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News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1985 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bomb at U.S. Airbase in Frankfurt Kills One, Injures 13 -- A bomb exploded at the sprawling U.S. Rhein-Main Air Base, killing one person and injuring 13 others, military authorities said. (AP, UPI, Reuter)

Administration Reportedly Gives Direct Advice to Anti-Sandinistas -- White House officials have been giving direct advice to rebels fighting to topple the leftist Nicaraguan government. (AP, New York Times, Baltimore Sun)

NATIONAL NEWS

'Nihilism,' 'Secularism' Threatens Religion, Reagan Officials Say -- Religion is an integral part of America's heritage but is increasingly under siege from people demanding separation of church and state, according to two top Reagan Administration officials. (AP, Washington Post, Washington Times, New York Times, Baltimore Sun)

NETWORK NEWS (Wednesday Evening)

PLAY BALL! -- The baseball strike is over. (All Nets Lead)

NICARAGUA -- 29 American peace activists and about 16 journalists were fired on and captured by gunmen along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

HOSTAGES -- All of the rumors about freedom for the seven American hostages have been just that -- rumors.

Government Austerity

Federal, state and local governments will spend a record \$1.58 trillion this year, or 11% more than last year, the Tax Foundation estimates. The federal government, with growth predicted at 12%, is not unexpectedly ballooning fastest. Most forecasters expect the national economy to grow less than 7% in 1985, including inflation, so government will continue to take a larger share of national resources. How long—we can't seem to remember—has Washington been promising budgetary restraint?

WALL STREET JOURNAL FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1985

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CAR BOMB EXPLODES AT U.S. AIR BASE, FIVE INJURED

FRANKFURT, West Germany -- A bomb planted in a car exploded at a U.S. Air Force Base in Frankfurt today, injuring at least five people and heavily damaging buildings and nearby cars, authorities said.

Hesse State Interior Ministry spokesman Jan von Trott said the bomb was placed inside a parked car near the headquarters building of the Rhein-Main Air Base. (AP)

Bomb at U.S. Airbase in Frankfurt Injures Five

(Airbase spokesman Staff Sgt. Michael Bowers) said the bomb exploded at 7:15 a.m. (local time), causing extensive damage to two buildings, one the 435th Tactical Air Lift Wing headquarters and the other a barracks. (Reuter)

Technical Sgt. Ralph Munson said the blast killed one person and injured another 13. Munson said nine of the injured were treated at the base clinic and released. The others, he said, were taken to area hospitals.

The victims were not immediately identified. (UPI)

NICARAGUA REBELS GETTING ADVICE FROM WHITE HOUSE ON OPERATIONS

Rebels fighting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government have been receiving direct military advice from White House officials on the National Security Council, senior Administration officials and members of Congress have disclosed.

A senior Administration official said the direction had included advice and "tactical influence" on the rebels' military operations as well as help in raising money from private sources.

(Joel Brinkley, New York Times, A1)

Administration Reportedly Gives Direct Advice to Anti-Sandinistas

The Administration began giving the advice last year after Congress declined President Reagan's bid to give them military aid, the (Times) report said.

Congressmen said although the NSC has violated the intent of the legislation in giving the advice, it apparently has not acted illegally.

(AP)

National Security Council Aides Advise Rebels in Nicaragua, Officials Disclose

"If the President wants to use the NSC to operate a war in Nicaragua, I don't think there's any way we can control it," said Rep. Brown, a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence. He and other intelligence committee members said they had discussed the operation, "but," Brown added, "we haven't taken any formal action."

