

Bush OKs \$1.4 billion food aid for Soviets

WASHINGTON — President Bush approved an additional \$1.4 billion in food aid Wednesday for the Soviet Union, and for the first time gave the assistance directly to the Soviet republics rather than the central government.

The House also voted 350 to 78 to normalize trade with the Soviet Union by approving the granting of most-favored-nation status, which would reduce tariffs to the lowest possible level. The action also must be approved by the Senate.

The Senate Finance Committee approved

the measure by a voice vote. The measure was expected to win approval in the full chamber within a few days.

The administration's aid package is intended to help the disintegrating country cope with food shortages this winter.

Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said there already is "evidence of hoarding" in the Soviet Union.

In Congress, there were warnings of famine and political disintegration threatening control

of the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

Intelligence sources likened the current atmosphere in the Soviet Union to that of the dismal 1930s and said there was a potential for anarchy if food shortages spread during the winter.

Mindful of the political backlash against foreign aid, the administration portrayed the assistance as a boon for hard-pressed U.S. farmers.

"This is not a foreign program that we're talking about here," Madigan said, announcing

the aid at a White House briefing.

"This is a domestic program that has as its intent moving U.S. grain out of the U.S. market to the benefit of American farmers who will make these sales and then will spend that money in the American economy buying pickup trucks and buying other things that are manufactured in urban areas," the secretary said.

The United States has committed itself to nearly \$4 billion in loan guarantees over the last year for Soviet purchases of U.S. farm products.

Two of three in AP poll say economy still getting worse

NEW YORK — With financial news grim and politicians badly divided on how to respond, two in three Americans in an Associated Press poll say the economy is getting worse, but they think the government can help.

Of three proposals for changes to help the nation's economy, the most popular is a cut in federal taxes paid by middle-income Americans, which 79 percent say they want.

A cut in capital gains taxes paid by investors, which President Bush favors, has 41 percent support, with 40 percent opposed and 19 percent unsure. Cuts in interest rates appeal to 76 percent, with 17 percent opposed and 7 percent uncertain.

Asked whether any of these proposals would succeed in helping the nation's economy, 64 percent say yes, and only 23 percent say no.

For the poll, ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., interviewed 1,012 adults in a random national sample. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The poll was conducted from Friday, when the stock market's

Dow average suffered its fifth-biggest point decline ever, through Tuesday, when Bush tried to allay fears with upbeat talk.

"Inflation is down," Bush said. "Interest rates are way down. Personal debt is down. Inventories are down. Quality is up. Exports are up."

The poll found that 69 percent say the economy is getting worse, 5 percent say it's getting better, and 25 percent say it's staying the same.

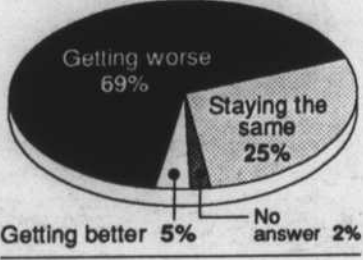
Asking people whether they think the nation's economy is getting better or worse is influenced not just by such developments as the stock market plunge, but by personal experiences such as knowing someone who has been laid off, or being unable to get full-time work or a raise.

The results show growing gloom since the AP poll of June 26-30, when 47 percent said the economy is getting worse, 18 percent said better and 33 percent said it would stay the same. In a comparable poll in September, only two in five thought the economy was worsening.

In another poll released Wednesday, the ABC News-

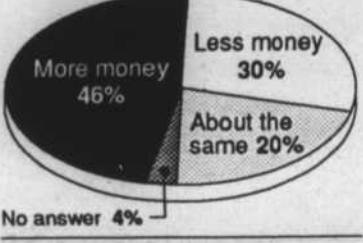
Associated Press Poll

Is the nation's economy...



Family finances

Do you expect to have more money or less money next year, compared with this year?



Source: Associated Press poll of 1,012 Americans taken Nov. 15-19 by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Because of rounding, all sums may not total 100.

Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index tied its all-time low, as a record 89 percent rated the economy's condition as "not so good" or "poor."

Hundreds rescued in bombed-out Croat city

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia — Relief workers evacuated hundreds of sick and wounded Wednesday from a bombed-out hospital in the Croatian city of Vukovar, where they were trapped for weeks by a Serbian siege.

A European Community spokesman said 19 ambulances and 20 buses loaded with patients pulled out of the shattered city and were believed bound for Sremska Mitrovica, a Serbian town near Belgrade. About 60 of the 400 sick and wounded remained behind, apparently too weak to travel.

Officials had planned to evacuate the wounded, mostly Croats, to Croatia, but that was deemed unsafe due to the continuing war between Croatian forces and Serbs and their allies in the federal army.

More than 2,000 people have died since Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

Croatian and federal army authorities had agreed Tuesday to evacuate those trapped in the shelled hospital on the Danube River border with Serbia.

