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Question: What is Equal Access?

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Question: Will Equal Access cost more?

Answer: Yes! Equal Access long distance companies will pay a premium access charge for this service and it will be passed on to you, the end user. We estimate Equal Access will cost 7.3¢ to 9¢ more per minute.

Question: When I receive the ballot to select a long distance company, what should I do?

Answer: Select AT&T as your official long distance company, but continue to use Call America and save up to 50%. If you select AT&T on your ballot, there will be no change in the way you now make your long distance calls.

Question: What's the big deal?

Answer: There is no big deal. Select AT&T on your ballot and nothing changes.

If you are not currently using Call America as your low cost long distance service, or if you have any questions about Equal Access, call us. We have the answers.

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Senate rejects amendment requiring balanced budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate narrowly rejected Tuesday a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget, killing by a single vote a proposal that opponents argued could "grind the government to a halt."

The vote was 66-34, one vote short of the 67 votes — two-thirds of the Senate's 100 members voting — needed for approval. The Senate's vote reversed one taken four years ago, when the chamber approved a balanced-budget constitutional amendment by a vote of 69-31. A similar proposal in the House that year failed by 66 votes to get the needed two-thirds margin.

The White House issued a statement saying that President Reagan "is disappointed that the Senate failed by only a single vote to simply ask the American Congress to do what every American family must: spend no more money than they take in."

"Tonight's close vote merely spurs us to come back and try again," the White House statement said. Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes had said earlier that Reagan was lobbying senators by telephone on the issue.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., said, "It's a big disappointment. It's going to be a long time before we get an opportunity to pass it again."

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, another sponsor of the amendment, said, "Unless we replace some of the members who voted against this, I don't see any way we are going to pass this in the next Congress. This was a very, very crucial vote."

Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., said, "Gramm-Rudman was a crucial factor, people say 'we have Gramm-Rudman, we don't need this.'"

Sen. Daniel Evans, R-Wash., who led the opponents, agreed with Simon that the deficit-reduction law had an impact on the outcome.

Evans said "I think it had a proper impact."

"I think there is a great reluctance to amend the Constitution, our forefathers were wise to require a two-thirds vote."

Ten Republicans joined 24 Democrats in voting against the proposal while 23 Democrats and 43 Republicans voted for the measure.

Hatch expressed "some real irritation" that two members of the Republican leadership, Sens. John Heinz of Pennsylvania and John Chafee of Rhode Island, voted against the proposal.

The proposed constitutional amendment, which would have required Congress to spend no more in a fiscal year than the government collects in revenues, needed approval by two-thirds of those voting in the Senate. It also would have needed approval by two-thirds of voting House members and ratification by 38 states.

Aquino signs temporary constitution

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino signed a temporary "freedom constitution" Tuesday that gives her powers rivaling those Ferdinand E. Marcos exercised under martial law in the 1970s, including rule by decree.

The interim constitution guarantees civil rights but abolishes the National Assembly, which was controlled by the exiled former president's political party.

Aquino said she hoped to have a new permanent constitution and National Assembly in place within a year.

She did not use the word "revolutionary" to describe her government, which came to power when Marcos fled the country Feb. 26. Her justice minister called it "revolutionary in origin and nature, democratic in essence, and essentially transitory in character."

The president said: "Today, I am announcing an interim constitution under which our battered nation can shelter after years of dictatorship. Our newly won rights and liberties will be protected by this temporary freedom constitution."

Marcos ruled the Philippines for two decades, including more than eight years of martial law that began in 1972. He was driven out by a military-civilian revolt supported by the

"Today, I am announcing an interim constitution under which our battered nation can shelter after years of dictatorship."

— Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

Philippine hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Blas Ople, labor minister under Marcos, said Aquino was taking on the "powers of a dictator in a one-party state." He threatened to reopen the National Assembly despite its abolition under the interim constitution.

Other political opponents were less defiant. Jose Rono, executive secretary of Marcos' party, the New Society Movement, acknowledged the new president's wide support and said of her action: "There's nothing we can do about it."

Leonardo Perez, Marcos' political affairs minister, called Aquino's government an "open-ended dictatorship" and added: "We all hope that while she exercises all

these extraordinary powers, they will not be abused."

Aquino signed the proclamation on nationwide television one month to the day after Marcos resigned his office and fled the presidential palace to Clark Air Base en route to Hawaii.

Some essential differences exist between the powers Aquino now has and those Marcos exercised under martial law.

She can make laws, set election dates, appoint and dismiss mayors and governors, appoint new judges in all courts, reorganize government commissions and name all 30 to 50 people to the commission to write a new constitution.

Marcos also could arrest people for any reason and jail them for as long as he chose. Aquino has no specific powers of arrest under the provisional constitution.

Aquino's temporary constitution includes a clear line of succession with Vice President Salvador E. Laurel taking over in the event of her death, resignation or incapacity.

Marcos dismissed his vice president under martial law and did not restore the office until naming a running mate for the fraud-tainted Feb. 7 presidential election that led to his downfall.

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