

Minneapolis

STAR and Tribune

1A Metro

Wednesday

April 7, 1982

4 Sections C

25¢ Single copy

Volume 11 Number 31

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Impasse reached in swap of U.S., state programs

By Robert Pear
New York Times

Washington, D.C. — Officials at the White House and the National Governors Association said Tuesday that after months of negotiations they had reached an impasse in writing legislation transferring welfare and food stamp programs to the states in exchange for federal assumption of all Medicaid costs.

That transfer is at the heart of President Reagan's New Federalism initiative. "That part of the New Federalism is not going anywhere," said Bernard Chabel, a spokesman for the governors' association. An administration official confirmed that judgment, saying, "We are finished thinking about draft legislation for the swap this year."

The governors repeatedly have said that welfare, food stamps and Medicaid all should be federal responsibilities. Reagan believes that welfare and food stamps should be state or local responsibilities.

A working group that was supposed to develop specifications for a New Federalism bill has not met since early March, federal officials said. The deadline for drafting the specifications was March 16, but little progress has been made.

Edwin Dale, a spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget, said, "It's obvious from a look at the calendar that the timing has slipped." The administration had said it would submit legislation to Congress early this month to carry out the president's proposal on Medicaid, welfare and food stamps. That proposal represented the conceptual heart of the New Federalism.

While "the idea of a swap is not dead," one official said, the administration has no plans to press for the necessary legislation.

The working group, led by Donald Meera, associate director of the budget office, concluded that it was impossible to specify details of a bill in the absence of any agreement with the governors on basic principles, administration officials said.

Reagan has staked much of his prestige on the New Federalism initiative. Since he advanced the proposals in his State of the Union Message on Jan. 28, administration officials have issued a series of optimistic statements that tend to minimize the large technical problems in the change of Medicaid for welfare and food stamps.

Negotiators for the White House and the governors said they still were trying to reach agreement on specific federal grant programs that might be "turned back" to the states, together with a guaranteed source of financing, known as the "Federalism trust fund." The administration still wants to draft a bill embodying this aspect of the New Federalism.

As outlined by Reagan, the turnback would include 43 federal education, transportation, social-service and community-development programs.

Meanwhile, Puerto Rican officials asked the Agriculture Department yesterday for permission to end their food stamp program and replace it with a system of cash grants.

Swap continued on page 6A

The Metrodome made a cozy oyster for Pearl Bailey . . .



Staff Photo by Tom Sweeney

Entertainer Pearl Bailey sang the national anthem along with a sellout crowd for the Twins' opening game Tuesday night.

. . . but some preferred open spaces



Staff Photo by Martin Leviton

Talking members of the group called "Save the Met" played softball at the old stadium yesterday afternoon.

Dome traffic is winner in 1st big test; not so Twins

By Dennis Cassano
and Paul Klenda
Staff Writers

Traffic movement to and from the Metrodome Tuesday night for the Twins' opener "went smoother than I thought it would," city traffic engineer David Koki said last night.

Things weren't so smooth for the Twins inside the new stadium, however, where the visiting Seattle Mariners dumped the home team 11-7.

The only major traffic problem occurred after the game on Washington Ave., where there are three bottlenecks, he said. The first is the half-road viaduct at Park Ave., where two lanes of traffic narrow to one lane; the second is between 6th and 11th Ave., where pedestrians crossed the avenue to get to cars and hopped parked in two large parking lots; and the third is the entrance to the freeway system near Seven Corners.

Koki said people who wanted to get onto I-35W north- or southbound used Washington Ave.

"People have to learn to use alternate routes," he said. While waiting, traffic continued on page 6A

It's take me IN to ball game for snow victims

By Jay Wetzer
Staff Writer

The Metrodome will serve as a covered haven for two baseball teams frozen out of season opening games by this spring's cold spell.

The Toronto Blue Jays and Chicago White Sox, victims of snow in Chicago and Detroit, will meet to practice games today and Thursday at the Metrodome.

dom.

The Blue Jays were to play games in Tiger Stadium Tuesday, today and tomorrow. The White Sox were to be hosts in Boston on those days.

