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# Parliamentary Debate

"Resolved that the Social Security Program in the United States should be abolished."

- Pro and Con Speakers
- Open Forum Debate
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**Thursday, Nov. 16, 1989**  
**MSC 226**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts

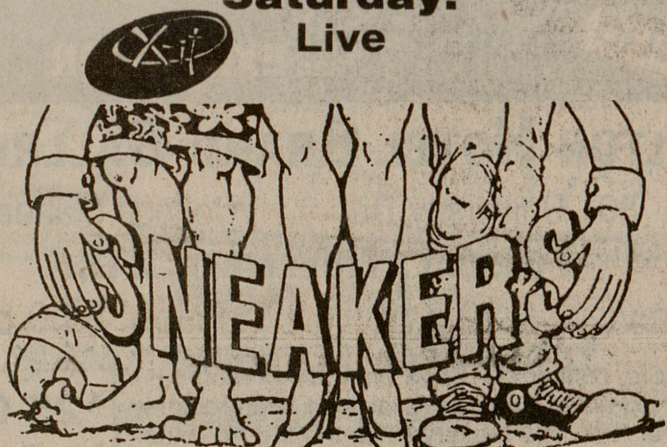
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# WORLD & NATION

Thursday, November 16, 1989

## E. Germans will ask Parliament to end Communists' power lock

BERLIN (AP) — An East German political party said Wednesday it will ask Parliament this week to abolish the Communists' 40-year lock on power, the first direct challenge to their rule, and it predicted an easy victory.

Communist officials spurned Bonn's offer of an economic bailout, saying they prefer their own recovery course and hinting at reforms to encourage free-enterprise investments.

In West Berlin, hundreds gathered at the enormous Brandenburg Gate, hoping the East Germans would break through the Berlin Wall in front of the 200-year-old "symbol of unity." A West German TV network said as many as 7,000 East German refugees are expected to return to their communist homeland.

The East German constitution's guarantee of a "leading role" for the Communist Party will be

challenged at Friday's sitting of the increasingly independent-minded Parliament, Manfred Gerlach, head of the Liberal Democratic Party, said.

It was unclear whether a vote on the constitutional change would come the same day.

"I figure it will pass with a large majority," Gerlach told West Germany's ARD radio network. His party, once closely allied with the Communists, has been at the forefront of calls for change in East Germany.

The new speaker of Parliament, non-Communist Guenther Maleuda, on Tuesday urged a constitutional change to allow a true multiparty government.

The East German constitution specifies that constitutional changes must be approved by a majority of the lawmakers in the 500-member Parliament, or People's Chamber.

Despite Gerlach's prediction, a majority chamber is still believed to be made up of orthodox members likely to reject the measure.

Parliament, however, has shown signs of independence, engaging in unthinkable debates and casting 26 "no" against naming the new Communist Party leader Egon Krenz as president on Oct. 24.

Gerlach for weeks has urged the Communist to abandon their "leading role," but Friday's vote will be the first direct challenge.

Gerlach also predicted free elections next year, and said the Communists would win a majority. Krenz has promised free elections, but has not set a date.

Krenz's leadership on Wednesday weighed latest pledge of economic aid from Bonn, in exchange for sweeping political and economic reforms.

## President says future of Europe will be decided during summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush declared on Wednesday that his summit with Soviet Leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev will not be a meeting "to negotiate the future of Europe."

"Only free and unfettered elections can satisfy the yearnings of free people," Bush told the AFL-CIO. He praised the labor movement for being the spark that ignited the fires of freedom in Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"At Malta, I will work to advance (the) progress of reform and democracy," he said. "Everywhere you look in the world, members of the AFL-CIO are fighting to keep the door to freedom open for all."

Bush, saying "let us join hands," also used the occasion of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa's triumphant visit

on Wednesday to propose to the AFL-CIO a "partnership for progress" to help Poland restructure its economy.

Steering clear of issues that have divided his administration and organized labor, Bush asserted that doors that the labor union helped to unlock throughout Eastern Europe "cannot be unlocked again."

He also told the 14.1 million-member federation's biennial convention that he would discuss the importance of trade unions in "building a free country" in his Dec. 2-3 shipboard summit in Malta with Gorbachev.

Bush asserted that he and Gorbachev "are not meeting to negotiate the future of Europe. The peoples of Eastern Europe are speaking their own minds about that future. They are calling for democracy."

## Bush, Shamir meeting ends in failure

WASHINGTON (AP) — An apparently friendly meeting Wednesday between President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to break an impasse on Arab participation in Mideast peace talks. Shamir blamed Yasser Arafat's PLO for the delay.

"There are some obstacles that we have to remove and work out," Shamir said after talking to Bush for an hour. "It will be a long process. It will take time. It's not easy."

The Israeli leader, who came to Washington to register his concerns

that the Palestine Liberation Organization might get a foot in the door of the talks, blamed Arafat's group for the impasse.

"We need some Palestinians with whom we will have to cooperate and work together in order to implement this process, including the first steps," Shamir said in the White House driveway.

The PLO, communicating with the Bush administration through Egypt, has not given a green light for Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza to meet with Israel to ar-

range an election.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III said a response from Egypt was essential for the talks to move ahead.

Standing alongside Shamir in a marble-columned lobby of the State Department, Baker referred to Israel's conditional acceptance of his plan for talks with Palestinians.

"I hope we will soon be receiving a similar response from Egypt," he said.

Baker and Shamir said they had made "some progress" toward negotiations.

## Tornado kills at least five in Alabama

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A tornado slammed into a shopping district, a residential area and a school Wednesday, killing at least five people and trapping many others in their cars and homes, police said.

"Several people are trapped in vehicles and apartment complexes and shopping areas," said police spokesman Ben Jennings after the twister touched down between 4 and 4:30 p.m. in the south section of this northeastern Alabama city.

At least two people were killed when the tornado hit adjacent apartment complexes.

"Rescuers are digging in rubble," state trooper W.L. Smith said. He said two people were killed when the twister hit mobile trailers in rural areas east of Huntsville. The fifth death reported near the shopping district.

"We've called in troopers around the state to help," Smith said.

Police received reports of dozens of injuries, including someone trapped in an apartment complex where rescuers were blocked by downed power lines. Jennings said authorities were moving heavy equipment into the area.

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