

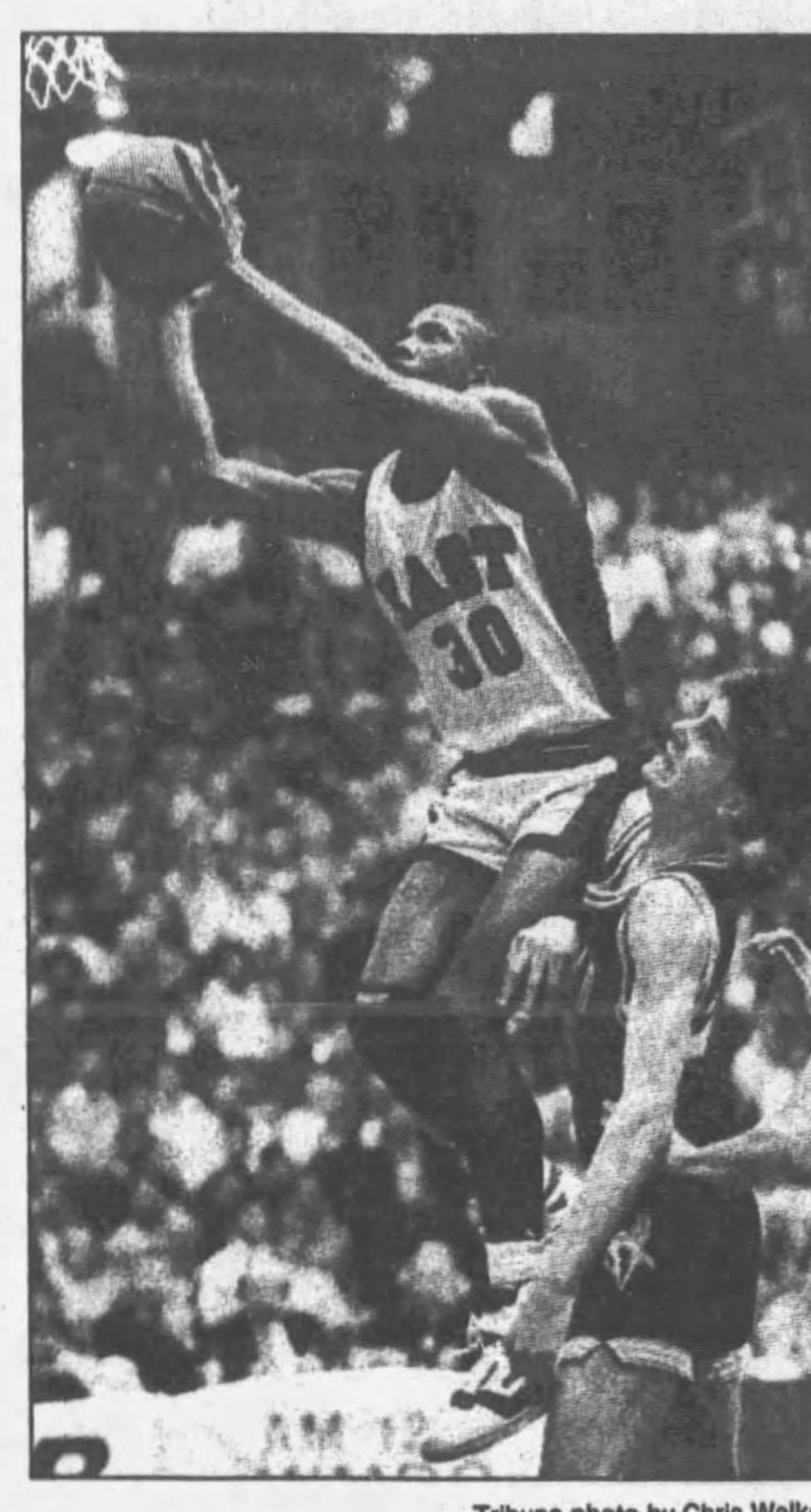
Chicago Cribune

Wednesday, March 15, 1989

North Sports Final

142d Year - No. 74 @ Chicago Tribune

Sports



Tribune photo by Chris Walker

Supersectional report

Tyrone Savage goes up for a shot over Fremd's Todd Leslie during East Aurora's 89-65 victory. Thornridge, Bloom and New Trier also advance. Section 4.

