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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Both Sides See KO In "Contra" Aid Fight -- Like boxers before a prize fight, both sides in the battle for aid to Nicaragua's rebels said they were sure of a victory as Thursday's crucial House vote approached.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, Baltimore Sun, New York Times, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, AP, Reuter)

Reagan/Mulroney -- Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney begins talks with President Reagan hoping to win pledges of concrete action against acid rain, something Reagan has resisted. (AP, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

HHS Chief Plans Reorganization -- Secretary Bowen is planning a major reorganization of his vast department that will combine at least six programs dealing with low-income families, Administration and Congressional sources said yesterday. (Washington Post)

Lynne Cheney To NEH? -- The Reagan Administration intends to nominate Lynne Cheney to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to congressional and endowment sources. (Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

NICARAGUA -- The President is still confidently pursuing aid for the rebels in Nicaragua.

PALME -- The first formal murder accusations in the assassination of Olaf Palme.

FRANCE -- President Mitterrand went on TV to announce that he will name a new Prime Minister.

PENNY WISE

The cost of maintaining a homeless family of four at a shelter in the Bronx is \$70,000 a year -- not counting the cost of maintaining the shelter itself -- according to New York City officials. The cost of the city's other four large shelters is only \$60,000 a year. For the homeless who are put up at seedy hotels around Manhattan, the owners charge a mere \$1,000 to \$3,000 a month per room. The housing allowance for a poor family living in its own apartment is \$270 a month.

(New Republic, March 31)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HOPEFUL CONTRA AID WILL PASS HOUSE

Freshman's Swing Vote Targeted By Aid Backers

All across East Texas yesterday, a professional radio announcer, a crisp urgency in his voice, repeated the same message every hour. "To help President Reagan stop communist expansion in Central America, you need to make one important phone call," he said. "Call your congressman, Jim Chapman, today...."

The radio commercials are only a small part of the intensive lobbying campaign on the contra aid issue that is now building toward a climax with the House vote scheduled Thursday.

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. May Help Rebels Purchase Antiair Missiles

Reagan Administration officials yesterday predicted that the House would approve President Reagan's proposal for a \$100 million aid package for the Nicaraguan rebels. While at least two key Democratic members of Congress agreed with this estimate, House Majority Whip Thomas Foley (D-Wash) said that he has "every confidence" that the measure will be defeated.

Reagan stepped up his lobbying with phone calls to House members, as both sides maneuvering for what one Administration official called "the psychological advantage of appearing to be on the winning side" before Thursday's vote. They agreed that the outcome will be decided by a narrow margin, perhaps by fewer than a dozen votes.

(Lou Cannon & George Wilson, Washington Post, A1)

U.S./Nicaragua

Both sides are predicting victory when the House finally decides the intensely fought campaign over President Reagan's plan to give \$100 million in military and economic aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

Rep. Thomas Foley (D-Wash), the House whip and chief Democratic vote counter, said late Monday, "It's conclusive that we will win. It's not overwhelming, but it's conclusive and we expect it to stay that way."

(Tim Ahern, AP)

House Presses State Dept. Over Status Of CIA Fund

In the aftermath of conflicting Administration statements, the House Intelligence Committee urged the State Department yesterday to clarify whether the President's request for aid to the Nicaraguan rebels would allow the use of a vast CIA contingency fund, committee sources said.

They said chairman Lee Hamilton (D-Ind) warned that unless the issue were settled satisfactorily, it could become a focus of debate when the House considers President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid to the "contras."

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Test Of A Presidency

In presenting the Nicaraguan issue as a historic test of his presidency, Ronald Reagan has decided to try to convert his firm anti-Communism, dating back to personal experiences in union politics in Hollywood, into national policy.

White House aides and longtime advisers said today that few issues in Mr. Reagan's Presidency had so engaged him emotionally or so clearly pointed up how this President's personal convictions drive policy.

(Bernard Weinraub, News Analysis, New York Times, A1)

Both Sides See KO In "Contra" Aid Fight

Like boxers before a prize fight, both sides in the battle for aid to Nicaragua's rebels said they were sure of a victory as Thursday's crucial House vote approached.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said phone calls received since President Reagan's Sunday speech were running 71 percent favorable.

Vice President Bush, on NBC's Today show, predicted: "We're going to win."

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

Several Arrested In Protests Against Reagan Aid Request

Official Washington wasn't the only place debating President Reagan's plea for aid to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels:

In Minneapolis, Minn., two people were arrested and 33 cited for trespassing after they demonstrated at Sen. Dave Durenberger's office against the proposed federal aid.

(USA Today, A4)

"Contra" Aid Vote Margin Narrows

The tide may be turning in favor of military aid to the "contras" in Nicaragua.

By talking over the heads of balky lawmakers and directly to the American people, the President resorted to a technique he has used to spectacular effect in pushing forward his legislative agenda on taxes and budgetary matters.

(Peter Osterlund, Christain Science Monitor, A1)

Latins Back "Pressure," Habib Says

Philip Habib, just back from a presidential mission to Central America, yesterday said regional leaders in Central America understand the U.S. strategy for applying pressure on the Sandinistas with aid to the Nicaraguan resistance.

"They understand the significance of putting pressure on the Sandinistas in order to bring them to a different approach, a political approach," he said.

(Mary Belcher & Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A1)

Contra Aid Said Stalled In The House

Robert Dole said yesterday that President Reagan had swayed enough votes to win Senate passage of the \$100 million dollar aid package for the Nicaraguan resistance, but House Democrats said he had swayed no votes in the lower chamber.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

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House Democratic Leaders Say Reagan Speech Had Little Effect

A public opinion poll released last night appeared to support assertions by House Democratic Leaders that President Reagan's television appeal for support for Nicaraguan rebels was not effective.

The poll, taken by ABC television immediately after Reagan's broadcast on Sunday, showed 30 percent of those questioned approved of new military aid for the so-called contra rebels while 54 percent opposed it.
(Carol Giacomo, Reuter)

CLAIMS ON CONTRAS IN DISPUTE

In his weekend pleas for military aid to rebels in Nicaragua, President Reagan drew on the bywords of 40 years of a staunch anticommunism to paint a dark and ominous picture of the Marxist government of Nicaragua and the threat it poses to the United States.

To make his grim portrait, the President invoked some disputed statistics and accusations and a panoply of devil figures, from Italy's Red Brigades to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. In the end, Reagan suggested that Congress' upcoming votes on the \$100 million aid request will determine the course of the entire East-West conflict.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A6)

MANAGUA OFFERS QUIET DEFIANCE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- The Sandinista leadership is watching the heated U.S. debate over further military aid for Nicaraguan rebels with a public air of quiet defiance.

The position reflects increased confidence after a year of military progress against the insurgents and a conclusion that bombastic declarations from Managua and high-profile lobbying in previous Washington debates failed to advance the Sandinista case.

(Edward Cody, Washington Post, A7)

Nicaragua Denounces Reagan Propaganda

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- Nicaragua labeled President Reagan's speech seeking support for \$100 million in new aid for Contra rebels a "growl of war" and renewed its call for negotiations with the United States.

Reagan's speech was reported in Monday's edition of the official newspaper, Barricada, under the headline "Growl of War from Washington."
(Tracy Wilkinson, UPI)

Nicaraguans Give Low Key Response To U.S. "Contra" Aid Vote

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua has shown unusual restraint in its response to President Reagan's campaign for increased U.S. support for Nicaraguan rebels, diplomats said.

In previous years, Reagan's rhetoric in favor of the aid has prompted protest marches and the construction of trenches in Managua for defense against a much-publicized U.S. invasion, but this year, diplomats said, Nicaragua appeared calm despite Reagan's words.

(Matthew Campbell, Reuter)

SOVIETS CALL REAGAN SPEECH LIKE "RED DAWN"

MOSCOW -- The official Soviet news agency Tass accused President Reagan today of resorting to "slander and concoctions" in a plea for aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

"The President's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anticommunist film 'Red Dawn,'" Tass said in a dispatch from Washington. (AP story, Washington Post, A15)

CONTRA AID ISSUE: CAN ADMINISTRATION LIVE WITH SANDINISTAS?

At the heart of the debate over President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for Nicaragua's Contras are differences over whether he wants to topple or reform the Sandinista government, and whether he has given negotiations a chance.

There is not much disagreement between Congress and the White House over whether the Sandinistas are hostile to American interests. The differences concern how much of a threat they pose, and what should be done about it. (Gregory Nokes, News Analysis, AP)

DOLLAR PLUMMETS TO POSTWAR LOW AGAINST THE YEN

The dollar tumbled yesterday to its lowest level against the Japanese yen since the end of World War II.

It fell as low as 174.50 yen in early Tokyo trading before moving a bit higher later during trading in New York, but it remained below the previous postwar low of 175.50 yen. That low was set on Oct. 31, 1978.

(James Sterngold, New York Times, A1)

SOVIET REPORTED ACTING TO BEGIN NEW ATOM TESTS

The Soviet Union has started preparations for the possible resumption of nuclear weapons testing, Reagan Administration officials said today.

Satellite reconnaissance photographs show the Soviet Union has been digging holes and tunnels in which nuclear explosives can be placed and moving monitoring equipment into a test area, according to Administration experts who have reviewed classified United States intelligence reports.

(Michael Gordon, New York Times, A1)

U.S. DISINFORMATION EFFORT REPORTED

The Pentagon and CIA have instituted a disinformation and deception program to prevent sensitive data on weapons and technology from falling into Soviet hands, Aviation Week & Space Technology reported yesterday.

Quoting officials in the project, the authoritative weekly said it affects about 15 to 20 programs, six or seven of which are in the Defense Department, including SDI, the Air Force Stealth fighter and bomber, and the Navy's Advanced Tactical Aircraft.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A15)

REAGAN/MULRONEY

Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney begins talks with President Reagan hoping to win pledges of concrete action against acid rain, something Reagan has resisted.

Senior White House officials have said they expect Reagan to endorse a special report prepared for this year's "Shamrock summit" of the two leaders of Irish heritage, but not necessarily to sign onto the full \$5 billion program it recommends to install clean-burning coal equipment in U.S. utilities. (Guy Darst, AP)

Senate Bill Proposes Forcing Acid Rain Treaty

President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney meet in Washington today as a key U.S. senator continues to press for treaties with Canada and Mexico on controlling acid rain.

(Glenn Somerville, Reuter)

JUDGE ALLOWS RELEASE OF MARCOS PAPERS

NEW YORK -- A federal judge today cleared the way for the Reagan Administration to give Philippine and congressional investigators sensitive documents believed to contain crucial details of the financial holdings of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos.

"As far as we are concerned, it's a green light," Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland said. "Everything is in order legally for this to happen. It's not just a matter of the mechanical process."

(Margot Hornblower, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Court Refuses To Block Issuance Of Marcos Papers

A judge in New York yesterday denied a request for a restraining order, clearing the way for U.S. officials to turn over to the new Philippine government and Congress documents detailing the wealth of former president Marcos. (UPI story, Washington Times, A9)

State Department Officials Examine Marcos Papers

Officials of the State Department and U.S. Customs last night sorted through papers brought into the country by ousted ex-president Ferdinand Marcos after a New York court cleared the way for them to be handed over to the new Philippine government. (Reuter)

U.S. To Give Marcos Papers To New Government Today

The United States plans to turn over copies of 1,500 pages of former President Marcos's documents to the new Government of the Philippines on Tuesday, State Department officials said today.

(Stephen Engelberg, New York Times, A1)

LEBANON HOSTAGE RELATIVES TO START LETTER CAMPAIGN

Relatives of the American hostages in Lebanon plan to launch a national letter-writing campaign urging the Reagan Administration to intensify its efforts to secure freedom for the six captives.

The families announced the letter-writing campaign drive Monday, hours after they met with Administration officials at the State Department. Relatives hope Americans will show their support for the hostages by sending letters to the Administration. (Joan Mower, AP)

REAGAN, FITZGERALD PUSH NORTHERN IRELAND AID PLAN

President Reagan joined visiting Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald yesterday in calling for passage of a pending \$250 million program in economic aid for Northern Ireland and denouncing those providing financial aid to Irish terrorists.

In a statement celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the President called the Anglo-Irish agreement achieved last year by FitzGerald and British Prime Minister Thatcher "a ray of hope." (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A24)

Reagan, FitzGerald Think Luck Of The Irish Is Turning

President Reagan and Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald joined hands at the White House yesterday in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and expressed gratitude that a ray of hope has begun to shine through on the political and religious differences wracking Northern Ireland over the past 20 years. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A4)

FitzGerald Goes Home With U.S. Support For Anglo-Irish Pact

Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald has received fresh pledges from President Reagan and congressional leaders on U.S. backing for an Anglo-Irish accord on Northern Ireland. (Adela Gooch, Reuter)

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NATIONAL NEWS

HHS CHIEF PLANS REORGANIZATION

Secretary Bowen is planning a major reorganization of his vast department that will combine at least six programs dealing with low-income families, Administration and Congressional sources said yesterday.

Bowen thinks that the new unit, to be called the Family Services Administration, will give more visibility and clout to agencies dealing with poor families and will produce better services and policy, the sources said.
(Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A12)

U.S., NAACP FAULT YONKERS DESEGREGATION

The Justice Department and the NAACP have sharply criticized a desegregation plan drawn up by officials in Yonkers, N.Y., to settle a suit in which the city was found guilty of systematic bias in its housing and schools.
(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A9)

LYNNE CHENEY TO NEH?

The Reagan Administration intends to nominate Lynne Cheney, a senior editor at The Washingtonian magazine and wife of Republican Rep. Richard Cheney of Wyoming, to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to congressional and endowment sources. Although Cheney is still undergoing the requisite security checks and clearances, the White House may announce its choice this week, sources said.
(Mary Battiata, Washington Post, B1)

HART WIDENS HIS LEAD OVER BUSH IN HARRIS POLL ON 1988 CONTEST

Vice President Bush has lost ground to front-running Sen. Gary Hart in a public opinion poll on potential candidates for president in 1988.

The same Harris Survey, however, shows Mr. Bush as a stronger candidate than Rep. Jack Kemp against Mr. Hart.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A2)

SOME WHEAT FARMERS FEEL "BETRAYED" OVER NEW EXPORT POLICY

Some of the nation's wheat farmers are complaining about the Reagan Administration's export policies, and others say they are so pinched financially that they don't expect to be in business in five years anyway.

