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## Reagan plans futuristic N-defense

By Terence Hunt  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said last night the United States will begin work on a futuristic defense system designed to destroy Soviet missiles in flight and render "these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

The plan, announced in a nationally broadcast speech from the Oval Office, foresees a major departure from three decades of strategy calling for deterring nuclear warfare with the promise of massive retaliation.

Reagan said it could be the turn of the century before such defensive weapons could be produced. Ap-

★ Congressional Democrats criticize Reagan's talk as a budgetary maneuver and "Red-scare tactics." Page 2A.

parently, his plan envisions laser and particle-beam technology that now exists more in theory than in fact.

"Would it not be better to save lives than to avenge them?" Reagan said. He said that after consulting the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other advisers, "I believe there is a better way . . . that we embark on a program to counter the awesome Soviet missile threat with measures that are defensible."

He said such a system posed a "formidable techni-

★ The Democratic-led House passes a budget plan that rejects the president's plan for a defense buildup. Page 11A.

cal task" that might not be accomplished before the end of the century.

"Yet current technology has attained a level of sophistication where it is reasonable for us to begin this effort," Reagan said. "It will take years, probably decades, of effort on many fronts."

In his television speech, Reagan pointed to photographs taken by spy planes of what he said were Soviet bases in Cuba, Nicaragua and Greece to show the need

for new defenses against the Soviets' "spreading . . . military influence in ways that can directly challenge our vital interests."

To the untrained eye, details in the pictures were virtually undistinguishable. The only clear portions were the black letters pointing to the aircraft, helicopters and other features that the president described.

Reagan said the policy of deterrence through retaliation has prevented nuclear war for three decades. Departing slightly from his advance text, he said, "In recent months, however, my advisers, including in particular the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have underscored the need to break out of a future that relies solely on necessary to break out of a future that relies solely on

See REAGAN WOULD, Page 2A

## Consumer price drop only 2nd since '65

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices, driven down by record plunges in gasoline and fuel-oil costs, fell 0.2 percent in February, only the second time since 1965 that the measure of inflation has declined, the government reported yesterday.

The new report marked the fourth month in a row of little or no gain in the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index and raised the possibility that inflation for the year would run at its slowest pace in two decades.

President Reagan said, "This steady program continues once again in its case and that our economy is on the mend."

The continued good news on inflation has been mostly attributed by economists to the lengthy recession, good crop harvests and the worldwide oil surplus, which recently forced the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to slash its base price for crude oil by \$5, to \$23 per barrel.

In other economic news yesterday, the Treasury reported that the government's income tax receipts were more than \$2 billion in February, with receipts of \$28.8 billion and expenditures of \$4.2 billion. It was the second-largest monthly deficit on record and brought government red ink to \$10 billion for the first five months of the fiscal year compared with \$11 billion for all of last year.

Also, average weekly earnings for U.S. workers fell 1.3 percent last month after inflation was taken into account, the biggest monthly drop in almost four years. The big drop was largely the result of fewer hours worked, something chief Commerce Department economist Robert Ortner said was "for other than cost."

See "THE REST," Page 2A



Where's the fire, buddy? — John Herbin was one of the firefighters called to a university-area McDonald's after grease reportedly overheated and ignited in the ventilation system.

The fire forced the evacuation of about 100 people during the lunch rush yesterday, but no injuries were reported. Damage to the restaurant at 1711 E. Speedway was estimated at \$9,000.

## Senate attaches string to bailout of old-age fund

By Christopher Connel

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a landmark Social Security rescue plan 89-10 last night, but only after granting a reprieve to federal workers that some leaders said could require the \$10 billion package — and possibly draw President Reagan's veto.

Only six Republicans and three Democrats voted against the bailout compromise.

The Senate, after six days of debate and dozens of amendments, followed the House's lead in adopting a bipartisan reform commission's call for higher payroll taxes, a six-month delay in this July's benefit increase, a later retirement age in the next century and a tax on benefits of more-affluent retirees.

But in the first major crack in the plan, the Senate approved by voice vote the amendment by Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., to delay coverage for new civil servants until after

Congress establishes a supplementary pension plan for them.

Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., hailed the vote and praised the commission for pointing the way for Congress to deal with "this sensitive matter."

Senate leaders planned a conference with the House early today to iron out differences in the bills. House negotiators were expected to apply strong pressure to drop the Long amendment from the bill.

Both houses were expected to give final approval to the conference report today before departing on a 10-day Easter recess.

Long told reporters that he would acquiesce to the will of the House-Senate negotiators.

"I'm not in control of that conference," said Long. "As a practical matter, we're going to have to settle for what the conferees are willing to agree to."

See Robert Dole, R-Kan., chair-

See VETO, Page 11A

## White House hears plea to help sick Tucson boy

By Cindy Hubert

The Arizona Daily Star

Camille Protop laughed when she was told her 8-year-old grandson had written to President Reagan about her family's problems.

"I thought, 'Sure, the president is really interested in one little boy who's in a hospital in Tucson, Arizona,'" she said.

As it turns out, he just might be.

Protop's 8-year-old son, Louis, has been hospitalized since Jan. 28, when he fell off a bicycle. He is suffering from pancreatitis, inflammation of the pancreas.