Rating the NCAA field The Illini may be flying, and Oklahoma is

tough, but Georgetown may be the team to beat this year. Sec. 4, pg. 1.

McMahon trade rumors

The latest trade rumor involving Bears quarterback Jim McMahon has him going to the San Diego Chargers. Sec. 4, pg. 1.

Hawks wilt in St. Louis

The Blues rally from a 2-1 deficit to beat the Blackhawks 3-2. Sec. 4, pg. 1.

Inside

3 cops charged in robbery

Three Markham police officers are charged with invading a drug suspect's home and then robbing him. Sec. 2, pg. 4.

The flag: How useful

Mike Royko says a legislator and flag defender has used Old Glory on a garbage bag campaign promotion. Page 3.

Bush's wage plan rejected

Ignoring a warning from Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole, a House panel rejects President Bush's minimumwage plan in favor of a bigger increase. Page 3.



McFarlane loses cool

Robert McFarlane loses his temper at Oliver North's trial over a question about donations to the contras. Page 8.

Vienna's kind of scandal

A missing cafe owner, dead bodies, politicians in disgrace: They add up to a juicy but all-too-real Austrian thriller. In Tempo.

Overnight

Divine and gypsy fire

Even when gremlins bedevil her, Sarah Vaughan is divine, and the Gipsy Kings are afire in their Chicago debut. Page 22.

Weather

CHICAGO AND VICINITY: Wednesday: Sharply colder, mostly cloudy, very windy, snow showers likely; high 31 degrees; lows 15 west to 22 east. Thursday: Increasing cloudiness, warmer; high 45. The national weather report is in Sec. 2, pg. 11.

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Classified ads are in Section 6.

law to aid disabled in housing fights

By Laurie Goering

A new federal law that guarantees the right of mentally ill and mentally handicapped people to live wherever they wish, including neighborhoods where residents have fought to keep them out, took effect this week and is expected to dramatically influence dozens of housing battles in the Chicago area.

"This will have sweeping impact on land-use regulations," said Beth Pepper, an attorney with the Washington-based Men-

tal Health Law Project. For instance, she said, under the new law, local regulations requiring developers of group homes to seek special permission or special permits "will be a viola-tion of federal law."

Also, for the first time, home sellers or apartment owners will have no right to turn down a potential buyer or renter simply because of their mental illness or mental handicap, Pepper said.

The new law, an amendment to the Federal Fair Housing Act,

"really begins to address the issue of 'not in my community," said Peter Rinn, a representative of numerous agencies for the mentally disabled across the state.

The law, which took effect Sunday, is expected to have substantial impact in Chicago and suburbs from Wilmette to Chicago Heights, where residents have spoken out against group homes proposed in their neighborhoods, arguing that the homes will lower property values or threaten the safety of their children.

Now those comments "will be regarded as evidence of discrimination," Pepper said.

The new law is especially welcome news to the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, which, under a new state plan must move 5,600 mentally ill and mentally handicapped people out of nursing homes and into private houses, apartments and group homes over the next

Advocates for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped had feared available housing would fall far short of the demand, forcing many such people into the streets.

"The single most pressing issue among advocates for the mentally ill has been housing," said Ann Boisclair, spokesman for the Mental Health Association of Greater Chicago. "Because of the implementation of [the state program], this has be-

See Law, pg. 2

Arens rejects U.S. idea on PLO

U.S. halts assault gun imports

By Timothy J. McNulty Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON-One day after being sworn in as coordinator of the federal government's antidrug effort, William Bennett announced Tuesday an immediate suspension on the import of AK-47s and similar semiautomatic weapons, which are increasingly favored by drug dealers.

