

Gramm-Rudman intensifies guns versus butter debate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The debate over guns versus butter — raised to new intensity by the sweeping Gramm-Rudman budget cuts — dominates the agenda along with tax revision as the second session of the 99th Congress opens this week.

The lawmakers will be operating for the first time under the Gramm-Rudman law they passed last month, which mandates deep spending cuts if Congress and the president fail to pass enough cutbacks or tax increases to meet deficit-reduction targets.

Government agencies are already laboring to make the \$11.7 billion cut required on March 1, which would still leave a deficit of about \$208 billion. Far more onerous is the prospect of more than \$50 billion in cuts to meet the fiscal 1987 deficit target of \$144 billion.

Gramm-Rudman cuts don't hit Social Security or welfare benefits, veterans compensation or interest on the national debt.

The 1987 fiscal year begins Oct. 1, so the decision making will be spotlighted in the campaigns for 34 Senate and 435 House seats.

Rep. Les Aspin, the Wisconsin Democrat who chairs the House Armed Services Committee, on Sunday released a report projecting that Gramm-Rudman will take more out of military personnel and readiness than out of high-tech hardware over the next five years.

Gramm-Rudman cuts don't hit Social Security or welfare benefits,

veterans compensation or interest on the national debt. But foreign aid, law enforcement, air traffic control and countless other government tasks are being cut back, and shielding one area from cuts would mean other areas get hit harder.

President Reagan helped push through the House a major tax overhaul slashing individual and corporate tax rates while eliminating or reducing some deductions and credits. The administration will try in the Senate to take away some of what the president considers anti-business bias in the House plan.

The fiscal 1987 spending plan the administration sends to Congress on Feb. 3 is expected to make the \$144 billion deficit ceiling without tax increases and continuing the defense buildup — while eliminating or deeply slashing many domestic programs.

Amtrak train derails after heavy rain

Associated Press

DU PONT, Wash. — An Amtrak train carrying 190 passengers from Los Angeles to Seattle derailed Sunday after heavy rain washed out the roadbed, and at least 25 people suffered minor injuries, authorities said.

The nine-car Coast Starlight derailed about 4:30 p.m., in a steep, wooded area at Nisqually, which was drenched by torrential rains during the weekend.

One of its engines was hurled into a deep ravine, said Burlington Northern spokesman T. Warnstadt. Another railroad spokesman said an engine caught on fire in the accident, but it was not determined whether it was the same one in the ravine.

The cause of the derailment was the "washout of the roadbed underneath" the rails and a mudslide, Warnstadt said.

Most of the injuries occurred when there was a sudden lurching as the front cars derailed, Warnstadt said.

Little MIA information gotten from Laotians

Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos — The parting toasts were cordial, but little new information emerged from talks between a U.S. congressional delegation and Laotian officials Sunday on the issue of 556 Americans still missing in action in Laos from the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975.

After the talks, all four U.S. lawmakers said in interviews that the Laotian government rejects the possibility of Americans entering Laos to conduct joint investigations of possible sightings of living Americans.

The lawmakers, representing the Senate and House of Representatives veterans affairs committees, met for two hours with Souphan Sritthirath, the vice minister of foreign affairs, and then for less than an hour with Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut.

The delegation was winding up a visit to the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. It was led by Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, accompanied by Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., Rep. Bob McEwen, R-Ohio, and Rep. Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla. Murkowski is chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Since the war ended, 806 "live sightings" of Americans in Indochina have been reported, mostly by refugees, according to U.S. government records. Investigations have ruled out the possibility of living Americans in all but 95 reports, including 13 reported live sightings in Laos, U.S. officials say.

A total of 2,441 Americans are still listed as missing in action from the Indochina conflict, 556 of them in Laos, 88 in Cambodia, and 1,797 in Vietnam.

Murkowski said he and his colleagues pressed the Laotians to allow independent verification of their claim that no American MIAs are alive in Laos.

Murkowski quoted Phoun as saying his government conducted an extensive national census last year that found no Americans, and that notices had been distributed throughout Laos asking people for information on Americans.

A day earlier, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach of Vietnam pledged that any of the lawmakers could personally investigate any reported live sighting in Vietnam but said Vietnam was not holding any Americans.

