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FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

URGENT

Beirut Hijacking -- State radio in Lebanon has for the first time identified the alleged hijackers of TWA Flight 847. The radio identified the hijackers as Shiite Moslems Ali Atwi, Ali Younis and Ahmed Gharbien. It said the government had authorized the Mount Lebanon judicial authorities, responsible for Beirut International Airport, to prosecute the sky pirates. The radio gave no further details. (AP, 5:10)

NATIONAL NEWS

GOP Senators Angry Over Reagan Social Security Switch -- Republican senators who voted to curb Social Security are harshly criticizing President Reagan's about-face on the issue and one even suggested that Reagan should "keep his mouth shut."

(UPI, AP, Washington Post)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Mulls Reprisal for Terrorism -- A discussion is under way in the Reagan Administration on reprisals against international terrorism, and informed officials said the President believes military force should be a component of that response. (Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Thursday Evening)

TERRORISM -- Vice President Bush said the United States must be as surgical as possible in striking back at terrorists.

Another American has been arrested by the FBI and charged with spying. On this occasion, a long-time employee of the CIA has been charged with giving secrets to the government of Ghana.

Deficit Megatonnage

With David Stockman's resignation, New York Sen. Pat Moynihan felt free yesterday to disclose what he called Mr. Stockman's expressed plan to create a "strategic deficit." The idea, as it was related to him, said Sen. Moynihan, was to create an "argument for cutting back programs that really weren't desired and giving you an argument against establishing new programs you really didn't want." To which Mr. Stockman replied: "I'll only say that I have a reputation for candor, and Pat has a talent for embellishment." And all we can say is that somewhere in those two statements, one can detect the faint ring of truth.

JULY 11

WALL STREET JOURNAL

NATIONAL NEWS

SENATE GOP IRKED BY REAGAN'S SHIFT ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Senate Republicans, steaming over President Reagan's about face on freezing Social Security benefits, complained that he had abandoned a major weapon in the fight against soaring budget deficits without demanding anything in return.

The criticism was especially strong from many of the 22 Republicans who are up for reelection next year and fear that Democrats will exploit their support for a Social Security freeze, especially now that Reagan had abandoned their cause. (Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan's Social Security Switch Angers Some Senate Republicans

Following a private meeting of GOP senators facing reelection next year, some lawmakers openly expressed their unhappiness with the President for backing away from the Social Security provision that was the cornerstone of a hard-fought Senate budget package.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

GOP Senators Angry Over Reagan Social Security Switch

Senate Republican Leader Dole indicated a solid (budget) agreement may be in jeopardy because of outrage among GOP senators. A Republican aide put the chances of getting a budget agreement this month at 50-50.

(Elaine Povich, UPI)

PACKWOOD RETRACTS THREAT

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Packwood retracted a threat he made just the day before to try to kill President Reagan's tax plan if timber tax breaks aren't preserved.

The Oregon senator -- who is up for reelection next year -- said his promise was an "overstatement." (Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A9)

Packwood Backs Down on Tax Reform Threat

Packwood said in a statement he would "continue to oppose the provisions to change the tax treatment for the timber industry but will not oppose the bill in its entirety on the basis of those provisions alone."

(Joseph Mianowany, UPI)

FOOD, FUEL INCREASES MAY NUDGE WHOLESALE PRICES HIGHER

Weather-spawned increases in food prices and government-inspired rises in gasoline costs are acting in tandem to sour the wholesale inflation rate.

The Labor Department was releasing its June Produce Price Index today, with one analyst expecting the largest jump in more than a year. (Jerry Estill, AP)

BALANCED BUDGET BILLS MOVE TO SENATE FLOOR

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved two constitutional amendments requiring balanced federal budgets.

The two versions of the measure, which now move to the Senate floor where they will probably be combined, were adopted after 18 months of debate. (Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

REAGAN'S TAX-OVERHAUL PLAN FACES CRITICISM FROM UPSCALE, POLITICALLY ACTIVE MIDDLE CLASS

From the moment of its unveiling, President Reagan's tax plan has come under fire on Capitol Hill for failing to do enough for "middle-income" Americans.

