

state/nation/world

Salvadorian aid gets Senate support

By W. DALE NELSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate rejected efforts yesterday to withhold all or part of President Reagan's \$61.7-million military aid package for El Salvador until courts in that country obtain verdicts in the murders of four churchwomen and two labor advisers from the United States.

The lawmakers rejected by a 69-26 vote an amendment by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., to hold back 15 percent of the funds until there is a verdict in the slaying of two AFL-CIO representatives gunned down as they dined in a San Salvador hotel in 1981.

The labor officials were advisers to the Salvadorans on land reform.

The Senate then shelved by a vote of 54-39 an amendment by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to hold back 30 percent of the funds pending a verdict in the slaying of four churchwomen in December, 1980. This vote also killed an alternative by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., to withhold all the money until there was a verdict.

Specter, a former federal prosecutor, voted to shelve the Kennedy amendment, saying the labor advisers' case was "a very complicated

matter" but the case of the churchwomen was clear-cut.

Kennedy supported Specter's amendment, saying a similar provision was adopted last fall when Congress approved \$65 million in military aid for El Salvador in the current fiscal year.

By rejecting Specter's amendment, Kennedy said, Congress would be declaring that although it withheld the funds last year "we are going to add more money this year to make up for it."

Kennedy's defeat on the issue of the labor advisers was his second in two days in the El Salvador debate. On Monday, the Senate rejected 69-25 his bid to slash the aid to \$21 million.

The Senate also tabled by a vote of 63-26 an amendment by Kennedy that would have conditioned the aid on an agreement by El Salvador to engage in negotiations with the rebels. The Salvadoran government and the Reagan administration have refused to accept that condition.

Kennedy also offered an amendment calling for an investigation by the Senate Intelligence Committee of the death squads, but withdrew the amendment after the committee's chairman, Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., agreed

to hold hearings on the subject before the Independence Day congressional recess.

"Yesterday, the Senate voted to send more guns and more bullets to El Salvador," Kennedy told his colleagues. "Today, we can vote to send more justice."

But Sen. Albert Kasten, R-Wis., chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that oversees foreign aid, said, "Any effort to withhold aid today is simply a vote against the level that we have agreed to."

At the White House, President Reagan told Republican congressional leaders that "some members of the El Salvadoran army may have to go on missions... with only one clip of ammunition," said presidential spokesman Larry Speakes.

Assistant Republican Leader Ted Stevens said the legislators were told that one of the reasons for the high death rate among Salvadoran wounded, reported to be about two out of three, is that "they don't have enough ammunition to undertake a mission to save a buddy."

Michel accused Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of planning to delay House action on the measure until after Congress returns from its Easter recess on April 23.

O'Neill's spokesman, Christopher Mat-

thews, said the speaker was still reviewing the options and had made no decision.

Rep. Mickey Edwards, R-Okla., a member of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, said he and other Republicans would press for action before the recess begins April 13.

Edwards, who recently returned from a trip to El Salvador and Honduras, said the Salvadoran army is going to run out of ammunition if the aid package is not approved.

Stevens raised the possibility that the Senate might skip its scheduled Easter recess if it cannot complete work on the Salvadoran aid bill in time to deal also with a plan to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Stevens said the GOP leadership hopes to pass the El Salvador package by tomorrow.

He said 30 to 40 amendments awaited action but that he thought the situation would "settle down some" after yesterday's New York presidential primary.

When asked to elaborate on this, Stevens noted Sen. Gary Hart's opposition to Salvadoran military aid and said, "I don't think the people on the other side want to see the issue decided definitely in the Senate until after today."

Pa. voters to decide on bonds

By DAN BIERIS
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania voters will decide on April 10 whether the state should borrow \$100 million to fund an economic development package.

The proposed bond issue was hammered out in February by lawmakers from both parties and Gov. Thornburgh as a way to improve the state's economy. Both houses of the General Assembly then voted to place the question on the primary ballot.

Thornburgh has said the bond issue "promises benefits to all of our citizens."

The bond question only names the broad categories for which the money is to be used. But leaders from both houses have agreed how much money should be spent on each segment of the three-year program.

Still, the General Assembly has yet to pass legislation needed to specify how the money will be used.

The leadership agreement calls for:

- \$50 million in loans or grants to local agencies to help improve roads, railroads and other facilities needed by business.
- \$30 million to upgrade recreational facilities.
- \$20 million for updating vocational and technical equipment at v-t schools, community colleges and engineering schools.
- \$20 million to help small businesses by helping them share certain resources, such as legal and technical assistance.
- \$15 million to set up a Conservation Corps Program to employ young people in public projects.
- \$15 million to help employees trying to prevent plant shutdowns.
- \$15 million to expand the Pennsylvania Capital Loan Fund.
- \$10 million for farming loans.
- \$5 million for minority economic development.

