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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan 'Chompin at the Bit' -- The outpouring of messages and flowers from well-wishers helped to keep President Reagan optimistic and enthusiastic despite the discovery of cancer in his colon, a White House spokesman says. (UPI, Washington Post, New York Times)

Fed Gently Weans Economy -- The Federal Reserve is taking the economy off its rich diet of fresh money -- as gently as possible -- hoping the economy can continue to expand despite problems with imports, Chairman Paul Volcker says. (UPI, AP, Washington Post)

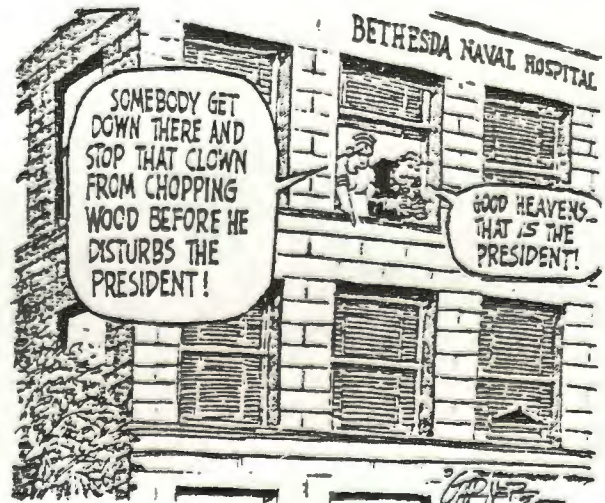
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pentagon Demands Explanation from Soviets for Latest Violence -- The United States is demanding an explanation from the Soviet Union after a Soviet military truck rammed into the back of a car carrying U.S. soldiers in East Germany. (AP, Washington Post, Washington Times)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

PRESIDENT REAGAN -- The news from Bethesda continued to be upbeat, but officials said the President will start his August vacation earlier than planned and will not return to a full schedule of work until Labor Day. (All Nets Lead)

BUDGET -- There has been a lot of maneuvering over the budget among political factions, but there's little constructive movement.



NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN RECOVERY CALLED 'VIRTUALLY TROUBLE-FREE'

President Reagan is making a "virtually trouble-free" recovery from surgery to remove a cancerous tumor in his colon and "is beginning to question some of the restrictions that are on him at the moment" at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Larry Speakes said.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

Reagan 'Chomping At the Bit'; Eager to Get Back to Business

"The President isn't one to dwell on anything of that type," said Larry Speakes. "The President has a very optimistic and enthusiastic outlook."

(Helen Thomas, UPI)

Reagan 'Champing at Bit' to Resume Work

Speakes said that despite "a little discomfort," as a result of the surgery Mr. Reagan underwent Saturday, the President "continues to recover very well." The discomfort occurs when Reagan "gets up in bed or rises to get in a chair," he said.

(Bernard Weinraub, New York Times, A1)

COMPLETE COLON EXAM NOT DISCUSSED DURING CAMPAIGN YEAR, AIDES SAY

The question of interrupting President Reagan's schedule during the 1984 campaign year to perform a more complete examination of his colon -- something many doctors outside the White House say should have been done then -- never came up for discussion, White House officials said.

(Boyce Rensberger, Washington Post, A1)

OPERATION SHOULDN'T EVEN KEEP REAGAN FROM HORSEBACK RIDING

President Reagan's cancer should have practically no long-term effect on the way he functions as need of state or even on his favorite hobby, horseback riding.

The 74-year-old President's doctors and other experts in the field agree that unless Reagan has a recurrence of his disease, which they say is possible but not likely, the worst residual effect of his surgery will be the nuisance of frequent medical tests to check for signs of cancer spread.

(Michael Putzel, AP)

Reagan's Medical Future

Although Reagan's doctors spoke with guarded optimism at a news conference about his chances for cure, there were clues in their words that signaled concern that the cancer might have been caught too late to prevent spread elsewhere.

Dr. Rosenberg, when asked directly, did acknowledge that he could not be sure that Reagan's cancer had not already begun to spread.

"There is a possibility that the cancer can return," Dr. Rosenberg said.

(Medical analysis by Lawrence Altman, New York Times, A1)

BUSH CREDITS REGAN WITH GOOD JOB AT WHITE HOUSE

Vice President Bush said Chief of Staff Regan is doing "a darn good job" of running the White House while the President continues his strong recovery from surgery.

Besides Mrs. Reagan and hospital personnel, the most frequent visitor to the President's suite at Bethesda Naval Hospital has been Regan.

(Mary Belcher and Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

BUSH SAYS IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL; REAGAN CHOMPING AT THE BIT

Vice President Bush says it's "business as usual" at the White House as President Reagan, reportedly anxious to be "up and at 'em," regains strength after cancer surgery and enjoys get-well wishes from friend and foe alike.

The Vice President, along with Reagan's wife, Nancy, and White House Chief of Staff Regan, are playing key roles in the drama of Reagan's recovery from an intestinal operation Saturday that doctors believe removed all cancer from his body but left him subject to possible recurrence.

(W. Dale Nelson, AP)

TEAMWORK AT THE WHITE HOUSE

President Reagan, like Dwight Eisenhower, should be able to govern effectively despite the challenge of physical illness, political scholars say.

Americans appeared to take the news about their President calmly. The stock market barely fluttered at the report that Reagan was battling cancer. Bonds were steady. Gold was almost unchanged.

Political experts, drawing on history and their knowledge of Reagan, played down talk about a crisis.