That's been a shock to Reagan Administration strategists who fashioned the plan. They were counting on a surge of middle-class support to carry their proposal through Congress.

(Alan Murray, Wall Street Journal, A50)

WINDFALL TAX PROPOSAL MAY BE ALTERED; NEW ESTIMATES MIGHT BOLSTER OVERHAUL

The Treasury is considering changing its controversial "windfall tax" proposal to ease the burden on some corporations, a top official said.

And on Capitol Hill, nonpartisan tax experts, reestimating President Reagan's tax-overhaul plan, have found that the proposed repeal of the state and local tax deductions would raise billions of dollars more in revenue than the Treasury has said. The finding, which is still preliminary, could provide a boost to the tax plan, which critics say might raise far less revenue than the White House has claimed.

(Alan Murray and Jeffrey Birnbaum, Wall Street Journal, A50)

PHYSICISTS LAUNCH MISSIVE AT STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE

In a move intended to start a wave of scientific opposition to the Strategic Defense Initiative, most physicists at the University of Illinois have signed a statement branding the proposed antimissile system "technically dubious" and refusing to accept the funding from the Pentagon's SDI organization. (Boyce Rensberger, Washington Post, A3)

DEFENSE WON'T DUMP 'FLYING CAN'

The Defense Department denied a report that an Air Force anti-satellite weapon being developed for firing from the F-15 fighter aircraft was in danger of being canceled as obsolete.

"We are going ahead with the program. There is no intention to scrap it," said Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman.

(Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A5)

BLOCK INSISTS HE WANTS TO STAY AS AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

Agriculture Secretary Block says loud and clear that he likes his \$86,200-a-year job and plans to continue doing it -- despite persistent rumors that he soon will leave.

Block was asked at a meeting of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters whether he might join others in the Reagan Administration, including some of his own senior aides, who have recently returned to private lives. (Don Kendall, AP)

REAGAN ON PRESURGERY DIET

President Reagan followed a special diet to prepare for removal today of a second noncancerous polyp from his colon and an examination of his large intestine to check for other growths.

(Washington Post, A4)

Reagan to Undergo Polyp Removal

(President) Reagan, arranged to fly by helicopter to the hospital, a 15-minute hop from the White House, shortly after noon and was to stay overnight in the \$452-a-day presidential suite.

Saturday, he plans to fly to Camp David with his wife, Nancy, in time to deliver his weekly radio address shortly after noon.

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

President's Polyp Removal Is Routine, Precautionary

Reagan will be sedated and given painkillers for the procedure.

Although some patients become extremely groggy under sedation, the President will remain conscious and Administration officials do not anticipate the need for a temporary transfer of power to the Vice President. (Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A2)

Reagan's Surgery Today Regarded as Uncomfortable, But Low-Risk

Although the surgery and preparations for it are regarded as unpleasant, specialists in treating intestinal disorders say there is less than one chance in 100 that the President will have any lasting problems as a result. (Michael Putzel, AP)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Army to Seek Mortgage to Build Base," a story by George Wilson which explains that the Army plans to obtain a \$400 million mortgage to build a base for its new light-infantry division at Fort Drum, N.Y., appears on page A1 of The Washington Post.

"House reaffirms stand on death for military spies in 320-101 vote" is on page A1 of The Washington Times.

"Social Secretary Selected," Donnie Radcliffe's story on the appointment of Linda Faulkner, is on page D1 of the "Style" section of The Washington Post.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. MULLS REPRISAL FOR TERRORISM

A wide-ranging discussion is under way in the Reagan Administration on the risks, benefits and timing of reprisal against international terrorism, and informed officials said that the President now believes military force should be a component of the response.

These officials said that many options are being considered, including the bombing of terrorist training sites.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. SHIFTS PRESSURE ON BEIRUT AIRPORT

The Reagan Administration backed away from its campaign to close Beirut International Airport, shifting its efforts to negotiating improvements in airport security with the Lebanese government.

