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NATIONAL NEWS

CONFIRM BORK, REAGAN URGES

President Reagan appealed to the Senate to confirm Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court before the next term begins in October and unveiled what aides described as a "tone-setting" speech for Bork stressing his qualifications but skirting ideological issues.

"No man in America and few in history have been as qualified to sit on the Supreme Court as Robert Bork," Reagan said in a speech to the National Law Enforcement Council at the White House.

A senior White House official said Reagan would "use all his resources" to push the Bork nomination. Other officials said Reagan will stress Bork's qualifications and overall judicial philosophy and emphasize that Bork is similar to other judges he has appointed....

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A5)

Consider Bork's Merit, Not His Ideology, Reagan Asks

President Reagan strongly urged the Senate to consider his nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court on the basis of the candidate's qualifications rather than ideology, apparently offering a preview of the strategy that the White House will follow in the expected fierce battle over the appointment.

Reagan, in his most extensive remarks on Bork since announcing the nomination on July 1, told a law enforcement group that "each senator must decide which criteria is right for casting this critical vote: qualifications or politics?" (James Gerstenzang, Los Angeles Times, A16)

Reagan Portrays Bork As Potential Swing Vote

The White House signaled its game plan in the fight to win Senate confirmation of conservative Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.

President Reagan tried to counter liberal complaints the confirmation would change the court into a bastion against abortion and civil rights.

His tactic: hailing Bork as all but an ideological clone of retired Justice Powell, often the court's swing vote.

Reagan said:

-- The Supreme Court has never reversed any of Bork's 400 decisions....

-- Powell agreed with nine of 10 Bork cases reviewed. "If you want someone with Justice Powell's detachment and statesmanship, you can't do better than Judge Bork."

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

Reagan, Opening Bork Fight, Calls Judge A Moderate

President Reagan opened his campaign to win Senate confirmation of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, and he stressed themes that differ sharply from the views of the President's more conservative supporters.

The President's statement marked the beginning of a concerted attempt by the White House to diminish Judge Bork's public image as a "right-wing kook," in the words of one Administration strategist. Without that shift, the strategist added, the judge stands little chance of winning confirmation by a Senate that is controlled, 54 to 46, by the Democrats.

(Steven Roberts, New York Times, A16)

Reagan Asks Early Bork Approval

The White House stepped up pressure for quick Senate confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork whom President Reagan called better qualified for the job than any man in America.

Meanwhile, the White House welcomed comments by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd and Senator Dennis DeConcini...that the confirmation process should not be conducted on partisan political grounds.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

White House Not Pushing Recess Appointment For Bork

In turning a cold shoulder to the idea of a recess appointment for Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, the White House is shunning a maneuver that has gotten it into trouble with Senate Democrats before.

Faced with a tough fight to win confirmation of the conservative federal appeals court judge, the Administration is saying conciliatory things about the leadership of the opposition party and insisting it will win its battle on the Senate floor.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

BALDRIGE REMEMBERED AS INDIVIDUALIST

His friends said it was a memorial service that Malcolm Baldrige, the Connecticut cowboy, would have liked: simple and direct, with few words.

President Reagan, the only speaker at yesterday morning's 30-minute service in the Washington Cathedral, praised Baldrige for his humanity and lack of pretense and said that like the cowboys he loved, the late commerce secretary possessed "the best of the American spirit."

"I could always count on him for the truth as he saw it, no matter how unpleasant or unpopular," the President said.

(Bill McAllister, Washington Post, A8)

Reagan Says Baldrige Exemplified 'American Spirit'

President Reagan led a contingent of official Washington in bidding farewell to Malcolm Baldrige, best remembered for his plain-speaking style and cowboy ways.

"In his directness, in his honesty and independence, in his disregard for rank, in his courage, he embodied the best of the American spirit," Reagan told more than 1,600 mourners who filled Washington's National Cathedral for the memorial service.

(Donna Cassata, AP)

Reagan Eulogizes Baldrige As 'The Best'

President Reagan eulogized Malcolm Baldrige as a man who "embodied the best of the American spirit" as a former rodeo cowboy, a successful businessman and as a commerce secretary who helped shape U.S. economic policy "During years when that policy moved to center stage."

Reagan began with the anecdote, frequently cited since Baldrige's death, that, when he called Baldrige to ask him to join his incoming Administration, "he was out on his horse roping and couldn't come to the phone. Right then I knew he was the kind of man I wanted," Reagan said.

(Oswald Johnston, Los Angeles Times, A5)

PLAN FOR AUTOMATIC SPENDING CUTS SETTLED IN SENATE

Senate negotiators reached an agreement on a measure that would require across-the-board spending cuts if Congress and the White House fail to meet their deficit targets.

The agreement on the automatic mechanism, designed to pass constitutional muster, will also enable legislators to pass a long-term extension in the federal borrowing ceiling.

(Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post, A4)

Congress Passes Bill To Extend Debt Limit

Congress, trying to escape a financial "crisis of confidence," passed a bill to extend the debt limit for eight days so the government can borrow more money while lawmakers work on a long-term solution to the debt problem.

The House approved the plan, 263-155, then sent it to the Senate, where passage came on an unrecorded voice vote. The measure now goes to President Reagan.

(Linda Werfelman, UPI)

PANEL VOTES ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO FSLIC

Members of the House and Senate banking committees, bowing to pressure from the White House, agreed to give \$10.8 billion to the insolvent S&L insurance fund and to allow securities firms and "nonbank banks" to buy failed S&Ls.

By reopening the conference committee to change the banking bill, the chairmen of House and Senate banking committees insured that the full Senate would not be able to amend the bill, according to congressional aides. But the bill could face parliamentary hurdles in the House, where it is expected to be taken up today in the House Rules Committee.

(Kathleen Day, Washington Post, E1)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MINE-HUNTER HELICOPTERS SENT TO GULF U.S. Move Coincides With French Dispatch Of Carrier To Mideast

Secretary Weinberger has ordered eight U.S. Navy mine-hunting helicopters to the Persian Gulf to help protect reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and their Navy warship escorts against underwater mines, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

Meanwhile, French military officials sent the aircraft carrier Clemenceau and three support ships to the Middle East in what Washington Post correspondent Edward Cody reported from Paris is a high-profile display of military force aimed at Iran.

(Molly Moore, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Sending 8 Copters To Sweep Mines In Gulf

Eight Navy minesweeping helicopters are being sent from the U.S. to the Persian Gulf to clear sea lanes for U.S.-escorted oil tankers, Pentagon officials said.

The deployment, ordered by Secretary Weinberger, was seen as a stopgap solution to the hazards posed to gulf shipping by underwater mines that Iran is believed to have planted....

Because Kuwait and other gulf states have balked at granting landing rights to U.S. forces, it may be a week before the big RH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters are in position to begin clearing mines from the gulf's waters, officials said.

(Gaylord Shaw, Los Angeles Times, A4)

Choppers To Sweep Mines In The Gulf

Secretary Weinberger ordered eight Navy mine-sweeping helicopters to the gulf to help clear sea lanes traveling by U.S. commercial vessels under Navy escort, Pentagon officials said.

The helicopters fly close to the surface of the sea and drag a "sled" device through the water which cuts the cables of moored mines, allowing them to bob the surface, where they are detonated by rifle fire from the helicopter or nearby small boats.

"They are not perfect," one Pentagon source said. "But they are the best means we have right now of clearing some kind of safe path for the ships."

(James Dorsey, Washington Times, A1)

STATE ARMS LIMIT PLAN GOES EASY ON SOVIETS

A secret State Department proposal on arms control compliance recommends minimizing or ignoring past Soviet treaty violations as a first step in gaining Senate approval of a new medium-range missile treaty.

At the same time, the proposal, outlined in a memorandum obtained by The Washington Times, acknowledges that Soviet strategic missile forces have stepped up concealment efforts to prevent U.S. intelligence monitors from collecting information on weapons systems.

The memorandum criticizes the U.S. position of demanding complete corrective measures for past Soviet treaty violations and states that "we have not been willing to advance compromise solutions of our own."

(Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A1)

SOVIETS OFFER DETAILED PLAN TO BAR SPACE ARMS TESTS

The Soviet Union, signaling that it still hopes for agreement with President Reagan on space weapons constraints, gave the U.S. for the first time a detailed written proposal to bar testing of sophisticated missile defense technologies in space, U.S. and Soviet officials said.

Soviet negotiator Alexei Obukhov told reporters in Geneva that the new initiative was a "major proposal" aimed at "preventing an arms race in outer space" and "strengthening" the 1972 ABM Treaty. The offer comes amid new optimism for prospects of a U.S.-Soviet pact banning intermediate-range missiles. (Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, A26)

U.S. Is Critical Of Soviet Arms Proposal

The Soviet Union presented what Soviet officials called a new proposal to restrict the testing of anti-missile defensive systems. But the U.S. called the proposal disappointing because it did not mark an important change in the Soviet position.

The Soviet move and the American response suggest that the two sides are failing to narrow their differences over "Star Wars" and the related issue of long-range nuclear weapons even as they are moving toward a treaty that would ban American and Soviet medium-range and shorter-range missiles.

"Our initial reaction is one of disappointment, since the Soviet draft appears to reflect positions they have held throughout the course of the negotiations," said Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman.

(Michael Gordon, New York Times, A3)

Soviet Arms Treaty Language Aims At SDI: U.S. Holds Fast

GENEVA -- Soviet nuclear arms negotiators proposed treaty language aimed at crippling nuclear defense in space, and the U.S. retorted it had a duty to develop SDI.

Soviet Ambassador-at-large Alexei Obukhov described the Soviet proposal as "another initiative of major importance," but U.S. Ambassador Henry Cooper, acting chief negotiator on space weapons, said, "The Soviet proposal has so far revealed little that is new beyond certain matters of detail." (Andrew Borowiec, Washington Times, A10)

NICARAGUA SAYS U.S. MANIPULATING EMBASSY SHOOTING

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua accused the U.S. of manipulating an incident in which a man was shot and wounded by a Sandinista policeman guarding the U.S. Embassy.

