

Congress passes line item veto

New power not in effect until January 1997

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress gave the president power Thursday to cut government spending by scrapping specific programs with a line-item veto, although President Clinton will have to win re-election before he can use it.

Fulfilling a GOP "Contract With America" promise, the House followed the Senate in approving the measure, which marks a historic shift in the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches.

Since the nation's founding, the president has been forced to approve or reject legislation in its entirety.

"The Republican Congress has done something that no previous Congress has been able to accomplish since the first line-item veto proposal was introduced in the 1870s," said House Government Reform and Oversight Committee Chairman William Clinger, R-Pa., who helped forge the House-Senate compromise plan.

Opponents characterized it as a dangerous ceding to the executive branch of Congress' power of the purse. "This is fundamentally unwise and it manifests a

Line-item veto

The Senate passed line-item veto legislation Wednesday that would allow the president to strip individual items without having to veto the entire bill and put at risk projects and programs he supports.

Highlights of the legislation

- The president could cancel funds appropriated by Congress for individual programs or projects.
- He can also eliminate tax benefits targeted to groups of 100 or fewer beneficiaries.
- He can also cut out spending on new entitlement programs and any additions to the food stamp program.
- The bill has an eight-year lifetime, giving Congress a chance to reconsider it if the balance of power has tipped too much toward the executive branch.
- Congress would have 30 days to decide which vetoed items it wants to restore; a two-thirds vote is needed to overturn a presidential veto of Congress' attempt to restore deleted funding.

fundamental disrespect of our own duties," Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., said.

But constitutional considerations that have blocked passage in the past were overcome by the demand for new tools to combat the federal deficit.

Giving the president authority to pencil out individual items from spending bills allows him to kill low priority or pork-barrel projects.

"The buck will finally stop at the president's desk," said Rep. Jim Bunning, R-Ky. "We are going to give him the opportunity," he said, "to end the era of pork-barrel spending."

The bill also allows the president to cancel tax benefits targeted to groups of 100 or fewer beneficiaries and eliminate spending for new entitlement programs that Congress might establish or additions to the food stamp program.

Clinton, like previous presidents a strong supporter of the line-item veto concept, said the bill would "ensure that our public resources are put to the best possible uses during these times of tight budgets."

But the president wouldn't be

able to use this new power until Jan. 1, a result of an agreement between Clinton and his certain opponent in the presidential elections this fall, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan. In a telephone conversation last week, the two decided that the law should not go into effect until the new year, so it wouldn't become an issue during the political campaign.

The House defeated, 256-159, an attempt to make it effective immediately.

Dole, too, voiced strong support for the bill: "Line-item veto seems to be the one thing that all modern presidents agree on," he said shortly before the Senate voted 69-31 to pass it Wednesday. "The president, regardless of party, should be able to eliminate unnecessary pork-barrel projects from large appropriations bills."

The House approval of the line-item veto Thursday came on a procedural vote, 232-177, connected to a package of measures attached to a bill to raise the federal debt ceiling. That vote, complicated by the fact that some lawmakers opposed the package but supported the line-item veto, separated the line-item veto from the package and allowed it to be sent independently to the president.

Settlement

Continued from Page 1

We had lost," Schaffer said. "We were able to get the University to agree that only 10 pigs would be out there, with 10 giving birth per year. We topped off at 1,000 animals, which we thought was a big reduction from the 1,600 to 2,000 they had proposed."

Brushy Creek residents have opposed ASTREC because of concerns that it would lead to water contamination, noise pollution and other problems in their community.

Schaffer said that according to the agreement, the University will have to get a performance bond for \$5 million to ensure A&M has the funding to maintain ASTREC.

A citizens committee will be appointed, she said, to make sure the University is staying within the terms of the agreement and to keep relations amicable between Brushy Creek residents and the University.

"We feel pretty good about it," Schaffer said. "We would have liked to have gone to court with environmental racism, but the judge might not have sided with us."

Texas one of seven states to sue tobacco companies

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas on Thursday became the largest state to sue the tobacco industry, seeking to recoup more than \$4 billion spent on tobacco-related illness and to halt advertising it says targets children.

"The day of reckoning is at hand," State Attorney General Dan Morales said in announcing the lawsuit filed against the nation's biggest tobacco companies in federal district court in Texarkana.