Larry Speakes said the Administration has discussed specific steps with the Lebanese government, including a ban on all militias at the airport, a ban on all weapons and an "effective" security force to maintain control there.

(David Ottaway, Washington Post, A28)

BUSH-TERRORISM

Vice President Bush said the United States must be "as surgical as possible" in striking back at terrorists and is reluctant to take any actions that might threaten the safety of innocent people.

Bush announced the appointment of retired Adm. James Holloway as executive director of a task force charged with examining how the United States can combat terrorism.

(Terence Hunt, AP)

Admiral to Direct Terror Task Force

"The goal of this task force is to be certain that we are using every means at our disposal to combat this modern scourge," (the Vice President) said in a speech to the National Press Club.

(Charles Wheeler, Washington Times, A4)

ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS SPLIT OVER PUBLICIZING DANGEROUS FOREIGN AIRPORTS

Since the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 the government has stepped up its search for security gaps at foreign airports, but the Reagan Administration and Congress are at sharp odds over whether the findings should be revealed to travelers.

(H. Josef Hebert, AP)

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HARDER-LINE FOREIGN AID BILL APPROVED

The Democratic-led House approved a \$12.6 billion foreign-aid bill by voice vote, after Republicans pushed through a number of amendments designed to toughen U.S. posture toward leftist governments around the world.
(Margaret Shapiro, Washington Post, A1)

House Has Something for All in Approving Foreign Aid Bill

With anti-apartheid amendments to soothe the left, anti-communist amendments to stroke the right and a spending freeze to set the tone, the House passed the foreign aid authorization bill for 1986 and 1987 by voice vote.
(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A3)

House Clears Way for First Foreign Aid Bill Sent Reagan Since 1981

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Fascell, who guided the bill to passage through three days of debate, said the final product represented such a consensus that a roll-call vote was unnecessary.
(Alexander Higgins, AP)

Foreign Aid Bill Opposing Leftists Is Voted in House

Vin Weber, a Minnesota Republican, summed up the mood by saying, "Members of Congress don't want to look weak right now."
(Steven Roberts, New York Times, A1)

SOUTH AFRICA SANCTIONS GAIN IN SENATE

The Senate moved toward passage of economic sanctions against South Africa as a protest against the white government's apartheid policy of racial separation.

The package under consideration reflected growing criticism nationwide that President Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa has left the United States increasingly isolated as Pretoria's chief ally and political defender.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A10)

The Senate, anxious to condemn the "evil of apartheid," voted 80-12 to slap limited sanctions on racially segregated South Africa.

The lop-sided vote marked the first time the Republican-controlled Senate has recommended such action against the government in Pretoria.
(David Espo, AP)

Anti-Apartheid Bill Gets Senate Approval, 80-12

Conservatives were overwhelmingly voted down when they tried to amend the bill to apply the sanctions against all governments that violate human rights. But the Senate voted 90-2 not to amend the measure to make its sanctions as strong as those in the House bill.

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A2)

Senate Approves South Africa Sanctions

All 12 votes against the sanctions were cast by Republicans.
(E. Michael Myers, UPI)

Senate Approves Sanctions Against South Africa

The Senate bill would ban new bank loans to the government; the sale of computers to agencies, like the police, that enforce apartheid, and the sale of goods used in nuclear production.

(Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A1)

SHULTZ SAID TO CHANGE STANCE ON PROPOSED CAMBODIAN PEACE TALKS

KUALA LUMPUR -- Secretary Shultz, in a notable shift of view, expressed general backing for indirect talks on Cambodia as proposed by the noncommunist nations of Southeast Asia.

Shultz's remarks in a closed meeting, as reported by a senior aide, fell short of a definitive U.S. endorsement of the negotiating initiative. But Shultz's comments appeared far more sympathetic, and much less critical, than statements he made on the subject less than a week ago.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A32)

Shultz Changes His Mind on Southeast Asian Peace Plan

Shultz told a meeting of foreign ministers from ASEAN he accepted their explanation that the plan would not imply recognition of the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin administration in Phnom Penh.

