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Manchester Herald

Friday, April 7, 1989

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SOLEMN DAY — A crowd of people listen to speeches during a ceremony at the Pikk Hermann tower in Tallinn, Soviet Estonia, on Feb. 24, the day of Estonian independence. The national flag was raised at this year's ceremony for the first time since the Soviet takeover in 1940. Estonians are seeking greater political and economic freedom from Moscow.

Soviet sojourn became a revelation

By Andrew Yurkovsky
Manchester Herald

MOSCOW — To American eyes, the offices of Moskovskaya Pravda look more like those of a government agency than the major newspaper that it is. In little rooms throughout the two floors occupied by the editorial staff, reporters and editors work in small groups, writing leisurely in longhand or on typewriters. There isn't anything like the large, open newsrooms you find at U.S. newspapers. And there's nothing like the deadline pressure. Stories, for the most part, are prepared days or even weeks in advance. Bridgeport Post reporter Karla Hudecek and I worked on Moskovskaya Pravda, the morning newspaper of the Moscow Com-

unist Party, from December through February under an exchange sponsored by the New England Society of Newspaper Editors and the Union of Soviet Journalists. The experience offered an inside look at how a Soviet newspaper works in the

current days of political and economic reform. Moskovskaya Pravda, which has a circulation of 700,000, is distributed in Moscow and throughout the Soviet Union. It has a staff of about 45 reporters and editors and 55 technical workers. Since being redesigned on the first of the year, the four-page newspaper has become perhaps the most modern-looking Soviet daily. The name of the paper is printed in bold black and gray letters, and thick lines are used to organize stories on the page. Most Soviet newspapers still have the look of U.S. papers from the 1950s. In substance, however, there's little in Moskovskaya Pravda to distinguish it from

See SOVIETS, page 12



STREET POET — A man recites poetry while standing on a box on Moscow's Arbat, a long street frequented by artists. The street is closed off to motor vehicle traffic.



ROLL WITH IT — Rolls of toilet paper are slung around shoulders of this man, who waits for a streetcar in Moscow. Stationery stores in Moscow are stocked with low-priced writing paper, but toilet paper is a rare commodity.

Jobless rate hits 15-year low of 5%

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's unemployment rate dipped in March to 5 percent, the lowest rate in more than 15 years, despite a slowed rate in the creation of jobs, the government reported today. The Labor Department said 180,000 new jobs were added to non-farm payrolls last month, the lowest figure since 154,000 in August 1988 and down from a revised February figure of 280,000. The slower rate of job creation, affected somewhat by the Eastern Airlines strike, indicates some slowing in the economy. But there were signs of continued strength as well. The number of factory jobs remained stable and the average factory work week fell slightly, by 0.2 hours to 40.9 hours. Average overtime was unchanged at 3.9 hours.

higher had it not been for the one-month-old strike. The strike does not affect the unemployment rate, however, because that data is compiled through a separate household survey that counts strikers as being employed. In other areas, retail trade operations continued to add jobs, about 75,000 in March, and wholesale trade also showed growth. But construction employment dropped for the second consecutive month, losing 50,000 jobs in a decline the Labor Department said was largely focused on residential building and appeared to be linked to the recent rise in interest rates.

The 5 percent civilian jobless rate, the lowest since December 1973 when it was 4.9 percent, defied predictions that unemployment would edge up slightly from the February rate of 5.1 percent, which itself had matched a 15-year low.

Military ordered to aid oil cleanup

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush ordered U.S. armed forces personnel today to assist in the cleanup of the massive oil spill off the coast of Alaska. He predicted the effort would be "massive, prolonged and frustrating." "We all share the sorrow and concern of Alaskans," he said. "Exxon's efforts standing alone are not enough." Bush announced the decision during an appearance in the White House briefing room at which he was accompanied by striking Eastern Airlines workers were counted as being out of work, meaning the new job total would have been somewhat

Earlier story on page 7.

