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# Congress favors drug legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday passed election year anti-drug legislation that would severely punish recreational users and murderers alike, but it could face constitutional tests if enacted into law.

The 375-30 vote is not the final word on Congress' latest effort to respond to Americans' fears over drug abuse. The Senate still must consider its own anti-drug legislation, and a conference will likely be needed to reconcile competing versions.

Despite constitutional concerns, even by sponsors, the tug of election-year politics was so strong that House members appeared willing to enact the toughest possible bill and let the courts decide the legal questions later.

The bill received support from 207 Democrats and 168 Republicans, while all 30 votes against the legislation came from Democrats, virtually all of them liberals.

The legislation pursues many avenues of combating illegal drugs, and would authorize the addition of more than \$2 billion in spending to the nation's current \$3.9 billion anti-drug effort. The amount could be a factor if overall spending levels force across-the-board, automatic budget cuts.

This bill is distinguished from past anti-drug legislation by its so-called "user accountability" provisions — measures that say even the smallest amount of drug use or possession will not be tolerated.

Drug users would be subject to \$10,000 civil penalties per violation for mere possession; would be ineligible for student loans and other federal benefits; and would face loss of their right to drive, if states enforce license suspension programs to obtain more federal highway money.

For those who kill during a drug-related crime, the legislation contains legal procedures designed to permit use of the federal death penalty.

But the legislation does not ignore education, treatment, and rehabilitation for drug abusers, authorizing more money to the states for such programs. Federal and local law enforcement agencies would receive more money.

# Former policeman killed drug agent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former Mexican policeman was found guilty Thursday of the 1985 kidnap and torture murder of a U.S. drug agent, a slaying he once described to an undercover officer as "a mistake."

Raul Lopez Alvarez, 28, was convicted of killing Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena and his pilot, Alfredo Zavala Avelar.

Three men were charged in the internationally sensitive case. Jurors returned to court early Thursday to deliver their first verdict after only one day of deliberation. They then returned to the jury room to discuss charges against the other two defendants.

Rene Verdugo Urquidez, 36, an admitted drug trafficker, also is charged with Camarena's murder, and Jesus Felix Gutierrez, 38, is charged with helping drug baron Rafael Caro Quintero escape from Mexico after masterminding Camarena's murder.

All three defendants appeared pale and shaken when the verdict was announced.

Camarena was abducted Feb. 7, 1985, in Guadalajara when he left the U.S. Consulate to meet his wife for lunch. The bodies of Camarena and his pilot were found weeks later buried at a remote ranch. They had been severely beaten and Camarena's skull was crushed.

During the eight-week trial, jurors heard an audio tape of Camarena's interrogation by his abductors and his pleas for them to stop beating him.

"He paid the price in the most savage, barbaric, unbelievable manner," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jimmy Gurule said in his summation. "Beaten and beaten and beaten until his life slowly slipped away, drained from his body."

The case stirred bitter feelings between Mexican and American officials after Mexican police were linked to the killing.

# World briefs

**FAA requires wind shear device usage**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration on Thursday ordered airlines to equip all their aircraft with devices that will help pilots detect and escape from deadly wind shears.

Powerful shears called microbursts have been called the number one killer of airline passengers and have been responsible for at least five fatal airline crashes and 500 deaths in the last decade, according to aviation safety experts.

The FAA regulation was announced by the Transportation Department, which said the devices, to be phased into operation in all aircraft of 30 or more seats over the next four years, will cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 per airplane.

About 3,600 commercial jet transport planes also will be required to have the devices, department officials said.

A microburst is a powerful downburst of air caused by a sudden change in wind direction. Such a downburst struck a Delta Air Lines L-1011 as it was attempting to land at Dallas-Fort Worth in 1985 and literally forced the plane into the ground, killing 134 people.

The accident focused increased attention on developing and installing sophisticated ground radar that would provide advanced warning of shears.

# Soviet troops move to curtail rioting

MOSCOW (AP) — Tanks and troops rolled into two southern Soviet republics Thursday where protesters in an ethnic dispute attacked a prosecutor's office, rallied by the hundreds of thousands and staged strikes.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfiliev told a news briefing in Moscow, "The situation is not improving. It has become even more threatening."

Authorities imposed a 9 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew in Stepanakert, the main city of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, center of the dispute between Armenians and Azerbaijanis that's been going on since February. Violence in the region this week killed one person and hurt 48.

Protesters, who want the area to be taken from Azerbaijan and made part of Armenia, attacked the city's prosecutor's office in Stepanakert Thursday.

"There are soldiers on every street, at every crossroad, checking passports and personal cars," a man who answered the telephone at the state radio and television office, Gostelradio, in Stepanakert, said.

Nagorno-Karabakh, in the Caucasus Mountains, was virtually at a standstill and sealed off because of ethnic tension.

# Higher airfares blamed on deregulation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of a Senate committee on Thursday faulted airline deregulation for raising airfares for many Americans and leaving some cities dominated by carriers that control local air service.

But Transportation Secretary Jim Burnley told the Senate Commerce Committee that even though "the airline industry has its flaws," nearly 10 years of deregulation has benefited most travelers.

"Overall the airline industry has become much more competitive as to price and service as a result of economic deregulation," Burnley told the legislators.

Burnley cited statistics showing that since 1978, domestic air traffic has grown from 275 million passengers to more than 450 million, while average fares have declined 13 percent, adjusted for inflation.

The secretary said that if most Americans are asked if deregulation has been helpful, "You'll find an overwhelming perception that the country has benefited enormously."

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