(Francis Daniel, Reuter)

Shultz Backs Talks Between Cambodia Foes

Shultz also linked drug trafficking and international terrorism, urged free trade and received a blunt reaffirmation of New Zealand's non-nuclear policy in the first day of a foreign ministers conference between members of ASEAN and other likeminded states.

(Washington Times, A7)

SHULTZ PLEDGES U.S. COMMITMENT TO ASIAN SECURITY

KUALA LUMPUR -- Secretary Shultz pledged continued U.S. commitment to security in Asia and stressed the importance of its bases in the Philippines.

"We want all our friends to know that we are committed and engaged in Asia, helping our friends assure their security," he told U.S. allies grouped in ASEAN.

(Reuter)

U.S. WILLING TO OPEN FULL-TIME MIA OFFICE IN VIETNAM

KUALA LUMPUR -- Secretary Shultz said Washington was prepared to open a full-time office in Vietnam to help settle the question of Americans missing in action from the Vietnam war.

"We are prepared to send our technical people to Vietnam on a full-time basis if the Vietnamese are prepared to agree to a work program that would warrant such a step," Shultz told Pacific allies.

(Reuter)

HOUSE DEMOCRATS JUSTIFY AID TO CAMBODIA GUERRILLAS

Two congressmen who led the House effort approving \$5 million in aid for the anti-communist resistance in Cambodia, yet opposed similar funding for anti-Marxist Nicaraguans, denied any inconsistency in their voting record.

Reps. Solarz and Torricelli support aid for the resistance forces in Cambodia and Afghanistan because those groups are fighting against the military occupation of their country by foreigners, spokesmen for the two Democratic congressmen said. (Bill Outlaw, Washington Times, A1)

SHULTZ SAYS TOUGH DECISIONS WILL BRING WORLD PROSPERITY

KUALA LUMPUR -- Secretary Shultz said the world would be poised for unprecedented prosperity if governments made painful decisions.

"We stand at the threshold of what can be -- if all governments meet their responsibilities -- a long period of global economic expansion and a new era of unprecedented prosperity," Shultz told Southeast Asian allies.

(Michael Battye, Reuter)

U.S. RUSHING MISSILES TO PAKISTAN; CITES AIR RAIDS FROM AFGHANISTAN

The United States said that it was rushing to Pakistan 100 portable antiaircraft missile to help it defend against increasing air incursions from Afghanistan flown by either Soviet or Afghan pilots.

The decision to send the portable missiles was made even though many in Congress are wary about the sale of such weapons abroad. Designed to be fired by a person cradling the launcher on one shoulder, the Stinger (missiles) are regarded as ideal weapons for terrorists seeking to down airliners.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS ACCUSE NICARAGUA OF PROVOCATION

LA PAZ -- The leaders of El Salvador and Honduras accused Nicaragua of causing conflict in Central America by provoking armed clashes on its borders.

Honduras also charged Nicaragua with shelling border towns in what it called new and unjustified aggression. (Gustavo Palencia, Reuter)

HONDURAN OPPOSES SITES FOR CONTRAS

TEGUCIGALPA -- The early front-runner in (Honduras') presidential campaign says that he would seek to prevent Nicaraguan anti-government guerrillas from maintaining a presence inside Honduras if he is elected.

Jose Azcona, a former minister of communications, public works and transportation, held large leads in opinion polls conducted in June and April.
(Richard McCartney, Washington Post, A27)

CHINESE LEADER ASSAILS CONGRESSIONAL VOTES

PEKING -- Chinese President Li, departing for Canada and the United States, expressed hope for strengthened U.S.-China relations but also touched on what appears to be a new element of friction by condemning the U.S. Congress for accusing China of using forced abortions and sterilizations in its family planning program.

During a brief press conference before he departed on the 20-day-trip, Li also reiterated Peking's official stance that the issue of Taiwan remains the "largest obstacle in U.S.-China relations."
(Daniel Southerland, Washington Post, A27)

MOI INTERVENES TO PREVENT EVICTIONS

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Kenyan President Moi intervened personally to rescind eviction orders for women's conference delegates who vowed that Kenyan troops would have to carry them from their first-class hotel rooms.