North takes stand, describes secrecy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oliver North testified that top-level Reagan administration officials put him in charge of keeping the Nicaraguan rebels alive and ordered him to maintain total secrecy about the operation. The CIA had been supplying the Contras, but by October 1984 when Congress banned further military aid, "every bit of that CIA responsibility had been passed on to me," North told the jury at his criminal trial Thursday. "It was basically a handoff

as in basketball." The former National Security Council aide took the witness stand in his own defense for nearly 2 1/2 hours. The 12 criminal charges against him focus on his alleged lies to Congress and the attorney general about his efforts on behalf of the Contras. Then-national security adviser Robert McFarlane told his role as overseer of the Contra network "could not be revealed," North testified. The admonition "was reiterated innumerable times by Admiral Poindexter and by Director Casey," said North, referring to McFarlane's successor, John Poindexter, and CIA Director William Casey. North said his superiors told him disclosure "would jeopardize

See NORTH, page 12

Bush won't talk about Contra role

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush firmly refused today to discuss his role in the Reagan administration's secret plan to aid the Contra rebels, saying anything he might say could "prejudice the trial" of former White House aide Oliver North. "The legal process ought to run unfettered without you or me" interfering, the president told a reporter who asked him to square his previous statements on the affair with courtroom disclosures on Thursday that suggested a greater role than had been known. Bush said all the material presented to the North jury "has been available to" government prosecutors and congressional investigators previously "and has been reviewed by them for any special significance."

Earlier story on page 7.

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NATION & WORLD



SCENE OF RAID — Wearing a Los Angeles Police Department jacket with "Nancy" on it, former first lady Nancy Reagan tours a suspected cocaine "rock house" Thursday night after 14 cocaine dealers were arrested. On the table are syringes and other drug paraphernalia.

Nancy Reagan calls drug raid a 'very depressing' experience

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former first lady Nancy Reagan's anti-drug crusade took her to a late-night police raid on a suspected cocaine "rock house," an experience she found "very depressing."

"I was able to see them busting in," said Mrs. Reagan, who wore a blue police windbreaker and running shoes to the Thursday night raid. "I always see the other end, kids who are in rehabilitation."

Police Chief Daryl Gates, who brought Mrs. Reagan to the raid, said she had expressed an interest previously in going on a drug bust but was unable to do so as first lady because of security concerns.

The raid took place in the city's beleaguered central section, where gangs such as the Crips and Bloods wage war on each other, often using semiautomatic weapons such as the AR-47 to carry out their vendettas.

Police arrested 14 people and seized a small quantity of what they believed to be crystalline rock cocaine as Mrs. Reagan watched. Earlier in the evening, police said she witnessed undercover officers making drug purchases.

"It's awful to see when you think that these people have no lives. It's very sad," she said, remarking on the arrests and the house's sparse furnishings.

Gates said the house was called a "rock house" and a "smoke house" because drug users would use it as a location for smoking cocaine. The name is derived from the crystalline "rocks" of cocaine peddled and from the fortifications which are often installed in such homes by drug dealers.

"We gave her the opportunity to see what the dope trade was about," Gates said. "She was right there when the SWAT team went in."

She did not talk to any of those arrested, but one of them said, "Hello Mrs. Reagan."

"Now, it's too late for them," she said. "What a waste. What wasted lives."

Mrs. Reagan, 65, who made the war against drugs a cornerstone of Reagan administration policy, has continued her anti-drug activities since she returned to the West Coast with former President Reagan.

One bystander, Elliott Davis, 21, said his sister was among those arrested.

"If it's going to help, I think it's good," he said of the raid and Mrs. Reagan's involvement. "I hope she talks to the people who are using, because I think she'd be an inspiration."

A crowd of about 50 people gathered after the raid. Some among them started calling out: "Nancy, Nancy Reagan." A few made gestures associated with street gang membership, but most were well behaved.

Commenting on security procedures employed for the raid, Gates quipped, "I'm sure the Secret Service agents have aged about ten years."

Mrs. Reagan interjected, "Along with my husband," who was home in Bel-Air.

Soviets plan to shut 2 weapons reactors

LONDON (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev promised today to make deep cuts in the Soviet military and announced he will close two more nuclear reactors that produce weapons-grade plutonium.

Climaxing a 40-hour visit to Britain with a strong appeal for world disarmament, Gorbachev listed Soviet reductions in military spending and production but warned the process could falter if the West did not reciprocate.

Speaking amid the pagantry of London's ancient Guildhall, the city's seat of government for 1,000 years, the Soviet president said the world has reached a crossroad in which it has to choose between peaceful interdependency and "a policy of force rooted in the past."