After taking Vukovar, the Serb-dominated army took control of the hospital, and Croatian and army negotiators declared it a "neutral area" under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

A cease-fire held Wednesday around the hospital, said the EC spokesman, Ed Koestal. But he added that

EC teams reported seeing empty ambulances and buses being shot at while heading toward Vukovar. It was not clear by whom.

Army and Croatian officials met in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, to decide on the route of the evacuation vehicles, which will be accompanied by EC monitors, Koestal said.

The army and Serb militants appeared almost totally in control of the eastern Croatian town, which fell over the weekend after a three-month siege.

An army officer in Belgrade, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 2,000 to 2,500 Croatian fighters had either surrendered or were captured in the past two days.

About 5,000 people have reportedly been evacuated from Vukovar so far. More than 10,000, including 2,000 children, were reported to have been there when it fell.

U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance, in Zagreb, met the Croatian foreign minister and premier Wednesday to discuss deploying a peacekeeping force.

Vance visited Vukovar on Tuesday, and said later that the trip convinced him of the need to deploy peacekeepers as soon as possible. Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, said the devastation and human suffering were "worse than anything we could have expected."

Prospects for remaining hostage releases 'brighter'

BEIRUT, Lebanon — In another sign that the hostage saga is drawing to a close, the umbrella group for the hostage-holders said Wednesday that the three remaining American captives will be released soon. Iran indicated that one, Joseph Cicippio, could be let go next week.

In Washington, the White House said prospects for freedom for the remaining U.S. hostages "look brighter than they have for a long time."

American Thomas Sutherland, one of the two hostages freed Monday after an exhaustive diplomatic effort by U.N. Secretary-General

American possibly could be freed in the next week

Javier Perez de Cuellar, recounted his ordeal to reporters at the military hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he is recuperating.

"I could almost say it's been worth waiting for, but it was a heck of a long wait — 2,347 days," said Sutherland, 60. He described being kept in chains and in dark cells, and of once being beaten until he screamed in pain.

The other hostage freed Monday, Church of England envoy Terry Waite, spent a quiet day Wednesday with his family at a British air base.

Waite's family said he wanted to respond to suggestions that Waite's own efforts to free hostages were compromised by his contacts with former White House aide Oliver North, who was at the center of the Iran-contra arms-for-hostages affair.

The family indicated that Waite would spend more time recuperating before making public statements about the matter.

In Beirut, Abbas Musawi, secretary-general of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God,

said future hostage releases would not be linked to the release of Arabs detainees held by Israel or an accounting of missing Israeli servicemen.

Since Perez de Cuellar's mediation drive began in August, hostage releases had been part of a complex overall deal involving the Arab detainees and Israeli servicemen. That has changed, the secretary-general told reporters on Tuesday.

"As the kidnap factions have clearly stated, the issue of the Western hostages is heading to a final solution in the coming few weeks," Musawi said at a news conference.

Quindlen

Continued from Page 1

home. Quindlen said she took "a quantum leap in her psyche" and became one of the first columnists to regulate her work "based on pre-school eligibility."

"It has always seemed necessary to shape my work life around my

family," she said earlier in an interview.

But Quindlen said choices to shape career and motherhood are not available to all women. Shaping career and motherhood has been possible for her with "some difficulty and a good deal of money," she said.

With all the societal changes for women, she said a lot of effort to help families lies with the men.

Multicultural channels said needed

By Kim Spurlock Staff Reporter

A need for multicultural programming on television exists in Lincoln, a spokeswoman for Black Entertainment Television told about 100 UNL students, faculty and Lincoln residents Wednesday.

Angela Scott, affiliate marketing manager for BET South Central region, addressed an eight-person panel at the Lincoln Public Schools administration building, 5901 O St., about the need for BET in Lincoln and other cities.

"I believe the cable industry cannot be totally diversified without the presence of Black Entertainment Television and other cultural networks," she said.

Scott said that 31.6 million people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands subscribed

to BET and that 60 percent of the subscribers are not African-American.

BET provides some of the cultural diversity needed today, Scott said.

It is this kind of programming "that promotes the positive images of African-American people as they relate to society," she said. "And if our society is to grow and prosper, we need this type of programming for all cultures."

Other members of the panel included representatives from the Lincoln Public School Board, the mayor's office, the cable advisory board, City Council and Cablevision.

Although panelists agreed that BET would help increase the knowledge of different cultures, Jeff Jarecke, sales and marketing manager for Cablevision, said that adding BET to Cablevision's offerings may take several years.

Jarecke said that Cablevision is in the process of doubling its channel size and that BET has met the criteria for Cablevision and is being considered as an addition.

"We ran into some time limitations. . . . That's not to say that we're never going to have BET," Jarecke said.

"I guess my message to you all right now is to bear with us as we try to proceed forward," he said.

Some UNL students complained of being "forced" to subscribe to Cablevision to have better reception on their televisions. And, students said, Cablevision is supposed to please its subscribers, and it's not pleasing those who want BET.

Some members of the audience said that if Cablevision continued to fail to meet their needs, they might cancel their subscriptions.

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