(John Dillin, Christian Science Monitor, 1)

BUSH, AFTER BRIEF LEADING ROLE, SLIPS BACK INTO LOW-PROFILE ROLE

After eight hours as Acting President last Saturday, George Bush has quickly slipped back into the relative obscurity of the Vice Presidency.

As President Reagan continued his recovery from cancer surgery, Bush resumed his characteristic low profile in a job that has few defined duties other than presiding over the Senate.

(Phil Gailey, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN PRAISES NANCY FOR CARRYING ON

First Lady Nancy Reagan, who has seen pain and personal anguish since moving into the White House, is carrying on in the spirit of what her husband calls "a real trouper" following his surgery for cancer.

"The President told her he wants her to follow all of the events she had scheduled," said Jennifer Hirshberg. "She's doing it for him."

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

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FIRST LADY, TIRED BUT DETERMINED, TOURING AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN ATLANTIC

Nancy Reagan, determined not to let her husband's illness seriously disrupt her schedule, was touring an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic today as part of her anti-drug campaign.

Although Mrs. Reagan was drained by the President's ordeal, her spokeswoman, Jennifer Hirshberg, said the First Lady was carrying out her obligations "because he wants her to." (Joan Mower, AP)

SENATE SENDS GET-WELL CARD TO REAGAN

The Senate has sent President Reagan a legislative get-well card titled "Back in the Saddle Again."

The message, sent Tuesday, took the form of a formal Senate resolution and was passed by voice vote with no dissent. (AP)

FED RAISES MONEY SUPPLY TARGET FOR '85

The Federal Reserve, worried that economic growth may not pick up as the Reagan Administration expects, has boosted its money supply target for this year to keep the two-and-a-half year old expansion alive.

In a mid-year report to Congress made public, the central bank said the higher money target would be consistent with "somewhat more rapid economic growth than characterized the first half of the year, as long as inflationary pressures remain contained."

(John Berry, Washington Post, A1)

Volcker Says Money Policy to Remain Steady

At a meeting with reporters, Fed Chairman Volcker indicated that the bank was sticking to the basic monetary course it has followed all year long. (AP)

Fed Gently Weans Economy

The Fed has been generous with the money supply in recent months yet the economy was weaker than even Volcker expected in the first half of the year.

Rather than cut the growth of the money supply sharply, and risk raising interest rates and crippling the economy, the Fed will attempt to do it gradually -- but slow it down nevertheless.

(Denis Gulino, UPI)

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE REYNOLDS PROMOTION

Senate Minority Leader Byrd urged President Reagan not to name William Bradford Reynolds as associate attorney general during Congress' August recess, saying such a move "would be an insult to the Senate and an affront to the Constitution."

In a letter to Reagan on behalf of all 47 Democratic senators, Byrd reminded the President that the Senate Judiciary Committee rejected Reynolds for the Justice Department position last month.

(Howard Kurtz and Juan Williams, Washington Post, A3)

ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES BALKS AT TAX REFORM PLANS

ORLANDO, Fla. -- The National Association of Counties rebuffed White House overtures and voted overwhelmingly to resist key sections of President Reagan's tax reform plan.

By a margin of nearly 7-1, delegates to the annual conference adopted a resolution urging continuation of federal personal income tax deductions for state and local taxes.

(Bill Kling, Washington Times, A3)

BAKER ATTACKS REPORT CRITICAL OF TAX REFORM PLAN

Treasury Secretary Baker, fighting charges President Reagan's tax reform plan would hurt the middle class, is giving little ground and arguing that a study critical of the proposal was biased.

In a letter to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Packwood, Baker said the Treasury had "serious concerns" about examples used by the Oregon Department of Revenue.

The state agency concluded in a recent report that the tax plan could be a tax hike for many middle-class families -- especially those with two incomes.

(Joseph Mianowany, UPI)

HOUSE BUDGET NEGOTIATORS OFFER NEW CUTS

House budget negotiators offered to make an additional \$24 billion in domestic spending cuts over the next three years in a bid to break the House-Senate impasse that is threatening enactment of major deficit reductions.

Although a formal response from Senate conferees was delayed until today, the initial reaction from the Senate was skeptical.

(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A4)

House Democrats Offer Budget Deal Near Senate Plan

At a meeting in the office of House Minority Leader Michel, White House Chief of Staff Regan "very strongly endorsed the direction" of the Senate's deficit-reduction plan, a Senate aide said.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A4)

Budget Talks Resume with Little Optimism

Sen. Domenici said he was "not that much more encouraged" after the House bargainers made their offer.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

MAJOR DEFENSE BILL ITEMS SETTLED

There was movement toward a compromise 1986 defense bill, but House and Senate negotiators still had problems with "revolving door" provisions and how NATO would react to a U.S. decision to resume production of chemical weapons.

(Washington Times, A4)

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HOUSE VOTES TO BYPASS BUDGET ACT

The House, frustrated by the budget impasse with the Senate, moved ahead on its own, approving by voice vote the first of 13 spending bills for the 1986 fiscal year.

The House took up the spending measure, which would provide about \$15.3 billion for energy and water development programs, after voting 239 to 181 to waive the budget act, which requires the House and Senate to agree on a joint budget resolution before any spending bills can be taken up.
(Margaret Shapiro, Washington Post, A4)

NATION'S CHARITIES ANXIOUSLY WATCHING FEDERAL BUDGET BATTLE

The nation's charities are anxiously watching the battle over the federal budget, concerned they could face devastating increases in the cost of their crucial direct-mail fund-raising efforts.

