

## Yeltsin encourages Russians to endure

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday that Russians are suffering their worst economic crisis since World War II. He praised them for enduring the painful times "with their teeth clenched hard."

During a visit to St. Petersburg, the Russian president promised to push through privatization of state-controlled industries and sympathized with shoppers who have been gouged by soaring prices.

At practically every stop, he encountered angry citizens and workers. But he also found some support among the crowds that pressed around him to shout questions or comments.

St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, who accompanied Yeltsin throughout the day, wasn't so lucky. He was heckled and shouted down. At one point, a sympathetic Yeltsin took the microphone from Sobchak and tried to rescue him, saying: "You are here all of the time. I'm just here today, so let me talk."

Yeltsin told the people what they wanted to hear. He criticized high prices while strolling through crowded markets, and he told them Russia was a proud country that eventually would no longer need aid from foreign countries.

"Russia is free," he said. Yeltsin summoned memories of the hard times during World War II, when this city - then called Leningrad - nearly broke under a 900-day Nazi siege that caused mass starvation. One of his first stops was to lay a wreath at a war memorial.

"Not counting the Great Patriotic War, this is the hardest time for everyone who lives in Russia," he said. "For seven years, Soviet leaders could not bring themselves to start such a reform."

"If we had started them at least two or three years ago, we would have been out of this deep pit which we have dug for these 74 years."

But Russians will persevere, he said.

"On the whole people are sticking it out with their teeth clenched hard," he told reporters. "They tell me that they will wait another six or eight months. By the end of the year, we are sure, economic stabilization will begin."

Yeltsin has been stumping for his

### Moscow marketbasket

The marketbasket tracks the prices of 15 basic food and consumer goods since Russian President Boris Yeltsin freed prices Jan. 2 as part of his plan to move toward a market economy. The government has kept a ceiling on some basic staples such as milk, baby food, vodka and bread.



	Subsidized state price before decontrol in rubles	New price at stores Tuesday in rubles	Private market price Tuesday in rubles	Number of hours avg. worker labors to purchase in stores	Number of hours avg. worker labors to purchase at private market
Smoked sausage per pound	35.5	122.7	113.6	22.4	20.7
Chicken per pound	15.5	26.8	34.1	4.9	6.2
Butter per pound	4.5	23.6	54.5	4.3	10.0
Macaroni per pound	1.1	7.6	27.3	1.4	5
White bread per loaf	0.6	2.6	NOT FOR SALE	.5	—
Sugar per pound ration coupon required	1.1	NOT FOR SALE	34.1	—	6.2
Milk per quart	0.7	1.8	70.8	.3	12.9
Fresh fish per pound	5.5	11.4	54.5	2.1	10.0
"Java" cigarettes per pack	.55	7.0	10.0	1.3	1.8
Women's dress shoes per pair	420	2,000	2,500	365	456.2
Men's dress shoes per pair	250	NOT FOR SALE	2,200	—	401.5
Child's dress shoes per pair	15	116	80	21.2	14.59
Pantyhose per pair	15	75	90	13.7	16.4
Women's skirt each	200	900	780	164.2	142.3
Gasoline per gallon 92 octane	1.7	4.6	11.5	2.1	2.1

The average Russian worker earns about 960 rubles a month as of Jan. 1, according to the Russian Ministry of Labor. That is equivalent to about \$9.80 at the floating exchange rate, calculated on the basis of ruble auctions.

economic reforms since freeing price controls on most goods Jan. 2. Despite the hardship, he has vowed not to back away from the changes and has urged patience. He says his free-

market policies need six to eight months to produce results. In the meantime, he has gotten an earful of anger and frustration from shoppers. He also has been criticized

by some economists and the head of the Russian legislature, Ruslan Khasbulatov, for freeing prices before privatizing industries that still have a chokehold on the economy.

## Israeli policy on West Bank settlements stalls peace talks

WASHINGTON — Israel extended its negotiations with the Arabs on Wednesday but the talks were marred by wrangling over West Bank settlements and an emerging political crisis in Jerusalem.

The right-wing Tehiya party, fearing the advent of a Palestinian state, said it will quit the Israeli government. If the like-minded Moledet party bolts as well over the issue of extending limited autonomy to the Palestinians, the negotiations could shudder to a halt because the Likud government no longer would have a

majority.

Israeli negotiators postponed their planned Wednesday night departure for a day. This will permit a third round of talks with Jordanians Thursday morning and perhaps with other Arab delegates.

The Palestinians are pressing Israel to cease settling Jews on land Jordan and Egypt held until Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day war. They proposed on Tuesday that Israeli military forces withdraw from Palestinian population centers as part of a plan for self-government.

"The Israelis did not have an agenda to offer," Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinians, said. "They didn't have any written proposals to offer."

