

## Tower nomination refused on close vote

WASHINGTON -- The Senate on Thursday rejected the nomination of John Tower as defense secretary, 53-47, handing President George Bush a major defeat in his first high-stakes showdown with the Democratic-controlled Congress.

The White House said Bush would act swiftly to submit a replacement nomination to the Senate.

Tower was scuttled by concerns about his drinking habits coupled with senatorial unhappiness that he had left his government post as arms negotiator and quickly began earning hundreds of thousands of dollars as a defense industry consultant.

The vote was the culmination of a tumultuous six-day Senate debate and closely followed party lines. Howell Heflin of Alabama, Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and Christopher Dodd of Connecticut were the only

Democrats to support the nomination. One Republican - Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas - voted against.

Tower, in a statement he delivered at the Pentagon moments after the vote, said, "I will be recorded as the first Cabinet nominee in the history of the republic to be rejected in the first 90 days of a presidency and perhaps be harshly judged."

"But I depart from this place at peace with myself, knowing that I have given a full measure of devotion to my country."

Tower said no other public figure "has been subjected to such a far-reaching and thorough investigation nor had his human foibles bared to such intensive and demeaning public scrutiny."

"And yet, there is no finding that I have ever breached established legal and ethical standards nor been

derelict in my duty," he said.

The Senate rendered its verdict in an atmosphere of unusual formality. Vice President Dan Quayle presided over the session, practically all senators remained in their chairs during the roll call and the gallery was packed with spectators.

"We ought to hang our heads after what we've done to this good man," Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas said in a final defiant speech of support before the roll was called.

"America has lost a good public servant. The president has won because he stood by his man."

Majority Leader George Mitchell summed up for the opponents, saying that Tower's experience and competence on defense issues weren't at issue. But "serious problems exist" with conflict of interest and "charac-

ter integrity," he said.

He said, "I emphasize my strongly held belief that this should not be interpreted as a vote to harm the president," but acknowledged that others saw it that way.

The rejection of Tower marked only the ninth time in history that the Senate has turned down a president's Cabinet nominee, and the first such decision since 1959 when the Senate voted against confirming President Eisenhower's nominee for secretary of commerce, Lewis L. Strauss.

Bush dodged reporters' questions as he departed for a trip to New York, but his press secretary, Marlin Fitzwater, said, "If necessary, we'll come up with a (new) candidate very rapidly."

Names most frequently mentioned in White House speculation as a replacement candidate included

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., the ranking GOP member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a former secretary of the Navy; former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld; former Rep. Jack Edwards, R-Ala.

Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, also was mentioned but told reporters "no," he was not in line for the post.

The debate drew to an end with the last handful of uncommitted senators declaring their intentions.

Kassebaum was the only Republican to break ranks with her party. She cited Tower's consulting work for defense contractors shortly after he served as an arms control negotiator, saying it raised "very serious concerns" about his judgment and "sensitivity to those major issues of conflict of interest, the role of consultants and the revolving door."

## Jew's strike protests emigration policy

MOSCOW -- Dozens of Jewish women across the Soviet Union, some joined by their children, launched a three-day hunger strike Wednesday to protest what they say are arbitrary Kremlin policies barring their emigration.

Inside a small, dark apartment in a pre-fabricated Moscow high-rise, 18 women and four of their children gathered to begin the third annual hunger strike organized by a group called Jewish Women Against Refusal.

The date they chose for the beginning of their three-day fast was symbolic: March 8 is International

Women's Day in the Soviet Union, a national holiday.

The hunger strikers, who were packed into a modest living room, said they feared the international popularity of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms, known as "perestroika," diverts attention from their plight.

"We are very afraid now because the Soviet Union does everything possible to attract attention to perestroika, and many people across the world are deceived," said Judith Lurie of Moscow.

"It's true that many changes have taken place in this country - but it's

far from being a law-governed state," said Lurie, 46, who has been refused an exit visa for 10 years.

Lurie's family was given exit visas in 1979, but the authorities revoked them on the grounds of state secrecy because her husband worked in a classified job as an organic chemistry researcher for two years in the 1960s, she said.

At least 48 women and several children are taking part in the hunger strike in nine cities, including Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Riga and Irkutsk, said Inna Ioffe, whose apartment was one of two gathering spots in Moscow for the hunger strikers.

