

Washington Times

★ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1991 / PAGE A9

Salvador, rebels sign agreement

By Gail Fitzer
REUTERS NEWS AGENCY

NEW YORK — The government of El Salvador and leftist rebels signed a breakthrough accord yesterday that is expected to lead to the end of the country's 11-year-old civil war.

"Representatives of the government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) have just signed a broad agreement on conditions and guarantees for the re-integration into society of members of the FMLN," said United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"It is my firm expectation that this agreement will break the deadlock in the negotiations."

Ten days of U.N.-mediated talks ended a deadlock in negotiations between the government of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and the FMLN.

Negotiations are now expected to continue next month toward a permanent cease-fire.

"Efforts leading toward agreements on all pending substantive matters and a brief, dynamic cease-fire are to resume shortly," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said.

Alvaro de Soto, assistant secretary-general and the chief negotiator in the U.N. talks, said that while the agreement did not constitute a cease-fire in the civil war that has left 75,000 people dead, he believed

the major stumbling block in the negotiations had been overcome.

Both sides in the conflict are interested in achieving a cease-fire before Mr. Perez de Cuellar leaves office at the end of the year.

One of the most controversial elements of the agreement pertains to the "purification" of the Salvadoran armed forces, which have repeatedly been accused of human rights abuses.

Mr. De Soto said the two sides had "solved some fairly important problems that will have to then be spelled out in agreements to be negotiated" at a later date on the issue of the Salvadoran army.

The agreement also establishes criteria for future negotiations on reduction of the Salvadoran armed forces, the doctrine of the armed forces and the educational system and professional training of the U.S.-backed army, Mr. de Soto said.

He said the agreement also established an "agenda and certain criteria" regarding a new national civilian police force and the "incorporation of new personnel on a non-discriminatory basis." The FMLN, which dropped its initial demands to be incorporated in the armed forces, will be included in the new police force, rebel sources said.

The accord also spells out "certain goals and commitments" on specific economic and social issues and sets up an agenda and principles for the upcoming negotiations, Mr. de Soto said.

Perez de Cuellar Holds Talks With Salvadoran President, Guerrillas

By **GAIL FITZER**
Reuters

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met separately with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and guerrilla leaders Monday in an effort to restart civil war peace talks.

Cristiani said he was hopeful the U.N.-sponsored talks could end the 11-year-old war, which has claimed 75,000 lives, but is refusing to meet face-to-face with the commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Perez de Cuellar's chief envoy in the peace effort, Alvaro de Soto, also met earlier with the five FMLN commanders.

Latin American diplomats close to the talks said Perez de Cuellar would submit three or four proposals on an agenda and timetable to end the war. Negotiations have been deadlocked since July.

"I hope that we can make some progress ... As you know, it is a question of separate meetings," Perez de Cuellar told reporters.

It is his last major attempt to end the Salvadoran conflict before leaving office at the end of the year.

The secretary general scheduled two days of talks but his spokesman, Francois Giuliani, said the meetings might continue throughout the week, and both sides were told to stand by.

Both the FMLN and Cristiani canceled scheduled press conferences about the talks after Perez de Cuellar urged them not to make any public statements that could jeopardize the peace effort.

In an interview with Reuters in San Salvador, Col. Mauricio Vargas, deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, said, "In New York what I think we can hope for is an agenda and a date ... we cannot hope for a cease-fire."

The original peace agenda, agreed to in May 1990, produced accords on human rights protection and constitutional reforms. It must now be revised to allow a comprehensive final agreement to end the conflict, both sides say.

Perez de Cuellar, who agreed to intervene personally in the talks following a joint request by Secretary of State James

Baker and former Soviet foreign minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, has said he wishes to cut a "Gordian knot" which is hindering progress in the talks.

For most observers, that knot concerns the future of El Salvador's powerful armed forces and the rebels's demand for security guarantees once they disarm to become a regular political movement.

