Senate committee votes to halt Contra aid

Democrats in the Senate yesterday moved closer to cutting off US aid to Nicaraguan rebels. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee narrowly voted Wednesday to halt support, mostly due to the threat of a cutoff by the House.

The vote was the first major blow to the administration's Central American policy since the Iran-Contra fiasco. It reflects the growing concern that the policy has further endangered the United States. The bill would end so-called "freedom aid" for the fiscal year — but would provide $300 million in new aid to Central American nations. The bill now goes to the full Senate. (AP)

President rescinds Polish sanctions

It's business as usual with Poland, as President Reagan yesterday lifted economic sanctions against the Soviet bloc nation. The US imposed the punitive measures in 1981 and 1982, when Polish authorities declared martial law to stem the Solidarity labor movement. Since then, martial law has been lifted and many political prisoners have been released. But Reagan also said Poland's actions should continue. (AP)

CIA nominee seeking confirmation faces hostile Senate panel

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Two jailed Soviet dissidents reported close to freedom

The Soviets have reportedly freed one dissident and may release another. Pro-independence Nation of Kazakhstan 52-year-old Mirzaev has been freed and is now at home, according to fellow dissident Valery Bronner — who said he spoke with his friend. Bronner was imprisoned in 1981 after accusing the Soviet government of sending critics of the Kremlin to mental hospitals. (AP)

Winter wanes...

As the days get longer, the sun grows stronger. There's exactly 14 hours of light in Cambridge. The arctic air that brought the unusually cold weather to the Cambridge area hasn't moved much in the past week, but has been moderated by the sun. The sun, which has been strikingly higher in the sky since late December, is now in a position to help moderate temperatures some of the time. But don't expect sunny days with shirt sleeves anytime soon. (AP)

Filipino former football stargear calls for sex education

The 47-year-old graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School in Guam, Joey de Leon says he should be a role model for students in the country. He says that he planned to organize a school committee to educate older students about sex education. (AP)

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