"If NATO goes ahead with its program of modernizing tactical nuclear weapons," he said, "this is bound also to devalue much of what has been achieved under the INF treaty" on medium-range nuclear weapons that he signed with President Ronald Reagan in 1987.

Gorbachev said in addition to the 1987 shutdown of an industrial reactor for the production of weapons grade plutonium, "we are planning to shut down two other such reactors this year and next year without commissioning new units to replace them."

"This is yet another major step toward the complete cessation of production of fissionable materials for use in weapons," he said in a 27-minute speech, less than half the length of those he often gives at home.

"We have completed the construction of a facility for the destruction of chemical weapons and intend to invite soon your representatives to visit it," Gorbachev said.

Reiterating earlier promises, the Soviet leader said armed forces would be reduced by 15 percent, the military budget by 14 percent and weapons production by nearly 20 percent. Military factories are being switched to production of consumer goods, and military transport planes would be redeployed to carry civilian cargoes, he said.

"He said the new Supreme Soviet, a legislative body to be selected by the recently elected parliament, will publish the nation's defense budget, most of which is now concealed. But he said the table's non-convertibility makes comparison with Western military expenditures difficult and "we are looking for the most appropriate way of presenting our data."

Gorbachev's speech, broadcast live throughout Britain and on CNN in the United States, got a standing ovation from the financial, political and civic leaders at Guildhall and a ringing endorsement by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Having sat before him listening to the speech, she called him "one of those rare people who has the vision, the boldness and the sheer power of personality to change the whole future of his country and to have a profound effect on the wider world as well."

"We want you to succeed in your task," she said. "We're ready to help in practical ways."

On Thursday, Gorbachev complimented Mrs. Thatcher that the Bush administration's review of U.S. foreign policy was delaying important talks on nuclear arms reductions.

The 2 1/2-month-old U.S. foreign policy review threatens the momentum of the talks, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy I. Gerasimov told reporters after the leaders met for four hours Thursday.

President Bush ordered the foreign policy review after he took office in January. U.S. officials said the review would be completed by the end of the year.

In a ceremony inside Westminster Abbey, Gorbachev and two Soviet soldiers laid the wreath of red carnations on the tomb of an unknown British soldier killed in France in World War I.

Afterward, Gorbachev got out of his armored limousine to wade into a crowd of bystanders and shake hands.

A Thatcher spokesman, speaking to a group of reporters, said the two "love arguing."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIMES FIVE — Kim Davis and his wife, Michele, try to hold on to their quintuplets Thursday in Manchester, N.H., as the children celebrated their first birthday. The children, from left: Mathew, Emily, Natolie, Phillip and Jessica, were all together for the first time since they were born due to medical problems.

Abortion backers plan major march

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the stakes higher than at any time since the Supreme Court legalized abortion, women's rights activists are trying to reshape the debate with a march on the nation's capital expected to be their largest ever.

"It's going to be big, we hope big enough for the Supreme Court to take notice," said Molly Yard, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

The goal is to make the weekend a turning point in the national abortion debate. Organizers feel anti-abortion forces have focused the question on when life begins. Pro-choice advocates say the issue really is whether the government should intervene in what they believe should be a private decision.

"Nobody likes abortion. It's a difficult choice and there are a lot of issues that women have to weigh when faced with a crisis pregnancy," Michelman said. "Women don't have abortions they want, they have abortions they need."

Organizers are reluctant to predict the size of the demonstration, but they expect it will be far larger than a March 1986 pro-abortion rally of about 90,000 in Washington.

At least one anti-abortion group plans to mount a counterdemonstration of up to 200 people on the day of the march.

This weekend's march is intended to send a strong message to the Supreme Court justices considering a Missouri case that could reverse or severely limit the high court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion. Oral arguments in the case are scheduled for later this month.

The Reagan administration pushed to overturn Roe vs. Wade and failed, but President Bush is continuing the pressure. As one of his first acts as president in January, Bush addressed by telephone an anti-abortion rally of about 65,000 outside the White House.

"He has thrown down the gauntlet," Yard said.

March organizers say women are responding with what they believe will be a record outpouring of support. Since the 1986 march, the number of organizations endorsing the march has doubled to more than 400 and the number of college campuses participating also has doubled.

