner.

(See POLICE, Page 2A)

INSIDE TODAY

■ IN MIDLAND: Eating oysters on the half shell proved an interesting experience for some Midlanders.

■ IN THE STATE: A 34-year-old man was arrested in connection with the hit-and-run death of a 6-year-old boy.

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Weather

Fair and warm through Tuesday. High Tuesday upper 70s. Details on Page 2A.

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WEATHER SUMMARY

The Forecast For 7 a.m. EST

Tuesday, March 1
• Low Temperatures

The National Weather Service forecasts rain for Tuesday for much of the West. Rain is also forecast for the middle Atlantic states. Cold weather is expected from the northern Plains to the Great Lakes.

Warm weather expected in area

Unseasonal springlike temperatures are expected to continue through Tuesday. Don't put away all those winter clothes yet.

According to the National Weather Service at Midland Regional Airport, it should be fair and warm through Tuesday, but "officially spring isn't here until the end of March."

Midland statistics

FORECAST

Fair and warm through Tuesday. Low tonight in the low 40s. High Tuesday in the upper 70s. Southwesterly winds 5-15 mph.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE READINGS:
Yesterday's High: 67 degrees
Overnight Low: 34 degrees
Sunrise today: 6:46 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow: 7:16 p.m.
Precipitation: none inches
Last 24 hours: none inches
This month to date: 2.35 inches
1983 to date: 1.40 inches

LOCAL TEMPERATURES:
8 a.m. 42 6 p.m. 60
7 a.m. 44 7 p.m. 61
8 a.m. 46 8 p.m. 62
9 a.m. 48 9 p.m. 63
10 a.m. 50 10 p.m. 64
11 a.m. 52 11 p.m. 65
noon 54 midnight 66
1 p.m. 56 1 a.m. 67
2 p.m. 58 2 a.m. 68
3 p.m. 60 3 a.m. 69
4 p.m. 62 4 a.m. 70
5 p.m. 64 5 a.m. 71

SOUTHWEST TEMPERATURES:
H L
Albino 60 38
Denver 58 36
Amarillo 56 34
El Paso 54 32
Pl. Worth 52 30
Houston 50 28
Lubbock 48 26
Marfa 46 24
Odessa 44 22
Wichita Falls 42 20

Texas temperatures

High Low Pcp
Albino 60 38 .00
Alicia 58 36 .00
Amarillo 56 34 .00
Austin 54 32 .00
Beaumont 52 30 .00
Brownsville 50 28 .00
Childress 48 26 .00
College Station 46 24 .00
Corpus Christi 44 22 .00
Dallas 42 20 .00
Del Rio 40 18 .00
El Paso 38 16 .00
Fort Worth 36 14 .00
Galveston 34 12 .00
Houston 32 10 .00
Longview 30 8 .00
Lubbock 28 6 .00
Lufkin 26 4 .00
Marfa 24 2 .00
McAllen 22 0 .00
Midland 20 -2 .00
Palacios 18 -4 .00
San Angelo 16 -6 .00
San Antonio 14 -8 .00
Stephenville 12 -10 .00
Tomball 10 -12 .00
Victoria 8 -14 .00
Waco 6 -16 .00
Wichita Falls 4 -18 .00
Wink 2 -20 .00

Extended forecasts

West Texas: Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms late Thursday ending Friday otherwise partly cloudy and warm with above seasonal normal temperatures. Highs mid-60s to low 70s. Lows mid-30s to low 40s. Big Bend valley turning a little cooler Friday with mid-40s. Pecos valley to upper 70s Big Bend valley. Lows in mid-30s in the Pecos valley to the lower 30s in the lower Pecos valley and Big Bend.

North Texas: Partly cloudy with temperatures above seasonal normals. A chance of thunderstorms Thursday night and Friday. Lowest daily temperatures will range from the middle 40s to lower 50s and highs from the middle 60s to lower 70s.

Border states forecasts

Louisiana: Mostly fair through Tuesday. Highs 50 south-east to 60 northwest. Lows 42 to 48. Highs Tuesday around 70.

Arkansas: Fair through Tuesday. Highs 50 to 60. Lows 38 to 45. Highs Tuesday 60 to 65.

Police looking for witnesses, clues to Odessa gunbattle

(Continued from Page 1A)

One victim found at the apartment was identified as Robert Nottley of Odessa, said Lt. Rusty Baker. One victim has not yet been identified and the identity of the third is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, Baker said.

The fourth man, wounded during the

The mercury tonight is expected to slide down to the low 40s, but Tuesday the red line should scramble to the upper 70s. Southwesterly winds are expected to blow through at 5-15 mph.

Sunday's high of 87 couldn't top the record high of 82 set in 1950, and the overnight low of 34 was warmer than the record low of 14 set in 1962.

The weather elsewhere

Albino 60 38
Albuquerque 58 36
Anchorage 56 34
Anchorage 54 32
Asheville 52 30
Atlanta 50 28
Atlantic City 48 26
Baltimore 46 24
Birmingham 44 22
Bismarck 42 20
Boise 40 18
Boston 38 16
Buffalo 36 14
Burlington 34 12
Casper 32 10
Charleston, S.C. 30 8
Charleston, W.V. 28 6
Charlotte, N.C. 26 4
Chicago 24 2
Cincinnati 22 0
Cleveland 20 -2
Columbia, S.C. 18 -4
Columbus 16 -6
Dayton 14 -8
Denver 12 -10
Des Moines 10 -12
Detroit 8 -14
Duluth 6 -16
Fairbanks 4 -18
Fargo 2 -20
Flagstaff 0 -22
Grand Falls 0 -24
Hartford 0 -26
Helena 0 -28
Honolulu 0 -30
Jackson, Miss. 0 -32
Jacksonville 0 -34
Juneau 0 -36
Kansas City 0 -38
Las Vegas 0 -40
Little Rock 0 -42
Los Angeles 0 -44
Louisville 0 -46
Memphis 0 -48
Miami 0 -50
Milwaukee 0 -52
Minneapolis 0 -54
Mobile, Ala. 0 -56
New Orleans 0 -58
New York 0 -60
Norfolk 0 -62
North Platte 0 -64
Oklahoma City 0 -66
Omaha 0 -68
Orlando 0 -70
Philadelphia 0 -72
Phoenix 0 -74
Pittsburgh 0 -76
Portland, Me. 0 -78
Portland, Ore. 0 -80
Providence 0 -82
Raleigh 0 -84
Rapid City 0 -86
Reno 0 -88
Richmond 0 -90
St. Louis 0 -92
St. Paul 0 -94
Salt Lake 0 -96
San Diego 0 -98
San Francisco 0 -100
Seattle 0 -102
Seattle 0 -104
Sioux Falls 0 -106
Spokane 0 -108
Syracuse 0 -110
Topeka 0 -112
Tucson 0 -114
Tulsa 0 -116
Washington 0 -118
Wichita 0 -120

State should be warm

By The Associated Press

Sunshine and warmer temperatures were forecast for Texas as clouds moved out of the state early today.

