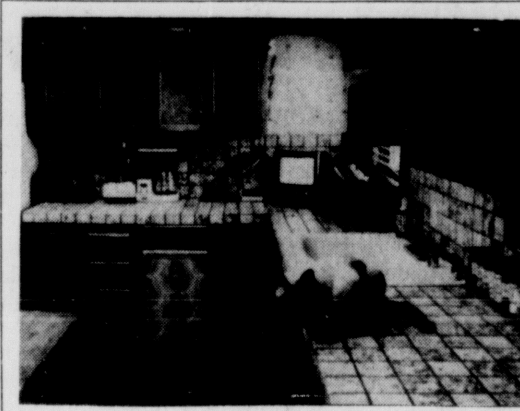


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The YUMA DAILY SUN

and ARIZONA SENTINEL

Yuma, Arizona, Sunday, August 29, 1982

Telephone 783-3333

50 Cents

Reagan spending veto leaves agencies short

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — President Reagan vetoed a \$14.2 billion catchall spending bill Saturday as a budget buster, and the government immediately began taking steps to avoid widespread furloughs of federal workers, agency shutdowns and program disruptions.

Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said 27 government offices were left hurting for funds because of the veto. He said there was a good possibility some government employees — he did not know how many — would be laid off temporarily.

With the salaries of 3 million military personnel at stake under the bill, Reagan took extraordinary steps to avoid a payless payday for those in the armed services next Tuesday.

It was Reagan's eighth veto since he took office.

Republican leaders in Congress had urged the president to sign the bill, warning that a veto might be overridden or that he might not get a second chance to win congressional approval of funds for his highly prized Caribbean Basin foreign aid program.

But Reagan, in a brief radio address broadcast live from his mountaintop ranch near here, said the bill exceeded his request for domestic programs by nearly \$1 billion and contained funds for

"several things I've vetoed already as being unnecessary."

In a separate veto message to Congress, Reagan said, "I do not take this step lightly. ... But this bill would bust the budget by nearly a billion dollars."

Reagan said that last week's surge on Wall Street and other economic improvements were a positive reaction to congressional approval of a \$98.3 billion tax-increase bill.

This reaction, he said, "is founded in large measure on a growing conviction that this government has finally developed the will to set its fiscal house in order. This legislation flies in the face of that conviction."

Democratic leaders in Congress quickly criticized the president's move.

House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, said the veto "revives the spirit of confrontation and hostility which some of us had tried to put at rest" with approval of the tax increase package a week ago.

Wright said Reagan's "theatrical veto" put his Caribbean Basin plan in "severe jeopardy." He hinted that Democrats would hold the Caribbean program hostage for increased funds for domestic social welfare programs.

"Many of my colleagues are saying that if the president is unwilling to give needed help to the old,

the poor and the handicapped in our own country, he can scarcely expect Congress to appropriate more for such people in other countries," Wright said.

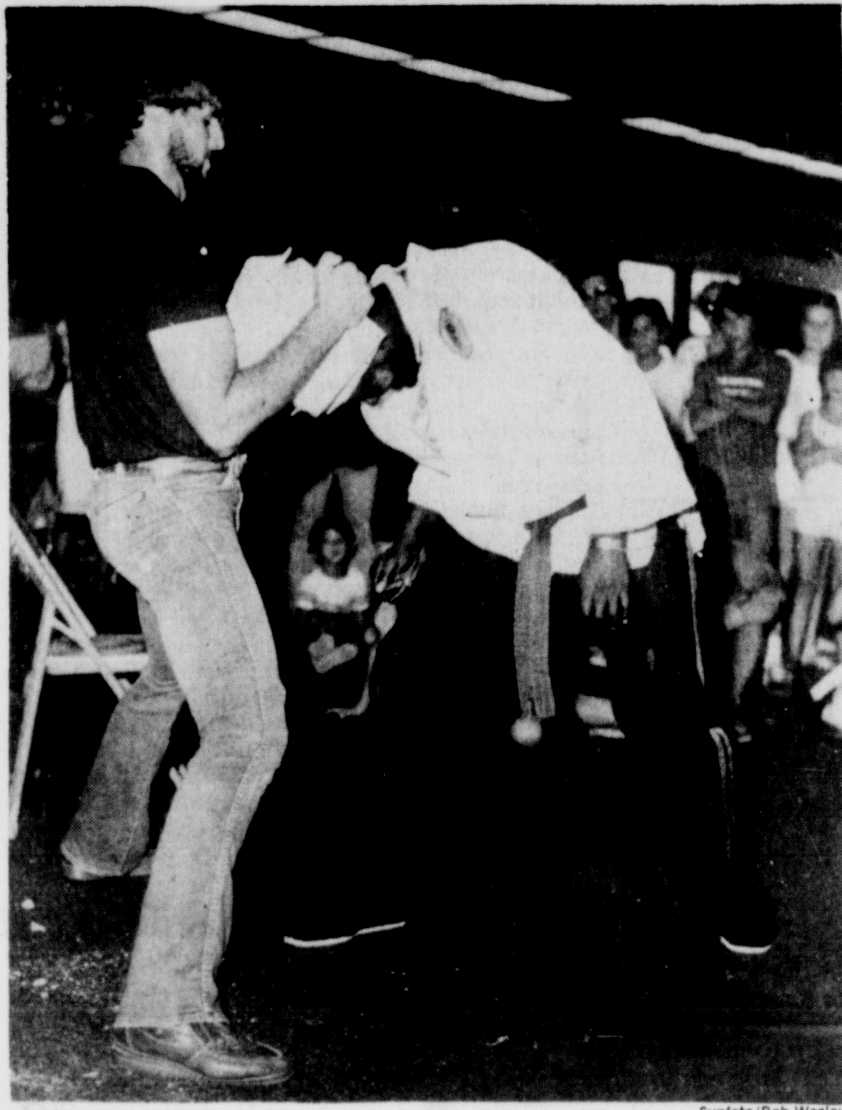
Senate Democratic Whip Alan Cranston of California said the veto "is not in the best interests of the U.S. economy" at a time when 10.7 million people are jobless. He said it would be difficult — but not impossible — to muster the required two-thirds majority of the House and Senate to override the veto.

