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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL NEWS

White House Upset with Medical 'Second Guessing' -- President Reagan is seeing more visitors and expanding his workload as doctors report steady progress from cancer surgery, but the White House is clearly irritated about what it regards as ill-founded second-guessing by some experts about his care.
(AP, UPI, Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times)

Budget Talks: 'We'll Call You' -- Budget negotiations are once again in collapse, with Senate negotiators delivering a version of the classic "don't call us, we'll call you" line to House bargainers.
(UPI, AP, Reuter, Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times, Wall Street Journal)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel Rejects Palestinians Listed for Preliminary Peace Talks -- Israel has rejected a list of Palestinians suggested as participants in preliminary Middle East peace talks, but U.S. officials said they did not regard the decision as binding on Washington.
(Reuter, Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times)

NETWORK NEWS (Wednesday Evening)

PRESIDENT REAGAN -- Aides who saw the President say they were amazed at how good he looks. Instead of visiting the hospital, Mrs. Reagan spent the day on an aircraft carrier promoting her anti-drug campaign.
(All Nets Lead)

SECRETARY SHULTZ -- Tough words from Secretary Shultz, who called on America's allies to cooperate more closely in the fight against terrorism.

LIVE AID

Bob Geldof, the former punk rocker who masterminded the Live Aid project to raise money for famine-stricken Africa:

"It is not good enough for the second most powerful country in the world to do nothing," he said in an interview with Britain's domestic news agency, the Press Association. "With power comes moral responsibility. Everybody knows that the Soviet Union is doing nothing."

(UPI's Quote of the Day, 7/16)

NATIONAL NEWS

MEDICAL UPDATES ON REAGAN LIMITED

President Reagan continued his rapid recovery from surgery, while White House officials said he and Nancy Reagan had told the President's doctors not to give further medical information to reporters "because they feel very strongly about the confidentiality of the doctor-patient relationship."
(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

White House Upset with Medical 'Second-Guessing'

In a testy session with reporters asking about Reagan's care, Larry Speakes asserted, "At the moment, there are no questions pending about the President's recovery."

He said members of the President's medical team, after answering reporters' questions in two sessions, would not discuss the case further in briefings conducted by the White House.
(Michael Putzel, AP)

Vice President Bush said Reagan was "running high and looking good" four days after having a malignant tumor removed from his colon.

Bush spent about 45 minutes with the President in his suite at Bethesda Naval Hospital. They discussed foreign and domestic affairs and Bush said the President was "clearly read up" on the issues.
(W. Dale Nelson, AP)

Reagan Amused by Reports Abroad of His Failing Health

International financial markets fluctuate wildly when a world leader dies, and Reagan suggested that was the reason for reports of his death originating in Singapore. "Somebody must be trying to make a buck," Reagan told the Vice President.
(Mary Belcher, Washington Times, A3)

Reagan Consumes Popsicles and Bouillon in Hospital

Larry Speakes said the President stayed awake through the afternoon, walked around his suite and did routine paperwork and some reading.
(Helen Thomas, UPI)

President Placed on a Liquid Diet After 'Best' Night

White House officials continued to sound a highly optimistic note on Mr. Reagan's recovery, saying he would definitely meet Tuesday with President Li of China and would appear at a state dinner for the Chinese leader that night. This represented the strongest assurance to date that Reagan's hospital stay would not exceed the 7 to 10 days that his doctors had predicted.
(Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A1)

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CHIEF OF STAFF MORE FIRMLY IN CHARGE

White House chief of staff Regan has both consolidated his power and demonstrated the difficulty of using it following President Reagan's surgery last weekend.

In the four days since the President entered Bethesda Naval Hospital, Regan and Nancy Reagan have worked closely together to control almost all access to the chief executive, pace his recuperation, and take care of such minor items as choosing the photograph in which the nation got its first glimpse of the recovering President.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

PRESIDENT CONSIDERED IMMUNE TO POLITICAL OR PERSONAL ATTACKS

President Reagan is now almost invulnerable to political opposition or personal attack because of his cancer operation and his cheerful fortitude while recovering, senior White House officials said.

"The President is now in a position of popularity like that enjoyed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower before and after his illnesses," said one key Administration official. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A3)

REPORT THAT EARLY TEST WAS URGED STIRS DEBATE ON REAGAN TREATMENT

The debate over the timing of President Reagan's cancer treatment intensified, as a doctor who examined Mr. Reagan said his medical team had recommended in March that the President receive a thorough examination of his colon as soon as possible.

But the White House contended that there was no recommendation of urgency for a colonoscopic examination in the written report submitted by the military doctors who examined the President.

(Lawrence Altman, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN'S HUMOR SURFACES AGAIN AS HE RECOVERS FROM SURGERY

President Reagan, whose humor in adversity has been a hallmark of his term in office, is joking with his staff and medical personnel while continuing his good recovery from cancer surgery.

The 74-year-old President was in such good spirits, according to Larry Speakes, that during one of his walks outside his suite in the Bethesda Naval Hospital he called out, "Anyone for tennis?"

(Ralph Harris, Reuter)

AMERICAN CANDOR SURPRISES WORLD

The openness with which the news of President Reagan's cancer was announced surprised the people of many countries where news of a leader's illness is restricted or even kept secret altogether.

Along with expressions of admiration for the President's courage and sympathy for him and his family came comments praising the Administration for making public the details of his operation and the doctor's prognosis.

(Terri Shaw, Washington Post, A8)

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BRITISH PRESS VOICES DOUBTS OVER REAGAN'S FUTURE POWERS

LONDON -- Attorney General Meese was trying to tell his press questioners that President Reagan was truly in fine shape, that there was no real cause for concern, that there was no reason at all why -- after a period of recuperation -- Reagan should not be able to continue performing all the normal duties of the Presidency.

But it was clear that the British reporters at his American Bar Association press conference didn't really believe him.

There is considerable public concern for the (President) himself, worry about the machinations of ambitious White House staffers, and skepticism that the President will be anything more than a ceremonial figurehead for some time -- if not for the next three years.

(Peter Almond, Washington Times, A10)

FIRST LADY CALLS VISIT TO USS AMERICA 'GREAT THERAPY'

ABOARD THE USS AMERICA -- First Lady Nancy Reagan, saying "this may be the best therapy for me," watched fighter jets perform and campaigned against drugs aboard a Navy aircraft carrier in the Atlantic.
(Joan Mower, AP)

The First Lady described President Reagan as "very upbeat" and discussed his condition for the first time.