Clear skies were reported statewide before dawn.

Temperatures were mostly in the 30s and 40s. Readings at 4 a.m. ranged from 34 at Wichita Falls to 51 at El Paso and McAllen.

Winds were generally light and variable.

gunbattle, managed to drive to Midland Memorial Hospital, about a 20-mile distance. The man, from Houston, was listed in serious condition, Smith said. Police have not been able to question the man, Baker said.

A fifth cardplayer, who was shot in the hand, was questioned by police but not arrested.

Despite wetness, Hollywood fetes Queen Elizabeth

Related Story, Page 6B

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The royalty of England and Hollywood got together at a gala dinner honoring Queen Elizabeth II on the second night of her 10-day, first-ever visit to California.

The queen and Prince Philip could see stars all over 20th Century-Fox's glittering Stage 9, until a few weeks ago the bleak tent city of television's "M*A*S*H."

Dinner at the studio capped a busy Sunday for the royal couple that began with services at a packed church in San Diego and included lunch at the estate of former U.S. ambassador to Britain Walter Annenberg near Palm Springs and a brief ceremony with local political leaders in Long Beach.

The queen and prince, who opened their tour of California Saturday with a festive welcome in San Diego, braved a steady downpour on their arrival in Air Force II in Palm Springs and small-but-vocal demonstrations at several stops on their tightly scheduled itinerary.

The queen was greeted by first lady Nancy Reagan at 20th Century-Fox, where the former Nancy Davis appeared in films with now president and then actor Ronald Reagan.

Movie stars from the Reagans' film days joined British entertainers and prominent show-business Republicans such as Charlton Heston and former U.S. Sen. George Murphy on a stage converted by designer Walter Scott into a garden lighted by scores of white paper globes.

Frank Sinatra produced the show, which included George Burns, Perry Como, Dionne Warwick, Les Brown's band and Sinatra himself.

The 87-year-old Burns cracked a faintly risqué joke which seemed to amuse the queen:

"Acting is easy," Burns said. "If the director wants me to cry, I think of my sex life. If the director wants me to laugh, I think of my sex life."

"I'm glad I came, it was an evening to remember," Julie Andrews quoted the queen as saying.

All gathered outside the studio

before the queen's motorcade left for the royal yacht Britannia in Long Beach, 45 minutes away.

Fred Astaire remarked, "Yes, I've met the queen, the last time being at Ascot about five years ago. She's very interested in horses and so am I."

"I've never met Queen Elizabeth, in fact, I've never met any queen," said Bette Davis, who played Elizabeth I twice, in "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex" and "Virgin Queen."

About 150 demonstrators protesting Britain's presence in Northern Ireland gathered at the main entrance to the film studio, but the royal party whisked through another gate and the queen saw none of the nonviolent demonstration.

The queen and the first lady were followed by Prince Philip, who stared into the crowd of celebrities and said, "I can't see anybody because of the flashbulbs outside."

The royal party proceeded to a brief reception for the hosts of the Southern California visit. Then the guests dined on a catered dinner that included chicken-in-the-pot and chili.

Thousands braved crisp winds and occasional rain for a commoner's look at royalty Saturday when the 56-year-old monarch and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited tourist sights in San Diego, including the Broadway Pier and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

The royal couple sat in the front pew at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Sunday.

"It's the same sort of service in England, so she probably felt right at home," said Jane Shannon, one of 650 parishioners inside the church. "It was absolutely marvelous."

About 500 people had waited outside the church to see the queen, including three people who carried signs protesting British policies in Northern Ireland.

Researcher: Show's success wordy topic

See Related Stories, Page 6B

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — "M*A*S*H," the long-running Korean War chronicle that airs its 251st and final episode tonight, had all the ingredients of a successful TV show: jokes, war, doctors, sex — and oh, yes, astetism.

An English professor at Clemson University says astetism, a classical literary term that means a deliberate or accidental misunderstanding of words, is what kept the 407th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital rolling for 11 years.

"They frequently use straight puns, substituting one word for another. But 'M*A*S*H's' real trademark is a specialty called astetism," says Corinne Sawyer, who has been a "M*A*S*H" scholar for three years and a fan since the first show in 1972.

For example, Col. Flagg, a slightly cracked military intelligence officer, says "I'm off." Col. Sherman Potter, the 407th's commanding officer, replies, "I couldn't have said it better myself."

Or Hawkeye Pierce, a surgeon, seeing a frightened young soldier crouched in a corner with a kitten, asks, "What's his name?" Father Mulcahy answers, "Fluffy."

Then there's the type of pun where the speaker establishes and then abruptly changes the meaning of the word halfway through a sentence. Writers of "M*A*S*H" have used hundreds, such as Hawkeye's musing, "I loved a girl from San Francisco once. No, twice."

"That's Shakespeare's kind of humor," Ms. Sawyer says. "Being a poet, he loved to twist the meaning of words with layers of meaning. 'M*A*S*H' is one of the wittiest word-play vehicles of our time."

Ms. Sawyer has studied the show and keeps transcripts of each episode. Every joke is categorized and every character has a biography written on a three-by-five index card.

Ms. Sawyer says her research offers clues about why the critically acclaimed program has won viewers' hearts.

