

World and Nation

Social bills may keep Congress in session longer than planned

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social initiatives from welfare to child care are hanging in the balance as Congress draws toward adjournment, increasingly impatient and preoccupied with presidential politics.

In a year of rhetoric about the American family, lawmakers have to complete action on major initiatives to raise the minimum wage, expand and improve child care, reform the welfare system and guarantee leave to workers with pressing family responsibilities.

A number of appropriations bills, including one providing about \$300 million for the Defense Department, have been approved in some form, but differences remain between the House and Senate versions.

Also on the incomplete roster is the biggest environmental bill of the 100th Congress, a revision of the Clean Air Act to strengthen the battle against urban air pollution, acid rain and airborne toxic substances. Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Dole, D-Kan., has warned senators to prepare for Saturday sessions the 100th Congress is to end by Oct. 16 — two weeks beyond the original target date for finishing business.

The Senate has been mired for days on a bill to raise the minimum wage from \$3.35 to \$4.55 over three years, unable to cut off a filibuster mounted by conservative Republicans. The week ended with no resolution and a vow to try again this week.

Also scheduled this week is an equally controversial family leave bill opposed by small business lobbies. The measure would guarantee workers with a newborn, newly adopted or very ill child at least 10 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave. Workers with serious medical problems themselves would be entitled to at least 15 weeks of leave without losing their jobs.

Welfare negotiators were meeting Monday to discuss the latest offers and counter-offers on an overhaul bill that would bolster child support payments from absent parents and create a major jobs, training and education program for welfare recipients.

In the House, a handful of negotiators led by Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., are firmly opposed to a work requirement for two-parent families on welfare. The Reagan administration is just as firm about its

insistence that the requirement be included.

The changes didn't move Hawkins, said his spokesman, Jay Butler, but other negotiators appeared headed toward compromise with a final overhaul costing about \$3 billion in the offing.

Sens. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, reportedly have agreed on major elements of a compromise, bipartisan child care bill based on the Democrats' \$2.5 billion Act for Better Child Care Services.

The bill would help low-income

and, to a lesser extent, middle-income families pay for child care and would require child care homes and centers receiving federal money to conform to minimum federal health, safety, training and staffing standards.

The powerful National Education Association, along with the Parent-Teachers Association, the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups are mounting a campaign against the bill because church-sponsored day care programs would be eligible for aid.

AIDS bill approved after controversy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hard-line conservatives suffered a string of defeats on the way to House approval of a bill that expands voluntary AIDS testing and counseling without forcing states to test large groups of people in order to get federal money.

The House passed the AIDS Federal Policy Act 367-13 on Friday in much the same form as it emerged from nearly two years of hearings and negotiations.

The act is built on a \$400 million-a-year testing and counseling grant program. It also would protect the confidentiality of test results and speed up research into acquired immune deficiency syndrome and the virus that causes it.

States would have to comply with a number of conditions to get the federal funds.

With some fancy parliamentary footwork, House sponsors of the measure managed to send their bill straight into a conference to be reconciled with a Senate AIDS education and research bill to which it bears little resemblance.

The maneuver enables supporters to bypass, for now, what would surely be a lengthy and acrimonious Senate floor debate on testing, confidentiality and AIDS in general. But

senators eventually will be asked to approve a conference report and some may balk because they never had a chance to debate the testing elements.

The AIDS virus that causes the fatal disease most often is spread through close contact with contaminated blood, blood products or semen; its principal victims have been homosexuals and intravenous drug users.

The House bill, sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., represented months of work reconciling the vastly differing approaches of liberals and conservatives to the AIDS epidemic.

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, said the bill addresses "gaping holes" in the federal response to AIDS.

"It is good policy stripped of controversial provisions that might divide members," he said. "While people get sick and die, we can debate whether this legislation is perfect or we can act to fight an epidemic that is ravaging our people." Conservatives had some impact on the final product, chiefly in forcing sponsors to drop a section outlawing discrimination against people with the AIDS virus and AIDS-related medical problems. But hard-liners lost a number of floor battles in a big way.

Attempts to make states test all prison inmates, most hospital patients and many marriage license applicants lost by large margins, as did a requirement that states collect identifying information on AIDS virus carriers.

