

# Congress starts to assemble new budget

WASHINGTON - Confusion over President Bush's position on higher taxes slowed congressional efforts Wednesday to start work in earnest on a new budget agreement. Bush showed no inclination to clarify matters, saying, "Let Congress clear it up."

Congressional Democrats complained that an apparent Bush rejection of higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans — a reversal of the position he took at his news conference Tuesday — would make it tougher to forge a budget compromise.

But there was no shortage of options, as both Republicans and Democrats began floating new versions of tax and spending plans on Capitol Hill.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole and other lawmakers who met with the president Tuesday night said he had not ruled out the tax boost at that private meeting, as reported by Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that Bush "listened to" the GOP lawmakers rather than stating a position.

Bush, on a campaign trip in the South, was asked repeatedly about the matter, but turned away the questions with wisecracks.

He was asked as he jogged during a break in

St. Petersburg, Fla., if he would care to clear up the confusion.

"Confusion?" he responded.

Was he giving up on a capital gains tax rate cut, the item the Democrats supposedly were to trade for his support of higher income taxes on rich people?

"Read my hips," he said, pointing, as he jogged by.

Could he clear up his position?

"Let Congress clear it up."

The Senate Finance Committee indefinitely postponed a meeting at which it was to discuss a budget package written by its chairman, Texas Democrat Lloyd Bentsen, generally in line with the tax trade Bush endorsed at his news conference.

"I had the deal all worked out until the president changes his position on taxes," said Bentsen.

Across the Capitol, the House Ways and Means Committee considered a plan written by its chairman, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill. The package was similar to the measure Bentsen's panel had readied, although it would add restrictions on tax deductions available to people earning more than \$100,000 annually.

It also would add private planes worth more

than \$100,000 to the list of luxury items subject to a new 10 percent tax, and place a 2-cent-per-gallon tax on petroleum products — excluding home-heating oil.

Facing an Oct. 19 deadline, congressional committees must work out tax and spending

“**Read my hips . . . Let Congress clear it up.**”

Bush

details adding up to a \$500 billion reduction in the federal deficit over the next five years.

Medicare spending is expected to be cut, though not as much as in the budget package rejected by the House last week, and taxes are expected to be increased on such consumer items as gasoline, tobacco and alcohol.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said, "I had hoped for agreement on tax proposals along the lines Sen. Bentsen had indicated an intention to offer and . . . the president had indicated an intention to accept. The president's reversal of that position last evening . . . requires us to reconsider and

attempt to determine how best to proceed."

The confusion was also exposing rifts among Republican lawmakers.

A group of conservative House Republicans put together a deficit-slashing plan of their own, raising the income tax rate on the wealthiest Americans from 28 to 31 percent. It would drop the rate on people who are almost as well-to-do from 33 percent to 31 percent, and not increase the gasoline tax.

"We're delighted to have White House input," said Rep. Mickey Edwards, R-Okla., the leader of the group. "We're not looking to the White House for leadership."

At day's end Tuesday, GOP senators had visited Bush to tell him they opposed raising taxes on the wealthy even if Democrats would agree to capital gains rate cuts.

"He just acquiesced in it," Packwood told reporters afterward.

The visit itself was yet another example of Republican lawmakers' unrest concerning proposed budget deals. A majority of GOP House members went against Bush last week as that chamber voted down the budget agreement worked out by the White House and congressional leaders of both parties.

## Dorm Night Every Sunday!

Chicken Fried Steak, Petite Sirloin, Chopped Sirloin or Deluxe Hamburger with Salad Bar, Potato Bar and Dessert Bar and free beverage

only **\$4.99** with student ID

Not valid with other offers.



6145 O St.

488-2802

## Study: Young generation amoral

NEW YORK - Watergate was a word you learned in grade school. Your teen-age years coincided with the "me decade." And come job-hunting time, the "greed-is-good" mantra from "Wall Street" echoed everywhere.

You belong to a generation that is "less anchored in bedrock ethical values than any other," according to a study by the Josephson Institute for the Advancement of Ethics.

"An unprecedented proportion of today's youth lack commitment to core moral values like honesty, personal responsibility, respect for others and civic duty," concludes the report scheduled for release today.

But critics — including educators, ethicists and some of the 18-to-30-year-olds in question — say the Los Angeles-based, non-profit institute's study is overstated.

"I don't see rampant amorality," said Stephen F. Davis, a psychology professor at Emporia State University of Kansas. His survey on cheating among 6,000 college students nationwide was one of about a dozen

studies on which Michael Josephson based his report.

"There are some messages in our data but certainly I wouldn't go so far as to indict an entire generation based on it," Davis said this week.

But Josephson said his conclusions, which were drawn from published and unpublished polls, articles and about 40 original interviews, indicated "a meaningful, demonstrable . . . discernible disintegration" in moral standards.

"It's a total picture that really tells the story," said Josephson, whose non-partisan institute conducts ethics programs for the Internal Revenue Service, the Pentagon, several major media organizations and educators.

The study's source material included surveys conducted at the California Department of Education, Rutgers University, the University of Delaware and the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Among the indicators Josephson cites:

- During the 1980s, the majority of college freshman surveyed admitted to cheating in high school.

- Young Americans are 40 percent less likely to identify frequent newsmakers than those over age 30; those 24 or under vote less than any previous generation.

- Professional resume and reference-checking services estimate that from 10 percent to 25 percent of job-seekers — a large percentage of whom are under 30 — falsify their credentials.

- A recent published survey found 70 percent of girls under 18 were sexually active in 1989 compared with 54 percent a decade earlier; for boys, the increase was from 66 percent in 1979 to 72 percent last year.

"It's an interpretation of many isolated pieces of information. They're entitled to their interpretation and maybe they're right, but I'm not in agreement," said Elaine El-Khawass, vice president for research at the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C. "I find much that is heartening."

HOMECOMING DANCE

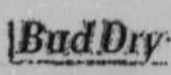
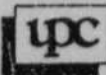
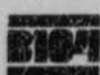


Date: Friday, October 12, 1990

Place: Broyhill Fountain (not at M.R. Ducks)

Time: 7:30-9:30 p.m. (not 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.)

Sponsored by:



## GUINNESS update

### More Americans evacuated

A plane carrying about 400 Americans and other foreign captives in Kuwait and Iraq arrived today in Baghdad on a planned flight to freedom in America. Earlier, an Air Force jet crashed in Saudi Arabia, killing both crewmen.

Most of those aboard the Iraqi Airways Boeing 747 had been held in occupied Kuwait and signed up for the first U.S.-chartered evacuation flight from there since Sept. 22. They were taken by bus to Basra, Iraq. The State Department in Washington said they then flew on a 50-minute flight to the Iraqi capital.

It was not known when the foreigners would be allowed to leave for Britain and onward to North Carolina. Officials in Washington said it was believed the arrival at the Raleigh-Durham airport would occur today.

The jet crash Wednesday was the fourth U.S. military air accident since the United States began deploying forces in the Persian Gulf region following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Two helicopters also disappeared during a training flight. In all, 24 servicemen have died and eight are missing.

## Daily Nebraskan

Editor Eric Planner 472-1766

Professional Adviser Don Walton 473-7301

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE. Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 436-9993.

Subscription price is \$45 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1990 DAILY NEBRASKAN