(Baltimore Sun, A1)

REBELS SAID TO HOLD PEACE ACTIVISTS

MANAGUA -- Twenty-nine American peace activists, participating in a demonstration by boating down the embattled river border that separates Nicaragua from Costa Rica, were reported by a spokesman for the group to have been taken into custody by anti-Sandinista rebels who were holding them in Costa Rica. (John Lantigua, Washington Post, A1)

Pro-Managua Americans Disappear in Nicaragua

Spokesmen for Witness for Peace, an ecumenical Christian group that supports Nicaragua's Sandinista regime, said 29 of their members were fired on and then captured by the guerrillas as they floated on a barge down the San Juan River. (Glenn Garvin, Washington Times, A1)

Herb Gunn, deputy coordinator of the Witness for Peace group, told reporters in Managua he contacted the rebels by radio and was told the Americans were unharmed and were being held in the jungle. He said the guerrillas refused to specify exactly where the group was.

A Foreign Ministry communique blamed the United States for the incident and said: "We hold the government of the United States responsible for the physical integrity of the kidnapped."

(Juan Maltes, AP)

Nicaragua Rebels Said to Abduct 29 U.S. Activists and 18 Others

The guerrillas were identified as members of the Costa Rica-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, led by Eden Pastora Gomez.

(New York Times, A8)

U.S. Activists Detained Along Nicaragua Border

Roberto Calderon, Sandinista army commander in the region, said the group had requested that no army protection be given to it. "They said just leave us alone, and that's what we did." However, a Sandinista air force helicopter was reported to have flown over the area of Las Cruces about 1:30 p.m. local time and to have spotted a launch tied to trees there on the Costa Rican side. The report made no mention of having sighted any people. (Paul Goepfert, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Radio Contact Establishes the Group Is Well

In Washington, Bosco Matamoros, a spokesman for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN, said the organization "has no direct or indirect relation with this incident."

"Our forces in Costa Rica haven't fired against the group and we have no information on their capture," Caracas said.

(Steven Donziger, UPI)

Nicaraguan Rebel Group Denies Capturing U.S. Peace Flotilla

(In San Jose, Costa Rica,) "ARDE members have not shot at or detained anyone along the northern frontier," said Daniel Castillo, spokesman for ARDE. (Reuter)

CONTRA ATTACK SAID TO KILL 51 NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS

CUAPA, Nicaragua -- At least 51 Nicaraguan soldiers, 31 of them counterinsurgency forces, were killed in a rebel attack last Friday on (Cuapa) and in an ambush of soldiers being sent as reinforcements for the beleaguered local garrison, according to local military and civilian personnel.

While officials in Managua have denied that losses were so high, local officials and residents said rebels of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force entered this town of some 4,500 residents just before dawn and besieged the militia headquarters, killing eight Sandinista militiamen and capturing at least another 12. (John Lantigua, Washington Post, A1)

VISITING CONGRESSMEN CRITICIZES U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST POLAND

WARSAW -- The head of the first U.S. congressional delegation to visit Poland in nearly two years called for the lifting of U.S. sanctions against the communist nation.

Also, a group of jailed Solidarity activists began a hunger strike to protest "repressive" prison conditions.

Rep. Neal Smith, who chairs a House Appropriations Committee subcommittee, said the visit "reinforced" his opposition to the sanctions imposed on Poland by the Reagan Administration following the December 1981 military crackdown that crushed the Solidarity trade union.

(AP)

SOUTH AFRICA-SHULTZ

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Lugar wants President Reagan to sign legislation imposing economic sanctions against South Africa and to impose them himself in the meantime.

Lugar delivered that message to Secretary Shultz during a private luncheon at the State Department. (UPI)

U.S. CONGRESSMEN WARN OF CRISIS IN U.S.-JAPAN TRADE TIES

TOKYO -- Visiting U.S. congressmen warned of a crisis in U.S.-Japan trade ties and said Congress is certain to pass protectionist legislation this autumn unless Japan makes "heroic efforts" to reduce its trade surplus.

"My message is simple and straightforward and direct," Rep. Gibbons told a news conference.

"We can't go on the way we have been going. It is going to take heroic efforts on the part of the Japanese people and government to stem this deficit and turn it around. I must tell you we are at a crisis situation." (Linda Sieg, Reuter)

REAGAN TO SIGN FOREIGN AID BILL

President Reagan plans to sign a \$14.7 billion foreign aid bill -- the first one Congress has passed in four years -- that is far less than he wanted but contains \$27 million for Nicaraguan rebels, officials say.