The swift action by the Bush administration to curb the proliferation of assault weapons reflects national concern about the growing use of such high-powered weaponry in urban areas, especially by drug and youth gangs.

The decision pleased gun control advocates, who predicted the suspension would make it easier to get federal legislation to restrict such rapid-fire weapons.

The suspension order appeared to reflect a shift from President Bush's earlier position that there should be no federal ban on semiautomatic weapons.

The National Rifle Association, the nation's principal gun lobbying group, reacted mildly, saying the action should stop "media hysteria" and lead to "a rational and reasoned evaluation of this issue."

But Barbara Lautman, spokeswoman for Handgun Control Inc., said that "for the Bush administration to recognize guns as a major problem in the fight against drugs has immense signif-

She added, "It brings us one step closer" to legislation banning the weapons.

For now, the suspension applies to pending applications to import nearly 114,000 semiautomatic weapons—specifically Chinese-made AK-47s, Israelimade Uzi carbines, Europe's FN-FAL and FN-FNC-type weapons and Austrian Steyr Aug semiautomatic weapons.

The order does not apply to

See Guns, pg. 18



Beirut rocket battle kills 39

Rescue workers clear debris Tuesday in a resi- rocket exchange with Christian forces. At least 39 dential section of Moslem West Beirut following a people were killed in the fighting. Story, Page 3.

Sports agent linked to mob

Ex-syndicate captain testifies he threatened clients

By John Gorman

A former top New York crime syndicate figure turned informant testified Tuesday in federal court that he used threats, muscle and money to help sports agent Norby Walters obtain and keep clients in the musical and sports arenas.

Michael Franzese, testifying under a grant of immunity, gave an inside look at how the New involved in criminal activity with setting up a sports-agent busi-

such individuals as singer Dionne Warwick and singing groups such as the Jackson 5 and New

Most significantly, Franzese told a jury and U.S. District Judge George Marovich that he provided \$50,000 that allowed Walters to begin his sports-agent business, World Sports & Entertainment Inc.

But Franzese said he was not York mob applied muscle to Lloyd Bloom, Walters' partner

in the sports-agent business.

Franzese, the highest-ranking mob figure to testify as a prosecution witness in Chicago, said he had been business partners for more than 14 years in a booking agency operated by Walters and had been friends with him for more than 30

Franzese said Walters approached him in 1985 to discuss See Agent, pg. 18

Suggestion by Baker is policy switch

By Ray Moseley Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State James Baker suggested Tuesday that Israel might have to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, but visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens ruled that out and accused the PLO of responsibility for "the worst atrocities the world has seen since World War

Baker's statement appeared to represent a shift in policy by the U.S., which in the past has sup-

 Palestinians, Israelis end U.S. meeting with hope. Page 14.

ported direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians but has never proposed PLO involvement.

Testifying before a House appropriations subcommittee, Baker said the U.S. wants "meaningful" negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, and if that cannot be achieved without involving the PLO, "I suppose we would then have to see negotiations between Israelis and representatives of the PLO."

In Israel, Science Minister Ezer Weizman, the most dovish minister in the Israeli Cabinet, told foreign correspondents Tuesday. that Israel would have to negotiate with the PLO because it was the only organization that could deliver a peace settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza

He has expressed that view in the past, but not since he joined the government.

Arens, in two speeches to reporters and Middle East experts in Washington, repeated his government's longstanding refusal to talk to the PLO and complained that the U.S. dialogue with the PLO begun last December is "strengthening that party that is threatening the peace process."

Arens said neither Baker nor See Arens, pg. 14

Tribune photo by Phil Greer

A look at the flag exhibit

With a security guard present, a visitor signs a ledger book at the Art Institute's flag exhibit. The park district voted Tuesday not to cut off the museum's funding. Story, Sec. 2, pg. 1.