The Oregon Wheat Growers League says the Administration has betrayed producers by changing the rules for some of the export provisions included in last year's farm bill.
(Don Kendall, AP)

TASK FORCE SEEKS TORT LAW REFORM

A special government task force met with President Reagan at the White House yesterday to suggest reforming civil liability laws.

Attorney General Meese -- acting in his capacity as chairman of the White House domestic policy council -- set up the group in October 1985 to study reform of "tort" law -- the area of law that covers compensation for civil injuries.

(David Sellers, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN FETED BY "LEPRECHAUN" ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

President Reagan, descended from Irish immigrants, was entertained at a St. Patrick's Day lunch by a leprechaun, bagpipes, a jig dancer and a tenor who sang "Oh Ronnie Boy" to the tune of "Danny Boy." (UPI)

GOP CONVENTION SITE HOPEFULS FEAR MRS. REAGAN DECISION

Eleven cities are bidding to host the 1988 Republican National Convention and 10 of them are hoping Nancy Reagan remains neutral in the competition.

Officials at the Republican Party headquarters and the White House insisted Monday that the First Lady has no preference for a convention site despite persistent rumors she'd like the party to meet in Los Angeles.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

U.S. CONSERVATIVES: FROM DEBACLE IN 1964 TO TOP OF POLITICAL HEAP IN '80s

They are called many things: the New Right, the radical right, the extreme right wing, or, less pejoratively, the conservative movement.

Today, by any name, they are riding a crest of power in America. President Reagan has adopted much of their agenda, and he remains their hero.

(John Dillin, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

FORCES SPAR OVER CENTRAL AMERICA

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) -- The battle for public opinion over Central America raged in full force during the weekend with one group of Iowans speaking out against the Reagan Administration while across town a White House aide supported U.S. policies. White House spokesman Robert Riley, making one of hundreds of stops on a nationwide speaking tour, told his Iowa audience Saturday that it's the Sandinistas and not the Contras that are killing and torturing civilians in Nicaragua.

He said a special Sandinista team trained by East Germany dresses in Contra uniforms and commits atrocities in the countryside. Riley said the United States has a right to oppose Nicaragua because the Sandinistas broke a 1979 promise to permit a democratic government.

While Riley spoke, two dozen Iowans testified at their own unofficial congressional hearing on what they say are Reagan Administration lies about Central America. Witnesses were Iowans who traveled in the troubled region. Their testimony will be offered to the Iowa congressional delegation to counter the President's plea for \$100 million in aid to the Contras. The witnesses generally said the Sandinista government is popular among the people and urged the U.S. to stop supporting ruthless right-wing regimes in the region.

Hearing coordinator Bob Brammer said the testimony showed there is sharp disparity between what the Administration says is happening and what the Iowans observed. The Iowa hearing was admittedly one-sided -- no pro-Administration spokesmen were allowed. He said unlike Administration claims, the Nicaraguan Contras and other U.S.-supported governments are carrying out systematic torture and abuses of human rights. Riley noted there was no criticism about U.S. intervention when America helped depose the Somoza government in 1979.

HOUSE TO VOTE ON OFFSHORE REVENUES

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) -- The U.S. House of Representatives this week could clear away the last roadblock standing between Louisiana and about \$2 billion in disputed oil and gas revenues. Rep. Henson Moore, (R-La.), said he expected the House on Tuesday to take up a bill that contains a settlement of an eight-year-old battle between Louisiana and the federal government over offshore revenues. The settlement also would mean millions of dollars in revenues to other coastal states. The U.S. Senate Friday added the settlement to the federal budget reconciliation bill and passed the measure back to the House. "I would think we would take it up first thing Tuesday," said Moore, adding that the House probably would not vote on Monday because it is St. Patrick's Day. The Reagan Administration has indicated it would sign the reconciliation bill if there are no major changes, especially in the revenues settlement.

FIRST RADIO ANNOUNCER DEAD AT 90

MANSFIELD, Ohio (UPI) -- Harold W. Arlin, the first person hired to speak on radio, and the man who announced the first major league baseball game and the first college football game, is dead at the age of 90. Through his broadcast interviews, he introduced the nation to Babe Ruth, Will Rogers, Lillian Gish, David Lloyd George and William Jennings Bryan. His voice reached across the Atlantic where British residents would sit up all night to hear his broadcasts through short-wave, prompting The London Times to call him "the best known American Voice in Europe." In 1924, he was considered the world's most popular announcer. Reflecting on his life, he said that "I suppose if I want to be remembered for anything, it would be my pioneer radio work."

LAWMAKERS CONSIDER INSURANCE REFORMS, CORPORATE TAX BREAK

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- State Legislators this week will consider a renewed attempt to give multinational corporations a tax break and review proposals backed by Senate Democrats aimed at curbing skyrocketing insurance premiums. The Democrat-controlled committee's hearing likely will produce material for the campaign of Democratic Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, who has made the Administration's toxics handling an issue in challenging Republican Gov. George Deukmejian's bid for a second term. The Reagan administration has tapped Republican Sen. Pete Wilson to carry legislation to forbid California to use the system, strongly opposed by Japanese and British governments and firms. But the cost to the state treasury of revising the method -- roughly \$300 million -- looms as a drawback in view of the tightly balanced state budget proposed by Deukmejian this year.

WIFE OF FORMER HOSTAGE TO LEAD PEACE MISSION TO MIDEAST

ATLANTA (UPI) -- It has been two years since Jeremy Levin was kidnapped as he walked down a Beirut street toward his office, but now his wife is going back to the Mideast to lead the first woman-to-woman peace mission. Lucille "Sis" Levin said Saturday she is not angry the U.S. government had such little success in winning freedom for her husband, who fled his captors last year, but she wants the public to know other hostages are still in Lebanon, held longer than those in Iran. "I sense in the American people an anger that they have not been given the facts," Mrs. Levin said.

"The subject is not discussed. She met this week with former first lady Rosalynn Carter, who will be part of the mission. Mrs. Carter said if there is ever to be peace in the Mideast, women must take the initiative. "Women want peace," the former first lady said. "One of the reasons they are going is to get people talking to each other and making some sense. I'm endorsing what they are doing." His wife sought help from the State Department and was told to say nothing about his disappearance. She kept her silence for six months before deciding to go public. She sought the help of former President Jimmy Carter, who called a news conference to reveal several Americans were being held in Lebanon. Carter challenged President Reagan to reveal what he was doing to gain their release. "His news conference sort of smoked Mr. Reagan out," Mrs. Levin said. "He actually broke the silence for us and we will be eternally grateful."

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, March 17, 1986)

NICARAGUA

CBS's Dan Rather: Vote more military aid for Nicaraguan rebels: vote with me, or help the contras. That is the thrust of President Reagan's campaign to sway Congress. He followed up his nationwide speech last night with more today.

CBS's Bill Plante: The President, buoyed by reaction to his speech, is still confidently pursuing aid for the rebels and joked when told that Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega said Mr. Reagan had lost his senses about Nicaragua.

(President: "It takes one to know one!")

Ambassador Philip Habib, the President's special envoy just back from Central America, argued that polls show people in the region approve of the U.S. position. Even if many in the U.S. are skeptical.

(TV Coverage: President with Ambassador Habib in Oval Office.)

(Habib: "The majority of Central Americans, first of all, condemn the situation in Nicaragua, and secondly, the majority supports the aid to the contras.")

That poll backs up the Administration claims for the contras, some of whom listened to reports of the President's speech last night, at a base camp in Costa Rica. The White House said the poll was commissioned by the U.S.I.A., but couldn't say exactly when it was done. Secretary Shultz turned up the heat as he continued the Administration's campaign for Thursday's vote in the House.

(Secretary Shultz: "So this week in the United States, it's going to be our turn to stand up and be counted.")

Thousands did contact the White House and Congress. The Capitol Switchboard was flooded with calls. At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, aides said calls were two to one in Mr. Reagan's favor. Conservatives carted a helicopter to a spot near the Capitol, and announced they were donating it to the contras to evacuate the wounded. A scuffle broke out with bystanders who objected.

(TV Coverage: Young anti-contra aid man being carted off by police.) Feelings were running high everywhere. Speaker O'Neill remains bitterly opposed, as Mr. Reagan gains votes for contra aid.

(O'Neill: "I think our policy is wrong every inch of the way. You're just not going to get there with military might without getting ourself into it.")

White House aides say they're now only a dozen or so votes short.

Votes that they think Mr. Reagan can get this week. No one here wants to appear overconfident, but they think that their strategy has worked. And that Congress will give the President all, or most, of what he wants for the contras. (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan didn't pull any punches last night when he made his nationwide appeal for aid to the contras trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. He said that if Congress didn't give \$100 million in mostly military aid to the contras, Latin peoples by the millions would begin fleeing to the United States. It was a very tough speech: very black and white. Whenever the President appears on TV like that, he is playing one of his strongest cards. In Washington today, others are doing whatever they can.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: They parked a helicopter on the mall. A conservative group had brought it for the contras, in order to draw the cameras for the pro-White House message.

(TV Coverage: Pro-contra aid rally being addressed by Sen. Helms.)
(Senator Helms: "The President is right and his critics are wrong on this issue.")

The message was somewhat diluted when an outsider ran up and sprayed red paint on the helicopter in protest. He was hustled off to jail. And what does the country think about who is right? White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes reported the President's speech last night drew an immediate 1952 favorable phone calls, to 799 unfavorable ones. On Capitol Hill, the operators were swamped with almost 29,000 calls today, from people on both sides putting pressure on legislators.

(TV Coverage: Capitol operators busily answering phones.)

(Rep. Sid Morrison: "Phones are running off the hooks, in our district offices as well as here. And a continual flow of people from the White House as well as organizations represented here on the Hill.")

Groups opposed to military aid to the contras were on the hill, hearing from a congressman worried about another Vietnam.

(Rep. Bonoir (D-Mi.): "The parallels are obvious.")

And Administration officials, including Secretary Shultz, were on the hill, touching base and trying to sound confident. House Speaker O'Neill kept hammering away on the point that Latin American leaders oppose the President's policy.

(O'Neill: "They are all opposed. They are all opposed.")

But at the White House, special envoy Philip Habib, just back from Central America, said the leaders there were more supportive than they sounded in public.

(Habib: "You know, these fellows have code words the way we do.")

But it was the President who seemed to have the last word today about everything:

(Reporter to President: "Mr. President, Daniel Ortega says that you've lost your senses about Nicaragua.")

President: "It takes one to know one!")

Both sides are desperately seeking attention, and both sides are putting pressure on Congress. So who is going to win? Officials here believe that based on his track record alone, Ronald Reagan has the edge.

ABC POLL

Jennings: But the President's appeal for aid to the contras has apparently not changed many peoples' minds on the subject. ABC News conducted a poll last night, and found that more than half of those we asked still oppose military aid to the contras. That is right about the same level of opposition as we found in our poll of ten days ago.

AID TO CONTRAS: FOR: 30% AGAINST: 54%

(Margin of error: 5 percent)

Only 38 percent of the people we polled actually saw or heard the President's speech. Those people are more equally divided on military aid, but most are still opposed.

Jennings: Standing by on Capitol Hill tonight is ABC's Charles Gibson. As best you can tell, have the Democrats lost any votes as a result of the President's speech?

ABC's Charles Gibson: No, the Democrats are still confident that they're going to defeat the President on this one, and probably by a margin of about 12 to 15 votes. Tom Foley, who is the House Majority Whip, the Democrat who is in charge of the nose counting on his side of the aisle, said today, "we're ahead, and there's been no erosion." And indeed, the Democratic nose counters say that in the now almost 24 hours since the President's speech that their total of votes hasn't changed at all. They gained one; they lost one. The net change is zero. One of the Democratic aides who is involved in the vote-counting procedures said to me today, "we have 225 locked-in-the-bank, walk-them-on-the-House floor hard-nosed votes." Now, that's about as confident a quote as you'll ever get. So it's going to be close. Anything over 218 is what they need. It will be close, but the Democrats are confident. (ABC-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The countdown to the contra vote is on in Washington tonight, and it will climax one of the most free-swinging political battles of the Reagan years. When President Reagan went to the country with a national TV speech last night, he used some of the toughest language yet heard about Nicaragua, calling it a cancer and a command post for international terror.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The speech last night ended the high-profile battle over the contras. Today both sides were busy working behind the scenes.

(TV Coverage: Capitol operators busy at switchboard.)

The Congressional switchboard took 28,000 calls today, a third above normal. But if the President's speech got peoples' attention, their reaction was mixed. Telegrams to the head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee ran 50-50. Other congressmen reported a similar split. The result: both sides now predict victory in Thursday's House vote.

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Wallace continues:

(Vice President Bush: "I think we're gonna win it. It's going to be close, and I think the President's message got out loud and clear last night.")

(Rep. Foley (D-Wa.): "I haven't seen any evidence yet that the President's turned a great volume of American opinion toward his point of view.")

Aides say Mr. Reagan is into a hands-on phase, calling and meeting individual congressmen. Today he met with diplomat Philip Habib, just back from Central America.

(TV Coverage: President and Habib in Oval Office.)

(Reporter: "Mr. President, Daniel Ortega says that you've lost your senses about Nicaragua.")

President: "It takes one to know one!")

Habib noted a poll, taken in Central America, that showed a majority there backed the contras. The poll was commissioned by the U.S. government.

(Reporter: "What about the Central American leaders? Why aren't any of them backing the contras?")

Habib: "They have their own way of expressing their opinions. I would suggest you look at their words.")

Habib cited a statement by the leaders of Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, calling on the rulers of Nicaragua to recognize the urgency of opening dialogue with the contras. But, that statement never mentions military aid to the rebels. The Democrats are also lobbying hard, saying the President's policy will get the U.S. in another Vietnam.

(O'Neill: "I think our policy is wrong every inch of the way. You're just not going to get there with military might, without getting ourself into it.")

Both sides say the battle now is over 25 undecided congressmen, who will be getting a lot of attention over the next three days.

