



News... in a Minute

Clinton will appeal policy ruling

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has decided to appeal a federal judge's ruling that its "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military is unconstitutional.

Solicitor General Drew S. Days decided to take the case to the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, Justice Department spokesman Joe Krovisky announced Thursday.

A week ago, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson in New York, the first federal judge to rule on President Clinton's policy, barred the Pentagon from discharging six homosexuals.

The judge said the policy violates the constitutional rights to free speech and equal protection of the law. "The policy ... is not only inherently deceptive, it also offers powerful inducements to homosexuals to lie," Nickerson said.

The government, Nickerson said, failed to prove its key argument that homosexuals, by their presence, can harm a military unit's cohesion.

Under the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy, gays can serve as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves and do not engage in homosexual acts. Otherwise, they can be honorably discharged. In addition, commanders may not ask a service member his or her sexual orientation.

Convicts execution delayed

JACKSON, Ga. — A British native won a stay of execution an hour before he was to die in the electric chair Thursday as the archbishop of Canterbury and others pleaded for leniency.

U.S. District Judge Horace T. Ward delayed the execution of Nicholas Lee Ingram until Friday afternoon while he considers an appeal.

Ingram's lawyer had argued that Ingram should be granted a new trial because he was under the influence of the anti-psychotic drug Thorazine during his 1984 trial, making him appear emotionless and remorseless. The state Supreme Court rejected that argument earlier Thursday.

Ingram, 31, was sentenced to death for the 1983 robbery-murder of 55-year-old J.C. Sawyer, who was abducted from his suburban Atlanta home, robbed of \$60, tied to a tree and shot in the head. Sawyer's wife survived and identified Ingram as the killer.

The state Board of Pardons and Parole unanimously refused to grant clemency to Ingram Thursday, saying his punishment fit the crime.

The case has drawn intense scrutiny from the media in Britain, which effectively outlawed capital punishment in 1965, although it's still on the books for treason.

Federal anti-drug money possibly being misused

WASHINGTON — In Michigan, federal anti-drug money paid for giant toothbrushes in a health class. In Washington, it went for a basketball team's party. In a St. Louis suburb, it helped pay for a high school security guard.

In the last eight years, critics contend, taxpayer money designed to warn schoolchildren away from drugs and alcohol has been diverted to a slew of inappropriate and wasteful things.

"It was a slush fund," says Bob Peterson, who heads Michigan's Office of Drug Control Policy.

Even many anti-drug activists and grassroots supporters agree: A program begun with high hopes in the Nancy Reagan era, and recently praised by President Clinton as crucial for children, was riddled with waste from the start.

"It really is sad, because we need this anti-drug message so desperately right now," says B.J. McConnell, who helped pick the program's nationally recognized drug-free schools. "And now we're risking losing it."

In recent years, McConnell and other supporters insist, the program has improved dramatically because of better oversight from the federal government.

As they fight in Congress to save its \$482 million budget, supporters also point to a recent study indicating drug use among young people is again on the rise.

"I would be the first to admit there are abuses of the program like in any federal program," drug policy director Lee Brown told a House subcommittee Thursday. That is no reason to gut the only federal money targeted toward drug prevention in children, both Lee and Education Secretary Richard Riley insist.

Thousands of schools use the money wisely, bringing in police to talk with students and paying for peer mediation, counseling and intervention for children and teens, the federal officials say.

"I would be the first to admit there are abuses of the (drug) program like in any federal program."

LEE BROWN

Drug policy director

Los Angeles, for example, uses the money in part to pay for anti-smoking, anti-drug and anti-steroids education. "This is absolutely crucial for us," says Ruth Rich, who heads the Los Angeles program.

"If this money is taken from us, what message does that send to our kids?"

But Republicans in Congress, who recently held a hearing with Mrs. Reagan to call attention to growing drug use, say a mismanaged, "scatter-shot" program isn't the answer.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools, administered by the Education Department, began when Mrs. Reagan was actively promoting her "Just Say No" slogan, the type of message that many grassroots parents groups had long supported.

But in at least one state, Michigan, the state education agency failed to send the money down to the local level. Instead, Michigan used it on a statewide health education program, including \$82,000 for giant toothbrushes and teeth, plus bicycle pumps and sex-education consultants, Peterson says.

Education Department officials insist Michigan was an aberration. They audit state programs, and in the vast majority of cases the money went to schools' drug programs, they say.

Senate Democrats reject spending-cuts compromise

WASHINGTON — Eager to declare victory, Senate leaders sought to revive a stalled \$15 billion package of cuts in social programs after liberal Democrats balked at a potential compromise.

Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., labored to find middle ground on the measure Thursday. Democrats rejected a tentative deal Dole and Daschle — with the backing of President Clinton — had struck Wednesday night.

That agreement would have protected programs for children, housing and jobs from some Republican-sought cuts while slashing other programs even deeper. Total savings were raised to \$16 billion. But Democrats, worried that the deal still wounded anti-poverty initiatives, rebuffed Clinton and rejected it.