"For many organizations, direct mail is really the lifeline, for some it is 100 percent of how they raise their funds," observed George Miller, executive director of the Nonprofit Mailers Federation.

(Randolph Schmid, AP)

82 LAWMAKERS FILE ABORTION CASE BRIEF

More than 80 members of Congress have joined the Reagan Administration in asking the Supreme Court to overturn its 1973 ruling that women have a constitutional right to seek an abortion.

In their friend-of-the-court brief submitted Monday, the 73 representatives and nine senators said they were taking their case to the justices because it is their "sworn duty" to support and defend the Constitution.

(David Sellers, Washington Times, A3)

HORNER NOMINATED AS OMB CHIEF, TOO

Constance Horner, recently nominated by President Reagan to become director of the Office of Personnel Management, is on a select list to succeed David Stockman as head of the Office of Management and Budget, a senior Administration official said.

Ms. Horner "is definitely on the short list of candidates," said the official, speaking on condition that his name not be used.

(Mark Tapscott, Washington Times, A1)

OPM CLEARS HEALTH REBATE

The federal Office of Personnel Management approved Blue Cross-Blue Shield's plan to refund \$289 million in health insurance premiums to U.S. workers and retirees and to give a \$465 million refund to the federal health insurance program that covers half the people in the Washington area.
(Mike Causey, Washington Post, A12)

PRESIDENT'S SON SIGNS WITH ABC FOR ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING JOB

NEW YORK -- President Reagan's son Ron has signed a contract with ABC as a reporter for the network's entertainment division, ABC announced.

"Ron Reagan is a young man who, over the past few years, has shown remarkable development as a journalist and broadcaster," Gary Pudney, Vice President, Social Projects and Senior Executive in Charge of Talent for ABC Entertainment, said in a statement announcing the agreement. (AP)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Cancer Hot Lines Inundated" by Margaret Engel appears on page A1 of The Washington Post.

Two features on the President's recovery, "Mail To The Chief" by Donnie Radcliffe and "The Reading List" by Elizabeth Kastor, are on page D1 of the "Style" section of The Washington Post.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOVIETS HARASS U.S. TEAM ON MISSION IN EAST GERMANY

BONN -- The commander of the U.S. military liaison mission in East Germany was injured last Saturday when his car was rammed from behind by a Soviet military truck, U.S. Army officials said.

The incident was the third in four months involving Soviet action against American and British military liaison teams in East Germany.

(William Drozdiak, Washington Post, A1)

Soviet Truck Rams U.S. Military Team in East Germany

The United States has filed an official protest with the Soviets over the incident, which occurred Saturday night on a public road outside Setzkorn, East Germany -- northeast of Berlin -- while the U.S. team was monitoring the return of a Soviet army unit to its garrison, Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman said. (Hugh Vickery, Washington Times, A7)

Pentagon Demands Explanation from Soviet for Latest Anti-U.S. Violence

The latest incident left the chief of the U.S. military mission with a fractured eye socket, Hoffman said.

Although the injury was described as minor, Col. Ronald Lajoie underwent surgery at a West Berlin hospital on Tuesday and was expected to remain hospitalized for 10 to 14 days, the Pentagon said.

(Norman Black, AP)

U.S., SOVIETS SWAP CHARGES AT GENEVA

The White House and Kremlin exchanged accusations, blaming each other for blocking progress in the latest round of nuclear arms talks in Geneva.

The second round of talks adjourned for a two-month summer recess without signs of tangible progress. The talks are scheduled to resume in mid-September, two months before President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev are to hold a summit meeting in Geneva.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A18)

Soviet Intransigence at Geneva Irks U.S.

The United States hopes the Soviets will be more forthcoming during the next round of negotiations starting Sept. 19, said Larry Speakes.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A8)

U.S. Reports Offer Made by Russians to Reduce Missiles

Reagan Administration officials said that the Soviet Union had offered some ideas in Geneva on reducing strategic arms. But they said the concepts seemed vague and designed to perpetuate certain Soviet advantages in land-based missiles.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

Little Progress in Round 2 of Arms Talks

Administration sources and arms control experts agree that, for now, chances for any breakthrough in arms talks remain slim.

(George Moffett, Christian Science Monitor, 1)

U.S. NEGOTIATORS TO BRIEF NATO ALLIES ON ARMS TALKS

BRUSSELS -- U.S. negotiators called a meeting in Brussels to brief NATO allies on the latest round of arms talks with the Soviet Union, which ended without signs of any concrete progress.

Chief U.S. delegate Max Kampelman and the two other senior American negotiators, John Tower and Maynard Glitman, were to brief the North Atlantic Council early today. (UPI)

SOVIET 'PEACE OFFENSIVE' AIMS TO HALT 'STAR WARS'

GENEVA -- The Soviet Union has embarked on a new "peace offensive" it hopes will bring maximum pressure to bear on the United States to scrap its "star wars" Strategic Defense Initiative, according to Western analysts.

The analysts predict that in the weeks and months ahead, leading up to President Reagan's planned summit with Soviet leader Gorbachev, Moscow will orchestrate a series of rallies and demonstrations by peace groups in the West.

(News analysis by Michael Bonafield, Washington Times, A6)

DID SOVIETS PRESS SYRIA FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGES?

The Soviet Union may have participated in behind-the-scenes efforts to free the 39 hostages seized on TWA Flight 847 last month, according to top European intelligence sources.

The intelligence indicates that the Soviet effort, previously undisclosed, involved pressuring Syrian President Assad to order Lebanese Shiite Moslems to release the hostages, especially the four Americans who had been held by the extremist Hezbollah group.