Some 300 of the 10,000 women attending the Forum 85 Conference -- a private meeting held as a prelude to a U.N. conference on women -- had been ordered to leave their hotels by today to make way for delegates to the U.N. conclave.
(Charles Mitchell, UPI)

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Thursday Evening, July 11, 1985)

TERRORISM

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The Reagan Administration, which has been long on talk and short on action when it comes to international terrorism, had more to say about the subject today, but still no specific plan to deal with it. Vice President Bush said the United States must be as surgical as possible in striking back at terrorists, adding, We would be reluctant to take action that would wipe out innocent people. But Bush acknowledged that a lot of people are saying, Let's do something. And what Bush did today was appoint Ret. Adm. James Holloway, the former Chief of Naval Operations, as chairman of a new Task Force on Terrorism. At the same time, the Administration is studying the possibility of reactivating one of the most controversial methods of dealing with terrorists: Assassination. That would be a sharp change in current policy.

NBC's Fred Francis reports that since 1975, by Executive order, three Presidents have made the following the law of the land: "No person employed by, or acting on behalf of, the United States government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination." According to officials at the Pentagon, the State Department and the White House, that Executive order, that policy, is under serious review. Put simply, the President will be presented with all options, including assassination, to deal with identified terrorists. Assassination was once a policy option, and it may be again....That's the way it used to be until the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence exposed CIA schemes ten years ago, effectively ending covert killing as a tool of foreign policy. The Committee hearings exposed much more than the weapons used by CIA hit teams. They were a national expression of disdain from a kind of policy which led to Vietnam. They were an expression of the suspicion of government, brought on by Watergate. But the national mood is changing, now that Americans are the targets of terrorists in Beirut and around the world. U.S. intelligence says one of those terrorists has been identified as Muhammed Hussein Fadlallah. Intelligence reports that this leader of Lebanon's radical Shiites was the man most responsible for the car bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut, the truck bombing of the Marine headquarters there, and the hijacking of TWA 847. The issue under review, to quote one source, is: Do we kill men like Fadlallah, and the leader who takes his place, and the one after that? Former CIA Director Richard Helms doesn't think the country is ready for a policy of revenge. But proponents of assassination say that world-wide terrorism today, which has its roots in the Middle East, cries out for a new policy. One suggestion being discussed is to permit military commando teams to carry out the executions, instead of the CIA. In the sixties, the Defense Department did not have well-trained commando units. It does today. After a lengthy review process, which will include the congressional intelligence committees, the President will then decide whether men like these will be used to mete out justice to terrorists. (NBC-lead)

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SPY RING

CBS's Dan Rather: What could be another damaging U.S. spy ring case unfolding tonight -- the compromising of CIA secrets, even the names of CIA agents, to a Marxist government in West Africa. Under arrest -- a CIA employee and her lover from Ghana.

CBS's Rita Braver reports the government says that 29-year-old Sharon Scranage, a CIA clerk, is a traitor, accused of passing CIA secrets to the radical Marxist of Ghana, where she was stationed beginning in 1983. Justice Department officials say she jeopardized lives of people whose names she received -- CIA personnel in Ghana, as well as Ghanaian nationals working as CIA informants. She returned to this country last May and was arrested yesterday. The alleged motive: Romance. Her purported contact and lover, who followed her back to this country, was arrested last night. He is a relative of Ghana's leader, who has publicly complained in the past about CIA infiltration of his country. Meanwhile, the government is still assessing how much damage has been done. There's concern about Ghanaian nationals who've helped the United States, and some CIA personnel have been pulled out of Ghana because their identities were revealed.
(CBS-lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: Another American has been arrested by the FBI and charged with spying. On this occasion, a long-time employee of the CIA has been charged with giving secrets to the government of Ghana. Her contact allegedly is the Ghanaian leader's nephew.