Officials said Reagan has scheduled a ceremony for today to sign the authorization bill in the Oval Office. (Helen Thomas, UPI)

IMPROVED ARMS SUPPLIES SAID TO AID RESISTANCE

ISLAMABAD -- Increased weapons supplies have strengthened guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan, helping them to do better this year in the past, according to a prominent Afghan resistance leader.

Harakat Inquilab-i-Islami Party leader Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi said an improved arms supply was a major cause of what he described as guerrilla successes against heavy pressure from an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan. (Raja Asghar, Reuter)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Shevardnadze's urbane image belies a violent past" by Michael Bonafeld appears on page A1 of The Washington Times.

"Why an Italian Spy Got Closely Involved In the Billygate Affair," the second of two stories by Jonathan Kwitny, is on page 1 of The Wall Street Journal.

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NATIONAL NEWS

BENNETT LINKS RELIGION, DEMOCRACY

Education Secretary Bennett, saying the American political order and the Judeo-Christian tradition "are wedded together," called for a new "national conversion and debate on the place of religious belief in our society."

Bennett's speech was the strongest to date from an Administration official on matters of religion and government, and he predicted that he "will be charged with being divisive."

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A11)

Bennett Says Court Shuns Religion to a 'Ghetto'

The high court has become the instrument for a kind of "ghettoizing of religion," the nation's top educator declared, and said his department will try, specifically, to nullify the "damage" done by latest decision -- a 5-4 ruling that prohibits public school teachers from providing remedial education to poor and needy children in private schools.

(Carol Innerst, Washington Times, A1)

'Nihilism,' 'Secularism' Threatens Religion, Reagan Officials Say

Secretary Bennett warned of an "assault of secularism on religion" that he said is comparable to past intolerance of Catholics and Jews.

And Attorney General Meese decried "this idea of religious nihilism as a principle of government," pledging the Administration will resist that notion.

The two Cabinet members made the comments in speeches to the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. (William Kronholm, AP)

Bennett Vows Aid to Church Schools

Bennett's comments were his most detailed response to date to the (Supreme) Court's decision July 1 that public school systems may not send teachers into parochial school classrooms to provide remedial or enrichment instruction.

(Susan Rasky, New York Times, A18)

Bennett Equates Religious and American Values, Supports Parochial School Aid

"We at the Department of Education will do our best to nullify the damage done by the ... decision to the education of needy children," (Bennett) pledged. (Baltimore Sun, A3)

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN DEFENDS HIS CREDIBILITY

Larry Speakes, responding to criticism that he had misled the public about the cancerous growth removed from President Reagan's nose, accused two reporters of "blindly, unjustifiably, recklessly" questioning his credibility.

In a statement read with emotional emphasis at yesterday's morning briefing, Speakes defended his 18-year record as a Washington spokesman, the last 4 1/2 years for the President. He said that despite "unnecessarily personal" accusations by Sam Donaldson of ABC and Helen Thomas of UPI, his reputation "for being truthful remains."

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A6)

Speakes and the Press: There They Go Again

The reporters questioned his "candor," contending that he had withheld information. He asserted that he had been totally honest and that saying nothing did not constitute dishonesty.

The conflict continued as Speakes, looking grim, read a statement to reporters from the briefing room podium, saying, "It's time for some straight talk among friends." (Gerald Boyd, New York Times, A20)

NOSE NEWS BECAME NO NEWS FROM SPEAKES

No one is more fiercely protective of President Reagan than Nancy Reagan, and there is now ample circumstantial evidence that the First Lady was responsible for the near-blackout of news about the skin cancer on the President's nose.

If true, it would not be the first time in history that a first lady has put a lid on news about the president's health.

President Reagan's second cancer, and the confusion caused by fragmentary White House disclosures, put Larry Speakes between a rock and a hard place.

There is a difference between candor and credibility, and it was his credibility that reporters challenged.

