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World and Nation

House delays bill for tax increase to consider plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday temporarily scuttled a \$12 billion tax increase and other parts of a Democratic deficit-reduction bill, insisting that congressional and White House negotiators first be given a chance to produce a plan for attacking the government's debt.

Immediately after losing a 217-203 vote, Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, served notice that the House will have to face the issue again — but without an attached welfare-overhaul provision. He acknowledged the welfare section, which has nothing to do with reducing the deficit, caused several Democrats to desert on the vote.

But welfare was only part of the problem, insisted Rep. Bob Michel of Illinois, the Republican leader. "What the members have attempted to express here is (to) give this bipartisan negotiating team (representing Congress and the White House) a chance to come up with a deficit plan," Michel said.

By the vote, House members simply refused to consider the Democratic bill, since the procedures un-

der which they were operating offered no realistic chance to amend the tax or welfare sections.

That forced the House Education and Labor Committee, which the leadership controls, to reconvene and lay out new procedures under which the bill would be considered.

Wright insisted the deficit negotiations should not stop the House from considering its own deficit-reduction plan, most of which was written by the Ways and Means Committee before the stock market crash.

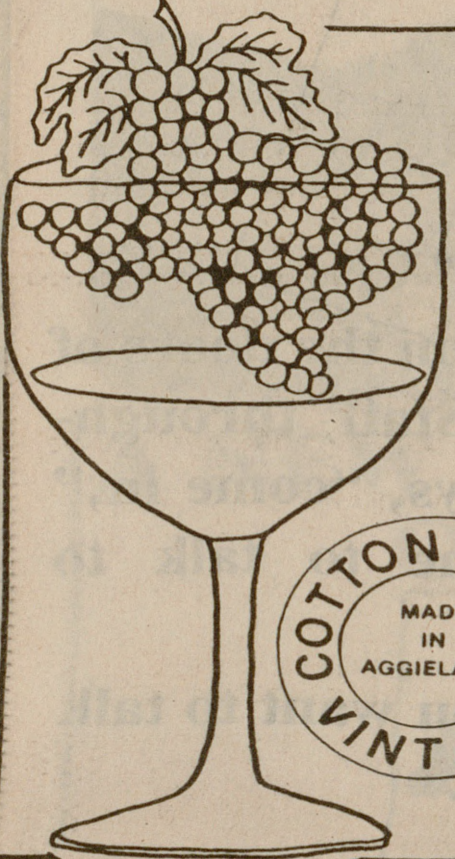
Most of the new tax burdens would come from corporations and upper-income individuals. The provisions of the bill affecting the largest number of individuals would extend the piling 3 percent tax on telephone service for three years.

The bill includes \$2.5 billion in spending reductions — some of them would have only a one-year effect on the deficit — and increased the House Appropriations Committee to find other cuts in military and domestic programs totaling \$8.5 billion.

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Senate approves ban on cigarette smoking on domestic flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Thursday approved a ban on cigarette smoking on domestic airline flights of 90 minutes or less, a compromise that averted an attempt to kill the language by tobacco-state lawmakers.

The restrictions, approved by voice vote, would cover an estimated 70 percent of all U.S. flights, according to the Federal Aviation Administration and would last for two years.

The ban is part of an \$11.1 billion transportation appropriations bill for this year that would also allow states to raise speed limits to 65 mph on about 7,000 miles of rural highways.

The overall legislation was approved by a vote of 84-10. Before the measure is sent to the White House, senators will have to reach a compromise version with the House where a smoking ban for flights two hours or less has already been approved.

The Senate then began considering a separate bill that would require airlines to issue monthly reports on delayed and canceled flights, lost luggage and other customer service problems.

By voice vote, senators approved an amendment to the measure that would require drug and alcohol testing for airline, railroad and truck industry employees.

Lawmakers have been concerned about drug and alcohol abuse since indications arose that it may have been a factor in last January's collision of a Conrail locomotive and an Amtrak commuter train near Baltimore, in which 16 people were killed and 175 injured.

Market draws 'second wind' making third-largest gain

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street regained a measure of its lost vitality Thursday, drawing a second wind that blew the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 90 points in its third-largest gain ever.

The Dow average, which late in the session was up more than 100 points, edged back to close up 91.51 points at 1,938.33. The 5-percent gain — its third-largest one-day advance — followed a 0.33-point gain Wednesday.

The broader market, which had lagged behind the blue-chip issues represented in the Dow, also improved with four stocks making money for every one that lost.

The market moved steadily higher despite a mixed showing by the dollar and losses on stock exchanges in the Far East.


The market value of American stocks rose \$106.57 billion to \$1.9 trillion after. On Wednesday, it fell \$12 billion.

New York Stock Exchange volume came to 258.14 million shares as trading again ended at 11:30 a.m. Markets have been closing early to allow people to catch up on paperwork and will have shorter hours again today.

Officials will announce tomorrow whether the NYSE will return to its normal closing time next week, said Richard Zano, an exchange spokesman.

However, NYSE officials would open this Saturday afternoon from this week's heavy trading sessions could be processed.

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