Chilean fruit pulled in cyanide alert

By David C. Rudd

Grocers in Chicago and around the nation rushed Tuesday to assure customers that grapes and other produce from Chile had been removed from store shelves after a cyanide poisoning alert was raised by the Food and Drug Administration.

"We are putting up signage advising them that all Chilean produce has been removed from

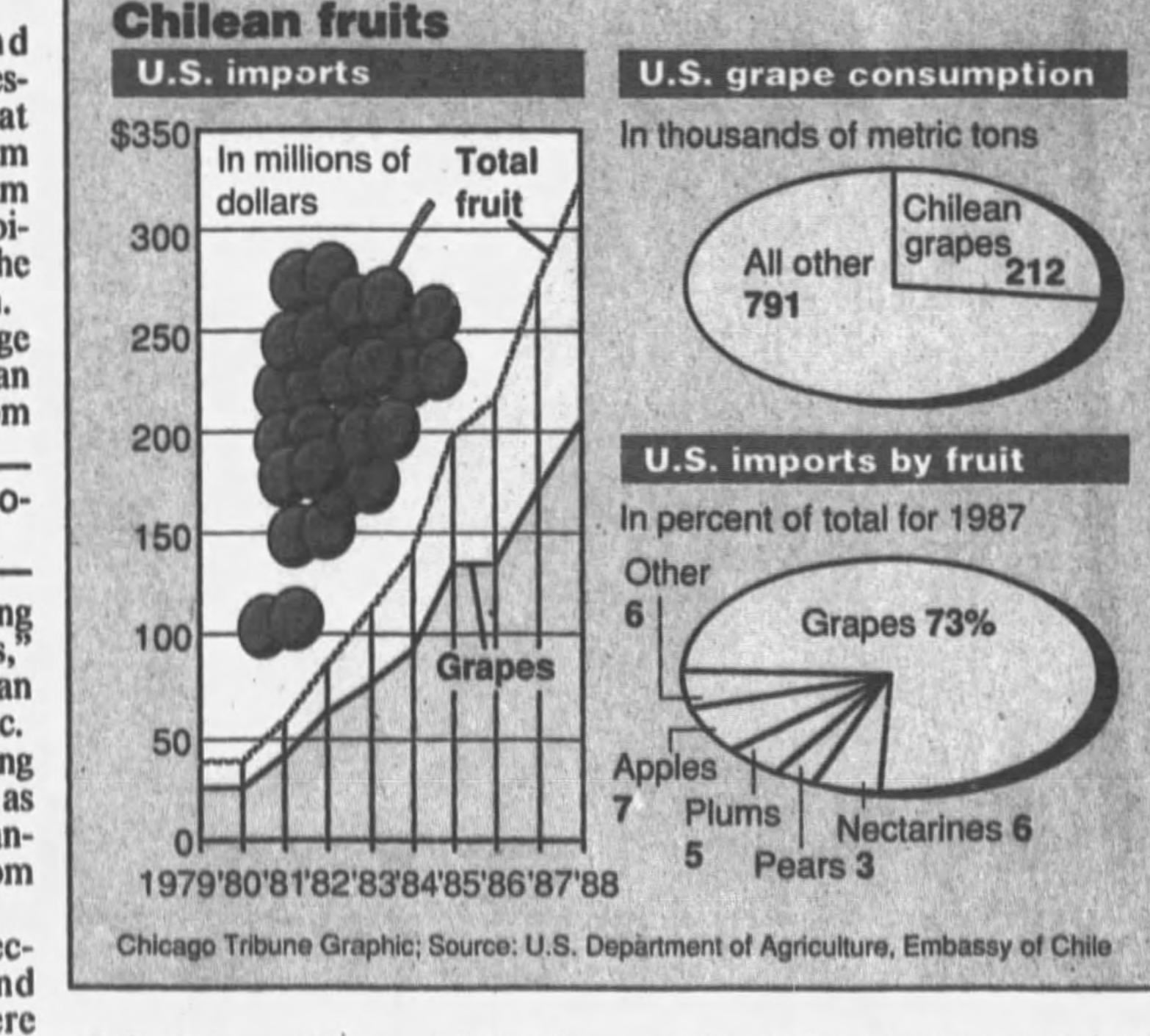
 Warning labels for fruit proposed. Sec. 2, pg. 3.

the shelves, and all remaining products are from other areas," said Rich Simpson, a spokesman for Dominick's Finer Foods Inc.

