Rehnquist and Scalia confirmed
The Senate confirmed the nomination of William H. Rehnquist as the country's 16th chief justice last Wednesday night.luvenal 225, the Senate had announced two days before that it would confirm the nomination. Scalia, who was a Virginia federal judge, was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 90-0. His nomination was not due to strong opposition from any on the Senate floor. (The Boston Globe)

DuPont launches presidential bid
Pierre S. du Pont, former Delaware governor, on Tuesday announced his formal candidacy for the presidency in 1988. DuPont becomes the first major-party candidate to enter the 1988 presidential race.

DuPont, who was a moderate Republican governor from 1977 to 1985, proposed drug testing for students in school, mandatory government employment at 90 percent of the minimum wage for welfare recipients, and an end to federal involvement in the agricultural marketplace.

DuPont supports President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative but is opposed to the MX missile system. He believes the US should adopt a more mobile nuclear capacity with greater reliance on advanced cruise missiles. (The Boston Globe)

Congress hears Aquino
Philippine president Corazon Aquino addressed a joint session of Congress in Washington yesterday. Aquino vowed to stand up to the communist guerrillas in her country. Within hours of her speech, the House of Representatives passed a bill giving the Philippines $2.36 billion in economic aid. Aquino will speak at Boston's Faneuil Hall Saturday night. Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. says Aquino's Aquino's speech was the finest he has heard in his 34 years in Congress. Aquino likened herself to Abraham Lincoln during the US Civil War. She said she did not relish war, but will do "whatever it takes to defend the integrity and freedom of my country." (The Boston Globe)

Aquino's critics were unable to get enough support for a bill to tighten the Federal Anti-Terrorism Act. The bill failed to pass the House when Gregory Pryor made good on his promise to shut down the House floor. (The Boston Globe)

A Senate committee commenced the first impeachment trial in 20 years yesterday; Harry Clackersh, the chief US district judge for Nevada, is currently serving a two-year prison term for income tax evasion. Furthermore, he is also receiving nearly $76,000 in salary for the judgeship he refuses to resign from. (AP)

ACLU opposes mandatory drug tests
President Reagan's plan for mandatory drug testing of some government employees is running into opposition from several federal employee unions and the American Civil Liberties Union. The groups are questioning the legality of the executive order, which requires drug tests of employees in "sensitive" areas. The ACLU predicts the courts will overturn the plan. Reagan also endorses a controversial measure that calls for the death penalty for some drug-related offenses. Budge of other federal projects would be reduced by $500 million to pay for the measures. (AP)

Reagan intensifies drug war
President Reagan outlined a plan yesterday that called for tougher penalties for drug traffickers, mandatory fines for drug possessors, and mandatory prison terms for repeat offenders. Reagan, who won the Republican presidential nomination last week, said he would not raise strong opposition from any on the Senate floor. (The Boston Globe)

French crackdown on terrorism
A bomb exploded in a crowded police station in downtown Paris Wednesday, just one day after France began a two-day deadline for the Palestinians to leave Lebanon or face war. The claim was seeking release of a convicted terrorist. The claim was made in Lebanon by a group that also claimed responsibility for all four bombings has been claimed by a group that left a message on the tape saying its members were the "Revenge and Justice Movement." (AP)

Train strike enters cooling off period
Commuters north and west of Boston apparently will not have to worry about an imminent renewal of a train strike. A 60-day federal cooling off period in a contract dispute between rail unions and the company that operates commuter trains ends at midnight. But the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted today to impose a full contract by the union and the counseling and Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees President Ken Jones. The action means his union won't strike tomorrow. (AP)

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