Nicaraguan Vice Interior Minister Rene Vivas told a news conference 21-year-old Nicaraguan Roger Nelson Rocha, who was apparently mentally disturbed, was shot and wounded outside the embassy after attacking the Sandinista guard.

The U.S. State Department protested to Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista government over what it called the outrageous shooting of an unarmed civilian on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy.

(Matthew Campbell, Reuter)

IRAN — NICARAGUA

MEESE ACKNOWLEDGES OMISSIONS IN PROBE Pertinent Questions Not Put To Key Officials

Under skeptical questioning, Attorney General Meese said that during his initial "fact-finding" inquiry into Iran arms sales last November, he failed to ask many pertinent questions of key officials, failed to secure White House documents and took no notes of his private meetings with half a dozen key senior officials.

Meese said the discovery of a diversion of funds from arms sales to Iran to help the Nicaraguan contras changed the nature of his inquiry radically, raising "criminal implications." Nevertheless, Meese said, he took no new precautions after this discovery to adjust to the possibility that he might be investigating a criminal matter.

(Walter Pincus & Dan Morgan, Washington Post, A1)

Meese Says Casey Knew Nothing About Diversion Of Funds

Attorney General Meese said he believes William Casey knew nothing about the diversion of Iran arms sales profits to the contra rebels despite Oliver North's testimony that the CIA chief helped him concoct and direct the operation.

In addition, said Meese, it would be "uncharacteristic" for his friend Casey -- "one of the most honorable men to serve in government" -- to tell North to "take the hit" for the scandal or to have approved the diversion without telling President Reagan.

(Joseph Mianowany & Anne Saker, UPI)

Record Shows Many Meese Statements At Nov. 25 Conference Were Wrong

Attorney General Meese used his testimony before the Iran-contra committees this week to defend statements he made during his Nov. 25 news conference announcing the diversion of Iran arms sales money to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

But the record laid out since then shows that Meese was wrong or misleading about many facets of the affair that day. Meese has acknowledged that some of the incorrect statements were the result of wrong information provided to him by others.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A15)

Meese 'Takes Offense' At Criticism Of His Iran-Contra Inquiry

Attorney General Meese, confronted by skeptical lawmakers, unflinchingly defended his inquiry into the Iran-contra affair and said "I take offense" at suggestions that it was less than thorough.

Some senators on the Iran-contra committees said Meese's questioning of William Casey and John Poindexter last November was too general and thus failed to elicit important information about the involvement of the key presidential aides.

(Pete Yost, AP)

Meese Says North Told Him, Panels Different Stories

Attorney General Meese testified that Oliver North last November gave him answers to at least six key questions that directly contradict North's recent testimony under oath before the Iran-contra committees.

In his second and final day of congressional testimony, Meese said he has no way of knowing whether North had lied to him or to the panel. But he sharply disputed North's contention that it is sometimes necessary for government officials to lie to protect important policy initiatives.

"I don't condone...anyone lying under any circumstances whatsoever, including whether it's a fact-finding investigation, testimony before a congressional committee, statements to the President or statements to me as attorney general, and I think there's no reason or justification or excuse for it whatsoever," Meese told the investigating committees.

(Sara Fritz & Karen Tumulty, Los Angeles Times, A1)

Meese: Poindexter And North Misled Him About Iran-Contra Affair

Attorney General Meese said that both John Poindexter and Oliver North misled him on their involvement in the Iran-contra affair during his investigation last November.

"It's not my place to sit in judgment upon them," Meese told the congressional Iran-contra panels as he concluded two days of testimony on his fact-finding investigation last Nov. 21-25....

Several committee members criticized Meese's lack of aggression in conducting his investigation, which he said had started out only as an effort to reconcile conflicting statements by Administration aides on U.S. involvement in 1985 arms sales to Tehran.

(Lance Gay & Walter Friedenberg, Scripps Howard)

Cheney Defends Reagan's Role In Iran Contra Probe

Rep. Dick Cheney said the Iran-contra hearings have shown President Reagan did everything right in acting to investigate the scandal last November.

Cheney, in a comprehensive defense of the Administration, said the inquiry Reagan ordered, conducted by Attorney General Meese, answered all of the basic questions even before the House and Senate committees began their public hearings in May.

"We have investigated for months the question or the charge that somehow the President had knowledge of the allegation that there'd been a diversion," Cheney said. "And of course, the fact of the matter is we found absolutely no evidence to support that..." (Michael Myers, UPI)

Meese's Credibility Rides On A Difficult Defense

In two days of nationally televised testimony, Attorney General Meese made two major appeals to Congress and the American people. He asked them to believe that he had told "the absolute truth of what happened" and that his investigation on behalf of the President into the Iran-contra affair had uncovered all the essential facts in the case last November.

The central problem in Meese's case concerns the nature of his investigation into the unfolding Iran-contra scandal. He characterized that investigation by saying "the purpose was to resolve conflicts and have a coherent story" -- a definition clearly open to the suggestion that it could also be construed as an attempted cover-up instead of a search for all the facts.

(News Analysis, Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, A14)

ARMS-DELIVERY RESUMPTION WAS PLANNED

Days after the first press disclosures of the U.S.-Iran arms deals last November, U.S. and Iranian negotiators meeting secretly in Geneva decided to postpone deliveries of American weapons and medicine for Tehran's army only "until the situation cooled down," according to informed sources.

This "damage control" plan was worked out by Oliver North at weekend meetings Nov. 8 and 9 in Geneva with the same Iranian representatives who had helped arrange the release of David Jacobsen on Nov. 2 in exchange for 500 TOW missiles.

((Dan Morgan & Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Excerpts Of Attorney General Meese's Testimony" appear in The Washington Post, A14.

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Wednesday Evening, July 29, 1987)

PERSIAN GULF

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The American military presence in the Persian Gulf is being expanded tonight. Defense Secretary Weinberger has ordered eight U.S. minesweeping helicopters to that area. His order follows reports of additional mines in the area where the Bridgeton...was struck by a mine.

NBC's Fred Francis reports on what one Pentagon officer called a "game of embarrassing catchup," and the logistical details of moving the helicopters to the Persian Gulf. All that is expected to take at least 10 days. Meanwhile, the current practice of using divers is treacherous work -- and divers admit the Iranians could lay another minefield in a period of six hours. Administration critics in Congress are crowing about the poor planning.

(Rep. Schumer: "Mr. President, the American people are asking you as our Commander-in-Chief what the heck is going on! Each year you ask us for billions of dollars for the newest and most complicated weapons, yet our military seems unable to accomplish the simplest of tasks.")

(Robert Sims: "We're aware of the mine threat there and we're working to resolve our concerns about that.")

Several Pentagon officials said today the only real way to solve the problem with mines is to destroy the Iranian bases where they are stored. One senior Administration official said that kind of pre-emptive military action could be ordered if the Bridgeton convoy is attacked again.

Brokaw: And the French...are putting to sea an aircraft carrier and three escort ships that may be sent to the Persian Gulf. French Prime Minister Chirac said, "We have no aggressive intentions but we demand respect."
(NBC-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: We begin tonight with what is surely a growing American involvement in the Persian Gulf. The Reagan Administration has now decided it will have to make more of an effort in the gulf if its plan to protect Kuwait tankers is not to be literally undermined by Iran. We are referring to minesweeping. The U.S. would increase its own capacity to do so in the gulf while an appeal is also made for European support.

ABC's Bob Zelnick reports on what sources say is Secretary Weinberger's order for the choppers to be based on board the amphibious carrier Guadalcanal. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources say the U.S. and Kuwait are nearing final accord on a plan to clear a mine-free path for the tanker Bridgeton, permitting that ship to resume operations before other help arrives. Sources say Kuwaiti tugboats will be equipped with U.S. cables and other minesweeping equipment before escorting the Bridgeton through the northern gulf. The accord would represent a breakthrough in U.S.-Kuwaiti cooper-

Zelnick continues:

ation. Pentagon officials have also provided new details on the minesweeping operations near Farsi Island. Today, Navy officials conceded America's minesweeper construction efforts have been plagued by cost overruns and construction delays.

(Everett Pyatt, Navy undersecretary: "They are two years behind, but I'm sure that we will succeed in rebuilding the mine countermeasures fleet the way it should be.")

Secretary Weinberger's formal request for European minesweeping help is going to the major western European allies. Weinberger wants responsibility for minesweeping in the gulf divided into geographic areas, thus insulating participants from the U.S. convoy operation and possible Iranian retaliation.

ABC's David Ensor reports the plan to re-load the Bridgeton is more for political than business reasons: between 10 and 20 percent of the oil will be ruined by seawater already in the Bridgeton's pipes and tanks. (ABC-Lead)

CBS's Dan Rather: Shut out by Persian Gulf friends who refuse to offer bases, stung by criticism about a lack of minesweeping planning, Defense Secretary Weinberger moved today to fill the minesweeping void. The Navy is now rushing over giant minesweeping helicopters and a carrier for them to land on.

CBS's David Martin reports on the transport plans for moving the helicopters to the gulf and how the operation will work.

(Capt. Joseph Kennedy, mine warfare specialist: "Mines can be laid anytime and they can last forever. And they're obviously a very dangerous, very effective and very insidious weapon.") (CBS-Lead)

ARMS CONTROL

Brokaw: The Geneva talks have taken on a new urgency now since President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev have endorsed in principle the double-zero option.... Now the Soviets are trying to squeeze in some new attacks on American space weapons.

NBC's Jim Bitterman: The Soviets wanted to let everyone know they mean business on arms control, and called a special full-session of the arms talks at a news conference to do so. Ostensibly they were pitching what they said was a newly formulated position on space weapons. But their top arms negotiator also took aim at what Washington said yesterday were its new medium-range missile proposals.

(Alexei Obukhov: "Even through the microscope, you will not be able to find a trace of a new idea in it.")

