



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

House OKs plan to track illegally dumped wastes

WASHINGTON — The House, alarmed by used syringes and vials of AIDS-infected blood washing up on shorelines, joined the Senate on Thursday in approving legislation to combat the dumping of medical waste.

"The illegal disposal of medical waste is spreading like an epidemic across the country," said the bill's floor manager, Rep. Thomas Luken, D-Ohio. "This waste is not just repulsive; it can literally kill people."

"According to recent federal studies, as many as 18,000 people each year may contract hepatitis B from accidental contact with medical waste," he said. "Hundreds of those infected will ultimately die from the infection."

The bill, approved 390-28, would require the Environmental Protection Agency to set up a system to track infectious or dangerous trash from hospitals, labs and clinics to its disposal.

The measure, a response to this summer's much-publicized wash-ups of medical trash along the Atlantic Coast, Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, would initially require tracking in 10 states.

They are Connecticut, New Jersey and the states bordering the

Great Lakes: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The control program, however, could become national in scope because any other state could petition EPA to have its medical waste subjected to the paper-trail system and gain authority to take enforcement action against incoming waste not meeting the tracking system's requirements.

"This is a national problem," said Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "The medical waste system in this country is broken. It is overloaded, and in effect it is starting to regurgitate what it cannot keep down."

The House bill is similar to one passed recently by the Senate. Supporters in both chambers said they expect no problems resolving differences and sending a plan to President Reagan's desk before Congress adjourns later this month.

Violators of the tracking system requirements could receive a civil fine of \$25,000 for each day of violation and draw a maximum penalty of two years in prison and a daily violation fine of up to \$50,000 under criminal law.

Dukakis rips Quayle; Bush praises him

Democrat Michael Dukakis criticized Dan Quayle in campaign rhetoric and commercials on Thursday, saying the Republican vice presidential candidate appeared "extremely insecure" in debate. George Bush praised his running mate's performance but quickly changed the subject to crime control.

Quayle shook off a poll suggesting that Democrat Lloyd Bentsen beat him handily in their debate Wednesday night and said the Republicans are "still ahead" in the race for the White House. Most pre-debate surveys gave Bush a slight advantage over Dukakis with a little over a month remaining in the campaign.

Bentsen preferred an instant ABC poll rating him the debate winner by 51 percent to 27 percent. "I was just delighted," said the Texas senator.

The highlight of the debate came as the 41-year-old Quayle said his experience in Congress compared favorably with John F. Kennedy's record at the time of the 1960 campaign.

"Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy," Bentsen shot back.

The Dukakis campaign rushed to air two television commercials questioning Quayle's qualifications. One showed pictures of Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson and Gerald Ford, all vice presidents who succeeded to the presidency without an election, while an announcer said Bush's pick of

Quayle as running mate marked a "lapse of judgment."

Dukakis told reporters aboard his campaign jet en route to Texas the debate was a "real plus for us" and called Quayle's performance "very disturbing."

"I thought he was programmed beyond belief ... extremely insecure, this fellow," Dukakis said in Lone Star, Texas, where he campaigned together with Bentsen. "He didn't have a sense of strength or control or anything. ... Thinking about Quayle being a heartbeat away from the presidency, to watch that, I think, is very, very troubling."

Republicans from Ford to Ronald Reagan rallied to Quayle's cause as the Bush organization appeared to be practicing damage control.

Bush aides conspicuously violated their rule about publicly discussing polls. Campaign manager Lee Atwater said the vice president was ahead in Michigan and New Jersey, two key swing states. He predicted the vice president would carry Bentsen's home state of Texas by at least six points.

"This race is going to quickly get back to the two candidates for president," Atwater said. "There are two gladiators in the arena that are going to count in the end."

In Midland, Texas, campaign signs distributed to children attending

a Bush campaign rally said, "Dan's no JFK. Thank God."

Bush delivered his first speech of the day on crime without mention of his running mate or the debate. Instead, he ridiculed a Massachusetts prison furlough program by mimicking tough-guy actor Clint Eastwood's popular refrain "make my day."

"My opponent's answer is slightly different," Bush said. "His motto is: 'Go ahead, have a nice weekend.'"

He praised Quayle's performance as he warmed up for a morning jog, though, and later told a rally in Midland, Texas, "I think Dan Quayle did an outstanding job."

Reagan, coming to Quayle's defense, said Bentsen resorted to a "cheap shot ... unbecoming a senator of the United States" with his much-quoted debate put-down of the GOP vice presidential candidate.

Bentsen disputed any suggestion of nastiness on his part.

"What happened there was Quayle kept comparing himself to Kennedy, and he overreached himself and I got fed up with it," the Texas senator told reporters.

However, Bentsen threw his jab after Quayle's one and only reference to Kennedy in the 90-minute debate. One Democratic aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bentsen and his debate advisers had honed the remark in practice sessions.

Foes of Chilean president jubilant

SANTIAGO, Chile — Thousands of jubilant foes of President Augusto Pinochet chanted "He has fallen!" and marched in confetti-strewn streets Thursday to celebrate their ballot-box victory over the military ruler.

