

Clinton pushes Congress

WASHINGTON — President Clinton picked up four House converts for his deficit reduction bill in a visit to Capitol Hill Wednesday...

Clinton maneuvered to line up support for his plan as a key swing vote in the Senate, Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, said he remained undecided.

"The choice is whether we do this or do nothing and flail around another 60 or 90 days," Clinton told reporters after a closed-door session with House Democrats on the morning after a televised appeal from the Oval Office.

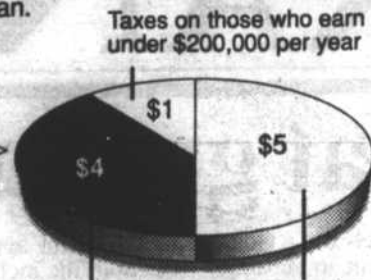
The concession, disclosed by a senior Treasury Department official, would give high-income Americans an extra 24 months to pay a tax increase in the legislation that would be retroactive to Jan. 1.

Deficit compromise

President Clinton made an aggressive public appeal to support the deficit compromise budget plan.

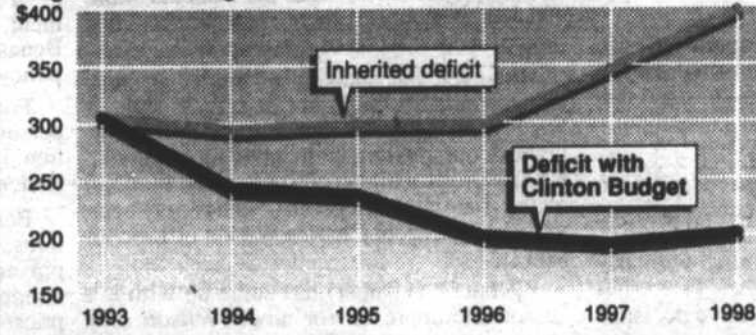
Reduction sources:

Under the proposal President Clinton calls, "A fair and balanced plan," every \$10 in deficit reduction would come from:



Reducing the deficit:

The budget package, Democrats say, would pare \$496 billion from budget deficits through 1998.



Clinton administration officials and congressional leaders have said the Senate shapes up as a tougher obstacle to passage than the House, but Clinton expressed optimism.

"But I don't think the Senate will let the plan go down," Clinton said. "I don't think they would do that to the country."

The Senate approved the plan earlier in the year on a 50-49 vote, with Vice President Al Gore casting the tie-breaking vote. Since then, one of

the supporters, Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., has announced his opposition, sending the White House searching for an offsetting "yes" vote.

One target of White House lobbying, DeConcini, said Wednesday he was still leaning against the package even after the president praised him during his Oval Office speech on Tuesday.

"I haven't made up my mind.... the leaning is against it because I voted against it before," DeConcini said.

NEWS BRIEFS

L.A. police sentencing begins

LOS ANGELES — A judge Wednesday denied a defense motion for a new trial as the sentencing of the two policemen convicted in the Rodney King beating got underway.

Sgt. Stacey Koon and Officer Laurence Powell faced a maximum of 10 years in prison for violating King's civil rights during the beating, seared into the national consciousness by a videotape shot by an amateur photographer.

U.S. District Judge John Davies denied the motion for a new trial and another seeking acquittal.

The defense claimed that the guilty verdicts may have been based on community pressure rather than strictly on evidence. William Kopeny, one of Powell's lawyers, criticized prosecu-

tors' description of the jury as the "conscience of the community."

"Isn't the jury the conscience of the community?" replied the judge.

In April 1992, a state jury acquitted Koon, Powell, Briseno and Timothy Wind, of all but one state charge in the March 1991 beating of King. The verdicts touched off riots that killed more than 150 and did nearly \$1 billion in damage.

Federal civil rights charges were then brought against the four. In April, a jury convicted Koon and Powell and acquitted Briseno and Wind.

Unlike the mob scene that prevailed when the officers were convicted three and a half months ago, few people aside from reporters and photographers were outside the downtown federal courthouse Wednesday.

FBI arrests pair for espionage

WASHINGTON — A State Department secretary and a West African journalist have been arrested on espionage charges of delivering classified defense documents to unauthorized people, the FBI said Wednesday.

Geneva Jones, 47, a secretary employed at the State Department's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs since 1989, was arrested Tuesday by FBI agents, the bureau said.

Also charged with espionage was Dominic Ntuba, who said he is a journalist, the bureau said. Ntuba is permanent resident alien from Cameroon, said Frank Scafidi, spokes-

man for the FBI's Washington field office.

Jones was arrested at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday as she left work at the State Department, Scafidi said. Ntuba was arrested two hours later at his apartment in the city, the FBI said. Both spent the night in jail, Scafidi said.

The two were arrested under a provision of the espionage statute that bars the transmission of documents containing classified defense secrets by a person unauthorized to have access to the material to someone else who is "not entitled to receive it."

The offense carries a 10-year prison term.

SPORTS WIRE

Kansas City impressed with Shields

RIVER FALLS, Wis. — Kansas City's Will Shields is a third round draft choice, but the Outland Trophy winner from Nebraska is playing like a first-rounder in training camp.

"Will has far exceeded what we thought he might be able to do," Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer said Wednesday. "He has natural instinct. Players either have that or they don't. He is a very bright, hard-working guy."

"The one area you look at and wonder if he is going to be able to do it, is (learning) all the assignments, but his intelligence has accelerated his progress."

The Chiefs did not have a first or second-round draft pick, but the addition of Shields has caught the eye of veteran offensive tackle Reggie McElroy, who predicts big things from the rookie guard.

"Will Shields has a lot of natural talent," McElroy said. "He loves the game, he has quick feet, and once he truly learns to play the game, I feel he's going to be one of the finest guards in the league."

Shields, 6-foot-1, 305-pounds, hasn't hesitated from soliciting advice from veterans like McElroy.

"The best way to learn is from people who have been in the league quite a while," Shields said. "I ask a lot of questions and try to learn as much as I can from everybody around me."

"I've learned a lot of patience from Reggie. In college, you could jump out and manhandle somebody. It takes more patience."

The one concern teams who passed up Shields had was whether he would be an effective pass blocker after he

played in Nebraska's run-based offense.

"Everybody didn't think I could do it because I came from mostly a running team," Shields said. "But how would anybody know until they actually saw me do it?"

They saw him struggle against a New Orleans rookie in pass protection drills 12 days ago when the Chiefs practiced against the Saints. After Shields consulted briefly with McElroy, he performed well against the Saints' Wayne Martin, who was third in the NFC in sacks last season.

"Watching him and the way he played the game, he was still playing college football," McElroy said. "Having been in the league 11 years, there are certain tricks I see and try to tell him ..."

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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.

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.

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