"He's fine, I'm fine, everything will be fine," Mrs. Reagan told reporters during a brief exchange that occurred along a line of flight-ready F-14 Tomcat fighters and A-6 Intruder attack planes.
(Norman Sandler, UPI)

Waves for the First Lady

"I hate to drop names," she told (the sailors), proceeding to do that to everybody's delight, "but last night when I kissed your commander in chief goodbye, he asked that I pass along a message. He said, 'Nancy, will you tell them how proud I am of them? How often I think about them, and tell them there are no Americans I have greater respect of affection for than those fellas out there defending us.' I feel the same way."
(Donnie Radcliffe, Washington Post, B1)

Sailors Serenade Nancy on Carrier

Mrs. Reagan came to the America to learn about the Navy's alcohol- and drug-abuse programs, but the day turned into a happy outing for her.
(Washington Times, A1)

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS NEAR COLLAPSE AFTER STORMY SESSION

House-Senate budget negotiations stood on the verge of collapse after an acrimonious, tension-filled session in which Senate conferees rejected a proposed compromise from the House and said they saw little hope of reaching an agreement.
(Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A3)

Prospects Appear Slim for Quick Budget Settlement

Despite urging on Sunday by President Reagan that Congress should settle the budget this week, there was no sign of resumption of discussions. (Michael Posner, Reuter)

Budget Talks Collapse: 'Don't Call Us, We'll Call You'

"We'll call you back as soon as we have something to talk about," Sen. Domenici, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, told House conferees as he adjourned what may have been the year's final bargaining session. (Cliff Haas, AP)

Budget Talks: 'We'll Call You'

House budget conferees said the White House and Senate leaders' torpedoes included President Reagan's projection of a Senate-passed version that would have scrapped Social Security cost-of-living raises next year, after he had accepted it. (Elaine Povich, UPI)

Budget Conference Halted as GOP Works on Counteroffer

The GOP lawmakers expect to have their offer ready by early next week, said Rep. Latta.

"The House side is far short on what it should have in spending cuts," Latta said. (Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A4)

Senate Conferees Spurn House Plan on Budget Accord

Domenici was later quoted by his House counterpart, Rep. Gray, as saying to Gray, "We'll see you at the end of the year." (Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A1)

Talks on Fiscal 1986 Budget Collapse; Agreement This Summer Seems Unlikely

"I assume that means no budget," said Rep. Gray after Sen. Domenici rejected (the) House compromise offer and recessed the conference. "I don't think that I see a way," said Domenici, who was angered last week when the White House backed away from a Senate-passed provision eliminating cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security beneficiaries. "Everywhere I turn I see no way to go."

(David Rogers, Wall Street Journal, A52)

GOVERNORS CLASH OVER STATE TAX DEDUCTIONS

Two prominent governors from northeastern states clashed over President Reagan's proposal to end the deductability of state and local taxes, as House Ways and Means Committee members searched for a compromise that would prevent the controversial deductability issue from derailing the overall plan. (Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A3)

ADMINISTRATION DROPS REYNOLDS NOMINATION

Senate Majority Leader Dole said that the Reagan Administration has abandoned efforts to salvage the nomination of William Bradford Reynolds to be associate attorney general.

Dole said the decision to cease efforts on behalf of President Reagan's leading spokesman on civil rights was reached after discussions with White House chief of staff Regan and Attorney General Meese.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A4)

Blacks Told Republicans Reynolds Was Symbol of GOP's Poor Minority Image

Hours before the nomination of William Bradford Reynolds was abandoned, key Republican senators were bluntly told by black leaders that the Justice Department's civil rights chief was the symbol of the GOP's poor image among minorities -- and had to go.

The unpublicized luncheon meeting, described by a participant, included a discussion of the GOP's civil rights policies in general and Reynolds' enforcement efforts in particular.

(Larry Margasak, AP)

HOUSE APPROVES '86 FUNDS FOR THREE U.S. DEPARTMENTS

The House approved a \$12 billion appropriation for the State, Justice and Commerce departments next year that would preserve the Economic Development Agency, the Legal Services Corp. and several other programs that President Reagan proposed to eliminate in his fiscal 1986 budget.

(Margaret Shapiro, Washington Post, A5)

PENTAGON OFFICIAL URGES DELAY OF AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE

The Pentagon's project officer for a futuristic air-to-air missile has recommended delaying production of the weapon, asserting that it is plagued with design flaws despite four years of testing and that its manufacturer lacks the capability to build it.

The evaluation, contained in an internal Defense Department memo, marks the latest blow to the advanced, medium-range air-to-air missile and comes as congressional conferees are fighting over rival bills, with the House voting to kill the system and the Senate wanting to spend \$200 million to produce 15 of the missiles next year.

(Michael Weisskopf, Washington Post, A10)

ECONOMY STILL SLUGGISH; NEW GNP REPORT DUE TODAY

The U.S. economy, which was on the critical list at the beginning of the year, apparently did not revive as much as first thought from April through June, analysts now believe.

And pessimists in the forecasting community, while not predicting an outright recession, believe that economic growth will remain weak through the rest of 1985.

(Martin Crutsinger, AP)

Economy's Weakness Could Be Fading

The government's Bureau of Economic Analysis, a cadre of career economists in the Commerce Department, today delivers its first formal report on how fast the economy grew from April through June.

Last month, the government economists projected the growth would be 3.1 percent, comparatively strong after a first quarter that hardly moved at 0.3 percent.

But trade and inventory figures released after the June 20 projection indicate the forecast was too optimistic. (Denis Gulino, UPI)

REAGAN PLAN TO CUT FARM AID FELLED BY AGRICULTURE CRISIS

The Reagan Administration, which called 1985 a watershed opportunity to reform and shrink the federal farm support program, is backing away from much of its plan in the face of a deepening recession in agriculture.

The Administration originally proposed changes in the program to diminish the government's role and subject farms, like industries, to the forces of the marketplace.

Instead, the economic strains on farmers have forced the Administration to settle for a modest shift toward reduced government intervention. (Peter Kilborn, New York Times, A1)

THERE'S TROUBLE WHEN HE DOES HIS HARD JOB TOO WELL

Carlos Campbell, a Reagan appointee to the Commerce Department, realized it was hardball the night vandals broke into his office.

But the break-in pales in comparison to the treatment Campbell received later from the White House personnel office, sources familiar with the case say.

As director of (the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration), Campbell says he took President Reagan's instructions seriously -- get rid of waste, fraud and abuse while working to phase out the agency altogether. In his first appearance on Capitol Hill, Campbell stated bluntly, "I come to go."

Now, almost four years later, EDA is flourishing and Campbell is no longer on the scene. (Charles Wheeler, Washington Times, A1)

STRICT DEADLINES URGED FOR EPA SUPERFUND

The EPA can't be trusted to clean up hazardous waste sites and needs deadlines to make it more productive, the chief architect of the 1980 Superfund law said.

The Superfund program was intended to be a massive hazardous waste cleanup program, but Rep. Florio said in five years the EPA has spent \$1.6 billion in Superfund money and cleaned up only six hazardous waste sites. (William Matthews, Washington Times, A4)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Ex-Colectomy Patients Sympathize With Reagan," a collection of thoughts from Washington-area people who have had operations similar to the President's, is on page A7 of The Washington Post.

A story by Mark Katches on the florists' bonanza brought by flowers being sent to the President, "Business Is Blooming," appears on page A9 of The Washington Post.

"Republicans in Senate Can't Swallow Bitterness Over Reagan's Decision on Social Security Issue" by David Shribman and David Rogers is on page A52 of The Wall Street Journal.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PERES: PALESTINIAN DELEGATES ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM -- PM Peres received from the United States a proposed list of members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for peace negotiations with Israel and promptly declared that the makeup of the delegation was unacceptable to Israel.