He said stores here are storing green, red and black grapes as well as other fruits in quarantined coolers pending word from the FDA.

In addition to grapes, nectarines, plums, peaches and some pears from Chile were withheld from grocers' shelves. The action was taken Monday after FDA tests discovered small traces of cyanide and puncture marks in two seedless red grapes at a Philadelphia port.

Officials in Chile and some



U.S. fruit producers and vendors charged Tuesday that the FDA overreacted.

But FDA Commissioner Frank Young said consumers should "be safe rather than sorry" by discarding all fruit in their refrig-

erator unless they are certain the produce did not come from Chile. Most grapes sold at this time of year are imported from

Though they normally would See Fruit, pg. 2

From Page 1



Measles shot

Stacy Haverman, a senior at the University of Hartford, reacts Tuesday as she gets inoculated against measles. Health officials in Hartford, concerned about an outbreak of the disease, vaccinated about 3,800 students at the Connecticut school.

That designation allows Bennett

to direct federal resources to the

capital, such as assigning more

Drug Enforcement Administration

As director of the Office of Na-

tional Drug Control Policy, Ben-

nett has no enforcement authority,

nor does he have a large budget.

But with the support of directors of

other federal agencies, he can shift

the emphasis and personnel to tar-

After a record number of 372

homicides in Washington in 1988,

there already have been 107 this

year. District of Columbia police

nation that he would consider re-

"I will admit a personal reserva-

the senators, acknowledging that

his view was not consistent with

the President's public statements.

"The President knows I have some

lucrative narcotics trade.

reservations about this."

geted areas.

weapons.

Guns

Continued from page 1

the manufacture and sale of similar semiautomatic weapons made in the U.S.

The import halt appeared to be aimed at creating a high-profile beginning for Bennett as the nation's first so-called "drug czar," but it was also a response to what he called an "alarming surge" of applications received by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the federal agency that regulates weapons imports.

Bennett's statement said there were 4,000 assault-type weapons imported into the U.S. in 1986. ate committee weighing his nomi-This number mushroomed to 40,000 in 1987 and to 44,000 in 1988. Already this year, the agency has received requests to import 113,732 of these weapons into the

The suspension follows Monday's vote by the California Assembly to ban 40 types of assault weapons in that state. That legislation was prompted in part by the Jan. 17 massacre in a Stockton, Calif., schoolyard. A deranged gunman using a Chinese-made AK-47 killed five schoolchildren and wounded 29 others.

The Assembly bill must be reconciled with an earlier vote by the California Senate to ban all semiautomatic weapons fitting a certain description.

Bennett said the federal suspension will be in effect until a decision is made whether the weapons are suitable or adaptable for sporting purposes, as required by law under the 1968 Gun Control Act.

Alixe Glen, a White House spokeswoman, said Bush approved the decision before it was announced Tuesday afternoon. It appears at odds with the President's earlier statements against proposed legislation to ban semiautomatic weapons, but Glen said the President favors using the import halt while reviewing whether existing legislation can be used to control the flood of weapons to criminals.

"George Bush, too, wants to make sure these weapons aren't falling into the wrong hands," she said. Several times in the last six weeks, Bush has spoken against a ban on semiautomatic weapons, although his wife, Barbara, has said she supports a ban. Bush, an avid hunter and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, said last month: "I think the answer is

criminal.' At one point the President asked rhetorically, "Should assault hunting rifles be banned? Absolutely not."

the criminal, do more with the

But Bush also said at a news conference last week that he had asked Bennett to see what could be done about stemming the use of AK-47s and other assault rifles by drug dealers.