(News analysis by Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

LOCAL ANESTHETIC USED ON REAGAN'S SKIN CANCER

A White House spokesman, correcting his previous statements, now says a local anesthetic was used on President Reagan when a small skin cancer was removed from his nose.

In a statement, Larry Speakes said White House physicians, after telling his office three times that no anesthetic was used, acknowledged that a 1 percent solution of the common pain-killer xylocaine was administered in the area of the skin cancer before it was excised.

No explanation was given for the discrepancy between the earlier denials and the disclosure that xylocaine was used. However, the correction served to underline questions about how the White House had handled the affair. (Helen Thomas, UPI)

White House Revises Description of Reagan Skin Cancer Removal

Dermatology experts, who are not connected with Reagan's case, said that without anesthesia it would have been impossible to make certain all of the skin cancer had been removed without inflicting excruciating pain in the nose.

When told of these assertions, Mark Weinberg, a White House spokesman, at first replied that the original version was correct.

The skepticism of the doctors interviewed was passed along to the White House by this reporter. Weinberg replied that they were "all wrong." Later, however, Weinberg called back to say, "We went back based on your skepticism, which was well-founded."

(Lawrence Altman, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN WILL TAKE IT EASY DURING VACATION, SPEAKES SAYS

President Reagan will tone down his usually healthy schedule of ranch chores during an upcoming three-week vacation at his California ranch, as he continues to recuperate from recent cancer surgery, the White House said.

The President, who leaves Sunday for Rancho del Cielo, hopes to go horseback riding before returning to Washington, however, Larry Speakes said. (AP)

DOLE UPBEAT ABOUT PASSING TAX REVISION

Senate Majority Leader Dole told home-state business leaders this week that he believes Congress could pass a tax overhaul package this year along the lines proposed by President Reagan.

Dole's remarks, confirmed by a spokesman, marked a change in attitude for the Senate leader, who has been negative about prospects for quick passage of Reagan's tax plan.

(Dale Russakoff and Anne Swardson, Washington Post, A4)

AREA CONTRACTORS HIT HARD BY PENTAGON SECURITY EDICT

A Pentagon effort to tighten security in the wake of the Walker spy scandal is forcing Washington defense contractors to review their hiring practices, change work procedures and in some cases consider cutbacks in employees.

Under orders from Secretary Weinberger to reduce the number of civilian and military personnel with security clearance by 10 percent, defense contractors are stripping about 130,000 workers of the national security clearances that give them access to classified documents and facilities.

(Michael Isikoff, Washington Post, A1)

ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLS FOR STEPPED-UP DRUG EDUCATION EFFORTS

Attorney General Meese, calling the government's sweeping marijuana eradication program a success, says a companion educational campaign is needed "to get kids away from drugs."

"All the enforcement efforts that we can try in this country, all the police agencies both in this nation and worldwide will never be able to stem the supply of drugs in this nation until we have first decreased the number of users and have decreased the demand for these drugs," Meese said in a speech to the Knights of Columbus.

(Merrill Hartson, AP)

PROCEDURE IN MARIJUANA RAIDS CRITICIZED

Nationwide raids by federal agents, which netted more than 211,000 marijuana plants, also earned the ire of a member of Congress who accused the Justice Department of poor judgment in handling the operation.

Rep. Hughes criticized Attorney General Meese for giving the media advance notice about a series of raids this week on illegal marijuana patches across the country.

"I find this action on the part of the Justice Department almost incredible," Rep. Hughes said in a letter to Meese released by his office.

(Judi Hasson, UPI)

BLOCK

The government's farm lending agency will be unable to accept new borrowers when another farm credit crunch begins this fall and continues into next spring, Agriculture Secretary Block says.

"We're going to have another round of severe credit problems in agriculture" beginning this fall and extending into next spring, Block said in a news conference telephoned to journalists in farm states.

(UPI)

FAIRNESS DOCTRINE ASSAILED BY FCC

The FCC said that the Fairness Doctrine no longer serves the public interest. It said, however, that it would continue to enforce the rule, which requires broadcasters to cover important community issues and present balanced reporting and differing views where there is controversy.