A little while later, the Americans held a news conference of their own to, among other things, take a potshot at what Moscow claims were new space weapons ideas.

(Henry Cooper, U.S. arms negotiator: "Our reading of the Soviet proposal, thus far, reveals little that is new beyond certain matters of detail.")

Bitterman continues:

It was the most public verbal skirmishing seen here in some time. As negative as it seemed...the negotiating will continue here non-stop, with both Soviets and Americans still saying they are close to agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles and actively pursuing limitations on space and strategic weapons. All three sets of talks have been going on continuously now for a period longer than at any time since negotiations began here in 1981. And there's no indication at all of any summer break in the discussions. A sign, perhaps, of the urgency Moscow and Washington now attach to these talks, but not necessarily confirmation that an agreement is within reach.

(NBC-2)

Jennings: There was a lot of official optimism yesterday about arms control. The enthusiasm was dampened somewhat today after the U.S. and the Soviets met in Geneva. The Soviets called the latest American proposal on medium-range missiles "not constructive," and re-stated the Soviet demand that the West Germans remove the American nuclear warheads from their own Pershing missiles. American officials doubt that this is the final Soviet word on the subject.

(ABC-2)

CHANCELLOR COMMENTARY/HEARINGS

NBC's John Chancellor: ...The Russians (during the Iran-contra hearings) were obviously hanging on Admiral Poindexter's every word. The admiral might have produced evidence of a smoking gun that could have crippled the President.... It seems clear the Russians waited until they knew Ronald Reagan was safe before they made their move. In the weeks leading up to the Poindexter testimony, the Soviet negotiators in Geneva simply stopped negotiating. Seven days after the admiral said he never told the President, the Soviets announced their concession. They are still hanging tough on some issues, but this is good news for Mr. Reagan. It's a vote of confidence from some smart, clear-eyed and tough-minded Russians who now say they want to deal with this President until the end of his term.

(NBC-12)

MEESE TESTIMONY

Brokaw: Attorney General Edwin Meese testified for a second day in the Iran-contra inquiry, and asked to square the conflicting testimony of Oliver North and the late CIA Director William Casey, Meese said he believed Casey when Casey denied that North told him of the diversion of funds to the contras. The committee also disclosed that North shredded documents for five hours, far more than previously believed, just after Meese told North that he discovered a critical memo North thought he had destroyed. In spite of it all, Meese steadfastly defended the Reagan Administration.

NBC's John Dancy: Meese defended President Reagan's decision not to question Admiral John Poindexter and Oliver North more closely, before they were dismissed from their White House jobs. Senate

Dancy continues:

committee Vice Chairman Warren Rudman told Meese the whole congressional investigation could have been avoided if the President and Meese had asked Poindexter and North about the diversion of Iran arms sales profits to the contras. Meese disagreed.

(Meese: "Well, my view, Senator, is that we had all of that information before they left the White House and that not one thing that has been said since that time by Admiral Poindexter -- and only in the case of Mr. Casey -- has it varied from what we were told on that Sunday and Monday.")

Meese often seemed ill at ease.... He frequently consulted thick books of notes. Those books, however, did not include notes from some of the most important conversations Meese had that weekend with Poindexter and others after Meese had discovered the memo that detailed the diversion scheme. Democrat George Mitchell of Maine found that hard to understand.

(Sen. Mitchell: "Well, I'll leave it at that to say it's really very difficult to accept.")

Meese: "I take offense at the idea that it's hard to accept. Because what I have told you is the absolute truth of what happened. So if there's any question in your mind I want to get that settled right now."

Sen. Mitchell: "Well, no. As I've just said..."

Meese: "Fine...As long as there's no question as to that being the truth.")

Meese also gave new details on his meeting with President Reagan, in which Meese told the President about the diversion scheme that North and Poindexter had been running.

(Sen. Nunn: "Did he express any sense of outrage?")

Meese: I think he expressed real concern that this had happened because -- and a lot of this was obviously in both of our minds that this was a major blow -- that it cast a cloud on both the Iranian initiative and on the assistance to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua.")

Meese said the decision to fire North and Poindexter from their White House jobs came from the President. But it was former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan who recommended it. Regan testifies before the committees tomorrow.

Brokaw: And what makes the Donald Regan testimony so intriguing is that this is the first time that he has talked at length publicly about what he knew, as White House Chief of Staff Regan jealously guarded his access to the President and so he was in on most Oval Office meetings. (NBC-3)

Jennings: The Attorney General has finished telling his story at the Iran-contra hearings on Capitol Hill. There was considerable expectation about Edwin Meese's testimony. There were certainly members of the Senate and House committees who believed he should be nailed for at least not being more aggressive at his job when the scandal was first discovered in the White House. After two days of testimony Mr. Meese is unscathed.

ABC's Brit Hume reports on numerous attempts by committee members to shake the testimony of the Attorney General, including demands from Sen. Rudman on what Poindexter and North knew and did before they were fired.

(Sen. Rudman: "For instance, had we had a statement from Admiral Poindexter, in writing, signed and witnessed as to what he told this committee, dated the 25th of November, I daresay we wouldn't have any lights in here at all.")

Meese: "Well, the interesting thing, Senator, is that what he told this committee when he was here is exactly what he had told me in terms of the President's knowledge or anyone else in the White House.")

But subsequent testimony has indicated the late CIA Chief Casey was also deeply involved in the contra fund scheme and Senate Chairman Inouye wanted to know why Meese, having discovered evidence of the scheme, never asked Casey about it.

(Meese: "I made the decision instinctively, I think, as any lawyer would, not to talk to anyone about something that important until such time as I knew what I was talking about. I've always thought since that time if I had talked with Mr. Casey on that Saturday evening, then this committee would now be asking me, 'Why did you tip off Mr. Casey and let him cover the ground before you talk with Lt. Col. North.'")

Meese also said he could not fully answer questions about the role of drug enforcement agents in hostage rescue missions because that might compromise ongoing efforts to free hostages. He did not specify what efforts he meant. Many on this committee will never believe that Ed Meese was aggressive enough in his investigation. But they also know that the so-called diversion memo he and his aides turned up remains the single-most important piece of evidence in this case.

(ABC-5)

Rather: Here on Capitol Hill today more testimony to the congressional investigating committees from U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese under oath. The nation's chief law enforcement officer and friend of President Reagan stopped just short of calling Oliver North a liar. And Meese snapped at suggestions that some of his own story was hard to swallow.

CBS's Phil Jones reports that Meese left a clear impression that he thinks Oliver North lied in his sworn testimony.

(Sen. Mitchell: "My question to you is, which of those statements do you believe: Mr. Casey's statement to you, that he knew nothing of the diversion, or Colonel North's statement to this committee that Mr. Casey did know of the diversion?")

Meese: "It seems to me that we would have to look at the statement that was given to me at the time that this matter first came up, when there was no jeopardy to the individuals involved, and at a time when Mr. Casey was still available to refute any statement that might have been true or untrue..."

The Attorney General argued today that the Administration would not have been able to get as much information as it did in the early investigation had the President confronted Admiral Poindexter and Lt. Colonel North -- and that it could have jeopardized any criminal case. It was not an opinion shared by some members.

Jones continues:

(Sen. Rudman: "I think that this matter was so important, that the President of the United States was entitled to all the facts from his two subordinates before they left the White House, criminal charges notwithstanding!")

The Attorney General said today that in his view the \$8 million in arms profits remaining in foreign accounts may legally belong to the U.S. government. An obvious reference to others in the scandal, Meese condemned lying, deceit and destruction of documents. And he was asked if he believed North's testimony that Casey said there should be a fall guy.

(Meese: "That, to me, would be uncharacteristic of Mr. Casey, based upon my knowledge of him.")

There are some who still believe Meese's initial investigation was at best shallow. But many members concede that after two days of questioning, the Attorney General hasn't been hurt. (CBS-5)

PRESIDENT/LESION

Brokaw: Late today the White House announced that President Reagan had a small lesion removed from his nose. The President's doctor said the lesion would undergo standard microscopic examination. The results will be made known tomorrow. The doctor described the operation as very common for people extensively exposed to sunlight. The President, you'll recall, had a similar operation in 1985 and again, three months later.

(TV coverage: File photo of President.)

(NBC-4)

Jennings: President Reagan has had another small lesion removed from his nose. The White House said it was removed under local anesthesia during a, quote, routine procedure, unquote. It will now be tested to see if it was cancerous. According to the White House, it's a very common procedure performed on many people who have had extended exposure to sunlight over the years. The President twice had similar operations to remove cancerous tissue from his nose in 1985. (ABC-4)

Rather: It was officially announced late today that President Reagan had a small lesion removed today from his nose. The White House doctor's office said the President was given a local anesthetic for the procedure. The White House statement called the procedure routine and said tissue samples would be analyzed for cancer cells. In the past, the President has had two skin cancers removed from his face. The President, today's White House statement said, is in excellent health. (CBS-6)

BALDRIGE

Brokaw: This morning the President went to Washington's National Cathedral for a memorial service for Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige.... The President was accompanied by Mrs. Reagan and by Vice-President and Mrs. Bush. The Cathedral was filled with Cabinet

Brokaw continues:

officers, members of Congress, foreign dignitaries and several of Baldrige's cowboy friends. The President said in his eulogy, "Baldrige embodied the best of the American spirit." He said he liked cowboys because they didn't talk much and when they did talk, they told the truth.

(TV coverage: The President, the First Lady, Vice President and Mrs. Bush, seated in the Cathedral.) (NBC-5)

Jennings: There was a memorial service in Washington today for Malcolm Baldrige.... President Reagan said today that Mr. Baldrige was an honest, independent, courageous man who embodied the best of the American spirit.

(TV coverage: The President preparing to give eulogy.) (ABC-12)

Rather: Memorial services were held in Washington today for an extraordinary man and public servant, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. The turnout combined a "Who's Who" of Washington and the inner circle of the cowboy rodeo circuit. President Reagan delivered a eulogy that emphasized Baldrige's cowboy background.