The FMLN demands that some of its forces be integrated into a reformed military following a cease-fire to ensure any peace terms will be honored.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1992 C9

The Washington Post

BUSINESS

12 Big Firms Plan Child-Care Effort

Network Also Will Serve Elderly Relatives

By Gail Fitzer-Schiller

NEW YORK, July 9—Twelve blue-chip companies plan to establish a nationwide network of programs and facilities to care for their employees' children and elderly relatives, sources involved in the project said.

The effort to tackle one of the nation's biggest workplace problems ultimately may be joined by as many as 80 companies in an unprecedented collaboration, the sources said.

The 12 companies have committed millions of dollars to build and expand existing facilities for child and elderly care, the sources said.

Initiated by International Business Machines Corp., the project has enlisted the resources of AT&T, NationsBank Corp., American Express Co., Xerox Corp., Exxon Corp., Eastman Kodak Co., Travelers Corp., Johnson & Johnson, Amoco Corp., the Allstate unit of Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Motorola Inc.

Estimates on the amount of money committed so far by the project leaders range from nearly \$20 million to about \$40 million.

Asked about the plan, IBM spokesman John Boudreaux said, "IBM and many companies across the country have been meeting and discussing such a partnership idea since last year.

"The plan has not fully been determined, it has not been fine-tuned, but we are well on our way to doing something very significant here," he said.

Boudreaux declined to comment on the specifics of the project.

The goal is to raise as much money as possible by early September, when the project is scheduled to be

launched, and to build and expand as many child- and elderly-care facilities nationwide as the money will allow. One source said the goal was to build 30 facilities.

Among the cities targeted in the project are Washington, New York, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Dallas, Seattle and Denver.

Under the plan, companies will fund construction and expansion of facilities and the establishment of services and programs, but employees may have to pay for the care.

Individual companies may subsidize the cost of the child- and elderly-care services for their employees, the sources said.

A working paper on the project obtained by Reuters said the facilities "must be financially self-sufficient after the initial investment."

Organizers said more than 250 corporations have participated in preliminary meetings on the plan, but it was unclear how many would commit to the project. At this point, about 80 firms appear likely to participate, the sources said.

Officials involved in the project, called the American Business Collaboration for Quality Dependent Care, expect that benefits in the form of increased employee productivity will outweigh the initial costs, according to the working paper.

"Helping employees balance their work/personal lives is critical to economic and competitive growth (and) the ability to retain a productive and motivated work force," the working paper said.

Participants in the plan noted that beyond the dramatic implications for

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CHILD CARE From C9

American workers the project marks unprecedented collaboration between major corporate competitors such as IBM and Xerox, and Amoco and Exxon.

"The beauty of partnership is that companies in the same industry can come together and not let competitive activity stand in the way of doing things that need to be done," IBM's Boudreaux said.

One source described the project

as the "biggest, broadest and most significant collaboration ever among U.S. business competitors.

The project is open to all companies that want to participate even after the plan is officially launched, with no minimum donation required, the sources said.

But priority for spaces in child- and elderly-care centers will be given to employees whose companies have contributed the most money in a particular city, according to the sources.

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Blue chips plan care network

Millions committed to child, elderly care

By GAIL FITZER-SCHILLER
REUTER

NEW YORK

In an unprecedented collaboration, 12 blue-chip companies plan to establish a nationwide network of programs and facilities to care for their employees' children and elderly relatives, sources involved in the project say.

The effort to tackle one of the nation's biggest workplace problems ultimately may be joined by as many as 80 more companies, the sources said.

In what could signal a major shift in corporate America's handling of the problem faced largely by working women, the 12 companies have committed millions of dollars to build and expand facilities for child and elderly care, according to the sources.

Initiated by International Business Machines Corp., the project has enlisted the human and financial resources of American Telephone & Telegraph Co.; American Express Co.; Xerox Corp.; Exxon Corp.; Eastman Kodak Co.; Travelers Corp.; Johnson & Johnson; Amoco Corp.; the Allstate unit of Sears, Roebuck and Co.; Motorola Inc.; and NationsBank Corp.

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SEE CARE/11-A

Care

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to pay for his junk bonds. Environmentalists have been after him ever since, as have the Labor Department and the Interior Department.