ABC's Jeanne Meserve reports that for a year-and-a-half, while Scranage was a clerk in the CIA's station office in Ghana, she allegedly passed information to her lover, a Ghanaian national. According to court documents, Scranage has admitted to the FBI that she revealed the names of all the CIA employees in her office, including the identity of the Chief of Station; the identities of confidential CIA sources; information from classified cables; and what the CIA knew about military equipment a Ghanaian group had requested from Libya. The Assistant U.S. Attorney said it was too early to assess just how much damage had been done to the CIA. Ghanaian intelligence officers are given training by countries in the Communist Eastern Bloc, but State Department officials say it's too early to tell if any of the leaked information made its way back to them.
(ABC-3)

Brokaw: The United States has another spy case on its hands tonight -- this one, a Ghana connection.

NBC's Robert Hager reports that the FBI says Scranage knew the information was being given to the Ghanaian government. The end came when Scranage was reassigned into the U.S., and her lover asked for material from CIA headquarters here. The FBI got wind of what was going on, confronted Scranage and laid a trap for her lover. While the case may be embarrassing to the Agency, it may not be as damaging as other recent spy cases, according to the Senate Intelligence Committee's Patrick Leahy. But some feel that as the CIA tightens up on its own security, still more spy cases may be revealed.
(NBC-2)

DEFENSE CONTRACTORS

Jennings: We begin this evening with something that has become a recurring theme: defense contractors charging the government outrageous prices for ordinary products. The investigation into such practices got quite a lot of attention last month when it was discovered that aircraft ashtrays could cost more than \$600. That was not the end of it, by any means.

ABC's Dennis Troute reports on Miramar Naval Air Station, in Southern California, with 248 aircraft -- congressional critics argue, from new studies, that it's the center for alleged contractor price-gouging, which the Navy has failed to deal with. Congressional investigators now believe that up to 50% of the spare parts recently surveyed at Miramar -- virtually all bought from the Grumman Corp. -- were inflated. Among the items cited: Seat cushions at \$529. Socket wrenches, which had sold for \$50, at \$288. Indicator lights, once priced at \$116, for more than \$1,000. The Navy says the problem now is solved, because Miramar no longer has the authority to buy spare parts. But another problem surfaced today -- the Kitty Hawk. A Navy auditor, who served on the aircraft carrier, has given documents to Congress indicating serious irregularities in its supply system, perhaps criminal wrong-doing. The basic charge: that up to \$1M of Navy gear may have been stolen from the ship, and the theft covered up. Naval authorities are talking to the informant and investigating his charge to see whether it's unfounded or yet another scandal, another self-inflicted wound for the U.S. military.

(ABC-lead)

DEFECTOR

Jennings: Administration officials have confirmed to ABC News that the number two man in the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Washington has defected to the United States. The officials won't elaborate on why he defected, but he has been in intensive debriefings by the FBI for the past two months.

(ABC-2, NBC-4)

DEATH PENALTY

Rather: The House voted overwhelmingly today to reaffirm its support for the death penalty for military personnel convicted of espionage in peacetime.

(CBS-2, NBC-3)

NUCLEAR BOMB TRIGGERS

Jennings reports it appears that Pakistan has taken another step toward being able to produce its own nuclear bomb. It has long been reported that Pakistan has been trying to build nuclear weapons at a top-secret complex near Islamabad. Pakistan's president denies it, but intelligence sources tell ABC's John Scali that Pakistan has now acquired special American-made triggers for nuclear bombs and successfully tested them last month. Though the experts say Pakistan won't be able to produce a bomb for at least the next two years, they are still alarmed and uncertain as to how Pakistan got the triggers.

(ABC-4)

GOP ANGER

Brokaw: President Reagan was bitterly criticized on Capitol Hill today by members of his own party. They were angry over the President's about-face on Social Security.