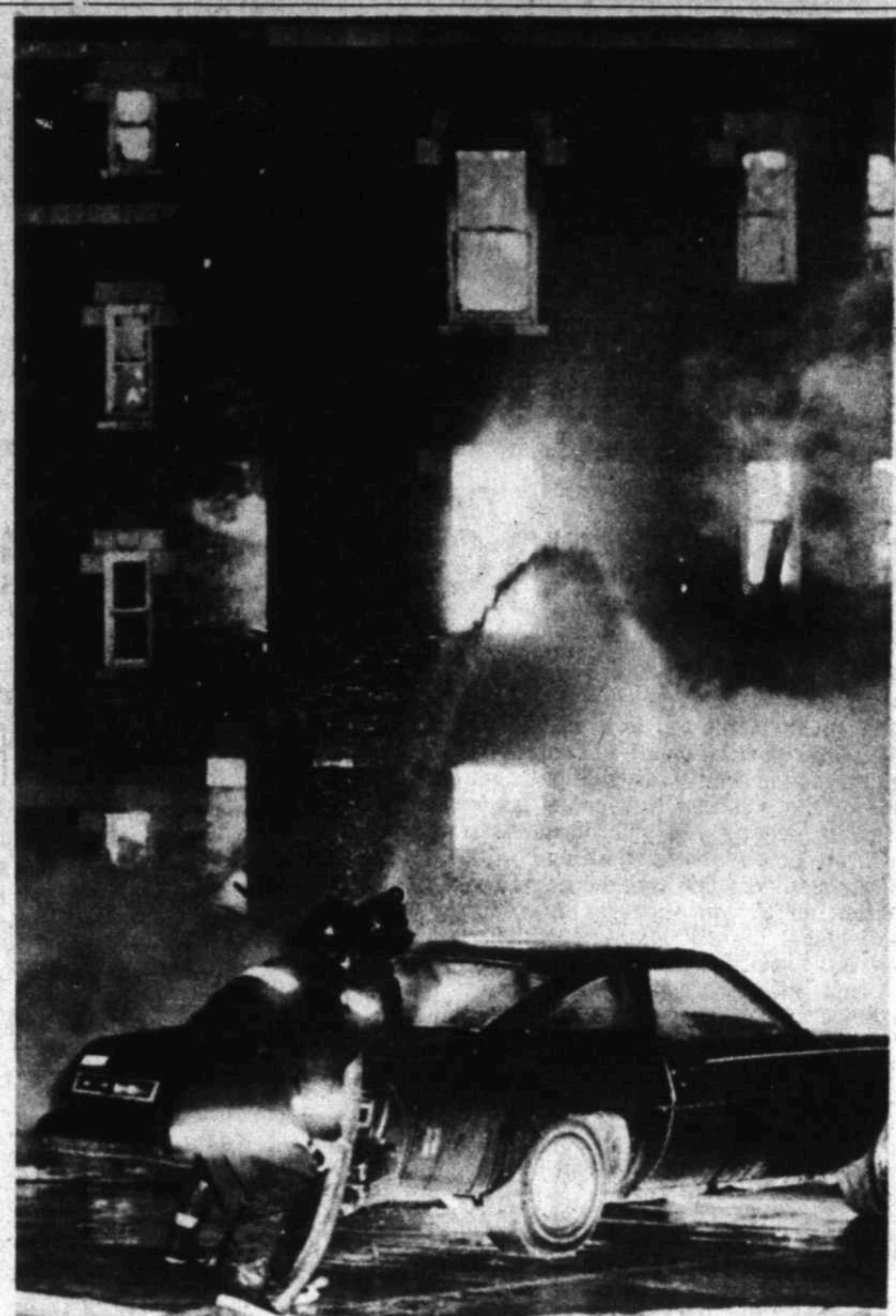
"M*A*S*H" is probably television's finest half-hour, a legitimate masterpiece, she says. And if Shakespeare were alive today, he'd probably write for "M*A*S*H," not Broadway, she says.

"Shakespeare and the writers of 'M*A*S*H' are remarkably alike in their blending of humor and tragedy, and their type of humor," Ms. Sawyer says.

"Even the creative output is remarkably similar," Sawyer says. "Added up, Shakespeare's 37 plays would run 94.5 hours on the stage." When "M*A*S*H" broadcasts its final new episode, discounting time for credits and commercials, there will be 94.9 hours of dramatic programming.

In the long run, Ms. Sawyer hopes her research will help scholars understand why a 30-minute television comedy had so much impact on a generation of Americans.

Ms. Sawyer says "M*A*S*H" may have been more about the Vietnam War than the Korean War, which would explain why its irreverent treatment of the war, but not the people who get caught up in it, kept people



At least three people died in this fire in Brockton, Mass., which fire officials have termed "suspicious."

Massachusetts fire 'suspicious'

BROCKTON, Mass. (AP) — At least three people died in a "suspicious" blaze that lit up the sky with flames belching from every window, fire officials say.

Only charred walls of the five-story brick building were left standing Sunday following what Deputy Fire Chief Kenneth F. Galligan described as a

roaring inferno, the worst fire in this southeast Massachusetts city in the past 10 years.

"There were lots of people hanging out of the windows and yelling for help. The whole building was lit up — there were flames seen in every window," said Kenneth Gillpatrick, another deputy chief who said the blaze was of suspicious origin.

M*A*S*H moves out

M*A*S*H goes off the air on Feb. 28, the first top-ten show ever to be discontinued. The situation comedy has had a run of 11 years, more than three times as long as the Korean War it portrayed, but not as long as four other sitcoms.

M*A*S*H - 11 yrs.
My Three Sons - 12 yrs.
Lucy Show - 12 yrs.
Danny Thomas - 13 yrs.
Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet - 14 yrs.

SOURCE: The Complete Directory of Prime Time TV Shows. Copyright 1983.

glued to the tube.

The show's appeal to viewers means an immense appeal to advertisers, the trade press reports, especially for tonight's special — and final — 2 1/2 hour episode.

Jerome H. Dominus, vice president-sales at CBS-TV, follows network tradition in refusing to divulge the advertisers or the cost of advertising for the special broadcast.

City's new care center will open doors in April

(Continued from Page 1A)

The federal rehabilitation program "simply was designed to make an impact in a small target area" by improving the housing, paving and gutting streets, installing water and sewer lines and building the child care center. The city contributed \$40,000 of its federal Community Development funds toward purchasing equipment and supplies for the center. The center's metal-brick-and-mortar building cost about \$275,000.