Hurwitz's Maxxam Inc., an American Stock Exchange company that recently lost its bid to buy Continental Airlines on the cheap, owns Pacific Lumber and 87 percent of Kaiser Aluminum Corp., also financed by heavy borrowing. The problem with borrowing money is that you have to pay it back. Which is why Hurwitz is peddling new bonds.

Even though these are the 1990s, Hurwitz, who doesn't talk to the press, is still playing by 1980s rules: He is getting 100 percent-plus financing.

prepayment penalties and some current interest on the tab—like paying off your Visa card by mortgaging your house. Not to mention my favorite: \$25 million of the borrowing would go for Pacific Lumber to pay a dividend to Maxxam. We'll see if bond buyers go for that.

Even though Pacific Lumber would owe \$69 million more than it owes now, its total interest tab would be lower because interest rates have fallen so far. Pretty slick. The heart of this deal is an absolutely brilliant new security: \$364 million of tree-backed bonds. If people buy securities backed by credit cards and mortgages, why not give them trees? And this way, instead of having bonds come due in big pieces as they do now, Hurwitz pays them

free by any number of knotty problems. The price of redwood, which has soared, could plummet. So could demand. The marbled murrelet, an obscure bird that nests in Hurwitz's trees and has been declared endangered by the Interior Department, could force logging cutbacks similar to those prompted by the spotted owl. Some of the numerous lawsuits against Pacific Lumber could succeed. But there are lots of safeguards built into the bonds, including a 10 percent cash reserve in a special account. (That cash, \$33 million, would partly offset some of the company's added debt.) Hurwitz and his advisers at Salomon Brothers Inc., who logged big hours

Department's pension Pacific Lumber termin them with annuities fr finance the takeover a denies any wrongdoing made up its retirees' le

Hurwitz, though, is even though it's costin because money may ca You can kill off Super Superborrowers like I

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Centocor Stops Trials of Flagship Drug

Stock Plummets After Firm's Action in Response to Centoxin Deaths

By Gail Fitzer-Schiller
Reuter

NEW YORK, Jan. 18—Centocor Inc. stopped testing its flagship drug in the United States and suspended sales in Europe today, saying increasing numbers of people have died after receiving the treatment.

Once-admiring investors dumped Centocor shares on the Nasdaq market, making it by far the most active stock.

The price dropped by \$11.37½, or nearly two-thirds, to \$6.37½, with more than 12.7 million shares changing hands.

Until recently one of the nation's most promising biotechnology companies, Centocor will be forced to scale back operations to survive without the drug, called Centoxin, analysts said.

The Malvern, Pa.-based company stopped U.S. trials of Centoxin, which was being tested as a treatment for septic shock.

Eli Lilly & Co., the drug's principal distributor, also will pull the drug off the market in Europe and

wherever else it has been approved for sale, pending further analysis.

"This latest development may have material adverse consequences for the company and its financial condition," Centocor said in a statement.

But the company did not say how many patients died after taking the drug.

Centocor's chief executive, David Holveck, said the company will continue to seek Food and Drug Administration approval of Centoxin and hopes it will be able to re-enter the European market with the drug.

Centoxin is known in biotechnology circles as a monoclonal antibody product, which means it contains synthetically produced antibodies that destroy disease-causing proteins.

Centocor sold the rights to Centoxin to Eli Lilly for \$100 million to finance clinical trials.

The tests were intended to provide the FDA with new evidence that Centoxin is effective against septic infections such as sepsis, which threatens patients who suffer

from infectious, cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases.

Sepsis, a bacterial infection that affects about 500,000 Americans a year, is a leading cause of death among hospital intensive-care patients.

