

Clinton challenges critics to offer more cuts

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—President Clinton, stepping up an attack on critics who say his economic plan doesn't contain enough spending reductions, said Sunday his opponents should offer more cuts and "not talk about doing better."

"It's one thing to talk like a conservative and another thing altogether to live like one," Clinton said as he brought his sales show for his economic program to the West Coast, where defense-related industries are particularly suffering.

Clinton told several thousand students at a community college that he would stress increased high-technology partnerships between government and

industry to help convert lost defense jobs to civilian employment.

He also announced he was releasing \$500 million in federal funds to help defense industries convert to civilian projects. Aides said the money had been held up by the Bush administration.

Clinton said his new technology proposal includes more job retraining programs for laid-off defense workers and a shifting of government research and development from defense purposes to civilian causes like environmental protection.

"Unless California is revived, the nation cannot recover economically," Clinton said.

Speaking with students in the gymnasium of Santa Monica College, Clinton cited his steps in cutting the White House staff by 25 percent, government administrative costs by 14 percent over four years and advocating a one-year freeze in the salaries of

government officials.

"Every time I go someplace, they say cut more and tax less," Clinton said, referring to criticism from conservative lawmakers and many economists that his plan designed to reduce the federal deficit by \$325 billion in four years is weighed too heavily in favor of taxes.

Clinton said that, in addition to deep spending cuts in many areas, including the Star Wars anti-missile program in the defense budget, he had produced 150 specific cuts in his economic plan.

"That's not bad for four weeks on the job. I think we can do better. But I think what we ought to do is do better and not talk about doing better," he said in reference to his critics.

The plan outlines about \$1.5 trillion in government spending in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

On his first trip to the West Coast as president, Clinton was flying later Sunday to San Jose, in California's high-tech Silicon Valley, for a private dinner with about 30 business leaders.

On Monday, he will tour Silicon Graphics in Mountain View, Calif., then fly to Seattle and a Boeing aircraft plant — just days after Boeing announced it will eliminate 23,000 jobs this year.

"This whole part of our country, which has been the beacon of hope for decades, is now under great stress," Clinton said in Santa Monica.

Clinton has proposed some \$76 billion in defense spending cuts over four years in his new economic package.

On finding ways to transform defense industries to civilian jobs, Clinton said: "It's time to stop talking about conversion and start doing some-

thing about it."

Noting the Boeing layoffs in a speech Friday in Hyde Park, N.Y., Clinton said he backs a "new technology policy" to help revitalize industries that had been dependent on military contracts.

"We know that aerospace jobs are growing in number worldwide — high-wage jobs. And we sat here for 10 years and let Europe put \$26 billion into an Airbus program, direct government subsidies, to throw Boeing workers, McDonnell Douglas workers and other aerospace workers in America out of work because we said, well, we don't practice those kind of partnerships."

"So we've got to face the fact that we've taken a new direction," Clinton said, and hinted at new government-industry partnerships in aviation, electronics and other fields.



President Bill Clinton

Syria supports U.S. campaign to reopen Mideast peace talks

United States will step in to help, Christopher says

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Syria gave its unqualified support Sunday to the U.S. drive to reopen Mideast peace talks as Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher promised to step in to help shape a settlement once the negotiations resume.

"We intend, if anything, to be more active than the United States has been in the past," Christopher said, taking a stance long urged on Washington by the Arabs.

But even with the support of President Hafez Assad, once prominent in the Arab rejectionist camp, Christopher still needs Palestinian approval of a phased return of 396 exiles from Lebanon.

Christopher got Israel to agree Feb. 1 to take back 101 right away and the remainder by the end of the year. Now Christopher is urging Israel to speed their return by expediting reviews of the expulsions. The men were deported Dec. 17 on suspicions of inciting violence.

The idea was given to Christopher on Friday in Cairo by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Christopher met for 3 1/2 hours with Syrian President Hafez Assad. Afterward, neither Christopher nor Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa would provide details of the discus-

sions.

Christopher praised Assad, saying the Syrian president "has an independent desire to move forward with the peace process."

The secretary then flew to Riyadh, the fourth stop on a weeklong trip, his first abroad, for a meeting Sunday night with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

He said he would be asking Saudi Arabia "to help us in an early resumption of the negotiations" of Mideast peace talks.

Syria's determination to return to the bargaining table in hopes of winning back the Golan Heights could put pressure on the Palestinian leadership to accept something less than the immediate return of all the deportees.

Sharaa called their exile "a human tragedy" and "a thorn in resuming the peace process." But he said the stalled peace process was "broader and more important."

Christopher, meanwhile, again said the United States would be a "full partner" in the negotiations and, for the first time, explained what he meant by that.

"I think you will see the United States being in a very pro-active role," he said. "On a number of issues the parties are close enough together so they can be assisted by the facilitation of an outsider."

"There is room for a constructive role of an honest broker at this stage."

WORLD WIRE

Cease-fire holds in Sarajevo as convoy brings aid

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A U.N. convoy held up for days by hostile Serbs and mined roads finally delivered food to a besieged eastern town on Sunday, but there was still no aid distribution in shattered Sarajevo.

A unilateral, nationwide cease-fire called Saturday by Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija

Izetbegovic, appeared to be holding around the capital, but already was fraying elsewhere.

As the commander of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia headed for consultations with Bosnian Serb leaders to try to consolidate the truce, Muslims, Serbs and Croats were all reported to be massing troops or digging in for more fighting.

U.N. list requests \$250 million for Somalia projects

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A U.N. wish list of projects to start rebuilding Somalia seeks at least \$250 million — and that's just for immediate needs, according to a draft copy obtained Sunday by The Associated Press.

The proposal includes projects to restore water systems, schools, agriculture and health care and promises a request for additional

funds will come later this year. It says success hinges on allied forces continuing to maintain security in the lawless country.

U.N. officials are to present a final version of the report to a conference of donor nations on March 11 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. An aid package could provide a boost to peace talks between rival factions scheduled in Addis Ababa four days later.

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