The bill, a supplemental appropriations measure for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, included \$350 million for the Caribbean program, \$6.1 billion for federal civilian and military pay raises that took effect last October, and \$5 billion in expanded borrowing authority for the Commodity Credit Corp., which finances the government's farm price support and commodity purchase programs.

Beyond that, the bill included \$50 million in emergency aid for war-torn Lebanon and money for firefighting activities, Coast Guard operations, federal grants for Medicaid and other programs.

Among the \$918 million in spending that Reagan singled out as excessive were \$217 million in financial assistance for college students, \$185 million for other education programs, \$211 million

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Sunfoto/Bob Werley

Head man

Richard Miller of the 4th Avenue Gym really used his head during the martial arts demonstrations at Southgate Mall Saturday. His assistant, Roger Jarvis, held a 2-inch-thick concrete slab covered with a handkerchief and Miller broke it in two with his head. And he walked away smiling.

Hospital needs rate increase to expand

By DREW WILLIAMSON

The Yuma Daily Sun

If Yuma Regional Medical Center isn't granted a proposed rate increase, the hospital may not be able to provide its \$2.42 million share of financing for a proposed 63-bed expansion, a rate review analyst says.

Charles McConnell, chief executive officer at YRMC, had reported that the proposed 6.4 percent rate increase is an annual procedure due to inflation, and has nothing to do with the hospital's intention to expand its facility.

According to the certificate of need application, the expansion is expected to cost \$14.99 million. Of that principal amount, \$12.57 million will be financed through general obligation bonds at 12 percent interest over 16 years. The balance of the principal will be paid in cash by YRMC as an equity contribution of \$2.42 million.

The \$2.42 million is to be funded almost entirely from YRMC's funded depreciation reserve, money set aside to fund replacement of buildings and equipment, said David J. Byrnes, a YRMC community relations consultant.

However, slow payment of bills by the federal Medicare program and insurance companies has caused a need for \$333,000 in additional working capital. To pay its wages and bills, YRMC has had to use money intended for its funded depreciation reserves, according to a hospital spokesman.

Fred Halperin, a medical facilities rate review analyst with the Arizona Department of Health Services, said the hospital will not be able to set aside the \$888,000 it needs for funded depreciation in the coming fiscal year unless the rate increase is granted, according to the rate increase request.

"Every year a business is allowed

Continued on Page 2

Food-buying restrictions in works, says Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican officials say talks have started with their U.S. counterparts on an agreement to prevent bargain-hunting Americans from buying up scarce Mexican food products in border areas and aggravating Mexico's economic crisis.

But a U.S. Embassy official, who declined to be identified, said Friday that American diplomats had no knowledge of such negotiations. There was no immediate comment from Washington.

Since the last devaluation of the peso three weeks ago, Mexican storekeepers have complained that American shoppers have been

stripping their shelves bare.

"In effect, talks have just started on the subject with a view to implanting restrictions on the movement of basic products across the border," Mexican Commerce Department spokesman Jose Lara Torres said in a telephone interview Friday.

Torres said there was good will on both sides and the talks appeared "to have no difficulty." He declined to give details.

Another Mexican source, who requested anonymity, said the dwindling consumer items are sugar, cooking oil, crackers, cornmeal and flour, pastas, tortillas, canned

goods, eggs, salt, rice, bread, soaps and detergents — and may include gasoline and diesel oil.

"The idea is for Mexican customs agents to stop Americans from taking these items out of the country, and for U.S. Customs to cooperate on the other side by putting up posters and otherwise informing Americans of the new regulations," he said.