"It's going to reshape the debate on abortion," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Fund for the Feminist Majority. "Until now, everybody said the other side (anti-abortion) is a minority but it's stronger and has more political clout. You can't say that any more. We're going to show a tremendous outpouring of commitment and feeling."

Oil heads to national park

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — Oil from the Exxon Valdez threatened a national park and crossed through barriers protecting fisheries as the White House considered drafting the Army for the losing environmental battle in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

The nation's worst crude oil spill in its third week, others joined in the call for the federal government to take control of the much-criticized cleanup. Exxon made a second public apology and the tanker's captain made bail on his ship as he was drunk when he struck the ground.

The Good Friday spill of 11 million gallons has killed thousands of seabirds and oiled the snowy landscape on the central Alaskan coast. Fishermen have lost millions of dollars.

And despite cleanup efforts by industry, government and private citizens, the spill has spread to more than 2,800 square miles.

"It's just immense," Jim Hayden, who is coordinating the cleanup for the state, said Thursday. "I don't think a spill of this size is controllable."

Alyaska Pipeline Service Co., the consortium of oil companies that owns and operates the 800-mile trans-Alaska oil pipeline and the Valdez terminal, announced Thursday that it would immediately begin requiring random drug and alcohol testing aboard all vessels using the terminal.

Alyaska also said it would require tugboat escorts for all entering and departing vessels to a point beyond Bligh Reef, where the Exxon Valdez ran aground.

Late Thursday the oily sheen was reported lapping at the rocks on islands near Kenai Fjords National Park, a remote refuge 100 miles southwest of Valdez.

Ron Smith, a spokesman for a federal-state cleanup effort, said new booms were being put up to protect the area of inlets and fjords.

Closer to the spill site, local fishermen continued their fight to save the salmon fishery at three-mile-long Sawmill Bay, using fishing nets to corral the fish and "super suckers" vacuum trucks to remove it and protect

Document shows Bush had a role in aiding Contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — A document produced in Oliver North's trial sheds new light on George Bush's role in the Iran-Contra affair, showing that he helped the Reagan administration effort to support the Nicaraguan Contras despite a ban on U.S. aid.

The document, read to the Iran-Contra jury by North's defense attorneys, placed Bush at a May 1985 meeting in Honduras with then-President Roberto Suazo. It says Bush informed Suazo of President Reagan's decision to speed U.S. military and economic aid to the country.

What set up the Bush meeting were behind-the-scenes discussions among North and other U.S. officials on a plan to seek assistance from other countries to tide over the Nicaraguan rebels at a time when direct or indirect American assistance was outlawed by Congress.

A preface to the document said "the United States has admitted for purposes of this trial the following facts to be true," and it went on to list the details of the secret covert support program worked.

In effect, the Reagan program established a "quid pro quo" relationship basing U.S. assistance to Honduras and some other countries at least in part on those countries' willingness to help sustain the Contra fighting force.

There was no indication that Bush cited this linkage in his meeting with Suazo. But in earlier testimony, former national security adviser Robert McFarlane had said the aid was part of a secret agreement calling for Honduras, in return, to help the Contras.

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BUSINESS

'Second Civil War' averted in S&L vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional panel rejected an attempt to force Texas and other states with lax regulations to help pay for the savings and loan mess, after being warned that the provision could start a "second Civil War."

Meeting as regulatory agencies made two announcements underscoring the urgency of swift action, the House Banking subcommittee on financial institutions on Thursday also decided to permit regulators to charge higher deposit insurance premiums to institutions engaged in speculative lending.

By a 27-20 vote, the subcommittee authorized the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to raise rates to levy higher premiums against S&Ls and banks making high-risk investments.

The Bush administration opposes the measure. It is trying to prevent delay of its S&L rescue package by deferring ticklish deposit insurance issues until the completion of an 18-month study.

The FDIC said it took over 38 institutions, bringing the total number of S&Ls under its supervision to 215 in 31 states. The agency is attempting to hold losses down at the sickest S&Ls until Congress appropriates the money to close or merge them.

Meanwhile, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board said the industry suffered \$9.4 billion in withdrawals in February, the 10th consecutive month of outflows and down only slightly from the \$10.6 billion record in January.

The House subcommittee, in the first of three scheduled all-day sessions, stogged through 48 of 183 proposed amendments, adopting two that would increase the power of the FDIC over S&Ls and deny the Bush administration some of the political control it had sought over the agency.

