

## World and Nation

# Welfare system to be overhauled

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Reagan on Thursday signed the first major overhaul of the nation's welfare system since it was created in the Great Depression. He said the new law is a "message of hope" to those mired in a life of dependency and destitution.

But that message to welfare recipients, said the president, also contains a demand from the citizens who pay the bills: "That you will do your share in taking responsibility for your life and for the lives of the children you bring into this world."

Reagan said the best part of the

new welfare plan is that it actually poses "an alternative to life on welfare."

"For too long the federal government, with the best of intentions, has usurped the responsibility that appropriately lies with parents," said Reagan at the signing ceremony in the Rose Garden. "In so doing, it has reinforced dependency and separated welfare recipients from the mainstream of society."

The legislation contains the most sweeping revision of the nation's principal welfare program — Aid to Families with Dependent Children — since it was created in 1935.

Under the agreement reached after two years of legislative struggle, the government has pledged to provide training and support systems to destitute parents if they take steps to become independent.

Each state must operate a Jobs Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program to educate, train and find employment for the AFDC recipients. Over seven years, states will be entitled to receive \$6.8 billion in federal matching funds to pay for employment and training activities.

The president touted the measure's work and education requirements, as well as its provisions increasing

pressure on absentee parents to pay child support.

Also present for the signing was the chief architect of the bill, Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y.

"I've been waiting 20 years for this day," said the exultant senator, following the ceremony. He added that he hoped its features would take hold fully by the end of the century. Under the complex piece of legislation, various programs have differing starting dates.

Under the bill, states are required for the first time to offer people on welfare a broad variety of education, training and work programs.

# Trade deficit rises despite export boom

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The nation's merchandise trade deficit surged to \$12.18 billion in August as a record flood of imported products swamped a continued boom in exports, the government reported Thursday.

The Commerce Department said the August imbalance was \$2.7 billion higher than the July figure, which had been the lowest monthly deficit in 3 and a half years.

While the August figure was slightly worse than expected, financial markets took the news in stride,

unlike a year ago when a disappointing trade report set off a chain of events culminating in the Oct. 19 stock market collapse.

The dollar tumbled briefly Thursday in hectic foreign exchange trading but then steadied. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks gained more than 10 points by mid-day.

The market reaction was in sharp contrast to a year ago, when the August trade report sent the Dow plunging by 95 points, setting the stage for the record 508-point drop five days later on Black Monday.

Analysts said the market got the bad news out of the way early this time, falling by more than 30 points on Wednesday on fears that the report would show a higher trade deficit.

The Reagan administration, which has been fending off attacks on its trade record by Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis and running mate Lloyd Bentsen, moved quickly to downplay the significance of the widening in the August deficit.

Commerce Secretary C. William Verity noted that the trade deficit for

the first eight months of the year is running at an annual rate of \$138.5 billion, a 19 percent improvement from the record deficit of \$170.3 billion run up in 1987.

However, Bentsen said the steep rise in the August deficit was another example of failed Republican economic policies.

In August, both exports and imports climbed to record levels.

Exports were up \$1.03 billion to \$27.55 billion as America sold more cars, business capital goods and farm products to foreigners.

# Shroud of Turin not authentic, official says

From Associated Press reports

TURIN, Italy — The Shroud of Turin is only about 700 years old and cannot be the authentic burial cloth of Jesus Christ as believed by millions over the centuries, the archbishop of Turin said Thursday.

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero's announcement that he accepted the

results of dating tests conducted by three laboratories ended a debate over the origin of the cloth that has raged for hundreds of years.

But another mystery remains unsolved: how the shroud came to bear the image of what scientists have called a real human form of a whipped and crucified man.

Rejecting attempts to brand the shroud a fake, Ballestrero stressed that for the Roman Catholic church, the linen cloth remains a venerated object and a powerful symbol of faith.

"The church believes in the image and not in the history, because this image of Jesus Christ is very interesting and the people believe very

much in Jesus," he said.

Ballestrero told a news conference at the headquarters of his archdiocese that carbon-14 tests by labs in the United States, Britain and Switzerland concluded with 95 percent accuracy that the shroud cannot be more than 728 years old, dating to between 1260 and 1350.

# United States to help provide famine relief for Sudan region

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Sudan has agreed to let the United States provide relief to its famine-ravaged southern region, and food and medical supplies began moving Thursday to thousands of sick and starving people, the State Department said.

But there were no assurances that rebels fighting a guerrilla war with the government would allow the assistance to get through. They have attacked civilian planes and truck convoys, and interfered with the International Red Cross in its efforts to work out relief schemes, spokesman Charles Redman said.

The airlift was begun after Sudanese Prime Minister Sadek el-Mahdi met in Khartoum with U.S. Ambassador G. Norman Anderson and Walter Bollinger, an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

A total of 90 tons of food will be flown into Abyei, where an estimated 25,000 refugees have gathered and more are expected as the rainy season ends.

## Crackdown on gangs begins

MIAMI — Federal agents have begun a nationwide roundup of violent Jamaican drug gangs blamed for 1,400 murders over the past three and a half years and 121 people already have been arrested, authorities here and in Washington said Thursday.

U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said the Jamaican gangs, called posses, are "among the largest traffickers in crack cocaine."

The posses "have staked out a large piece of the nation's drug and firearms trafficking," Thornburgh told a Washington news conference, and are allegedly involved in kidnapping, robberies, assaults, domestic and international gun trafficking, money laundering and fraud.

## Helms fights AIDS legislation

WASHINGTON — Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., acknowledges he has a personal interest in his efforts to remove the confidentiality provisions from legislation to set national standards for AIDS testing — his daughter is a nurse.

## News in Brief

Helms said he wanted to protect medical workers, day-care employees, spouses and others who might unknowingly come into contact with AIDS victims.

"For no other disease known to man is this kind of confidentiality required," he said. "I just believe we owe more to the people of this country than to force them to be at risk without their knowledge."

Helms, an outspoken critic of most legislation to combat acquired immune deficiency syndrome, said Wednesday he would not yield unless supporters of the bill drop provisions that assure confidentiality to people who test positive for the AIDS virus.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and the bill's key sponsors have said confidentiality is essential to a successful program.

## Hostage incident debated

RALEIGH — Prosecutors argued Thursday that Robeson County's problems do not excuse the takeover of a newspaper, but the defense in the hostage-taking trial countered that Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs saw no other alternative.

"Conceding an argument that there are serious problems in Robeson County that need to be addressed, that does not excuse the action taken here," Assistant U.S. Attorney John Bruce said.

"We're not saying that because there were problems in the past (in Robeson County) that this was a violent protest," countered defense lawyer Lewis Pitts, one of Jacobs' attorneys. "That's what the government would like you to think, but it ignores the real and immediate threat to Timothy Jacobs and Eddie Hatcher."

Hatcher, 30, and Jacobs, 20, both Tuscarora Indians from Pembroke, face charges of making and possessing illegal firearms, conspiring to make those weapons, and making a bomb threat. A federal charge of hostage-taking was dismissed earlier this week against Jacobs but remains against Hatcher.

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**Carolina Career Fair — October 19 in the Great Hall**