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# Shutdown showdown

## 'No progress' made in last-minute talks

WASHINGTON — The government skidded toward a shutdown that would send 800,000 federal workers home after President Clinton and Republican leaders failed to reach a budget deal in late-night talks Monday.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said it was virtually certain the government would begin closing Tuesday morning. As much as 40 percent of the federal workforce could be idled in the first government shutdown in five years.

"There's no continuing resolution and no funding authority to keep the United States government operating," he said. He dismissed any suggestion that Republicans could rush a bill through early in the day to avert a shutdown. "There's no basis to believe that's going to happen."

In the effort to avoid a shutdown, Clinton met with lawmakers for an hour and 40 minutes Monday night in the Cabinet Room at the request of GOP leaders. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said they "went around and

around but we don't have an agreement."

Dole said the talks would continue Tuesday morning, with White House chief of staff Leon Panetta meeting with House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich and his Senate counterpart, Pete Domenici.

Democratic leaders emerging from the White House meeting were pessimistic that a short-term extension of spending and borrowing authority could be worked out in less than 24 hours. "There was no progress at all," said Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle.

Even so, Dole said, "The fact we're going to meet tomorrow is progress." House Speaker Newt Gingrich said, "We laid out in a pretty candid way where we feel different in terms of principle."

The White House meeting came after Clinton vetoed twin spending and borrowing bills, insisting that Republicans drop provisions that would raise Medicare premiums and

cut education and environmental spending. Republicans urgently requested to see Clinton and went to the White House at 10 p.m.

"I think we've got some tough problems to solve," House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt said after the White House meeting.

"This could last for awhile," Gephardt said, adding that Republicans had rejected the idea of extending for 48 hours the spending authority that expired at midnight.

The key stumbling remained GOP insistence on Medicare premium increase. "This cannot be resolved as long as Medicare is on the table," Gephardt said.

Clinton argued that Medicare increases were not necessary.

"If America must close down access to quality education, a clean environment and affordable health care for our seniors in order to keep the government open, then that price is too high," he said in vetoing a temporary spending bill.

## Daily Nebraskan

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## Bomb kills military personnel

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—A bomb ripped through a building filled with American and Saudi military personnel on Monday, tearing off the facade and engulfing the wreckage in flames. Six people were killed, including five Americans.

At least 60 people were wounded, more than 30 of them Americans. It was not clear whether the attack was aimed at Saudis, Americans, or both.

President Clinton pledged to "devote an enormous effort" to bring those responsible to justice. FBI agents and evidence specialists were being sent to Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd's Cabinet "expressed its condemnation of this criminal act, which is foreign to our society, beliefs and religion," the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Neither of the groups who claimed responsibility could be verified, said Raymond Mabus, U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

One group was the little-known Islamic Change Movement, which demanded last spring that Western forces leave Saudi Arabia or it would "exert all available means to evict these forces." The second group was the previously unknown Tigers of the Gulf.

## Shutdown

Continued from Page 1

The number of workers sent home will depend on the duration of a possible shutdown, Schaepe said.

Despite a shutdown, she said, the hospital would remain open.

Dan Fitzpatrick, supervisory hydrologist for the U.S. Geographical Survey, said the office's headquarters

told employees to report to work today. If a shutdown occurred, he said most employees would be told to leave.

"It's my understanding that everyone except for the district chief would be sent home," Fitzpatrick said.

If the office remained closed, he said, employees would not be able to collect hydrologic, stream flow and water quality data for projects.

"We have certain deadlines," Fitzpatrick said. "We may not be able to meet those deadlines."

## E.N. THOMPSON FORUM ON WORLD ISSUES

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# Singapore – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

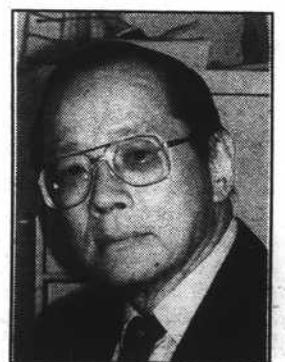
Former Singapore solicitor general and political prisoner Francis T. Seow will discuss one of the most successful nations in the world, often referred to as a tiger and a dragon of Asia.

Seow will focus on Singapore's political system, its socioeconomic achievements, and the price it pays in terms of human rights to achieve its preeminent status in Southeast Asia.

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International Affairs Division of Continuing Studies Department of Academic Conferences and Professional Programs



Francis T. Seow Author, attorney, Professor, East Asian Legal Studies, Harvard Law School.

Free Admission

Wednesday, Nov. 15 3:30 p.m.

Lied Center for Performing Arts 12th and R Streets Lincoln, Neb.