Brokaw: Finally, the White House hopes that the President's enormous personal popularity will help him out in this debate; that voters will fall in behind him on this controversy, even though most recent polls on the question show sharp public skepticism on the wisdom of aid to the contras.

HEARTLAND REACTION TO CONTRAS

Brokaw: We asked NBC's Ann Rubinstein to go to America's Heartland to listen to the debate.

NBC's Ann Rubinstein reports from Beloit, Wisconsin that once a week they serve a big breakfast at the V.F.W., and there's disagreement here on the contra issue.

Veteran: "I don't want the communists at our back door."

Veteran: "I think Congress should approve it. I really do."

Veteran: "We can't afford to support the American farmer today that's going broke, and yet we can throw \$100 million down there?"

Veteran's wife: "These small countries down there -- even though they're close to us -- I think they're using communism as a form of blackmail, and our money is going down there, and there's no guarantee of what it's going for.")

-more-

Rubinstein continues:

When the President appeared on TV last night, many in Beloit watched, but it is hard to tell how many were swayed. A pastor in town believes a military solution to the situation in Nicaragua is way off. 1000 students attend Beloit College. Aid to the contras has significance here.

(Male student: "For me it's really important ... I'm prime draft age!")

William Bailey is the publisher of The Beloit Daily News, and wrote the editorial supporting the President for today's issue. His paper has a circulation of 18,000, but Bailey doesn't think most people are interested in the contras.

(Bailey: "The public just tunes out of this thing. They're more interested in things that are closer to their daily lives.")

Beloit's attitude is probably like that of any town in the U.S.A. People here have the information, but a lot don't pay much attention to the news about Central America. It seems complicated and far away. And the President is requesting money, not young soldiers. For those reasons, many people here say they're not very concerned about Nicaragua at this point. (NBC-2)

U.N. DIPLOMATIC DISPUTE

Jennings: It is little more than a week now since the Reagan

Administration said it wanted the Soviet mission to the U.N. reduced by more than 40 percent. President Reagan was urged to do it by the FBI, which was having a hard time keeping track of many Soviet officials, whom the FBI believed were spying. What does go on beyond the walls of the Soviet mission?

Bill Blakemore reports that the Soviets deny all charges that any in the Soviet mission are spies, acting Soviet Ambassador U.N. Representative Vasily Safronchuk says, "I think this is a mere fiction." The FBI says it is stretched thin, trying to balance the numbers of its own agents against the 275 Soviet U.N. delegates, plus more than 600 Soviet officials, including trade delegates and journalists, who are allowed to move freely within a 25-mile radius of the city. The Soviets and the Americans will continue debating in the United Nations this week the question of just how the size of any U.N. delegation should be limited. This case is unusual, because it involves a public request to balance the secret armies of spies as they get on with their mutually illegal work. (ABC-8)

CHALLENGER

Rather: NASA disclosed today that the Challenger lifted off on its fatal flight with about 750 parts that had no back-up. More than those so-called critically "one parts" were in the booster rockers. The space agency is now reviewing the acceptability of such parts with no fail-safe back-up. Off Cape Canaveral, salvagers raised important new debris from the ocean floor, including a section of one of the shuttle's engines. (CBS-3; ABC-5; NBC-13)

PALME

Rather: The first formal murder accusations today in the assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister. Accused is a Swede who reportedly lived in California for two years. (CBS-2; ABC-3; NBC-6)

REAGAN/FITZGERALD/ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Brokaw: America's most prominent descendant of Irish immigrants, President Reagan, welcomed Irish Prime Minister Garrett Fitzgerald to the White House today. When the President sat down to a corned beef and cabbage lunch with aides, he got a St. Patrick's Day Surprise.

(TV Coverage: President being serenaded by Leprechauns and Irishman singing 'Oh, Ronnie Boy' to the tune of 'Oh, Danny Boy.') And then the President received holiday greetings from a midget, dressed as a Leprechaun. Mr. Reagan said this day recognized the many achievements -- sung and unsung -- of the Irish men and women who have made this a better and happier world. (NBC-12)

Rather: This is a day when regardless of race or creed, everyone seems to be Irish: St. Patrick's Day. In Washington, President Reagan, the descendant of Irish immigrants, was surprised at lunch by a diminutive entertainer dressed as a Leprechaun; the work reportedly of Irish-American members of the White House staff. (CBS-14; ABC-7)

MARCOS

Rather: A federal judge cleared the way today for the U.S. to turn over to the new Aquino government hundreds of documents that detail the immense wealth of Ferdinand Marcos. The deposed Marcos took the documents with him when he left the Philippines last month. They were seized by U.S. Customs officials. (CBS-5; NBC-3)

FRANCE

Jennings: The voters in France have decided to make life difficult for Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. They voted yesterday to give the Conservative opposition a majority in the Parliament. This evening, Mitterrand went on TV to announce that he will name a Prime Minister from the new Conservative coalition. (ABC-4; NBC-4; CBS-10)

Editor's Notes: CBS's Eric Engberg filed a report on the American space program contrasted with those of other nations. (CBS-4)
ABC aired a story on Margaret Randall, a photographer/author who is a Mexican citizen who wants to live in America, but is going through deportation proceedings. (ABC-2)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

NICARAGUA

Like it or Not, Congress Can't Afford Not to Aid the Contras -- "If you still think the Marxist government of Nicaragua is the Nicaraguans' problem, consider this. The speaker is Jose Baldizon, once a high official in the so-called Sandinista government, and he is recalling his former colleagues' explanation for forming an alliance with the Colombian mafia to ship illegal drugs to America:

'They said that cocaine accomplished three objectives: (1) It destroys and corrupts American youth so as to weaken and harm future generations. (2) It provides a mechanism whereby American youth finances liberation movements. (3) The network used for cocaine distribution is used for the traffic of weapons bought on the black market.'

...It is amazing how in the face of information like this Congress can still balk at sending aid to Nicaraguan rebels, yet balk it has done. It clings to the hope that if we close our eyes, we can avoid entanglements in what it sees as someone else's civil conflict." (New York Post, 3/17)

Nicaragua: Time is Running Out -- "Now that President Reagan has instructed them in the problem -- thwarting the Soviet attempt to establish a 'beachhead in North America,' as he put it last night -- the future may lie largely with the American people. Given their head, many members of the House and Senate would vote to cut and run in Nicaragua. If that wretched country is not to be delivered to the enemy, the American people, through a torrent of telegrams and letters and phone calls, must put some iron into the spines of a feckless Congress."

(Washington Times, 3/17)

Debate Over Nicaragua -- "In our view, Congress should continue non-military aid to the contras provided it is made part of [a] much larger effort to help Nicaragua's democratic neighbors contain the Sandinista regime. If negotiations fail again, as we suspect they will, there should be sufficient military aid to the contras to make them a part -- but only a part -- of a U.S.-supported regional security operation....What we believe is needed at this moment is neither an endorsement nor a repudiation of Administration policy by the Congress. One would signal too much U.S. faith in a contra force that may fail; the other would undercut the Administration's ability to pressure Nicaragua. The answer has to be bipartisan compromise."

(Baltimore Sun, 3/17)

Why We Should Help the Contras -- "The Reagan Administration, with its smear tactics and overblown rhetoric, may be the contras' worst enemy. To head off a limited threat, President Reagan implies an unlimited commitment. That is what scares the electorate, dimming the chance that Congress will approve his \$100 million request. But the errors of the Administration, like the flaws of the contras, don't justify abandoning Nicaragua to the unchallenged rule of the Sandinistas. Doing that would create a permanent source of trouble on our doorstep. This may be the last chance to prevent it." (Stephen Chapman, Chicago Tribune, 3/14)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

NICARAGUA

"Behind the President's thinking may be the calculation that increased aid to the contras will produce a successful counter-revolution. If so, it is probably misguided....For all that, the blunt instrument of the contras has contained the Nicaraguan revolution and to some extent altered its direction."
(Financial Times, Britain)

"Last night on television, the President promoted open and almost unlimited aid to the anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua. Reagan wants to deliver the decisive blow to the revolutionary regime in that Central American country....The address is the climax of an unprecedented campaign....Rarely ever was opposition to him stronger, and rarely ever did he suffer setbacks at first rather than gaining ground."

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, West Germany)

"Many Americans find it hard to see how barely three million Nicaraguans might become a serious threat to America's security....But primarily, almost everyone asks: What will a meager \$100 million achieve if the threat really is as big as the Reagan Administration claims?"

(Bonner Rundschau, West Germany)

"Anything goes in the dirty war of the contra -- a war being fought in Washington and not in the mountains of Nicaragua -- to get Congress to approve \$100 million of aid, mainly military, for the rebels....The problem for the President is that three of every five Americans do not believe that Nicaragua is a strategic threat to the United States...."

(El Pais, Spain)

"President Ronald Reagan in his televised speech has resorted to slander and concoctions with a view to pressing Congress into allocating \$100 million in military aid to the Somozistas whom he described as 'freedom-fighters.' The President's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anti-Communist film 'Red Dawn.' The cheap movie, shot on money of reactionaries, describes an 'invasion of the United States' by Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet armed forces via Mexican territory."

(Tass, Soviet Union)

"If President Reagan's effort to persuade Congress fails, not only his Central American policy, but the President's prestige and leadership could waver."

(NHK-T, Japan)

"The fact that President Reagan has identified himself as a contra gives the impression that he has lost his senses."

(Jordan Times, Jordan)

-end of B-Section-



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Both Sides See KO In "Contra" Aid Fight -- Like boxers before a prize fight, both sides in the battle for aid to Nicaragua's rebels said they were sure of a victory as Thursday's crucial House vote approached.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, Baltimore Sun, New York Times, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, AP, Reuter)

Reagan/Mulroney -- Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney begins talks with President Reagan hoping to win pledges of concrete action against acid rain, something Reagan has resisted. (AP, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

HHS Chief Plans Reorganization -- Secretary Bowen is planning a major reorganization of his vast department that will combine at least six programs dealing with low-income families, Administration and Congressional sources said yesterday. (Washington Post)

Lynne Cheney To NEH? -- The Reagan Administration intends to nominate Lynne Cheney to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to congressional and endowment sources. (Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

NICARAGUA -- The President is still confidently pursuing aid for the rebels in Nicaragua.

PALME -- The first formal murder accusations in the assassination of Olaf Palme.

FRANCE -- President Mitterrand went on TV to announce that he will name a new Prime Minister.

PENNY WISE

The cost of maintaining a homeless family of four at a shelter in the Bronx is \$70,000 a year -- not counting the cost of maintaining the shelter itself -- according to New York City officials. The cost of the city's other four large shelters is only \$60,000 a year. For the homeless who are put up at seedy hotels around Manhattan, the owners charge a mere \$1,000 to \$3,000 a month per room. The housing allowance for a poor family living in its own apartment is \$270 a month.

(New Republic, March 31)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HOPEFUL CONTRA AID WILL PASS HOUSE

Freshman's Swing Vote Targeted By Aid Backers

All across East Texas yesterday, a professional radio announcer, a crisp urgency in his voice, repeated the same message every hour. "To help President Reagan stop communist expansion in Central America, you need to make one important phone call," he said. "Call your congressman, Jim Chapman, today...."

The radio commercials are only a small part of the intensive lobbying campaign on the contra aid issue that is now building toward a climax with the House vote scheduled Thursday.

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. May Help Rebels Purchase Anti-air Missiles

Reagan Administration officials yesterday predicted that the House would approve President Reagan's proposal for a \$100 million aid package for the Nicaraguan rebels. While at least two key Democratic members of Congress agreed with this estimate, House Majority Whip Thomas Foley (D-Wash) said that he has "every confidence" that the measure will be defeated.

Reagan stepped up his lobbying with phone calls to House members, as both sides maneuvering for what one Administration official called "the psychological advantage of appearing to be on the winning side" before Thursday's vote. They agreed that the outcome will be decided by a narrow margin, perhaps by fewer than a dozen votes.

(Lou Cannon & George Wilson, Washington Post, A1)

U.S./Nicaragua

Both sides are predicting victory when the House finally decides the intensely fought campaign over President Reagan's plan to give \$100 million in military and economic aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

Rep. Thomas Foley (D-Wash), the House whip and chief Democratic vote counter, said late Monday, "It's conclusive that we will win. It's not overwhelming, but it's conclusive and we expect it to stay that way."

(Tim Ahern, AP)

House Presses State Dept. Over Status Of CIA Fund

In the aftermath of conflicting Administration statements, the House Intelligence Committee urged the State Department yesterday to clarify whether the President's request for aid to the Nicaraguan rebels would allow the use of a vast CIA contingency fund, committee sources said.

They said chairman Lee Hamilton (D-Ind) warned that unless the issue were settled satisfactorily, it could become a focus of debate when the House considers President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid to the "contras."

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Test Of A Presidency

In presenting the Nicaraguan issue as a historic test of his presidency, Ronald Reagan has decided to try to convert his firm anti-Communism, dating back to personal experiences in union politics in Hollywood, into national policy.

White House aides and longtime advisers said today that few issues in Mr. Reagan's Presidency had so engaged him emotionally or so clearly pointed up how this President's personal convictions drive policy.

(Bernard Weinraub, News Analysis, New York Times, A1)

Both Sides See KO In "Contra" Aid Fight

Like boxers before a prize fight, both sides in the battle for aid to Nicaragua's rebels said they were sure of a victory as Thursday's crucial House vote approached.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said phone calls received since President Reagan's Sunday speech were running 71 percent favorable.

Vice President Bush, on NBC's Today show, predicted: "We're going to win."

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

Several Arrested In Protests Against Reagan Aid Request

Official Washington wasn't the only place debating President Reagan's plea for aid to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels:

In Minneapolis, Minn., two people were arrested and 33 cited for trespassing after they demonstrated at Sen. Dave Durenberger's office against the proposed federal aid.

(USA Today, A4)

"Contra" Aid Vote Margin Narrows

The tide may be turning in favor of military aid to the "contras" in Nicaragua.

By talking over the heads of balky lawmakers and directly to the American people, the President resorted to a technique he has used to spectacular effect in pushing forward his legislative agenda on taxes and budgetary matters.

