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NATIONAL-AFFAIRS

Reagan Cuts, Chops And Slashes More

Ronald Reagan and his men worked the jawbone hard last week, telling everyone who would listen that they mean business on their economic package. Reagan promised, once again, to "put Washington on a diet," excoriating "selfish interest groups" that oppose his budget cuts and told Walter Cronkite that he had no intention of horse-trading with Congress. Budget director David Stockman pored over his computer print-outs for the $10.9 billion in extra cuts the Administration plans to announce this week. And in a burst of damn-a-recession defiance, he warned that if the "economy should slump to a semiconscious state at Washington on next week, telling everyone their social security beneficiaries' savings of $300 million from a supplemental-nutrition program for poor pregnant women and infants: and lopping $250 million from a supplemental-nutrition program for poor pregnant women and infants: and lopping $250 million from a supplemental-nutrition program for poor preg

MERRILL SHEILS with Washington bureau reports

Crowded Contests For Two House Seats

She is one of Maryland's most popular politicians, a champion of saving the nation's mass transit and Federal employees. Indeed, Gladys Noon Spellman, 63, was overwhelmingly elected to a fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives last fall— even as she lay unconscious, the victim of a massive heart attack that struck four days before the election. Spellman remains in a semicoconscious state at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; and with doctors there offering little hope for her recovery, the House late last month declared her seat vacant. In the honorable tradition of political spouses, Spellman's 71-year-old husband, Reuben, is now running to fill out her term. But the special election for Spellman's seat has turned into a free-for-all, with a dozen Democrats jockeying for the party's nomination in the April 7 primary.*

*Some Maryland politiicians predict that Spellman will win much of her wife's support in the heavily Democratic district. But the retired Defense Department engineer, who has had two heart attacks himself, is a political novice with little experience at—or taste for—campaigning. He faces strong opposition from 41-year-old Steny Hoyer, a former state senator who has forged an effective Democratic organization and has the support of labor and blacks. Right-to-life groups and veterans, meanwhile, favor conservative Democrat Edward T. Conroy, 52, a state legislator. On the Republican side, 24-year-old Lawrence J. Hogan Jr. leads a field of six even though he is currently too young to serve in Congress; if he wins the general election in May, Hogan will have to wait one week—until he turns 25—to be sworn in. Hogan's powerful father, Prince Georges County executive Lawrence J. Hogan, held Spellman's seat from 1969 to 1974 and is using all his clout to win it back for the family and the party.

Republicans hold a decisive edge in Michigan's Fourth District, where yet another crowded contest is under way. Eleven candidates are vying to replace three-term winner David Stockman, who resigned in January to become Ronald Reagan's budget director. A seven-way race for the GOP primary on March 24 features Stockman's former campaign chairman, John Globen

Carlson: Blacks are 'incompatible'

MELINDA BECK with JAMES DOYLE in Washington and JACOB YOUNG in Detroit

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