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

Israel Rejects Palestinians Listed for Preliminary Peace Talks

Asked by Israeli television if the list was acceptable, PM Peres replied, "No, but I still don't know if it is acceptable to the United States."

(Daniel Grebler, Reuter)

Palestinian List for Talks 'Bad Move,' Says Peres

"I think it's a bad opening move," Peres said in a nationally televised interview. He added that at this stage, Israel was not expected to react to the proposal, especially since the United States had not yet expressed its opinion of the names.

(Washington Times, A6)

Israel Rejecting Palestinian List for U.S. Talks

"Moreover," Peres went on, "I told Shultz and Reagan that I see no reason why the United States should meet separately before negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to coordinate positions. I ask a simple question: Imagine how the Israeli public would feel if they heard that there was prior coordination without them."

(Thomas Friedman, New York Times, A1)

ADMINISTRATION MULLING HIJACK COVERAGE TALKS

LONDON -- Attorney General Meese said that the Administration is considering initiating talks with U.S. media representatives on the question of whether their coverage of the recent TWA hijacking was "helpful or hurtful from the standpoint of getting the crisis ended in a satisfactory manner."

(Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, A25)

Meese Urges Media to Limit Coverage of Terrorists

Meese told reporters that PM Thatcher "was right when she said that all of society, including the government, the news media and the public, has a responsibility to plan in advance how you would respond to terrorist incidents....They are unfortunately a part of our way of life."

(Washington Times, A6)

SHULTZ RECRUITS ALLIES FOR ANTITERRORIST FIGHT

HONOLULU -- Secretary Shultz said that the United States and its allies must "fight back" against international terrorists, their supporters and those who offer them safekeeping, and suggested that the antiterrorist struggle has become an alliance responsibility.

Shultz, in an address at the East-West Center, a nonprofit educational and research institution, also criticized New Zealand in his strongest language to date for "walking off the job" of alliance duty in February by refusing to accept port calls by U.S. warships unless it received assurances that they were not carrying nuclear weapons.

(Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A25)

FOREIGN AID TIED TO AIRPORT SAFETY

A House appropriations subcommittee voted to bar any nation from receiving U.S. foreign aid in fiscal 1986 until its government takes "adequate, appropriate steps to provide airport security against potential terrorist activities."

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A5)

Rep. Obey, meeting with reporters a day after the appropriations subcommittee acted in closed session, said the panel had cut more than \$750 million from President Reagan's request for military assistance.

Also, he said it had voted to provide \$784 million for the Export-Import Bank.

(David Espo, AP)

DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE TRADE BILL

Key congressional Democrats introduced legislation to force Japan and three other countries to trim their large trade surpluses with the United States or face stiff new tariff penalties.

The legislation, submitted to the Senate yesterday and scheduled to be introduced in the House today, is expected to be the focus of a major battle this fall over the growing demand to protect U.S. jobs.

The Reagan Administration denounced the legislative proposal as "protectionist" and threatened to veto it if it passes Congress. Privately, however, Administration officials expressed concern that some version of the bill would be approved and some wondered whether there might be enough votes to override a veto.

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. HOPES SUMMIT SETS AGENDA FOR FUTURE YEARS

A White House official offered a modest goal for the November meeting in Geneva between President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev, saying that Reagan hopes it will "set the agenda" for the next few years of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Edward Djerejian said that this agenda-setting rather than any arms control agreement is the "benchmark" that should be used to judge this meeting, which he declined to call a "summit."

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A32)

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CONFEREES SET 50-MISSILE LIMIT FOR MX

Congressional conferees agreed to set a statutory limit of 50 MX missiles, according to Capitol Hill aides, approving half the number President Reagan sought for a program he has called the centerpiece of his defense buildup.

The MX agreement by the House-Senate conference committee was part of a package authorizing defense expenditures in fiscal 1986 of \$2.75 billion to research the President's "Star Wars" missile defense system and \$100 million more than the White House had requested for development of the small, mobile Midgetman missile.

(Michael Weisskopf, Washington Post, A32)

FRANCE LAUNCHES PROJECT SIMILAR TO 'STAR WARS'

PARIS -- French President Mitterrand, concerned about a technological challenge from the United States and Japan, formally launched a European high-technology project that covers areas similar to the Reagan Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative.

Addressing a conference of ministers and industrial leaders from 17 European countries, Mitterrand announced that France would make an initial contribution next year of about \$115 million for the project, which is known as Eureka.

(Michael Dobbs, Washington Post, A32)

U.S. IS TWO MILES FROM U.S.S.R. -- 'NAKED AS JAYBIRD'

The United States is "naked as a jaybird" at its closest borders with the Soviet Union and plans to strengthen its defenses to discourage Soviet "adventurism," Adm. James Watkins, the chief of naval operations, said.

The moves to strengthen U.S. defense in the Alaska and Bering Sea region -- aimed mainly at improving air defenses -- have been prompted in part by overflights of Soviet long range Backfire bombers, Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, said.

(Tom Diaz, Washington Times, A1)

U.S. AND COMMUNIST STATES CLASH AT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, Kenya -- The United States, which sought to avoid political issues at the U.N. Women's Conference, has found itself defending its foreign policies against attacks by communist delegations.

"It is obvious who is behind it all. The fingermarks are all over," said a U.S. delegate after attacks on Washington by Vietnam and Afghanistan.

(Patrick Moser, Reuter)

U.S. Denounced at U.N. Plenary

U.S. delegation leader Maureen Reagan said the attack "went above and beyond a difference of opinion" in which the two communist nations blamed the United States for "almost every conflict and every evil in the world today."

(Washington Times, A7)

ABZUG: GIVE WOMEN CHANCE TO RUN THE WORLD

NAIROBI, Kenya -- The issue before the panel was "what if women ruled the world," and Bella Abzug was presiding.

"All right," she said, "the question is, if women ruled the world today, would the world be different, and how?"

"And how!" the former New York congresswoman shouted, answering her own question.

But that did not stop Ms. Abzug's panelists from tackling the question themselves. (Jay Mallin, Washington Times, A7)

GET TOUGH WITH 'BEAR,' BROOMFIELD CHARGES

The State Department "does little" about Soviet aggressiveness so the Soviet Union continues "to play brutal hardball," Rep. Broomfield said as he advised the Administration to "get tough with the Russian bear."

(Ron Cordray, Washington Times, A4)

FRENCH PROTEST LAST REMARKS OF EX-AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH

PARIS -- Controversy continued to grow over remarks made in a newspaper interview by former U.S. Ambassador-to-France Evan Galbraith while he was still in France last week.

The interview, which included a bleak assessment of the electoral chances of President Mitterrand's ruling Socialist Party, appeared in Le Figaro. "I don't know any more than the polls. It is clear that the opposition is going to win," he said. "I have no reason to believe that the polls are wrong." (Michael Dobbs, Washington Post, A28)

France Angry Over Remarks by Outspoken U.S. Envoy

U.S. Charge d'Affairs John Maresca was summoned to the External Relations Ministry to explain what it called an "unacceptable" statement by Galbraith.