(Peter Osterlund, Christain Science Monitor, A1)

Latins Back "Pressure," Habib Says

Philip Habib, just back from a presidential mission to Central America, yesterday said regional leaders in Central America understand the U.S. strategy for applying pressure on the Sandinistas with aid to the Nicaraguan resistance.

"They understand the significance of putting pressure on the Sandinistas in order to bring them to a different approach, a political approach," he said.

(Mary Belcher & Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A1)

Contra Aid Said Stalled In The House

Robert Dole said yesterday that President Reagan had swayed enough votes to win Senate passage of the \$100 million dollar aid package for the Nicaraguan resistance, but House Democrats said he had swayed no votes in the lower chamber.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

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House Democratic Leaders Say Reagan Speech Had Little Effect

A public opinion poll released last night appeared to support assertions by House Democratic Leaders that President Reagan's television appeal for support for Nicaraguan rebels was not effective.

The poll, taken by ABC television immediately after Reagan's broadcast on Sunday, showed 30 percent of those questioned approved of new military aid for the so-called contra rebels while 54 percent opposed it.
(Carol Giacomo, Reuter)

CLAIMS ON CONTRAS IN DISPUTE

In his weekend pleas for military aid to rebels in Nicaragua, President Reagan drew on the bywords of 40 years of a staunch anticommunism to paint a dark and ominous picture of the Marxist government of Nicaragua and the threat it poses to the United States.

To make his grim portrait, the President invoked some disputed statistics and accusations and a panoply of devil figures, from Italy's Red Brigades to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. In the end, Reagan suggested that Congress' upcoming votes on the \$100 million aid request will determine the course of the entire East-West conflict.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A6)

MANAGUA OFFERS QUIET DEFIANCE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- The Sandinista leadership is watching the heated U.S. debate over further military aid for Nicaraguan rebels with a public air of quiet defiance.

The position reflects increased confidence after a year of military progress against the insurgents and a conclusion that bombastic declarations from Managua and high-profile lobbying in previous Washington debates failed to advance the Sandinista case.

(Edward Cody, Washington Post, A7)

Nicaragua Denounces Reagan Propaganda

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- Nicaragua labeled President Reagan's speech seeking support for \$100 million in new aid for Contra rebels a "growl of war" and renewed its call for negotiations with the United States.

Reagan's speech was reported in Monday's edition of the official newspaper, Barricada, under the headline "Growl of War from Washington."
(Tracy Wilkinson, UPI)

Nicaraguans Give Low Key Response To U.S. "Contra" Aid Vote

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua has shown unusual restraint in its response to President Reagan's campaign for increased U.S. support for Nicaraguan rebels, diplomats said.

In previous years, Reagan's rhetoric in favor of the aid has prompted protest marches and the construction of trenches in Managua for defense against a much-publicized U.S. invasion, but this year, diplomats said, Nicaragua appeared calm despite Reagan's words.

(Matthew Campbell, Reuter)

SOVIETS CALL REAGAN SPEECH LIKE "RED DAWN"

MOSCOW -- The official Soviet news agency Tass accused President Reagan today of resorting to "slander and concoctions" in a plea for aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

"The President's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anticommunist film 'Red Dawn,'" Tass said in a dispatch from Washington.
(AP story, Washington Post, A15)

CONTRA AID ISSUE: CAN ADMINISTRATION LIVE WITH SANDINISTAS?

At the heart of the debate over President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for Nicaragua's Contras are differences over whether he wants to topple or reform the Sandinista government, and whether he has given negotiations a chance.

There is not much disagreement between Congress and the White House over whether the Sandinistas are hostile to American interests. The differences concern how much of a threat they pose, and what should be done about it.
(Gregory Nokes, News Analysis, AP)

DOLLAR PLUMMETS TO POSTWAR LOW AGAINST THE YEN

The dollar tumbled yesterday to its lowest level against the Japanese yen since the end of World War II.

It fell as low as 174.50 yen in early Tokyo trading before moving a bit higher later during trading in New York, but it remained below the previous postwar low of 175.50 yen. That low was set on Oct. 31, 1978.

(James Sterngold, New York Times, A1)

SOVIET REPORTED ACTING TO BEGIN NEW ATOM TESTS

The Soviet Union has started preparations for the possible resumption of nuclear weapons testing, Reagan Administration officials said today.

Satellite reconnaissance photographs show the Soviet Union has been digging holes and tunnels in which nuclear explosives can be placed and moving monitoring equipment into a test area, according to Administration experts who have reviewed classified United States intelligence reports.

(Michael Gordon, New York Times, A1)

U.S. DISINFORMATION EFFORT REPORTED

The Pentagon and CIA have instituted a disinformation and deception program to prevent sensitive data on weapons and technology from falling into Soviet hands, Aviation Week & Space Technology reported yesterday.

Quoting officials in the project, the authoritative weekly said it affects about 15 to 20 programs, six or seven of which are in the Defense Department, including SDI, the Air Force Stealth fighter and bomber, and the Navy's Advanced Tactical Aircraft.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A15)

REAGAN/MULRONEY

Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney begins talks with President Reagan hoping to win pledges of concrete action against acid rain, something Reagan has resisted.

Senior White House officials have said they expect Reagan to endorse a special report prepared for this year's "Shamrock summit" of the two leaders of Irish heritage, but not necessarily to sign onto the full \$5 billion program it recommends to install clean-burning coal equipment in U.S. utilities. (Guy Darst, AP)

Senate Bill Proposes Forcing Acid Rain Treaty

President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney meet in Washington today as a key U.S. senator continues to press for treaties with Canada and Mexico on controlling acid rain.

(Glenn Somerville, Reuter)

JUDGE ALLOWS RELEASE OF MARCOS PAPERS

NEW YORK -- A federal judge today cleared the way for the Reagan Administration to give Philippine and congressional investigators sensitive documents believed to contain crucial details of the financial holdings of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos.

"As far as we are concerned, it's a green light," Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland said. "Everything is in order legally for this to happen. It's not just a matter of the mechanical process."

(Margot Hornblower, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Court Refuses To Block Issuance Of Marcos Papers

A judge in New York yesterday denied a request for a restraining order, clearing the way for U.S. officials to turn over to the new Philippine government and Congress documents detailing the wealth of former president Marcos. (UPI story, Washington Times, A9)

State Department Officials Examine Marcos Papers

Officials of the State Department and U.S. Customs last night sorted through papers brought into the country by ousted ex-president Ferdinand Marcos after a New York court cleared the way for them to be handed over to the new Philippine government. (Reuter)

U.S. To Give Marcos Papers To New Government Today

The United States plans to turn over copies of 1,500 pages of former President Marcos's documents to the new Government of the Philippines on Tuesday, State Department officials said today.

(Stephen Engelberg, New York Times, A1)

LEBANON HOSTAGE RELATIVES TO START LETTER CAMPAIGN

Relatives of the American hostages in Lebanon plan to launch a national letter-writing campaign urging the Reagan Administration to intensify its efforts to secure freedom for the six captives.

The families announced the letter-writing campaign drive Monday, hours after they met with Administration officials at the State Department. Relatives hope Americans will show their support for the hostages by sending letters to the Administration. (Joan Mower, AP)

REAGAN, FITZGERALD PUSH NORTHERN IRELAND AID PLAN

President Reagan joined visiting Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald yesterday in calling for passage of a pending \$250 million program in economic aid for Northern Ireland and denouncing those providing financial aid to Irish terrorists.

In a statement celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the President called the Anglo-Irish agreement achieved last year by FitzGerald and British Prime Minister Thatcher "a ray of hope." (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A24)

Reagan, FitzGerald Think Luck Of The Irish Is Turning

President Reagan and Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald joined hands at the White House yesterday in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and expressed gratitude that a ray of hope has begun to shine through on the political and religious differences wracking Northern Ireland over the past 20 years. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A4)

FitzGerald Goes Home With U.S. Support For Anglo-Irish Pact

Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald has received fresh pledges from President Reagan and congressional leaders on U.S. backing for an Anglo-Irish accord on Northern Ireland. (Adela Gooch, Reuter)

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NATIONAL NEWS

HHS CHIEF PLANS REORGANIZATION

Secretary Bowen is planning a major reorganization of his vast department that will combine at least six programs dealing with low-income families, Administration and Congressional sources said yesterday.

Bowen thinks that the new unit, to be called the Family Services Administration, will give more visibility and clout to agencies dealing with poor families and will produce better services and policy, the sources said.
(Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A12)

U.S., NAACP FAULT YONKERS DESEGREGATION

The Justice Department and the NAACP have sharply criticized a desegregation plan drawn up by officials in Yonkers, N.Y., to settle a suit in which the city was found guilty of systematic bias in its housing and schools.
(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A9)

LYNNE CHENEY TO NEH?

The Reagan Administration intends to nominate Lynne Cheney, a senior editor at The Washingtonian magazine and wife of Republican Rep. Richard Cheney of Wyoming, to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to congressional and endowment sources. Although Cheney is still undergoing the requisite security checks and clearances, the White House may announce its choice this week, sources said.
(Mary Battiata, Washington Post, B1)

HART WIDENS HIS LEAD OVER BUSH IN HARRIS POLL ON 1988 CONTEST

Vice President Bush has lost ground to front-running Sen. Gary Hart in a public opinion poll on potential candidates for president in 1988.

The same Harris Survey, however, shows Mr. Bush as a stronger candidate than Rep. Jack Kemp against Mr. Hart.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A2)

SOME WHEAT FARMERS FEEL "BETRAYED" OVER NEW EXPORT POLICY

Some of the nation's wheat farmers are complaining about the Reagan Administration's export policies, and others say they are so pinched financially that they don't expect to be in business in five years anyway.

The Oregon Wheat Growers League says the Administration has betrayed producers by changing the rules for some of the export provisions included in last year's farm bill.
(Don Kendall, AP)

TASK FORCE SEEKS TORT LAW REFORM

A special government task force met with President Reagan at the White House yesterday to suggest reforming civil liability laws.

Attorney General Meese -- acting in his capacity as chairman of the White House domestic policy council -- set up the group in October 1985 to study reform of "tort" law -- the area of law that covers compensation for civil injuries.

(David Sellers, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN FETED BY "LEPRECHAUN" ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

President Reagan, descended from Irish immigrants, was entertained at a St. Patrick's Day lunch by a leprechaun, bagpipes, a jig dancer and a tenor who sang "Oh Ronnie Boy" to the tune of "Danny Boy." (UPI)

GOP CONVENTION SITE HOPEFULS FEAR MRS. REAGAN DECISION

Eleven cities are bidding to host the 1988 Republican National Convention and 10 of them are hoping Nancy Reagan remains neutral in the competition.

Officials at the Republican Party headquarters and the White House insisted Monday that the First Lady has no preference for a convention site despite persistent rumors she'd like the party to meet in Los Angeles.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

U.S. CONSERVATIVES: FROM DEBACLE IN 1964 TO TOP OF POLITICAL HEAP IN '80s

They are called many things: the New Right, the radical right, the extreme right wing, or, less pejoratively, the conservative movement.

Today, by any name, they are riding a crest of power in America. President Reagan has adopted much of their agenda, and he remains their hero.

(John Dillin, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

FORCES SPAR OVER CENTRAL AMERICA

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) -- The battle for public opinion over Central America raged in full force during the weekend with one group of Iowans speaking out against the Reagan Administration while across town a White House aide supported U.S. policies. White House spokesman Robert Riley, making one of hundreds of stops on a nationwide speaking tour, told his Iowa audience Saturday that it's the Sandinistas and not the Contras that are killing and torturing civilians in Nicaragua.

He said a special Sandinista team trained by East Germany dresses in Contra uniforms and commits atrocities in the countryside. Riley said the United States has a right to oppose Nicaragua because the Sandinistas broke a 1979 promise to permit a democratic government.

While Riley spoke, two dozen Iowans testified at their own unofficial congressional hearing on what they say are Reagan Administration lies about Central America. Witnesses were Iowans who traveled in the troubled region. Their testimony will be offered to the Iowa congressional delegation to counter the President's plea for \$100 million in aide to the Contras. The witnesses generally said the Sandinista government is popular among the people and urged the U.S. to stop supporting ruthless right-wing regimes in the region.

Hearing coordinator Bob Brammer said the testimony showed there is sharp disparity between what the Administration says is happening and what the Iowans observed. The Iowa hearing was admittedly one-sided -- no pro-Administration spokesmen were allowed. He said unlike Administration claims, the Nicaraguan Contras and other U.S.-supported governments are carrying out systematic torture and abuses of human rights. Riley noted there was no criticism about U.S. intervention when America helped depose the Somoza government in 1979.

HOUSE TO VOTE ON OFFSHORE REVENUES

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) -- The U.S. House of Representatives this week could clear away the last roadblock standing between Louisiana and about \$2 billion in disputed oil and gas revenues. Rep. Henson Moore, (R-La.), said he expected the House on Tuesday to take up a bill that contains a settlement of an eight-year-old battle between Louisiana and the federal government over offshore revenues. The settlement also would mean millions of dollars in revenues to other coastal states. The U.S. Senate Friday added the settlement to the federal budget reconciliation bill and passed the measure back to the House. "I would think we would take it up first thing Tuesday," said Moore, adding that the House probably would not vote on Monday because it is St. Patrick's Day. The Reagan Administration has indicated it would sign the reconciliation bill if there are no major changes, especially in the revenues settlement.

FIRST RADIO ANNOUNCER DEAD AT 90

MANSFIELD, Ohio (UPI) -- Harold W. Arlin, the first person hired to speak on radio, and the man who announced the first major league baseball game and the first college football game, is dead at the age of 90. Through his broadcast interviews, he introduced the nation to Babe Ruth, Will Rogers, Lillian Gish, David Lloyd George and William Jennings Bryan. His voice reached across the Atlantic where British residents would sit up all night to hear his broadcasts through short-wave, prompting The London Times to call him "the best known American Voice in Europe." In 1924, he was considered the world's most popular announcer. Reflecting on his life, he said that "I suppose if I want to be remembered for anything, it would be my pioneer radio work."