"An authoritarian system has been overthrown," said Ricardo Lagos, a leader of a 16-party coalition that campaigned for Gen. Pinochet's defeat in a yes-or-no referendum.

Wednesday's rejection of the army commander, who seized power in a bloody 1973 coup, cleared the way for elections to return Chile to democracy. The opposition urged elections be held before December 1989, a plan that has been rejected by the still-powerful military.

In downtown Santiago, police used tear gas and water cannons to scatter the demonstrators several times when they neared the government palace, the Defense Ministry and other strategic buildings.

Otherwise, there was no sign of the swift and harsh repression that was routine before voters soundly re-

jected the bid of the 72-year-old Pinochet to rule until 1997. Pinochet did not appear in public.

Under the constitution, Pinochet will rule until the new elections. If the military leaves power, it will further signal an end to the military governments that have dominated South America.

Elected civilian rule has replaced the military in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay in the past decade. The nearest military ruler to Chile is Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, who has ruled Paraguay since seizing power in 1954.

With 99.6 percent of votes counted, "no" votes against Pinochet's continued rule totaled 3,945,865, or 54.7 percent, while "yes" votes totaled 3,106,099, or 43 percent, the Interior Ministry reported.

Voided ballots totaled 164,427. The turnout was more than 7.2 million of the 7.4 million registered voters.

By midmorning, small groups of

students dressed in blue school uniforms had gathered in Santiago's streets and enthusiastically chanted anti-Pinochet slogans.

Initial police attempts to disperse the youngsters with water cannons and tear gas angered bystanders and only attracted more participants. By noon, thousands of demonstrators had spilled onto the city's main eight-lane boulevard, jamming traffic as they shouted, "Go away, Pinochet!" and "He has fallen!"

Drivers beeped their horns with the chants. Other demonstrators marched through the streets waving Chilean flags and opposition party banners. Confetti and streamers floated down from windows of downtown office buildings.

No arrests were reported.

Under the terms of a 1980 constitution fashioned by Pinochet's administration, his defeat sets the stage for an open presidential election the government said will be held in December 1989. Congressional elections also are planned in a year.

Communist party bosses ousted in Yugoslav province

NOVI SAD, Yugoslavia — The Communist party bosses of a Yugoslav province were ousted Thursday night while a stone-throwing crowd of 30,000 people assaulted their headquarters.

They had promised to resign earlier Thursday in the most dramatic development in three months of mass street protests over ethnic strife and economic crisis.

Several people were reported injured when the crowd outside party headquarters in Novi Sad, capital of Vojvodina province, surged toward lines of riot police, hurling stones that smashed windows in the building.

Belgrade radio quoted doctors as saying some people suffered bone fractures, but no figures were given. The protesters began to disperse after the leadership stepped down.

Removal of the provincial leadership could lead to wholesale changes in the national party and Yugoslavia's six republics.

Stipe Suvar, the national party chief, said Tuesday night there will be changes in the ruling Politburo and policy-making Central Committee at or before a Central Committee meeting scheduled for Oct. 17.

Tanjug, the official news agency, said the Vojvodina party committee voted 87-10 to dismiss the 15-member Politburo, the highest political body in the province.

Provincial party leader Milovan Sogorov said a 10-member provisional group would be established while new leaders were chosen for Vojvodina, a flat, fertile area that produces most of the nation's grain.

Pentagon slashes cost estimate for SDI program

WASHINGTON — In what one official acknowledged was "a startling change," the Defense Department said Thursday it has slashed the cost of the first phase of a Star Wars defensive shield from \$115 billion to \$69 billion, and the system could be available within a decade.

But Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the figures should be viewed with "some skepticism" because the cost of weapons programs often goes down while they are in the planning stages and then rises when production starts.

The new figures arise from a restructuring of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the formal name of President Reagan's 5-year-old program to develop a high-tech shield against attack by Soviet nuclear missiles.

Those changes were approved after Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci ordered a review when it became apparent the Democratic-controlled Congress would cut Reagan's Star Wars budget request for the fiscal year that began last Saturday.

The president sought \$4.8 billion for Star Wars, but Congress approved \$4.1 billion, up from last

year's \$3.9 billion budget.

The current debate over Star Wars centers around plans to develop a first-stage program that could form the basis of a wide-ranging system.

The initial phase is based chiefly on space-based interceptor rockets, known as SBIs, that would be housed in flying "garages" circling the globe, ready to be fired at launched Soviet missiles.

The large cost reduction is chiefly achieved by scaling back plans for the number of interceptor rockets, Pentagon officials told a joint hearing of the Senate and House Armed Services commit-

tees.

While the exact figure is classified, the Pentagon said "there would be fewer than 200 carrier vehicles (garages) with several SBIs aboard each carrier."

The Defense Department also said it can develop a better guidance unit for the rockets, meaning the chances of success for each rocket would be increased and thus the number that would have to be fired would be reduced.

In addition, the sophistication of a planned surveillance and tracking satellite system is being reduced, leading to another savings.

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