But it was a push by Northern legislators to force Texas, California, Florida and other states with lax regulation of state-chartered S&Ls to pay part of the bailout cost that generated the most heated debate.

The panel voted 38-7 against an amendment sponsored by Reps. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-Pa., and Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, requiring states with high numbers of state-chartered thrift failures to contribute 20 percent of the cost of bailing them out.

The measure drew considerable sympathy, but committee members argued against it for political reasons.

"This would have sent the bill to Fort Sumter. It would have started the second Civil War," said Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, argued that attaching punitive measures to the S&L bill could draw a veto from President Bush.

"All I ask the people here is, with this provision, is there a slight chance that a Texan in the White House will sign it?" Kanjorski and Kaptur argued that Texas will get the lion's share of the bailout, \$3 billion, representing \$1.86 for every man, woman and child in the state.

Merger approved

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department says it will not oppose the proposed merger of Time, Inc., and Warner Communications, Inc., to create the world's largest entertainment and media conglomerate.

Assistant Attorney General Charles F. Rule said Thursday that a month-long investigation of the proposed merger by the Justice Department's antitrust division concluded that the merger would not substantially lessen competition in any relevant market.

"What we know suggests the merger is not anti-competitive and does not violate the law," said Rule, who is in charge of antitrust division.

The investigation began after the March 4 announcement by Time and Warner of the stock swap that would create an \$18 billion company, combining the magazine publishing and cable television operations of Time with Warner's recording and movie production interests.

Rule said the antitrust division carefully examined the possible integration of Warner's movie and television production operations with Time's cable-television distribution systems.

Coleco offers new plan

HARTFORD (AP) — The board of directors of Coleco Industries Inc., once one of the nation's largest toy companies, has voted to amend its bankruptcy reorganization plan to head off complaints that the company is not offering its unsecured creditors adequate compensation.

Morton S. Handel, chairman of Coleco's board of directors, said the new plan, announced Thursday, "is intended to satisfy the needs expressed by the unsecured creditors" during bankruptcy proceedings in New York federal court.

The Avon, Conn.-based company, which makes Cabbage Patch Dolls and other toys, filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act in July 1988.

Coleco's unsecured creditors have criticized a reorganization plan filed by the company in January, saying it did not offer them enough compensation.

U.S. District Judge Prudence B. Abram, who is presiding over the bankruptcy proceedings, said last month Coleco should not be surprised that most creditors objected strongly to the original plan.

Abram said, "I can't think of another plan where I've seen the unsecured creditors so wholly wiped out as they are in this case."

A statement released by the board of directors Thursday said the amended plan would "represent a substantial improvement for the unsecured creditors," who include bondholders, manufacturers and advertising agencies. Coleco owes them more than \$400 million.

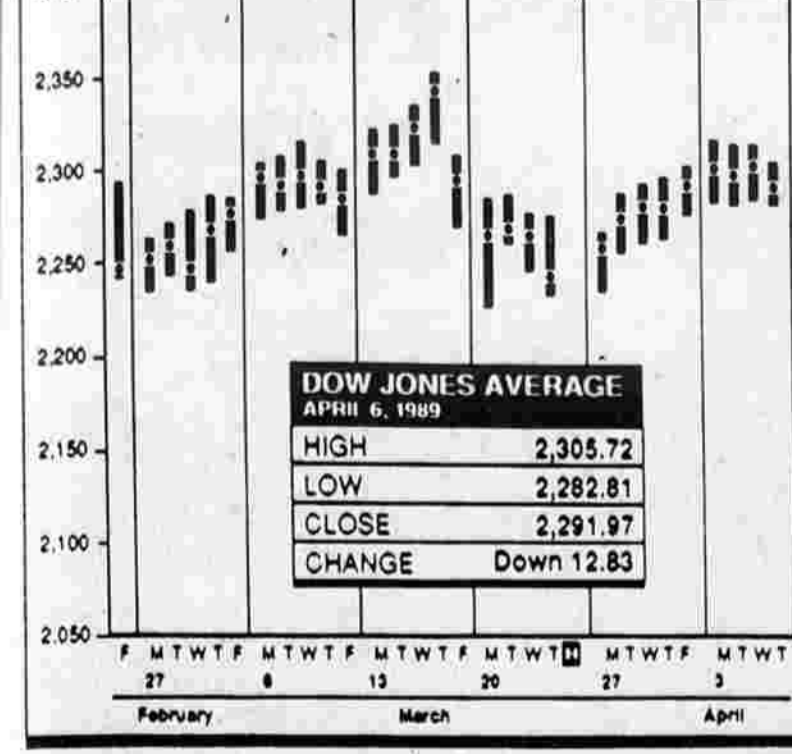
Under the proposed amendment, which must still be approved by the federal bankruptcy court, the unsecured creditors will receive stock in Coleco, giving them ownership of about 37 percent of the company.