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce back the proposal, although labor prefers the governor fund the program by abandoning his proposed corporate net income tax cut.

'Raggedy Ann' brings cheer to the forgotten

By The Associated Press

FOLSOM, Pa. — Betty Brackney says she needs only a mirror, a toy telephone and her hand-made Raggedy Ann costume to cheer up elderly people who feel forgotten.

"I've been there. I've been through such dreadful loneliness that I didn't want to live," she says. "I don't want anyone else to go through that."

Brackney, 76, says she is a survivor of partial deafness as a child, two bad marriages and painful separation from her children, all of whom live far away. A retired nurse who lives alone on Social Security benefits, she first turned to volunteer work to help take her mind off her own sorrows.

Now, she is consumed. She works partly through a Delaware County volunteer agency called RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), but mostly on her own, spontaneously. She visits the homebound to cook and clean, drives the sick to the hospital in



Dressed in her Raggedy Ann costume, 75-year-old Betty Brackney brings a smile to Clara Bahr, 88, a suburban Philadelphia nursing home resident. Brackney visits hospitals, nursing homes, and the homebound to spread her own love of life to others.

Snow whips across Plains as winter refuses to yield

By DAVID L. LANGFORD
Associated Press Writer

A blizzard buried the buds of spring under as much as 2 feet of snow from Colorado to South Dakota yesterday and trapped thousands of travelers in the Plains.

Rescuers on snowmobiles fought head-high snowdrifts on the lonely highways of eastern Colorado, looking for marooned motorists and some local residents were reported missing, including the superintendent of Elizabeth public schools and a woman who left her home in Last Chance at noon Monday and hadn't been seen since.

The snowstorm was blamed for two deaths on Wyoming highways earlier in the week.

Five tornadoes touched down in Kansas Monday night, causing minor damage, and thunderstorms in the Southeast had dumped almost 4 inches of rain since Monday in the Louisiana towns of Alexandria and Fort Polk. Up to 3 inches of rain fell yesterday

along the flooding Suwannee River in North Florida.

Schools were closed yesterday in much of Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota, where up to a foot and a half of snow had fallen. Many interstate highways in the region were barricaded.

In Mullen, Neb., 2 foot of snow had collected by yesterday morning, with 14 inches coming down in the 12 hours ending at 7 a.m. In Kimball, Neb., in the southwestern corner of the state, 18 inches was on the ground, and 600 travelers were waiting out the storm, including many who were taken into private homes.

"Some folks might find that hard to believe," said Dan Jenson, a regional Civil Defense coordinator in Kimball. "But you get out here in the western part of the state, and you get some pretty good hospitality."

Winds gusting to 67 mph at Burlington, Colo., where 15 inches of snow was measured. However, only about 3 inches collected in Denver.

Travel in the eastern plains of Colorado came to a virtual standstill as winds clogged roads with snowdrifts higher than cars. The Colorado State Patrol closed nearly every major highway in a 15,000-square-mile area bounded by Nebraska, Kansas, Denver and Colorado Springs.

Included in the shutdown were parts of Interstate 70, I-25 and I-76. Limon on I-70 in east-central Colorado was isolated after drifting snow closed all roads in and out of town for the seventh time this snow season.

state news briefs

Proposal may eliminate some taxes
HARRISBURG (AP) — A group of mayors announced yesterday that Gov. Thornburgh supports a tax reform proposal aimed at giving school districts and municipalities more tax flexibility.

The legislation, which has been endorsed by 14 major groups and is currently on the House floor, would eliminate local nuisance taxes and attempt to reduce property taxes by allowing school districts and municipalities to raise their earned income taxes.

The bill would:

- Allow school districts to eliminate the per capita, occupational privilege, occupational assessment, business privilege and mercantile taxes in return for a one-half percent increase in the earned income tax.
- Put a limit on the total tax revenues the districts and municipalities could collect after the reform bill is enacted to prevent them from gaining a windfall.
- Allow municipalities to levy a municipal services tax of one-quarter percent on earned income or a flat tax of \$50 on people who work in the municipality.

Voters may decide on litter deposit
HARRISBURG (AP) — A House member today proposed having a non-binding referendum to see whether voters want to pay a deposit on beverage containers to fund a litter cleanup by local governments.

