

## Bush addresses civil rights on two fronts

### President signs bill, issues new order to unite America

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed a civil rights bill Thursday that he said would "fight the evil of discrimination," and tried to silence a new furor over race by withdrawing a tentative order to end government hiring preferences for blacks and women.

"For the past few years the issue of civil rights legislation has divided America," Bush said. "No more."

The political divisions that sustained a two-year congressional fight

over the civil rights bill and prompted Bush to veto a similar measure last year, remained sharp.

The new law negates Supreme Court decisions that made it more difficult for minorities to win lawsuits charging job discrimination by employers. It also expands the rights of women and religious minorities to sue and collect damages for job discrimination, including sexual harassment.

It was Bush's agreement to support a modified version of the bill and drop his potent political argument that it would prompt employers to resort to racial quotas, that brought overwhelming congressional passage.

Bush signed the Civil Rights Act

of 1991 in a Rose Garden ceremony that was overshadowed by the storm of controversy over a proposed presidential affirmative-action order circulated Wednesday evening to government agencies. Most Democrats stayed away from the signing in protest.

The order would have ended preferential hiring and promotions for women and minorities, and dropped federal guidelines for hiring practices that the courts apply to private businesses.

White House spokesmen said Bush had never seen the document. They said it was written by his legal counsel, C. Boyden Gray and circulated

without Bush's approval.

After the signing, the White House released a new statement in Bush's name replacing the earlier one and deleting the termination orders for affirmative action programs.

But presidential press secretary Marlin Fitzwater refused to rule out the possibility that Bush would later order such changes.

"We support preferences and set-asides as long as they're consistent with the law," Fitzwater said.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there is strong support among Bush's advisers for proceeding with

the dismantling of some affirmative action programs.

That official predicted more activity in that area and said Bush decided to remove the language proposed by Gray because "he thought this was not the right time."

"I support affirmative action," Bush said in signing the new civil rights law. "Nothing in this bill overturns the government's affirmative action program."

"Unlike last year's bill, a bill I was forced to veto, this bill will not encourage quotas or racial preferences because this bill will not encourage lawsuits on the basis of numbers alone," Bush said.

### U.S. delays withdrawal of troops in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States will delay withdrawals of U.S. troops from South Korea to pressure North Korea to stop making nuclear weapons, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney announced Thursday.

The announcement underscored growing U.S. concern about Communist North Korea's nuclear capability and its refusal to allow inspection of its nuclear and reprocessing facilities.

North Korea denies any nuclear weapons program, but South Korean officials say the secretive nation could manufacture weapons-grade nuclear bombs in two or three years. U.S. officials say it could be sooner.

Speaking at the end of two days of security talks with South Korea, Cheney said that troop cutbacks will be postponed "until the dangers and uncertainties of the North Korean nuclear program have been thoroughly addressed."

"We are convinced that North Korea is developing the capability to build a nuclear weapon," said Cheney, whose talks with South Korean officials

focused on the North's nuclear weapons development.

He spoke at a joint news conference with his South Korean counterpart, Lee Jong-koo.

Under the new troop withdrawal plan, U.S. forces will be cut from 43,000 to 36,000 by the end of 1992 as planned, but further reductions designated for 1993-1995 will be postponed. Fewer than 10,000 troops will be affected.

North Korea, a bitter enemy of the South since the peninsula was divided in 1945, for years has demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops. U.S. forces came to the aid of Seoul in the 1950-53 Korean War.

Cheney called on North Korea to publicly forswear the development of nuclear weapons or the ability to produce enriched or reprocessed nuclear fuel that could be used in producing such weapons. He said North Korea must also allow verification of such changes.

He and Lee said they would "pursue all available means" to halt North Korea's nuclear weapons development program.

### Forces in the Korean peninsula

North Korea		
ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE
1,000,000	41,000	70,000
South Korea		
ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE
650,000	60,000	40,000
U.S. Army and Air Force troops: about 40,000		

### Soviet Union's creditors to let debt payments slide

MOSCOW — The world's richest industrial democracies on Thursday gave the Soviet Union a reprieve from the bill collectors, deferring \$3.6 billion in debt payments and offering new loans that would be secured by Soviet gold reserves.

The agreement is aimed at allowing the Soviet Union to save its traditionally good credit rating and give it time and money to implement vital economic reforms.