"We have already made clear our position and there is nothing more to add," a ministry spokesman said. Neither French nor U.S. Embassy officials would give details of the meeting. (Reuter)

SOVIETS SUPPLYING ADVANCED JETS TO NORTH KOREA, U.S. SAYS

HONOLULU -- The Soviet Union supplied North Korea with high-performance MiG-23 fighters for the first time this spring, suggesting a change in military relations between the two communist allies, according to U.S. military officials. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A32)

NICARAGUA

MANAGUA -- Business leaders called for the resignation of the leftist Sandinista government, saying it had failed to manage the nation's political, economic or social affairs.

The call from the Superior Council of Private Enterprise came two days before celebration of the sixth anniversary of the July 19, 1979 overthrow of the late dictator Anastasio Somoza.

(Juan Maltes, AP)

FASTING NICARAGUAN MINISTER BRANDS U.S. 'PATHOLOGICAL'

MANAGUA -- Miguel d'Escoto, who temporarily resigned as Nicaragua's foreign minister to stage a fast to protest U.S. policies in Central America, branded what he called U.S. attempts to topple his country's government as a "pathological and diabolical obsession."

(Reuter)

SCHLAUDEMAN MEETS WITH HONDURAN SECURITY COUNCIL

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- U.S. Special Envoy Harry Schlaudeman, on an unannounced visit to Honduras, participated for the first time in a meeting of the country's National Security Council.

Schlaudeman dismissed the importance of his meeting with the council.

(UPI)

REBELS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- A disaffected member of the U.S.-backed Nicaragua rebels said he abandoned the fight because the guerrilla command was turning the war into a business.

"We were fighting against the Cuban and Soviet occupation, but the fight turned into a business and it was not worth it anymore," said Rene Fernandez, 19, formerly known as Commander Gino of a regional unit of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, Fernandez said.

(UPI)

NAVY PUTS ALL GREEK AIRPORTS OFF-LIMITS TO SAILORS, DEPENDENTS

The Navy, in an unpublicized move, has flatly banned its active-duty personnel and their dependents from flying in or out of Greece on commercial aircraft.

The move, made nearly four weeks ago and just disclosed in a weekly Navy newsletter, goes beyond the "travel advisory" issued by the Reagan Administration following the hijacking of TWA Flight 847.

(Norman Black, AP)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ACCUSE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

UTAH (UPI) -- Three environmental groups have accused the Bureau of Land Management of allowing "degradation and mismanagement" of roadless areas being studied for possible wilderness designation. Representatives of The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club told a news conference Wednesday they are awaiting an explanation Thursday when Interior Secretary Donald Hodel testifies before a congressional panel. Terry Sopher of The Wilderness Society said the Interior Department has identified 1,955 incidents of "surface disturbances" in wilderness study areas, which are supposed to be kept in pristine condition in case Congress decides to designate them for permanent preservation. "We are saying most of these activities never should have occurred," he said. "The areas were supposed to be protected and they weren't."

OHIO NEWS BRIEFS

GRANVILLE, Ohio (UPI) -- Denison University officials will learn early next week whether First Lady Nancy Reagan will attend a drug-abuse prevention conference at the school. Mrs. Reagan is tentatively slated to speak at the conference late next week but her schedule may be changed because of President Reagan's recent surgery. A spokeswoman for the First Lady said Tuesday that no confirmation of her attendance at the conference could be made until early next week. The conference, sponsored by Youth-to-Youth of Columbus, begins Sunday and ends Thursday. About 300 high school students from 25 states are expected to attend.

REAGAN ON RUSHMORE?

STURGIS, Mich. (UPI) -- Jack Van Schoick's idea to put the face of Ronald Reagan on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota has gotten an official -- but hardly encouraging -- response from the federal government. Van Schoick said he received a letter Tuesday from Interior Department officials. "The letter was pretty much hopeless," he said. Van Schoick said mail on the subject has tapered off since his idea first gained national attention several weeks ago. But he said, "I haven't given up. I don't think the idea will ever die." He said responses were about even for and against the proposal. Van Schoick said if a person looks ahead a thousand years, the idea of immortalizing a 20th century president on the face of Mount Rushmore doesn't seem so ridiculous.

BROWARD'S COWAN WANTS RETENTION OF FINANCING TOOLS

FLORIDA (UPI) -- The chairman of the Broward County commissioners Wednesday told Congress it is essential to allow localities to retain the use of tax-free bonds, the investment tax credit and accelerated depreciation. Scott Cowan told the House Ways and Means Committee, considering the Reagan Administration's tax plan, that such financing tools are needed, in part, "to meet our responsibilities to provide solid waste disposal services....Our primary purpose is not the creation of tax-sheltered investment, it is the disposal of our wastes," he said. "The continued availability of tax free financing is essential if we in local government are to have the tools to meet the needs of our residents at reasonable cost."

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VACANT CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S MANSION DETERIORATING

LOS ANGELES (UPI) -- The Southern California developer who bought the vacant governor's mansion two years ago is suing the state for \$3M, claiming the state lied about the property and allowed the house to deteriorate. Matt Franich paid \$1.53M for the eight-bedroom mansion on 11 acres of land in Carmichael, which was built more than a decade ago for then-Gov. Ronald Reagan. The Reagans never lived in the rambling home, however. Nor did Gov. Brown. Gov. Deukmejian wanted to live in the mansion, but Democratic legislators put the house on the market. Franich planned to rent the mansion back to the state for Deukmejian's official residence.

EVANS: FARMERS LOST CONFIDENCE IN FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

IOWA (UPI) -- Farmers have lost confidence in the Farm Credit System, the nation's largest agricultural lender, because of the drastic steps it has taken to solve its financial troubles, Rep. Cooper Evans, R-Iowa, says. In testimony before a House subcommittee this week, Evans said Congress and the Reagan Administration are at least six months late in working out a solution for rescuing the 37-member farmer-owned cooperative. He said the system's strategy of raising interest rates, merging or liquidating banks and associations, and freezing borrowers' stock assets has "ruined farmers' confidence in the lender for at least a generation." Evans, addressing the Government Operations subcommittee on information, justice and agriculture, outlined several possible solutions for improving the system's financial condition.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Wednesday Evening, July 17, 1985)

PRESIDENT REAGAN

CBS's Dan Rather: President Reagan had his first post-surgery meeting with Vice President Bush. Mr. Reagan also had his first real food since his colon cancer operation -- a mostly liquid diet, including broth and popsicles. But, in the midst of today's continued "Life Goes On and Business as Usual" picture painted by the White House, the latest budget talks on Capitol Hill collapsed in acrimony.

CBS's Lesley Stahl: (TV Coverage: White House photos of President Reagan with Vice President Bush and President reading newspaper.) Aides who saw the President today say they were amazed at how good he looks. The White House released the first pictures of him since Saturday and said that after doctors removed a tube that went from his nose to his stomach, they started him on a liquid diet.

(TV Coverage: Mrs. Reagan arriving aboard USS America.)

Instead of visiting the hospital, Mrs. Reagan spent the day on an aircraft carrier promoting her anti-drug campaign. She spoke publicly about her husband for the first time.

(Mrs. Reagan: "The President's fine. I'm fine. Everything will be fine. -- I hope it's been helpful to other families, and I think it has.")