LAWMAKERS CONSIDER INSURANCE REFORMS, CORPORATE TAX BREAK

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- State Legislators this week will consider a renewed attempt to give multinational corporations a tax break and review proposals backed by Senate Democrats aimed at curbing skyrocketing insurance premiums. The Democrat-controlled committee's hearing likely will produce material for the campaign of Democratic Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, who has made the Administration's toxics handling an issue in challenging Republican Gov. George Deukmejian's bid for a second term. The Reagan administration has tapped Republican Sen. Pete Wilson to carry legislation to forbid California to use the system, strongly opposed by Japanese and British governments and firms. But the cost to the state treasury of revising the method -- roughly \$300 million -- looms as a drawback in view of the tightly balanced state budget proposed by Deukmejian this year.

WIFE OF FORMER HOSTAGE TO LEAD PEACE MISSION TO MIDEAST

ATLANTA (UPI) -- It has been two years since Jeremy Levin was kidnapped as he walked down a Beirut street toward his office, but now his wife is going back to the Mideast to lead the first woman-to-woman peace mission. Lucille "Sis" Levin said Saturday she is not angry the U.S. government had such little success in winning freedom for her husband, who fled his captors last year, but she wants the public to know other hostages are still in Lebanon, held longer than those in Iran. "I sense in the American people an anger that they have not been given the facts," Mrs. Levin said.

"The subject is not discussed. She met this week with former first lady Rosalynn Carter, who will be part of the mission. Mrs. Carter said if there is ever to be peace in the Mideast, women must take the initiative. "Women want peace," the former first lady said. "One of the reasons they are going is to get people talking to each other and making some sense. I'm endorsing what they are doing." His wife sought help from the State Department and was told to say nothing about his disappearance. She kept her silence for six months before deciding to go public. She sought the help of former President Jimmy Carter, who called a news conference to reveal several Americans were being held in Lebanon. Carter challenged President Reagan to reveal what he was doing to gain their release. "His news conference sort of smoked Mr. Reagan out," Mrs. Levin said. "He actually broke the silence for us and we will be eternally grateful."

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, March 17, 1986)

NICARAGUA

CBS's Dan Rather: Vote more military aid for Nicaraguan rebels: vote with me, or help the contras. That is the thrust of President Reagan's campaign to sway Congress. He followed up his nationwide speech last night with more today.

CBS's Bill Plante: The President, buoyed by reaction to his speech, is still confidently pursuing aid for the rebels and joked when told that Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega said Mr. Reagan had lost his senses about Nicaragua.

(President: "It takes one to know one.!")

Ambassador Philip Habib, the President's special envoy just back from Central America, argued that polls show people in the region approve of the U.S. position. Even if many in the U.S. are skeptical.

(TV Coverage: President with Ambassador Habib in Oval Office.)

(Habib: "The majority of Central Americans, first of all, condemn the situation in Nicaragua, and secondly, the majority supports the aid to the contras.")

That poll backs up the Administration claims for the contras, some of whom listened to reports of the President's speech last night, at a base camp in Costa Rica. The White House said the poll was commissioned by the U.S.I.A., but couldn't say exactly when it was done. Secretary Shultz turned up the heat as he continued the Administration's campaign for Thursday's vote in the House.

(Secretary Shultz: "So this week in the United States, it's going to be our turn to stand up and be counted.")

Thousands did contact the White House and Congress. The Capitol Switchboard was flooded with calls. At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, aides said calls were two to one in Mr. Reagan's favor. Conservatives carted a helicopter to a spot near the Capitol, and announced they were donating it to the contras to evacuate the wounded. A scuffle broke out with bystanders who objected.

(TV Coverage: Young anti-contra aid man being carted off by police.) Feelings were running high everywhere. Speaker O'Neill remains bitterly opposed, as Mr. Reagan gains votes for contra aid.

(O'Neill: "I think our policy is wrong every inch of the way. You're just not going to get there with military might without getting ourself into it.")

White House aides say they're now only a dozen or so votes short.

Votes that they think Mr. Reagan can get this week. No one here wants to appear overconfident, but they think that their strategy has worked. And that Congress will give the President all, or most, of what he wants for the contras.

(CBS-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan didn't pull any punches last night when he made his nationwide appeal for aid to the contras trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. He said that if Congress didn't give \$100 million in mostly military aid to the contras, Latin peoples by the millions would begin fleeing to the United States. It was a very tough speech: very black and white. Whenever the President appears on TV like that, he is playing one of his strongest cards. In Washington today, others are doing whatever they can.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: They parked a helicopter on the mall. A conservative group had brought it for the contras, in order to draw the cameras for the pro-White House message.

(TV Coverage: Pro-contra aid rally being addressed by Sen. Helms.)
(Senator Helms: "The President is right and his critics are wrong on this issue.")

The message was somewhat diluted when an outsider ran up and sprayed red paint on the helicopter in protest. He was hustled off to jail. And what does the country think about who is right? White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes reported the President's speech last night drew an immediate 1952 favorable phone calls, to 799 unfavorable ones. On Capitol Hill, the operators were swamped with almost 29,000 calls today, from people on both sides putting pressure on legislators.

(TV Coverage: Capitol operators busily answering phones.)

(Rep. Sid Morrison: "Phones are running off the hooks, in our district offices as well as here. And a continual flow of people from the White House as well as organizations represented here on the Hill.")

Groups opposed to military aid to the contras were on the hill, hearing from a congressman worried about another Vietnam.

(Rep. Bonoir (D-Mi.): "The parallels are obvious.")

And Administration officials, including Secretary Shultz, were on the hill, touching base and trying to sound confident. House Speaker O'Neill kept hammering away on the point that Latin American leaders oppose the President's policy.

(O'Neill: "They are all opposed. They are all opposed.")

But at the White House, special envoy Philip Habib, just back from Central America, said the leaders there were more supportive than they sounded in public.

(Habib: "You know, these fellows have code words the way we do.")

But it was the President who seemed to have the last word today about everything:

(Reporter to President: "Mr. President, Daniel Ortega says that you've lost your senses about Nicaragua.")

President: "It takes one to know one!")

Both sides are desperately seeking attention, and both sides are putting pressure on Congress. So who is going to win? Officials here believe that based on his track record alone, Ronald Reagan has the edge.

ABC POLL

Jennings: But the President's appeal for aid to the contras has apparently not changed many peoples' minds on the subject. ABC News conducted a poll last night, and found that more than half of those we asked still oppose military aid to the contras. That is right about the same level of opposition as we found in our poll of ten days ago.

AID TO CONTRAS: FOR: 30% AGAINST: 54%

(Margin of error: 5 percent)

Only 38 percent of the people we polled actually saw or heard the President's speech. Those people are more equally divided on military aid, but most are still opposed.

Jennings: Standing by on Capitol Hill tonight is ABC's Charles Gibson. As best you can tell, have the Democrats lost any votes as a result of the President's speech?

ABC's Charles Gibson: No, the Democrats are still confident that they're going to defeat the President on this one, and probably by a margin of about 12 to 15 votes. Tom Foley, who is the House Majority Whip, the Democrat who is in charge of the nose counting on his side of the aisle, said today, "we're ahead, and there's been no erosion." And indeed, the Democratic nose counters say that in the now almost 24 hours since the President's speech that their total of votes hasn't changed at all. They gained one; they lost one. The net change is zero. One of the Democratic aides who is involved in the vote-counting procedures said to me today, "we have 225 locked-in-the-bank, walk-them-on-the-House floor hard-nosed votes." Now, that's about as confident a quote as you'll ever get. So it's going to be close. Anything over 218 is what they need. It will be close, but the Democrats are confident. (ABC-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The countdown to the contra vote is on in Washington tonight, and it will climax one of the most free-swinging political battles of the Reagan years. When President Reagan went to the country with a national TV speech last night, he used some of the toughest language yet heard about Nicaragua, calling it a cancer and a command post for international terror.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The speech last night ended the high-profile battle over the contras. Today both sides were busy working behind the scenes.

(TV Coverage: Capitol operators busy at switchboard.)

The Congressional switchboard took 28,000 calls today, a third above normal. But if the President's speech got peoples' attention, their reaction was mixed. Telegrams to the head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee ran 50-50. Other congressmen reported a similar split. The result: both sides now predict victory in Thursday's House vote.

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Wallace continues:

(Vice President Bush: "I think we're gonna win it. It's going to be close, and I think the President's message got out loud and clear last night.")

(Rep. Foley (D-Wa.): "I haven't seen any evidence yet that the President's turned a great volume of American opinion toward his point of view.")

Aides say Mr. Reagan is into a hands-on phase, calling and meeting individual congressmen. Today he met with diplomat Philip Habib, just back from Central America.

(TV Coverage: President and Habib in Oval Office.)

(Reporter: "Mr. President, Daniel Ortega says that you've lost your senses about Nicaragua.")

President: "It takes one to know one!")

Habib noted a poll, taken in Central America, that showed a majority there backed the contras. The poll was commissioned by the U.S. government.

(Reporter: "What about the Central American leaders? Why aren't any of them backing the contras?")

Habib: "They have their own way of expressing their opinions. I would suggest you look at their words.")

Habib cited a statement by the leaders of Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, calling on the rulers of Nicaragua to recognize the urgency of opening dialogue with the contras. But, that statement never mentions military aid to the rebels. The Democrats are also lobbying hard, saying the President's policy will get the U.S. in another Vietnam.

(O'Neill: "I think our policy is wrong every inch of the way. You're just not going to get there with military might, without getting ourself into it.")

Both sides say the battle now is over 25 undecided congressmen, who will be getting a lot of attention over the next three days.

Brokaw: Finally, the White House hopes that the President's enormous personal popularity will help him out in this debate; that voters will fall in behind him on this controversy, even though most recent polls on the question show sharp public skepticism on the wisdom of aid to the contras.

HEARTLAND REACTION TO CONTRAS

Brokaw: We asked NBC's Ann Rubinstein to go to America's Heartland to listen to the debate.

NBC's Ann Rubinstein reports from Beloit, Wisconsin that once a week they serve a big breakfast at the V.F.W., and there's disagreement here on the contra issue.

Veteran: "I don't want the communists at our back door."

Veteran: "I think Congress should approve it. I really do."

Veteran: "We can't afford to support the American farmer today that's going broke, and yet we can throw \$100 million down there?"

Veteran's wife: "These small countries down there -- even though they're close to us -- I think they're using communism as a form of blackmail, and our money is going down there, and there's no guarantee of what it's going for.")

-more-

Rubinstein continues:

When the President appeared on TV last night, many in Beloit watched, but it is hard to tell how many were swayed. A pastor in town believes a military solution to the situation in Nicaragua is way off. 1000 students attend Beloit College. Aid to the contras has significance here.

(Male student: "For me it's really important ... I'm prime draft age!")

William Bailey is the publisher of The Beloit Daily News, and wrote the editorial supporting the President for today's issue. His paper has a circulation of 18,000, but Bailey doesn't think most people are interested in the contras.

(Bailey: "The public just tunes out of this thing. They're more interested in things that are closer to their daily lives.")

Beloit's attitude is probably like that of any town in the U.S.A. People here have the information, but a lot don't pay much attention to the news about Central America. It seems complicated and far away. And the President is requesting money, not young soldiers. For those reasons, many people here say they're not very concerned about Nicaragua at this point. (NBC-2)

U.N. DIPLOMATIC DISPUTE

Jennings: It is little more than a week now since the Reagan

Administration said it wanted the Soviet mission to the U.N. reduced by more than 40 percent. President Reagan was urged to do it by the FBI, which was having a hard time keeping track of many Soviet officials, whom the FBI believed were spying. What does go on beyond the walls of the Soviet mission?

Bill Blakemore reports that the Soviets deny all charges that any in the Soviet mission are spies, acting Soviet Ambassador U.N. Representative Vasily Safronchuk says, "I think this is a mere fiction." The FBI says it is stretched thin, trying to balance the numbers of its own agents against the 275 Soviet U.N. delegates, plus more than 600 Soviet officials, including trade delegates and journalists, who are allowed to move freely within a 25-mile radius of the city. The Soviets and the Americans will continue debating in the United Nations this week the question of just how the size of any U.N. delegation should be limited. This case is unusual, because it involves a public request to balance the secret armies of spies as they get on with their mutually illegal work. (ABC-8)

CHALLENGER

Rather: NASA disclosed today that the Challenger lifted off on its fatal

flight with about 750 parts that had no back-up. More than those so-called critically "one parts" were in the booster rockers. The space agency is now reviewing the acceptability of such parts with no fail-safe back-up. Off Cape Canaveral, salvagers raised important new debris from the ocean floor, including a section of one of the shuttle's engines. (CBS-3; ABC-5; NBC-13)

PALME

Rather: The first formal murder accusations today in the assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister. Accused is a Swede who reportedly lived in California for two years. (CBS-2; ABC-3; NBC-6)

REAGAN/FITZGERALD/ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Brokaw: America's most prominent descendant of Irish immigrants, President Reagan, welcomed Irish Prime Minister Garrett Fitzgerald to the White House today. When the President sat down to a corned beef and cabbage lunch with aides, he got a St. Patrick's Day Surprise.

(TV Coverage: President being serenaded by Leprechauns and Irishman singing 'Oh, Ronnie Boy' to the tune of 'Oh, Danny Boy.') And then the President received holiday greetings from a midget, dressed as a Leprechaun. Mr. Reagan said this day recognized the many achievements -- sung and unsung -- of the Irish men and women who have made this a better and happier world. (NBC-12)

Rather: This is a day when regardless of race or creed, everyone seems to be Irish: St. Patrick's Day. In Washington, President Reagan, the descendant of Irish immigrants, was surprised at lunch by a diminutive entertainer dressed as a Leprechaun; the work reportedly of Irish-American members of the White House staff. (CBS-14; ABC-7)

MARCOS

Rather: A federal judge cleared the way today for the U.S. to turn over to the new Aquino government hundreds of documents that detail the immense wealth of Ferdinand Marcos. The deposed Marcos took the documents with him when he left the Philippines last month. They were seized by U.S. Customs officials. (CBS-5; NBC-3)

FRANCE

Jennings: The voters in France have decided to make life difficult for Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. They voted yesterday to give the Conservative opposition a majority in the Parliament. This evening, Mitterrand went on TV to announce that he will name a Prime Minister from the new Conservative coalition. (ABC-4; NBC-4; CBS-10)

Editor's Notes: CBS's Eric Engberg filed a report on the American space program contrasted with those of other nations. (CBS-4)
ABC aired a story on Margaret Randall, a photographer/author who is a Mexican citizen who wants to live in America, but is going through deportation proceedings. (ABC-2)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

NICARAGUA

Like it or Not, Congress Can't Afford Not to Aid the Contras -- "If you still think the Marxist government of Nicaragua is the Nicaraguans' problem, consider this. The speaker is Jose Baldizon, once a high official in the so-called Sandinista government, and he is recalling his former colleagues' explanation for forming an alliance with the Colombian mafia to ship illegal drugs to America:

'They said that cocaine accomplished three objectives: (1) It destroys and corrupts American youth so as to weaken and harm future generations. (2) It provides a mechanism whereby American youth finances liberation movements. (3) The network used for cocaine distribution is used for the traffic of weapons bought on the black market.'