"I WAS DELIGHTED when it (the center) began to develop," said Ms. Sheeler, who credited Jan Reed, former president of the 15-member Child Care board, with organizing the center's structure. "She has really worked at it. She is knowledgeable and understands organization."

Cookie Wetendorf, who was involved in the center's initial stages, described

Ms. Reed as "absolute dynamite" as an organizer and doer. Succeeding Ms. Reed as board president is Manuel Carrasco.

Ms. Reed described Ms. Phillips as a "self-motivator" who has "good ideas." "I'm impressed with our director," Ms. Reed said. "She's a jewel."

Prior to taking the director position, Ms. Phillips owned and operated a child care center in Lubbock. She taught kindergarten in a private school and taught pre-school handicapped children in public school. Her students included children who suffered from emotional disturbances, language delay, learning disabilities and mental retardation.

Ms. Phillips holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and home economics from Texas Tech University and has taken graduate courses in elementary education.

"I came from a family of teachers," the director said. "I grew up in education."

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Congress will tackle Social Security, job aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a slow start, the 98th Congress is acting this week on two high-priority issues, bailing out the Social Security system and enactment of an emergency recession-relief measure.

The House is scheduled to consider on Wednesday the \$4.8 billion recession bill, which includes provisions for jobs and humanitarian aid.

The House Ways and Means Committee is also due to meet Wednesday to put finishing touches on a \$165 billion Social Security rescue plan that includes the recommendations of the

National Commission on Social Security Reform.

The plan is aimed at keeping the government retirement system solvent through the rest of the decade. It includes provisions bringing federal employees under the system, slowing benefit increases and increasing Social Security payroll taxes.

The full House is expected to go to work on the package next week.

Meanwhile, President Reagan was sending Congress today a proposal to remove all controls from the natural gas market over the next three years

"to ensure abundant supplies...at reasonable prices."

The controversial plan would place a cap on consumer prices through Jan. 1, 1986, allowing increases based only on inflation, unless a government agency approves higher fees. On the first day of 1986, all price controls would be removed.

Reagan's decision on decontrol, announced Saturday, comes at a time when natural gas rates are rising an average 25 percent a year, despite record surpluses and declining prices for competing oil. Sen. Howard Metzen-

baum, D-Ohio, says he will lead a filibuster against the proposal.

The \$4.8 billion recession aid proposal is expected to be approved by the House without much fuss despite opposition from some liberals who say it is more of a political Band-Aid than any real effort to ease the nation's 10.2 percent unemployment.

An unusual alliance of House Democratic leaders, President Reagan and some conservative and moderate Republicans have agreed that some quick-fix answer to the recession should zip through both the House and

Senate quickly.

House Democrats, while revising an original White House proposal, have been careful to keep the package small enough to avert a presidential veto.

But in the Senate, a combination of liberal Democrats and 19 Republicans running for re-election in 1984 is expected to add to the \$4.8 billion total.

There is also an additional \$5 billion for loans to states that have been running out of money from which to pay unemployment benefits.

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Mid-morning Report

New York Exchange

NEW YORK (AP) — 11 a.m. national prices for New York Stock Exchange issues

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'Oklahoma's Yodeling Cowboy' back in the singing saddle again

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — One of America's best known "singing cowboys," Gene Autry, will be back in the saddle again. Autry, a veteran of 93 films and now a businessman whose holdings include the California Angels baseball team, will serve as parade grand marshal during North Platte's Nebraska Days in June.

Autry wrote Nebraska Days planners that he "was flattered to be asked," says Lee Wilke, executive director of the three-day celebration.

Autry, 75, began singing on an Oklahoma radio station in 1928 as "Oklahoma's Yodeling Cowboy." He sold more than 40 million records and was awarded his first of eight gold records for "Silver Haired Daddy of Mine."



Gene Autry

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Norman Cousins, former editor of Saturday Review magazine and author of "Anatomy of an Illness," which dealt with his recovery from cancer, says he learned many things about himself while fighting the disease.

"The tragedy of life is not death, but what dies inside us while we live," Cousins said Saturday while receiving a "Doctor of Human Service" degree from the University Without Walls, a seven-year-old alternative college in Santa Monica.

Cousins, 67, told the commencement audience we should "never underestimate our problems, never underestimate our capability for meeting those problems."

Cousins, now an adjunct professor at UCLA Medical School and an author and lecturer on world federalism and the dangers of nuclear conflict, also said, "Our generation has the privilege for the first time of making peace on earth."

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Civil rights leader Julian Bond says "the last time business provided 100 percent employment for blacks was over 100 years ago. It was called slavery."

The Georgia senator made the comment to 300 people gathered Sunday at the University of Nevada-Reno in an observance of Black History Month.

Bond, 43, urged black voters to make their voices heard. He said U.S. Rep. Harold Washington's victory in Chicago's Democratic mayoral primary last week should serve as an example of black voters' power.

"I did not think that black people could get loose of the kind of plantation politics they've been under for so many years," Bond said. "I say 'congratulations.' I didn't think they could do it. It shows what you can do."

Julian Bond PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — Former prisoner of war James Stockdale has a new mission — telling others how he survived 2,714 days in captivity during the Vietnam War.

Ten years after he and 115 other American POWs walked out of a Hanoi prison, the Navy's most decorated Vietnam veteran conducts a seminar twice weekly at Stanford University called "Combating Coercion and Manipulation."

It deals with "the power of the human spirit and the human mind under deprived and hazardous conditions," Stockdale, 59, says in this week's issue of People magazine.

Captured after his plane was shot down over North Vietnam, Stockdale tells students how he and other prisoners dealt with their captors. "You had to be able to say, 'No,'" he says. "You did not have to be nasty, but aloof and enigmatic."

He also told how they tapped out messages to one another — that they would tap out a signal meaning "I love you" when one of their number was being led away to be tortured.

Director, stage actor pay last respects to Williams

NEW YORK (AP) — Director Sidney Lumet and stage actor Tony Lo Bianco were among those gathered at a Manhattan funeral home to pay their last respects to playwright Tennessee Williams.