Reporter: "Is there any message -- ?"

Mrs. Reagan: "Go for early check-ups."

Reporter: "How would you describe the President's attitude?"

Mrs. Reagan: "Very upbeat. He cannot wait to get out.")

Mrs. Reagan's friends say she is tired but holding up remarkably well.

(Sheila Tate: "Well, she said it was like a bolt out of the blue. That it was a complete shock.")

Vice President Bush met with the President for the first time in a 45-minute session on the budget and foreign policy.

(Vice President Bush: "We have an expression in the oil business -- running high and looking good -- on drilling a well. And that's the way he is -- running high and looking good.")

There's been a steady stream of mail and flowers from around the country, many addressed, "Dear Ronnie." Many from people who've had similar operations. All in all, says the White House, a tremendous outpouring of affection. The White House expressed great annoyance today at doctors around the country who've been second-guessing the President's doctors and the medical treatment he's gotten over the last year-and-a-half. Spokesmen stressed that the President and Mrs. Reagan are completely satisfied with Mr. Reagan's doctors and their advice. (CBS-lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: The White House staff is certainly giving the impression that the only thing keeping President Reagan in the hospital is the doctors. Today, three new photographs, so the nation could see just how the President appears to be doing.

PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The President got out of bed to read the morning papers today, and aides were hard-pressed to come up with new superlatives to describe the speedy way he's bouncing back from his cancer operation. Vice President Bush made his first visit to the hospital, saw the President along with Chief of Staff Regan, and reported that Mr. Reagan walked out to greet him and looked fine. A really dramatic recovery, said Bush. The President was in good humor, they laughed and joked. In fact, Mr. Reagan, noting a rumor in European money markets that he had died, quipped, "Somebody must be trying to make a buck." Bush summed things up this way --

(Vice President Bush: "They have an expression in the oil business -- running high and looking good -- on drilling a well. And that's the way he is -- running high and looking good.")

That description of the President was hard to top, but Larry Speakes tried his hand at it.

(Larry Speakes: "This morning the President continues on a roll. In the words of Mrs. Reagan, who spoke with him by telephone shortly before she left on her day trip today, he's flying high. His first words when he left the room for his morning walk was, 'Tennis anyone?'"")

Speakes said the President's digestive system has begun to return to a normal function. Still, Mr. Reagan won't be released from the hospital until this weekend, at the earliest. In the meantime, acres of flowers are arriving at the hospital for the President to cheer him up and tickle his sinuses. Even though the news is good, White House officials have let it be known they don't want the President's doctors answering press inquiries. They seem particularly sensitive to the continuing questions about why the President didn't have a full bowel examination before last Friday. Speakes explained the doctors have already answered that question, and that the Reagans feel very strongly that the doctor-patient relationship of confidentiality should be preserved. The fact is, however, that when the President was shot in 1981, no such blackout was imposed. (ABC-lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: "Christmas in July." "The President continues on a roll." "He's flying high." Those are all phrases from the President or the White House today describing Mr. Reagan's recovery from cancer surgery. "Christmas in July" is what the President said when doctors removed a tube running from his nose to his stomach, and, as he took a walk along a hospital corridor, he called out, "Tennis anyone?" Even the new pictures are upbeat.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The new pictures show a President clearly on the mend.

(TV Coverage: White House photos of President laughing, President reading newspaper.)

Doctors removed a tube running from Mr. Reagan's nose into his stomach this morning, after he had his best night, so far, in the hospital. And with his digestive system getting back to normal, the President went on a diet of clear liquid, such as jello, juice and tea. At the White House, the air was full of one-liners.

(...continued)

PRESIDENT REAGAN (continued)

Wallace continues: (Larry Speakes: "This morning the President continues on a roll. In the words of Mrs. Reagan, who spoke with him by telephone shortly before she left on her day trip today, he's flying high.")

Vice President Bush met with Mr. Reagan for the first time since his surgery.

(TV Coverage: White House photo of Vice President Bush with President Reagan in hospital.)

They spent 45 minutes discussing the budget and other issues.

(Vice President Bush: "He was clearly read up and concerned about the various topics, just as if he were sitting here in the Oval Office.")

But, for all the good news, there were reminders that Mr. Reagan's medical future is uncertain. Some physicians have criticized the President's doctors for being unduly pessimistic about his prospects. But today, White House officials said Dr. Rosenberg stands by his judgment -- that Mr. Reagan's chances of surviving five years are only better than 50%. Providing new details, officials said the President's tumor extended through four layers of the bowel wall, but did not penetrate the fifth. However, aides say Mr. Reagan does not seem daunted, laughing off a rumor in the Singapore money markets this morning that he had died.

(Larry Speakes: "The President's first words were to die -- still another report of his early demise -- he said somebody must be trying to make a buck.")

Despite the joke, aides say the Reagans are disturbed by all the second-guessing of this case, such as one that the President should have had more tests 14 months ago. Officials say the Reagans believe strongly in the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship, and Larry Speakes called some of the criticism "distasteful." (NBC-lead)

FIRST LADY

Jennings: While the President is recovering, the First Lady has been trying to take up some of the slack. Mrs. Reagan has filled in for the President on at least one occasion this week. Today, Mrs. Reagan met a commitment that was on her own schedule. That wasn't too easy, under the circumstances.

ABC's Barry Serafin: (TV Coverage: Mrs. Reagan arriving onboard USS America. Cheers from sailors.)

Today the First Lady's duties took her by helicopter to the aircraft carrier USS America -- 20 miles off the Maryland coast. Mrs. Reagan condensed what was to have been an overnight visit into a few hours. Although White House aides have called Mrs. Reagan a real trouper this week, she has also been described as feeling alone and emotionally drained. But she got a warm welcome today and it was, she said, great therapy....Mrs. Reagan was joined by her stepbrother, Richard Davis, a doctor whose support and medical knowledge are said to have been important to her the past several days. She described President Reagan as upbeat and anxious to get back to work. She was the picture of composure.

(Mrs. Reagan: "The President's fine. I'm fine. Everything will be fine.")

(...continued)

FIRST LADY (continued)

Serafin continues: The First Lady sampled the menu in the ship's mess.

In brief remarks to sailors assembled on the hangar deck, she got a roar of approval.

(Mrs. Reagan: "I hate to drop names, but last night, when I kissed your Commander-in-Chief good night --" Cheers and whistles.)

They, in return, presented her with a giant get-well card for the President, signed by most of the carrier's 5,000-man crew.

(Mrs. Reagan: "If that doesn't get him well, nothing will.")

As warm and as friendly as the visit to the carrier America turned out to be, it was not Mrs. Reagan's idea to go through with the visit. That was the President's idea.

(Michael Deaver: "I think she probably would have canceled it. But he said, no, you've got to get down there. You're going to disappoint the boys. She's a trouper. And she knows it's important for him, and it's also important for the country to be out there and to be a calming influence.")

The Reagans have always celebrated their togetherness, basked in it.

(TV Coverage: President and Mrs. Reagan dancing during the Inaugural Ball.)

That made the stress that much greater on Nancy Reagan four years ago, when the President was the target of an assassination attempt.

