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broke up and President Duarte decided to fight to keep his post. Page 15.

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Nuclear arms opponents are enlisting the professions in their campaign to carry their message to the nation. Page 20.

Most Jewish settlers departed from the northern Sinai, leaving behind a hard core of militants. Page 20.

A once-popular singer is the prisoner of a disorder that

makes her allergic to almost everything. Page 23.

U.S. industries pay widely differing effective rates of corporate income taxes, according to a private study. Page 26.

Stock prices eased slightly, but Kaiser Steel gained 4 points. Page 29.

Tip Toppers wear their height with pride, but tell gleefully of the disadvantages of being tall. Page 40.

Weather

Bay Area: Continued rain Thursday with some hail. Gale warning with northwesterly winds to 40 mph. Highs, 40s and 50s; lows, 30s and 40s. Chances for rain: 7 in 10 during the day, 3 in 10 tonight. Page 54.

Rating The Giants' Trades

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1982

777-1111 20 CENTS

Soviet Edge Cited

Reagan Urges U.S. Delay on Missile Freeze

Washington President Reagan proposed last night that the United States and the Soviet Union agree to a freeze in nuclear weapons — after the United States has overcome Moscow's "definite margin of superiority."

Reagan, described by aides as increasingly concerned about growing public support for an early nuclear freeze while the United States still lags behind the Russians, announced his proposal at the first press conference he has held in prime television time.

Reagan was grim-faced as he outlined his plan in a brief opening statement.

In response to a question, he said that the United States is vulnerable to a nuclear attack from the Soviet Union.

It would be possible for the United States to retaliate, he said, "but the Soviet edge is one that they could absorb our retaliatory blow and hit us again."

The president warmly endorsed a Senate resolution that calls for U.S.-Soviet negotiations to equalize the two countries' nuclear arsenals and then freeze them before negotiating for further reductions. He called the resolution "an important step in the right direction," and said that its elements were consistent with the administration's position.

The resolution, introduced by Senators Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., and John Warner, R-Va., and co-signed by 54 other senators, calls for either a U.S. buildup or a Soviet reduction before a freeze would be imposed.

Another measure, sponsored by Senators Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., and co-signed by 22 other senators and 146 House members, would impose a freeze at current levels and provide for subsequent reductions.

Supporters of the measure contend that the United States and the Russians have rough parity in nuclear arms, and that they could agree on a verifiable freeze and then negotiate reductions in arms.

The president, who has repeatedly warned that the United States is lagged far behind the Russians in nuclear-weapon development, rejected that contention.

Eugene V. Rostow, director of Back Page Col. 5

Reagan Ducks The Salvador Rightist Issue

Washington President Reagan said last night that if a new right-wing government takes over in El Salvador and turns away from social reform, "it would give us great difficulties." But he declined to say what he would do about it.

Reagan, at his news conference, put the emphasis on the massive turnout in national elections there last Sunday, and argued that U.S. thoughts about the election should turn on the Salvadorans' strong desire to vote.

Reagan said the election turnout showed "a real desire for democracy there." So he said he was optimistic and would avoid answering the question of what the United States would do if a new government jettisoned reform.

The divided outcome of the balloting has raised the prospect of a right-wing coalition that might repudiate the policies of President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

"We're watching this very carefully," Reagan said. "It would give us great difficulties if the government turned away from the reforms that have been instituted."

Senator Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., who headed a group of American observers in El Salvador for the elections, met earlier yesterday with Reagan to discuss the elections.

Later she told reporters that the massive turnout made the results undeniably the will of the people of El Salvador, but that the result might be a cutoff in U.S. aid.

"They voted. If that's what they want, (a rightist coalition) fine. They have to realize it may mean

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Avalanche Kills Three At Ski Resort in Sierra



A motorcyclist had difficulty on a snow-covered Interstate 80 overpass in Applegate

Slides, Floods in Bay Area

By Bill Wallace and Stephen Magagnoli

The biggest storm on record for early spring smashed into Northern California yesterday, triggering floods, mudslides and a series of avalanches that killed two Los Altos men and an unidentified third person at a ski resort near Lake Tahoe.