(Ted Agres, Washington Times, A1)

U.S.-SOVIET MARS MISSION URGED

Two Soviet cosmonauts and three American astronauts who met up in space 10 years ago met again on Earth and called on their countries to undertake a joint manned mission to Mars.

"People in both countries are already dealing with the technological questions about how to accomplish such a mission," said Soviet Air Force Maj. Gen. Alexei Leonov. (Thomas O'Toole, Washington Post, A18)

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Joint Mission to Mars? It's a \$30 Billion Piece of Cake

"Let's do it right" and invite the Russians to share the glory and the costs, says Sen. Matsunaga who wants to revive the spirit of cooperation that led to the Apollo-Soyuz space linkup during the bygone days of U.S.-Soviet detente. (Henry Gottlieb, AP)

Planners Say Mars Mission Possible by 2000

The seminar, titled "Steps to Mars" and sponsored by the Planetary Society and the American Institute of Aeronautics, included a reunion of the three American astronauts and two Soviet cosmonauts who first joined together 10 years ago in the Apollo-Soyuz mission. (Frank Cook, UPI)

SPACE COOPERATION UNLIKELY TO LEAD TO DETENTE

Congressional researchers marked the 10th anniversary of the meeting of Americans and Russians in orbit by saying there is little evidence space cooperation can substantially improve overall U.S.-Soviet relations.

Congress' Office of Technology Assessment said a reduction in tension and in the arms race was one of the hopes behind the cooperative efforts that led to the historic Apollo-Soyuz spaceship docking July 17, 1975.

(Al Rossiter Jr., UPI)

AIR FORCE FAULTED IN BEIRUT DISASTER

The handling of casualties by the Air Force after the 1983 truck bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Lebanon is described as indefensible "medically, morally, or ethically" in an internal memorandum prepared by an Army officer.

The Air Force officer in charge of the transfer of seriously wounded Marines to Europe has defended the operation.

Readiness to handle such casualties in the European Command after future terrorist attacks or a larger conventional war has been sharply criticized in various internal military documents.

(Philip Boffey, New York Times, A1)

FIJI WELCOMES SHULTZ, U.S. INTEREST

NADI, Fiji -- Spear-carrying warriors in grass skirts, women wearing sarongs and singing island songs and an urbane Oxford-educated prime minister in coat, tie and skirt welcomed Secretary Shultz back to the South Pacific.

Shultz, who spent two years in the area as a U.S. Marine lieutenant fighting the Japanese in World War II, was welcomed with a colorful Fijian ceremony as the highest-ranking American to visit since the island nation won its independence from Britain in 1970.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A23)

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SENATE CONFIRMS ENVOYS, ENDING HELMS' TIE-UP

The Senate confirmed Richard Burt as ambassador to West Germany and approved two other appointments, writing the final chapter to a struggle between the State Department and conservative Sen. Helms.
(Washington Post, A4)

Helms Fails to Derail State Department Appointees

The Senate approved Edwin Corr as ambassador to El Salvador by a vote of 89-8, Richard Burt as ambassador to West Germany by 88-10, and Rozanne Ridgway to replace Mr. Burt as assistant secretary of State for European affairs by a vote of 88-9.
(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A1)

NSC HARDLINER OUT OF KEY POLICY POST

The highest-ranking specialist on Latin American affairs at the White House has been eased out of his post, a Reagan Administration official said.
Constantine Menges, who has held the title of senior director for Latin America at the NSC, is now serving the White House in a different directorate, the Administration official said.
(Gus Constantine, Washington Times, A1)

LENGTHY U.S. STAY IN HONDURAS INDICATED

The Southern Command of the U.S. armed forces expects to keep 1,200-man military task force on duty in Honduras "for the next three to five years" and is already working on detailed engineering plans for the year 1990, according to an internal Defense Department document.
A letter from an Air Force civil engineering officer at Southern Command headquarters in Panama to the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia contradicts Reagan Administration assertions that the U.S. presence in Honduras is maintained on an annual basis and is intended only to support ongoing military exercises.
(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A5)

SPEECH STIRS CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, Kenya -- In a speech to the United Nations Women's Conference, chief U.S. delegate Maureen Reagan said that the United States has no intention of denying Palestinian women or South African women opposed to apartheid the use of the conference as a platform to voice their grievances.
Although the speech was viewed by some delegations as surprisingly conciliatory and evoked qualified praise from women representing the PLO, the anti-apartheid African National Congress and the government of Nicaragua, it was denounced by American feminists. They called Maureen Reagan's boasts about the advancement of American women "total double talk" and charged that women's rights eroded under the Reagan Administration.
(Blaine Harden, Washington Post, A17)

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Women's Parley Open to Political Discussions

(Ms. Reagan) apparently scored with a number of delegations by speaking out against apartheid, calling it "an evil and inhumane system."

"We were not expecting that," said Mrs. T. Nhongo, a Zimbabwean cabinet minister who is leading her country's delegation. "It was in conformity with what we think." (Jay Mallin, Washington Times, A7)

Maureen Reagan Denounces Apartheid

"We have been concerned ... that generalized political issues, with only a nominal connection with the unique consensus of women, might come to dominate our conference," President Reagan's eldest daughter said.

(Charles Mitchell, UPI)

FRANCE FAR AHEAD OF U.S. IN NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY

The United States invented the nuclear power plant, but France has made it work by combining standardized designs and cooperation between government and the nuclear industry, the Atomic Industrial Forum said.