(Mrs. Reagan on Barbara Walters Special, June 2, 1981: "You hold yourself together for a long time because you have to.")

Friends say she's feeling the same sort of stress now.

(Sheila Tate: "I think it's definitely taking a toll on her. Nancy Reagan is the type of woman who keeps a lot of things inside herself.")

(TV coverage: Aboard USS America -- sailors singing "Ain't She Sweet".)

But as her shipboard visit turned into a love fest, today, at least, was a good day -- one that came, she said, at just the right time.

(ABC-2)

Brokaw: The President's illness has been a strain on Mrs. Reagan, but she is determined to carry on with as much of her schedule as possible. She was going to spend the night on an aircraft carrier as part of her anti-drug campaign, but the trip took on a different flavor today.

NBC's Andrea Mitchell: (TV Coverage: Mrs. Reagan aboard USS America.)

Nancy Reagan said visiting this aircraft carrier was the best therapy to keep her from worrying so much about her husband. She kept her date with 5,000 sailors because the President wanted her to keep a normal schedule.

(Mrs. Reagan: "The President's fine. I'm fine. Everything will be fine.")

As if to silence reports that she has not been eating enough, she had the Navy's \$2 special for lunch. At a ceremony from the hangar deck, the First Lady received gifts, and she gave them.

(Mrs. Reagan: "And Brian Russell -- your wife has sent you a birthday message -- " She kisses sailor. Crowds cheer.)

Messages from home. And from Bethesda Naval Hospital.

(...continued)

FIRST LADY (continued)

Mitchell continues: (Mrs. Reagan: "I hate to drop names, but last night, when I kissed your Commander-in-Chief good night -- " Cheers and whistles -- "he said, 'Nancy, will you tell them how proud I am of them.'")

Mrs. Reagan's brother, who has been providing emotional support -- (Reporter: "How is she holding up?"

Dr. Davis: "Very, very well, thank you. She's doing a great job.") The First Lady described the President as very upbeat and eager to get out, and she's determined that the staff not overload him with work.

(Mrs. Reagan: "He should be able to go through a recuperative period just as any other patient.")

As for time for her to heal -- that, she says, will come later.

(NBC-2)

COLON CANCER

Jennings: It is a fact of life about the American Presidency. When the President has a particular kind of illness, then everyone in the nation is going to know more about it -- or want to know more about it. All over the country this week, people have been calling their doctors or cancer hot lines to learn more about colon cancer.

ABC's Carole Simpson reports that ever since Monday afternoon's announcement that President Reagan has colon cancer, the phones have been ringing steadily at National Cancer Institute cancer hot lines across the country. There's also been a nationwide upsurge in the number of people making appointments for physical examinations. Mrs. Nancy Reagan said she hopes the attention focused on her husband's illness will help save lives. President Reagan was told about the increased public interest in colon cancer and was reportedly pleased that out of his misfortune, other Americans may benefit.

(ABC-3)

FED/BUDGET

Rather: The chairman of the nation's central bank looked at the economy today and found "strain, imbalance and danger." Today's warning was if federal deficits aren't cut, a new tax may be inevitable.

CBS's Ray Brady reports Congress wanted to grill the Federal Reserve Chairman, but instead he turned the tables, warning them that unless they cut government spending, they will have to raise taxes. A consumption tax could be a national sales tax, with the more you spend, the more you pay in taxes. Volcker cautioned that the Federal Reserve has gone about as far as it can go to aid the economy. A lot of the money being borrowed by the government to finance the deficit is coming from foreign investors. They could, at any time, decide to pull their money out of this country. Congressional negotiators struggled again today to reach a compromise budget plan. From his hospital bed, President Reagan sent them a strong message through a spokesman --

(Larry Speakes: "We have to show real dollar cuts in domestic spending. That's the only way to go. Tell them that.")

The negotiators may or may not have heard the President, but late today the budget talks were at an impasse. Unless Washington can find a way to cut spending, Paul Volcker's warning may come to pass, leaving the American people to pick up the bill.

(CBS-4, ABC-5)

ECONOMY

Rather: The government today released a handful of reports indicating no more than modest economic growth ahead. The Commerce Department said Americans' personal income rose .5% in June while personal spending last month jumped .6%. A separate report said housing starts, after a sharp decline in May, climbed 1.9% last month. That was less than had been hoped. (CBS-5)

SECRETARY SHULTZ

Brokaw: Tough words from Secretary Shultz, who today called on America's allies to cooperate more closely in the fight against terrorism. Speaking in Honolulu, he charged that terrorists are directly attacking the democratic alliance. (Secretary Shultz: "We must do more than just hold the line. We must fight back. We must realize that we are under a continuing attack. We must cooperate to deter and dramatically raise the cost to both the terrorists and those who support them and offer safe haven to them.") Shultz also said that media coverage of the recent hijack crisis in the Middle East hurt the government's ability to cope with that crisis. (NBC-3)

ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE

Brokaw: Attorney General Meese said the government may ask news organizations to delay reporting on some terrorist incidents voluntarily. Speaking in London, he endorsed PM Thatcher's suggestion that the news media should deny the terrorists the publicity they crave. (NBC-4)

WILLIAM BRADFORD REYNOLDS

Rather: Apparently, after a back door attempt to reverse it, Sen. Dole finally made it official tonight -- no more attempts to make President Reagan's controversial top civil rights enforcer in the Justice Department, William Bradford Reynolds, the number three man in the whole Justice Department. (CBS-13)

FAA

Brokaw: The FAA today ordered tougher security for all flights by American air carriers. A security coordinator will be required on the ground for every flight. The coordinator will be responsible for passenger screening and access to the aircraft. That includes fueling and servicing. The pilot will be designated the in-flight security coordinator. (NBC-5)

SOVIET AIRCRAFT

Jennings: The Pentagon today released pictures of a Soviet aircraft off the coast of Alaska a couple of weeks ago. The Soviet plane is designed to carry the Soviet version of a cruise missile. The Pentagon described the encounter as a routine testing of American defenses by the Soviet air force. (ABC-8)

-more-

ATLIT PRISONER RELEASE

Jennings: Early next week, Israel is going to release about 100 more Lebanese prisoners it's been holding. Their release was a key factor in resolving the fate of Americans onboard TWA Flight 847. There will still be about 350 prisoners held in Israel, but we believe the remainder is going to be released fairly soon. (ABC-10, CBS-10)

ISRAEL

Rather: There was a top-secret meeting last night at the home of Israeli PM Peres. The guests: two moderate West Bank Palestinian leaders, the mayor of Bethlehem and a prominent businessman. The Bethlehem mayor said the meeting was what he called, "an important step toward an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue." One subject discussed: the possible make-up of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks. Peres said tonight the U.S. had forwarded a proposal list of Palestinians for this delegation, but that Israel finds the names unacceptable. (CBS-8)

SOUTH AFRICA

Brokaw: New violence in South Africa has claimed the lives of three more blacks in separate disturbances in that country. The real flashpoint today was Soweto. Young people attacked stores, cars, trucks and buses -- one carrying seven tourists from the United States, Britain and West Germany. (NBC-7, ABC-9, CBS-2)