"I'd like to find some accommodation. ... It isn't as easy as it seems to those who are understandably crying out 'Do something, do something," "Bush said.

The suspension of semiautomatic weapons was suggested by Stephen Higgins, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, according to one administration official. Bennett reportedly liked the idea and asked Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady to issue the order. After checking for Bush's approval, Brady ordered the immediate suspension Tuesday.

"They've been conferring during the last week," said bureau spokesman Dick Pedersen. "Higgins and Bennett together felt it was time to suspend the importation, so we are

doing that." But Bush has also given Bennett high-profile, Cabinet-level posi-On Monday, he called Bennett his "commanding general in the drug war."

As he took office Monday, Bennett said he would target Washington as the nation's first "high-intensity drug trafficking area."

Agent

Continued from page 1

ness. "He asked for \$50,000 and said I'd get 25 percent [of the pro-fits] in return," Franzese said. "He said if things went well, I'd have it back in a year."

As a captain in the Colombo family crime syndicate organization in New York, Franzese said he interceded on Walters' behalf with the agents of Dionne Warwick, the New Edition and the Jackson 5 when Walters ran into trouble with the entertainers. Franzese is the son of John Franzese, a convicted member of the Colombo family.

U.S. Atty. Anton Valukas, who is prosecuting the case with Howard Pearl and Helene Greenwald, asked ranzese about his family ties.

"Yes, I was reputed to be a highranking member of the Colombo family," Franzese responded.

Testifying in a low, gravelly baritone, Franzese recalled how Walters sought his help in 1982 when Bill Grant, Warwick's agent, threatened to dump Walters as booking agent. Franzese said that before he and Walters went to see Grant, he ordered Walters to call Grant.

"I wanted to make sure he knew who I was so I wouldn't have to make any outward threats when I got into the meeting," said

"I said I would be very appreciative if he'd leave the act with Norby for six months," Franzese said. Grant assented, he said.

In 1984, Walters complained to Franzese he had lent \$20,000 to the managers of the New Edition, but that the group's agents had decided to back out of a deal in which Walters was to serve as the group's booking agent for some concerts and a tour.

Franzese said he met with the agents. "I wanted to explain that I was his [Walters'] partner and the \$20,000 was actually my money," said Franzese, 37.

He testified that he told the individuals, whose names he could say most of the killings are drugnot recall, that he expected them to "live up to the deal and that related as gangs fight over the they retain Norby Walters." On March 1, Bennett told a Sen-

"Did they?" Valukas asked. "I believe they remained with orby Walters," he responded. strictions on semiautomatic

The partnership had less luck when they tried the same tactics in 1981 on Ron Weisner, then managtion about the private ownership of er of the Jackson 5, Franzese said. AK-47 assault rifles," Bennett told On Monday, Weisner testified that Franzese threatened that if Walters were excluded from the group's 1981 tour, there would be no tour.

Franzese corroborated Weisner's account, adding that he was ac-

companied to the meeting by Larry Crozza, another member of the Colombo organization.

"I said if Norby wasn't involved there might not be a tour," Franzese testified. Despite the threat, the Jackson 5 and Weisner spurned the overture, and the tour took place without incident.

The rare sight of a mob boss testifying packed the Dirksen Federal Building courtroom Tuesday morning. Franzese, who has served 40 months of a 10-year term, testified he was cooperating with the government in hopes of obtaining a reduced sentence.

Walters, 58, and Bloom, 29, are charged with defrauding the universities by convincing the athletes to sign representation agreements in violation of eligibility rules and concealing the existence of the agreements.

The two agents are also accused of threatening to maim several athletes who wanted to switch agents. The two allegedly made veiled references to their friends "in Las Vegas" in threatening the players.

Franzese, who said he only met Bloom once, traced his relationship with Walters back to the 1950s, when the two families would vacation together.

