

World and Nation

House allows large pay boost to pass temporarily by missing rejection date

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress allowed itself a \$12,100 pay raise, at least temporarily, when the House allowed the midnight Tuesday deadline for rejecting the hefty pay increase pass.

Democratic leaders said the House would pass Senate-approved legislation on Wednesday that gives \$50 million to the homeless and also disapproves the pay raise.

But House Democratic Whip Tony Coelho of California said it was unclear whether that action would, in fact, repeal the pay raise because the vote would take place after the midnight Tuesday deadline.

"There's still going to be a vote" later to repeal the pay raise, Coelho said. "Don't create the impression that we've voided all opportunity for a repeal."

House leaders deliberately de-

layed action on the pay raise by adjourning for the day in early afternoon. When Majority Leader Thomas Foley, D-Wash., motioned for adjournment, opponents quickly called for a vote but lost 221-17.

The maneuver brought a firestorm of protest to an issue that is always a nightmare for lawmakers who want a pay raise but are fearful of the political consequences of voting for one.

Rep. Connie Mack, R-Fla., called the adjournment maneuver a cleverly designed smokescreen. "We've lost credibility" with the back-door move, he said.

Rep. Tom Petri, R-Wis. added, "The House leadership acted like a thief in the night, skulking away with its ill-gotten gains."

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader said the maneuver "added treachery

to their arrogant and avaricious behavior," and warned that the public outcry would force Congress to relent.

In addition to elevating congressional pay to \$89,500 from the current \$77,400, substantial raises were in line for 3,000 high-ranking federal officials and judges.

House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, acknowledged that pay increases for the federal judiciary were a stickier issue because the Constitution forbids rescission of a judge's pay raise.

The Senate turned down the pay raises last week, leaving the politically sensitive issue squarely in the House's corner and raising the hackles of some representatives.

Rep. William Ford, D-Mich., said the senators were trying to "look like heroes and then run for home.

That's how I feel about their ungentlemanly conduct."

Rep. Vic Fazio, D-Calif., said many senators are millionaires and don't need the raise, while most House members are not independently wealthy.

But many House members said now is not the time for what they called "extravagant" pay raises.

Rep. Clyde Holloway, R-La., noted his state's high unemployment and said, "Those people who are fortunate enough to have jobs have a tough time figuring out how members of Congress, making \$77,000 a year, are underpaid."

Other recommendations included setting the pay for federal district judges at \$89,500; Cabinet secretaries at \$99,500; Supreme Court associate justices at \$110,000; and the vice president's salary at \$115,000.

Stock market closes amid mixed prices

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street's upbeat mood continued Tuesday, even though stock prices closed mixed amid some profit-taking and portfolio-shuffling.

At the close, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials was down 10.97 at 2,168.45.

On the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, advances led decliners by about 8-to-7, with 872 issues up, 704 down and 399 unchanged.

Volume on the Big Board came to 198.05 million shares.

While the closely watched index moved in and out of positive territory throughout Tuesday's session, the broader measure of winners to losers constantly favored the up side.

U.S. warships near Lebanon; Iran denies it holds Waite

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — U.S. warships were reported within 50 miles of Lebanon on Tuesday and official sources in Cyprus said civilian aircraft flying near the ships were ordered by radio to veer off.

The warships of the 6th Fleet were in international waters.

The sources in Cyprus, which lies 100 miles northwest of Beirut, spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States marshaled a strong battle group in the eastern Mediterranean over the past week in response to rising tensions in the Middle East and following a spate of kidnappings of foreigners in Lebanon.

The kidnapers, and Moslem leaders in Lebanon, warned that any military action by the United States would mean death for the captives.

Pentagon sources stressed in

Washington on Tuesday that the U.S. battle groups had received no orders to prepare for any military operation.

The sources, who demanded anonymity, said the carriers Kennedy and Nimitz and a Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group of roughly 1,900 Marines were steaming on a "routine patrol pattern" in the southeastern Mediterranean, south of Cyprus and relatively close to Lebanon.

The force consists of about 22 warships, and 1,900 more Marines were moved out of Spain on Tuesday to join the battle fleet.

Also Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry denied reports that Anglican Church hostage negotiator Terry Waite was held by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon.

The fate of Waite, 47, remained a

mystery. The 6-foot-7 emissary has not been seen since he left his hotel in Moslem west Beirut on Jan. 20, apparently for a meeting with the Shiite Moslem kidnapers of two Americans held since 1985.

Lebanon's justice minister, Nabih Berri, said in Damascus, Syria, on Monday that Waite had been "arrested" by the kidnapers. He did not elaborate.

Unconfirmed reports last week said Waite was spotted in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, a Shiite stronghold and base for about 400 Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Tehran as denying a U.S. news media report that Waite was in the hands of the Revolutionary Guards in the Bekaa.

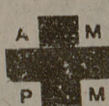
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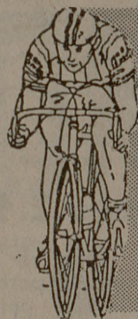
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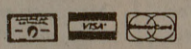
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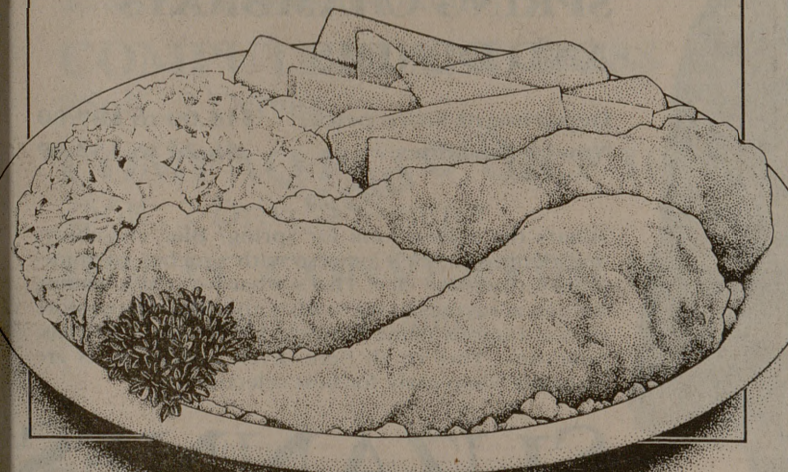


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