"We wanted to keep playing," said Pat Gillick, the Blue Jays vice president for baseball operations, who said the decision to camp out in Minneapolis was made yesterday morning and will cost his club about \$25,000.

"We'll have a domed stadium within five years in Toronto, I hope," Gillick said.

The Blue Jays are now scheduled to open their regular season at home Friday afternoon against the Milwaukee Brewers. The weather in Toronto? "Snow," said Gillick. The White Sox will start in New York Friday.

The teams will each pay the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission \$3,000 for their temporary use of the Metrodome, commission director Don Pove said, adding, "We got a little national publicity out of it."

Today's White Sox-Blue Jays practice game at the dome, expected to start at 11:30 a.m., will be open to the public.

"We don't want to detract from the attraction of the Twins and Seattle," said Gillick. Thursday's practice game will follow the Twins' 12:15 p.m. game with the Mariners. Ticketholders for that regular season game will be permitted to remain in the dome to watch the Sox and Jays.

Record snow, cold strike northern part of country, Page 6A.

Assistant county attorney held in prescription forgery

By Paul McEavre
Staff Writer

Charles Sweetland, a 39-year-old assistant Hennepin County attorney, is known to his family and fellow workers as an aggressive guy, a lawyer used to handling tough and intricate cases.

But Charles Sweetland also has a problem: drugs. It is a problem his wife says he picked up after being severely wounded in Vietnam, and it is a problem that led Minneapolis police to arrest him Monday on suspicion of forging a prescription to buy a dozen cocaine pills valued at \$6. Forging a prescription is a felony.

Police said Sweetland was arrested after a dispute with a Minneapolis police narcotics officer Monday afternoon outside Dale's Pharmacy, 41 S. 19th St. Police said he used a fake name in an attempt to buy the drugs. He is now in St. Mary's Hospital under observation.

County Attorney Tom Johnson said, "Charles has been chemically dependent and is severely pain off and on, but he was doing a super job—just a hard-aggressive worker assigned a lot of tough cases. He has offered to resign because of this but I told him I wouldn't accept it. I'm glad to see him getting help even though it was as a result of tragic circumstances."

will enough to come back to work, he would not be allowed to handle criminal cases until his own case had been settled. He said that Sweetland could face indictment if convicted.

According to Doug Jackson, manager of the pharmacy, a man calling himself Dr. John Moe called in a prescription for a dozen cocaine pills Monday morning for a patient named Richard Green. Jackson said he was told it was to ease the patient's back pain.

"He gave me a Drug Enforcement Administration number . . . but something didn't check out," Jackson recalled. "I always thought the pills were continued on page 5A.

Almanac

Wednesday, April 7, 1982
97th day; 266 to go this year
Sunrise: 5:43. Sunset: 6:43.

Today's weather
Flaky

Snow is expected to develop in the Twin Cities this afternoon and continue into the night. Today's high will be in the mid 30s.

Other highs: Minneapolis, 30c; North Dakota, 30c; South Dakota, 26c into the 30s; Wisconsin, near 40.

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Obituaries 14B Weather 13C

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272-4103 (Continued)

Thatcher refuses requests to resign

From News Services

London, England
Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she would not resign Tuesday that she would not resign over the Falkland Islands crisis.

"Now is the time for strength and resolution," Thatcher told a rousing crowd of Labor Party critics and Conservative supporters in the House of Commons, repeating her determination to restore British sovereignty to the island chain seized by Argentina late last week. "With regard to resignation, no," she said.

To underline her determination, Thatcher announced that Britain was buying all weapons from Argentina, battle arm sales to that country

and withholding new credits. Britain also asked its partners in the Common Market to join in the boycott.

(Thatcher underscored about what to do when fleet arrives, Page 1B.)

If approved, the trade and financial sanctions would be the most extensive the Common Market has taken against another country.

The British request was made at a meeting of Common Market ambassadors at its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and received what diplomats described as a "sympathetic" initial response, although other ambassadors said they needed time to consult their governments.

Falklands continued on page 5A