Williams was found dead Friday in his East Side hotel room.

Lumet, who directed Williams play, "The Fugitive Kind," with Marlon Brando, said he "felt faint" when he learned of Williams' death.

Charles Bowden, who produced Williams' last commercial hit on Broadway, the 1961 "The Night of the Iguana," broke into tears beside the casket Sunday.

Edmund Perret, assistant director of the American Psychiatric Association and a close friend, said at the funeral home that he talked to Williams last Tuesday and the playwright told him, "I think I might be cashing in."

But Perret added that Williams "said that all the time."

LoBianco visited the funeral home Sunday before his matinee in Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge," and said of Williams: "He's our hero."

The 71-year-old Williams, author of "A Streetcar Named Desire," "The Glass Menagerie" and many other hit plays and the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, apparently died late Thursday in his suite at the Hotel Elysee. He was found Friday morning by his secretary, John Uecker, who was in another room of the suite.

The city's chief medical examiner, Dr. Elliot Gross, said Saturday an autopsy revealed that Williams choked to death on a bottlecap such as is used on nasal sprays or eyedrops, and that death appeared to be accidental.

Williams' body was on view at the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home all day Sunday, and viewing was to continue today and Tuesday.

Barney Clark weak, but continues to improve

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Artificial heart recipient Barney Clark is weak but continues to make progress, one of his physicians says.

The 62-year-old retired dentist remained in fair condition today in his private room at the University of Utah Medical Center. It was his 89th day on the permanent plastic heart.

Spokeswoman Pam Fogle said Dr. Lyle Joyce "told me he (Clark) is still weak, but he is making modest progress every day."

Joyce and Dr. William DeVries, the surgeon who implanted the mechanical heart in the landmark operation Dec. 2, helped Clark walk a short distance to a reclining chair Sunday, Ms. Fogle said.

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Reagan flies to California to see queen

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan flies to California today to rub elbows with royalty during a weeklong reunion with Queen Elizabeth II. They will begin with a horseback ride at Reagan's ranch and end with a small, candlelit anniversary dinner aboard Her Majesty's royal yacht.

Mrs. Reagan preceded the president and was hostess to the queen at a glittery Hollywood banquet for 500 on Sunday night. The star-studded party, sponsored by 20th Century-Fox, was held on the sound stage recently vacated by the cast of M*A*S*H, the long-running television series that ends tonight.

On Tuesday morning, the Reagans will greet the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, after the royal yacht Britannia sails into Santa Barbara harbor.

While the Reagans helicopter to their mountaintop home, the queen will do some morning sightseeing, visiting the historic Santa Barbara courthouse, which dates to Spanish Colonial times.

Because the queen dislikes helicopters, the royal entourage will motor up the winding, sometimes flooded roads to Reagan's Rancho del Cielo at the crest of the Santa Ynez mountains for a lunchtime barbecue of ribs, followed by a horseback ride.

Reagan arrives in Santa Barbara aboard Air Force One this afternoon.

For Reagan, the trip will be a journey away from Washington and the public attention on the turmoil at the Environmental Protection Agency where Reagan recently fired three top officials.

Reagan is also scheduled to make two speeches and a trip at the end of the week to a sawmill in Klamath Falls, Ore., where he will meet with industry representatives. He is expected to focus



AP Laserphoto

Queen Elizabeth II, with Prince Phillip standing in the background, shakes hands with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley after she arrived at Long Beach, Calif., Sunday afternoon.

on signs of recovery in the lumber business, which has been hard hit by the recession.

Tuesday's informal afternoon on the mountaintop is the first in a series of gestures the president is making to reciprocate for the queen's hospitality when he was a guest of the royal family at Windsor Castle midway through his exhausting European trip last June.

There he rode one of the queen's favorite horses. Here, she is expected to ride Gwallanko, an Arabian mount. Reagan will be on El-Alamain, a white

Arabian gelding given to him by former Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo.

Throughout the rest of the week, the president and the queen will have separate schedules by day. The president is scheduled to spend Wednesday relaxing at his ranch while Mrs. Reagan joins the queen's party for a daylong sail to San Francisco.

On Thursday, the president plans a visit to Los Angeles to attend a fundraising lunch for U.S. Olympic Committee.

On Thursday night, Reagan will rejoin his wife and Queen Elizabeth II for an elegant state dinner for 257 people, about double the size of a normal state dinner.

The five-course extravaganza at the de Young Museum has been weeks in preparation under direction of the young, executive chef of the St. Francis Hotel.

On Friday, the president is scheduled to address the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco about trade and international economic policy.

That night he and Mrs. Reagan have been invited to be the queen's guests aboard the Britannia for a small party for 57 in honor of the Reagans' 31st wedding anniversary.

The queen and Prince Philip are on a month-long journey that has taken them to Jamaica and Grand Cayman Island in the Caribbean and on to Mexico.

The royal party made its first stop in the United States on Saturday, when the Britannia sailed through an armada of pleasure boats into San Diego Bay.

The royal itinerary calls for 10 days of sightseeing in California, including a tour next weekend of the glacial landscape of Yosemite National Park.

After a stop in Seattle, the royal party sails to Vancouver, British Columbia. It is the queen's fifth trip to the United States and her first to the West Coast. She last visited America during the 1976 Bicentennial.

Alda doesn't think Hawkeye symbolic

Surgeon from real M*A*S*H says 'hanky-panky' missing

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Being a surgeon during the Korean War was just as grim as portrayed by actors on television's long-running "M*A*S*H" series, but it had little of the "hanky-panky" that lightened the episodes, says one doctor who served in the conflict.

"During all of the time I was in Korea, I never had one drink," said Robert Koefoot, a Grand Island physician who was one of eight surgeons in the 807th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit. "I did not see one bottle of beer. There was no drinking, there was no hanky-panky. There was nothing but work."

Hawkeye wore. "I took the boots home with me and I look at them and I get touched. There's something that I'll

miss about that character. "When I finished shooting, I really was very churned up," he said. "That's

partly why it's been hard for me to find time to talk about it, because I really don't want to talk about it."

Alda said he won't get involved in another series, except perhaps as a creative consultant. In the works, for instance, is a series based on "The Four Seasons," the 1981 movie Alda wrote, starred in and directed.