France has far surpassed the United States with 60 percent of the electricity from nuclear reactors that operate at about 80 percent of capacity. The United States is struggling to produce 14 percent of its electricity from nuclear plants that operate at only 60 percent of capacity, said forum president Carl Walske.

(William Matthews, Washington Times, A2)

EMBASSY SAFEGUARDS COST PUT AT \$4 BILLION

Security measures to protect U.S. embassies against terrorist attack will cost about \$4 billion, the CIA's former deputy director, retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, told Congress.

The career intelligence officer told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that estimates for rebuilding or restructuring State Department facilities overseas initially ran as high as \$7.5 billion. Final estimates, based on a report last month, are \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion, he said.

(Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A4)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

REAGAN, OTHER COLON CANCER PATIENTS URGED TO WATCH DIETS

ATLANTA (UPI) -- More than 2,300 Georgians this year will develop colon-rectal cancer, the disease suffered by President Reagan, and a spokesman for the American Cancer Society urged Tuesday that they watch their diets. Reagan's predicament spurred an increase in calls to the cancer society.

WYOMING DELEGATION/REAGAN'S HEALTH

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (UPI) -- Members of Wyoming's congressional delegation say President Reagan's health problems should not affect his job performance. Rep. Richard Cheney said Monday that based on the information available, there does not appear to be any reason to doubt the President will be able to perform the duties of his office. Cheney said the President may receive some short-term sympathy from Congress that could benefit him politically. He said many Republican senators angry at Reagan for backing off on his request for no increase in Social Security benefits after the Senate had approved the idea will "hold their fire" while the President is hospitalized. Sen. Malcolm Wallop agreed sympathy for Reagan will temper the senators' ire, but said his illness also will leave the House and Senate stalemated on defense spending. Sen. Alan Simpson said he doubts Reagan will try to use the illness to his advantage, however. "I don't think it's going to change anything. He'll be doing business as usual," Simpson said. "He's irrepressible. You can't mash him back."

SPECTER/CHILD ABDUCTION

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., has asked Secretary Shultz to make every effort to secure the safe return of a 4-year-old Pittsburgh girl who was abducted from nursery school by her father seven months ago and subsequently taken to Iran. Specter said Mariam Ruth Zamani is a "tragic victim of parental abduction." Mariam's mother, Rebecca Hickman, was awarded custody of her daughter in October 1984, and had no knowledge of, nor consented to, her estranged husband's abduction of Mariam, Specter said. Specter said he has assisted Hickman's efforts to recover her daughter, but those efforts have been unsuccessful so far. Hickman recently wrote to President Reagan asking for help. Specter said, "I believe the administration should publicly call upon Iran to return Mariam as a gesture of good will."

NEW YORK GOP/BLACK COMMUNITY

ALBANY, N.Y. (UPI) -- The New York Republican State Committee has established a task force of 13 black leaders to map a strategy for building support in the black community, officials said. In last year's presidential election, about 8 percent of New York's black voters cast ballots for President Reagan -- about 90 percent voted for Democrat Walter Mondale. "We've got a big job, and this task force is just the first step on a long journey," Edward Lurie, executive director of the Republican State Committee, said Monday.

D'AMATO/MINIMUM FEDERAL TAX

ALBANY, N.Y. (UPI) -- U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., said he favored a minimum federal income tax for wealthy corporations and individuals as an alternative to an elimination of the deduction of state and local taxes. D'Amato, who opposes President Reagan's tax reform plan because it would abolish the federal deduction of state, sales and property taxes, also predicted Monday that Congress would not pass a tax reform package in its current session.

PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW OFF

CLEARWATER, Fla. (UPI) -- The illness of President Reagan means the long-sought interview with him by Clearwater High School senior Scott McQuigg is off indefinitely. After four years of trying for an interview, the teenager was told earlier this month by Rep. Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla., that a 10-minute session had been arranged with the President for later this week. McQuigg was advised of the postponement Monday and said no new date has been set for the interview.

CONRAIL REPORTS INCOME DROP

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) -- Conrail, the government-owned freight railroad, has reported a drop in its second-quarter net income from the same period last year, but the company chairman said he still was optimistic about the railroad's first-half report. Conrail reported a 2nd quarter net income of \$154.8 million, down from a record \$178.9 million.

GLENN WILSON/GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- Rep. Virginia Smith, R-Neb., said today she was informed Sen. D'Amato, R-N.Y., had released his hold on the nomination of Glenn Wilson Jr. of Grand Island as president of the Government National Mortgage Association. Smith said the Department of Housing and Urban Development told her the nomination of Wilson has been cleared by the Republican majority of the Senate Banking Committee. Wilson, a Grand Island builder and developer, chaired the 1984 Reagan-Bush re-election campaign in Nebraska.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE/SOVIET HELICOPTER

BOULDER, Colo. (UPI) -- Soldier of Fortune magazine is offering \$1 million for a Soviet-built Mi-24 helicopter, but "Rambo" -type mercenaries need not apply. Publisher Robert K. Brown says in an article to appear in the September issue the magazine will pay \$1 million to the first pilot, crew member or trainer who defects from Nicaragua with one of the sophisticated helicopter gunships.