And just before passing the bill Friday, House members soundly defeated 279-105 an attempt to require doctors to make "a reasonable effort" to notify spouses of carriers.

The bill as passed would give states \$200 million for each of the next three years for testing programs; the remaining \$200 million a year would go directly to health care facilities serving high-risk populations.

Testing would have to be voluntary and accompanied by counseling. Anonymous testing and the use of pseudonyms would have to be permitted to the extent possible under state laws.

All persons convicted of prostitution or crimes related to sexual assault or intravenous drug abuse would have to be tested. States also would have to collect demographic information about those who test positive and establish civil and criminal penalties for violations of confidentiality standards outlined in the bill.

Health professionals or others who violated the standards, whether intentionally or not, could be fined up to \$10,000 for each offense. An intentional violation could result in up to a year in prison. An intentional violation could result in up to a year in prison; a person harmed by improper disclosure could sue for at least \$2,000.

The bill permits disclosure of positive test results under certain circumstances, including to sexual partners and needle-sharing contacts unlikely to be notified by the infected individual.

World briefs

Two private banks announce closing

PRIDDY (AP) — Stacks of old-fashioned, blank, white "Eleanor checks" or an "Eleanor National" have been kept on the counters of local shops for years and were a common currency for residents.

But soon they will be gone. Eleanor Jeske Gromatzky is voluntarily closing one of the state's last three private and uninsured banks, the Farmers & Merchants Bank (Unincorporated).

The bank, which holds about 250 personal accounts, will cease operation at the end of the year. F&M traditionally refused to

supply personalized, numbered checks.

Customers used the white counter variety or specially ordered some on their own.

Another private bank, San Antonio's D&A Oppenheimer Bank, will wind down at the end of the year, leaving just the E.L. Price Bank of Galveston.

"The end of an era," said Gromatzky, a white-haired woman whose father Carl Jeske, organized the Mills County bank May 17, 1917, at the back of his general store.

Hurricane Helene turns to North Atlantic

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Helene strayed further from land as it continued pushing north Sunday to chillier waters that eventually will sap its strength, National Hurricane Center forecasters said.

Helene turned from north-northwest to north and was expected to keep churning across the central Atlantic Ocean, hurricane expert Hal Gerrish said.

At noon EDT, the storm's center was near latitude 20.5 north and longitude 49.0 west, or about 875 miles northeast of Antigua and 1,650 miles southwest of the westernmost Azores. Helene, with top sustained winds of 115 mph, was headed north at 8 mph.

"Some gradual weakening is possible during the next day or two," Gerrish said.

Hurricanes are comprised of strong winds revolving around warm cores of low pressure fueled in part by the tropical waters that spawn them. Cold water weakens the storms, draining their steam.

If Helene stays on its northerly course, it eventually will die out, unlike Gilbert, which turned its deadly winds west and grew into a category 5 hurricane — the strongest possible.

Both storms came out of Africa as disturbed weather systems this month, the busiest time of the six-month Atlantic Hurricane Season that begins June 1.

Helene is the eighth named storm of the 1988 Atlantic hurricane season, and the fourth with winds that exceed the 74 mph, classifying it as a hurricane.

Card company creates cards for blind

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — With something as simple as a greeting card, Truesillia Ruth Shank hopes to help bridge the gap between the worlds of the sighted and the blind.

"It seems so unfair that a blind person should miss out on the simple, little pleasures of life," Shank said, sitting in the living room of her modest home that doubles as the office for her 7-month-old card company, Succre Greetings. Succre is an Old French word meaning "to assist."

"Can you imagine being 30, 40 or 50 years old and having to wait for someone to read a stack of Christmas cards to you? Or not being able to go into a store and pick out an anniversary card for your wife or a birthday card for your child?" she asked.

The inspiration for Succre Greetings, which Shank owns with her husband, came while she was working on an advertising project with a blind businessman.

"He was doing things I couldn't do even with my sight," she said. "It just didn't seem right that he needed someone to go to a store with him just to pick out a card."

Because of the limited market, Braille greeting cards have not been manufactured by established card companies. Adam Ash, publisher of the Gift Reporter, a trade publication for the gift industry, said, "These cards are designed specifically for a visually impaired person, but are still appealing to a sighted person as well." Paul Ponchillia, a professor in the Department of Blind Rehabilitation at Western Michigan University, said.