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INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

DRIVE-THRU WINDOW
University Drive
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BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING

Welcome Back Aggies!

Volleyball and Flag Football MVP's

Last semester was a first for the Intramural Program as the McDonald's MVP's were announced for the All-University finals games in volleyball and flag football. Each MVP received a "Be Our Guest" card for a free meal from McDonald's. Congratulations to those individuals who showed outstanding skill and sportsmanship.

Flag Football

Class A: Men	John Laubacher, CoCo Hubenak
Women	Denise Carter, Kelly Hobart
CoRec	Mimi Morales, Sara Schultz
Class B: Men	Bill Brooks, Bill Westerheide
Women	Lynne Connelly, Jeriny Ferguson
CoRec	David Vaca, Bryan Sharp
Class C: Men	Johnny Wartell, Troy Priesmeyer
CoRec	Lynn Hadden, Tracy Guthry

Volleyball

Class A: Men	Jose Cordona
Women	Donna Mays
CoRec	Kent Rothbauer
Class B: Men	Mike Leasor
Women	Julie Beard
CoRec	John Fields
Class C: Men	Wayne Pfluger
CoRec	Roberto Trontera

AEROBICS PROGRAM FOR SPRING 1986

The following classes will be offered by the Intramural-Recreational Sports Program for spring semester. All classes begin February 3 (except for Low Impact Aerobics which begins February 10) and run through April 25. There will not be any classes Spring Break. All classes will be limited to 35 people so sign up soon in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, Room 159 Read Bldg.

Advanced Stretch and Aerobics	MWF	12:05-12:50	\$30
Advanced Stretch and Aerobics	TTh	5:15-6:15	\$25
Beginners	TTh	12:05-12:50	\$25
Beginners	MW	6:15-7:00	\$25
Intermediate	MW	5:15-6:15	\$25
Low Impact Aerobics	TTh	6:15-7:00	\$25

*Individuals may sign up for unlimited classes for \$40.

Locker Renewals

The last day to renew recreational lockers is Tuesday, January 21, 6 p.m. All lockers not renewed will be cleared on Wednesday, January 22. Lockers may be rented for the semester beginning Monday, January 27.



Jump into the action with Intramural Basketball. Entries close this week, so hurry!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

— Outdoor Soccer play begins Wednesday, January 22. Teams that have not picked up their schedule may do so in the IM-Rec Sports Office, Room 159 Read Bldg.

— Intramural Calendars are still available to all students, faculty and staff. Stop by our table in the MSC this week or come by the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, Room 159 Read Bldg.

— Basketball Team Captains' Meeting: Thursday, January 23, 5 p.m., Room 601 Rudder Tower. Schedules will be available at that time.

IM GAMEPLAN

Entries Open:

BASKETBALL: Tighten your laces and hang onto your shorts — basketball season is here! (Entries close Tuesday, January 21.) The entry fee is \$25.00 per team for all classes (A, B, C and D-Recreation). Schedules will be available at the Team Captains' meeting on Thursday, January 23 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 601 Rudder Tower.

PRESEASON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: Take note gym rats, another chance to play! (Entries for this weekend tournament close on Tuesday, January 21 at 6 p.m.) Entry fee is \$5.00 per team. This tournament is open to men's, women's and CoRec teams in classes A & B. There will not be any awards given in this single elimination tournament. Schedules will be posted in the IM-Rec Sports Office after 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22. The Tournament will run Thursday, January 23 through Sunday, January 26.

SCHICK 3-ON-3: Last Chance is today to enter this 3-man tournament. (Entries close Monday, January 20 at 6 p.m.) Schedules will be posted Tuesday, January 21 at 2 p.m. Play begins Tuesday, January 21! Entry fee is \$5.00 per team. The top two Men's A teams will be given the opportunity to go on to the regional level of a national 3-on-3 tournament at their own expense.

COMING SOON: Entries will open next week for Team Bowling and Racquetball Singles. Check here next Monday for more details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall and on Texas Avenue. Stories are written by Liz Dillow, graphics are by George Clendenin and photos are by Tom McDonnell and David Tatge.