VICE PRESIDENT BUSH

NBC's John Chancellor: (Commentary) For something like seven hours last Saturday, George Herbert Walker Bush was Acting President of the United States, acting leader of the free world, head man in the Executive Branch. And what did our first official Acting President do during his brief Presidency? Well, he wasn't near the Oval Office, he hung around the Vice President's house, played a little tennis, and worried about how the operation was going for his friend, Ronald Reagan. Whatever inner thoughts he may have had, he kept them to himself. The White House staff had discussed invoking the 25th Amendment last Friday, so Bush wasn't surprised when Mr. Reagan made him Acting President. George Bush is one of the key players in the Administration. More powerful than any Vice President has ever been before. Ronald Reagan has been very nice to George Bush. But Presidents always keep certain distances from their Vice Presidents. That was true last week. Mr. Reagan never spoke directly to Mr. Bush. Never called him on the telephone to talk about the Constitutional change that was in the works. Mr. Bush talked more than once with Mrs. Reagan and several times with Chief of Staff Donald Regan, but nobody said, the President is calling, and that's par for the course for Vice Presidents....Some things never change in American politics. The President is the President. The Vice President is that other guy. (NBC-10)

THE OTHER SEVEN

Rather reports that apparently to the relief of the State Department and some others in the Reagan Administration, reports about seven Americans still hostages in Lebanon have faded from press and public attention. The kidnappers have been demanding the release of terrorists held in Kuwait for the 1983 bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy. Partly through the efforts of Iran, Kuwait is under increasing heat.

CBS's Larry Pintak reports Kuwait is struggling against some of the same terrorists who are holding seven Americans hostage in Lebanon. The Kuwaitis share America's hard-line approach to terrorism, but, as they're learning, that stance can sometimes breed violence. As tensions grow, the Kuwaitis, like Americans in the Middle East, are withdrawing behind higher and higher walls. (CBS-9)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH/25th AMENDMENT

American Family Pulls for Reagan -- "It is an illness in the family - the American family - and the family pulls for President Ronald Reagan....Yet it is not with any sense of invasion, but rather with a feeling of community, that Americans will now watch the president's recovery and hope that the generally promising prognosis will prove out....While all of that is being worked out, if the support of family is any help - well, it is not everyone, Mr. President, who can boast a 230-million-member one."
(Atlanta Constitution, 7/16)

The President's Healthy Odds -- "Apart from the temporary disruption of his schedule as he recuperates, there should not be any reason for President Reagan's behavior or others' behavior toward him to be altered by the information the surgery reveals. There are odds for each of us, after all; there are risks of all sorts that could ripen into mortal fact. But the essence of life - personal and political alike - is to act in the face of knowledge of our mortality. When the odds are a good bit better than 50-50 that when President Reagan dies of other causes someday there will not be a single cancer cell from this tumor in his body, that is pretty reassuring, given the alternatives."
(Chicago Tribune, 7/17)

Malignant -- "Let us pray that the doctors' optimism is justified and that the 74-year-old president will be able to resume 'full and complete activity.' This we hope not only for his sake but for the sake of the nation, which has benefited greatly from his guidance during the past 4½ years. In both domestic and foreign affairs, the U.S. stands at pivotal points and continues to need his leadership....Mr. Reagan acted responsibly. He considered the circumstances he faced and concluded that a transfer of power would be in the country's best interest. Future presidents who might find themselves in similar plight must, as President Reagan did, use their own judgment."
(Richmond Times Dispatch, 7/16)

Three and a Half More Years -- "When a President is stricken, the natural instinct of the nation is to close ranks. For a few months, probably until the end of 1985, the present mood of sympathy and unity is likely to prevail, but not for the last three and half years of Ronald Reagan's Presidency....If the President doesn't recover his health and his full powers in the next three and half years, given the 50-50 bet and the accidents of life, he always has the option of resigning and turning the Presidency over to Mr. Bush, who would then seek re-election in 1988 from the White House. This is obviously not the President's or the Democrats' favorite vision of the future, but in the struggle for power around here, you'd be surprised what the political managers and hucksters think about."
(James Reston, New York Times, 7/17)

Mr. Reagan Provides an Example -- "The sense that President Reagan 'can handle anything,' as one of his aides said, is one of the characteristics that endears him to the American people....Surely many other people bear their problems as gracefully, but none so publicly. We are reassured by Mr. Reagan's persona. The president reacts as each of us hopes he or she would."
(Hartford Courant, 7/16)

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH/25th AMENDMENT (continued)

The President's Illness -- "Fortunately, the President is not a detail man as was Jimmy Carter. He delegates authority and himself makes only the big decisions, in the manner of a corporate board chairman. There should not be a noticeable lack of leadership as he mends, since modern communications allow him to stay in touch from Bethesda or his California ranch, where he will go to recuperate. Also, Reagan has a more competent staff and Cabinet than is generally acknowledged. Men like Bush and Regan in the White House, Baker at Treasury, Shultz at State and Baldrige at Commerce can handle the country's business as the President restores his health." (Pittsburgh Press, 7/15)

Presidential Medicine -- "'Presidential medicine' is a well-understood concept in health-policy circles. It's gold-plated medicine, with a doctor on hand at all hours, specialists available on short notice, and damn the cost. It's the kind of medicine you and I don't get, because if we did, it would consume the gross national product....It's worth keeping the concept of 'presidential medicine' in mind as the post-operative debate mounts over whether Mr. Reagan received proper medical attention prior to his current hospitalization....The guidelines of the American Cancer Society weren't intended for him, nor do they provide any useful guides to medical care when cost doesn't matter and the consequences of a missed diagnosis extend far beyond a particular patient. The President's doctors followed the book and did just what it said. That was a mistake. The book wasn't written for presidents." (Daniel Greenberg, Baltimore Sun, 7/17)

Acting President Bush -- "The presidency is not the property of a president, to be held or relinquished as an individual sees fit. So we hope that a consensus will quickly develop around the proposition that a precedent has been set, that George Bush was acting president during the period of the president's incapacitation - not just the loyal vice-president carrying out his president's personal, but not legally required, temporary transfer of authority. The point of the Twenty-fifth Amendment is that informal arrangements are not good enough." (Baltimore Sun, 7/17)

Constitution, Constitution -- "What purpose is there, then, in avoiding the 25th? Some observers suggest that the President wanted to mute concern about the operation. Others say Reagan did not want to set a precedent (this was the 25th's first use), especially because he has doubts about its applicability. That is dangerous hair-splitting....The intent of the 25th is clear. For the President to find constitutional ambiguity where none resides therefore is wrong. Just as the President's health demands care and respect, so too does the document he is sworn to uphold." (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/16)

Reagan is on the Mend, With Best Wishes From All -- "Binding or not, a precedent has been set that deserves to be followed in future cases of temporary presidential incapacity. Writing a brief letter before major surgery is a simple thing to do and it gives the country assurance of uninterrupted leadership by an acting president. If a national emergency occurred, that kind of precaution could be crucial. Happily there was no emergency requiring action by Bush. The President is back in charge with every prospect of full and speedy recovery. That is the nation's fervent wish." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/16)

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH/25th AMENDMENT (continued)

There's a Sickness in the Family -- "President Reagan's operation is an epic piece of Americana. In its own way, it's a celebration of democracy, evidence of the public's right to know almost everything, a suggestion that when it comes to the President and his health we are all family. In some places overseas, we are being criticized once again for bad taste - for telling the world more than it wants to know about the President's large intestine. These critics miss the point. The questions - and the answers - are nothing more than yet another affirmation of the sense that the presidency is ours and the President is family."