Well-wishers brave storms for Emperor

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Hirohito lay in serious condition Sunday but was alert enough to watch the finals of the autumn sumo tournament on television, and a daughter who paid a bedside visit expressed optimism about his health.

Thousands of well-wishers braved thunderstorms and cold rain to throng the gates of the moated Imperial Palace in central Tokyo under a sea of bright umbrellas. Palace officials say 300,000 have signed their names in a dozen registries set up nationwide to pray for Hirohito's recovery.

The 87-year-old monarch remained under intensive, round-the-clock care by a team of court doctors after vomiting blood from an intestinal hemorrhage on Monday. The emperor has sat on Japan's Chrysanthemum Throne for nearly 62 years.

His condition was serious but appeared stable. Palace officials acknowledged Hirohito discharged a small amount of blood Sunday morning.

The officials would not confirm published reports the emperor has cancer of the upper intestine. Cancer is rarely acknowledged publicly in Japan.

Under the Constitution, the emperor has no political power but signs documents already approved by the government and serves as a symbol of Japan's unity.



Saint Louis University's Academic Year in Madrid
COMPLETE CURRICULUM: English, Spanish, Liberal Arts, Business & Administration, TESOL, Sciences, Hispanic Studies

SLU in Madrid is a member of AA/EOE
Graduate Courses offered during Summer Session in July

Apply NOW for Spring and Summer 1989
More than 1000 students in the Program

Raymond L. Sullivan, S.J.
Saint Louis University in Madrid
Calle de la Vina, 3
Madrid 28003 SPAIN
Tel: 233-2032/233-2812

Contact:
Saint Louis University
Study Abroad Coordinator
Admissions Office
221 North Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103
Toll-free tel: 1-800-325-6666

Rhodes Scholarship 1988

Are you a senior with a 3.75 + average? If so you may be eligible for a Rhodes Scholarship. You could spend the next 2 years at Oxford University honing your career skills, widening your educational base.

Contact Professor J.F. Reading
Room 505, Physics
845-5073 or 696-9190

DEADLINE: SEPT. 30, 1988

Checkers
HAIR & TANNING SALON
700 University Drive East
846-7993 846-8663
NOW OPEN
Located Between University Book Store & 24 Hr. Gyms

10% off **AGGIE SPIRIT MUMS** 10% off
Gardens & Bootniers
Over 40 items to select
Specialty for You
693-9345
2551 Texas Ave S.
Shiloh Place
College Station
10% off
God Loves You & So Do We

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS
Sept. 28, 29 (6-10 p.m.)
Oct. 7 (6-10 p.m.), 8 (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
401 Rudder
Register at University Plus (MSC Basement)
Call 845-1631 for more information on these or other classes

PIZZA FACTORY
Call 76-GUMBY
"The Pizza Factory will BEAT THE HELL outta competitors prices!"
Monday Special 12" Pepperoni: \$4.20 plus tax
Expires 9-30-88
Tuesday Special 12" Sub sandwich, chips & soda \$3.95 plus tax
Expires 9-30-88

SPEED READING
FREE INTRODUCTORY LESSON
1 HOUR ONLY
We Promise to increase: Reading Speed, Comprehension, Retention Recall
We Promise to teach: Memory, Research How to Study, Mind Maps, Technical Reading, Textbook Reading
We Promise to eliminate: Regression, Sub-vocalization, Audio-Visual Dependency, Poor Concentration, Slow reading, Dread of Reading
MONEY BACK GUARANTEED COURSE
When: "Tues. Sept. 27 or Wed. Sept. 28"
Where: HOLIDAY INN, COLLEGE STATION
Times: 4 p.m. - 6 P.M. or 8 P.M.
POWER READING
(713) 320-9671 (Direct or Collect)



STUDENT HAIRCARE SAVINGS!
- COUPON SAVINGS -
\$1 OFF STUDENT CUT Reg. \$8 MasterCuts family haircutters
\$1 OFF STUDENT CUT Reg. \$8 MasterCuts family haircutters
\$5 OFF ANY PERM MasterCuts family haircutters
MasterCuts family haircutters
POST OAK MALL 693-9998