

Wednesday, November 1, 1989

## Bush, Congress strike deal to increase minimum wage

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and the Democratic-controlled Congress agreed Tuesday to raise the hourly minimum wage to \$4.25 by April 1991, a compromise clearing way for the first increase in nearly a decade.

Both the White House and the Democrats made significant concessions to strike the deal, which for the first time since the minimum wage was established 50 years ago would allow employers to pay a subminimum "training wage" to teen-agers with little work experience.

The compromise ends a lengthy and often bitterly partisan battle that pitted Democratic congressional leaders and organized labor against the Reagan and Bush administrations and business interests.

"No side will get a victory for this," Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, said. "We didn't want the training wage to begin with but we wanted to depoliticize the thing."

The deal was struck between White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, House Speaker Thomas S. Foley and House GOP leader Robert Michel. Hawkins and other lawmakers prominent in past minimum-wage battles complained about being shut out of the talks. Some Democrats also said Foley conceded too much.

But they agreed to the deal, which was being drafted Tuesday and, barring unexpected disagreements over

language, will be presented to the House on Wednesday as a substitute to a Democratic bill scheduled for a vote. Senate passage is expected to follow shortly.

Once signed by Bush, the legislation would trigger a 45-cent increase in the minimum wage on April 1, to \$3.80 an hour, with the jump to \$4.25 coming a year later. The last increase in the minimum wage came in January 1981, when it increased from \$2.65 an hour to the current \$3.35.

The new subminimum, which could be paid to workers 16-19 years old for three months, and up to six months in some cases, would be 85 percent of the minimum wage.

Democrats and union leaders long have considered such a "training wage" unacceptable. However, it became clear that agreeing to the provision was the only way to win a general increase after conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans helped Bush sustain a veto of a minimum-wage bill passed by Congress earlier this year.

In siding with Bush, those lawmakers argued that employers would be reluctant to hire youths for part-time and summer jobs if the minimum wage was increased without an accompanying subminimum.

For his part, Bush gave up nine months from his offer to increase the minimum wage to \$4.25 in January 1992, and he also conceded ground on the training wage. He had demanded a six-month provision for all workers regardless of their age and prior work experience.

## California continues to cleanup

Workers find bodies of two more victims

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Workers searching the wreckage of Interstate 880 found the bodies of a woman and a man in separate vehicles, some weeks after the earthquake, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

The body of Joyce Ann Mahoney, 31, of Berkeley, Calif., was found around 7 p.m. Monday, said Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Knudsen. Around 7 a.m. Tuesday, searchers found the body of James J. Flores, 39, of Rockwood Park, Knudsen said.

"We're checking the vehicles for personal belongings," Knudsen said. "We have no reason to believe there are any more bodies there."

The discoveries raised the death toll in the quake's worst disaster to 41 and the overall number of people who died in the quake to 66.

Mabry was the mother of a year-old boy and Flores had a teen-age child.

Those who survived the catastrophe struggled to recover from their injuries.

Cathy Scarpa, 37, remained hospitalized Tuesday with multiple fractures in both legs and a crushed hand suffered when her carpool van was smashed in the collapse of Interstate 880. Five the University of California's Francisco co-workers who were with Scarpa, a registered nurse and health education, were killed in the van.

"There were some services for the people who died, and it's hard not to be a part of that. It's hard to be here dealing with this and not being a part of normal life," said Scarpa, sometimes through tears, from her bed at Eden Hospital in Castro Valley.

Scarpa is one of dozens hospitalized with broken limbs and other injuries suffered in the devastating earthquake Oct. 17 that killed 64, crippled the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and buckled a 1½-mile section of the I-880 freeway in Oakland.

In all, 2,874 people were treated and released and 49 were hospitalized, enough to fill a large hospital.

## Anti-abortionist remains in jail, refuses to pay fines to get out

ATLANTA (AP) — Abortion foe Randall Terry has spent the first four weeks of his two-year sentence behind bars and out of the limelight, but his critics still accuse him of using his jail time as a publicity ploy.

Terry, the outspoken leader of Operation Rescue, is serving time for leading a wave of demonstrations outside women's clinics in Atlanta during the Democratic National Convention last year.

The 30-year-old born-again Christian and former car salesman has been jailed 34 times previously for his protests, the longest time for about a month in 1987. Unlike other jail terms, Terry hasn't been allowed to do jailhouse interviews this time and is limited to one 10-minute phone call a week.

"We don't get the access that we had before," said Barbara Magera, spokesman at Operation Rescue's headquarters in Binghamton, N.Y.

"We just got a little note from him, just encouraging us and telling us he is doing well. That was all that we heard from him."

Operation Rescue is a loose-knit grassroots organization founded by Terry in November 1987, three years after he and his wife, Cindy, began standing outside a clinic in Binghamton trying to discourage women from having abortions. It has a mailing list of about 20,000 people, and Magera claims 35,000 supporters have been jailed for protests.

Terry was moved last week to the Alpharetta Correction and Rehabilitation Center, north of Atlanta. He had been held in the Fulton County jail since Oct. 5.

Al Pierce, warden in charge of the medium-security facility, said Terry is being treated like any other inmate. He lives in a dormitory and has been assigned a job, Pierce said, although he didn't know what the

job was. Magera said she had been told Terry worked on a crew installing water pipes.

Terry was given a 24-month sentence Oct. 5 for his criminal trespass and unlawful assembly convictions over protests at an Atlanta women's clinic July 19, 1988. Fulton County State Court Judge John Bruner said he would suspend the sentence if Terry would pay two \$500 fines, stay out of the five-county metropolitan Atlanta area for the 24 months and agree not to break any more Georgia laws.

Terry refused, and also refused to pay a \$2,000 bond that would have kept him out of jail while Operation Rescue appeals his sentence. He said the amount was too high.

No date has been set for the appeal. Terry has said he would serve the full two years, if need be. The activist could go free any time he decided to meet the requirements and pay the \$1,000 fine.

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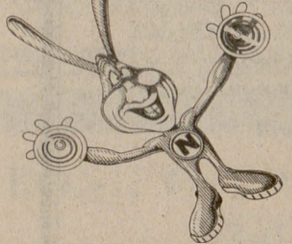
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