

THURSDAY

Oscar nominees

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The Arizona Daily Star

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Vol. 152

No. 49 *

Final Edition, Tucson, Thursday, February 18, 1993

35¢ U.S./50¢ in Mexico

52 Pages

Police in survey call on Hedtke to step down

Vote of confidence goes against chief

By Hippolito R. Corral

The Arizona Daily Star

An overwhelming majority of Tucson police voted they have "no confidence" in Chief Elaine Hedtke and asked yesterday that she resign, according to the results of a department-wide vote.

Hedtke refused to comment yesterday, but several commanders said privately they believe Hedtke will remain chief and will try to soothe the criticism voiced against her by hundreds of officers over the past several weeks.

In the vote totals released by the Fraternal Order of Police yesterday, 83 percent of responding officers said they have no confidence in Hedtke and called for her resignation.

But 53 percent of the civilian employees in the department voted "no" in response to the question calling for her resignation.

Meanwhile, the vote did not lessen the support of City Council members, who have been Hedtke's most vocal backers throughout the weeks of internal turmoil at the Police Department.

However, council members interviewed last night were guarded in their comments supporting Hedtke, saying she already has been told by City Hall to "handle" the department's problems and that she should be given time to do so.

Mayor George Miller said he supports her "all the way," adding that he believes the vote was unfair.

"It did not give her a chance at all. It listed all these accusations without any defense of her. Then the ballots were sent out to retired officers. That means nothing to me. I believe she can run the department properly. She's already resigned an assistant chief to captain and she plans to do some more resignations. But that's her business. That's her choice, it's nothing from me," Miller said.

The result of the Fraternal Order of Police vote is not binding and only City Manager Ruben Suarez and the City Council have the authority to oust Hedtke from her post.

In earlier press conferences and in several closed meetings with employees, Hedtke said she would resign if she lacked the support of her workers. Members of the FOP called for the vote during a Feb. 4 meeting with about 300 officers.

Ballots were mailed Feb. 8 to commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, former employees and reserve volunteers. Of the 1,232 ballots mailed, 931 ballots were returned, according to an FOP press release. The department has 1,025 employees, including 750 officers and 276 civilian workers.

Of the 583 commissioned officers who returned ballots, 483, or 83 percent, voted that they had no confidence in Hedtke's ability to lead the department.

But a slim majority — 189 or 52 percent — of the 267 civilian workers and reserve volunteers who voted, showed they support Hedtke.

The Fraternal Order of Police also mailed ballots to retired FPO workers who still belong to the labor organization. Of the 141 retired workers who voted, 101, or 71 percent, supported Hedtke.

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Linda Seegen, The Arizona Daily Star

Tucsonans Vern Staggs and Kathy Power watch President Clinton's national address on televisions at the Sears store at Tucson Mall

Clinton asks Americans to share burden

Proposes \$499 billion in new taxes, program cuts to slash national debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton asked Americans last night to accept one of the biggest tax increases in history, part of a tough \$499 billion plan to curb massive budget deficits and stimulate the economy. "We must do this together," he said in a pointed overture to Congress.

"This economic plan cannot please everyone," Clinton said in a 40-minute address to a joint session of Congress. "If this package is picked apart, there will be something that anger each of us. But if it is taken as a whole, it will help all of us."

The plan is a mixture of \$246 billion in tax increases and \$253 billion in spending cuts over four years. "Our budget will by 1997 cut \$149 billion from the deficit — one of the greatest real spending cuts by an American president," he said.

"If we do not act now," Clinton said, "we will not recognize this country 10 years from now." He said the deficit would grow to \$238 billion a year and the national debt would equal almost 80 percent of the gross domestic product.

"Americans have called for change," the president said, "and now it is up to those of us in this room to deliver." He warned that lobbyists would try to block the program.

Clinton's prime-time speech was delivered in the House chamber, where majority Democrats gave a

* Republican lawmakers assailed the president's proposed tax hikes. Page 4A.

* U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt says Arizona will get \$24 million this year from the Interior Department. Page 4A.

thunderous welcome to the first Democrat to hold the White House in 12 years.

Clinton's plan would spread pain almost universally, although well-to-do people would be hit hardest.

The program would impose higher energy taxes on every household with income of more than \$30,000. The administration calculated that would raise \$71.4 billion by 1998.

The tax would start next July at 2.5 cents a gallon for gasoline, 2.75 cents per gallon of heating oil, and 8.75 cents per thousand cubic feet of natural gas. It would increase over three years to triple those original figures.

Income tax rates would jump significantly — from 31 percent now to 36 percent next year — for families with taxable income over \$140,000 and for individuals over \$115,000. Clinton said that would affect only 1.2 of taxpayers. A 10 percent surtax which Clinton had promised to impose on millionaires would be applied to Mexico.

See ECONOMY, Page 6A

Tucsonans back tax hikes — with spending cuts

By Steve Melser

The Arizona Daily Star

President Clinton's plea for a little understanding about the need for tax hikes received a sympathetic reception yesterday from many Tucsonans — but only if the increases are paired with real reductions in federal spending.

