Bush slashes budget by \$16 billion

igned an order Monday night cutting federal orgrams by \$16.1 billion after giving up hopes or a last-minute compromise with Congress.

"It's the law," said White House press secretary

Marlin Fitzwater. "We're ready to implement it." He said that, while the administration had sought to avoid the almost across-the-board cuts triggered by the nation's Gramm-Rudman budgetcutting law, "it might even be good" if the budget

The order Bush signed shortly before 7 p.m., to take effect at midnight, was largely procedural as the spending cuts were automatic under the

'We'll continue to work with the Congress" in seeking to develop a compromise to reduce the deficit to roll back the spending cuts, Fitzwater aid. "But there is some feeling here that (the auomatic cuts) are the way to go. It will reduce pending in a very effective fashion.

"Everyone's going to have to take in their belts," he added."It will have a hit, there's no

Earlier, budget director Richard Darman said we are doing what the law requires.'

Rudman law because of the failure of Congress and the White House to agree on a deficit-reduction package.

House leaders met during the day to see if there was any way to accomplish a lightning-fast completion of a budget-cutting bill, acceptable to the White House, by midnight. But this came to nought and the House recessed for the evening.

Imposition of the cuts — as occurred in 1986 and 1987, remaining in place the first year, being rolled back the second — is nonetheless a political embarrassment to members of both political parties, adding to a public perception of a Congress congenitally unable to do its budget work

The practical effects for the first several weeks are expected to be nil, however, because agencies can juggle their funds to make up for spot short-

Darman, in a move apparently aimed at increasing pressure on Congress to finish the deficit-reduction bill quickly, said Monday that the cuts would be imposed at a more detailed level

current two-hour restrictions.

the House, which preferred making permanent the

legislation before it can be sent to President Bush for

measure for transportation programs for the fiscal year

which began Oct. 1. There are other disagreements on provisions in that bill that must be worked out, and negotiators will take several more days before sending a compromise bill back to their chambers for votes.

The House voted 259-169 on Aug. 2 to make perma-

nent the current ban on smoking on airline flights of

two hours or less. That prohibition has been in effect

since April 1988 and would have otherwise expired next April.
On Sept. 14, the Senate voted 77-21 to end delaying

tactics by tobacco-state lawmakers who were trying to block a permanent extension of the ban to all flights.

The chamber then adopted the stricter rules on a voice

The Senate-approved ban would take effect 95 days after the legislation is signed.

tougher rules, arguing that the recirculated air in air-line cabins is unhealthy even to non-smokers. The to-

bacco industry has insisted that more evidence is

Health advocates and airline unions have sought the

The full House and Senate will have to approve the

The restrictions are part of an \$11.9 billion spending

bureaucrats less flexibility and accelerate the time in which the cutbacks would be felt.

"It has a little more discipline to it," Darman said of the new method of applying the cuts.

Congress to send Bush the streamlined \$14 billion deficit-cutting measure the Senate approved late Friday. Then, he said, the administration and GOP lawmakers would work for congressio-

Darman reiterated his preference for keeping

House leaders said their bill would reduce the deficit by \$11 billion, but Darman said it contains just \$2.8 billion in true savings. It also includes a broadening of child care programs and other provisions the administration opposes

to hear case on mergers

Power of states could be strengthened

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Monday it will consider bolstering the power of states and private citizens to

break up corporate mergers.

The justices agreed to hear an appeal by California officials seeking to use federal antitrust

on the merger of Lucky, California's largest supermarket chain, and Alpha Beta, the fourth larg-est. They operate 550 stores be-

The high court action Monday will keep in effect an order Jus-tice Sandra Day O'Connor issued in August.

• Agreed to take a new look at the rights of motorists suspected of drunken driving. The court will hear an appeal by Pennsylvania officials seeking to reinstate the drunken-driving conviction of a man videotaped answering police questions before he was warned of his right to a lawyer or

· Rejected an appeal by a po-

• Refused to free Pan American World Airways from having to pay \$951,500 plus interest to two families of victims of a 1974 crash in Indonesia that claimed

· Agreed to use a Washington, D.C., case to set guil elines for penalizing lawyers who file frivolous

law to kill the \$2.5 billion merger of the Lucky and Alpha Beta su-permarket chains.

The high court acted at a time when much of the nation's anxious attention was focused on Wall Street developments following Friday's market tailspin. Last week's steep drop was attributed in part to investor worries over the future of debt-financed corporate takeovers.

The supermarket case focuses

tween them.

In other action, the justices:

litical action committee linked to fringe presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The group now may have to pay \$2.7 million in contempt-of-court fines.

House, Senate negotiators agree High court on smoking ban for U.S. flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — House-Senate negotiators greed Monday to ban smoking on all continental U.S. irline routes and on all flights to or from Alaska and

Hawaii that last six hours or less. The restrictions would prohibit smoking on more han 99 percent of all flights within American territory, apporters of the ban said. Current rules prohibit moking on flights of two hours or less, covering 80

"With few exceptions, every airline bassenger in America now can look forward to smoke-free travel."

> — Richard Durbin, Illinois congressman

percent of U.S. routes.

"With few exceptions, every airline passenger in America now can look forward to smoke-free travel," said Rep. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., an architect of the

The provision was a compromise between the Senate, bacco industry has insist which sought a permanent ban on all U.S. flights, and needed to make that claim.

Trump withdraws AMR bid; considers making lower offer NEW YORK (AP) — Donald had no comment on Trump's deci-

Trump scrapped his proposed \$7 billion offer for AMR Corp. Monday American Airlines.

It was the second unraveling of a response to his overtures. giant airline deal since Friday and came against a background of growing alarm over debt-financed take-

overs for large American companies. "I am currently reviewing all my options with respect to AMR including making another offer at a lower price," the New York-based develper said in a letter to AMR Chairman Robert L. Crandall.

Trump said he was also considring increasing his holdings in AMR or selling his stock. He said he would take "any other actions that I may deem appropriate.

AMR, based in Fort Worth, said it

The airline, which has said it but said he was still considering mak- wanted to remain independent, had ng a lower bid for the parent of said it would study Trump's proposal but the company made no other

> Trump sent his letter after AMR's stock dropped \$13.75 a share to \$84.87½ on the New York Stock Exchange Monday as volatile trading on Wall Street continued following Friday's 190-point decline in the Dow Jones industrial average. Trump had offered to buy AMR for \$120 a share.

> Friday's stock plunge was caused in part by word that the manage-ment-led employee group seeking to buy UAL Corp., the parent of United Airlines, had been unable to secure financing for its proposed \$6.75 billion buyout of that airline.

Blue chip issues made a comeback Monday, but the broader stock market remained lower and trading was extremely heavy. AMR's stock was depressed amid

the uncertain outlook for airline Trading in the airline's shares was temporarily halted pending the an-

nouncement of Trump's withdra-

Trump's proposed bid, announced Oct. 5 but never formally presented to stockholders, had been shrouded in skepticism, partly because of growing criticism over a rash of airline takeovers that rely on

borrowed money. The developer gave no details of his financing strategy besides a plan to include \$1 billion of equity in his

proposed offer. Friday's stock drop had cast fur-

ther doubt on the proposed deal.

Darman said administration officials want nal approval of a capital gains tax cut on a separate bill.

If the House and Senate try instead to reach middle ground on their deficit-reduction bills, he said, "we're going to insist on preserving capital gains" in the final measure.

the Gramm-Rudman cuts permanent.

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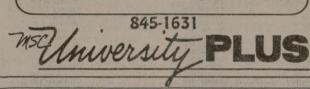
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