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Reagan Addresses Nation

Washington — President Ronald Reagan's health and the unhealthy economy were the major themes of his address to Congress last night.

The President told a joint session of Congress that his proposed spending and tax cuts are the "only answer we have left" for the sick economy. He said that even with his plans, the economy will not be quickly cured. Progress, he said, will come "in inches and feet, not miles." The President also told lawmakers that they will incur the wrath of the public if they

don't pass his economic package.

On his own health, the President said it has improved a lot since the assassination attempt March 30. This was Reagan's first formal public appearance since the shooting and he took the opportunity to thank Americans for the friendship, concert and love they showed him after the shooting. He said the messages, flowers and prayers provide a memory he will always treasure.

Shortly before tonight's nationally-broadcast speech, the Senate Budget committee

paved the way for the full Senate to approve the President's economic plan. The committee voted 16 to 6 in favor of a budget blueprint that is almost identical to the one Reagan wants. The vote was a special victory, because three Republicans who previously opposed the plan changed their votes to "yes."

The Senate Arms Services Committee also handed Reagan a victory today. It approved a billion dollar military spending bill. That amount is only slightly less than what the president wanted.

—NEWS DIGEST—

International

Northern Ireland — Pope John Paul's personal envoy has arrived at Maze Prison in Northern Ireland, where IRA Guerrilla Bobby Sands is on a hunger strike. It's thought the envoy will try to see Sands, who is demanding political prisoner status for jailed guerrillas. Authorities fear his death could set off violent protests.

Israel — The Israeli military command has confirmed that its jets shot down a second Syrian

helicopter in Lebanon yesterday. But the Israelis did not confirm reports from government sources in Lebanon that the second action came as Israeli jets rocketed Syrian positions near the Lebanese Christian City of Zahle.

Israel says the first helicopter downed was near the Rayak Air Base in Lebanon. Reporters say the action took four Syrian lives. Israeli sources say Israel wants to warn Syria not to broaden its fighting against the Christians.

National

Boston — Officials have been ordered to keep the city's schools open, even though the system went broke yesterday.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Morse said classes must continue because students have a constitutional right to an "adequate education." City officials have spent weeks arguing over bail-out proposals, but have not reached an agreement. They say they will fight the judge's ruling in the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

Atlanta — Authorities are looking for a black male who disappeared two weeks ago. He is 33-year-old Richard Character, described as mentally retarded and having a youthful appearance. The case has not been turned over to

the task force investigating the murders of 26 young blacks.

Atlanta — A medical examiner in Atlanta said the 26th victim in the city's string of murders of young blacks probably died of asphyxiation.

The body of Jimmy Ray Payne, 21, was found Monday floating in a river.

Fulton County Medical Examiner Saleh Zaki said the "working diagnosis" of asphyxiation was made by excluding other possible causes. To determine a definite cause of death, he says, officials will need lab data that won't be available for several days.

Zaki says the Payne case is "very similar to some of the other cases," 14 of which were ruled deaths by asphyxiation.

State and Local

Albany — The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) has filed suit in the Albany county Supreme Court enjoining any new state expenditures until a budget is passed.

Citing Article 7, Section 7 of the Constitution, which forbids payment of state money without an appropriation, NYPIRG argued that by using scrip, the state "is attempting to indirectly do what it can not do directly."

The suit was filed in order to "spur negotiations" on a budget that has been deadlocked due to differences between Gov. Carey and Senate Majority leader Warren Anderson on whether the state should take over Medicaid.

Taxpayers must eventually pay interest for money borrowed from banks in the form of scrips. Edward Regan, New York State Comptroller has determined that the cost could be as high as \$20 million to New York state taxpayers.

New York — New York City's chief medical examiner, Dr. Elliott Gorss, testified today that Metropolitan Opera violinist Helen Hagnes Mintiks died from "multiple fractures of the skull and ribs" when she was thrown down an air shaft

from the roof of the hall last summer.

Mintiks' body was found on a ledge three floors below the roof last July 24, the morning after she allegedly was attacked by 22-year-old Craig Crimmins, a former stagehand at the met.

Gross testified in detailed fashion of fractures and hemorrhages that Mintiks suffered throughout her thighs, ribs, neck and head.

He said she had been gagged with one napkin stuffed in her mouth and held in place by another napkin around her head.

"There was blood present in her nostrils and in her mouth. There was blood adjacent to her head," he said.

He said her wrists and forearms were bound with a rope and a jersey cloth and "Her ankles were also bound. Hanging from one of them was what appeared to be pants, shorts. The ankles were bound with rope."

Gross said "there was hemorrhage in the left eye. There was blood coming from the ears."

Gross' testimony followed that of a worker who testified that he heard "a sigh, a moan, a groan" about the time that Mintiks was being attacked but found nothing when he went to look.

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