(President Reagan, delivering the eulogy: "He once said that the thing he liked about cowboys was that they didn't talk unless they had something to say. And when they said something, they meant it.")

...(Baldrige) had been the highly regarded point-man in Mr. Reagan's delicate bargaining with Congress on changing the country's trade laws. (CBS-7)

CONTRAS

Jennings: The State Department said today it was satisfied with a new study citing human rights abuses by the Nicaraguan contras. The report by the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights was paid for by the U.S. Congress. It found that the contras had executed Sandinista prisoners they had captured; and civilians -- including the American Benjamin Linder; also they had forcibly recruited dozens of soldiers. The State Department said they expected the contra leadership to pursue the charges vigorously. ((ABC-6)

AIR SAFETY

ABC's Richard Threlkeld reports on the status of continuing danger in commercial aviation and its safety risks for passengers. The flying public is jittery and the politicians have noticed.

(Sen. Byrd: "Lives are at stake. Flying is becoming more and more a gamble.")

The Department of Transportation and the FAA, which bear the ultimate responsibility for making air travel safe, insist it is.

(Jim Burnley, DOT official: "Commercial aviation in the United States, 1987, is extraordinarily safe. It's the safest it's ever been.")

Strictly speaking, that's right, in terms of fatalities. But critics attribute that to plain good luck. (ABC-9)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

BORK NOMINATION

It's OK To Discuss Bork's Philosophy -- "Cruunch! The games have begun. The Senate has held its first skirmish over the nomination of Robert H. Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court -- and the President's men are coming on strong.... When the President was elected to a second term, they say, the nation gave tacit approval to the views of his nominees.... As a matter of fact, the nation did no such thing. When it signed up again for Ronald Reagan in 1984, Robert Bork was not part of the ticket."

(The Atlanta Constitution, 7/27)

Bork's Nomination: An Appalling Delay -- "...However it may serve his presidential ambitions, Biden has thrown away any credibility he might have had as chair of the Judiciary Committee in the Bork matter. And the date he has set is irresponsibly delayed. He should give up that chair for the purpose of the confirmation hearing. And his colleagues should reschedule the hearings and pledge to complete it before considering leaving on a summer recess."

(New York Daily News, 7/26)

In Bork's View, Right To Privacy Should Go Unprotected -- "Imagine a world in which it was up to your state legislature to decide whether you could have sex or children. Imagine further that a majority of your neighbors could live with you in your own home. According to Judge Robert H. Bork, President Reagan's choice for a seat on the Supreme Court, such a world would be perfectly constitutional."

(Kathleen Sullivan, law professor, The Atlanta Constitution, 7/23)

Biden Vs. Bork -- "...While Biden publicly maintains a posture of 'full, thorough and fair' review, his own press secretary acknowledges his boss intends to oppose the nomination and lead the opposition. Yet this is the same man who says he fears Judge Bork's mind isn't as 'open' as his own."

(Boston Herald, 7/22)

Bork's Friends As Bad As His Foes -- "As things are going at the moment, Robert H. Bork's chances of winning Senate confirmation to a seat on the Supreme Court may be in almost as much danger from certain of his conservative friends as from some of his liberal enemies.... The supporters I have in mind are those who loudly expect Bork to 'complete the Reagan revolution' by voting to overturn a number of Supreme Court decisions that they find objectionable.... From a tactical point of view, it plays into the hands of Bork's opponents by turning the debate into a substantive political struggle which, given Democratic control of the Senate, they have a better chance of winning."

(Norman Podhoretz, The Boston Herald, 7/23)

The Senate Should Not Rubberstamp Bork -- "...The President's admonition that the Senate not play partisan politics with Bork was either a deliberate misrepresentation of the nominating process or a display of abysmal ignorance. The President himself threw down the gauntlet when he fixed on a judge who nestled comfortably into his ideological mold. To ask the Senate not to respond in kind is pedestrian if not downright flatfooted."

(James J. Thornton, attorney, Shreveport Journal, 7/20)

BORK NOMINATION (continued)

Confirm Judge Bork -- "...The American people should understand that the opposition to him is from leftwingers because he is a conservative, and that is all. Liberal presidents have a right to nominate liberals to the high court, and have. Conservative presidents have a right to nominate conservatives. Judge Bork's qualifications are so outstanding, the carping lefty critics ought to be ignored and Senate confirmation should be swift and overwhelming." (Chattanooga News-Free Press, 7/19)

Justice Delayed Is Not Fair -- "The decision to delay confirmation hearings on Robert H. Bork isn't fair to the nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, isn't fair to the court and isn't fair to the American public that deserves a high court operating at full strength.... Judge Bork, who is no Torquemada (the hanging judge of the Inquisition), deserves better than to be left twisting in the wind by the Senate. His nomination deserves a vote, up or down, in a timely fashion." (San Francisco Chronicle, 7/13)

Bow Street Joe -- "Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden has exposed himself as a cheap politician whose own interests are to take precedence over those of anyone else, including the poor and minorities for whom he claims, falsely, a special regard. Biden's actions on the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court ought to be enough to sicken and to turn off the most ardent supporter of this self-proclaimed heir to Kennedy liberalism." (New Hampshire Sunday News, 7/19)

ARMS CONTROL

Summits And Substance -- "...While Gorbachev has been proposing initiatives and conceding ground, the Administration has remained in a defensive crouch, deeply divided over whether to accept the succession of opportunities at hand. Holding a summit to ratify the 'global zero-zero' will not change that. Real progress in public diplomacy, as in arms control, awaits a change of mind in the White House." (Boston Globe, 7/26)

'Double-zero': Oh, Oh -- "...Gorbachev should not be allowed to use arms talks to drive a wedge between the United States and its allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Now that the verification problems have diminished after banning also the 100 medium-range warheads that were to remain on each side, negotiators should get seriously into the last stage of an agreement." (Miami Herald, 7/25)

A Big Obstacle Is Gone -- "...Bonn's position (on keeping the Pershings) is understandable. But, given the strong public support for a Euromissile deal both inside and outside West Germany, it is hard to believe that the West German government is willing to take the responsibility for blocking an important arms-control agreement." (Los Angeles Times, 7/24)

Gorbachev's Concession -- "...The Reagan Administration is correct to welcome Gorbachev's offer while reserving judgment on the still-to-be presented details. Although complete elimination would reduce the problems of verification, it will require some form of on-site inspection of manufacturing plants, a tricky issue at best."

(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/24)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

ARMS CONTROL

"Real doubts about the benefit to Europe of the double-zero option remain. A small 100-missile intermediate nuclear force on each side would still offer better security. But it looks increasingly now as though there is no turning back."
(Times, Britain)

"There is no doubt that Ronald Reagan wants to crown the end of his term with a success in foreign policy and repair the image he has as a result of the Iran-contra scandal."
(TV Two, West Germany)

"If the superpowers indeed reach an agreement on reducing their nuclear arsenals, Europe will feel an increased need to limit rearmament in the area of conventional weapons."
(Tagesspiegel, West Berlin)

"President Reagan's words...suggested an atmosphere typical of historical turning points. After some months of ups and downs...there is reasonable certainty today that the third Reagan-Gorbachev summit will be the decisive one."
(Ennio Caretto, La Stampa)

"Reagan did not say a word about the problem being created by the stubborn reluctance of the United States to remove the main obstacle on the way to success of the talks...precisely to agree to the elimination of 72 Pershing 1-A missiles."
(Tass, Soviet Union)

"U.S. news media were quick to note that President Reagan had lost another round to the Soviet leader. The truth of the matter is, however, that if real or apparent concessions were made, they were made by Gorbachev, not Reagan."
(Haaretz, Israel)

MEESE TESTIMONY

"(Meese's) statement further supports Mr. Reagan's assertion that he had been kept in ignorance of the diversion."
(Michael Binyon, Times, Britain)

"Mr. Meese effectively acknowledged yesterday that with the hindsight of events his initial investigation of Irangate had been somewhat lacking."
(Alex Brummer, Guardian, Britain)

"As a good pillar of Reaganism, Attorney General Meese supported his President yesterday. On the first day of his testimony, he stuck to his positions and supported the White House's initiative with Iran."
(Liberation, France)

"It is possible to foresee even now...that Meese will leave nothing more than an unpleasant taste behind when he leaves the witness stand."
(Frankfurter Rundschau, West Germany)

"Naive or cunning, the counselor and best friend (and political protector) of President Reagan has depicted himself as the least suspicious of all attorney generals. It is for that, that he is being reproached."
(Yve Laudy, La Libre Belgique, Belgium)

-End of News Summary-



News Summary

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1987 -- 6 a.m. EDT EDITION

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL NEWS

Consider Bork's Merit, Not His Ideology, Reagan Asks -- President Reagan strongly urged the Senate to consider his nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court on the basis of the candidate's qualifications rather than ideology. (Los Angeles Times, New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Choppers To Sweep Mines In The Gulf -- Secretary Weinberger ordered eight Navy mine-sweeping helicopters to the gulf to help clear sea lanes traveling by U.S. commercial vessels under Navy escort, Pentagon officials said. (Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

IRAN-NICARAGUA

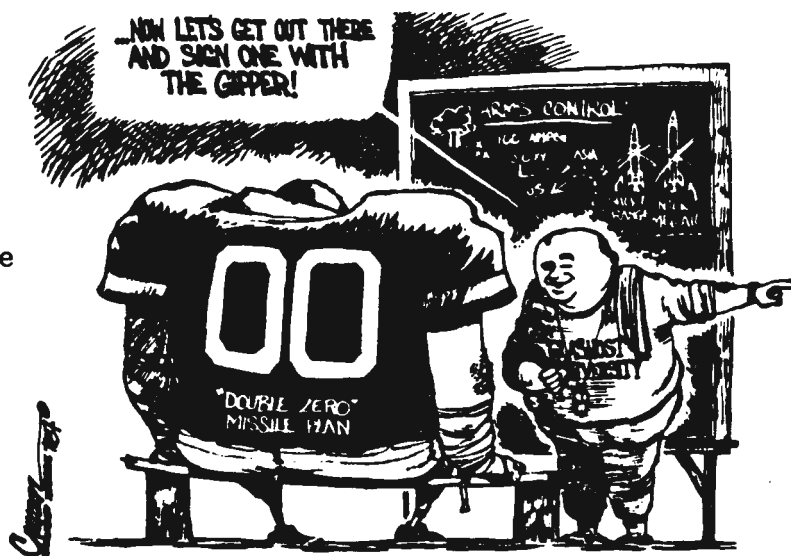
Meese: Poindexter And North Misled Him About Iran-Contra Affair -- Attorney General Meese said that both John Poindexter and Oliver North misled him on their involvement in the Iran-contra affair during his investigation last November. (Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, AP, Scripps Howard, UPI)

NETWORK NEWS (Wednesday Evening)

PERSIAN GULF -- Secretary Weinberger has ordered 8 mine-sweeping helicopters to the Persian Gulf.