...It is amazing how in the face of information like this Congress can still balk at sending aid to Nicaraguan rebels, yet balk it has done. It clings to the hope that if we close our eyes, we can avoid entanglements in what it sees as someone else's civil conflict." (New York Post, 3/17)

Nicaragua: Time is Running Out -- "Now that President Reagan has instructed them in the problem -- thwarting the Soviet attempt to establish a 'beachhead in North America,' as he put it last night -- the future may lie largely with the American people. Given their head, many members of the House and Senate would vote to cut and run in Nicaragua. If that wretched country is not to be delivered to the enemy, the American people, through a torrent of telegrams and letters and phone calls, must put some iron into the spines of a feckless Congress."

(Washington Times, 3/17)

Debate Over Nicaragua -- "In our view, Congress should continue non-military aid to the contras provided it is made part of [a] much larger effort to help Nicaragua's democratic neighbors contain the Sandinista regime. If negotiations fail again, as we suspect they will, there should be sufficient military aid to the contras to make them a part -- but only a part -- of a U.S.-supported regional security operation....What we believe is needed at this moment is neither an endorsement nor a repudiation of Administration policy by the Congress. One would signal too much U.S. faith in a contra force that may fail; the other would undercut the Administration's ability to pressure Nicaragua. The answer has to be bipartisan compromise."

(Baltimore Sun, 3/17)

Why We Should Help the Contras -- "The Reagan Administration, with its smear tactics and overblown rhetoric, may be the contras' worst enemy. To head off a limited threat, President Reagan implies an unlimited commitment. That is what scares the electorate, dimming the chance that Congress will approve his \$100 million request. But the errors of the Administration, like the flaws of the contras, don't justify abandoning Nicaragua to the unchallenged rule of the Sandinistas. Doing that would create a permanent source of trouble on our doorstep. This may be the last chance to prevent it." (Stephen Chapman, Chicago Tribune, 3/14)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

NICARAGUA

"Behind the President's thinking may be the calculation that increased aid to the contras will produce a successful counter-revolution. If so, it is probably misguided....For all that, the blunt instrument of the contras has contained the Nicaraguan revolution and to some extent altered its direction."
(Financial Times, Britain)

"Last night on television, the President promoted open and almost unlimited aid to the anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua. Reagan wants to deliver the decisive blow to the revolutionary regime in that Central American country....The address is the climax of an unprecedented campaign....Rarely ever was opposition to him stronger, and rarely ever did he suffer setbacks at first rather than gaining ground."

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, West Germany)

"Many Americans find it hard to see how barely three million Nicaraguans might become a serious threat to America's security....But primarily, almost everyone asks: What will a meager \$100 million achieve if the threat really is as big as the Reagan Administration claims?"

(Bonner Rundschau, West Germany)

"Anything goes in the dirty war of the contra -- a war being fought in Washington and not in the mountains of Nicaragua -- to get Congress to approve \$100 million of aid, mainly military, for the rebels....The problem for the President is that three of every five Americans do not believe that Nicaragua is a strategic threat to the United States...."

(El Pais, Spain)

"President Ronald Reagan in his televised speech has resorted to slander and concoctions with a view to pressing Congress into allocating \$100 million in military aid to the Somozistas whom he described as 'freedom-fighters.' The President's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anti-Communist film 'Red Dawn.' The cheap movie, shot on money of reactionaries, describes an 'invasion of the United States' by Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet armed forces via Mexican territory."

(Tass, Soviet Union)

"If President Reagan's effort to persuade Congress fails, not only his Central American policy, but the President's prestige and leadership could waver."

(NHK-T, Japan)

"The fact that President Reagan has identified himself as a contra gives the impression that he has lost his senses."

(Jordan Times, Jordan)

-end of B-Section-



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1986 -- 6 a.m. EST EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Both Sides See KO In "Contra" Aid Fight -- Like boxers before a prize fight, both sides in the battle for aid to Nicaragua's rebels said they were sure of a victory as Thursday's crucial House vote approached.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, Baltimore Sun, New York Times, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, AP, Reuter)

Reagan/Mulroney -- Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney begins talks with President Reagan hoping to win pledges of concrete action against acid rain, something Reagan has resisted. (AP, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

HHS Chief Plans Reorganization -- Secretary Bowen is planning a major reorganization of his vast department that will combine at least six programs dealing with low-income families, Administration and Congressional sources said yesterday. (Washington Post)

Lynne Cheney To NEH? -- The Reagan Administration intends to nominate Lynne Cheney to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to congressional and endowment sources.

(Washington Post)

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

NICARAGUA -- The President is still confidently pursuing aid for the rebels in Nicaragua.

PALME -- The first formal murder accusations in the assassination of Olaf Palme.

FRANCE -- President Mitterrand went on TV to announce that he will name a new Prime Minister.

PENNY WISE

The cost of maintaining a homeless family of four at a shelter in the Bronx is \$70,000 a year -- not counting the cost of maintaining the shelter itself -- according to New York City officials. The cost of the city's other four large shelters is only \$60,000 a year. For the homeless who are put up at seedy hotels around Manhattan, the owners charge a mere \$1,000 to \$3,000 a month per room. The housing allowance for a poor family living in its own apartment is \$270 a month.

(New Republic, March 31)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HOPEFUL CONTRA AID WILL PASS HOUSE

Freshman's Swing Vote Targeted By Aid Backers

All across East Texas yesterday, a professional radio announcer, a crisp urgency in his voice, repeated the same message every hour. "To help President Reagan stop communist expansion in Central America, you need to make one important phone call," he said. "Call your congressman, Jim Chapman, today...."

The radio commercials are only a small part of the intensive lobbying campaign on the contra aid issue that is now building toward a climax with the House vote scheduled Thursday.

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. May Help Rebels Purchase Anti-air Missiles

Reagan Administration officials yesterday predicted that the House would approve President Reagan's proposal for a \$100 million aid package for the Nicaraguan rebels. While at least two key Democratic members of Congress agreed with this estimate, House Majority Whip Thomas Foley (D-Wash) said that he has "every confidence" that the measure will be defeated.

Reagan stepped up his lobbying with phone calls to House members, as both sides maneuvering for what one Administration official called "the psychological advantage of appearing to be on the winning side" before Thursday's vote. They agreed that the outcome will be decided by a narrow margin, perhaps by fewer than a dozen votes.

(Lou Cannon & George Wilson, Washington Post, A1)

U.S./Nicaragua

Both sides are predicting victory when the House finally decides the intensely fought campaign over President Reagan's plan to give \$100 million in military and economic aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

Rep. Thomas Foley (D-Wash), the House whip and chief Democratic vote counter, said late Monday, "It's conclusive that we will win. It's not overwhelming, but it's conclusive and we expect it to stay that way."

(Tim Ahern, AP)

House Presses State Dept. Over Status Of CIA Fund

In the aftermath of conflicting Administration statements, the House Intelligence Committee urged the State Department yesterday to clarify whether the President's request for aid to the Nicaraguan rebels would allow the use of a vast CIA contingency fund, committee sources said.

They said chairman Lee Hamilton (D-Ind) warned that unless the issue were settled satisfactorily, it could become a focus of debate when the House considers President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid to the "contras."

(Stephens Broening, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Test Of A Presidency

In presenting the Nicaraguan issue as a historic test of his presidency, Ronald Reagan has decided to try to convert his firm anti-Communism, dating back to personal experiences in union politics in Hollywood, into national policy.

White House aides and longtime advisers said today that few issues in Mr. Reagan's Presidency had so engaged him emotionally or so clearly pointed up how this President's personal convictions drive policy.

(Bernard Weinraub, News Analysis, New York Times, A1)

Both Sides See KO In "Contra" Aid Fight

Like boxers before a prize fight, both sides in the battle for aid to Nicaragua's rebels said they were sure of a victory as Thursday's crucial House vote approached.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said phone calls received since President Reagan's Sunday speech were running 71 percent favorable.

Vice President Bush, on NBC's Today show, predicted: "We're going to win."

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

Several Arrested In Protests Against Reagan Aid Request

Official Washington wasn't the only place debating President Reagan's plea for aid to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels:

In Minneapolis, Minn., two people were arrested and 33 cited for trespassing after they demonstrated at Sen. Dave Durenberger's office against the proposed federal aid.

(USA Today, A4)

"Contra" Aid Vote Margin Narrows

The tide may be turning in favor of military aid to the "contras" in Nicaragua.

By talking over the heads of balky lawmakers and directly to the American people, the President resorted to a technique he has used to spectacular effect in pushing forward his legislative agenda on taxes and budgetary matters.

(Peter Osterlund, Christain Science Monitor, A1)

Latins Back "Pressure," Habib Says

Philip Habib, just back from a presidential mission to Central America, yesterday said regional leaders in Central America understand the U.S. strategy for applying pressure on the Sandinistas with aid to the Nicaraguan resistance.

"They understand the significance of putting pressure on the Sandinistas in order to bring them to a different approach, a political approach," he said.

(Mary Belcher & Bill Kritzberg, Washington Times, A1)

Contra Aid Said Stalled In The House

Robert Dole said yesterday that President Reagan had swayed enough votes to win Senate passage of the \$100 million dollar aid package for the Nicaraguan resistance, but House Democrats said he had swayed no votes in the lower chamber.

(Christopher Simpson, Washington Times, A1)

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House Democratic Leaders Say Reagan Speech Had Little Effect

A public opinion poll released last night appeared to support assertions by House Democratic Leaders that President Reagan's television appeal for support for Nicaraguan rebels was not effective.

The poll, taken by ABC television immediately after Reagan's broadcast on Sunday, showed 30 percent of those questioned approved of new military aid for the so-called contra rebels while 54 percent opposed it.
(Carol Giacomo, Reuter)

CLAIMS ON CONTRAS IN DISPUTE

In his weekend pleas for military aid to rebels in Nicaragua, President Reagan drew on the bywords of 40 years of a staunch anticommunism to paint a dark and ominous picture of the Marxist government of Nicaragua and the threat it poses to the United States.

To make his grim portrait, the President invoked some disputed statistics and accusations and a panoply of devil figures, from Italy's Red Brigades to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. In the end, Reagan suggested that Congress' upcoming votes on the \$100 million aid request will determine the course of the entire East-West conflict.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A6)

MANAGUA OFFERS QUIET DEFIANCE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- The Sandinista leadership is watching the heated U.S. debate over further military aid for Nicaraguan rebels with a public air of quiet defiance.

The position reflects increased confidence after a year of military progress against the insurgents and a conclusion that bombastic declarations from Managua and high-profile lobbying in previous Washington debates failed to advance the Sandinista case.

(Edward Cody, Washington Post, A7)

Nicaragua Denounces Reagan Propaganda

MANAGUA, Nicaragua -- Nicaragua labeled President Reagan's speech seeking support for \$100 million in new aid for Contra rebels a "growl of war" and renewed its call for negotiations with the United States.

Reagan's speech was reported in Monday's edition of the official newspaper, Barricada, under the headline "Growl of War from Washington."

(Tracy Wilkinson, UPI)

Nicaraguans Give Low Key Response To U.S. "Contra" Aid Vote

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua has shown unusual restraint in its response to President Reagan's campaign for increased U.S. support for Nicaraguan rebels, diplomats said.

In previous years, Reagan's rhetoric in favor of the aid has prompted protest marches and the construction of trenches in Managua for defense against a much-publicized U.S. invasion, but this year, diplomats said, Nicaragua appeared calm despite Reagan's words.

(Matthew Campbell, Reuter)

SOVIETS CALL REAGAN SPEECH LIKE "RED DAWN"

MOSCOW -- The official Soviet news agency Tass accused President Reagan today of resorting to "slander and concoctions" in a plea for aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

"The President's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anticommunist film 'Red Dawn,'" Tass said in a dispatch from Washington.
(AP story, Washington Post, A15)

CONTRA AID ISSUE: CAN ADMINISTRATION LIVE WITH SANDINISTAS?

At the heart of the debate over President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for Nicaragua's Contras are differences over whether he wants to topple or reform the Sandinista government, and whether he has given negotiations a chance.

There is not much disagreement between Congress and the White House over whether the Sandinistas are hostile to American interests. The differences concern how much of a threat they pose, and what should be done about it.
(Gregory Nokes, News Analysis, AP)

DOLLAR PLUMMETS TO POSTWAR LOW AGAINST THE YEN

The dollar tumbled yesterday to its lowest level against the Japanese yen since the end of World War II.

It fell as low as 174.50 yen in early Tokyo trading before moving a bit higher later during trading in New York, but it remained below the previous postwar low of 175.50 yen. That low was set on Oct. 31, 1978.

(James Sterngold, New York Times, A1)

SOVIET REPORTED ACTING TO BEGIN NEW ATOM TESTS

The Soviet Union has started preparations for the possible resumption of nuclear weapons testing, Reagan Administration officials said today.

Satellite reconnaissance photographs show the Soviet Union has been digging holes and tunnels in which nuclear explosives can be placed and moving monitoring equipment into a test area, according to Administration experts who have reviewed classified United States intelligence reports.

(Michael Gordon, New York Times, A1)

U.S. DISINFORMATION EFFORT REPORTED

The Pentagon and CIA have instituted a disinformation and deception program to prevent sensitive data on weapons and technology from falling into Soviet hands, Aviation Week & Space Technology reported yesterday.

Quoting officials in the project, the authoritative weekly said it affects about 15 to 20 programs, six or seven of which are in the Defense Department, including SDI, the Air Force Stealth fighter and bomber, and the Navy's Advanced Tactical Aircraft.