NBC's John Dancy: The Class of '86 -- 22 Republican Senators up for reelection next year. Most held an angry meeting with White House aides this afternoon. Their message: President Reagan pulled the rug out from under Republicans who must run next year, by now siding with Democrats and agreeing not to freeze Social Security COLAs. Two months ago, President Reagan was delighted with the package, including the freeze on COLAs.
(President: "This was a courageous and a politically difficult action, but I'm convinced that this was the only serious deficit-reduction package that could pass the Senate.")
But today, Larry Speakes was saying the President was "reluctant always to do anything to Social Security." Some Republican freshmen, up for reelection, were angry.
(Sen. Rudman: "I think we feel a little like kamikaze pilots who are asked to perform a difficult mission which we might not come back from, but didn't accomplish anything."
Sen. Gorton: "I think those deficits are the number one issue facing the country. I think we're not damaged in attempting to deal with them. And I don't like it.")
Many Republican Senators are now highly skeptical that there will be any major deficit-reduction this year. They would have to find an additional \$8B in savings to make up for leaving COLAs alone. Beyond that, some freshman Republicans think that the President's turn-around may jeopardize the slim majority by which the Republicans now control the Senate. They can already see the Democratic TV ads saying: Why did your Senator vote to cut your Social Security?
(NBC-13)

STOCKMAN

NBC's John Chancellor's commentary was about David Stockman's tenure in the OMB. He said for the last 4½ years, the budget of the United States has been mismanaged by the Administration and the Congress. The record is appalling -- the biggest deficits in history, the worst trade balance ever with the rest of the world. The strength of the dollar costing millions of American jobs. America now a debtor nation. That is not all David Stockman's fault, but he's been close to the center of things during more than four years of disastrous decline. As he heads for the private sector, there is one thing to keep in mind: If the U.S. government had been a profit and loss enterprise for the past 4½ years, it would have gone out of business because of mismanagement. Let us praise David Stockman for occasionally telling the truth, but let's also remember what happened while he was on duty.
(NBC-14)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

TERRORISM

Anti-Terrorism -- "The best defenses against terrorists have always been the least flamboyant: better security and intelligence, persistent pressure on other nations to deny sanctuary to the pirates. President Reagan's audience of lawyers in Washington surely got a bigger kick out of hearing that this country will no longer tolerate the work of governments run by 'misfits, Looney Tunes and squalid criminals.' The only problem is that bombast may provide a kind of catharsis for the frustrated Americans who hear it, but it doesn't much advance the real and more prosaic efforts to deal with terrorism." (Detroit Free Press, 7/10)

Careless Talk About Retaliation -- "Careless talk of punishment or revenge is also cruel to the families of terrorists' victims; it leads them to hope for something that probably won't happen, prolonging their pain. And it also erodes the authority of other presidential promises, tending to demean the presidency itself." (Milwaukee Journal, 7/5)

Now is the Time for Retaliation, Not Rhetoric -- "A clear statement of American policy against terrorism has been absent from the Administration's rhetoric. The statement need go no farther than a flat declaration that further acts of terrorism will be followed by military, economic or diplomatic measures against the countries or organizations concerned." (Drew Middleton, Army Times, 7/5)

Our Paper-Tiger President -- "(Reagan) would rather threaten retaliation against terrorists than take concrete actions to punish those who kill Americans. So far, Reagan's rhetoric has convinced people that he is a man with the strength of his own convictions. But as time goes on, more than the conservative ideologues will begin to suggest that he is something of a paper tiger." (David Broder, Chicago Tribune, 7/11)

DAVID STOCKMAN

The End of David Stockman -- "For all his well-cultivated image as rumbustious truth-teller, Mr. Stockman participated in a larger ignobility: seeming to serve a president whose ideas, indeed whose mandate, he ridiculed in stage whispers. And he did so with funny figures and pitifully premised projections. Some truth. Some teller. A J. Peter Grace, the best of all possible successors, he was not." (Washington Times, 7/11)

Stockman's Candor: "Stockman has left a mark on Washington that few economic officials have been able to duplicate. His choice of words was often unfortunate. He sometimes gave the impression of being callous about the concerns of the less advantaged. He could be stubborn and petulant. But for all that, he brought to Washington a comprehensive sense of the nation's fiscal concerns -- and a sense of urgency that action has to be taken to reduce the deficits to protect the nation's economic well-being. Mr. Stockman will be missed." (Christian Science Monitor, 7/11)