"It's more than numbers," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J. "It's policy. It's principle. It's a question of what you stand for."

The measure is a top priority for Dole and other GOP senators eager to prove they are as zealous about deficit reduction as their faster-moving House brethren. The House already has approved a bill slashing \$17 billion from home-heating aid, education, public broadcasting and other programs.

With the stakes that high, Dole

vowed to delay the Friday start of the Senate's recess until lawmakers completed the spending-cuts bill. He tried limiting debate, which began March 29, but Democrats held together. The 56-44 roll call was four votes shy of the 60 needed to force a quick vote.

"Be patient, take two aspirins, take a nap, whatever," Dole advised his Republican colleagues as he promised that one way or another, the bill would be completed.

Even Daschle conceded that Dole eventually would get the votes he needs to pass the spending-cuts bill. He said Democrats might as well accept a toned-down measure that protects some programs from GOP-sought cuts, and share credit with Republicans for the bill's deficit reduction and \$6.7 billion disaster assistance to states.

"In spite of the sacrifices we're making here, there is a tremendous amount of advantage to doing this," he told reporters.

Despite the maneuvering, the bill's ultimate fate remained in question.

House-Senate negotiators still would have to agree to a compromise bill, and House lawmakers were non-

committal about whether they would try to force major changes.

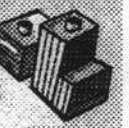
"We're back to ground zero" if the House insists on big alterations, Daschle said.

Spending cut compromise

A compromise plan drafted by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and Minority Leader Tom Daschle drew objections Thursday from Democrats. What would gain, what would lose:

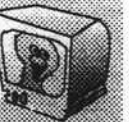
Funds restored:

- \$220 million for housing modernization
- \$105 million for President Clinton's national service program
- \$100 million for drug prevention in schools
- \$35 million for nutrition programs for women and children



Funds cut:

- \$700 million for airport improvements
- \$500 million for rent subsidies
- \$225 million for government administrative and travel expenses
- \$25 million for public broadcasting



Mysterious, deadly new virus jumps from horses to humans

WASHINGTON — The mystery disease that killed 14 horses and a horse trainer in Australia last fall was caused by a highly virulent new virus that jumps from animals to man, scientists reported Friday. They have no idea where it originated or how big a threat it poses.

The still-unnamed virus is part of the family that includes measles and canine distemper, Australian researchers report in the journal Science. It's more deadly and has a particularly disturbing element: Until now, all viruses in this family had been confined to a single species.

"It's not at all clear what's going on here," said Dr. Brian Mahy, viral director for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although Australia's outbreak appears over, doctors don't know what made this virus suddenly erupt, where it came from and whether it will strike again in Australia or elsewhere.

"Analyses suggest that the virus has not resulted from a single mutation or a few key point mutations, but most likely is a virus that has emerged from its natural host," reported Dr. Keith Murray of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. "Investigations are now under way to ... establish whether the virus remains a threat."

In September, 21 horses on several Queensland farms suddenly came down with severe respiratory disease and 14 died. Vic Rail, 49,

one of Australia's leading horse trainers, died after a week of similar symptoms, and a 40-year-old stablehand who also cared for the ill animals was sickened but survived.

Frustrated veterinarians tested the horses for everything from African horse sickness to hantavirus, the rodent-borne virus discovered in the American Southwest 1 1/2 years ago when it began destroying people's lungs.

"Investigations are now under way to ... establish whether the virus remains a threat."

DR. KEITH MURRAY

Australian Animal Health
Laboratory

Then Murray and fellow researchers successfully isolated the mystery virus from the lungs of dead horses. They proved it was the culprit by infecting additional horses, who quickly died.

They then isolated the virus from a kidney of the late horse trainer. His virus was identical to the horses', Murray reported.

The virus killed by creating holes in blood vessels that leaked into

lungs until the victims basically drowned. Veterinarians reported horses dying with blood gushing from their noses and mouths.

Genetic testing showed the pathogen is a morbillivirus, the viral family that includes measles.

This morbillivirus is very different from its cousins, from its appearance under the microscope to its virulence. And unlike any other known morbillivirus, it afflicts more than one species: People, horses and the original host, which could be anything from a rodent to a bird, Mahy said.

The notion of animals transmitting killer viruses to humans isn't new. AIDS is believed to have originated in monkeys and CDC doctors just returned from battling a deadly hemorrhagic fever that ticks transmitted from sheep to at least 30 people in the United Arab Emirates.

The key to fighting such disease is discovering what animal is the host to the pathogen, spreading it without getting sick. The Australians are testing animals that live near the horse farms to try to discover that. They're confident the outbreak is over because tests of 1,600 horses and 90 people show no evidence of further infection.

Murray urged doctors and veterinarians worldwide to review their records of respiratory disease to see if the virus has appeared before. He will visit the CDC in Atlanta next week to discuss the new virus.

Daily Nebraskan

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 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9258.

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.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT
1995 DAILY NEBRASKAN