

nation

# Committee eyes cuts in aid to cities, states

WASHINGTON — The House Budget Committee, having made the easy decisions, now must roll up its sleeves and decide whether to adopt controversial cuts in mail delivery, defense spending and revenue sharing.

The panel resumed work Thursday on the \$15.9 billion in recommended reductions from President Carter's January budget proposal for fiscal 1981.

The proposals by committee Chairman Robert Giaimo, D-Conn., included elimination of Saturday mail delivery, revenue sharing to the states, and cuts in defense spending, jobs and social programs, and financing for food stamps and child nutrition.

Giaimo unveiled his package Wednesday with a warning the prop-

osal, aimed at balancing the federal budget, "will anger many groups and many beneficiaries of federal programs."

It calls for more than \$1 billion worth of unspecified cuts in defense spending, despite major opposition to military reductions of any kind.

It also would make all members of Congress and their staff forego a cost-of-living wage increase scheduled for October.

The biggest cut would be \$1.7 billion in no-strings-attached aid to the states — known as revenue sharing — and \$1 billion in anti-recession aid to cities.

Also \$1 billion in a 2 percent across-the-board cut in department operation and administrative costs and delays in new social initiatives such as welfare reform and Medicare-Medicaid expansion that would

save another \$1 billion.

If the panel's revenue estimate holds along with the \$612.4 billion spending projection, the government would be in the black by more than \$1 billion at the end of fiscal 1981, the first budget surplus in 12 years.

The House panel, beginning its work a week ahead of the Senate Budget Committee, Wednesday went through the major budget categories one-by-one to act on Giaimo's proposed cuts.

The panel began drafting its recommendations for the House even though Carter has not yet sent Congress his revised proposal for a balanced budget.

Carter has promised to cut \$13 billion to \$14 billion from the federal budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

# Study says n-plant reports incomplete

WASHINGTON — A one-year study released Thursday by the President's Council on Environmental Quality concludes that environmental impact statements on atomic reactors virtually ignore the risks and effects of serious accidents.

The 66-page study, researched by the Environmental Law Institute, found that discussion of accident effects in 149 past impact statements is meaningless to the average person.

The NRC drafters of the 1971 impact statement for the Three Mile Island reactor, for example, rejected the Interior Department's call for a detailed analysis of a possible meltdown's effects on the Susquehanna River which flows by the Pennsylvania plant.

The staff believes, in view of the remote possibility of the occurrence of a (most serious) Class 9 event, that the environmental risk of such an event is acceptably low and that generic discussion of these events are adequate," the document said.

Gus Speth, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, said past statements "don't contain a serious candid assessment" of accident risk and potential impacts.

Impact statements, however, are required by the National Environmental Policy Act specifically to inform the public of the possible effects of proposed nuclear projects by government or industry.

Speth's Council, although it cannot invalidate past impact statements, is charged by law with inter-

preting the act.

In a letter to John Ahearne, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Speth called for an immediate change in current practices, including a candid discussion of accident probability and impact.

Speth also urged the NRC to make the statements clearer and more accessible to the public.

For plants currently operating or soon to be licensed, he said supplemental impact statements should be prepared on possible accidents.

agencies setting up a Wildlife Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee and a special Texas Task Force.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General James W. Moorman said the agreements reflect concern with the smuggling of an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 parrots and other birds, reptiles and animal skins across the Texas-Mexican border each year.

## Illegal pet traffic hit

WASHINGTON — The government is establishing a special investigative force to stop the smuggling of thousands of diseased birds, reptiles and animal skins into the United States.

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