ARMS CONTROL -- The Soviets called the latest American proposal on medium-range missiles "not constructive."

IRAN-CONTRA -- Attorney General said he believed William Casey when Casey denied that North told him of the diversion of funds to the contras.



NATIONAL NEWS

CONFIRM BORK, REAGAN URGES

President Reagan appealed to the Senate to confirm Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court before the next term begins in October and unveiled what aides described as a "tone-setting" speech for Bork stressing his qualifications but skirting ideological issues.

"No man in America and few in history have been as qualified to sit on the Supreme Court as Robert Bork," Reagan said in a speech to the National Law Enforcement Council at the White House.

A senior White House official said Reagan would "use all his resources" to push the Bork nomination. Other officials said Reagan will stress Bork's qualifications and overall judicial philosophy and emphasize that Bork is similar to other judges he has appointed....

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A5)

Consider Bork's Merit, Not His Ideology, Reagan Asks

President Reagan strongly urged the Senate to consider his nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court on the basis of the candidate's qualifications rather than ideology, apparently offering a preview of the strategy that the White House will follow in the expected fierce battle over the appointment.

Reagan, in his most extensive remarks on Bork since announcing the nomination on July 1, told a law enforcement group that "each senator must decide which criteria is right for casting this critical vote: qualifications or politics?" (James Gerstenzang, Los Angeles Times, A16)

Reagan Portrays Bork As Potential Swing Vote

The White House signaled its game plan in the fight to win Senate confirmation of conservative Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.

President Reagan tried to counter liberal complaints the confirmation would change the court into a bastion against abortion and civil rights.

His tactic: hailing Bork as all but an ideological clone of retired Justice Powell, often the court's swing vote.

Reagan said:

-- The Supreme Court has never reversed any of Bork's 400 decisions....

-- Powell agreed with nine of 10 Bork cases reviewed. "If you want someone with Justice Powell's detachment and statesmanship, you can't do better than Judge Bork."

(Johanna Neuman, USA Today, A4)

Reagan, Opening Bork Fight, Calls Judge A Moderate

President Reagan opened his campaign to win Senate confirmation of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, and he stressed themes that differ sharply from the views of the President's more conservative supporters.

The President's statement marked the beginning of a concerted attempt by the White House to diminish Judge Bork's public image as a "right-wing kook," in the words of one Administration strategist. Without that shift, the strategist added, the judge stands little chance of winning confirmation by a Senate that is controlled, 54 to 46, by the Democrats.

(Steven Roberts, New York Times, A16)

Reagan Asks Early Bork Approval

The White House stepped up pressure for quick Senate confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork whom President Reagan called better qualified for the job than any man in America.

Meanwhile, the White House welcomed comments by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd and Senator Dennis DeConcini...that the confirmation process should not be conducted on partisan political grounds.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

White House Not Pushing Recess Appointment For Bork

In turning a cold shoulder to the idea of a recess appointment for Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, the White House is shunning a maneuver that has gotten it into trouble with Senate Democrats before.

Faced with a tough fight to win confirmation of the conservative federal appeals court judge, the Administration is saying conciliatory things about the leadership of the opposition party and insisting it will win its battle on the Senate floor.

(Dale Nelson, AP)

BALDRIGE REMEMBERED AS INDIVIDUALIST

His friends said it was a memorial service that Malcolm Baldrige, the Connecticut cowboy, would have liked: simple and direct, with few words.

President Reagan, the only speaker at yesterday morning's 30-minute service in the Washington Cathedral, praised Baldrige for his humanity and lack of pretense and said that like the cowboys he loved, the late commerce secretary possessed "the best of the American spirit."

"I could always count on him for the truth as he saw it, no matter how unpleasant or unpopular," the President said.

(Bill McAllister, Washington Post, A8)

Reagan Says Baldrige Exemplified 'American Spirit'

President Reagan led a contingent of official Washington in bidding farewell to Malcolm Baldrige, best remembered for his plain-speaking style and cowboy ways.

"In his directness, in his honesty and independence, in his disregard for rank, in his courage, he embodied the best of the American spirit," Reagan told more than 1,600 mourners who filled Washington's National Cathedral for the memorial service.

(Donna Cassata, AP)

Reagan Eulogizes Baldrige As 'The Best'

President Reagan eulogized Malcolm Baldrige as a man who "embodied the best of the American spirit" as a former rodeo cowboy, a successful businessman and as a commerce secretary who helped shape U.S. economic policy "During years when that policy moved to center stage."

Reagan began with the anecdote, frequently cited since Baldrige's death, that, when he called Baldrige to ask him to join his incoming Administration, "he was out on his horse roping and couldn't come to the phone. Right then I knew he was the kind of man I wanted," Reagan said.

(Oswald Johnston, Los Angeles Times, A5)

PLAN FOR AUTOMATIC SPENDING CUTS SETTLED IN SENATE

Senate negotiators reached an agreement on a measure that would require across-the-board spending cuts if Congress and the White House fail to meet their deficit targets.

The agreement on the automatic mechanism, designed to pass constitutional muster, will also enable legislators to pass a long-term extension in the federal borrowing ceiling.

(Tom Kenworthy, Washington Post, A4)

Congress Passes Bill To Extend Debt Limit

Congress, trying to escape a financial "crisis of confidence," passed a bill to extend the debt limit for eight days so the government can borrow more money while lawmakers work on a long-term solution to the debt problem.

The House approved the plan, 263-155, then sent it to the Senate, where passage came on an unrecorded voice vote. The measure now goes to President Reagan.

(Linda Werfelman, UPI)

PANEL VOTES ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO FSLIC

Members of the House and Senate banking committees, bowing to pressure from the White House, agreed to give \$10.8 billion to the insolvent S&L insurance fund and to allow securities firms and "nonbank banks" to buy failed S&Ls.

By reopening the conference committee to change the banking bill, the chairmen of House and Senate banking committees insured that the full Senate would not be able to amend the bill, according to congressional aides. But the bill could face parliamentary hurdles in the House, where it is expected to be taken up today in the House Rules Committee.

(Kathleen Day, Washington Post, E1)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MINE-HUNTER HELICOPTERS SENT TO GULF

U.S. Move Coincides With French Dispatch Of Carrier To Mideast

Secretary Weinberger has ordered eight U.S. Navy mine-hunting helicopters to the Persian Gulf to help protect reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and their Navy warship escorts against underwater mines, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

Meanwhile, French military officials sent the aircraft carrier Clemenceau and three support ships to the Middle East in what Washington Post correspondent Edward Cody reported from Paris is a high-profile display of military force aimed at Iran.

(Molly Moore, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Sending 8 Copters To Sweep Mines In Gulf

Eight Navy minesweeping helicopters are being sent from the U.S. to the Persian Gulf to clear sea lanes for U.S.-escorted oil tankers, Pentagon officials said.

The deployment, ordered by Secretary Weinberger, was seen as a stopgap solution to the hazards posed to gulf shipping by underwater mines that Iran is believed to have planted....

Because Kuwait and other gulf states have balked at granting landing rights to U.S. forces, it may be a week before the big RH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters are in position to begin clearing mines from the gulf's waters, officials said.

(Gaylord Shaw, Los Angeles Times, A4)

Choppers To Sweep Mines In The Gulf

Secretary Weinberger ordered eight Navy mine-sweeping helicopters to the gulf to help clear sea lanes traveling by U.S. commercial vessels under Navy escort, Pentagon officials said.

The helicopters fly close to the surface of the sea and drag a "sled" device through the water which cuts the cables of moored mines, allowing them to bob the surface, where they are detonated by rifle fire from the helicopter or nearby small boats.

"They are not perfect," one Pentagon source said. "But they are the best means we have right now of clearing some kind of safe path for the ships."

(James Dorsey, Washington Times, A1)

STATE ARMS LIMIT PLAN GOES EASY ON SOVIETS

A secret State Department proposal on arms control compliance recommends minimizing or ignoring past Soviet treaty violations as a first step in gaining Senate approval of a new medium-range missile treaty.

At the same time, the proposal, outlined in a memorandum obtained by The Washington Times, acknowledges that Soviet strategic missile forces have stepped up concealment efforts to prevent U.S. intelligence monitors from collecting information on weapons systems.

The memorandum criticizes the U.S. position of demanding complete corrective measures for past Soviet treaty violations and states that "we have not been willing to advance compromise solutions of our own."

(Bill Gertz, Washington Times, A1)

SOVIETS OFFER DETAILED PLAN TO BAR SPACE ARMS TESTS

The Soviet Union, signaling that it still hopes for agreement with President Reagan on space weapons constraints, gave the U.S. for the first time a detailed written proposal to bar testing of sophisticated missile defense technologies in space, U.S. and Soviet officials said.

Soviet negotiator Alexei Obukhov told reporters in Geneva that the new initiative was a "major proposal" aimed at "preventing an arms race in outer space" and "strengthening" the 1972 ABM Treaty. The offer comes amid new optimism for prospects of a U.S.-Soviet pact banning intermediate-range missiles. (Jeffrey Smith, Washington Post, A26)

U.S. Is Critical Of Soviet Arms Proposal

The Soviet Union presented what Soviet officials called a new proposal to restrict the testing of anti-missile defensive systems. But the U.S. called the proposal disappointing because it did not mark an important change in the Soviet position.