Handel said the unsecured creditors will also receive a package of "other securities, cash, notes and other debt instruments."

The amendment also calls for the secured creditors, those first in line for repayment, to convert their current claim of about \$80 million dollars into Coleco common stock, giving them 60 percent ownership of the company.

MARKET REPORT

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Ueberroth needs union concessions

NEW YORK (AP) — After days of intense negotiations with Texas Air Corp., Peter V. Ueberroth must wrangle with Eastern Airlines' rebellious unions and wrest concessions that Eastern boss Frank Lorenzo was unable to get.

A group led by Ueberroth agreed Thursday to buy strike-bound Eastern for about \$44 million. The deal would give Eastern's 30,000 employees a 30 percent stake in the airline in exchange for about \$210 million in contract concessions.

Ueberroth, the former baseball commissioner, flew to Washington immediately after a hastily called news conference Thursday afternoon and met with representatives of Eastern's unions. The talks were to resume this morning, said sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

Union officials said they hoped the deal could end the month-old walkout at the nation's seventh-largest airline and get Eastern flying a full schedule.

But some daunting hurdles remain for the deal, announced by Ueberroth and Lorenzo, chair-

man of Eastern's parent Texas Air Corp. Eastern's major creditors and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court must approve it. In addition, the deal requires Eastern to reach new work agreements with its three unions by midnight Tuesday.

Ueberroth's group is seeking about \$10 million in pay cuts and work-rate concessions from the unions, sources close to the situation said. Lorenzo had sought \$12.5 million in concessions.

"Under this agreement Eastern can be back flying in very short order," Lorenzo said at the 24-hour news conference. Eastern is prepared to be back flying within 24 hours after agreement is reached with the unions.

The Miami-based carrier has been virtually grounded since March 4 by the machinists' strike. It was supported by pilots and flight attendants and drove Eastern to file for bankruptcy protection and reorganization on March 9.

To sum it up, it's a mammoth challenge, said Ueberroth, who organized the 1984 Summer

Olympics in Los Angeles. "I'm convinced that there is a spirit amongst the people in the company that I can help bring together to help this airline."

Although Texas Air has endorsed the Ueberroth plan, others still might submit competing proposals to the bankruptcy court.

Nevertheless, the Ueberroth deal was greeted with cheers by union members, who have vilified Lorenzo as a union buster. At a crowded union hall in Miami, members chanted "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Lorenzo's got to go" and sang "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" as they heard of the sale.

Union leaders were more cautious. "We're reviewing the documents and we'll be making a decision very shortly," said Charles Bryan, head of the machinists' local at Eastern, who was in Washington for the talks with Ueberroth.

Jack Bavis, chairman of Eastern's pilots union, said his group was encouraged by the development and looked forward to

working with Ueberroth. In New York, Lorenzo told reporters that under the proposed purchase Texas Air would get about \$200 million cash, would be forgiven \$185 million that it owes to Eastern and would get \$79 million worth of Eastern assets.

A union analysis, on the other hand, reckons the value of Texas Air debt owed to Eastern at \$288.6 million. The debt includes loans to Texas Air and Eastern's sister carrier, Continental Airlines, to buy gates at airports in Newark, N.J., Houston and Cleveland, and for aircraft purchases.

Eastern is saddled with about \$3.2 billion in debt. The \$79 million in asset transfers — which the unions have vocally opposed — would include Eastern's New York-Montreal route plus eight landing slots and one gate at New York's LaGuardia Airport as well as \$28 million in unspecified assets.

Ueberroth and partner Thomas Talbot, a former airline executive from California, would own 30 percent of the airline.

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