

Budget talks

O'Neill vows to 'expose' proposed spending cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a partisan kickoff to an election-year Congress, House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. vowed Tuesday to expose "crazy, nonsensical" domestic spending cuts he expects President Reagan to seek. As the opening gavels fell in both houses on what is expected to be a tumultuous session, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., called for a "partnership between the administration and the Congress" to help meet the deficit-reduction targets contained in the Gramm-Rudman legislation.

But across the Capitol in his ornate speaker's office, O'Neill, the veteran Massachusetts Democrat, told reporters he wanted to vote "item by item" on Reagan's budget proposals.

O'Neill hopes to close out his political career in this 2nd session of the 99th Congress by showing Dem-

ocrats the way to victory next fall's congressional elections.

The president "takes all of the glory but he doesn't want to take any hard knocks," O'Neill said. "There's going to be plenty of hard knocks for Mr. Reagan," said the speaker.

There was fresh pressure from some lawmakers for a tax hike to help reduce the red ink, as Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said, "You cannot fix the deficit with just budget cuts."

But O'Neill insisted — and Dole agreed — that there would be no such tax bill unless Reagan dropped his longstanding opposition.

Reagan repeated that opposition at a private White House meeting with leading GOP lawmakers, where he also stated his preference for an increase in defense spending.

In his budget blueprint for fiscal 1987, which commences Oct. 1, the president is expected to propose

roughly \$54 billion in domestic spending cuts in a bid to meet the \$144 billion deficit target contained in the new legislation.

The controversy over the Gramm-Rudman bill's provisions continued as House members used their opening day session to alternately embrace and denounce the law.

Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., said it would "lead to disaster," while Rep. Hal Daub, R-Neb., said it would enable Congress, like Moses, to "part the Sea of Red Ink."

There was little doubt that tax overhaul would dominate Congress' agenda, flavored heavily by political activity that will serve as prelude to the November elections.

Said Senate Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia: "We're in for a pretty rough year, I'd say."

As is often the case, though, both houses planned a relatively slow start.

Reputed Chicago mobsters sentenced in Kansas City

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Five reputed mob leaders were convicted Tuesday of skimming \$2 million in gambling proceeds from two Las Vegas casinos in what the U.S. attorney called one of the most significant government cases against organized crime.

Joseph J. Aiuppa, 78, and John P. Cerone, 71, described by the govern-

"I think this represents one of the most significant cases of the government to address organized crime in the last 10 or 15 years."

— U.S. Attorney Robert Ulrich.

ment as the boss and underboss of organized crime in Chicago, were found guilty along with three other defendants after a four-month trial.

They and the other defendants — Chicagoans Joseph Lombardo, 58, and Angelo LaPietra, 65, and Milton J. Rockman, 73, of Cleveland — were convicted on each of eight counts charging them with conspiracy and traveling in interstate commerce to gain and maintain a hidden interest in casinos owned by the Argent Corp.

They were accused of skimming

or secretly removing \$2 million from gambling proceeds before taxes were paid. Each defendant could be sentenced to 40 years in prison and fined \$80,000.

"I think this represents one of the most significant cases of the government to address organized crime in the last 10 or 15 years, which means forever," U.S. Attorney Robert Ulrich said after the verdict.

"Organized crime remains a priority of this administration," he said. "The effort is not concluded. There remain additional investigations."

Ulrich, who was not involved in the day-to-day prosecution of the case, declined to say if any of the defendants were involved in other investigations.

The four defendants in the courtroom showed no emotion as the verdicts were read. Lombardo, who is already serving a prison term, waived his right to be present. Aiuppa turned to friends in the courtroom during a break and said, "Everything is going to be all right."

David Helfrey, a federal strike force attorney who spearheaded the prosecution, asked that the defendants be denied bond and taken immediately into custody because they are a danger to the community and a threat to flee.

The defendants remained in custody.

The government said the conspiracy was put in motion through influence over trustees of the Central States Pension Fund of the Teamsters Union, who loaned Allen Glick \$87.75 million in 1974 to buy and remodel the Stardust and Fremont casinos.

Glick testified as a government witness that he was told to contact Frank P. Balistreri, described by the government as head of the Milwaukee mob, when he sought a \$62.75 million pension fund loan to buy the casinos. Glick said Balistreri told him he could help him get the loan, and that trustees soon approved it and later loaned Glick an additional \$25 million for remodeling.

Glick said he was later forced out of the company.

Balistreri, 67, was among the nine defendants when the trial began, but pleaded guilty Dec. 31 to

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— Robert Ulrich.

two counts and was sentenced to 10 years and fined \$20,000.

His sons, Joseph P., 45, and John J., 37, both Milwaukee lawyers, were acquitted by Stevens after the government rested its case Jan. 6.

Poll: Adults support record warning labels

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A majority of American adults enjoy rock 'n' roll music, but many think it corrupts the young, and they support warning labels and ratings for rock records, according to a Media General-Associated Press poll.

The kind of music that once symbolized rebellious youth is now enjoyed by 56 percent of adult Americans, according to the poll. Nevertheless, 51 percent of adults believe rock music has a bad effect on children, 56 percent support labels that warn of objectionable lyrics and 55 percent think rock records should be rated as movies are.

Less than 40 percent of the respondents opposed warning labels and ratings and thought rock music

had no influence on children's behavior. The rest were unsure.

Most of those who believed rock corrupted the young said it encouraged drug use, disobedience, sexual activity, violent behavior, laziness and a disregard for authority.

The nationwide telephone poll of 1,462 adult Americans found that most of the support for warning labels and ratings came from those who did not like rock music. But half of the rock music fans also supported warning labels.

The debate over the morality of rock music is as old as the music itself. But the issue resurfaced last year when the Record Industry Association of America, under pressure from two parents' groups, agreed to label some albums with the warning "Explicit lyrics — parental

advisory" or to print the album's lyrics on the jacket.

Twenty-two of the 44 record companies that belong to the RIAA accepted the idea, although musicians who have artistic control over album jackets are free to ignore the agreement.

The agreement was spearheaded by the Parents' Music Resource Center, a Washington-based group founded by Tipper Gore, wife of Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., and Susan Baker, wife of Treasury Secretary James Baker.

Some prominent rock musicians objected to their crusade. Frank Zappa, formerly of the Mothers of Invention, and Dee Snider of the group Twisted Sister told a congressional hearing last September that warning labels were unnecessary and a danger to freedom.

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