

House adopts revised deficit-reduction plan

Leaders seek budget approval

WASHINGTON - Senate Republican and Democratic leaders pressed for approval Monday night of a revised \$500 billion deficit reduction plan essential for averting a widespread shutdown in government services this morning.

President Bush declined to say whether he would agree to the plan, which envisions smaller cuts in Medicare but possibly higher tax increases than an earlier version the House rejected last week.

"We're giving no signals," said the president's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater. "We've got to see what the bill looks like" when the Senate finishes.

But thousands of federal workers faced the threat of forced furloughs and lawmakers warned of chaos if the White House and Congress failed to resolve their months-long impasse over the federal deficit.

"This has just been playing marshmallow stuff" so far, said Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., the Senate's assistant Republican leader, referring to the limited impact on the government during the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

"Any thoughtful, reasonable person now knows what happens to this government tomorrow."

Republican and Democratic leaders searched into the evening for support for the package, which was passed by the House 250-164 in a post-midnight session early Monday. The measure contains far fewer specific spending cuts and tax increases than the version that went down to defeat last week, putting off those decisions for later in the month.

Republicans and Democrats met separately to go over the plan, with both leaders, Democrat George Mitchell of Maine and Republican Bob

Dole of Kansas, seeking support.

Agreement on a deficit-reduction plan is essential for avoiding the shutdown of government services. Bush has vetoed one emergency bill to restore the government's spending authority and has said he would veto others that come to him without spending cuts.

Many lawmakers of both parties believe that in the end the new plan will also contain a cut in the capital gains tax rate and higher income taxes for the wealthy. Bush has wanted to slash the capital gains tax — levied on sales of property — for years, while Democrats have demanded the higher rates on the wealthy.

The new proposal would eliminate many of the specifics from savings proposals that had driven a majority of both Democrats and Republicans to reject an initial package Friday in the House.

UPDATE

Two American pilots crash; eight others missing in Gulf

Two American pilots serving with the multinational force facing Iraq died in a jet crash Monday in Saudi Arabia, and the Navy searched for two helicopters and eight crew members missing in the Arabian Sea.

The Pentagon said search and rescue crews had spotted the wreckage of at least one helicopter late Monday but no bodies had been found.

International forces in the Persian Gulf crisis showed a new measure of teamwork when U.S., British and Australian warships upholding the U.N. trade embargo forced two Iraqi ships to stop and submit to searches. In one case, the Western ships fired shots.

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus, said the actions amounted to harassment by "sea pirates."

U.S. military officials said a RF4C Phantom reconnaissance jet crashed in the southern Saudi Arabian peninsula.

The jet belonged to a unit of the Alabama Air National Guard assigned to Operation Desert Shield. A military spokesman, Navy Cmdr. J.D. Van Sickle, said the crash was under investigation and that he could provide no other details.

Names of the pilots were withheld pending notification of relatives.

The two Marine helicopters disappeared about dawn during a training flight over the north Arabian Sea, east of the Persian Gulf, said Cmdr. J.D. van Sickle, a Navy spokesman.

Naval officers ruled out hostile action and said there was no indication that the helicopters might have collided.

Pentagon officials in Washington said the Marines were from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

A Kuwaiti official said his nation's government-in-exile will ask the United Nations to allow an airlift of medicine into Kuwait City to help people who are critically ill.

"We are very concerned about people who are dying because of a lack of medical supplies," Suleman Mutawaa, the government's planning minister, said in London.

Proposed Amendment to the ASUN Constitution Eligibility for Division of Continuing Studies

The ASUN Constitution states that in order to be eligible for election or appointment to the student government you must be enrolled as a full time student (12 hours). The proposed amendment would lower the requirement for students in the Division of Continuing Studies to three hours of enrollment.

Present

ARTICLE V. Branches

B. Eligibility

1. Elected members. To be eligible for election to the Senate, a candidate must:

- a. Be a regularly enrolled member of the college he proposes to represent and agree in writing to resign if he should terminate his enrollment in that college during the term of office for which he seeks election.
- b. Be regularly enrolled as a full-time student, either as an undergraduate or as a graduate student.
- c. Meet university regulations for participation in extracurricular activities.

- YES- A vote yes will change the requirement to 3 hours
- NO- A vote no will keep the requirement at 12 hours

Proposed

ARTICLE V. Branches

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1. Elected members. To be eligible to election for the Senate, a candidate must:

- a. Be a regularly enrolled member of the college he proposes to represent and agree in writing to resign if he should terminate his enrollment in that college during the term of office for which he seeks election.
- b. Be regularly enrolled as a full-time student, either as an undergraduate or as a graduate student.
- c. The senator from the Division of Continuing Studies must be enrolled with at least three credit hours.
- d. Meet university regulations for participation in extracurricular activities.

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Police open fire on Palestinians at Temple Mount

JERUSALEM - In Jerusalem's bloodiest rioting in more than two decades, police opened fire Monday on stone-throwing Palestinians at the Temple Mount sacred to both Jews and Moslems. At least 19 Arabs were killed.

The violence erupted after Palestinians hurled a barrage of stones from the mount onto thousands of Jews gathered just below at the Wailing Wall, where they were celebrating the festival of Sukkot. The wall is Judaism's holiest site.

The Arabs were apparently angered by rumors that Jewish extremists planned to march onto the Temple Mount, which is revered by both Jews and Moslems but is under Moslem control.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir expressed regret but insisted Israeli forces were blameless.

Israeli Police Minister Roni Milo said 19 Arabs died in the Jerusalem clash and about 140 were wounded. Arab hospital officials at first said 22 were killed, then lowered their count to 18, with 125 wounded.

The discrepancy between the Arab and Israeli casualty counts could not immediately be explained.

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