The 45-year-old professor said, the negotiations focused on the settlements "which are the central item."

"We will not enter into discussion of any agenda item until the settlement issue is resolved," Ms. Ashrawi said Tuesday night. "We cannot."

Israel's Ambassador to Washington Zalman

Shoval insisted the settlement issue "is not something which is going to be negotiated now." He added: "We are negotiating one thing only with the Palestinians, interim self-government arrangements. With the Arab states we are discussing, obviously, peace treaties."

Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians took their cases to Secretary of State James A. Baker III. While he offered what spokesman Richard Boucher called "various ideas and suggestions," the Bush administration remained basically on the sidelines.

## American spy plane lost at sea off Korean coast

WASHINGTON — An American U-2 spy plane on a reconnaissance mission was lost at sea south of the demilitarized zone between North Korea and South Korea, Pentagon officials said Wednesday. The fate of the pilot was unknown.

The incident "was not due to a hostile act," Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said in a brief interview.

The planes, which carry sophisticated photographic and electronic reconnaissance gear, routinely monitor troop movements north of the demilitarized zone between North Korea and South Korea, said a Defense Department official speaking on condition of anonymity. The missing plane was on such a mission.

"We're interested in monitoring activity

around the DMZ," the official said.

The plane dropped out of radio and radar contact with U.S. military trackers over the Sea of Japan, U.S. officials said. The high-altitude jet went down off the country's east coast at 5:30 a.m. EST, which is early evening in Korea.

Military officials said search and rescue operations were launched at dawn Thursday.

## Chairman of revenue committee offers new tax plan

LINCOLN — A key legislator Wednesday proposed a bill to eliminate personal property taxes and establish a new system of levies and fees.

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha, chairman of the Legislature's Revenue Committee, said his plan (LB1120) was designed to meet future needs of local governments for funding and to get away from the controversial personal property tax system.

Hall's plan would take effect for the 1993

tax year. He offered a second measure (LB1121) that he said would extend a temporary personal property tax plan now in place.

The Legislature last year suspended personal property taxes, except for those on motor vehicles, for the 1991 tax year. If no action were taken by the 1992 Legislature, a host of personal property would go back onto local tax rolls.

Hall's plan would:

- Raise an estimated \$65.1 million in sales

tax revenues. Some of the changes would extend the tax to agricultural pesticides, repair services and make permanent an earlier reduction in the amount retailers are allowed to keep for collecting sales tax.

- Put a sales tax on energy for power generation and manufacturing, interstate toll charges and 900 services, management and public relations, detective and security work and lobbying.

- Generate an estimated \$50 million from changing income taxes.

## Nelson unable to fire persons on parole board

LINCOLN — Gov. Ben Nelson said Wednesday he can't fire three Parole Board members who rejected his request to step down but he can urge the Legislature to change the way the board does business.

A special report from hearing officer Ed Perry said there is no cause to remove Marlene Cupp, Mike McLaughlin or Leland Oberg from the five-member board. Nelson sought their removal after they voted to parole a convicted murderer who was charged with another killing a month after his release.

Meanwhile, Parole Board Chairman Ronald Bartee of Omaha resigned effective Feb. 21.

He said the resignation had nothing to do with the controversy but was simply a career advancement opportunity.

In September, Nelson sought the resignations of the three parole board members - two of whom he had appointed only months earlier. When they refused, he asked for an administrative hearing.

Nelson said Perry determined there were no legal standards that the Parole Board ignored or failed to comply with when it voted to parole Ronald Fort of Omaha. He said the board failed to do certain things but these were not "contrary to law."

"While I still wish they would resign, and I believe public confidence has been lost in them, it doesn't look like they're going to," Nelson said.

Cupp, Oberg and McLaughlin were at a parole hearing in York and unavailable for comment.

Nelson said he asked Sen. Jerry Chizek of Omaha to carry a bill that would require all five members to attend a parole hearing for inmates convicted of first- or second-degree murder. Cupp, Oberg and McLaughlin decided to release Fort at a hearing that neither Bartee nor the board vice chairman attended.

## Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Jana Pedersen, 472-1766  
 Managing Editor: Kara Wells  
 Assoc. News Editors: Chris Hopfensperger, Kris Karnopp  
 Divisions Editor: Dionne Searcy  
 Photo Chief: Michelle Paulman  
 General Manager: Dan Shattil  
 Production Manager: Katherine Policky  
 Advertising Manager: Todd Sears  
 Sales Manager: Eric Kringel  
 Publications Board: Bill Vobejda, 472-2588  
 Chairman: Don Walton, 473-7301  
 Professional Adviser: Don Walton, 473-7301

FAX NUMBER 472-1761  
 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, 472-2588.  
 Subscription price is \$50 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 1992 DAILY NEBRASKAN