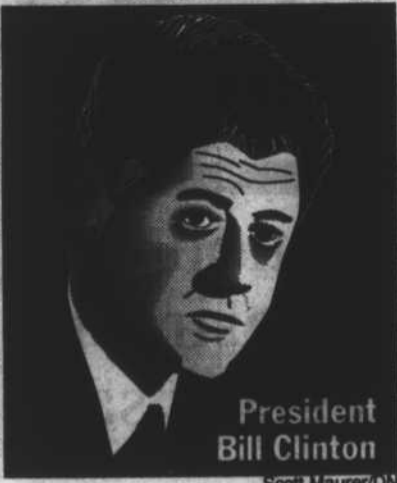


# President racking up victories in partisan Congress



President Bill Clinton  
Scott Maurer/DN

WASHINGTON (AP)—Between the Democratic-controlled 103rd Congress and President Clinton, it has been more lockstep than gridlock.

Despite a setback on his still-lingering jobs bill, Clinton in 75 days won approval for his economic blueprint, reordering economic priorities and envisioning higher taxes, defense cuts and selected domestic spending increases. He and the lawmakers worked together to pass the family leave bill that Democrats had been seeking for years.

In addition, Congress supported Clinton in his plan to lift the bans on abortion counseling at federally funded clinics and on using Medicaid funds for the abortions of poor women,

sharp reversals of 12 years of Reagan-Bush policies.

They brought the Motor Voter Registration Act back for another round and cooperated in laying the groundwork for a national health reform plan.

"I think we've made remarkable progress in a short period of time," said Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, reflecting the key factor: for the first time since Jimmy Carter was in the White House, one party has controlled both houses of Congress and the executive branch.

"I would say from Clinton's perspective, it has been successful so far," acknowledged Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who wrote the law banning use

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— Mitchell  
Senate majority leader

of Medicaid funds for abortions. "He has been able to encourage his troops to rally around the flag, and they have done so with only minor dissent."

At the same time, Republicans bristle over what they feel is Clinton's failure to consult them often enough.

"The only call I got was from the president of the American Red Cross," deadpanned Senate Republican Leader

Bob Dole, referring to his wife, Elizabeth Dole. "I told her I didn't want to give blood."

The jobs bill setback may have been a reflection of the GOP's determination to keep from being steamrollered by the Clinton juggernaut.

Clinton pledged Tuesday to continue his fight for the bill, and the White House and Democratic leaders said they were ready to compromise after three unsuccessful efforts to crack a Republican filibuster.

"We will see when Congress comes back whether the Republicans are committed to putting America back to work or just playing politics," the president said.

## Russia nuclear blast worst since Chernobyl

### Radioactive cloud moving toward Siberian villages

MOSCOW (AP)—A radioactive cloud moved across Siberia on Wednesday after a tank of radioactive waste exploded in what the government called the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

Russian and foreign experts said Tuesday's explosion at the Tomsk-7 nuclear weapons complex was far less severe than the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. But a spokesman for the environmental group Greenpeace said several villages were at risk from windborne fallout.

No deaths were reported and no one was evacuated from the contaminated region, about 1,700 miles east of Moscow. Only one fireman received a high dose of radiation, said Georgy Kaurov, head of the Nuclear Energy Ministry's information department.

The State Emergency Committee said radiation levels around Tomsk-7 were .03 roentgens per hour Wednesday. Northeast of the plant, levels were .04 roentgens.

The average acceptable dose for nuclear workers is 2 roentgens per year, according to the International Commission on Radiological Protection. A roentgen is a measure of the human body's exposure to radiation.

Russian authorities said the wind blew the radiation away from Tomsk-7, a secret military city built by the Soviets, and the much larger nearby city of Tomsk, which has about 500,000 inhabitants.

Tomsk-7 does not appear on ordinary maps, and its exact population is unknown.

Commonwealth television said the Russian Air Defense Command was monitoring the radioactive cloud, which was moving northeast toward less densely populated areas at a height of 1.2 miles and a speed of 22 mph.

Late Wednesday, the cloud passed north of Ashino, a town of about 30,000 people 75 miles northeast of Tomsk, according to Dmitry Tolkatky of Greenpeace's Moscow office.

Tolkatky said the cloud was heading toward the Yenisei River in the general direction of 11 Siberian villages, each with a few thousand inhabitants.

## Clinton's budget bound for success in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton sends Congress his first full-scale federal budget Thursday, a \$1.51 trillion spending plan guaranteed a serious reception in the Democratic-led body.

The Clinton fiscal 1994 budget already is drawing as much attention for what it won't include as for what it will. Abortion restrictions won't be there. Nor will proposals for health care financing or the president's new \$1.6 billion aid package for Russia.

It also is the first budget in 12 years that isn't being declared "dead on arrival" by congressional leaders.

The House and the Senate have already approved budget resolutions endorsing its broad outlines.

The budget Clinton sends Congress will detail thousands of specific spending decisions to help him achieve his goal of close to \$500 billion in deficit reduction over five years.

Battles loom as congressional ap-

propriations and tax-writing committees get down to the nitty gritty of specific items.

Republicans are expected to pounce hard on many of the budget's proposals, as they have on Clinton's separate \$16.3 billion fiscal 1993 stimulus package.

Thursday's budget will put into details the many programs and proposals Clinton outlined in his economic address to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 17.

Clinton's plan projected that the government in fiscal 1994 would take in \$1.25 trillion and spend \$1.51 trillion. An administration official on Wednesday said there would be some changes from these in the figures released on Thursday, but that they would be slight.