The lawsuit — which follows legal action by six other states but is the first filed in federal court — marks the first governmental allegation that the tobacco industry has violated federal mail and wire fraud statutes, federal racketeering laws and federal

conspiracy laws, according to Morales.

It also alleges violations of state and federal antitrust laws and public nuisance laws.

It addressed not only cigarettes but other tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco.

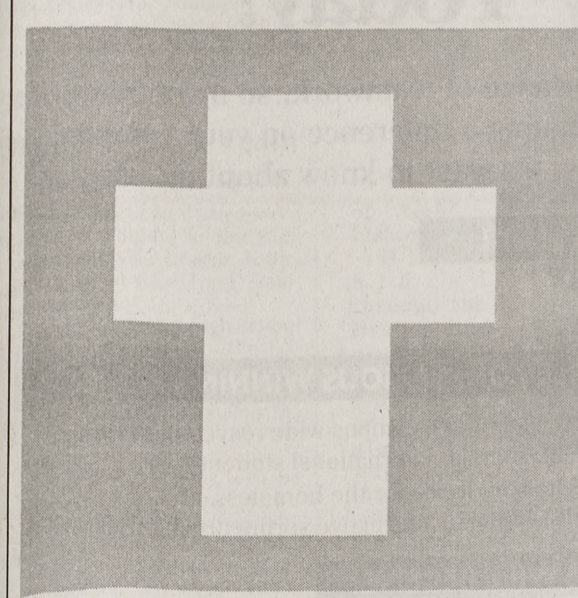
The \$4 billion sought by the state is the amount estimated Texas taxpayers have paid in smoking-related Medicaid claims alone from 1980 through 1996. The figure includes state and federal money put into the health-care program for the poor.

One company sued, Philip Morris U.S.A., said Morales' legal theories "have no support under state or federal law."

May Graduates
 Official Texas A&M
 Graduation Announcements
 on sale at the
 MSC Box Office
 1st Floor of Rudder Tower
 Jan. 16 - Feb. 23, 1996
 Now Offering Personalized as well as
 Traditional Announcements
 Call 845-1234, or come by for
 information or to place an order. Mon.-Th. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 http://wwwmsc.tamu.edu/graduation Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS APRIL 2ND!
FUN IN THE SUN!
Lifeguards Needed
 Sweetwater Pools, Inc. in Houston is looking for leadership-oriented individuals to run our pools this summer. Training will be offered - must have or willing to take Lifeguard Training, First Aid, and CPR courses. You will manage as well as lifeguard. This is a full-time summer job (40 hours per week/6 days per week). Salary range \$800.00-\$1,000.00 per month plus swimming lessons and bonus. Assistant Managers as well as Lifeguards are also needed. Call between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri. to set up an appointment for an interview.
(713) 270-5946
 Interviews will be held at Texas A&M April 2, 1996 at the Career Center, Rm. 209 John J. Koldus Bldg. 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MSC FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS...
"THE BEST FILM OF 1995!"
 - Paul Wunder, WHALFM/NEW YORK
 "★★★★ A TRIUMPH! Warm, witty and just plain wonderful!" - Bob Healy, SATELLITE NEWS NETWORK
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT
 Fri. & Sat., Mar 29 & 30 at 7 & 9:30pm
 Admission \$2.75 w/f.d. \$3 w/out f.d.
 Persons with disabilities please call 847-8478 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification 3 working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability. Aggie Cinema Hotline: 847-8478 Rudder Box Office: 845-1234
 All films are presented in the Rudder Theater Complex.



But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

Resurrection Week

March 31 - April 4, 1996

Schedule of Events

Sunday.....	Free BBQ & Live Music The Grove, 5 PM - 9 PM
Monday.....	Grant Teaff, speaker Rudder Auditorium, 7:30 PM
Tuesday.....	Rich Mullins Concert Rudder Auditorium, 7:30 PM \$5/ students \$7/ non-students
Wednesday.....	David Smithers & Pam Moore Men - MSC 224, 8 PM Women - Rudder Theater, 8 PM
Thursday.....	Bible Study and Prayer Men - MSC 224, 6:45 AM Women - MSC 226, 6:45 AM Crucifixion Scene Rudder Fountain, 12 PM

Also come out to...
 BYX Island Party - March 30 - 4 PM - Polo Fields