When Franzese's father was sentenced to prison in 1970, Franzese said, Walters began making payments of up to \$2,000 a month through Joe Brancato, who was then the acting mob boss.

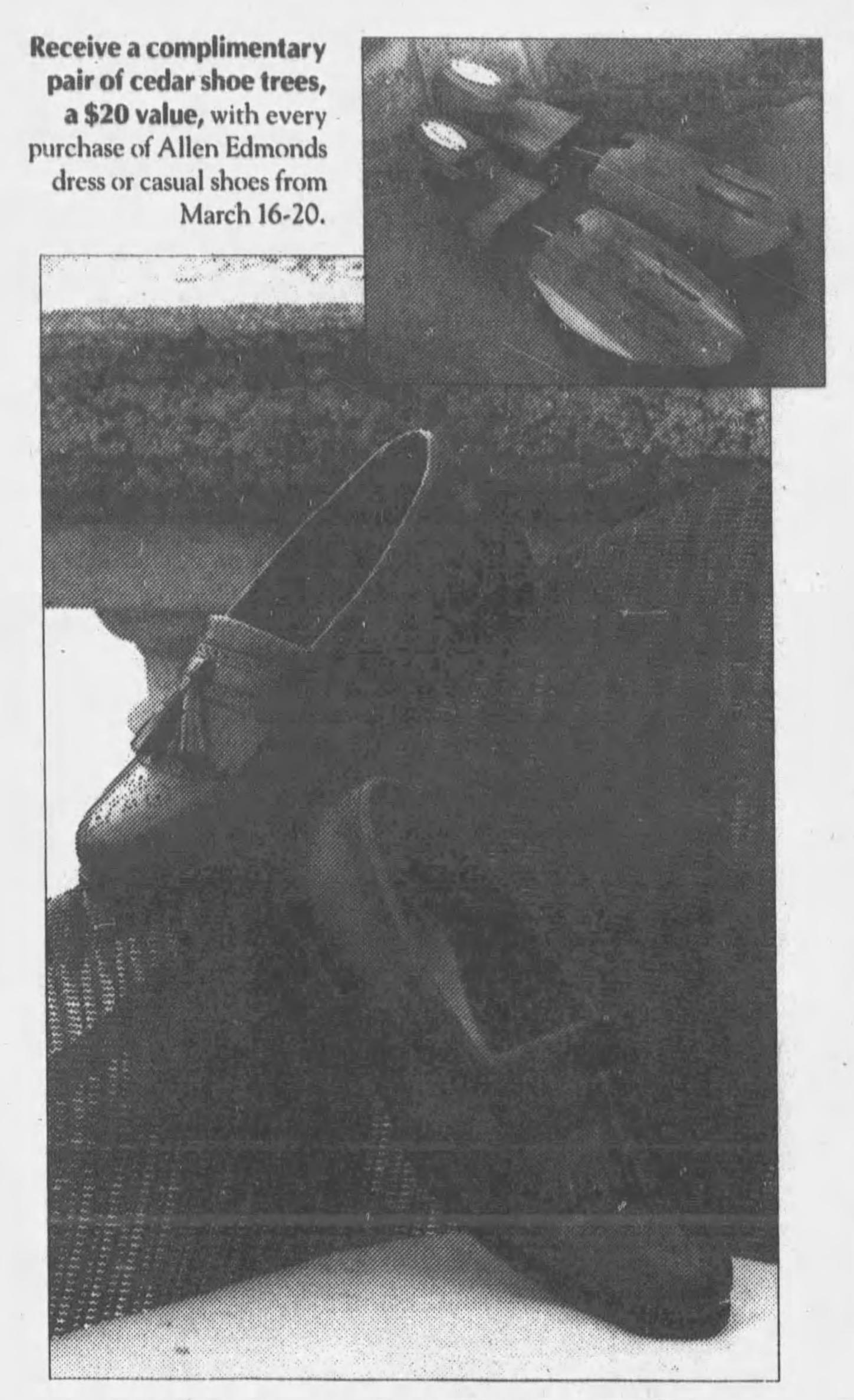
At a meeting at Walters' home in Jericho, N.Y., after the elder Franzese was sent to prison, Franzese said, Walters assured him "he was doing the right thing and that he was living up to his obligations. And to pass that along to my

By 1975, Walters was making payments of \$250 to \$500 a week. directly to Franzese and in return, Franzese would "perform services for him [Walters]," he said.

