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## Tax-cut package passes

WASHINGTON — In a final flourish for the "Contract With America," the House passed Republican tax-cut legislation Wednesday night blending a \$500-per-child tax credit with reductions long sought by business.

Democrats battled the measure to the end as too generous to the rich. The vote was 246-188 to send the measure to the Senate, where it is likely to undergo extensive revision at the hand of deficit-conscious lawmakers of both parties.

Moments before the final vote, House Speaker Newt Gingrich sealed the case for passage, saying every lawmaker should ask: "In your constituents' lives, won't a little less money for government and a little more money for those families be a good thing, and isn't that what this Congress was elected to do?" President Clinton, who favors a smaller tax reduction, argued the other side for the Democrats, saying the GOP's five-year, \$189 billion measure marked a return to "trickle-down economics." Republicans, he said, want to cut Head Start and education "to pay for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. ... That is wrong."

The Clinton administration reached agreement with Senate leaders on a package of \$16 billion in spending cuts in social programs. That measure faces a final vote in the

### Tax cut bill

The tax-cut plan before the House Wednesday was approved 246-188. The plan would cost \$189 billion over five years.

#### Key provisions:



#### FAMILY

- \$500-per-child credit for children under 18 in families earning \$200,000 a year or less. Would be phased out for the wealthiest families.
- A credit of up to \$145 to offset the "marriage penalty."
- The American Dream Savings Account, permitting tax-free withdrawals after five years for retirement, first-time home purchases, higher education, medical expenses.
- One-time adoption credit of up to \$5,000.
- Annual credit of up to \$500 for costs of caring for elderly relatives at home.



#### BUSINESS

- Reduces capital gains tax for corporations, profits from asset sales.
- Phases out the corporate minimum tax.
- Increases size of estates exempt from estate and gift taxes from \$600,000 to \$750,000 by 1998.
- Liberalizes rules on deducting expenses of home offices.



#### BENEFITS

- Rolls back 1993 tax increase on higher-income Social Security recipients. Increases income recipients younger than 70 may earn and still receive full Social Security benefits, from \$11,280 a year to \$30,000 by 2000.

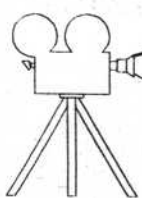


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## More privacy, less static for new cordless phones

WASHINGTON — The static that annoys cordless telephone users may soon be gone.

The Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday more than doubled the amount of the public airwaves reserved for cordless telephones.

That means less interference and improved privacy. But you'll have to buy a new phone to reap the benefits, FCC officials said.

New phones will have the capacity to operate on all 25 channels being made available by the FCC.

The nation's largest telecommunications company, AT&T Corp., plans to have new cordless phones in retail stores by late June or July, said spokesman Herb

Linnen.

Cordless phones now use just 10 channels, five of which are also used by baby monitors. That's why cordless phone owners often overhear sounds from baby monitors, said Anthony Serafini, an electronic engineer at the FCC.

The additional channels being made available for cordless phones are less congested, Serafini said.

There are 60 million cordless phones in the United States. Sales generate \$1 billion a year, the FCC said.

"Use of the new channels for cordless telephones appears to be the most reasonable means for ensuring that consumer demand for these low-cost products continues to be met," the FCC said.

Senate, as well as negotiations with the House that has approved \$17 billion in cuts.

Passage of the tax-cut bill sends the legislation to the Senate, where — along with bills on welfare, crime, changes in the civil justice system

and many other House-passed components of the "Contract With America" — it faces extensive alterations.

"We're going to have a tax bill," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.

## Judge dismisses sixth O.J. juror

LOS ANGELES — The troubled O.J. Simpson jury lost a sixth member Wednesday.

The loss intensified fears that a complete panel won't survive the stresses of the trial long enough to deliver a verdict.

"It's a concern that we have, that we'll be able to keep a pool all the way through," said Jo-Ellan Dimitrius, a jury consultant for the defense.

The ouster of the 38-year-old black woman, was reportedly for failing to disclose her own experience with domestic abuse. Only six alternate jurors — half of the original number — are left. If the alternative pool is exhausted and the number of jurors falls below 12, a mistrial would be declared unless both sides agreed to continue.

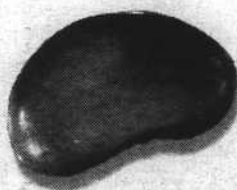
The dismissal delayed resumption of testimony by a key prosecution witness for 70 minutes while lawyers and the judge met in chambers.

When the jury finally was called into court, the judge asked his clerk to pick another juror by lot. Another black woman, a 44-year-old computer technician with Los Angeles County Superior Court, took the empty seat.

The sexual and ethnic makeup of the jury remains the same: nine women and three men; eight blacks, three whites and one Hispanic.

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