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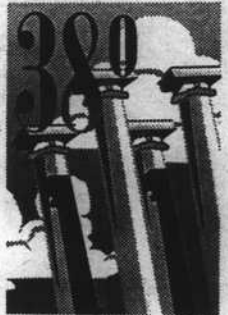
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March 3-5, 1995

Two votes shy, budget amendment falls

From The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate solemnly dealt defeat Thursday to the balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution, cornerstone of a broader Republican drive to cut spending and shrink government.

Both sides sought instant political advantage in the residue of the fiery battle, which saw the amendment fall two votes shy, 65-35, of the two-thirds majority needed for approval.

The vote followed Democratic ac-

cusations that the Republicans were threatening Social Security, a charge Majority Leader Bob Dole sharply denied.

"The real losers here are our children and grandchildren, who will be burdened by a mountain of ever-increasing debt," said Jim Exon, D-Neb., who voted for the amendment.

Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., voted against it as promised.

Fifty-one Republicans and 14 Democrats voted for the amendment, while 33 Democrats and two Republi-

cans — Mark Hatfield of Oregon and Dole — voted no.

Dole voted no — after one final, futile attempt to sway Hatfield — in a parliamentary maneuver that kept the measure alive for another possible vote during the 1996 election season. Dole had to vote with the prevailing side this time to bring up the amendment again.

"Let 'em try," Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said defiantly a few hours before the vote.

By opposing the amendment, he

said, Democrats were saving Social Security trust funds from deficit cutters.

The amendment is designed to end the run-up in red ink that has the national debt approaching \$5 trillion. It calls for a balanced budget beginning in the year 2002, unless three-fifths of both houses vote otherwise.

A key element of the Contract With America, it cleared the GOP-controlled House in January on a vote of 300-132.

Republicans had looked to the

measure to provide discipline for tough votes ahead.

"It might make getting what we want to do harder," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Budget Committee, said shortly after the vote. "For some senators, it might be easier to avoid the tough votes."

Moments before the vote, Dole accused Democrats of playing blatant politics.

"All this talk about protecting Social Security is a cover for a tax in-

See BUDGET on 3

Legislature begins debate on crime bill

By Matthew Waite

Senior Reporter

The future of the always-controversial crime bill looks to be mired in lengthy debate, the chairman of the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee said Thursday.

Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha, who introduced LB371 at the request of the governor, said the 1995 crime bill was better than the package that ground past senators last session.

However, Lindsay said, Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha promised the members of the Judiciary Committee that floor debates on the bill would last into the night. He said Chambers also told senators they would have to invoke cloture, a rule designed to end lengthy debate.

Chambers, in an interview on the floor, was more reserved in his comments about the bill. He said he was not ready to comment, but was preparing for floor debate.

Lindsay said that in committee, an attempt failed to add amendments drawn up by Attorney General Don Stenberg. Lindsay said much debate on the bill was left.

The bill, which was out of committee late Wednesday night with Chambers casting the lone dissenting vote, focuses primarily on violent crime, Lindsay said.

Lindsay said the bill was unlike last year's, which tried to catch all the little items with one big net. The 1995 crime package will also be more affordable, he said.

The bill contains language adding minimum sentences for certain crimes and prohibits those given mandatory minimum sentences from being paroled.

Also under the bill, people over the age of 18 caught selling drugs within 1,000 yards of a school, college or playground or within 100 yards of a youth center, public swimming pool or video arcade would receive a penalty one level higher than prescribed by law.

LB371 also contains several sections increasing the penalties for big-time drug dealers, Lindsay said. In those sections of the bill, penalties are added for different amounts of drugs, with sentences ranging from a maximum life sentence to a minimum of one year in prison.

The bill also creates a class IV felony for carjacking. Called "unauthorized entry into a propelled vehicle," the carjacking offense carries with it a maximum punishment of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Under LB371, boot camps would be created for adult criminal offenders. Lindsay said the bill helped clean up the boot-camp idea, which had been rejected by senators in the past.

The camps, which would be assigned to the Department of Correctional Services, would try to deter criminals from future unlawful activity, the bill states. The camps also would provide education for the inmates.

LEGISLATURE



Damon Lee/DN

Moira Ferguson is a UNL English professor whose research on 16th- and 17th-century female slaves in the Caribbean won her the University of Nebraska Outstanding Research and Creativity Award.

Professor brings Caribbean to class

By Matthew Waite

Senior Reporter

If Moira Ferguson has her way, you won't find one of her books collecting dust in a library.

The sandy-brown haired English professor, who often speaks louder with her hands than her voice, wants her research right where her students can see it: in the classroom.

For her work on the writings of 16th- and 17th-century women slaves in the Caribbean, Ferguson was awarded the Outstand-

ing Research and Creative Activity award, the highest award the University of Nebraska gives to faculty members. She also has received awards for outstanding teaching from the university.

But Ferguson said research and teaching did not come naturally to her.

"It's certainly not natural for me since I grew up in the tenements in Glasgow (Scotland)," she said, still holding on to some of her Scottish accent. "It's a combination of good luck and hard work."

Luck and work produced six books on

British colonial women writers, with a focus on slave writers in the Caribbean.

And research for those has taken her to the site of her studies: Antigua, in the East Caribbean.

Ferguson spent hours in the archives of the island, looking for women writers' work. But sticking to her work on the tropical island was not hard, she said, because she liked getting into her research.

Ferguson's research since graduate school

See FERGUSON on 3

Court date set in lawsuit against UNL

By Brian Sharp

Senior Reporter

A court date has been set in an \$18 million lawsuit filed against the University of Nebraska and members of its faculty.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard Kopf scheduled the trial to begin in February 1996. Tadeusz Radecki, a former associate computer science professor at UNL, filed the lawsuit in October 1994.

In it, he alleges violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, civil rights and state laws in his dismissal in 1991.

Radecki included the following faculty and

administrators in the suit:

● Roy Keller, former chairman of the Computer Science and Engineering Department and emeritus professor at UNL.

● John Peters, former dean of the UNL College of Arts and Sciences.

● David Klarner, computer sciences and engineering professor at UNL.

● Joseph Y-T Leung, chairman of the Computer Science and Engineering Department at UNL.

● William Splinter, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology and former dean of Graduate Studies at UNL.

Radecki came to UNL in 1985 and was given

a two-year appointment as a visiting professor. He later was promoted to associate professor, and also worked in the Center for Communication and Information Sciences, the lawsuit states.

Radecki stated that in 1988 he began experiencing symptoms of depression. Those symptoms increased until he was diagnosed in 1990 as suffering from depression and anxiety, both forms of mental illness.

The symptoms were easily recognizable and known — or should have been — by faculty, administrators and students, Radecki asserts.

Radecki stated he was, and still is, capable of

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