Rep. Benjamin Wilson, R-Bucks County, said he will introduce the referendum bill when the Legislature reconvenes April 24. He said the referendum question would be:

"Shall the General Assembly enact legislation to be entitled the Beverage Container and Litter Control Act, which will place a nominal charge on every beverage container of 16 ounces or less sold in the Commonwealth, with the revenues utilized for compensating local governments and citizens for cleaning up litter?"

Wilson said he favors a proposal that would have the store collect the returned beverage containers to destroy them and reimburse people for the deposit with money received from the state.

Wilson said labor unions, supermarkets and manufacturers all have opposed earlier proposals to have people pay a deposit and then have to return the container to the store to recover the deposit.

nation news briefs

Crew readies for 11th shuttle flight
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Five astronauts who will fly the 11th space shuttle flight arrived at Cape Canaveral yesterday as the launch team prepared for a countdown that will send Challenger on a bold satellite rescue and repair mission.

Commander Robert Crippen said, "Everything is going well and we believe we will get off on time."

He will guide Challenger into an orbit 305 miles up, highest yet for a shuttle, so he can track down a wobbling, slowly spinning satellite named Solar Max, which failed 10 months after it was launched in 1982.

Astronaut George Nelson will fly free of the orbiting shuttle, maneuvering with a jet-powered backpack to capture the disabled payload.

The countdown begins this morning, aiming for a liftoff at 8:59 a.m. Friday.

Attorney general to postpone leave
WASHINGTON (AP) — William French Smith, bowing to President Reagan's request, will continue to serve as attorney general until a successor is confirmed, the White House said yesterday.

Larry Speakes, chief White House spokesman, said Smith agreed to Reagan's request during a brief meeting in the Oval Office.

The attorney general was known to be anxious to return to his California law practice, as well as to take an active role in the president's re-election campaign. However, he has been blocked from leaving by the problems White House counselor Edwin Meese III has run into in winning Senate confirmation as Smith's replacement.

In a written statement, Reagan expressed pleasure that a special prosecutor had been named to look into the allegations against Meese, his top policy adviser and longtime friend. A three-judge panel on Monday chose Jacob A. Stein, a 59-year-old Washington lawyer, for the job.

Mass. voters defeat school prayer

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. (AP) — Voters narrowly defeated a referendum to permit prayer in the schools and backers of the measure said yesterday they will accept the majority's wish and give up their campaign.

"I'm disappointed that school prayer lost, but the democratic system worked and we have to listen to it," said School Committee member Joseph P. Conlon, a vocal advocate of school prayer in this eastern Massachusetts town of 68,000 people.

"We have to listen to the voters. But I only hope this makes people in other cities and states work for school prayer."

The non-binding referendum was defeated Monday by 174 votes. With all 19 precincts reported, 3,773 people voted against it and 3,559 voted for it.

If it had been approved and then implemented by the School Committee, Framingham students would have had the choice to recite each day a prayer based on language in the Declaration of Independence that acknowledges "the laws of nature and the nature of God."

About 24 percent of Framingham's 35,000 registered voters participated in the election, and about 1,000 cast blank ballots on the school prayer issue. Also on the ballot were several political offices.

world news briefs

India riots leave 13 dead, 250 hurt
CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Authorities in Punjab state told security forces yesterday to shoot rioters on sight as a means of quelling violence in which at least 13 people have been killed and 250 wounded.

The order was issued after troops used machine gun fire to scatter 20,000 rioting Hindus at the funeral of an assassinated politician in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and killed eight people, according to a police report. The report said mourners had attacked police, gasoline stations and shops in the city 140 miles northwest of here.

The crowd lynched two police sergeants, reports from the area said. A police official said the situation was "very bad, with mobs fighting running battles with police."

A general strike called by Hindu organizations closed most shops, businesses, factories, movie theaters and restaurants across Punjab, where 52 percent of the 17 million people are Sikhs.

Indian spaceman to practice yoga
MOSCOW (AP) — India's first spaceman soared into orbit yesterday aboard a Soviet rocket, carrying an Indian flag and a handful of his native soil for an eight-day mission in which he will attempt to use the ancient art of yoga to combat space sickness.

Rakesh Sharma and two Soviet cosmonauts, mission commander Yuri V. Malyshev and flight engineer Gennadi M. Strekalov blasted off aboard the Soyuz T-11 spacecraft toward a rendezvous today with the orbiting Soviet space laboratory Salyut 7.

Before the launch, Sharma said it was a great honor to be the first Indian in space.

A report by the official Tass news agency said the ship was on course, with all systems functioning normally, and headed for Salyut 7, where three Soviets have been working since a Feb. 8 launch.

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