Alda said he'll supervise the series about mid-life crises in the lives of four couples. He has more films to make, too. But for the time being, he said he feels completely fulfilled.

"I'm a very lucky man. I've got everything I want, everything I possibly could want. Now that I don't have to shoot 12 hours a day, I have time to really balance my life, to do the regular, mundane things people do," Alda said. "I love it. I'm very happy."

Taking things easy, however, has never come naturally to the self-examining Alda. In May of 1981, in the midst of a publicity blitz for the commercially successful "Four Seasons," he told an interviewer, "I guess I am still basically driven. I mean, two weeks ago I asked myself, 'Is this all there is to life...happiness?'"

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Eating it raw

The room is dark; reflections from neon lights gleam off the shiny surfaces of wooden tables. Underneath fishing nets draping the walls, the lunch crowds stream in off Midland's busy downtown streets, pull up stools and ask for several Longnecks to wash down their noon-time thirsts.

When the meal arrives, the ritual begins.

Surrounded by the steady sounds of conversation, streams of lemon juice are sprayed over the trays with a sweeping motion. The forks dig, some pause to dip into the red sauce, and then head for the mouth.

Whether for status or satisfaction, people continue to covet those slimy shellfish.

Oysters fried have a totally different stigma than the deliciously raw half-shells carefully arranged on an ice-filled tray.

In West Texas, where everything from calf fries, steak and chicken to packaged frozen shrimp from the supermarket is fried, the person who swallows the uncooked flesh of the mollusk and maintains a satisfied smile is one who commands respect.

It's not easy for some. Decisions must be made with a casual appearance: to lavishly dunk or sparingly sprinkle the red sauce; to stick with a spray of lemon juice; to eat it raw and bare.

Society, forgive the unknowing and unsophisticated soul who mistakenly sandwiches the slime between two saltines.

Once the pre-eating procedure is finished, another dilemma must be faced.

To chew or to slide. "I only chew 'em if they're real big," Ray Barela explained. The former New Mexican who grew up on a farm and on a diet of steak, potatoes and Mexican food, is one of the regulars at Leo's Oyster Bar on Wall Avenue.

Most of the people in Leo's are. Scrawled on a chalkboard above the busy counter are names of Midlanders who wolfed down record amounts of crawfish, oysters and beer. In one sitting, for example, five hungry regulars wolfed down 16 pounds of crawfish, seven dozen oysters, 20 beers and one

bowl of gumbo.

Another person alone popped eight dozen on the half shell during one meal.

Toby Palitti, manager and brother of owner Leo, holds the record for shellfish slides. He consumed a dozen — in 15 seconds.

"It's a good business to get into," the younger of the two brothers from Fort Worth said. In between the cracking of shells, barking of orders and pushing of trays across the bar, Palitti explained why his brother opened a haven for oyster adores.

"Midland didn't have an oyster bar," he said simply. "Besides, I like 'em myself. I just wolf 'em down."

Owner Palitti explained one of his favorite hangouts in Cow Town was an oyster bar. Midland needed one, he thought, therefore some 30 sacks, with about 145 oysters in them, are flown in from Biloxi, Miss., each week.

While his brother has been eating oysters "a long time, since college," the younger Palitti admitted he has only been eating them for a year.

"I thought they were gross," he said with a grin.

The first raw oyster is difficult to get down, or so say some who once shuddered at the sight but now crave the little creatures.

Barela, who was introduced to raw oysters while visiting a college roommate's family, said he only tried them "because it was either that or nothing. That's all they were serving."

"I didn't like the first one," he said. "But then I ate a second one and ended up eating about a dozen."

His luncheon companion, Alex Fernandez, grew up eating oysters in Cuba. "There is nothing to compare it to," he said between forks. "They're wonderful, wonderful."

The more adamant admirers praise the high protein and low calorie content. Of course, they also praise a more traditional trait of the oyster.

"I had heard about their mystical powers," the younger Palitti said, remembering his first oyster. "I had to check it out."

"Let's just say it increases your testosterone level," Barela said, adding, "or so the myth goes."



In preparing to eat oysters on the half-shell, above, some people require a generous sprinkling of lemon juice and red sauce for dunking. Ray Barela, left, slides one in at Leo's Oyster Bar on Wall Street. David C. Watkins III, left, and manager Toby Palitti crack shells and prepare trays, right photo, for Leo's Oyster Bar's large lunch crowds.



Text by Hallye Jordan

Photos by Paul Gilbert

Bottom falls out of Laredo market

Builders scrambling to recover



Moslems gather for evening prayer in an open field in Richardson. The field is the future site of a mosque, a visible symbol of immigration that has brought Islam to the Dallas area during the past decade. Thousands of Moslems have come to Texas, drawn by oil, real estate and universities.

Moslems coming to Texas bring religion with them

RICHARDSON (AP) — In Texas, where the West begins, hundreds of new residents are turning their eyes east — toward Mecca.

The Moslems, drawn to Texas by oil business, real estate investment and educational opportunity, have brought their Islamic religion with them.

The number of Moslems in the Lone Star State has swelled so rapidly that leaders have begun building an \$800,000 mosque with a 60-foot minaret here to accommodate worshippers.

"Since the oil business is related with Texas and the Middle East, people from Muslim countries come here more than anywhere else," said Mohammed Suleman, vice chairman of the Islamic Association of North Texas.

During nighttime traffic, more than two dozen Moslems met in an open field and knelt in prayer on colorful prayer rugs. They bowed their heads, chanted prayers in Arabic and observed the Friday sabbath by facing east toward Mecca, the Saudi Arabian city to which Moslems make pilgrimages.

The Moslems will pray at the field until their mosque is completed next fall. Most of the 180 members of the Richardson group are newcomers to Texas.

"I moved to Dallas one year ago because I had an opportunity with TI (Texas Instruments Inc.) to work for them," said Ghassam Farra, who came to the United States from Syria to study computer science in Los Angeles.

"You have more opportunities," said Suleman, an electrical engineer.

Suleman, like Farra, came here to attend school and then decided to bring his family from Pakistan.

"But it is definitely a factor that people like to stay here because of the freedom of expression as compared to our native lands," Suleman said.