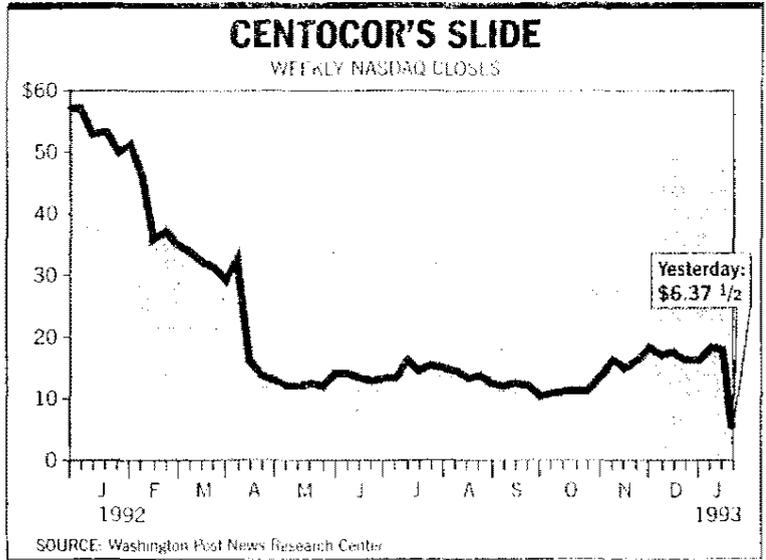
The FDA rejected Centoxin for marketing in the United States last April, saying it would not render approval without further testing.

But Centocor hoped it would still win approval by the end of 1993.

"It would appear that Centoxin is dead, but it's premature to conclude the same of Centocor. We think the firm will move on in some form," said Cowen & Co. analyst David Stone.

Analysts said Centocor probably will have to lay off workers, shut some facilities and start collaborating on earlier-stage drugs in order to stay in business.

Holveck said in an interview that Centocor still expected to be profitable in 1994 by establishing partnerships with pharmaceutical companies on other products under development, such as Panorex, a cancer drug.



"We're going to continue to try to gain approval in the [United States] and try to resolve this situation," Holveck said.

"I still believe that it is a viable product and I do believe this issue will be rationalized and allow us to still look at the European market. Even if the U.S. market is delayed, we're not planning to give it up," Holveck said.

Holveck did not rule out the possibility of a write-off in 1993 to cover Centoxin inventory, but he declined to provide specific numbers.

The plunge in Centocor's stock price also put pressure on shares of other biotechnology companies.

Eli Lilly stock fell \$1.50 to \$59.87½ on the New York Stock Exchange after Centocor's announcement.

Shares in Xoma Corp. and Chiron Corp., two biotechnology companies developing monoclonal antibody drugs for septic shock, fell in sympathy with Centocor.

Xoma stock lost \$1.25 to \$8, Chiron fell 87½ cents to \$55.12½, and Synergen Inc. stock fell \$1.75 to \$59.50 a share.

Blood pressure drugs show promise for black patients

By GAIL FITZER-SCHILLER
Reuters News Service

NEW YORK — For the first time, blacks suffering from high blood pressure responded to a class of drugs called ACE inhibitors that could also help prevent kidney failure and heart attacks, according to a new study.

The study, presented Thursday at the Ninth Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Hypertension, demonstrated that 58 percent of black patients responded to

an ACE inhibitor called Accupril, or quinapril, compared to 68 percent of white patients.

The study marked the first time that blacks demonstrated a statistically significant response to an ACE, or angiotensin converting enzyme, inhibitor.

It was also the first time the drug class was tested in a large-scale trial in blacks because the medical community previously believed it would not be effective.

"The study shows that drugs that previously were thought to work

predominantly on white patients work on these patients as well," said Michael Weber, professor of medicine and head of the hypertension division at the University of California at Irvine and a researcher in the study.

"Until recently we thought that black patients didn't respond well to these drugs. But this research shows blacks do get reasonably good blood pressure effects," he said.

Weber said even more promising than Accupril's success in controlling blood pressure in blacks are its

added benefits of preventing damage to the heart and kidneys in patients with high blood pressure.

"We're very excited. It's just a whole new option that may finally be the solution to the problem of kidney failure and heart attacks in blacks," Weber said. "ACE inhibitors offer another dimension that until recently was just not being offered to the black community."