The Soviet move and the American response suggest that the two sides are failing to narrow their differences over "Star Wars" and the related issue of long-range nuclear weapons even as they are moving toward a treaty that would ban American and Soviet medium-range and shorter-range missiles.

"Our initial reaction is one of disappointment, since the Soviet draft appears to reflect positions they have held throughout the course of the negotiations," said Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman.

(Michael Gordon, New York Times, A3)

Soviet Arms Treaty Language Aims At SDI: U.S. Holds Fast

GENEVA -- Soviet nuclear arms negotiators proposed treaty language aimed at crippling nuclear defense in space, and the U.S. retorted it had a duty to develop SDI.

Soviet Ambassador-at-large Alexei Obukhov described the Soviet proposal as "another initiative of major importance," but U.S. Ambassador Henry Cooper, acting chief negotiator on space weapons, said, "The Soviet proposal has so far revealed little that is new beyond certain matters of detail."

(Andrew Borowiec, Washington Times, A10)

NICARAGUA SAYS U.S. MANIPULATING EMBASSY SHOOTING

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua accused the U.S. of manipulating an incident in which a man was shot and wounded by a Sandinista policeman guarding the U.S. Embassy.

Nicaraguan Vice Interior Minister Rene Vivas told a news conference 21-year-old Nicaraguan Roger Nelson Rocha, who was apparently mentally disturbed, was shot and wounded outside the embassy after attacking the Sandinista guard.

The U.S. State Department protested to Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista government over what it called the outrageous shooting of an unarmed civilian on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy.

(Matthew Campbell, Reuter)

IRAN — NICARAGUA

MEESE ACKNOWLEDGES OMISSIONS IN PROBE Pertinent Questions Not Put To Key Officials

Under skeptical questioning, Attorney General Meese said that during his initial "fact-finding" inquiry into Iran arms sales last November, he failed to ask many pertinent questions of key officials, failed to secure White House documents and took no notes of his private meetings with half a dozen key senior officials.

Meese said the discovery of a diversion of funds from arms sales to Iran to help the Nicaraguan contras changed the nature of his inquiry radically, raising "criminal implications." Nevertheless, Meese said, he took no new precautions after this discovery to adjust to the possibility that he might be investigating a criminal matter.

(Walter Pincus & Dan Morgan, Washington Post, A1)

Meese Says Casey Knew Nothing About Diversion Of Funds

Attorney General Meese said he believes William Casey knew nothing about the diversion of Iran arms sales profits to the contra rebels despite Oliver North's testimony that the CIA chief helped him concoct and direct the operation.

In addition, said Meese, it would be "uncharacteristic" for his friend Casey -- "one of the most honorable men to serve in government" -- to tell North to "take the hit" for the scandal or to have approved the diversion without telling President Reagan.

(Joseph Mianowany & Anne Saker, UPI)

Record Shows Many Meese Statements At Nov. 25 Conference Were Wrong

Attorney General Meese used his testimony before the Iran-contra committees this week to defend statements he made during his Nov. 25 news conference announcing the diversion of Iran arms sales money to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

But the record laid out since then shows that Meese was wrong or misleading about many facets of the affair that day. Meese has acknowledged that some of the incorrect statements were the result of wrong information provided to him by others.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A15)

Meese 'Takes Offense' At Criticism Of His Iran-Contra Inquiry

Attorney General Meese, confronted by skeptical lawmakers, unflinchingly defended his inquiry into the Iran-contra affair and said "I take offense" at suggestions that it was less than thorough.

Some senators on the Iran-contra committees said Meese's questioning of William Casey and John Poindexter last November was too general and thus failed to elicit important information about the involvement of the key presidential aides.

(Pete Yost, AP)

Meese Says North Told Him, Panels Different Stories

Attorney General Meese testified that Oliver North last November gave him answers to at least six key questions that directly contradict North's recent testimony under oath before the Iran-contra committees.

In his second and final day of congressional testimony, Meese said he has no way of knowing whether North had lied to him or to the panel. But he sharply disputed North's contention that it is sometimes necessary for government officials to lie to protect important policy initiatives.

"I don't condone...anyone lying under any circumstances whatsoever, including whether it's a fact-finding investigation, testimony before a congressional committee, statements to the President or statements to me as attorney general, and I think there's no reason or justification or excuse for it whatsoever," Meese told the investigating committees.

(Sara Fritz & Karen Tumulty, Los Angeles Times, A1)

Meese: Poindexter And North Misled Him About Iran-Contra Affair

Attorney General Meese said that both John Poindexter and Oliver North misled him on their involvement in the Iran-contra affair during his investigation last November.

"It's not my place to sit in judgment upon them," Meese told the congressional Iran-contra panels as he concluded two days of testimony on his fact-finding investigation last Nov. 21-25....

Several committee members criticized Meese's lack of aggression in conducting his investigation, which he said had started out only as an effort to reconcile conflicting statements by Administration aides on U.S. involvement in 1985 arms sales to Tehran.

(Lance Gay & Walter Friedenberg, Scripps Howard)

Cheney Defends Reagan's Role In Iran Contra Probe

Rep. Dick Cheney said the Iran-contra hearings have shown President Reagan did everything right in acting to investigate the scandal last November.

Cheney, in a comprehensive defense of the Administration, said the inquiry Reagan ordered, conducted by Attorney General Meese, answered all of the basic questions even before the House and Senate committees began their public hearings in May.

"We have investigated for months the question or the charge that somehow the President had knowledge of the allegation that there'd been a diversion," Cheney said. "And of course, the fact of the matter is we found absolutely no evidence to support that..." (Michael Myers, UPI)

Meese's Credibility Rides On A Difficult Defense

In two days of nationally televised testimony, Attorney General Meese made two major appeals to Congress and the American people. He asked them to believe that he had told "the absolute truth of what happened" and that his investigation on behalf of the President into the Iran-contra affair had uncovered all the essential facts in the case last November.

The central problem in Meese's case concerns the nature of his investigation into the unfolding Iran-contra scandal. He characterized that investigation by saying "the purpose was to resolve conflicts and have a coherent story" -- a definition clearly open to the suggestion that it could also be construed as an attempted cover-up instead of a search for all the facts. (News Analysis, Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, A14)

ARMS-DELIVERY RESUMPTION WAS PLANNED

Days after the first press disclosures of the U.S.-Iran arms deals last November, U.S. and Iranian negotiators meeting secretly in Geneva decided to postpone deliveries of American weapons and medicine for Tehran's army only "until the situation cooled down," according to informed sources.

This "damage control" plan was worked out by Oliver North at weekend meetings Nov. 8 and 9 in Geneva with the same Iranian representatives who had helped arrange the release of David Jacobsen on Nov. 2 in exchange for 500 TOW missiles.

(Dan Morgan & Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A1)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Excerpts Of Attorney General Meese's Testimony" appear in The Washington Post, A14.

-End of A-Section-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY

(Wednesday Evening, July 29, 1987)

PERSIAN GULF

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The American military presence in the Persian Gulf is being expanded tonight. Defense Secretary Weinberger has ordered eight U.S. minesweeping helicopters to that area. His order follows reports of additional mines in the area where the Bridgeton...was struck by a mine.

NBC's Fred Francis reports on what one Pentagon officer called a "game of embarrassing catchup," and the logistical details of moving the helicopters to the Persian Gulf. All that is expected to take at least 10 days. Meanwhile, the current practice of using divers is treacherous work -- and divers admit the Iranians could lay another minefield in a period of six hours. Administration critics in Congress are crowing about the poor planning.

(Rep. Schumer: "Mr. President, the American people are asking you as our Commander-in-Chief what the heck is going on! Each year you ask us for billions of dollars for the newest and most complicated weapons, yet our military seems unable to accomplish the simplest of tasks.")

(Robert Sims: "We're aware of the mine threat there and we're working to resolve our concerns about that.")

Several Pentagon officials said today the only real way to solve the problem with mines is to destroy the Iranian bases where they are stored. One senior Administration official said that kind of pre-emptive military action could be ordered if the Bridgeton convoy is attacked again.

Brokaw: And the French...are putting to sea an aircraft carrier and three escort ships that may be sent to the Persian Gulf. French Prime Minister Chirac said, "We have no aggressive intentions but we demand respect."
(NBC-Lead)

ABC's Peter Jennings: We begin tonight with what is surely a growing American involvement in the Persian Gulf. The Reagan Administration has now decided it will have to make more of an effort in the gulf if its plan to protect Kuwait tankers is not to be literally undermined by Iran. We are referring to minesweeping. The U.S. would increase its own capacity to do so in the gulf while an appeal is also made for European support.

ABC's Bob Zelnick reports on what sources say is Secretary Weinberger's order for the choppers to be based on board the amphibious carrier Guadalcanal. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources say the U.S. and Kuwait are nearing final accord on a plan to clear a mine-free path for the tanker Bridgeton, permitting that ship to resume operations before other help arrives. Sources say Kuwaiti tugboats will be equipped with U.S. cables and other minesweeping equipment before escorting the Bridgeton through the northern gulf. The accord would represent a breakthrough in U.S.-Kuwaiti cooper-

Zelnick continues:

ation. Pentagon officials have also provided new details on the minesweeping operations near Farsi Island. Today, Navy officials conceded America's minesweeper construction efforts have been plagued by cost overruns and construction delays.

(Everett Pyatt, Navy undersecretary: "They are two years behind, but I'm sure that we will succeed in rebuilding the mine countermeasures fleet the way it should be.")

Secretary Weinberger's formal request for European minesweeping help is going to the major western European allies. Weinberger wants responsibility for minesweeping in the gulf divided into geographic areas, thus insulating participants from the U.S. convoy operation and possible Iranian retaliation.