The boy's father, John, had just landed a construction job with a small company two blocks from the hospital.

See WHITE HOUSE, Page 3A

## County's newly poor to get program's free medical care

By Cindy Hubert

The Arizona Daily Star

Pima County physicians announced a program yesterday to provide free medical care to victims of the recession who have lost their health insurance.

Called "Project Concern," the program will begin April 4 and run at least through Dec. 31. Participating doctors are members of the Pima County Medical Society.

At a news conference, member

doctors said the project is designed to provide treatment to county residents who might forgo necessary medical care because of their inability to pay.

The number of people faced with that situation has skyrocketed with the unemployment rate, the doctors said. Unemployment in Pima County hit 11.1 percent last month.

"It's normal for patients who are used to paying their bills all the time

See PIMA'S, Page 7A

## Circulatory failure kills Barney Clark

By George Tibbitts

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Barney Clark, the first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center late last night, hospital spokesman John Dwan said.

Clark, 62, died at 10:40 p.m. MST, on his 112th day with the device, from "circulatory collapse and secondary to multiorgan system failure," Dwan said.

He would not elaborate immediately, but said Dr. William C. DeVries, who implanted the plastic heart Dec. 2, was with Clark, as were Dr. Lytle Joyce and Clark's wife, Una Loy.

Dwan said Clark died quickly, quietly and painlessly.

"Dr. Clark was an unbelievable person — a strong, strong man," he said.

Clark's son, Stephen Clark, a surgeon in Seattle, was unaware his father had died when contacted by telephone.

"Thanks for the information," he said. "In a way, we were expecting that, but I have no comment."

Clark had been placed back in in-



Barney Clark, first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died last night. His condition had been downgraded from fair to critical after a mysterious crisis when the amount of blood pumped by his artificial heart dropped suddenly, his doctors said. Doctors did not know immediately what caused the crisis, but feared it might have been a bowel infarction, or death of tissue in his bowel from blood deprivation.

His cardiac output, normally 6 to 8 liters per minute, was 1.5 to 2.0 liters per minute.

See CLARK KILLED, Page 11A

## Weather

**Fair to muddled.** Today will be partly cloudy and breezy with a 20 percent chance of rain this afternoon. A high near 70 and a low near 48 are expected. Yesterday's high and low were 61 and 45.

Yesterday's national temperature extremes were 8 below zero at Duluth, Minn., and 96 at Brownsville, Texas. Details on Page 4A.

## Hazardous loopholes.

The state's top health official says he never saw a lengthy staff analysis that identified possible loopholes in federal hazardous-waste law.

Page 1B.

## Moved by fear.

Two Miracle Valley residents testify that fear from joint mistreatment by police made them act against officers during a fight at Buena High School in Sierra Vista last April. Page 7B.

## News

**Hand over the cash.** Two men convicted of trying to rob a Tucson pharmacy are ordered to pay more than \$200,000 to their victims. Page 1B.

**Of Latin America.** The idea that racial discrimination doesn't exist in Latin America is a farce, says Star columnist Leyla Cattani. Page 13A.

## Coping with cancer.

Cancer survivors' spouses often develop psychological problems that may be worse than those of the patients, according to a researcher. Page 2E.

## From gloom to optimism.

A medicine used to treat drug abusers relieves the confusion and memory loss of people who have Alzheimer's disease, a study shows. Page 2E.

## Sports

**Second chance.** The UA asks permission to speak to several basketball coaches about the Wildcat's vacancy, including some who were mentioned as possibilities for the job last year. Page 1F.

## Neighbors

**DPS probe asked.** The Marana Town Council requests an Arizona Department of Public Safety investigation into the administration of the Marana Marshall's Office. Page 6H.

## Money

**Thru on management.** Economicist C. Thunow says high Japanese productivity isn't an ancient samurai tradition — just good management. Page 1G.

## More dollars in harvest.

A government report says farmers are taking enough cropland out of production to pose the chance of significant price increases in commodities. Page 1G.

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## 'Lucky' cat probably sparked blast, blackout at TEP plant

A cat that wandered through a Tucson Electric Power Co. transformer yard last night apparently sparked an explosion that blacked out a large swath of the city, caused an explosion and sent a fireball into the night sky, he explained.

Because the first utility worker to arrive at the substation saw a cat running from the yard and escaping through a narrow drainage area, investigators believe that the cat climbed into the Flaming Wells area for 45 minutes.

Blames, businessmen and traffic lights from West Grant Road north almost to West Wetmore Road, and from North Oracle Road to Interstate 19, were blacked out from 7:24 to 8:10 p.m., said a Tucson Electric spokesman.

But the cat apparently escaped with its paws intact, said spokesman Roger Yobum.

Utility investigators theorized that the cat climbed into the transformer at 2208 N. Flaming

Wells Road, positioning itself between two insulators.

When it touched both insulators at once, it became the conductor for high-voltage "flashover," which caused an explosion and sent a fireball into the night sky, he explained.

"That was one lucky cat," Yobum added.

Damage to the transformer was limited to some charring from the short-lived fire, he said.