MARVIN WALKER/PROBATION

BAKERSFIELD, CA (UPI) -- Marvin Walker, 52, a South Dakota resident who admitted telling a Kern County Sheriff's deputy that he planned to kill President Reagan, was placed on five years' probation Monday. In granting probation, the judge ordered Walker to enter a drug rehabilitation program and to participate in a mental health program.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Tuesday Evening, July 16, 1985)

PRESIDENT REAGAN

CBS's Dan Rather: A day after being told a large growth removed from his colon was cancerous, President Reagan tonight is reported to be feeling "very optimistic and enthusiastic about his recovery." And, from the White House staff to the Vice President, the people around the President are painting a portrait of business as usual.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: The news from Bethesda Naval Hospital continued to be upbeat on the President's rate of recovery, but officials said today that he'll start his August vacation at his ranch earlier than planned and will not return to a full schedule of work until Labor Day. Still, this spokesman said, Mr. Reagan is chomping at the bit to return to work.

(Larry Speakes: "Oh, I just think he'd like to spring out of bed and run down the hallway and jump in the car -- ")

Mrs. Reagan brought a bouquet of balloons to the hospital. The President was quoted as saying, "Nancy worries about me too much." She looks pale and drawn, say officials. She's not been sleeping well. It's straining her quite a bit. Mrs. Reagan has asked that there be no visitors, but Chief of Staff Regan did spend 25 minutes with the President this morning. Questions about cancer never came up. They talked about the budget and arms control. As when Mr. Reagan was shot in 1981, his top advisers are taking up the slack in his workload.

(David Gergen: "They will try to minimize the number of decisions that they bring to the President. They'll only bring the most important ones to him.")

The White House is working hard to avoid any suggestion that Mr. Reagan's illness is making him a lame duck President.

(Vice President Bush: "Life goes on. Business as usual. Go back to how the White House ran after the President was hospitalized in the past. It's running now in the same way. Don Regan, as I mentioned this morning, is doing a superb job.")

A senior White House official said candidly that the decision-making process hasn't changed since the President went into the hospital. The first order of business for Mr. Reagan when he gets back after Labor Day will be preparing for his summit with Soviet leader Gorbachev. He sent the President a personal get-well message today.
(CBS-lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan is doing just fine. Three days after his cancerous growth was removed, his doctors say that Mr. Reagan's recovery is virtually trouble-free.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: White House officials painted a picture today of a President who has bounced back so well, so quickly that it almost sounded too good to be true. They insisted it was true.

(...continued)

PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)

Donaldson's report continues: (Larry Speakes: "He's chomping at the bit. He's already talking about his schedule and return to work. So I think the President is, in his own mind, ready to be up and at 'em.")

At the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where Mr. Reagan's colon operation was performed three days ago, the balloon trucks rolled up -- two of them -- to bring a cargo of good cheer. And the get-well messages continued to roll in, including one from Soviet leader Gorbachev. Mrs. Reagan brought her own balloons and spent most of the day with her husband. Chief of Staff Regan came for a brief visit, bringing Sen. Dole's message that Dole regretted that he'd said the President had surrendered on the budget. The President's reply was relayed by Press Secretary Speakes.

(Speakes: "He emphasized that we're not walking away from deficit-reduction. Instead, we're willing to meet the deficit head-on. Too much is at stake, and the clock is ticking.")

White House officials tried to scotch the idea that Chief of Staff Regan is now running the country. Said one senior official, Nothing has changed in the President's involvement in the decision-making process except he is there instead of here. Vice President Bush seemed to second that.

(Vice President Bush: "Life goes on. Business as usual. Go back to how the White House ran after the President was hospitalized in the past. It's running now in the same way. I think the news is so encouraging that there's a -- it is really going to slip back into a -- just as if the President were off on a vacation somewhere.")

If Mr. Reagan had been conducting his Presidency in a hands-on, do-it-himself fashion, the idea that nothing much has changed here would be ludicrous. But the fact is, the President has delegated administrative responsibilities successfully for so long, that the claim that even though he's laid up in the hospital, nothing much has changed in the decision-making process is probably not wrong.

(ABC-lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: Life goes on. That was the mood at the White House today, as President Reagan continued his recovery from cancer surgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Vice President Bush and White House officials were doing all they could to emphasize the positive, but news that the President had cancer, understandably, is affecting the Reagan family and Washington politics.

NBC's Chris Wallace: Mrs. Reagan arrived at the hospital today, and so did balloons, flowers and get-well cards, including one from Soviet leader Gorbachev. And the word relayed from inside the hospital was the President is getting better.

(Larry Speakes: "The President is beginning to question some of the restrictions that are on him at the moment. He's chomping at the bit. He's already talking about his schedule and return to work.")

But privately, top officials are much less cheery, saying Mr. Reagan's surgery has hit the First Family hard. A senior official said the President did not ask doctors a single question when they told him yesterday he had cancer, explaining that's not something he wanted too much information on.

(...continued)

PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)

Wallace continues: The official said Mrs. Reagan is pale, drawn. It's straining her quite a bit. Aides expect the President out of the hospital by next Monday, and to meet with the Chinese president the next day. But they plan to move up his August vacation to California by a few days, and they do not expect him to resume a full schedule until Labor Day. Others are filling the vacuum. Chief of Staff Regan is running the White House, and by order of Mrs. Reagan and doctors, is the only official briefing the President on key issues. Vice President Bush made an unusual number of public appearances and at each one tried to play down the surgery. (Vice President Bush: "Life goes on. I think the news is so encouraging that there's a -- it is really going to slip back into a -- just as if the President were off on a vacation somewhere.") The Senate passed a resolution wishing the President a speedy recovery, but there was disagreement on the impact of Mr. Reagan's illness. The Republican Senate leader said it will now be tougher to criticize Mr. Reagan. (Sen. Dole: "I would guess that nobody wants to do anything that would displease the President at this time.") And Dole himself sent Mr. Reagan an apology, according to White House officials, for criticizing the President on the budget. The Democrats say more important than any sympathy factor will be Mr. Reagan's inability to push his program. (Robert Squier: "Whether we like it or not, our President's going to be pretty much incapacitated between now and middle Fall.") But the fact is, no one really knows how long it will take Mr. Reagan to recover. Using doctor's statistics, one top official here said, Better than 50% is a bet worth taking, that there will be no recurrence of cancer. (NBC-lead)

BUDGET

Jennings: While the President's health is still the major concern in Washington, the number one political concern is clearly the federal budget. There has been a lot of maneuvering among political factions, but there's very little constructive movement.