Clinton's budget is expected to reflect his central campaign vows—cutting defense, cutting the deficit, and increasing "investment" spend-

ing on the nation's infrastructure, on education and on communications and other high-tech programs.

The defense section calls for \$263.4 billion in spending, \$10 billion less than last year and \$12 billion short of what former President Bush had envisioned.

Defense savings in the slimmed-down budget come from a reduction of 108,000 in active duty military, a pay freeze and modest cuts in the Strategic Defense Initiative.

The blueprint terminates no major Reagan-Bush era weapons systems.

Clinton's proposal for additional "infrastructure" spending is expected to be seen the most clearly in the Transportation Department budget—a 10.9 percent increase over this year. Total outlays would be \$40.3 billion, including \$28.4 billion on highways, bus transit systems, railroads, airports and maritime development.

## ASUN elects Kubik as speaker

By Andrea Kaser  
Staff Reporter

New senators elected their speaker at the first ASUN meeting of the term Wednesday, even though parliamentary procedure took some getting used to.

One senator said it seemed too rigid.

"Does this have to be this uptight?" said Sen. Jay Nemeck of the College of Home Economics to First Vice President Trent Steele, who presided over the procedure.

"We generally like to keep it business-like," Steele replied.

But through the formalities of motions, seconds, "ayes" and "nays," the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska elected Brian Kubik, senator to the College of Ag-

ricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, to be its speaker.

Kubik said he was qualified for the job because he felt he could represent the senate, even if he disagreed with some senators.

"My job is to represent you...to push the ideas of the senate as a whole," Kubik said. "I promise an unbiased opinion and an open mind and the ability to do the job."

Kubik said he could handle the press because he had received media training and had worked in public relations.

He also said he could make wise decisions regarding committee appointments. The appointments he would make would reflect the views of the students, he said.

Nemeck said he supported Kubik because he was cool-headed.

"I don't picture him putting his foot in his mouth," Nemeck said.

Sen. Deb Silhacek of the College of Arts and Sciences supported Kubik.

The speaker needed to be a good judge of character and not power-hungry, she said.

"Sometimes you can be too political, and sometimes not enough," Silhacek said, "and he fits right in the middle."

The speaker serves as the senate's chief officer and spokesman and makes committee appointments. Other nominees were James Collura and Zachary Moore, who are both senators for the College of Arts and Sciences.

In open forum, former committee leaders described the six standing committees of ASUN.

Steele explained the obligations of senators and parliamentary procedure.

Government Liaison Committee members urged the new senators to write letters to state senators protesting the proposed university budget cuts. The new proposal calls for half the amount in budget cuts but a 5 percent tuition increase.

## Cuomo withdraws his name from consideration for court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mario Cuomo formally withdrew Wednesday from consideration for the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy before President Clinton had narrowed his list of prospects.

In a letter to Clinton, Cuomo said he wanted to remain as governor to help New York's economic recovery. He said staying in the political world would allow him to "continue to serve as a vigorous supporter of the good work you are doing for America and the world."

The letter was sent to confirm an earlier telephone conversation with Clinton.

Clinton refused earlier in the day to confirm reports of the withdrawal, but said, "I think he's terrific." Cuomo's decision, which Newsday said was forwarded to Clinton last

Thursday, was unknown to some of Clinton's closest advisers until now.

Among the candidates being mentioned by administration officials are Judge Judith Kaye, chief judge of New York's highest state court; Judge Patricia Wald, who sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington; and Judge Richard Arnold of Little Rock, who sits on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Clinton has by no means limited his choices to those three people, White House officials say.

Cuomo had emerged as the liberal wing's sentimental choice, though the Clinton inner circle had never tipped its hand about Cuomo's chances.

The loss of a celebrity candidate in Cuomo could rob Clinton of one of the qualities he is seeking in a nominee.

## Prather

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school, Prather said, he "partied" for a year and then joined the Navy. But he was discharged when he and his roommates were found with marijuana.

He then hitchhiked around the country, sleeping on the streets and mooching alcohol and drugs. At one time he even joined a carnival.

Prather's addiction became so bad that he cannot remember much of his life from 1983 to 1987.

"I remember the Bears won the Super Bowl," Prather said. And that's about it.

Prather said he went to drug treatment three times, but that it was unsuccessful because he wasn't ready to quit his habits.

"I don't think anyone under age 25 should enter drug treatment—they haven't been through enough hell," he said.

Too many people are forced into drug treatment for the wrong reasons, Prather said.

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**I was tired of drugs and tired of hanging out with slimy people and tired of not knowing where I was when I woke up.**

— Prather  
UNL student

Some seek treatment only to save their marriages or their jobs, or they go for someone else's sake, Prather said.

In 1989, Prather finally decided he wanted to go to treatment for himself. And the treatment worked.

"I was tired of drugs and tired of hanging out with slimy people and tired of not knowing where I was when I woke up," Prather said.

"I was sick and tired of being sick and tired."  
So Prather signed up for his fourth treatment, and out of the 100

people who graduated with him, he is the only one who is drug-free today.

Prather said he didn't believe drug and alcohol addiction were a disease, and shouldn't be treated like one.

"(The addiction) wasn't an uncontrollable biological urge," Prather said. "It was a conscious decision."

"If you call it a disease, you are no longer responsible for your actions," he said.

Prather isn't bored with school anymore, he said. At the age of 33, he is pursuing a degree in psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and he plans never to go back to his old habit.

His professors tell him he is a good writer, and he has far more A's than C's and D's.

Prather wants to go to graduate school and become a practitioner in psychology in order to help others recover from drug addictions, he said.

Now the only thing he is addicted to is caffeine.

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