The avalanches at Alpine Meadows ski resort buried an unknown number of skiers as tons of snow roared down the slope. Three bodies were uncovered near the base of a ski lift next to the main lodge.

Late last night, Placer County sheriff's Lieutenant Eric Engeller identified two of the victims as David L. Hahn, 46, and Dr. Leroy J. Nelson, age unknown, both of Los Altos. He said both men were visitors to the resort, not employees.

Sergeant Bruce Johnson added that three to five employees may still be missing and an unknown number of people who were skiing or riding ski lifts during the avalanches may be buried beneath the snow.

"Deputies used search dogs to probe the snow," Johnson said. "There have been two confirmed injuries so far, but their extent and nature are not known."

"We really don't have any idea how many victims we are looking for now," he said.

The avalanche, which broke loose during howling winds, pushed a two-story building into the main lodge, and some employees may have been in the smaller structure at the time.

Kathleen Gerhardt at the Alpine Meadows Volunteer Fire Department said cars with people inside were buried in the parking lot. She said a second snow slide buried a California Highway Patrol car on nearby Highway 89.

A third avalanche blocked the access road to the lodge, she said, stopping all rescue attempts until

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Amtrak Plans L.A.-San Diego 'Bullet Train'

New York

Amtrak announced plans yesterday to build America's first "bullet train," a Japanese-style passenger train that would speed between Los Angeles and San Diego at 160 mph.

The project will be developed by American High Speed Rail Corp., a private company formed by Amtrak.

Lawrence Gilson, president of the new firm and a vice president of Amtrak, said the trains would go into service in about six years. Test Back Page Col. 1

2 State Sea Preserves Spared From Drilling

Washington

The Reagan administration yesterday quietly abandoned more than a year's worth of effort to open two California offshore marine sanctuaries to oil and gas exploration.

Without fanfare or any public announcement, the Department of Commerce allowed prohibitions against oil and gas drilling to take effect for the Point Reyes and Farallon Island sanctuaries in Northern California and the Channel Islands sanctuary near Santa Barbara.

President Jimmy Carter had designated Channel Islands as a marine sanctuary in September of 1980, and Point Reyes and Farallon Islands the same five months later.

However, under prodding from the new interior secretary, James Watt, the Commerce Department suspended Carter's orders.

Representatives of the oil industry had asked both the Commerce Department's National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration and Congress to block prohibition on oil and gas development in the two areas.

In testimony before a House subcommittee last year, oil industry representatives said the ban unnecessarily restricted potential domestic oil and gas production. The industry representatives said the

areas could be explored safely.

But Michael Weber of the Center for Environmental Education, who has spent years fighting for the sanctuaries, said yesterday that suspension of the regulations "was simply a political subterfuge motivated by the American Petroleum Institute."

He said the prohibitions affected less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the entire outer continental shelf that is available for exploration outside the two sanctuaries. Earlier this month, Watt unveiled the Interior Department's five-year oil and gas development plan for the nation's outer continental shelf which could open as much as 1 billion acres of offshore land, including 37 million acres off California, to exploration.

A spokesman for the Com- Back Page Col. 4

Judge Cragen Dies — Heart Attack

Superior Court Judge Edward L. Cragen, an expert in criminal law and a man who loved people and went out of his way to help them, died at the age of 57 after suffering a heart attack in his chambers in City Hall.

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Basic Muni Fare Increases From 50 to 60 Cents Today

By Carl Nolte

Starting today, the basic fare goes up a dime to 60 cents on the San Francisco Municipal Railway.

Muni passengers are the first to be affected by a general round of Bay Area transit fare increases this year. Nearly every transit system in the region is planning higher fares by summer, ranging from a 25 percent increase on the Peninsula commute trains to a more modest

10-cent-a-ride boost on SamTrans.

Today's Muni fare increase is the second in two years, but it won't be the last. Muni officials say they expect to ask for higher fares again in 1984.

The new Muni fares affect all passengers, except the elderly and handicapped, who persuaded the Board of Supervisors to keep their

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