"The chance for real reform is now there," said David Mulford, U.S. representative at the Group of Seven talks with republic officials.

A communique signed at the end of the talks said eight of the 12 remaining Soviet republics agreed to repay the entire foreign debt run up by the former Communist central government and to work with the International Monetary Fund to restructure the economy.

Questions remained about the exact size of the foreign debt, with estimates ranging from \$65 billion to \$100 billion.

Mulford, a top Treasury Department official, said all countries that lent money to the Soviet Union will be invited to a meeting to calculate the amount of outstanding IOUs. They would also be asked to join the debt-relief plan by the Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

The plan allows the Soviet Union to defer payments on the principal of medium- and long-term foreign debts until at least March 31.

After a review at that point, the deferral will probably be extended to the end of 1992, providing the republics make progress on their promises to disband the old command economy and move to a free market system.

Interest on the debt must continue to be paid.

Mulford said the Soviet Union will be deferring payment on at least \$3.6 billion.

He said that when loans from another 10 creditor countries and commercial banks are included, the deferral could be as high as \$6 billion.

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### More older students attending college

WASHINGTON — College students are older than ever before — one in four is 30 or more, a government survey said Thursday.

These older students, educators say, are practical, they demand full value for their tuition dollar, and they're tough competitors for top grades.

"Older students often fret about going back to the classroom and competing with bright-eyed younger people, but I think for the most part, they manage well," said Susan Kaufmann, associate director of the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Many of the women are undergraduates, retraining to take advantage of new job opportunities.

A Census Bureau survey found in 1989 there were 3.3 million college students aged 30 and older. That's about double the number 15 years earlier.

One out of every five women in college was 35 or older in 1989, according to an Associated Press analysis of the census numbers. Fifteen years before, only one in eight was that age.

In the early 1970s, more than three-fourths of the nation's college students were just out of high school.

Now, their share is less than 60 percent and shrinking.

Tom Snyder of the National Center for Education Statistics in Washington said most older students fall into these categories:

●Students taking longer to get their degrees. Some college students in their 30s are completing work they started in their 20s.

●Engineers and other technical workers wanting to improve their skills on the job. Some take a course or two, without worrying about a degree.

●Professionals wanting an advanced degree, such as a masters of business administration.

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### AIDS

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Garland Bare, a physician at the University Health Center, said people disagree over how much blood would have to be transferred to transmit the AIDS virus.

"No one knows exactly, but the concentration of the virus is highest in human semen and second-highest in blood," Bare said.

It would be minutely possible for only a droplet of blood to transmit the AIDS virus, he said.

As of Oct. 31, 200,000 cases of AIDS had been reported in the United States, Fallis said. More than 128,000 of those victims have died.

Fallis said the center doesn't recommend mandatory testing for any group of individuals — that decision should be made by the organization, he said.

But he said the center recommends that anyone dealing with blood wear gloves.

USA Wrestling encourages anyone who works with wrestlers to wear gloves and protective eye wear when dealing with serious injuries, Harvey said, but trainers get careless.

George Sullivan, head athletic trainer at UNL, said that neither he nor the other athletic trainers wear gloves when working on athletes.

"We discard completely any bloody towels and that kind of thing," Sullivan said, "but I haven't gone as far as wearing gloves every time I see a scratch."

Neumann said he saw trainers wearing gloves for the first time while working with wrestlers at a tournament in Wyoming last weekend.

But he said many trainers prefer not to wear gloves because they made taping athletes more clumsy.

"I don't think we've got that much of a problem," Sullivan added. "I guess I've been doing this too many years to get that excited about it."

Sullivan said educating athletes about the virus is his biggest concern.

UNL athletes are aware of the AIDS testing that the University Health Center provides, he said, and student health aides and other health officials give educational lectures to athletes, especially incoming freshmen.

Neumann said that none of the athletes he has coached have expressed concern about the possibility of contracting the virus.

"I don't think it's going to scare any athletes out of competing," he said, "but I think that what might happen is that parents may send their kids to the piano instead of to try-outs."

Traditional high standards of cleanliness and policies of frequently disinfecting equipment, clothing and head gear should help safeguard wrestlers, Neumann said, but more precautionary measures may have to be taken as more is learned about AIDS.

"We were trained to coach wrestling, not to deal with anything like this," he said. "We're learning right along with everyone else."