"Norby was an agent for many groups," Franzese explained. "And quite often he would have problems with club owners—where they didn't want to accept some of Norby's groups. These clubs were often associated with other organized crime families, and I would sit down and resolve these problems."

When John Franzese was paroled from prison in 1979, he met with his son and Walters, the witness

"My father told Norby that before he went to prison that he understood that they were to be 50-50 partners," Franzese said. Walters argued that he didn't believe it was a 50-50 deal, but after "a conversation ... it was resolved that they were 50-50 partners," Franzese said.



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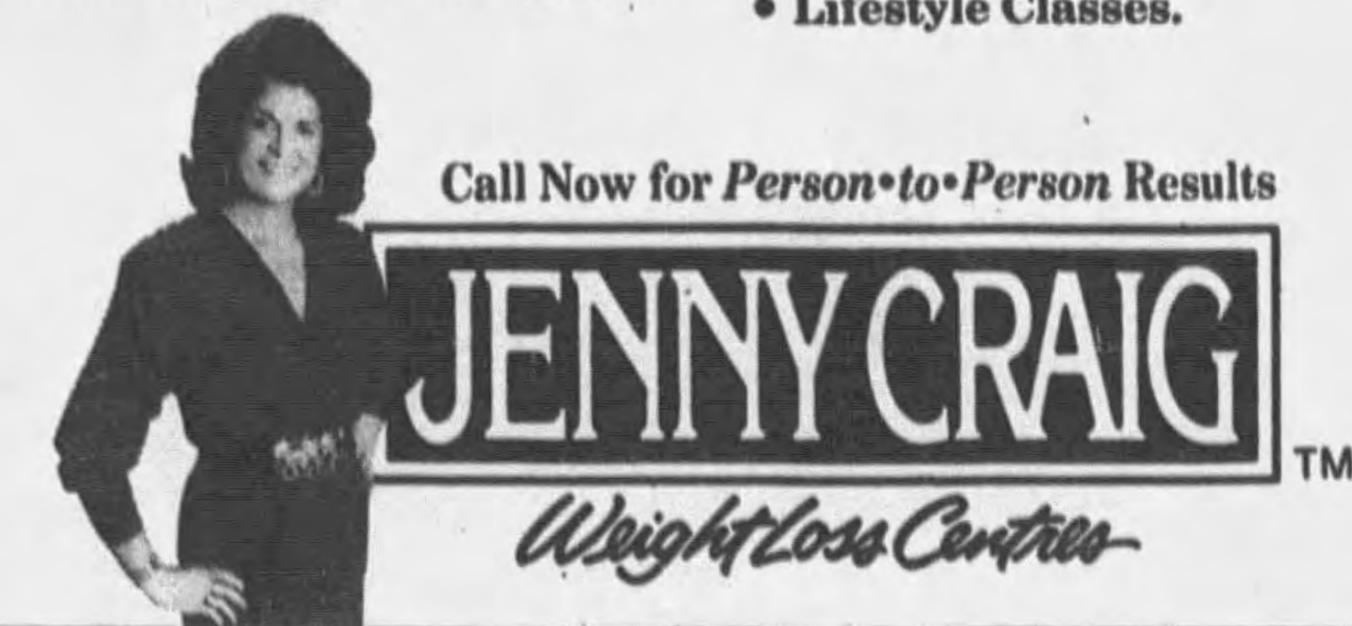


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