About 35 percent of the black population in the United States, or about 10 million to 15 million, suffer from high blood pressure. That com-

pires to about 25 percent of the white population, or about 50 million.

ACE inhibitors lower blood pressure by blocking a hormone called renin, but blacks generally have low renin levels in their blood. Weber said this new study indicates that blacks may have high renin activity in their artery walls, even though it is limited in their bloodstream. He said Accupril may have been so effective in the study because it appears to be the most successful of the ACE inhibitors in penetrating the artery walls to block renin.

The medical community has been criticized for failing to develop effective treatments for black hypertensive patients.

Weber said only about a third of black patients are treated for high blood pressure in the U.S. and, of those, only half are receiving "good effective treatment."

He said that this was the first time the study had been presented at a major medical meeting and that it would be published in a few weeks in a hypertension journal.

San Francisco Examiner

BUSINESS

Findings expected to back MS drugs

Biogen, Teva and afflicted could benefit from use

By Gail Fitzer-Schiller
NEUTER

LOS ANGELES — Biogen Inc. and Teva Pharmaceutical were to present anxiously awaited clinical data Monday on two new drugs that could dramatically advance treatment of multiple sclerosis and provide major new revenue flow for both firms, analysts said.

Researchers for Biogen, based in Cambridge, Mass., will present results from Phase III clinical trials of the company's beta interferon drug at a meeting of the American Neurological Association in San Francisco.

Following the Biogen presentation, clinical investigators will disclose the findings of Phase III trials of Teva's Copolymer-1 drug for multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the central nervous system.

Wall Street analysts widely anticipate Biogen will report extremely strong data on beta interferon that will make it the drug of choice for MS patients.

Beta interferon's chief rival is Emeryville-based Chiron Corp.'s betaseron. Also a beta interferon product, betaseron was approved for sale in the United States last year.

While betaseron uses a similar mechanism and has demonstrated the ability to reduce MS flare-ups in clinical trials, it has failed to show it can slow disability or progression of the disease, analysts said.

Biogen announced in late July that the late stage clinical trials showed beta interferon was able to slow the disability caused by multiple sclerosis as well as reduce the frequency of flare-ups experienced by MS patients.

Analysts said they did not expect any negative surprises in the Biogen data. Investors certainly seemed to agree, bidding up Biogen shares \$5.50 to \$54.75 in extremely

[See DRUGS, B-5]

CO EXAMINER

★ Monday, October 10, 1994 B-5

◆ DRUGS from B-1

Findings expected to back MS drugs

heavy trading Friday.

"I'm expecting no disappointments," said Kidder, Peabody analyst Robert Friedman. "I'm expecting the drug to be safe and to show clear-cut efficacy in terms of disease progression as well as exacerbation rates."

Bear Stearns analyst David Mollona said Biogen's beta interferon was so far the only drug to have an impact on the progression of MS. "With a better safety profile than betaseron and a similar impact on exacerbation of the disease ... I think it will be the agent of choice once it is approved," he said.

Analysts were uncertain, how-

ever, whether Teva's Copolymer-1 would demonstrate an impact on disability.

Teva has disclosed less information than Biogen about its clinical results, and investors have not focused nearly as much on Teva's stock.

Friday, it traded just under 1 million shares, compared with 6.3 million shares for Biogen.

Most analysts who follow Biogen said they did not expect Copolymer-1 to slow disability in MS patients but only to reduce flare-ups, as is the case with betaseron.

But Teva analysts differed, saying they thought Copolymer-1 might also demonstrate an impact on disease progression. They also noted Copolymer-1 was expected to have a better safety profile than beta interferon.

Some said Teva was about six months ahead of Biogen in filing for U.S. regulatory approval of its drug.

"I think the news will be good on Teva," said Gruntal & Co. analyst David Saha. "Teva has made clear they're going to show good efficacy and good safety data."

In a fiercely competitive three-way battle for a superior drug to treat MS, the stocks of all three firms — Biogen, Chiron and Teva — are expected to be affected by their rivals' data as well as their own.