The regulatory panel labeled the policy constitutionally "suspect" and said it "chills and coerces speech" and inhibits coverage of major issues.

(Reginald Stuart, New York Times, A1)

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FCC Says Fairness Doctrine No Longer
Is Needed, but Will Keep Enforcing It

Following a lengthy study of the subject, the commission cited Congress's "intense interest" in the policy as the reason it will continue to enforce it. The commissioners initially had intended to determine whether they have the authority to repeal the doctrine, but they voted to send a copy of their report to Congress without addressing that question. Many communications experts have said in the past that the FCC doesn't have the authority to repeal the doctrine.

(Jeanne Saddler, Wall Street Journal, 46)

FCC Says Fairness Doctrine 'Chills, Coerces Speech,' But Will Be Enforced

The unanimous position of the five-member panel, following two days of public hearings last spring, is certain to heighten debate in Congress over the merits of retaining the rule and could figure in future court tests of the policy, according to commission staff officials.

(Baltimore Sun, A9)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "CIA and oversight groups reaching amicable terms" by Bill Gertz, the third in an "occasional series" on congressional oversight of intelligence activities, is on page A2 of The Washington Times.

"Postcard Protest of Remarks On Religion Prompts Dispute" by David Burnham appears on page A18 of The New York Times.

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NEWS FROM THE STATES

ANTI-ABORTION PICKETERS

SAN DIEGO (UPI) -- Anti-abortion activists may picket a Republican fundraiser where President Reagan will speak because a co-chairman of the function owns 28 abortion clinics, a published report said Wednesday. The San Diego Union reported that state Republican Party officials found out Tuesday that Dr. Edward C. Allerd, who was listed as one of 38 co-chairmen for the \$1,000- and \$500- per person dinner, runs one of the largest chains of abortion clinics in the state. Reagan, a staunch foe of abortion, was scheduled to speak at the Aug. 22 dinner at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Allerd, who described himself as a long-time Republican and frequent contributor to the GOP war chest, said he would not be able to attend the dinner because he was going to be out of the state. Mike Antonovich, state GOP chairman, said Tuesday he was not aware of Allerd's occupation and had not decided what he would do about it.

NANCY REAGAN/DRUG "RAP"

BOSTON (UPI) -- Nancy Reagan will "rap" with Bay State youngsters about drug abuse in hopes of "taking the demand away from the supply" when she arrives in Massachusetts Thursday. The first lady plans to travel to Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., where she will participate in a "rap session" with children at the Peers Educating Peers seminar, her press secretary said Tuesday. "The first lady believes if kids can just say no, then eventually the market for drugs will dry up," Jennefer Hirshberg, the first lady's press secretary, told the Boston Herald. "Her theory is to take the demand away from the supply." Hirshberg said the seminar is sponsored by the Committees of Correspondence, a national non-profit group that monitors drug abuse issues. After addressing the youngsters, Reagan is scheduled to fly to Martha's Vineyard for a two-day stay at the summer home of Katherine Graham, chairman of the board of The Washington Post.

CHEYENNE DISASTER

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (UPI) -- President Reagan today declared Cheyenne a federal disaster area, making the city, county and state eligible for federal assistance to repair flood damage. Last week's flood, which killed 12 people, is estimated to have caused more than \$40 million in damage. The presidential declaration would also make businesses eligible for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration, and individuals may be able to qualify for grants to help them meet immediate needs. Norm French, of the State Disaster and Civil Defense Division, said it is estimated 150 homes are damaged beyond repair, while another 1,400 received less severe damage. Federal aid will be "limited ... it won't be a cure-all," French said. Clean-up efforts were still ongoing today, six days after Thursday night's storm dropped more than 6 inches of rain on the city within three hours, along with hail up to 2-inches in diameter.

-end of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Wednesday Evening, August 7, 1985)

PLAY BALL!