A series of random interviews around town found that most people, even those who voted for Ross Perot

or George Bush last November, were willing to accept a boost in income taxes and other levies.

But even the most ardent Clinton supporters said those increases had to be paired with genuine cuts. They had different ideas about where the cuts should fall, but all agreed that they had to be deep and had to have an impact on the multibillion-dollar federal deficit.

And for the moment, most of the

people interviewed said they were willing to give Clinton a chance to see if his approach will work.

Hugh Kernan shuffled across North Alverton Way, his shoulders slightly stooped, as he guided a couple of kids from Davidson Elementary School, 2815 E. Fort Lowell Road, on their way home.

Kernan is an 83-year-old retired avionics technician whose only

source of income in Social Security and the \$5.30 an hour he earns as a part-time school-crossing guard.

Any cut in the Social Security cost-of-living increase would hit him hard, and Clinton's proposed energy tax would hurt as well, though Kernan uses a bike to travel to his job.

Yet Kernan says he supports Clinton's plan.

"Yes, I can go along with what

See REACTION, Page 4A

3-drug strategy shows promise against AIDS

NEW YORK (AP) — A combination of three drugs has stopped the AIDS virus from reproducing in the test tube, researchers report, raising hopes of someday keeping AIDS infections at bay in people.

The novel drug strategy was devised by Yung-Kang Chow, a 21-year-old graduate student at Harvard Medical School who is doing his thesis under the direction of Dr. Martin Hirsch.

"We can prevent infection of new cells by this technique better than we have been able to do with any other strategy we've studied over the past six or seven years," Hirsch said.

If the technique also blocks the spread of the virus within people, a patient's immune system might be able to "at least keep the virus in control for long periods of time, and perhaps forever," he said in a telephone interview. He compared that prospect to treatment of diabetes.

But he and other scientists caution. See VIRUS, Page 2A

WEATHER

Late rain possible. Today is expected to be warm, cloudy and breezy at times. There is a chance of showers tonight. Look for a high in the mid-70s and an overnight low near 56. Yesterday's high was 69, the low 36. Details on Page 11A.

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AFL's trade demands

Stop job flight. The AFL-CIO executive council calls on President Clinton to stop the "flight of jobs" to Mexico by rejecting the North American Free Trade Agreement. Page 3A.

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China frees student who led democracy movement in 1989

BEIJING (AP) — China released the most prominent student leader of China's 1989 democracy movement yesterday in what appeared to be a gesture to President Clinton and the Olympics movement.

Wang Dan, who was No. 1 on the wanted list issued by police after the crushing of the democracy movement, was freed along two other students — Guo Haifeng, another student leader, and Zhu Hongsheng, a 76-year-old Catholic priest from Shanghai.

The early releases came just two weeks before a high-level delegation from the International Olympic Committee is to visit Beijing, whose leaders have made clear their strong desire to be host of the Summer Olympic Games in 2000.

The three pariahs also might be intended as a goodwill gesture to the new Clinton administration, which has promised to focus on human rights in foreign policy.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Wang and Guo were released a few months early for "good behavior." It said that with their release, all students "who violated the criminal law" during the democracy protests had been freed.

However, the government has not announced the release of many other students who are known See CHINA, Page 2A

Mexico to pull out of fund created to snare U.S. manufacturing jobs

By Tim Golden

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MEXICO CITY — Under sharp pressure from the United States, Mexican officials said yesterday that their government development bank would withdraw from a private investment fund set up to buy American companies and move them to Mexico.

The announcement came almost immediately after U.S. Trade Rep. Mickey Kantor told his Mexican counterpart that he would not begin new negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement until Mexico resolved the issue of its role in the fund.

"It indicated that it would not be productive to begin these talks until we addressed an issue that was potentially explosive," Kantor told reporters in Washington after his five-minute meeting with Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche.

Kantor said he had asked merely for "a clarification" of Mexico's participation in the fund. But he made it clear that when Serra telephoned him less than an hour after their meeting ended to tell him of the withdrawal, he got what he wanted. "He acted quickly and effectively," Kantor said. "I was very impressed and pleased with the result."

Opponents of the trade agreement had seized on the little-known investment fund as hard evidence that Mexico intends to use its relatively cheap labor to steal American manufacturing jobs.

A prospectus for the fund, a limited partnership based in Delaware and called the AmeriMex Maquiladora Fund LP, said it would try to raise as much as \$50 million to buy into 13 small and medium-sized American companies to be moved to Mexico.

The AmeriMex partners say they will target U.S. manufacturers paying workers \$7 to \$10 an hour, including benefits, replacing them with Mexican workers who are paid \$1.15 to \$1.50 an hour.

The governments of Mexico, Canada and the United States concede the trade accord will not only remove tariff barriers but encourage manufacturers to move their operations where they can produce more efficiently. Yet all three have sought to play down the prospects for such movement because opposition of American and Canadian labor groups concerned about job losses could threaten the agreement's ratification.

Serra's hurried response to Kantor yesterday See FUND, Page 2A