ABC's Brit Hume: They had a sort of Republican camp meeting on Capitol Hill today in an effort to revive the faltering budget process. Outgoing budget chief Stockman came, and so did Chief of Staff Regan, partly, no doubt, to soothe angry Republicans who feel betrayed that the President has backed away from freezing Social Security for a year after Senate Republicans had voted for that, expecting the President to back them. After today's meeting, it was clear the new GOP approach would be to pressure the House to find other cuts to make up for restoring Social Security COLAs. (Sen. Dole: "It was never intended that we just give up COLAs and get nothing for it, and that's been the bone of contention around here the last few days, and I think that's been resolved." Rep. Michel: "When the Senate has gone through what they've gone through and end up with a thimbleful of saving that's distinguished from a good solid handful, then they've got every right to say that they're not going to support a sham resolution.") (...continued)

BUDGET (continued)

Hume continues: And Vice President Bush sought to add to the pressure on House Democrats by suggesting that if they can't find additional savings, there might be no budget.

(Vice President Bush: "It's hard to say. It's very hard to say whether we'll get it. I hope we do. And the reason we might is that the country wants to see the deficit down. But I must say, we're not very optimistic right this minute.")

But when House and Senate budget negotiators got together today, there was a new House plan, purportedly saving an additional \$24B over three years.

(Rep. Wright: "We're prepared to have substantial reductions, verifiable reductions, enforceable reductions -- and that's what we came to discuss.")

The Senate and the White House probably won't accept the House budget plan as is, but the plan has already done one thing some thought impossible: It's kept the budget process alive for at least one more day. (ABC-2)

ARMS TALKS

Jennings reports the Soviets offered an explanation for the lack of real progress at the second round of arms control talks, which have just ended in Geneva. The Soviets say the United States is to blame. American negotiators are somewhat more optimistic.

ABC's Rick Inderfurth reports from Geneva that the Soviets greeted the U.S. delegation as they arrived this morning, and inside the conference room, they placed something new on the table -- a flower arrangement to mark the last day of the talks. But outside the conference room, the chief Soviet negotiator was less diplomatic, saying he was not satisfied with the results of the second round. Progress for the Soviets means putting a stop to President Reagan's "star wars" -- a demand the U.S. side rejects. The (U.S.) side believes this round has gone better than the first. The American side sees another reason for some optimism -- the possibility that the November summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev could help to break the deadlock. But to do that, both sides will need to show more flexibility, and as of now, each side is looking to the other to make the first move. (ABC-8)

SUMMIT

Jennings: A special White House and State Department advance team will depart for Geneva tomorrow to lay the groundwork for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Among other things, the advance team will scout locations where the two leaders may meet. (ABC-9)

DEFENSE CONTRACTORS

Rather: New charges today in the criminal investigation of cheating on defense contracts by General Electric in Philadelphia. A current GE executive and two former company officials were indicted on charges of bilking the U.S. government out of nearly \$800,000. It's alleged that they falsified time cards in a contract to build nuclear weapons components. (CBS-3, ABC-12, NBC-12)

FEDERAL RESERVE

Rather: Amid signs that the economy will remain sluggish, the Federal Reserve Board announced today it will hold a steady course on monetary policy for the rest of the year. That may keep interest rates about where they are now. (CBS-6, ABC-3, NBC-3)

ANOTHER EAST GERMAN/SOVIET INCIDENT

Rather reports the Pentagon confirmed today that another violent incident involving U.S. and Soviet soldiers in East Germany occurred last weekend. In this latest incident, the Pentagon says a Soviet Army truck rammed a U.S. Army vehicle from behind near Berlin. Injured was the colonel who commands the U.S. liaison mission to East Germany. The Pentagon says it again has lodged what it calls another strong protest. It says the American soldiers were "doing their work," which was observing a Soviet Army unit on a road. (CBS-12, ABC-7)

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Jennings: In the capital of Kenya tonight, more than 10,000 women from 159 countries are marking the end of the United Nations Decade for Women, and their goal at this final conference is to produce a formal strategy for addressing women's problems through the end of the century. The delegates are divided, however, over just what is a woman's issue.

ABC's Lynn Sherr reports the delegates began their first full working day of the conference today. The U.S. delegation, led by Maureen Reagan, has vehemently tried to keep certain political issues, like apartheid, the Palestinian question, and world economics, from disrupting the meeting.

(Maureen Reagan: "We have been concerned, it is true, over the possibility that generalized political issues with only a nominal connection to the unique concerns of women, might come to dominate our conference. We want this to be remembered as a conference of women, by women and for women." Applause.)

But that's not the only view in town.

(Margaret Papandreou: "The women's movement is a political movement." Cheers and applause. "It is a social revolution. It is about changes in a society. About changes that are global.")