(Richard Cohen, Philadelphia Inquirer, 7/17)

Coping With a President's Illness - and Recovery -- "Virtually all Americans, regardless of whether they're Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives, share a concern for President Reagan's health and hope for his rapid recovery.... Still, some puzzling elements surround the President's illness. Why, for example, did Reagan, in his letter temporarily transferring presidential power to Bush, so painstakingly try to avoid invoking the 25th Amendment to the Constitution? Many experts, including Birch Bayh, the former senator who was the 1967 amendment's chief author, contend that it was the President's only legal basis for acting as he did.... News reports suggested yesterday that Reagan's White House aides plan to ease his work load during the weeks ahead by sparing him unnecessary decisions. That's fine, so long as they don't pre-empt any business that only the President should conduct. No one - least of all Reagan's own staff - should underestimate his remarkable resilience and his ability to overcome the effects of physical adversity."

(Newsday, 7/16)

Rough Edges to Transfer of Powers -- "President Reagan has wisely, if reluctantly, followed the sensible procedures provided in the 25th Amendment to the Constitution.... This weekend he became the first President to transfer the duties of his office to his vice president - in accordance with the 25th Amendment.... One possible side effect of these routine transfers is that we will take the vice presidential selection process more seriously. Reagan's convoluted letter to Congress to the contrary notwithstanding, his is a prudent precedent - one that we can only hope will have to be exercised rarely."

(Thomas Cronin, Los Angeles Times, 7/17)

President's Cancer: Let Us Pray -- "In Reagan we have the first President ever to survive a would-be assassin's bullet - a man of enormous determination and character. A fighter, if you please. Is it suggested that, in the weeks and months ahead, he will do other than fight with all his proved ability? Enough for the moment. The doctors have done - are doing - their best. They think everything will probably be all right with the President. As a nation, as a people, let us pray it may be so."

(Dallas Morning News, 7/16)

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FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH

Future of Reagan Presidency Will Be Clouded -- "The future of the Reagan Presidency will be clouded with uncertainties at a time of economic problems and international tensions.... Sympathy might help him domestically over the short run but it will be an internationally weakened leader who goes to Geneva to meet the younger Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev..."
(Guardian, Britain, 7/16)

Who Runs the White House? Donald Reagan -- "The President is trying to show that his operation was routine and that he is in no way diminished.... But his desire to bring Congress to vote on the budget and the support sought for his tax reform are likely to suffer.... The cut in his activities will raise another question: Who runs the White House? Donald Reagan has become the most important Chief of Staff ever at the White House."
(Figaro, France, 7/16)

Contrast with Soviet Secrecy Over Their Leaders' Health -- "Similar problems happen in other countries, but they are concealed most of the time by the habit of secrecy surrounding the health of political leaders.... For example, Soviet leaders left their people and the world in total ignorance of the much more serious illnesses which incapacitated three of their former leaders for months."
(Le Monde, France, 7/16)

Running the Most Important Country From a Hospital Bed -- "The fact remains that the President of the most powerful country in the world is running his country from his hospital bed and that he has cancer."
(France-Inter radio, France, 7/16)

If He's Lucky, He Will Make the World Forget -- "This is the beginning of a period of uncertainty over Reagan's health and there may be concern about a weakening of his Presidential authority.... Of course, there are statistical probabilities for a revival of the disease. But Ronald Reagan showed he is a courageous and serene man, and if he is lucky, he will make his fellow citizens and the world forget that he is a 'high risk' candidate to the disease of the century."
(Corriere della Sera, Italy, 7/16)

Reagan Reacted With Usual Self-Confidence -- "The old Republican leader reacted to the adversity with the usual self-confidence..."
(La Stampa, Italy, 7/16)

Check-up Postponed Because of Bitburg? -- "As early as last fall, the doctors urged the President to subject himself to a thorough examination but the White House decided to postpone the check-up because of the election campaign and later, this spring, because of the Bitburg controversy.... The President's advisers felt that in the FRG, an 'alarming diagnosis' would be understood as a cheap trick to bail the President out of the visit to the cemetery. Bitburg was much more important to Washington than most people thought at the time..."
(Stuttgarter Zeitung and Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger, West Germany, 7/16)

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH (continued)

Concerns About Elderly Leader's Health Moved to Washington -- "But apart from the arithmetics of old age, there are no parallels between the three frail and ailing party leaders in the USSR and the 74-year-old Californian at the helm of the USA... Not even the youngest and most active person can feel safe from the possibility of cancer. In Mr. Reagan's case, this difficult situation also showed that everything is taken care of in case of emergency..." (Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, West Germany, 7/16)

Shadow of Concern Lying Over U.S. and Western Allies -- "Larry Speakes, said yesterday, 'He can handle anything that comes down the pike.' This obviously is a successful motto because it corresponds not only to the image the White House wants to create but also to the desires of practically the entire American public.... Nevertheless, there will be a shadow of concern lying not only over the United States but also over its allies in the West." (Bonner Rundschau, West Germany, 7/16)

Patriotism in U.S. Perceived as Something Positive -- "Ronald Reagan has become the object of national emotions. People say that after Vietnam and Watergate, he has made America strong again. Thus, the public concern about the President's illness is more than a mere spectacle. In many ways Americans do think and feel differently than we do. This is all the more true when they are worried about their President's health." (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, West Germany, 7/16)

Recovery Hoped for Sake of Continuity -- "Any transfer of power before the end of Mr. Reagan's second term could not be other than unsettling worldwide -- neither Washington nor Moscow would welcome it.... The hope must be that the President's recovery will be as satisfactory as his doctors originally predicted, for the sake of continuity up to and beyond the November summit..." (Irish Times, Ireland, 7/16)

How Age and Health May Affect Reagan's Success -- "This President -- one of the luckiest in history -- has belatedly come around to the conclusion that relations with Moscow must be improved, if only to achieve arms control.... He has set himself the task of changing American society radically through tax reform.... It remains to be seen whether age or health problems will deprive him of these successes. He certainly needs them if he is to go down in history not just as a good president but as a great one." (Tribune de Geneve, Switzerland, 7/15)

'Teflon President' Will Make Comeback -- "But there are indications that the 'Teflon President,' who has an outstanding ability to survive, will win points this time by making an unexpected comeback from his illness." (Sankei, Japan, 7/16)

Washington World Capital Status Confirmed -- "Three remarkable things about the United States are its democracy, its huge scale and the fact that strength capable of destroying the world concentrates on a single man." (Hankook Ilbo, South Korea, 7/16)

Reagan Really is Human -- It may be unlikely, but it is no longer unthinkable, that President Reagan's second term might be clouded with personal problems that seemed remote as recently as last November when he was returned so convincingly to office." (Age, Australia, 7/16)