

## White House, GOP leaders gear up for more bargaining

WASHINGTON — With a budget truce revving the government back to life, the White House and congressional Republicans pledged Monday to use December talks to champion divergent spending priorities that have so far been irreconcilable.

The GOP signaled a possible give on its prized tax cut.

Democrats and Republicans alike seemed relieved that the longest-ever partial federal shutdown was ending, a six-day ordeal that had both parties fearing retribution by disgusted voters. But there was doggedness, too, and White House spokesman Mike McCurry warned, "We'll be right back where we were" unless the two sides strike a budget deal by mid-December.

A day after bipartisan leaders shook hands on a pact reopening government through Dec. 15, the House approved the measure, 421-4, and sent it to President Clinton, who signed it Monday night.

The legislation commits both sides to seeking a balanced budget in seven years using congressional economic calculations, which Republicans had demanded for months, and to protect social programs, as the White House insisted. It was approved Sunday by the Senate.

Before recessing for Thanksgiving, the House also gave final congressional blessing to the GOP plan for balancing the budget by 2002 on a mostly party-line 235-192 vote. It would overhaul Medicare, slice scores of programs and trim taxes for millions.

### Back in business



#### Agreement

President Clinton and Congress agreed in principle to balance the budget by 2002. Negotiations on taxes, Medicare, education, etc., are still to come.



#### Back to work

Up to 800,000 furloughed workers returned to work.



#### Next step

Details of the agreement must be worked out and written into law by Dec. 15, or another government shutdown could follow.



#### Avoiding default

The government can't borrow, but Treasury may use trust funds earmarked for civil service retirement.

AP/Wm. J. Castello

Clinton's long-promised veto of that measure will serve as the starter's flag for bargaining that Republican leaders said they hoped would begin next Monday. With those sessions in mind, the GOP prepared to send a

letter to Clinton asking that he provide them with a detailed, seven-year budget-balancing plan of his own next week.

The president had long said that the GOP's seven-year, budget-balancing timetable would force overly harsh spending cuts. Democrats said Monday that to meet that schedule, the key in upcoming negotiations would be to force Republicans to shrink their planned \$245 billion tax break for families and businesses.

"Well, I think that has to be on the table," responded House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., on NBC's "Today" program. Trimming the tax cut would make things easier for politicians and bureaucrats, but "harder for parents," he added.

Clinton met with House Democrats in a Capitol basement meeting room to send them home for Thanksgiving on an upbeat note, promising to hang tough for Democratic priorities, participants said.

But he also warned them that "everybody can't have their way," said Rep. Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., a reference to compromises he said would be inevitable.

Both sides said they were mulling plans for the structure of their negotiations. But for now, each stressed that going in, they had achieved what they wanted.

"If we do what we should do between now and Dec. 15, it won't make any difference who won and who lost," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan. But he couldn't resist adding: "I think we won. We didn't blink."

## Government

Continued from Page 1

news for all of us, it is only temporary," Nelson said. "There are still many difficult issues to be worked out in the days ahead."

Nelson, who is seeking the Democratic Senate nomination in 1996, said Monday during his weekly telephone conference call that he was pleased both sides agreed to balance the budget in seven years.

The Dec. 15 deadline should give both sides plenty of time to reach a compromise, he said.

"It's incumbent on Washington to set aside presidential politics to find an agreement sooner, rather than later, to resolve the impasse," Nelson said. "I don't think the American people will tolerate a repeat of this fiasco."

"It's not going to do any good

for us to sit around and talk about the blame. We need a budget that the American people can come to terms with and consider fair."

U.S. Sen. James Exon, D-Neb., who returned to Lincoln from Washington D.C. Monday afternoon, said he could not promise federal employees that the government would not shut down again Dec. 15.

"I would just say to our dedicated federal workers that they have a reason for concern," Exon said. "I am concerned about it, and I represent them. I'll be doing everything I can as a key player to try and get this mess straightened out."

Blomberg said the furlough added yet another strain to an already stressful year.

"I think from the perspective of a federal worker it has been a bad year," Blomberg said, referring to the Oklahoma City bombing in April. "It leads people to wonder if anybody cares about us."

## Exon

Continued from Page 1

"If we don't continue in the bipartisan framework that contributed to the agreement, we are going to find ourselves in the same mess again."

Exon said he and seven Democratic colleagues were working on a plan to unite the party.

The plan includes slicing the GOP's proposed tax cuts in half and restoring cuts made in Medicare, agricultural programs and environmental funding, he said.

President Bill Clinton's agreement to reach a balanced budget in seven years instead of 10 did not represent a "major cave-in" of the president's philosophy, as the Republican Party has suggested, Exon said.

Exon said he was pleased that Clinton agreed to the seven-year plan as long as the government didn't cut health care, education and environmental funding.

However, Exon said the both parties in the House and Senate must reach concessions for any plan to work.

"We are going to have to have a bipartisan agreement, a compromise where everybody at the end won't be able to go in front of television cameras and give the high five or give the wave like we do at Cornhusker football games," Exon said.

"What this is going to be is a compromise that will be good for America, but it will not be a particular political victory for either the GOP or the Democratic party. If we can't reach that, then we're going to be in the soup again on the 15th."