CBS's Bob Schieffer: The baseball strike is over. The players and the owners reached tentative agreement this afternoon and, unless it all falls apart in the meantime, the season will resume tomorrow.
(All nets lead)

NICARAGUA

Schieffer reports that twenty-nine American peace activists and about 16 journalists, some of them Americans, were fired on and captured today by gunmen along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The group was travelling on the San Juan River when it was stopped at a remote jungle settlement of Las Cruces, Costa Rica. No injuries reported. The gunmen were believed to be members of a U.S.-backed anti-Sandinista-Nicaraguan rebel force. The peace activists are with Witnesses for Peace, described as a grass roots organization that wants to end the fighting in Nicaragua. Late today, the Reagan Administration requested help from the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica in finding the American peace activists.
(CBS-3, ABC-8, NBC-2)

HOSTAGES

Schieffer reports that since yesterday, reports have circulated through the Middle East that radical Muslims in Lebanon would release the seven Americans believed being held hostage there. The State Department discounted the reports, but somehow, in a still-unexplained mix-up, relatives of one hostage did not get the right word and were sent wheeling on an emotional roller coaster.

CBS's Deborah Potter reports that for the family of Father Jenco, it was a celebration that turned sour. At first, the report from Kuwait seemed to be the news they'd been waiting for. But officials in Washington were telling a different story.
(Bernard Kalb: "And obviously, we would look forward to the release of the American hostages and all others who are being held -- whether they're called kidnappees or prisoners or whatever. But, by way of confirmation, I have nothing on that.")
It was late afternoon before the Jenco family got a clarification in a phone call from the State Department. One official said it was a cruel mistake. Tonight, U.S. officials say they have no indication of progress to free any of the seven Americans still missing in Lebanon.
(CBS-4)

ABC's Peter Jennings: We are obviously not pleased to report that all of the rumors in the last 24 hours about freedom for the seven American hostages have been just that -- rumors.
(ABC-7)
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PENTAGON WEAPONS/SGT. YORK

Schieffer: There is new controversy today about whether an anti-aircraft gun being developed for the Army can really shoot straight in battlefield conditions and whether the maker of the gun was being straight with Congress in claiming it worked well. (CBS-5)

ABC's Dean Reynolds reports that Secretary Weinberger is supposed to decide the future of the Sgt. York by the end of the month. Both critics and supporters are waiting to see if he chooses then to refute the charge that he never met a weapon he didn't like. (ABC-5)

SOUTH AFRICA

ABC's Jim Hickey reports from South Africa that Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, was critical of President Reagan who, at a news conference on Monday, seemed to suggest emergency measures are sometimes necessary to control violence.

(Mrs. Mandela: "-- outstanding amongst those who support criminal acts of violence, who support the elimination of the black masses in this country, is Ronald Reagan.")

At the same time Mrs. Mandela was criticizing President Reagan, the South African government issued one of its strongest statements yet in praise of him. An editorial, broadcast over state-run radio, used these words: South Africa has no more dependable ally in the Western world than the President of the United States.

(ABC-9, CBS-6, NBC-3)

SKIN CANCER

NBC's Tom Brokaw: Doctors told President Reagan this week that his minor form of skin cancer was caused by years of exposure to the sun. That healthy tan look has long been a national obsession, but the link with skin cancer may be causing deep tans to go out of style. (NBC-8)

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EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

PRESIDENT REAGAN

Ronald Reagan, Democrat -- "He held an 'informal' press conference, with reporters clustered about his desk as they did around FDR's desk. Much of the official agenda in the opening statement was ideological boilerplate. Yet his personality was so engaging he proved again that no President has been so skillful at leading this vast transcontinental democracy since FDR charmed the nation. He is Ronald Reagan, democrat. He speaks to people in language they can understand. To a daytime TV audience, he offered his views on political issues and he talked about himself. Ironically, Reagan was most direct and reassuring on the issue on which Roosevelt was most devious - the state of his own health. He was candid and he showed leadership....No matter what the political agenda, the President's pre-vacation checkup of his personality and his democratic skills shows a clean bill of health." (Boston Globe, 8/6)

