

New proposal may beat Tuesday shutdown deadline

Lawmakers continue budget negotiations

WASHINGTON - Democratic leaders predicted Sunday that a new budget agreement easing Medicare cuts and tempering excise tax increases will be reached before the government shutdown takes full effect Tuesday.

Democrats told their leaders to go ahead with a plan designed to let Democratic-controlled committees draft later the specifics for reaching \$500 billion in deficit reduction over the next five years.

Republicans were balking but House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., said he might go ahead with it anyway. Informal bipartisan talks continued into the night Sunday as the House remained on standby to consider any plan put before it.

The Senate, meanwhile, convened at 6 p.m. and adjourned 12 minutes later after concluding that it would be hours, at best, before anything concrete would emanate from the House.

That meant there was no chance of a final budget agreement being approved Sunday, but the practical impact of pushing a decision into today was marginal since it is Columbus Day — a federal holiday.

Republicans and Democrats, meanwhile,

continued to blame each other for the partial government shutdown that closed federal tourist attractions and other weekend programs nationwide.

Foley said President Bush's veto Saturday of a bill designed to keep the government operating during the negotiations was "a bad mistake" that had slowed the talks.

“There's not a dime's worth of tax increases, not ten cent's worth of cuts in the budget resolution. It allows the committees to consider these issues.”

Foley House speaker

The president was "saying we ought to rebuild the fiscal house of this country and (then he) sets the house on fire for awhile to get our attention," Foley said.

Bush spent Sunday at his mountaintop re-

reat at Camp David, Md., conferring by telephone with his chief of staff, John Sununu, and Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady, part of the administration team that negotiated the defeated budget pact.

Vice President Dan Quayle, appearing on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" program, said Bush was not the problem, "The problem is Congress."

Quayle predicted that 90 percent of the budget deal Bush unsuccessfully lobbied for last week would remain, and would pass with a few changes.

"We now know what the problems were with the old one," agreed Sen. James Sasser, D-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

"The new budget agreement in my view will address the problem of the overly large Medicare cuts . . . and also will address the revenue part of the package," said Sasser, also appearing on ABC.

The draft plan circulated in the House would reduce from \$60 billion to \$42 billion the amount that Medicare would contribute to deficit reduction over the next five years.

Beneficiaries of Medicare coverage would

only be expected to bear \$12 billion of the cost, compared to \$28 billion in the original package. The rest would be made up by limiting allowances for providers of the medical services for the elderly.

Although the draft did not spell out details, legislators said they were told the deductible for doctors' bills would rise from \$75 to \$100, instead of \$150 in the original plan. In addition, monthly premiums would rise at a much slower rate.

Opposition from the public to the package seemed to concentrate on a list of provisions including the Medicare premiums and fees, and a 12-cent motor fuel boost and a 2 cent tax on home heating oil which the new plan might also change.

In a closed-door caucus that members said showed deep divisions in the ranks, many GOP members told their leaders they now were ready to go along with raising income tax rates on the wealthy in order to win for Bush a cut in the tax rate on capital gains. But there was no assurance in the draft the Democrats would make that trade, which Republicans had opposed in the original pact.

Beast hunters fail to locate elusive Nessie

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland - A two-day search for the Loch Ness monster ended Sunday with two blips on a radar screen but no evidence of the legendary beast.

National oddsmakers William Hill Organization Ltd., which had offered 250,000 pounds (\$477,500) for "conclusive evidence" of Nessie, kept its reward but paid 1,500 pounds (\$2,850) to a Scottish company for the best search method.

Oceanscan, which supplies underwater sonar equipment for the North Sea oil industry, used underwater radar and registered an unidentified object up to 26 feet long.

"The object which showed up yesterday registered as two blips on the sonar screen but it moved out of range very quickly. We can't be sure what it was," said Andy Gray, Oceanscan's managing director.

The three other hunting parties participating in the first major search in three years came up empty.

The lake is 754 feet deep, 23 miles long and a mile wide.

William Hill is offering 100-1 odds that Nessie's existence will not be authenticated within a year.

October 8th-13th

HOMECOMING EVENTS OCTOBER 8TH-13TH

MONDAY **OCTOBER 8TH**—Kickoff; Broyhill Fountain; 3:30-4:30 p.m.; House of Blue Leaves; Howell Theatre; 8:00 p.m., October 8th-13th. Do it Sober!; Coliseum; 8:00 p.m. (Rain site for kickoff-Union Ballroom)

TUESDAY **OCTOBER 9TH**—Talent Show; City Union Ballroom; 7:30-10:00 p.m.; General Admission: \$3.00, Admission with Student I.D.: \$2.00 Wallyball Tournament; Recreation Center; Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday; 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY **OCTOBER 10TH**—Royalty Voting; both Unions; 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Win, Lose, or Draw Contest, City Union; 6:30 p.m.; sponsored by Union Board

THURSDAY **OCTOBER 11TH**—Comedy Night; East Union Great Plains Room; 7:00-8:30 p.m.; General Admission: \$3.00, Admission with Student I.D.: \$2.00

FRIDAY **OCTOBER 12TH**—Parade; Campus and Downtown; 6:00 p.m.; Display Judging; after 2:00 p.m. "WE Play"; Lied Center; 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Dance; Location to be announced. General Admission: \$2.00, Admission with Student I.D.: \$1.00

SATURDAY **OCTOBER 13TH**—Pep Rally; Broyhill Fountain; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; sponsored by ASUN. Nebraska vs. Missouri Royalty presented at half time of the game. After the Game: UNL Live (Jazz Performance); Lied Center Plaza; Admission: FREE! Alumni Post Game Party; Cornhusker; immediately following the game.

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