With an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 patients in the United States alone suffering from multiple sclerosis, analysts have estimated a total market potential as large as \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

Drug Slows Kidney Disease

By Gail Fitzer-Schiller

Reuters

NEW YORK—In a breakthrough for diabetes sufferers, a study released Wednesday found that the heart drug captopril can reduce the risk of death from kidney disease by 50 percent.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that captopril slows the progression of kidney disease by 50 percent, reducing the need for dialysis or kidney transplants by 50 percent.

Researchers said that based on the results of the study, captopril is the first effective therapy to treat diabetic kidney disease before dialysis or a kidney transplant is required for survival.

An estimated 14 million Americans have diabetes and 30 to 40 percent of them are expected to develop kidney disease.

"It's a pretty dramatic finding. This means that the drug protects the kidney," said Edmund Lewis of Chicago's Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, who was the lead researcher in the five-

year, 409-patient trial.

He said that in addition to being the only effective therapy for diabetic kidney disease, captopril also produced no adverse side effects in the trials.

"There are no alternative therapies. . . . This is the first time that it's been shown beyond any doubt that the progression of diabetic kidney disease can be significantly slowed," Lewis said.

He said the use of captopril, manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb under the name Capoten, could also dramatically reduce U.S. health care costs.

Captopril treatment would cost a diabetes patient about \$700 per year, while dialysis treatment ranges from \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year, Lewis said.

By slowing the rate at which diabetes patients must start dialysis treatments, captopril could save \$200 million a year, he said.

Officials from the National Kidney Foundation, American Diabetes Foundation and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation hailed the findings as a breakthrough for diabetes sufferers.

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April 2, 1991, Tuesday EC cycle

RANKS OF HOMELESS SWELL AS U.S. FOCUSES ON PROBLEMS OVERSEAS

By Gail Fitzer

NEW YORK, April 2, Reuter - Margaret Pugh has been sleeping in subway stations, separated from her three children, since she left home 18 months ago to escape a husband who slashed her with a knife and raped her 13-year-old daughter.

Begging New Yorkers for their spare change for something to eat in her ragged, soiled clothes, Margaret is furious that the U.S. government has abandoned her and three million other homeless Americans while it eagerly poured billions of dollars into protecting Kuwaitis thousands of miles away.

"They could help everybody if they wanted to. They've got enough money for everything else. All they care about is oil and their own bank accounts," Margaret, 37, said.

"They should clean their own backyard before they do anything else," she said, her face and hands scarred.

While the Bush administration poured U.S. resources into the Gulf War, on the home front a recession exacerbated the already mammoth predicament of the homeless and is expected to swell their ranks.

New research to be published in May by Martha Burt of the private, non-profit Urban Institute in Washington shows that for every one percent rise in unemployment, the number of homeless increases by 11 percent.

Burt says her research conducted in 1989 based on data from 147 large U.S. cities shows that unemployment and homelessness are directly related. And advocates for the homeless warn that the recession is starting to reach beyond the poverty line, claiming victims from the middle class.

"The housing crunch has really affected the middle class and we're trying to make them realize that they're not that much different than the person on the street," said Mary Brosnahan, executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless in New York.

While acknowledging that a significant portion of the country's homeless are either drug abusers or mentally ill, Brosnahan and other homeless advocates say the majority of the homeless have no place to live simply because they cannot afford rent in America's cities.

They point to the billions readily spent on the Gulf War and say \$35 billion to build low-income housing would provide homes for nearly all of the country's homeless, ridding the streets, subways, parks and bus stations of beggars, vagrants and the mentally ill.

"Certainly all the reports we get back indicate the numbers are continuing to rise," said Joan Alker, assistant director of the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington.

"We've got lots of money in our military budget. We just spent I don't know how many millions to liberate Kuwait. We found the money to deal with the savings and loan bailout. We do see, when you look at polls, that a majority of people are willing to pay more taxes to help solve the problem," she said.

The Bush administration, trying to cut a huge budget deficit, has said that it is cash-strapped and under pressure to provide funds to fight AIDS, drugs and a host of other domestic problems.