(UPI story, Washington Post, A15)

REAGAN/MULRONEY

Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney begins talks with President Reagan hoping to win pledges of concrete action against acid rain, something Reagan has resisted.

Senior White House officials have said they expect Reagan to endorse a special report prepared for this year's "Shamrock summit" of the two leaders of Irish heritage, but not necessarily to sign onto the full \$5 billion program it recommends to install clean-burning coal equipment in U.S. utilities. (Guy Darst, AP)

Senate Bill Proposes Forcing Acid Rain Treaty

President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney meet in Washington today as a key U.S. senator continues to press for treaties with Canada and Mexico on controlling acid rain.

(Glenn Somerville, Reuter)

JUDGE ALLOWS RELEASE OF MARCOS PAPERS

NEW YORK -- A federal judge today cleared the way for the Reagan Administration to give Philippine and congressional investigators sensitive documents believed to contain crucial details of the financial holdings of deposed president Ferdinand Marcos.

"As far as we are concerned, it's a green light," Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland said. "Everything is in order legally for this to happen. It's not just a matter of the mechanical process."

(Margot Hornblower, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Court Refuses To Block Issuance Of Marcos Papers

A judge in New York yesterday denied a request for a restraining order, clearing the way for U.S. officials to turn over to the new Philippine government and Congress documents detailing the wealth of former president Marcos. (UPI story, Washington Times, A9)

State Department Officials Examine Marcos Papers

Officials of the State Department and U.S. Customs last night sorted through papers brought into the country by ousted ex-president Ferdinand Marcos after a New York court cleared the way for them to be handed over to the new Philippine government. (Reuter)

U.S. To Give Marcos Papers To New Government Today

The United States plans to turn over copies of 1,500 pages of former President Marcos's documents to the new Government of the Philippines on Tuesday, State Department officials said today.

(Stephen Engelberg, New York Times, A1)

LEBANON HOSTAGE RELATIVES TO START LETTER CAMPAIGN

Relatives of the American hostages in Lebanon plan to launch a national letter-writing campaign urging the Reagan Administration to intensify its efforts to secure freedom for the six captives.

The families announced the letter-writing campaign drive Monday, hours after they met with Administration officials at the State Department. Relatives hope Americans will show their support for the hostages by sending letters to the Administration. (Joan Mower, AP)

REAGAN, FITZGERALD PUSH NORTHERN IRELAND AID PLAN

President Reagan joined visiting Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald yesterday in calling for passage of a pending \$250 million program in economic aid for Northern Ireland and denouncing those providing financial aid to Irish terrorists.

In a statement celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the President called the Anglo-Irish agreement achieved last year by FitzGerald and British Prime Minister Thatcher "a ray of hope." (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A24)

Reagan, FitzGerald Think Luck Of The Irish Is Turning

President Reagan and Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald joined hands at the White House yesterday in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and expressed gratitude that a ray of hope has begun to shine through on the political and religious differences wracking Northern Ireland over the past 20 years. (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A4)

FitzGerald Goes Home With U.S. Support For Anglo-Irish Pact

Irish Prime Minister FitzGerald has received fresh pledges from President Reagan and congressional leaders on U.S. backing for an Anglo-Irish accord on Northern Ireland. (Adela Gooch, Reuter)

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NATIONAL NEWS

HHS CHIEF PLANS REORGANIZATION

Secretary Bowen is planning a major reorganization of his vast department that will combine at least six programs dealing with low-income families, Administration and Congressional sources said yesterday.

Bowen thinks that the new unit, to be called the Family Services Administration, will give more visibility and clout to agencies dealing with poor families and will produce better services and policy, the sources said.

(Spencer Rich, Washington Post, A12)

U.S., NAACP FAULT YONKERS DESEGREGATION

The Justice Department and the NAACP have sharply criticized a desegregation plan drawn up by officials in Yonkers, N.Y., to settle a suit in which the city was found guilty of systematic bias in its housing and schools.

(Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A9)

LYNNE CHENEY TO NEH?

The Reagan Administration intends to nominate Lynne Cheney, a senior editor at The Washingtonian magazine and wife of Republican Rep. Richard Cheney of Wyoming, to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to congressional and endowment sources. Although Cheney is still undergoing the requisite security checks and clearances, the White House may announce its choice this week, sources said.

(Mary Battiata, Washington Post, B1)

HART WIDENS HIS LEAD OVER BUSH IN HARRIS POLL ON 1988 CONTEST

Vice President Bush has lost ground to front-running Sen. Gary Hart in a public opinion poll on potential candidates for president in 1988.

The same Harris Survey, however, shows Mr. Bush as a stronger candidate than Rep. Jack Kemp against Mr. Hart.

(Ralph Hallow, Washington Times, A2)

SOME WHEAT FARMERS FEEL "BETRAYED" OVER NEW EXPORT POLICY

Some of the nation's wheat farmers are complaining about the Reagan Administration's export policies, and others say they are so pinched financially that they don't expect to be in business in five years anyway.

The Oregon Wheat Growers League says the Administration has betrayed producers by changing the rules for some of the export provisions included in last year's farm bill.

(Don Kendall, AP)

TASK FORCE SEEKS TORT LAW REFORM

A special government task force met with President Reagan at the White House yesterday to suggest reforming civil liability laws.

Attorney General Meese -- acting in his capacity as chairman of the White House domestic policy council -- set up the group in October 1985 to study reform of "tort" law -- the area of law that covers compensation for civil injuries. (David Sellers, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN FETED BY "LEPRECHAUN" ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

President Reagan, descended from Irish immigrants, was entertained at a St. Patrick's Day lunch by a leprechaun, bagpipes, a jig dancer and a tenor who sang "Oh Ronnie Boy" to the tune of "Danny Boy." (UPI)

GOP CONVENTION SITE HOPEFULS FEAR MRS. REAGAN DECISION

Eleven cities are bidding to host the 1988 Republican National Convention and 10 of them are hoping Nancy Reagan remains neutral in the competition.

Officials at the Republican Party headquarters and the White House insisted Monday that the First Lady has no preference for a convention site despite persistent rumors she'd like the party to meet in Los Angeles. (Donald Rothberg, AP)

U.S. CONSERVATIVES: FROM DEBACLE IN 1964 TO TOP OF POLITICAL HEAP IN '80s

They are called many things: the New Right, the radical right, the extreme right wing, or, less pejoratively, the conservative movement.

Today, by any name, they are riding a crest of power in America. President Reagan has adopted much of their agenda, and he remains their hero. (John Dillin, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

FORCES SPAR OVER CENTRAL AMERICA

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) -- The battle for public opinion over Central America raged in full force during the weekend with one group of Iowans speaking out against the Reagan Administration while across town a White House aide supported U.S. policies. White House spokesman Robert Riley, making one of hundreds of stops on a nationwide speaking tour, told his Iowa audience Saturday that it's the Sandinistas and not the Contras that are killing and torturing civilians in Nicaragua.

He said a special Sandinista team trained by East Germany dresses in Contra uniforms and commits atrocities in the countryside. Riley said the United States has a right to oppose Nicaragua because the Sandinistas broke a 1979 promise to permit a democratic government.

While Riley spoke, two dozen Iowans testified at their own unofficial congressional hearing on what they say are Reagan Administration lies about Central America. Witnesses were Iowans who traveled in the troubled region. Their testimony will be offered to the Iowa congressional delegation to counter the President's plea for \$100 million in aide to the Contras. The witnesses generally said the Sandinista government is popular among the people and urged the U.S. to stop supporting ruthless right-wing regimes in the region.

Hearing coordinator Bob Brammer said the testimony showed there is sharp disparity between what the Administration says is happening and what the Iowans observed. The Iowa hearing was admittedly one-sided -- no pro-Administration spokesmen were allowed. He said unlike Administration claims, the Nicaraguan Contras and other U.S.-supported governments are carrying out systematic torture and abuses of human rights. Riley noted there was no criticism about U.S. intervention when America helped depose the Somoza government in 1979.

HOUSE TO VOTE ON OFFSHORE REVENUES

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) -- The U.S. House of Representatives this week could clear away the last roadblock standing between Louisiana and about \$2 billion in disputed oil and gas revenues. Rep. Henson Moore, (R-La.), said he expected the House on Tuesday to take up a bill that contains a settlement of an eight-year-old battle between Louisiana and the federal government over offshore revenues. The settlement also would mean millions of dollars in revenues to other coastal states. The U.S. Senate Friday added the settlement to the federal budget reconciliation bill and passed the measure back to the House. "I would think we would take it up first thing Tuesday," said Moore, adding that the House probably would not vote on Monday because it is St. Patrick's Day. The Reagan Administration has indicated it would sign the reconciliation bill if there are no major changes, especially in the revenues settlement.

FIRST RADIO ANNOUNCER DEAD AT 90

MANSFIELD, Ohio (UPI) -- Harold W. Arlin, the first person hired to speak on radio, and the man who announced the first major league baseball game and the first college football game, is dead at the age of 90. Through his broadcast interviews, he introduced the nation to Babe Ruth, Will Rogers, Lillian Gish, David Lloyd George and William Jennings Bryan. His voice reached across the Atlantic where British residents would sit up all night to hear his broadcasts through short-wave, prompting The London Times to call him "the best known American Voice in Europe." In 1924, he was considered the world's most popular announcer. Reflecting on his life, he said that "I suppose if I want to be remembered for anything, it would be my pioneer radio work."

LAWMAKERS CONSIDER INSURANCE REFORMS, CORPORATE TAX BREAK

SACRAMENTO (UPI) -- State Legislators this week will consider a renewed attempt to give multinational corporations a tax break and review proposals backed by Senate Democrats aimed at curbing skyrocketing insurance premiums. The Democrat-controlled committee's hearing likely will produce material for the campaign of Democratic Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, who has made the Administration's toxics handling an issue in challenging Republican Gov. George Deukmejian's bid for a second term. The Reagan administration has tapped Republican Sen. Pete Wilson to carry legislation to forbid California to use the system, strongly opposed by Japanese and British governments and firms. But the cost to the state treasury of revising the method -- roughly \$300 million -- looms as a drawback in view of the tightly balanced state budget proposed by Deukmejian this year.

WIFE OF FORMER HOSTAGE TO LEAD PEACE MISSION TO MIDEAST

ATLANTA (UPI) -- It has been two years since Jeremy Levin was kidnapped as he walked down a Beirut street toward his office, but now his wife is going back to the Mideast to lead the first woman-to-woman peace mission. Lucille "Sis" Levin said Saturday she is not angry the U.S. government had such little success in winning freedom for her husband, who fled his captors last year, but she wants the public to know other hostages are still in Lebanon, held longer than those in Iran. "I sense in the American people an anger that they have not been given the facts," Mrs. Levin said.

"The subject is not discussed. She met this week with former first lady Rosalynn Carter, who will be part of the mission. Mrs. Carter said if there is ever to be peace in the Mideast, women must take the initiative. "Women want peace," the former first lady said. "One of the reasons they are going is to get people talking to each other and making some sense. I'm endorsing what they are doing." His wife sought help from the State Department and was told to say nothing about his disappearance. She kept her silence for six months before deciding to go public. She sought the help of former President Jimmy Carter, who called a news conference to reveal several Americans were being held in Lebanon. Carter challenged President Reagan to reveal what he was doing to gain their release. "His news conference sort of smoked Mr. Reagan out," Mrs. Levin said. "He actually broke the silence for us and we will be eternally grateful."

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Monday Evening, March 17, 1986)

NICARAGUA

CBS's Dan Rather: Vote more military aid for Nicaraguan rebels: vote with me, or help the contras. That is the thrust of President Reagan's campaign to sway Congress. He followed up his nationwide speech last night with more today.

CBS's Bill Plante: The President, buoyed by reaction to his speech, is still confidently pursuing aid for the rebels and joked when told that Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega said Mr. Reagan had lost his senses about Nicaragua.

(President: "It takes one to know one.!")

Ambassador Philip Habib, the President's special envoy just back from Central America, argued that polls show people in the region approve of the U.S. position. Even if many in the U.S. are skeptical.

(TV Coverage: President with Ambassador Habib in Oval Office.)

(Habib: "The majority of Central Americans, first of all, condemn the situation in Nicaragua, and secondly, the majority supports the aid to the contras.")

That poll backs up the Administration claims for the contras, some of whom listened to reports of the President's speech last night, at a base camp in Costa Rica. The White House said the poll was commissioned by the U.S.I.A., but couldn't say exactly when it was done. Secretary Shultz turned up the heat as he continued the Administration's campaign for Thursday's vote in the House.

(Secretary Shultz: "So this week in the United States, it's going to be our turn to stand up and be counted.")

Thousands did contact the White House and Congress. The Capitol Switchboard was flooded with calls. At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, aides said calls were two to one in Mr. Reagan's favor. Conservatives carted a helicopter to a spot near the Capitol, and announced they were donating it to the contras to evacuate the wounded. A scuffle broke out with bystanders who objected.

(TV Coverage: Young anti-contra aid man being carted off by police.) Feelings were running high everywhere. Speaker O'Neill remains bitterly opposed, as Mr. Reagan gains votes for contra aid.

(O'Neill: "I think our policy is wrong every inch of the way. You're just not going to get there with military might without getting ourself into it.")

White House aides say they're now only a dozen or so votes short.

Votes that they think Mr. Reagan can get this week. No one here wants to appear overconfident, but they think that their strategy has worked. And that Congress will give the President all, or most, of what he wants for the contras.

(CBS-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: President Reagan didn't pull any punches last night when he made his nationwide appeal for aid to the contras trying to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. He said that if Congress didn't give \$100 million in mostly military aid to the contras, Latin peoples by the millions would begin fleeing to the United States. It was a very tough speech: very black and white. Whenever the President appears on TV like that, he is playing one of his strongest cards. In Washington today, others are doing whatever they can.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: They parked a helicopter on the mall. A conservative group had brought it for the contras, in order to draw the cameras for the pro-White House message.

(TV Coverage: Pro-contra aid rally being addressed by Sen. Helms.)
(Senator Helms: "The President is right and his critics are wrong on this issue.")

