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# Senators, scholars debate effectiveness of flag amendment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators and legal scholars argued Tuesday over whether a constitutional amendment was political "patronizing" or the best American way to overcome a Supreme Court decision allowing flag burning.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., introduced the constitutional amendment supported by President Bush and belittled the idea, championed by Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., that the way to overcome the decision was a simple statute satisfying the court's concerns about free speech rights.

"There is no guarantee that the Biden bill will 'constitutionalize' the federal flag desecration statute," Dole said. "We will have to wait perhaps three to five years for the courts to put their stamp of approval or rejection on the statute. That's simply too long for the American people to wait."

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., ranking Republican on the Judiciary committee, said he thought an amendment was "the only sound and safe way" to protect the flag.

But Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Nebr., a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor winner, said lawmakers were jumping too quickly to push flag-protection legislation in order to gain political capital.

Kerrey said that while he was "outraged by the decision," he has come to believe there was no necessity to pass new legislation. Reading the decision, "I was surprised to discover . . . (it was) reasonable, understandable and consistent with those values which I believe have made America so wonderful."

Kerrey said constitutional amend-

**"There is no guarantee that the Biden bill will 'constitutionalize' the federal flag desecration statute."**

— Bob Dole, Senate minority leader

# Polish general announces bid for presidency

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Communist leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski reversed course Tuesday and announced he would be a candidate for the new post of president of Poland.

The president will be picked Wednesday by the National Assembly, Poland's two-chambered legislature.

The Solidarity-backed delegation makes up 46 percent of the assembly, and on Tuesday it launched into a long, emotional debate on Jaruzelski's candidacy.

There seemed to be little likelihood the Solidarity-led opposition would vote for the general who imposed martial law to crack down on the independent trade union in 1981.

Tribe said that could be accomplished through a statute like Biden's, which would make it a federal crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a year's imprisonment — or both — for someone to knowingly deface the flag.

The statute would remove all references in the existing federal flag burning statute to "ideas communicated" in the process of flag desecration and would punish only the physical act itself.

The Supreme Court held in its 5-4 ruling in the Texas case that desecrating the flag was protected under the Constitution's First Amendment guarantee of free speech insofar as the act of destroying the flag amounted to communicating a political point of view.

Tribe urged the lawmakers to "count votes" on the Supreme Court like they do in Congress, assuring them that changing a properly drafted statute would win over a majority of the Court and as many as seven justices.

"I submit that's the response that best protects the flag," he said, without running the risk that an amendment could "rip the heart out of the First Amendment."

# Soviet miners ignore appeals to end strike

MOSCOW (AP) — Coal miners feel the government is making empty promises and will continue an 8-day-old strike that has hampered operations at scores of Soviet factories, a spokesman for Siberian miners said Tuesday.

The Soviet Union's worst labor trouble since the turmoil of the 1920s spread "like a chain reaction" to two more mines in the Donetsk Coal Basin in the Ukraine, a strike leader said.

The official news agency Tass said 39 mines in the region were closed.

No new figures were available on the total number of strikers in Donetsk and western Siberia's Kuznetsk Basin, the nation's main coal-producing regions, but earlier reports put the figure at more than 112,000.

Tass said the strike had affected more than 160 coal, machinery, electronics and light industrial businesses in western Siberia alone and that lack of coal could cause "a catastrophe" at steel and power plants.

Government officials appealed on radio for Kuznetsk miners to return to their jobs, but Tass acknowledged the effort might be futile.

"Many of them are obviously irritated (and) have stopped believing in the endless promises of local officials and central agencies about improvements in work and living conditions," the agency said.

The Kremlin sent Nikolai N. Slyunkov, a Politburo member with experience in industry and labor, to Kuznetsk to negotiate with the miners.

Valery Legachev, a spokesman for the regional strike committee in Kuznetsk, said miners were continuing their walkout because Slyunkov made "only general statements" in long meetings Monday and Tuesday, not concrete proposals.

Slyunkov, who leads a delegation of Communist Party and government officials, also addressed 30,000 people Tuesday in the main square

# Oslo city council gives contract to Dallas firm

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The Oslo city council defied the national government Tuesday and approved a Dallas-based company to install an electronic tag system for vehicles paying highway tolls.

The city overruled an order by the Transport Ministry to give the \$14 million contract to a Norwegian company.

AS Fjellinjen, the city-owned company in charge of the project, chose to award the deal to EB-Amtech, a joint venture with Amtech Inc., of Dallas.

Amtech had threatened a trade discrimination suit if it lost the contract because of an order from the Norwegian government.

The United States also put diplomatic pressure on Norway to respect international free trade agreements, said a U.S. Embassy spokesman.

The Labor government reportedly wanted the contract to go to a small Norwegian company, Koeffri, to boost Norway's electronics industry.

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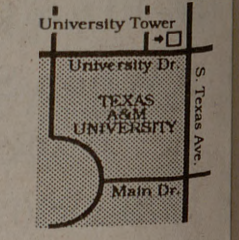
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