Lydia Williams, a policy analyst for the National Coalition for the Homeless, said the biggest problem caused by the recession was that states were looking to reduce their deficits by cutting

welfare benefits. In addition, there were more people turning to welfare because fewer were receiving unemployment benefits.

"Down the road ... people are going to start falling out of their housing," she said.

Besides trying to contain the drug and alcohol abuse among the homeless and provide services for the mentally ill, homeless workers are dealing with the rampant spread of AIDS. In New York City alone, there are about 13,000 of some 80,000 homeless people infected with the AIDS virus.

"The homeless population is disproportionately affected by the disease. In a lot of situations, people become homeless because of the illness. They are in and out of the hospital and can't hold down their jobs," said Williams.

While most large cities around the country provide some type of shelter for singles and families, many people choose to remain on the streets, fearing what they say are overcrowded, dirty, rat-infested and dangerous shelters rampant with crime and drugs.

The massive city bureaucracies that have to be approached to receive help also keep many people on the streets.

"I've been sleeping down in the subway for at least eight months. It's safer, put it that way. I've seen people die in shelters," said 28-year-old Denise, who said she left home at 11 to escape a stepfather who raped and abused her.

She lived with her uncle until he died last year, but her eight-year-old son was put into foster care four years ago.

Other children are not so lucky. Twenty-five percent of the homeless are children and six to eight million American children are homeless over the course of a year.

Margaret, taking some change from one of her regular contributors outside a delicatessen on New York's Upper West Side, said: "They make rent so high you can't even get an apartment and then they put you through hell, making you live in a shelter for months before you can get an apartment. I want help! Why do I got to be like a rat in a maze?"

Many of the homeless say they want to work, but that they can't find jobs without a home address or identification. Others do work, but still can't afford housing.

Advocates say the problem of America's homelessness dates back to the early 1980s when former president Ronald Reagan turned over fiscal responsibility for housing to state and city governments, slashing \$25 billion from the federal housing budget.

Alfred McKoy, 21, was out on the streets for three years selling drugs before he found shelter in New York's Covenant House for runaway teens and turned his life around.

"My worst experience ever was the first time I was put out of my house. It was the coldest night. I felt like I'm out here all by myself. It was like me against the world."

The advocates say that unless Americans start pressuring their politicians to do something about homelessness, the number of people on the streets will continue to explode.

And while 85 percent of the homeless are members of minorities, mostly blacks and Hispanics, the advocates warn that every American is vulnerable.

"There is not a big jump between you and that person on the street," Brosnahan said.

REUTER

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May 23, 1991, Thursday, AM cycle

N.Y. CLINIC TO GIVE UP FEDERAL FUNDS RATHER THAN BOW TO COURT

By Gail Fitzer

NEW YORK, May 23, Reuter - The clinic that took the Bush administration to court over abortion rights said Thursday it would risk closing rather than bow to the Supreme Court's ruling that federally funded clinics cannot provide abortion advice.

The Planned Parenthood clinic, known as the Hub South Bronx Center, said it would refuse federal funds because of the ruling even if it meant having to shut down. Women clients warned that the court decision would cause poor, young mothers to abandon or even kill their unwanted babies.

In a 5-4 vote Thursday on the "Rust vs Sullivan" case, the U.S. high court said the government could bar family planning counselors at 4,000 federally-funded clinics around the country from discussing abortion as an option for pregnant patients and from even telling women where they can get one.

Dr. Irving Rust, the clinic's medical director whose name is on the case along with that of Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan, told reporters he hoped Congress would overrule the decision with new legislation so that "the gag rule would be put away."

He said he would not deny any patient full counseling.

"I'm going to give her her full options that she deserves ... for her to determine and let her make her own decision. That's what this country is about, that's what good medicine is about and that's not what the Supreme Court said today. I won't be gagged."

Condemning the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the controversial regulations as "government-enforced malpractice," Planned Parenthood of New York City President Alexander Sanger told a news conference:

"For us to continue receiving \$423,600 in (federal) funds, we would have to become hired tools of a government program of one-sided information. Yet if we give up the money, we risk having to close a clinic that serves 8,000 poor women every year -- women with no other resources to turn to.

