news roundup

World

US-Soviet talks opened — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko met in New York Tuesday to discuss issues on which the two sides disagree. Although neither of the two diplomats spoke with reporters after the conference, a spokesman for the State Department confirmed that one of the topics discussed at the meeting was the resumption of arms talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. Details of the agreements made Tuesday are scheduled to be released today.

Study shows Soviet nuclear superiority in Europe — The Soviet Union has an underlying nuclear edge over the United States in Europe, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Christopher Bertram, director of the private London-based group, attributed the Russian edge to a "modernization of nuclear forces on the Soviet side in Europe. The group noted a world-wide strategic balance between the two superpowers, however, observing that both countries were observing the provisions of SALT II, even though the treaty was never approved by the United States.

Nation

Reagan addresses nation, announces new cuts — In his fifth national-wide speech, President Ronald W. Reagan promised last night to "stand fast and hold firm" in his fiscal program. Reagan revealed his second round of budget cuts, which include a 12 percent across-the-board decrease in the Federal budget. Also in the program are the closings of the Department of Education and the Department of Energy, as well as the layoff of 75,000 Federal workers. Reagan also announced a reduction in Federal loan guarantees and a cut in Federal social program funds.

O'Connor confirmed as Supreme Court Justice — By a vote of 99 to 1 with 1 record absent, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor, the first female to be chosen to sit on the High Court, will take the oath of office today and will begin her tenure when the Court reconvenes on the first Monday in October.

Shuttle liftoff delayed — Nitric acid spilled down the side of the space shuttle Wednesday morning, loosing dozens of the vehicle's protective tiles. The second launch of Columbia, scheduled for October 5, will have to be postponed for at least five days while the tiles are reattached. The delay could be several weeks, however, if the vehicle needs to be removed from the launch pad to reattach the damaged tiles, in which case the shuttle would be returned to the hangar. No one was injured in the mishap.

Local

Delays reported in shuttle flights — Air traffic in the heavily-traveled Northeast Corridor, which links Boston, Washington, and New York, as well as the cities in between, is said to be worsening in the wake of recent weather and the Air Traffic Controllor's strike. The traffic is causing massive delays in flights including the Eastern Air-Shuttle, the most popular service in the Corridor, sometimes causing delays of up to one hour along affected routes.

Alice doesn't serve here anymore — Alice's Restaurant of movie fame hasn't been open for sale at a price of $22,500. The restaurant, made famous in the mid-1960's by Arlo Guthrie, went out of business two years ago.

Weather

Any clouds this morning will give way to sunny skies this afternoon. Northerly winds will be diminishing during the day and highs will be near 68. Becoming partly cloudy overnight with light winds. Lows will be near 48. Skies on Saturday will be partly to mostly cloudy with the high near 68. Becoming partly cloudy overnight with light winds. Lows will be near 50. Any clouds this morning will give way to sunny skies this afternoon.

Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor, the first female to be chosen to sit on the High Court, will take the oath of office today and will begin her tenure when the Court reconvenes on the first Monday in October.

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