"If the talks are successful, the agreement will start being enforced Sept. 1 and would involve the cooperation of American customs," the source said.

"Obviously, there is a mutual interest in

both countries to prevent the border situation from being aggravated," he added.

The government offered subsidies Friday to Mexican businesses along the 1,760-mile border with the United States, including tax breaks for stores that stock Mexican goods and guaranteed low currency exchange rates for signing dollar contracts, paying off debts to U.S. banks and for all dollar loans from Mexican banks.

On Thursday, the Budget and Planning Department said it would impose "export controls" along the border, but did not elaborate.

Green Thumb

Older folks stay busy, supplement incomes

By MARK D. LAUFFER

The Yuma Daily Sun

Jobs are hard enough to come by these days. But for senior citizens who find that a Social Security check doesn't cover the bills, finding employment is even more difficult.

That's what Green Thumb Inc. is all about — finding jobs for older folks whose incomes lie at or near the poverty level. The national non-profit organization, based in Arlington, Va., is funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act and started as a rural beautification program in 1965.

In all, Green Thumb has put more than 16,000 low-income people over age 55 to work. The program finds non-profit agencies that are willing to give training through part-time employment while Green Thumb foots the bill for salaries. Later, the elderly worker may be placed on the training agency's regular payroll, or find a similar job.

The goal is to get senior citizens who need jobs off the tax-subsidized programs like Green Thumb and into the work force, turning tax users into taxpayers, program administrators say. Meanwhile, employers find a pool of workers available to them — workers who have on-the-job training and good references.

Green Thumb, which had a 50 percent increase in Arizona last year, came Yuma a year ago. Currently 12 senior citizens are working in various occupations under area leader Beverly Robert. The program seeks any non-profit agency to get the senior citizens working, but has turned only to government agencies here.

Some of the workers have gone on to work for the government, working for the Bureau of Land Management, at the municipal golf course or police station, for example. Others

have gotten jobs elsewhere.

Ms. Robert and her supervisor, Vic Stampley, who is in charge of Green Thumb in Arizona and Nevada, say everyone benefits from the program: the senior citizens who need both the money and the activity; the host agencies that welcome the free labor; and the taxpayers who might otherwise have to support the senior citizens through welfare.

City administrator Severo Esquivel said he is glad the city got involved with Green Thumb. "To be honest, the city is interested in the free labor aspect, but the program does have that community benefit. We don't like to see a waste anywhere."

Moreover, employers who at one time might have been hesitant to hire 65-year-olds say they are finding that members of the older generation make fine workers.

"I think it is a safe generalization that older workers are more productive than younger workers," said Stampley, who is 29. "It comes from the old work ethic that they were brought up with. They know the value of a day's work and they have a respect for quality."

Jim Harland, of the city parks and recreation department, has up to four "Green Thumbs" working for him at any one time. His older workers are among his most dependable, he says.

"There is no absenteeism," Harland said. "They've done everything we've ever requested. In fact there is one guy (Trinidad Gil, who literally runs from job to job. He puts out twice as much work as an 18- or 20-year-old."

For instance, take Margaret Bann, who found that her Social Security check "isn't enough to pay the utility bill." During the week from 8 a.m. to noon, one may spot her running around town in her city of Yuma pickup truck delivering machine and auto

parts to various city shops.

At 64, she calls herself a "parts chaser." "We older folks are a little more tuned in to working," she said. "Years ago, work was hard to find and when you found it, you worked hard. You were made to feel you should give a day's work for a day's pay. I love my job. It's taken a few years off — makes me feel younger."

John Vreeland, 63, likes the supplement to his barely-sufficient \$436 Social Security check (he can earn up to \$4,440 without affecting his monthly payment), but he says finding something to do after he retired is just as important.

Vreeland hadn't been away from his job as a water treatment supervisor in upstate New York for a year before he got bored. Now he works for the parks and recreation department, primarily as a groundskeeper for the historic Customhouse, and hopes the city will add the position to his payroll this fall.

"You just got to have something to do," he said during Friday's lunch break. "Still, the money helps out a lot. On Social Security, you don't get a heck of a lot. See these glasses? I saved up (with Green Thumb money) and bought these."

"We're living high now," he joked. Vreeland's supervisor, Dave Abril, has only one complaint. "Sometimes we have to come out here to slow him down!"

Because of other Title V programs in Arizona, Green Thumb does not employ the large numbers it does in other states, like Texas, with 952 elderly workers last year. But even the current 30 or so positions in this state may be threatened under cuts proposed by the Reagan administration.

"The bill that contains our funding is on the president's desk right now," Stampley said.

Continued on Page 2



Sunfoto/Mark D. Lauffer

Keeping up

John Vreeland, 63, has been acting as groundskeeper for Customs House for the city under the Green Thumb program. He hopes the city will eventually hire him. He needs the money to supplement the \$436 Social Security check he and his wife live on.