

SATURDAY

PACIFIC CONFERENCE

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Stanford is next hurdle

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McFarlane enters guilty plea Faces 4 years for Iran-Contra affair, agrees to help independent counsel

By James Rowley

The Associated Press. WASHINGTON — Former presidential aide Robert C. McFarlane pleaded guilty yesterday to misdemeanor charges that he misled Congress by assuring lawmakers the Reagan administration was not helping arm Nicaraguan rebels during a ban on U.S. military aid.

President Reagan's former national security adviser pleaded guilty to four counts of withholding information from Congress when questioned about news reports that members of his staff, particularly Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, were helping to raise money and ship arms to the Contra rebels.

McFarlane, who agreed to cooperate fully with independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh's investigation, could be sentenced to four years in prison and fined as much as \$400,000.

U.S. District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr. released McFarlane on his own recognizance and did not schedule a sentencing date. McFarlane was subdued and spoke in a soft voice when responding to questions from the judge.

"You understand that imprisonment could be consecutive?" Robinson said, referring to the option of making the four one-year terms either concurrent or consecutive.

"I understand that," McFarlane said without showing any emotion.

The judge later asked, "Do you know any reason I should not accept the plea?"

"No," McFarlane said.

McFarlane played a major role in the Iran-Contra affair, even after he resigned as national security adviser in December 1985.

The following May, McFarlane led a secret mission to Tehran to open contact with so-called moderate Iranians, who were thought to hold influence with kidnappers of American hostages. He brought with him a cake and a Bible signed by Reagan.

McFarlane attempted to raise money for the Contras in 1987 by taking an overdose of a tranquilizer the day before he was scheduled to testify before a presidential commission investigating the affair.

Reagan, leaving the White House yesterday afternoon for a helicopter trip to Camp David, Md., refused to comment on McFarlane's plea.

"It's in the court," he shouted to reporters.

North, who is expected to be indicted for his role in the Iran-Contra affair, was asked by CBS News about McFarlane. "I wouldn't comment about Mr. McFarlane," North said.

"But as I think I told you once before, this Marine is never going to plead guilty to any charge and I'll fight this or any other allegations of misconduct forever."

Earlier, in an unscripted news conference after the hearing, Walsh acknowledged that McFarlane could have been charged with perjury, a felony that carries a five-year sentence for each charge.

But Walsh said he agreed to the misdemeanor plea because of the former national security adviser's willingness to cooperate with Walsh's investigation and his "undisguised expressions of remorse after the false testimony."

"He tried to correct his testimony and actually imposed injury upon himself in a fit of depression," Walsh said.

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Robert C. McFarlane

Two patients OK after rare organ switch

By Keith Bagwell

The Arizona Daily Star

The UA heart transplant team performed rare "domino" heart-lung and heart transplants yesterday for the first time in Arizona.

A Modesto, Calif., woman received the heart and lungs of an adolescent Phoenix donor, and her heart was put into an Albuquerque man in tandem surgical procedures.

Part-time grocery clerk Nancy J. Fox, 34, received a new heart and lungs and Fox's heart is in Troy J. Evans, 57, a former Singer Co. technician.

Fox received a heart with lungs even though her heart was healthy, because lungs do not transplant well by themselves.

Both patients were "doing well, they are stable," Dr. Jack Copeland said at a news conference yesterday.

The patients were listed in critical condition, which is normal after such surgery.

Copeland, director of the University Medical Center's heart-transplant program, led the surgery on Fox. Drs. Andre Yama and Timothy

See TRANSPLANTS, Page 4A

Plains blizzard halts travelers, threatens herds

By Roger Peterson

The Associated Press

A blizzard plastered the northern Plains with deep snow driven by winds up to 60 mph yesterday, endangering livestock and stranding travelers.

Students heading home aboard two school buses in Nebraska were caught by the storm Thursday and were spending their second night as guests at two farms, one of which had no electricity.

The storm stretched through Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

"We feel it is in the best interest of the public to not, not go out on the highway," said Capt. Paul Terres of the North Dakota Highway Patrol. "We don't want someone getting stranded. It's just a very dangerous situation."

"We've mostly had people sliding off the road. We're not even pulling them out. We're just getting people out of the vehicles," said Alton Barkers, a Nebraska State Patrol dispatcher in Southbluff.

Several hundred Colorado students spent the night in their school while some travelers tried to sleep on the floors of a courthouse.

North Dakota Capitol workers were sent home yesterday about an hour after they arrived. There were numerous minor accidents as vehicles slid on ice and snow. Dozens of schools were closed.

Snowplows could not keep up with blowing, drifting snow in many

See BLIZZARD, Page 5A



Hart's farewell — Democratic presidential contender Gary Hart, with his wife, Lee, announces he is ending his drive for the White House. Hart — who re-entered the race after dropping out when his name was associated with a Miami, Fla., motel — told the remaining Democratic candidates yesterday to preserve their integrity. Story, Page 7A.