## Woman plotted to kill for baby, authorities say

ADDISON, Ill. — Jacqueline Williams told friends she was going to have a baby. Authorities say she accomplished that by concocting a plot with her boyfriend and another man to shoot and stab a pregnant woman.

According to police, they killed the former girlfriend of one of the men and stabbed to death her 10-year-old daughter, then sliced open the dead woman's abdomen with scissors and plucked out a healthy boy.

They abducted the infant, who was due to be born Monday, and the slain woman's 8-year-old son, then slashed the older boy's throat and dumped his body in an alley.

Hours later, Williams' boyfriend told a relative that she had given birth to a son.

"This is unimaginable," said Joe Birkett, chief of criminal prosecution for the DuPage County state's attorney. "You could not give a horror writer a better script. This puts 'Natural Born Killers' to shame in terms of violence."

A judge Monday ordered the three held without bond on charges of murder and aggravated kidnapping. They could face the death penalty if convicted.

"I'd just like to know why I'm being charged," a disheveled Williams, 28, said as she appeared in court. Her boyfriend, Fedell Caffey, 22, and Levern Ward, 24, of Wheaton, also were held in the DuPage County Jail.

They are accused of fatally stabbing Deborah Evans, 28, and killing her daughter, Samantha, 10, and son Joshua, 8. Another son, 17-month-old Jordan, was found unharmed early Friday in the bloody apartment; authorities say Ward is his father.

The baby, named Elijah as his mother intended, was said to be doing well.

## Assassin: Justice was served

RAMAT GAN, Israel — Yigal Amir's world was one of black and white — organized by a moral certainty that extended from his religious studies to the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

At a court hearing Monday, the 25-year-old Amir announced coolly that justice was served when he shot and killed Rabin, whom he blamed for attacks by Islamic militants that have killed dozens of Israelis.

Students at Bar-Ilan University, where Amir studied law, computer science and Torah studies, described their classmate Monday as a dedicated student, self-confident and unshakable in his convictions. They expressed little surprise at reports that Amir was once trained as a guard by Israel's Shin Bet security service, which taught him

"Everything that he does, he does perfectly."

CHAIM MICHAELIS

Took computer classes with Yigal Amir

to fire a pistol and analyze security measures.

"Everything that he does, he does perfectly," said Chaim Michaelis, who took computer classes with Amir. "He killed the prime minister. This, too, he did perfectly."

Amir was ordered held until Nov. 30 while police complete their investigation of him and a half-dozen other suspects in custody. Police believe there was a carefully planned conspiracy to kill the prime minister, although Amir has insisted he acted alone.

Wearing a gray patterned

sweater and a skullcap, Amir told reporters Monday that when he re-enacted the assassination for police last week, he thought of Israeli victims of attacks by Islamic militants.

"I said, 'Finally, justice is served,'" he said.

When the judge stopped Amir from lecturing the courtroom on the illegitimacy of Rabin's government, Amir laughed bitterly and blurted: "You just don't want to hear the truth."

Police said Amir will be charged with murder, attempted murder and conspiracy.

## Peace talks go into 'extra innings'

DAYTON, Ohio — Balkan negotiators headed into a second all-night session Monday in a desperate effort to settle Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II. Prospects for an agreement remained uncertain.

"It's really still 50-50," a U.S. official said in declaring a news "lid" shortly after 10 p.m. EST, ruling out further announcements at least until after dawn.

Some Balkan leaders suggested a new round of talks may be needed to resolve the contentious issue of how to divide Bosnia into ethnic republics.

As the talks teetered on a knife's edge beyond a U.S.-imposed deadline, President Clinton intervened from Washington with a last-ditch telephone call to Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman.

Senior members of both the Bosnian and the Serbian delegations confirmed that the talks had run into trouble over territorial issues but stressed that negotiations were continuing into the night.

"I think the people here are determined to continue these negotiations," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Monday night. "I think they have a legitimate shot at succeeding."

From the Serb delegation, meanwhile, came late word the negotiations were on the upswing after a gloomy morning and afternoon. It was anyone's guess what the outcome would be.

And from the Croatian delegation later came word that only 1 percent of Bosnian territory was in dispute.

In New York, a U.S. diplomat said

the U.N. Security Council was prepared to convene hours after any agreement was initiated to consider suspending the U.N. economic embargo against Serbia.

"We are in extra innings," said a senior U.S. official as Secretary of State Warren Christopher rejoined the talks Monday morning with only two hours' sleep. "Maybe at the end of the day we'll take stock of where we are. We'll take it one step at a time, hour by hour."

Workers began loading baggage onto a Yugoslav airliner after they were checked by bomb-sniffing dogs. The second official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Christopher and all three Balkan presidents were leaving Monday night — agreement or not.

## Shuttle Atlantis returns home

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The shuttle astronauts returned to Earth from Russia's Mir space station on Monday with warm memories of their eight-day visit and three friends they left behind.

"Yeah, we would have liked to stay a little bit longer," commander Kenneth Cameron said after touchdown. "But, I mean, Atlantis has other missions to fly, and we had a mission to carry out. We'd done it."

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http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/  
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.  
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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