ABC's David Ensor reports the plan to re-load the Bridgeton is more for political than business reasons: between 10 and 20 percent of the oil will be ruined by seawater already in the Bridgeton's pipes and tanks. (ABC-Lead)

CBS's Dan Rather: Shut out by Persian Gulf friends who refuse to offer bases, stung by criticism about a lack of minesweeping planning, Defense Secretary Weinberger moved today to fill the minesweeping void. The Navy is now rushing over giant minesweeping helicopters and a carrier for them to land on.

CBS's David Martin reports on the transport plans for moving the helicopters to the gulf and how the operation will work.

(Capt. Joseph Kennedy, mine warfare specialist: "Mines can be laid anytime and they can last forever. And they're obviously a very dangerous, very effective and very insidious weapon.") (CBS-Lead)

ARMS CONTROL

Brokaw: The Geneva talks have taken on a new urgency now since President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev have endorsed in principle the double-zero option.... Now the Soviets are trying to squeeze in some new attacks on American space weapons.

NBC's Jim Bitterman: The Soviets wanted to let everyone know they mean business on arms control, and called a special full-session of the arms talks at a news conference to do so. Ostensibly they were pitching what they said was a newly formulated position on space weapons. But their top arms negotiator also took aim at what Washington said yesterday were its new medium-range missile proposals.

(Alexei Obukhov: "Even through the microscope, you will not be able to find a trace of a new idea in it.")

A little while later, the Americans held a news conference of their own to, among other things, take a potshot at what Moscow claims were new space weapons ideas.

(Henry Cooper, U.S. arms negotiator: "Our reading of the Soviet proposal, thus far, reveals little that is new beyond certain matters of detail.")

Bitterman continues:

It was the most public verbal skirmishing seen here in some time. As negative as it seemed...the negotiating will continue here non-stop, with both Soviets and Americans still saying they are close to agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles and actively pursuing limitations on space and strategic weapons. All three sets of talks have been going on continuously now for a period longer than at any time since negotiations began here in 1981. And there's no indication at all of any summer break in the discussions. A sign, perhaps, of the urgency Moscow and Washington now attach to these talks, but not necessarily confirmation that an agreement is within reach.

(NBC-2)

Jennings: There was a lot of official optimism yesterday about arms control. The enthusiasm was dampened somewhat today after the U.S. and the Soviets met in Geneva. The Soviets called the latest American proposal on medium-range missiles "not constructive," and re-stated the Soviet demand that the West Germans remove the American nuclear warheads from their own Pershing missiles. American officials doubt that this is the final Soviet word on the subject.

(ABC-2)

CHANCELLOR COMMENTARY/HEARINGS

NBC's John Chancellor: ...The Russians (during the Iran-contra hearings) were obviously hanging on Admiral Poindexter's every word. The admiral might have produced evidence of a smoking gun that could have crippled the President.... It seems clear the Russians waited until they knew Ronald Reagan was safe before they made their move. In the weeks leading up to the Poindexter testimony, the Soviet negotiators in Geneva simply stopped negotiating. Seven days after the admiral said he never told the President, the Soviets announced their concession. They are still hanging tough on some issues, but this is good news for Mr. Reagan. It's a vote of confidence from some smart, clear-eyed and tough-minded Russians who now say they want to deal with this President until the end of his term.

(NBC-12)

MEESE TESTIMONY

Brokaw: Attorney General Edwin Meese testified for a second day in the Iran-contra inquiry, and asked to square the conflicting testimony of Oliver North and the late CIA Director William Casey, Meese said he believed Casey when Casey denied that North told him of the diversion of funds to the contras. The committee also disclosed that North shredded documents for five hours, far more than previously believed, just after Meese told North that he discovered a critical memo North thought he had destroyed. In spite of it all, Meese steadfastly defended the Reagan Administration.

NBC's John Dancy: Meese defended President Reagan's decision not to question Admiral John Poindexter and Oliver North more closely, before they were dismissed from their White House jobs. Senate

Dancy continues:

committee Vice Chairman Warren Rudman told Meese the whole congressional investigation could have been avoided if the President and Meese had asked Poindexter and North about the diversion of Iran arms sales profits to the contras. Meese disagreed.

(Meese: "Well, my view, Senator, is that we had all of that information before they left the White House and that not one thing that has been said since that time by Admiral Poindexter -- and only in the case of Mr. Casey -- has it varied from what we were told on that Sunday and Monday.")

Meese often seemed ill at ease.... He frequently consulted thick books of notes. Those books, however, did not include notes from some of the most important conversations Meese had that weekend with Poindexter and others after Meese had discovered the memo that detailed the diversion scheme. Democrat George Mitchell of Maine found that hard to understand.

(Sen. Mitchell: "Well, I'll leave it at that to say it's really very difficult to accept.")

Meese: "I take offense at the idea that it's hard to accept. Because what I have told you is the absolute truth of what happened. So if there's any question in your mind I want to get that settled right now."

Sen. Mitchell: "Well, no. As I've just said..."

Meese: "Fine...As long as there's no question as to that being the truth.")

Meese also gave new details on his meeting with President Reagan, in which Meese told the President about the diversion scheme that North and Poindexter had been running.

(Sen. Nunn: "Did he express any sense of outrage?")

Meese: I think he expressed real concern that this had happened because -- and a lot of this was obviously in both of our minds that this was a major blow -- that it cast a cloud on both the Iranian initiative and on the assistance to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua.")

Meese said the decision to fire North and Poindexter from their White House jobs came from the President. But it was former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan who recommended it. Regan testifies before the committees tomorrow.

Brokaw: And what makes the Donald Regan testimony so intriguing is that this is the first time that he has talked at length publicly about what he knew, as White House Chief of Staff Regan jealously guarded his access to the President and so he was in on most Oval Office meetings.
(NBC-3)

Jennings: The Attorney General has finished telling his story at the Iran-contra hearings on Capitol Hill. There was considerable expectation about Edwin Meese's testimony. There were certainly members of the Senate and House committees who believed he should be nailed for at least not being more aggressive at his job when the scandal was first discovered in the White House. After two days of testimony Mr. Meese is unscathed.

ABC's Brit Hume reports on numerous attempts by committee members to shake the testimony of the Attorney General, including demands from Sen. Rudman on what Poindexter and North knew and did before they were fired.

(Sen. Rudman: "For instance, had we had a statement from Admiral Poindexter, in writing, signed and witnessed as to what he told this committee, dated the 25th of November, I daresay we wouldn't have any lights in here at all.")

Meese: "Well, the interesting thing, Senator, is that what he told this committee when he was here is exactly what he had told me in terms of the President's knowledge or anyone else in the White House.")

But subsequent testimony has indicated the late CIA Chief Casey was also deeply involved in the contra fund scheme and Senate Chairman Inouye wanted to know why Meese, having discovered evidence of the scheme, never asked Casey about it.

(Meese: "I made the decision instinctively, I think, as any lawyer would, not to talk to anyone about something that important until such time as I knew what I was talking about. I've always thought since that time if I had talked with Mr. Casey on that Saturday evening, then this committee would now be asking me, 'Why did you tip off Mr. Casey and let him cover the ground before you talk with Lt. Col. North.'")

Meese also said he could not fully answer questions about the role of drug enforcement agents in hostage rescue missions because that might compromise ongoing efforts to free hostages. He did not specify what efforts he meant. Many on this committee will never believe that Ed Meese was aggressive enough in his investigation. But they also know that the so-called diversion memo he and his aides turned up remains the single-most important piece of evidence in this case.

(ABC-5)

Rather: Here on Capitol Hill today more testimony to the congressional investigating committees from U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese under oath. The nation's chief law enforcement officer and friend of President Reagan stopped just short of calling Oliver North a liar. And Meese snapped at suggestions that some of his own story was hard to swallow.

CBS's Phil Jones reports that Meese left a clear impression that he thinks Oliver North lied in his sworn testimony.

(Sen. Mitchell: "My question to you is, which of those statements do you believe: Mr. Casey's statement to you, that he knew nothing of the diversion, or Colonel North's statement to this committee that Mr. Casey did know of the diversion?")

Meese: "It seems to me that we would have to look at the statement that was given to me at the time that this matter first came up, when there was no jeopardy to the individuals involved, and at a time when Mr. Casey was still available to refute any statement that might have been true or untrue..."

The Attorney General argued today that the Administration would not have been able to get as much information as it did in the early investigation had the President confronted Admiral Poindexter and Lt. Colonel North -- and that it could have jeopardized any criminal case. It was not an opinion shared by some members.

Jones continues:

(Sen. Rudman: "I think that this matter was so important, that the President of the United States was entitled to all the facts from his two subordinates before they left the White House, criminal charges notwithstanding!")

The Attorney General said today that in his view the \$8 million in arms profits remaining in foreign accounts may legally belong to the U.S. government. An obvious reference to others in the scandal, Meese condemned lying, deceit and destruction of documents. And he was asked if he believed North's testimony that Casey said there should be a fall guy.

(Meese: "That, to me, would be uncharacteristic of Mr. Casey, based upon my knowledge of him.")

There are some who still believe Meese's initial investigation was at best shallow. But many members concede that after two days of questioning, the Attorney General hasn't been hurt. (CBS-5)

PRESIDENT/LESION

Brokaw: Late today the White House announced that President Reagan had a small lesion removed from his nose. The President's doctor said the lesion would undergo standard microscopic examination. The results will be made known tomorrow. The doctor described the operation as very common for people extensively exposed to sunlight. The President, you'll recall, had a similar operation in 1985 and again, three months later.

(TV coverage: File photo of President.)