"Our choice is clear. Our board and our staff are united. Planned Parenthood of New York City will refuse to comply with the regulations. We will give up (federal government) funding," said Sanger, the grandson of Margaret Sanger, a public health nurse who in 1916 created Planned Parenthood and opened the first birth control clinic in the United States.

The Hub South Bronx Center, which serves the poorest congressional district in the country, would try to make up the shortfall with funding from the financially-crippled city and state governments as well as private donors, Sanger said.

Each of the clinics in the United States affected by the court's ruling will make its own decision on whether to comply, Sanger said.

Carmen Tucker, a 24-year-old mother of three, said that many more unwanted children would be abandoned in her South Bronx neighborhood because of the Supreme Court decision and Brenda Alston, a 29-year-old mother of one, warned that more teen-age mothers would wind up killing their own babies.

"You ever heard of kids killing kids -- young girls killing their children. That's what happens. It's happened a lot in my neighborhood," Alston said, adding that many more babies would be born with AIDS and to drug-addicted mothers.

"There are going to be more kids left in the garbage cans and people are going to do crazy things," Tucker said.

Jasmine Rodriguez, a 28-year-old mother who has been treated by the clinic for the past 10 years and often received abortion advice, said she was very angry over the Supreme Court decision and would not know where to turn if the Planned Parenthood center was forced to close.

"Why should we have a child if we really don't want it. If we have these children, they're gonna suffer ... They grow up to steal, use drugs, is that what we want?" she asked.

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BIG BIRD JOINS THOUSANDS IN SAYING GOODBYE TO JIM HENSON

BYLINE: By Gail Fitzer

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A sad Big Bird sang "It's Not Easy Being Green" Monday as thousands of people said goodbye to Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets and the voice of Kermit the Frog, in a memorial celebrating his life with song, prayer and even a Dixieland band.

Speaker after speaker heaped praise on Henson-- who died suddenly Wednesday of pneumonia at age 53-- as a genius who made the world brighter with his colorful cast of hundreds of Muppet characters.

More than 5,000 relatives, friends, colleagues and fans packed the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City to pay tribute to the man who crossed puppets with marionettes to create the Muppets in the early 1960s.

Henson's creations enchanted millions of children around the world, first appearing on the "Sesame Street" educational program and later starring in their own weekly Muppet television show and several movies.

Miss Piggy, the Cookie Monster, Oscar the Grouch and humanoids Bert and Ernie are among the other Muppets he turned into international stars.

Michael Frith, who worked closely with Henson, thanked him for creating "a place like no other on Earth."

At Henson's request, the memorial was a festive celebration of his life rather than a ceremony mourning his death. The Dixieland band led a procession of clergymen, family and colleagues down the cathedral aisle and played "When the Saints Go Marching In" at the service's conclusion.

Henson's wife, Jane, and their five children -- wearing an array of colors -- clapped, laughed and kicked up their feet as they left the cathedral, singing along with the band.

The tall yellow Big Bird, wearing a green ribbon around his neck, sang Kermit's most famous song, "It's Not Easy Being Green," as tears rolled down the faces of friends and colleagues who knew they would never hear Henson as the lovable frog again.

"Thank you, Kermit," said Big Bird as he bowed his head.

Jane Henson said her husband looked forward to seeing his deceased mother, brother and grandmother, whom he always credited with being his greatest inspiration, in heaven.

She urged the mourners to "take some of what he's given you and enjoy life to the fullest because he always did ... but always with a little pain and sorrow."

One Muppeteer, who wore a lime green suit and a pin of Kermit, told Reuters that everyone, including Henson, wanted the Muppets to go on, but no one had even discussed who would become the frog's new voice.

Harry Belafonte sang "Let's Turn the World Around," a song he said was a gift to Henson from "people who come from a (place) where gifts are not common," but who were touched by Henson's work. He credited Henson with bringing love, hope and joy to the lives of children suffering in the Third World.