No accurate count of how many Moslems live in the area is available. The National Council of Churches, which monitors church membership, does not survey the Islamic faith.

About 30 Moslem immigrants in Dallas and Fort Worth organized for religious activities nine years ago, Suleman said. Now, 1,500 to 2,000 people attend feasts held twice a year by Moslems from three meeting houses in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 Moslems now live in the area, said Y.A. Hamideh, the religious leader, or imam, of the Islamic Association of North Texas.

Hamideh said that includes 500 members of the Black Muslims, which has merged with the larger group. Moslems worship God, or Allah, and believe the 7th Century prophet Mohammed was God's messenger. The followers of the religion of Islam believe that Jesus was one of several prophets and that the Holy Koran, revealed to Mohammed, is the last revealed word of God.

Some followers of Islam do not accept or pay interest on loans, and follow strict dietary rules that prohibit the eating of pork and require them to eat "zabih" food, similar to kosher dishes.

And many Moslem women traditionally have covered their heads and worn loose clothing. "Normally in everyday life here in the United States, it is too difficult to maintain that kind of strictness," said Suleman.

But most Moslems arrive at a compromise between their strict beliefs and Western customs, he said. They continue the tradition of daily prayers and worship twice weekly with other Moslems.

The Moslem community has three worship centers in Houston, including a one-story office building that accommodates 600 people. Moslems are planning a mosque that will seat 5,000 people.

"From 1970 to 1980, there has been a very huge growth, and it is continuing because of the offerings that Houston has to provide — its medical facilities, its climate, which is not too severe, its growth and strong financial backing," said Muazam Kahn, administrator of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston.

LAREDO (AP) — The bubble finally burst. After nearly five years of dramatically escalating real estate prices, the bottom has all but dropped out of the Laredo market. Builders, developers and landlords are scrambling to recover.

The bust came to Laredo later than to the rest of the country, but when it came, it came with a vengeance.

During the late 1970s, while the building industry in the rest of the nation was reeling from the combined effect of rampant inflation and record high interest rates, the builders in Laredo were enjoying unparalleled prosperity.

Fueled by a seemingly bottomless supply of money from Mexican buyers eager to protect their financial resources by investing in border real estate, Laredo developers went on a building binge the likes of which this town had never seen before.

Condominium complexes sprang up all over town virtually overnight, and some developments were sold out before construction was finished. Any one with money to invest rushed to cash in on the boom.

WHEN THE end came, it came suddenly. With the stroke of a pen, the Mexican government curtailed the free exchange of currency, which stopped the flow of Mexican money at the source. The party was over.

Five months later, builders and developers are still trying to figure out the extent of the damage to the Laredo real estate market.

"Some of them panicked and made some bad decisions," Wright said. "Others tried to take advantage of the situation and did some things that were stupid."

Now, several well-known local developers are having trouble meeting their payrolls and are in serious trouble, he said.

Wright said the Laredo real estate market has yet to define itself, apart from the obvious factor that it is now a "buyers' market."

Wright said the condominium play has been hit the hardest, because the market was so thoroughly over-built.

Now, there are too many units in competition for too few local buyers, and condominium developers are feeling the pinch.

HE ESTIMATED the cost of condominiums has dropped by 15 to 20 percent since September, and predicted the prices will drop further. He said many condo developers have not yet come to grips with the reality of their outstanding notes at the banks.

"I don't know if they're willing to sell out at the market price right now. They're holding the line, renting the units just to get some sort of cash flow."

He noted that the lower-priced condos appear to be doing better than the high-cost units in the best sections of town, which are drastically under-sold. The truth of this observation can be borne out by a simple tour of the condo units.

CaVbridge Place condos, overlooking Del Mar boulevard, has less than half a dozen units occupied out of the 63 units in the complex; La Maison next door appears to be little more than half occupied.

Melvin Starnes, executive with Armadillo Construction which developed the 66-unit Mission Viejo condos, the 50-unit North Creek Townhomes, and the Hidden Meadows complex, said things are looking up.

He said the Mission Viejo units were nearly sold out by the time the crunch came, and were not affected, but the North Creek units had a significant number of prospective Mexican buyers walk away from them immediately after the devaluation.

"WE HAD a lot of fallout, but since then, we've been able to find replacement buyers," Starnes said. He said the condo complex is now about 70 percent sold.

Starnes disputed Wright's prediction that condo prices will decline still further. He said the cost of materials has begun to rise as the building industry recovers in the North, and he sees little, if any, erosion of current condo prices.

Single-family dwellings, the mainstay

of the American dream of home ownership, have seen the least reduction in prices, according to both Wright and Starnes. Both men said the market for less expensive single-family homes continues to be quite strong, particularly those houses selling for below \$80,000.

Wright estimated the cost of the typical single-family house decreased by less than 10 percent compared to a year ago.

Wright said that building costs have receded a little, and the builder's profit margin has been cut; a house that cost \$55 a square foot last year will cost about \$50 a square foot this year.

The high-priced houses in the best neighborhoods are subject to too many factors to form any trends, he said. Some sell quickly, while others do not, but in general the traffic in high-priced home has slowed.

A TOUR OF the prestigious Del Mar "C" section reveals fewer "spec homes" — those built by speculators hoping they will be sold later — and more "for sale by owner" signs.

If traffic in single-family dwellings has slowed, it is almost non-existent in commercial property, Wright said. He estimated the decrease in commercial property values at 35 percent, if willing buyers and willing sellers could be found and put together. But that is proving difficult to arrange.

"With commercial property, there are two factors at work," he said. "The first is the unrealistic value owners of commercial property place on their holdings. They continue to think in terms of the value of their property at its highest point, about a year ago. They don't realize that the earning potential of that property, and hence its value, has dropped. They still think it's worth that high price they were quoted a year ago."

The second factor is the lack of buyers. Wright said the current trend for retailers is to rent, rather than own, their store property, and that trend further decreases the number of potential buyers.

"What we're seeing is unwilling buyers and unwilling sellers," Wright

said. "The result is no sales of commercial property."

"We're seeing an awful lot of refinancing on a long-term basis" as commercial property owners try to lower their debt profile, he said. "Many short-term loans were taken out while rates were at 18 to 20 percent, and now that rates are around 14 percent, those loans are being refinanced."