Reagan orders new sanctions against Panama

By Terence Hunt

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan imposed new sanctions against Panama yesterday, trying to weaken Manuel Antonio Noriega's grip on power and end "the illegitimate Noriega regime."

In a written statement, Reagan said, "I believe that General Noriega would best serve his country by complying with the instruction of President (Eric Arturo) Delvalle to relinquish his post."

Noriega is under indictment in the United States on drug-trafficking and racketeering charges.

Reagan ordered that U.S. government payments due Panama be put in escrow until constitutional rule is restored in Panama. A \$4.6 million payment is due Tuesday for operations relating to the Panama Canal.

Reagan also suspended trade preferences Panama receives under a special system for Third World countries. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said \$96 million worth of goods would be affected annually.

In addition, Reagan ordered stepped up scrutiny of Panama by U.S. Immigration and Customs Service officials "to apprehend drug traffickers and money launderers."

U.S. measures already taken have caused a severe cash shortage, prompting the government to suspend many banking operations.

Last week, the United States ruled that Panama was not cooperating in efforts to control drug trafficking.

Under the findings, the United States was required to stop military and economic aid — which already had been done after protests against Noriega last year — and to oppose Panamanian requests for help with lending agencies.

Reagan said Noriega's resignation "would contribute very substantially to reducing political tensions and set the stage for a prompt transition to democracy in Panama."

"Until such a time as democratic government is restored in Panama, the U.S. cannot proceed on a non-quo-quo basis," Reagan said.

"Today, therefore, I have taken a number of steps against the illegitimate Noriega regime that will contribute significantly to the goal of a democratic, stable and prosperous Panama."

Undercutting Reagan's use of the word "illegitimate," Shultz told a news conference, "That's a very strong word."

In related developments, Noriega's government ordered cuts in public services yesterday as the new U.S. sanctions compounded the financial crisis.

The beleaguered government reportedly also was considering delaying or reducing paychecks due early next week to nearly 150,000 public employees. A spokesman said no decision was made on those steps.

AT A GLANCE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here, in brief, are the sanctions President Reagan imposed against Panama yesterday.

PAYMENTS — Monthly payments of about \$4.6 million for operations relating to the Panama Canal will be held in escrow instead of being paid to the government. Panama receives about \$80 million from canal operations annually.

Reagan also ordered all U.S. government agencies to inventory payments due Panama "for the purposes of determining those that should be placed in escrow for the Delvalle government on behalf of the Panamanian people."

TRADE — Trade preferences available to Panama under the Generalizing System of Preferences, a special system for Third World countries, and the Caribbean Basin Initiative, were suspended. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said the action affects \$46 million worth of trade a year.

DRUGS — Panama will be subject to intensified scrutiny by Immigration and Customs Service officials "to apprehend drug traffickers and money launderers."

PIPELINE — There was widespread speculation that Reagan would order American firms to stop using a pipeline across Panama, which generated revenue for the government. However, Shultz said those funds already are frozen under a temporary restraining order issued by U.S. courts.

FURTHER STEPS — Shultz said, "If there are further steps needed (Reagan) will take them." He refused to elaborate, saying, "I think it's better to leave that a little uncertain."

Mecham believes God told him how to run state, Steiger testifies

By Melissa Rigg

The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — Impeached Gov. Evan Mecham believes God told him how to run state government, political old-timer Sam Steiger testified yesterday.

"I have the feeling the governor did indeed, does feel that he is divinely guided," the former top Mecham aide said during Day 19 of the governor's Senate impeachment trial.

Sensators listened spellbound to Steiger's testimony, which included an insider's view of the Mecham administration.

"Here was a man elected essentially without the press and without the party ... and what I think he forgot was, he couldn't survive without them."

Sam Steiger Former Mecham aide

aligned death threat, counseling a \$300,000 campaign loan and improperly loaning \$50,000 of state money to his Glendale car dealership.

The senators, who will vote to acquit or convict Mecham, currently are hearing testimony on the obstruction of justice charge.

Mecham did not attend his impeachment trial yesterday, nor has he yet appeared.

After a scotchdale speech yesterday, Mecham, a Mormon, declined to say whether he is divinely inspired.

"Oh, I don't think I'll comment on that," he said. "Sam's kinda, he's a little off the wall on some of his comments, too."

See TRIAL, Page 2A

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WEATHER

Sunny. Today should be sunny but breezy at times, with winds up to 15 mph. The high should be in the mid-60s with a low in the mid-30s. Tomorrow's high should be in the upper 60s. Yesterday's high was 62, the low was 38. Details, Page 3A.

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