## Soviet sent home, tried to tell secrets

WASHINGTON -- A Soviet military attache was ordered home Thursday by the State Department after being caught receiving classified documents from an American employee of a U.S. firm with government contracts, a spokesman said.

Lt. Col. Yuriy Nikolayevich Pakhtusov, who arrived here last June, received documents dealing with how the U.S. government protects classified and other sensitive information in computer systems, State Department press officer Dennis Harter said.

The FBI said Pakhtusov was arrested Wednesday. It was not disclosed how long he is being given to leave the United States.

Harter said the Soviet Embassy was informed that Pakhtusov was being expelled for "engaging in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status."

## Carbide seeks protection

NEW DELHI, India -- Victims of the Bhopal gas disaster rampaged through Union Carbide Corp. offices Wednesday, and a human chain surrounded the building screaming: "Killer Carbide, quit India!"

Hundreds of other protesting victims squatted outside the Supreme Court, which Wednesday began hearing a petition challenging the government's right to settle on compensation for all victims of the world's worst industrial accident.

**'Killer Carbide, quit India!'**  
—protestors

About 570,000 people say they are entitled to compensation for the Dec. 3, 1984 gas leak at a Union Carbide pesticide plant in the central town of Bhopal that killed at least 3,400 people and injured 20,000. Today, people still are dying from effects of the leak.

About a dozen people broke away

from the protest outside the downtown New Delhi offices of the Danbury, Conn.-based multinational Wednesday, and stormed into the reception area.

They broke windows, smashed furniture and scrawled slogans on the walls, said company spokesman Subramaniam Kumaraswamy.

About 140 demonstrators who formed a human chain around the building yelled, "We Will Not Allow UCC To Get Away With Murder!"

Immediately, the company sought police protection.

"We have posted policemen all over," a police official said on condition of anonymity. "What happened will not happen now."

Protestors want the Supreme Court to scrap a \$470 million settlement agreed to by the government Feb. 14 as "full and final" compensation for all sufferers from the disaster.

"I am a gas victim," said a yellow paper badge on the sari of a woman among 800 demonstrators who sat cross-legged in the parking lot of the Supreme Court.

## Central Latinos use smugglers to sneak across U.S. border

MATAMOROS, Mexico -- Central Americans fleeing their war-torn homelands have begun using smugglers to take them deep into the United States to evade tighter rules and heavier border patrols, officials said Wednesday.

Other refugees, out of money for bribes and payments, say they can only wait and hope the U.S. crackdown that began Feb. 21 will ease.

"There's been a large increase in smuggling people," said Juan A. Garcia, assistant chief of the U.S. Border Patrol in McAllen, Texas. "They've resorted to going through smugglers to see if they're able to get them farther into the United States."

David Trevino, a supervisor of the Border Patrol's intelligence unit, said there are 1,500 to 2,000 Central Americans on the Mexican side of the border waiting to cross, up from 200 to 300 before the new policy went into effect.

Until Feb. 21, refugees could enter the United States at Brownsville, Texas, the nearest U.S. point to Central America. Most applied for political asylum and lived in the United States until their status was determined.

But the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said most refugees have experienced economic hardship and need not fear political persecution. In an effort to stem the flow, the INS began interviewing refugees as soon as they crossed the border.

In the first week, the agency granted only 16 of 370 petitions for asylum, and detained the others pending deportation proceedings.

The result was a backup in this town just south of Brownsville on the Rio Grande, as some Central Americans fled the threat of detention in the United States and others searched for a new, and illegal, way across the border.

Trevino said smuggling cases detected in the area have doubled from four to eight a day. Most of the refugees are trying to reach Houston, from which they can travel to other parts of the United States.

"A lot of them are transported to just before a checkpoint and dropped off. They walk around the checkpoint and are picked up on the other side," Garcia said. The checkpoints are surrounded by farmland, and Garcia said it's impossible to monitor all the river crossings.

Meanwhile, many Central Americans said that while crossing the river has become tougher, paying smugglers to take them to other crossing points or further into the United States is not an option.

"We came and we've found that we can't get in, that there are new laws and now we're trapped here without money and we can't cross," said Margarita Saavedra, 45, a Nicaraguan at the Casa Juan Diego, a Roman Catholic-run shelter for the poor.



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