Jennings: President Reagan has had another small lesion removed from his nose. The White House said it was removed under local anesthesia during a, quote, routine procedure, unquote. It will now be tested to see if it was cancerous. According to the White House, it's a very common procedure performed on many people who have had extended exposure to sunlight over the years. The President twice had similar operations to remove cancerous tissue from his nose in 1985. (ABC-4)

Rather: It was officially announced late today that President Reagan had a small lesion removed today from his nose. The White House doctor's office said the President was given a local anesthetic for the procedure. The White House statement called the procedure routine and said tissue samples would be analyzed for cancer cells. In the past, the President has had two skin cancers removed from his face. The President, today's White House statement said, is in excellent health. (CBS-6)

BALDRIGE

Brokaw: This morning the President went to Washington's National Cathedral for a memorial service for Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige.... The President was accompanied by Mrs. Reagan and by Vice-President and Mrs. Bush. The Cathedral was filled with Cabinet

Brokaw continues:

officers, members of Congress, foreign dignitaries and several of Baldrige's cowboy friends. The President said in his eulogy, "Baldrige embodied the best of the American spirit." He said he liked cowboys because they didn't talk much and when they did talk, they told the truth.

(TV coverage: The President, the First Lady, Vice President and Mrs. Bush, seated in the Cathedral.) (NBC-5)

Jennings: There was a memorial service in Washington today for Malcolm Baldrige.... President Reagan said today that Mr. Baldrige was an honest, independent, courageous man who embodied the best of the American spirit.

(TV coverage: The President preparing to give eulogy.) (ABC-12)

Rather: Memorial services were held in Washington today for an extraordinary man and public servant, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige. The turnout combined a "Who's Who" of Washington and the inner circle of the cowboy rodeo circuit. President Reagan delivered a eulogy that emphasized Baldrige's cowboy background.

(President Reagan, delivering the eulogy: "He once said that the thing he liked about cowboys was that they didn't talk unless they had something to say. And when they said something, they meant it.")

...(Baldrige) had been the highly regarded point-man in Mr. Reagan's delicate bargaining with Congress on changing the country's trade laws. (CBS-7)

CONTRAS

Jennings: The State Department said today it was satisfied with a new study citing human rights abuses by the Nicaraguan contras. The report by the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights was paid for by the U.S. Congress. It found that the contras had executed Sandinista prisoners they had captured; and civilians -- including the American Benjamin Linder; also they had forcibly recruited dozens of soldiers. The State Department said they expected the contra leadership to pursue the charges vigorously. ((ABC-6)

AIR SAFETY

ABC's Richard Threlkeld reports on the status of continuing danger in commercial aviation and its safety risks for passengers. The flying public is jittery and the politicians have noticed.

(Sen. Byrd: "Lives are at stake. Flying is becoming more and more a gamble.")

The Department of Transportation and the FAA, which bear the ultimate responsibility for making air travel safe, insist it is.

(Jim Burnley, DOT official: "Commercial aviation in the United States, 1987, is extraordinarily safe. It's the safest it's ever been.")

Strictly speaking, that's right, in terms of fatalities. But critics attribute that to plain good luck. (ABC-9)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

BORK NOMINATION

It's OK To Discuss Bork's Philosophy -- "Cruunch! The games have begun. The Senate has held its first skirmish over the nomination of Robert H. Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court -- and the President's men are coming on strong.... When the President was elected to a second term, they say, the nation gave tacit approval to the views of his nominees.... As a matter of fact, the nation did no such thing. When it signed up again for Ronald Reagan in 1984, Robert Bork was not part of the ticket."

(The Atlanta Constitution, 7/27)

Bork's Nomination: An Appalling Delay -- "...However it may serve his presidential ambitions, Biden has thrown away any credibility he might have had as chair of the Judiciary Committee in the Bork matter. And the date he has set is irresponsibly delayed. He should give up that chair for the purpose of the confirmation hearing. And his colleagues should reschedule the hearings and pledge to complete it before considering leaving on a summer recess."

(New York Daily News, 7/26)

In Bork's View, Right To Privacy Should Go Unprotected -- "Imagine a world in which it was up to your state legislature to decide whether you could have sex or children. Imagine further that a majority of your neighbors could live with you in your own home. According to Judge Robert H. Bork, President Reagan's choice for a seat on the Supreme Court, such a world would be perfectly constitutional."

(Kathleen Sullivan, law professor, The Atlanta Constitution, 7/23)

Biden Vs. Bork -- "...While Biden publicly maintains a posture of 'full, thorough and fair' review, his own press secretary acknowledges his boss intends to oppose the nomination and lead the opposition. Yet this is the same man who says he fears Judge Bork's mind isn't as 'open' as his own."

(Boston Herald, 7/22)

Bork's Friends As Bad As His Foes -- "As things are going at the moment, Robert H. Bork's chances of winning Senate confirmation to a seat on the Supreme Court may be in almost as much danger from certain of his conservative friends as from some of his liberal enemies.... The supporters I have in mind are those who loudly expect Bork to 'complete the Reagan revolution' by voting to overturn a number of Supreme Court decisions that they find objectionable.... From a tactical point of view, it plays into the hands of Bork's opponents by turning the debate into a substantive political struggle which, given Democratic control of the Senate, they have a better chance of winning."

(Norman Podhoretz, The Boston Herald, 7/23)

The Senate Should Not Rubberstamp Bork -- "...The President's admonition that the Senate not play partisan politics with Bork was either a deliberate misrepresentation of the nominating process or a display of abysmal ignorance. The President himself threw down the gauntlet when he fixed on a judge who nestled comfortably into his ideological mold. To ask the Senate not to respond in kind is pedestrian if not downright flatfooted."

(James J. Thornton, attorney, Shreveport Journal, 7/20)

BORK NOMINATION (continued)

Confirm Judge Bork -- "...The American people should understand that the opposition to him is from leftwingers because he is a conservative, and that is all. Liberal presidents have a right to nominate liberals to the high court, and have. Conservative presidents have a right to nominate conservatives. Judge Bork's qualifications are so outstanding, the carping lefty critics ought to be ignored and Senate confirmation should be swift and overwhelming."
(Chattanooga News-Free Press, 7/19)

Justice Delayed Is Not Fair -- "The decision to delay confirmation hearings on Robert H. Bork isn't fair to the nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, isn't fair to the court and isn't fair to the American public that deserves a high court operating at full strength.... Judge Bork, who is no Torquemada (the hanging judge of the Inquisition), deserves better than to be left twisting in the wind by the Senate. His nomination deserves a vote, up or down, in a timely fashion."
(San Francisco Chronicle, 7/13)

Bow Street Joe -- "Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden has exposed himself as a cheap politician whose own interests are to take precedence over those of anyone else, including the poor and minorities for whom he claims, falsely, a special regard. Biden's actions on the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court ought to be enough to sicken and to turn off the most ardent supporter of this self-proclaimed heir to Kennedy liberalism."
(New Hampshire Sunday News, 7/19)

ARMS CONTROL

Summits And Substance -- "...While Gorbachev has been proposing initiatives and conceding ground, the Administration has remained in a defensive crouch, deeply divided over whether to accept the succession of opportunities at hand. Holding a summit to ratify the 'global zero-zero' will not change that. Real progress in public diplomacy, as in arms control, awaits a change of mind in the White House."
(Boston Globe, 7/26)

'Double-zero': Oh, Oh -- "...Gorbachev should not be allowed to use arms talks to drive a wedge between the United States and its allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Now that the verification problems have diminished after banning also the 100 medium-range warheads that were to remain on each side, negotiators should get seriously into the last stage of an agreement."
(Miami Herald, 7/25)

A Big Obstacle Is Gone -- "...Bonn's position (on keeping the Pershings) is understandable. But, given the strong public support for a Euromissile deal both inside and outside West Germany, it is hard to believe that the West German government is willing to take the responsibility for blocking an important arms-control agreement."
(Los Angeles Times, 7/24)

Gorbachev's Concession -- "...The Reagan Administration is correct to welcome Gorbachev's offer while reserving judgment on the still-to-be presented details. Although complete elimination would reduce the problems of verification, it will require some form of on-site inspection of manufacturing plants, a tricky issue at best."
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/24)

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

ARMS CONTROL

"Real doubts about the benefit to Europe of the double-zero option remain. A small 100-missile intermediate nuclear force on each side would still offer better security. But it looks increasingly now as though there is no turning back."
(Times, Britain)

"There is no doubt that Ronald Reagan wants to crown the end of his term with a success in foreign policy and repair the image he has as a result of the Iran-contra scandal."
(TV Two, West Germany)

"If the superpowers indeed reach an agreement on reducing their nuclear arsenals, Europe will feel an increased need to limit rearmament in the area of conventional weapons."
(Tagesspiegel, West Berlin)

"President Reagan's words...suggested an atmosphere typical of historical turning points. After some months of ups and downs...there is reasonable certainty today that the third Reagan-Gorbachev summit will be the decisive one."
(Ennio Caretto, La Stampa)

"Reagan did not say a word about the problem being created by the stubborn reluctance of the United States to remove the main obstacle on the way to success of the talks...precisely to agree to the elimination of 72 Pershing 1-A missiles."
(Tass, Soviet Union)

"U.S. news media were quick to note that President Reagan had lost another round to the Soviet leader. The truth of the matter is, however, that if real or apparent concessions were made, they were made by Gorbachev, not Reagan."
(Haaretz, Israel)

MEESE TESTIMONY

"(Meese's) statement further supports Mr. Reagan's assertion that he had been kept in ignorance of the diversion."
(Michael Binyon, Times, Britain)

"Mr. Meese effectively acknowledged yesterday that with the hindsight of events his initial investigation of Irangate had been somewhat lacking."
(Alex Brummer, Guardian, Britain)

"As a good pillar of Reaganism, Attorney General Meese supported his President yesterday. On the first day of his testimony, he stuck to his positions and supported the White House's initiative with Iran."
(Liberation, France)

"It is possible to foresee even now...that Meese will leave nothing more than an unpleasant taste behind when he leaves the witness stand."
(Frankfurter Rundschau, West Germany)

"Naive or cunning, the counselor and best friend (and political protector) of President Reagan has depicted himself as the least suspicious of all attorney generals. It is for that, that he is being reproached."
(Yve Laudy, La Libre Belgique, Belgium)

-End of News Summary-