THE BIGGEST single drop in real estate value, Wright said, has been in raw land. Land ready for development, either commercially or residentially, has decreased in value by about half, he said.

"Here again, the problem is that there are no buyers. Developers are having a tough time selling what they're already built, and they're not looking to expand and take on new debt. People are so cash-strapped, they aren't opening up any new projects."

Local developer B.P. Newman agreed with that assessment. He noted that some land with commercial potential, especially in North Laredo, is down only about 30 percent. But he agreed that 50 percent is a good across-the-board figure for raw land.

As a landlord of approximately 300 apartment units in the city, Newman has seen a ripple effect from the drop in real estate prices.

Newman said that as condo prices decrease, more people can afford to buy rather than rent, and that means vacancies in apartments.

"What you have to do is drop the rents until they're attractive enough to give you a good occupancy rate," he said.

NEWMAN SAID he has decreased the rent on some apartments, notably single bedroom units, by about 25 percent.

From his vantage point as a veteran Laredo real estate developer, Newman said of the building boom, "Maybe in some cases, too much money was being made on individual sales. I know some people might not like to hear that, but that's the way it is. Maybe some adjustments were in order."

"Anyway, this is a pretty severe way to do it."

Former Midlander appointed FDA director for Puerto Rico

Dr. Lynn Allen Campbell, a former Midlander and a 1948 graduate of Carver High School, has been appointed director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's San Juan (Puerto Rico) District, which takes in the Caribbean Islands. He succeeds Mary K. Ellis, who was named director of FDA's Chicago District.

Dr. Campbell is son of the Rev. L.C. Campbell, former pastor of Mount Rose Baptist Church, and the late Bertha Mae Campbell. He has two brothers in Midland — Roosevelt Campbell, an insurance executive, and the Rev. John F. Campbell, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Midland.

Campbell, 53, was the 1947 University Interscholastic League debate champion and lettered in the Midland Carver Hornets' football, track, baseball and basketball athletic programs.

Campbell joined the FDA in 1960 in St. Louis, Mo., and served in Chicago and New York before he was assigned to San Juan. His experience in the Caribbean date to 1972, when he came to Puerto Rico as FDA's laboratory director. From 1975 to 1977, he was analytical director of FDA's Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center and regular commuted to San Juan. He returned to the Caribbean in 1977 as a supervisory investigator and became

director of the FDA's science branch in 1981.

Campbell was born in Terrell, was in Midland's Carver High School four-member Class of '47, graduated with honors from Dillard University, where he received the bachelor's degree in chemistry, earned three master's degrees: one in chemistry from St. Louis University, another in business administration from Inter-American University in San Juan, and still another in administration and management from Bridgeport University in Connecticut. He received a doctorate (Ed.D.) from the University of Sarasota, Fla.

Campbell's wife, Dr. Joan Reed Campbell, is an elementary school teacher.

Caesar A. Roy, director of FDA's Region II, described Campbell as a man of "boundless dedication."

"Knowing Lynn Campbell's experience in solving public-health problems, his intimate knowledge of the needs of the Puerto Rican and Virgin Island communities and boundless dedication, I am sure that his tenure as district director will be most productive."

Another FDA administrator, Kenneth A. Silver, described Campbell as a "dynamic" person who has "some very impressive credentials."

DEATHS

Marvin Bkackwell

ANDREWS — Graveside services for Marvin "Dawson" Blackwell, 83, of Andrews were to be at 2 p.m. today in Andrews Cemetery with the Rev. Ted Short, pastor of McKinney Acres Baptist Church, officiating. Services are under the direction of Singleton Funeral Home in Andrews.

Accords followed

President Reagan stated on Jan. 22, 1981, that the United States would fully carry out the terms of the hostage accords.

Blackwell died Friday in an Andrews hospital.

He was born Aug. 12, 1899, in Henderson County. He was a resident of Andrews for 12 years. He also lived in Abilene for several years. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Survivors include a daughter, Margaret Bural of Andrews, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Downtown Lion's Club Pancake Jamboree to be held March 12

Billed as the year's largest community get-together, the Downtown Lions Club's 27th annual Pancake Jamboree is scheduled March 12 in Dellwood Mall.

George Loudamy, general chairman, predicts the 1983 event will break all previous attendance records. Advance sale of tickets already has exceeded the \$15,000 mark. About 8,500 persons were served last year.

Keith Somerville, ticket sale chairman, said tickets are being sold in advance by more than 300 Lions members.

The jamboree is an all-day event. The first pancakes will come off the griddle at 7 a.m., with the flip 'em, flop 'em and serve 'em continuing until 8 p.m.

Special entertainment will be presented throughout the day, starting at 8 a.m., under the direction of Duke Jimerson and William Sherman. Some of the community's most popular entertainers will be performing for the added enjoyment of the thousands of men, women and children who will be feasting on pancakes and all the trimmings

morning, afternoon and evening.

Chairmen of the other Jamboree committees include Lloyd Jobe and Morris Hulsey, acquisition; Roy Darden, cooking; Kenzel May, equipment; Floyd Heard, service; Frank Marlow, Tom Sawyer and Bill Collins, publicity; and Ed Brannon and Jim Cabe, afterglow (clean-up).

All chores in connection with the arranging, staging and follow-up will be done by club members, according to Bill Malone, the jamboree's co-chairman.

Jack Darden, president of the Downtown Lions Club, which is the largest in Texas, explained that all proceeds from the annual festival are used in funding the club's many and varied activities, ranging from sight conservation to youth welfare to helping handicapped children, the elderly, the hearing impaired and other projects. The club's activities budget this year totals \$25,000.

Supplies for the community-wide event are on order and arrangements almost complete for the county fair-type celebration to which the public is invited.

Midland Archeological Society to meet

The Midland Archaeological Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Planetarium located in Haley Park.

The program will be "The 'No-Collection' Archaeological Survey — Purposes and Procedures" presented by Dr. Michael B. Collins, acting director

of the Museum of the Southwest. The Society is planning a 370-acre survey in Howard County for the Parks and

Wildlife Department and the program is part of the preparation for participation in the survey.

The meeting is open to the public.

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