The message was somewhat diluted when an outsider ran up and sprayed red paint on the helicopter in protest. He was hustled off to jail. And what does the country think about who is right? White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes reported the President's speech last night drew an immediate 1952 favorable phone calls, to 799 unfavorable ones. On Capitol Hill, the operators were swamped with almost 29,000 calls today, from people on both sides putting pressure on legislators.

(TV Coverage: Capitol operators busily answering phones.)

(Rep. Sid Morrison: "Phones are running off the hooks, in our district offices as well as here. And a continual flow of people from the White House as well as organizations represented here on the Hill.")

Groups opposed to military aid to the contras were on the hill, hearing from a congressman worried about another Vietnam.

(Rep. Bonoir (D-Mi.): "The parallels are obvious.")

And Administration officials, including Secretary Shultz, were on the hill, touching base and trying to sound confident. House Speaker O'Neill kept hammering away on the point that Latin American leaders oppose the President's policy.

(O'Neill: "They are all opposed. They are all opposed.")

But at the White House, special envoy Philip Habib, just back from Central America, said the leaders there were more supportive than they sounded in public.

(Habib: "You know, these fellows have code words the way we do.")

But it was the President who seemed to have the last word today about everything:

(Reporter to President: "Mr. President, Daniel Ortega says that you've lost your senses about Nicaragua.")

President: "It takes one to know one!")

Both sides are desperately seeking attention, and both sides are putting pressure on Congress. So who is going to win? Officials here believe that based on his track record alone, Ronald Reagan has the edge.

ABC POLL

Jennings: But the President's appeal for aid to the contras has apparently not changed many peoples' minds on the subject. ABC News conducted a poll last night, and found that more than half of those we asked still oppose military aid to the contras. That is right about the same level of opposition as we found in our poll of ten days ago.

AID TO CONTRAS: FOR: 30% AGAINST: 54%

(Margin of error: 5 percent)

Only 38 percent of the people we polled actually saw or heard the President's speech. Those people are more equally divided on military aid, but most are still opposed.

Jennings: Standing by on Capitol Hill tonight is ABC's Charles Gibson. As best you can tell, have the Democrats lost any votes as a result of the President's speech?

ABC's Charles Gibson: No, the Democrats are still confident that they're going to defeat the President on this one, and probably by a margin of about 12 to 15 votes. Tom Foley, who is the House Majority Whip, the Democrat who is in charge of the nose counting on his side of the aisle, said today, "we're ahead, and there's been no erosion." And indeed, the Democratic nose counters say that in the now almost 24 hours since the President's speech that their total of votes hasn't changed at all. They gained one; they lost one. The net change is zero. One of the Democratic aides who is involved in the vote-counting procedures said to me today, "we have 225 locked-in-the-bank, walk-them-on-the-House floor hard-nosed votes." Now, that's about as confident a quote as you'll ever get. So it's going to be close. Anything over 218 is what they need. It will be close, but the Democrats are confident. (ABC-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The countdown to the contra vote is on in Washington tonight, and it will climax one of the most free-swinging political battles of the Reagan years. When President Reagan went to the country with a national TV speech last night, he used some of the toughest language yet heard about Nicaragua, calling it a cancer and a command post for international terror.

NBC's Chris Wallace: The speech last night ended the high-profile battle over the contras. Today both sides were busy working behind the scenes.

(TV Coverage: Capitol operators busy at switchboard.)

The Congressional switchboard took 28,000 calls today, a third above normal. But if the President's speech got peoples' attention, their reaction was mixed. Telegrams to the head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee ran 50-50. Other congressmen reported a similar split. The result: both sides now predict victory in Thursday's House vote.

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Wallace continues:

(Vice President Bush: "I think we're gonna win it. It's going to be close, and I think the President's message got out loud and clear last night.")

(Rep. Foley (D-Wa.): "I haven't seen any evidence yet that the President's turned a great volume of American opinion toward his point of view.")

Aides say Mr. Reagan is into a hands-on phase, calling and meeting individual congressmen. Today he met with diplomat Philip Habib, just back from Central America.

(TV Coverage: President and Habib in Oval Office.)

(Reporter: "Mr. President, Daniel Ortega says that you've lost your senses about Nicaragua.")

President: "It takes one to know one!"

Habib noted a poll, taken in Central America, that showed a majority there backed the contras. The poll was commissioned by the U.S. government.

(Reporter: "What about the Central American leaders? Why aren't any of them backing the contras?")

Habib: "They have their own way of expressing their opinions. I would suggest you look at their words.")

Habib cited a statement by the leaders of Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, calling on the rulers of Nicaragua to recognize the urgency of opening dialogue with the contras. But, that statement never mentions military aid to the rebels. The Democrats are also lobbying hard, saying the President's policy will get the U.S. in another Vietnam.

(O'Neill: "I think our policy is wrong every inch of the way. You're just not going to get there with military might, without getting ourself into it.")

Both sides say the battle now is over 25 undecided congressmen, who will be getting a lot of attention over the next three days.

Brokaw: Finally, the White House hopes that the President's enormous personal popularity will help him out in this debate; that voters will fall in behind him on this controversy, even though most recent polls on the question show sharp public skepticism on the wisdom of aid to the contras.

HEARTLAND REACTION TO CONTRAS

Brokaw: We asked NBC's Ann Rubinstein to go to America's Heartland to listen to the debate.

NBC's Ann Rubinstein reports from Beloit, Wisconsin that once a week they serve a big breakfast at the V.F.W., and there's disagreement here on the contra issue.

Veteran: "I don't want the communists at our back door."

Veteran: "I think Congress should approve it. I really do."

Veteran: "We can't afford to support the American farmer today that's going broke, and yet we can throw \$100 million down there?"

Veteran's wife: "These small countries down there -- even though they're close to us -- I think they're using communism as a form of blackmail, and our money is going down there, and there's no guarantee of what it's going for.")

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Rubinstein continues:

When the President appeared on TV last night, many in Beloit watched, but it is hard to tell how many were swayed. A pastor in town believes a military solution to the situation in Nicaragua is way off. 1000 students attend Beloit College. Aid to the contras has significance here.

(Male student: "For me it's really important ... I'm prime draft age!")

William Bailey is the publisher of The Beloit Daily News, and wrote the editorial supporting the President for today's issue. His paper has a circulation of 18,000, but Bailey doesn't think most people are interested in the contras.

(Bailey: "The public just tunes out of this thing. They're more interested in things that are closer to their daily lives.")

Beloit's attitude is probably like that of any town in the U.S.A. People here have the information, but a lot don't pay much attention to the news about Central America. It seems complicated and far away. And the President is requesting money, not young soldiers. For those reasons, many people here say they're not very concerned about Nicaragua at this point. (NBC-2)

U.N. DIPLOMATIC DISPUTE

Jennings: It is little more than a week now since the Reagan

Administration said it wanted the Soviet mission to the U.N. reduced by more than 40 percent. President Reagan was urged to do it by the FBI, which was having a hard time keeping track of many Soviet officials, whom the FBI believed were spying. What does go on beyond the walls of the Soviet mission?

Bill Blakemore reports that the Soviets deny all charges that any in the Soviet mission are spies, acting Soviet Ambassador U.N. Representative Vasily Safronchuk says, "I think this is a mere fiction." The FBI says it is stretched thin, trying to balance the numbers of its own agents against the 275 Soviet U.N. delegates, plus more than 600 Soviet officials, including trade delegates and journalists, who are allowed to move freely within a 25-mile radius of the city. The Soviets and the Americans will continue debating in the United Nations this week the question of just how the size of any U.N. delegation should be limited. This case is unusual, because it involves a public request to balance the secret armies of spies as they get on with their mutually illegal work. (ABC-8)

CHALLENGER

Rather: NASA disclosed today that the Challenger lifted off on its fatal

flight with about 750 parts that had no back-up. More than those so-called critically "one parts" were in the booster rockers. The space agency is now reviewing the acceptability of such parts with no fail-safe back-up. Off Cape Canaveral, salvagers raised important new debris from the ocean floor, including a section of one of the shuttle's engines. (CBS-3; ABC-5; NBC-13)

PALME

Rather: The first formal murder accusations today in the assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister. Accused is a Swede who reportedly lived in California for two years. (CBS-2; ABC-3; NBC-6)

REAGAN/FITZGERALD/ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Brokaw: America's most prominent descendant of Irish immigrants, President Reagan, welcomed Irish Prime Minister Garrett Fitzgerald to the White House today. When the President sat down to a corned beef and cabbage lunch with aides, he got a St. Patrick's Day Surprise.
(TV Coverage: President being serenaded by Leprechauns and Irishman singing 'Oh, Ronnie Boy' to the tune of 'Oh, Danny Boy.') And then the President received holiday greetings from a midget, dressed as a Leprechaun. Mr. Reagan said this day recognized the many achievements -- sung and unsung -- of the Irish men and women who have made this a better and happier world. (NBC-12)

Rather: This is a day when regardless of race or creed, everyone seems to be Irish: St. Patrick's Day. In Washington, President Reagan, the descendant of Irish immigrants, was surprised at lunch by a diminutive entertainer dressed as a Leprechaun; the work reportedly of Irish-American members of the White House staff. (CBS-14; ABC-7)

MARCOS

Rather: A federal judge cleared the way today for the U.S. to turn over to the new Aquino government hundreds of documents that detail the immense wealth of Ferdinand Marcos. The deposed Marcos took the documents with him when he left the Philippines last month. They were seized by U.S. Customs officials. (CBS-5; NBC-3)

FRANCE

Jennings: The voters in France have decided to make life difficult for Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. They voted yesterday to give the Conservative opposition a majority in the Parliament. This evening, Mitterrand went on TV to announce that he will name a Prime Minister from the new Conservative coalition. (ABC-4; NBC-4; CBS-10)

Editor's Notes: CBS's Eric Engberg filed a report on the American space program contrasted with those of other nations. (CBS-4)
ABC aired a story on Margaret Randall, a photographer/author who is a Mexican citizen who wants to live in America, but is going through deportation proceedings. (ABC-2)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

NICARAGUA

Like it or Not, Congress Can't Afford Not to Aid the Contras -- "If you still think the Marxist government of Nicaragua is the Nicaraguans' problem, consider this. The speaker is Jose Baldizon, once a high official in the so-called Sandinista government, and he is recalling his former colleagues' explanation for forming an alliance with the Colombian mafia to ship illegal drugs to America:

'They said that cocaine accomplished three objectives: (1) It destroys and corrupts American youth so as to weaken and harm future generations. (2) It provides a mechanism whereby American youth finances liberation movements. (3) The network used for cocaine distribution is used for the traffic of weapons bought on the black market.'

...It is amazing how in the face of information like this Congress can still balk at sending aid to Nicaraguan rebels, yet balk it has done. It clings to the hope that if we close our eyes, we can avoid entanglements in what it sees as someone else's civil conflict." (New York Post, 3/17)

Nicaragua: Time is Running Out -- "Now that President Reagan has instructed them in the problem -- thwarting the Soviet attempt to establish a 'beachhead in North America,' as he put it last night -- the future may lie largely with the American people. Given their head, many members of the House and Senate would vote to cut and run in Nicaragua. If that wretched country is not to be delivered to the enemy, the American people, through a torrent of telegrams and letters and phone calls, must put some iron into the spines of a feckless Congress."

(Washington Times, 3/17)

Debate Over Nicaragua -- "In our view, Congress should continue non-military aid to the contras provided it is made part of [a] much larger effort to help Nicaragua's democratic neighbors contain the Sandinista regime. If negotiations fail again, as we suspect they will, there should be sufficient military aid to the contras to make them a part -- but only a part -- of a U.S.-supported regional security operation....What we believe is needed at this moment is neither an endorsement nor a repudiation of Administration policy by the Congress. One would signal too much U.S. faith in a contra force that may fail; the other would undercut the Administration's ability to pressure Nicaragua. The answer has to be bipartisan compromise."

(Baltimore Sun, 3/17)

Why We Should Help the Contras -- "The Reagan Administration, with its smear tactics and overblown rhetoric, may be the contras' worst enemy. To head off a limited threat, President Reagan implies an unlimited commitment. That is what scares the electorate, dimming the chance that Congress will approve his \$100 million request. But the errors of the Administration, like the flaws of the contras, don't justify abandoning Nicaragua to the unchallenged rule of the Sandinistas. Doing that would create a permanent source of trouble on our doorstep. This may be the last chance to prevent it." (Stephen Chapman, Chicago Tribune, 3/14)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

NICARAGUA

"Behind the President's thinking may be the calculation that increased aid to the contras will produce a successful counter-revolution. If so, it is probably misguided....For all that, the blunt instrument of the contras has contained the Nicaraguan revolution and to some extent altered its direction."
(Financial Times, Britain)

"Last night on television, the President promoted open and almost unlimited aid to the anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua. Reagan wants to deliver the decisive blow to the revolutionary regime in that Central American country....The address is the climax of an unprecedented campaign....Rarely ever was opposition to him stronger, and rarely ever did he suffer setbacks at first rather than gaining ground."
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, West Germany)

"Many Americans find it hard to see how barely three million Nicaraguans might become a serious threat to America's security....But primarily, almost everyone asks: What will a meager \$100 million achieve if the threat really is as big as the Reagan Administration claims?"
(Bonner Rundschau, West Germany)

"Anything goes in the dirty war of the contra -- a war being fought in Washington and not in the mountains of Nicaragua -- to get Congress to approve \$100 million of aid, mainly military, for the rebels....The problem for the President is that three of every five Americans do not believe that Nicaragua is a strategic threat to the United States...."
(El Pais, Spain)

"President Ronald Reagan in his televised speech has resorted to slander and concoctions with a view to pressing Congress into allocating \$100 million in military aid to the Somozistas whom he described as 'freedom-fighters.' The President's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anti-Communist film 'Red Dawn.' The cheap movie, shot on money of reactionaries, describes an 'invasion of the United States' by Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet armed forces via Mexican territory."
(Tass, Soviet Union)

"If President Reagan's effort to persuade Congress fails, not only his Central American policy, but the President's prestige and leadership could waver."
(NHK-T, Japan)

"The fact that President Reagan has identified himself as a contra gives the impression that he has lost his senses."
(Jordan Times, Jordan)

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