For all their disagreements, the delegates seem to have begun their work in a spirit of compromise, especially since the U.S. gave in on a key demand yesterday to keep the conference from falling apart. The question is whether that spirit will last long enough for them to fulfill the real goal of this conference -- to agree on a plan of action to improve the condition of women until the next century. (ABC-14)

A-BOMB

Brokaw: Forty years ago, on July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was exploded in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Today, five of the scientists who created that bomb and witnessed that explosion issued a statement calling for nuclear disarmament and criticizing the Reagan Administration's "Star Wars" defense plan. (NBC-14)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH/25th AMENDMENT

The President's Cancer -- "Cancer. Few words are shrouded with such fear and dread. Cancer is indiscriminate.... The shock is particularly acute when cancer strikes someone who is as physically vigorous as President Reagan.... This incident will challenge again the President's inherent optimism toward life in a world of mysterious hazards. No one should be surprised if Reagan meets this test as he has others-with a grin and a quip and a call to get back to work. In the process, the President may serve as the vehicle for helping to dispel some of the mystery and fear that cloaks the dreaded word." (Los Angeles Times, 7/16)

A Brush With Cancer -- "At a time when a 74-year-old president has had a brush with cancer, nothing is more useful and necessary than the public's conviction that 1) the doctors are competent and intend to practice a vigilant watch on their patient and 2) they are telling the public everything that is on the public's mind to ask. Ronald Reagan has been beating the odds and prevailing over 50-percent chances for as long as we can remember. It is a distinguishing mark of the man, and we are confident that this case will be no different." (Washington Post, 7/16)

Invoking the 25th -- "The 25th Amendment was adopted specifically to deal with the uncertainty that had existed when a president was unable to lead the country and no one else had been empowered to do so. There should be no hesitation to use the procedures set out in the amendment, and it was prudent for President Reagan to have done so. A voluntary act sets no enforceable legal precedent for his successors, of course. But his example was in the national interest and should be the standard observed by all who hold the office." (Washington Post, 7/16)

All is Well with Both President and Nation -- "Compare this frankness with the mystery and denials surrounding the illnesses of the last three Soviet leaders. Yet illnesses in the Kremlin paralyzed the Soviet government for several years -- whereas Reagan's illness at no point brought the government to anything like a halt. During the period when he was unable to function as head of the U.S. government, power and authority passed briefly and constitutionally to the Vice President -- and then back again. A government of laws is not only morally superior to a tyranny; it works better too." (New York Post, 7/16)

The Light in the Shadow -- "The Reagan White House this time avoided the confusion of authority in the hours after the 1981 assassination attempt.... Despite the orderliness of the process under the 25th Amendment, the White House invoked it with curious reluctance. It delayed informing Mr. Bush he was Acting President until after the fact, and the President's strangely worded letter stressed that he was 'not intending to set a precedent.' Precedent or not, the procedure should become routine on similar occasions.... Just a few hours after coming round from his colon operation, Reagan seized back with alacrity the powers he had transferred to the Vice President. His zest for life and office is the best possible sign that he will successfully fulfill both." (New York Times, 7/16)

The President's Health (continued)

The President's Cancer: Shock, but No Panic -- "...at best he won't be at 100% for a few weeks. Someone else will have to make a lot of the day-to-day decisions. Fortunately, that should be fairly smooth. Reagan has always been a delegator, not a one-man-band executive. And the most likely candidate to manage the reins of power, chief of staff Donald Regan, appears to have settled in well. He gained valuable under-the-gun experience during the Beirut hostage crisis and should be able to keep most government business flowing.... The country will do well to take a lesson from the even-tempered courage of Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

(New York Daily News, 7/16)

Reagan's Recuperation -- "Will the President's schedule and activities be changed in ways that give Vice President Bush more responsibilities and greater visibility? Would that work to his advantage vis a vis Rep. Jack Kemp, Sen. Robert Dole, Howard Baker and others interested in 1988?.... Politics is politics and the President is the nation's Politician-in-Chief. But good presidents rise above politics on occasion. To be truly 'presidential,' one must. This is such an occasion and this President is good at it. He showed the nation how to be a victim of an assassination attempt with courage, grace, humor and dignity. Now Reagan is showing the nation how to be a cancer victim, and to inspire Americans with his gritty determination and indomitable optimism."

(Baltimore Sun, 7/16)

Cancer Alert -- "Mr. Reagan's experience should convince everyone of the need for an early and thorough check-up. 'We used to call colorectal cancer the cancer no one talked about,' notes once cancer society official. 'I would say this week it's the cancer everybody's talking about.'"

(Baltimore Sun, 7/16)

Hopes For President's Recovery -- "The President himself is, as usual, cheerful. But it is a blow to presidential leadership. It makes it unlikely any meaningful compromise will be reached on the budget bill.... On the positive side is the competent way the President and the White House have handled matters during his surgery.... The White House, not wishing to set any precedent, said the (25th) amendment had not been invoked. But it obviously had been, and a sound precedent was established.... Second, the White House has continued the policy, first established under President Eisenhower, of full disclosure of the medical details of the President's condition. Nothing less would do..."

(San Diego Tribune, 7/15)

Fortitude and Foresight -- "The President's decision to follow the (25th) amendment's procedures served a valuable purpose, for it told potential adversaries not to be tempted by any prospect of indecision -- and assured allies that it was business as usual.... Mr. Reagan wants no one to think the powers of the presidency are in any way encumbered by his health."

(Dallas Times Herald, 7/16)

The President's Powers -- "Some creative ambiguity is necessary when dealing with ambiguous language. No 'Reagan precedent' can thus be cited in future presidents' trips to the dentist, afternoon naps or more calamitous situations. The President decided to let history take care of itself. He acted wisely."

(Boston Globe, 7/16)