Attack Targets Shultz, Hits Reagan -- "Since there has been no evidence that Shultz or anyone else in the administration is defying presidential orders, the only conclusions to be drawn are that Reagan, rhetoric aside, either doesn't want the truculent foreign policy the critics demand, or that he is as weak as they once contemptuously accused President Carter of being. Neither premise is one that the right wingers want to acknowledge. So they fall back on the ancient notion that since the king can do no wrong, his lieutenants must be at fault. Maybe they hope nobody will notice what this says about the President." (Dayton Daily News, 8/1)

FEDERAL BUDGET

Fighting Federal Deficits With Empty Words -- "As long as Reagan insists on shelling out billions more for the military and refuses to raise new revenue to help pay for the buildup, the federal debt will continue to mount. It doesn't take a constitutional amendment to change that. What it takes is leaders who aren't afraid to tell the truth to taxpayers -- and act on it." (Newsday, 8/7)

Reagan Limited Budget Options -- "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. Hence the very broad silence that has greeted the federal budget to which the House and Senate agreed last week....Small wonder the budget is a mediocre piece of work. Not all of the players were playing the same game. The House and Senate were trying to play cut-the-deficit. The President was only playing cut-the-domestic-budget. Expect nothing better next year, unless all participants first agree to play the deficit-cutting game. And if they couldn't do that in this off-year, what do you suppose the chances will be in a year of intensely partisan congressional elections?" (Atlanta Constitution, 8/6)

Think Veto -- "What last week's budget resolution proclaims is that Congress hasn't a prayer of meeting President Reagan's stated goal of shrinking the deficits to \$100 billion within three years. Which leaves Mr. Reagan with no choice but to begin vetoing appropriation bills that spend more than the government can afford if the deficits are to be brought under control." (San Diego Union, 8/5)

(Editorials/Columnists continued)

HELSINKI ACCORDS

10 Years After Helsinki -- "The continuous raising of the human rights issue is an irritant to the Kremlin, forcing it on the defensive and causing some Americans to want to repudiate Helsinki. That would be a mistake. Consider how much harder it would be to get the Soviets even to discuss human rights if the issue wasn't being pressed by a group of nations committed to high standards and concerned about the fate of Soviet dissidents."
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 8/2)

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The Mess at IRS: Inaction Ensures It Will Get Worse -- "The nation's voluntary tax-collection system has broken down. There is no indication that repairs are being effected. Rather, at the present time, conditions appear certain to get worse before they get better....If additional funds are needed, consider it money well spent if it can get the IRS back on its feet. If a major shakeup in IRS administrators is needed -- as it appears to be -- then the Congress can insist on that as well. In the meantime, silence on the part of members of Congress only ensures that every one of their constituents is being penalized by an inept and unfair tax system."
(Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/7)

CENTRAL AMERICA

Reckless and Wrong -- "There is no question that people in the United States are shocked and disappointed by developments in Nicaragua. The idealism proclaimed in July, 1979, seems betrayed. But that disappointment should not be translated by ideology-driven zealots or timid politicians into a declaration of war, either by proxy or by U.S. troops. Recourse to arms only symbolizes a bankruptcy of intelligent diplomacy, an abandonment of principles, an ignorance of reality and, above all, a neglect of what really needs to be done."
(Los Angeles Times, 8/7)

The Two Faces of Uncle Sam -- "It's no secret that some senior administration officials are angling for a quick military solution in Central America. Hoping to capitalize on the outpouring of anger following the TWA hostage crisis, they have lit upon 'counterterrorism' as an invocation to justify a possible strike at Nicaragua and complete the job that the CIA-backed contras have failed to do. Seeking vengeance against Nicaragua for the deaths of Americans in El Salvador and the Middle East will only provoke further bloodshed. This is the bankruptcy of the administration's policy toward Nicaragua: Rather than seeking avenues for peace, it peddles flimsy justifications for war."
(Charlie Clements, Newsday, 8/7)