

Battalion Classifieds

The Battalion

WORLD & NATION

Friday, November 17, 1989

U.S. will discuss tariff barriers if Soviets ease immigration laws

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commerce Secretary Robert A. Mosbacher said Thursday a historic easing of travel restrictions in the Soviet Union would clear the way for the removal of U.S. tariff barriers "if all conditions are met."

Mosbacher said President Bush would recommend that Congress approve a one-year grant of lower tariffs on Soviet imports after the new Soviet legislation clears final passage.

Mosbacher did not spell out the conditions at a joint news conference with Konstantin F. Katushev, the Soviet minister of foreign economic affairs.

They signed commercial agreements designed to boost U.S. investments in the Soviet Union and to explore a new trade agreement.

Moscow nullified the last accord in 1975, a year after Congress demanded freer Soviet emigration as the price for cutting high import tariffs.

Soviet trade with the United States is hampered by restrictions embodied in a law that allows the granting of lower tariffs only if the Soviet Union permits freer Jewish emigration.

The lowered tariffs are available to most of the U.S. trading partners under what is known as most-favored-nation status.

"We want to make clear that we are not beginning negotiation of a trade agreement," Mosbacher said.

"This can come only after the Soviets codify their emigration legislation and after a waiver under the

Non-Communists given more seats

WEST BERLIN (AP) — The East German leadership agreed Thursday to give more than one-third of the seats in the new Cabinet to non-Communists, who now have only four, sources involved in the negotiations reported.

Sources in the Liberal Democrats, one of four small parties that have been allied with the Communists, said Premier Hans Modrow would reduce the Cabinet from 44 members to 26 or 27 and assign at least 11 ministries to non-Communists.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany said people of East Germany must decide on German reunification, but the top Kremlin adviser on German affairs ruled it out.

Nikolai Portugalov said in an interview with the Soviet news agency Novosti there will be two German states "for the foreseeable future and also in the long term."

Mass emigration and pro-democracy protest have created great pressure for reform in East Germany. The Liberal Democrats have said they will ask Parliament on Friday to eliminate the constitutional provision

of a "leading role" that guarantees supremacy to Communist Party.

Liberal Democratic sources said late Thursday that Communist Party chief Egon Krenz had agreed to support a Cabinet with more than one-third of the seats held by non-Communists.

That would allow the ruling party to retain its dominant role while appearing to respond to demands for more democracy. Previous governments have diluted carried out the wishes of the ruling Politburo.

Non-Communists in the Cabinet still are likely to share many of the party's views, which leaves little doubt that the demands of New Forum and other unofficial pro-democracy groups will be addressed.

New Forum and the others have pressed for legal status and inclusion in government affairs, and are expected to settle for mere redistribution among existing political groups.

Manfred Gerlach, leader of the Liberal Democrats said he would urge other parliament deputies Friday for removal of the "leading role" language from the constitutional, which could open the way to a multi-party system.

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Jackson-Vanik amendment becomes possible."

The process, Mosbacher told the news conference, could take one to three months — or even "a lot longer."

He said that congressional restrictions on trade credits — the Stevenson amendment — will be maintained.

Rep. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., who has pushed for wider Jewish

emigration, said in a statement: "The Soviet Union is making real progress. But going all the way toward granting most-favored-nation status strikes me as premature. . . . There are 600 long-term 'refuseniks' who should be freed before we extend the carrot."

Anticipating U.S. action to facilitate trade, Soviet Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin earlier told reporters at the Soviet Embassy, "We are expecting some positive steps from the U.S. side."

House passes pay raise, revises ethics

WASHINGTON (AP) — House members voted Thursday to raise their pay by more than \$30,000 a year over the next 13 months — to above \$120,000 a year — while revising ethics rules to put new limits on outside earnings.

The bill was passed 252 to 174, just 10 months after intense public criticism forced the House to reject a larger pay increase.

The new proposal sped through the House with strong support from the leaders of both parties and an endorsement from President Bush. A slight majority of Republicans voting opposed the bill despite Bush's stance.

The Senate was expected to consider it Friday.

"I can understand and sympathize with people in my district who make 15 and 20 and \$30,000 a year who would have trouble understanding why this kind of pay level is needed," House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., said.

"But," he told his colleagues, "in your heart and in your mind you know it's the right thing to do."

Rep. James A. Traficant, D-Ohio, took a different view.

"I understand the game — we come with ethics reform and we

sneak in a pay raise," he said.

The complex 100-page pay and ethics package was announced by Democratic and Republican leaders Wednesday, but copies were not made available to the public until debate was well under way Thursday.

Public criticism, some of it galvanized by broadcast talk-show hosts, helped lead to the defeat of a proposed 51 percent congressional pay raise earlier this year. But there was no time this time.

"Without public hearings, without a decent interval of time for the American people to digest it, . . . the House leadership railroaded it through," complained consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who opposes congressional pay increases.

But Ann McBride, senior vice president of Common Cause, the self-proclaimed public interest organization, hailed the action as "moving toward a time when we will have government not fully compensated by the public, and not by special interest influence money."

The bill would increase salaries in the House, for federal judges, and for top executive branch officials by at least 35 percent and often by closer to 40 percent.

Senate Majority Leader George

How Texans voted. . .

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here is how Texans voted in the 252-174 roll call Thursday by which the House approved a bill increasing by more than 35 percent the pay for its members and other top government officials, while revising government ethics rules.

A "yes" vote is a vote to pass the bill.

- Voting yes were 168 Democrats and 84 Republicans.
- Voting no were 85 Democrats and 89 Republicans.
- X denotes those not voting.
- Present denotes those who voted they were "present" at the

time of the vote but did not vote "yes" or "no" on the issue.

There is one vacancy in the 435-member House.

- Texas Democrats — Andrews, Y; Brooks, X; Bryant, Y; Bustamante, Y; Chapman, N; Coleman, N; de la Garza, Y; Frost, Y; Geren, N; Gonzalez, Y; Hall, Y; Laughlin, N; Leath, Y; Orrin, Y; Pickle, Y; Sarpalis, N; Steinhilber, Y; Wilson, Y.

- Texas Republicans — Archer, Y; Armez, N; Bartlett, Y; Barton, Y; Combest, N; DeLaRosa, Y; Fields, N; Smith, Y.

The House bill provides for a percent cost-of-living hike by January.

On Jan. 1, 1991, a 25 percent raise would be given — on top whatever cost-of-living increase given to rank-and-file civil servants at that time.

Assuming a 3 percent 1991 service raise, House members would now make \$89,500 likely would their pay increase to about \$125,000.

Reagan's records subpoenaed for Poindexter's criminal case

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge Thursday approved a subpoena that would compel former President Reagan to produce diaries and other records by next Wednesday for the Iran-Contra criminal case of John Poindexter.

U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene granted a petition by lawyers for Poindexter, who was Reagan's national security adviser. They have requested portions of Reagan's diaries and notes he took at key meetings with Poindexter.

In a two-paragraph order, Greene said Poindexter "may serve upon former President Reagan and upon the archivist of the United States the subpoenas . . . submitted to the court."

"The return date for those subpoenas shall be Nov. 22, 1989," Judge Greene said.

The judge ruled last month that Poindexter is entitled to subpoena "specific, relevant documents" bearing on the criminal charges against him.

"I have no comment," Theodore Olson, a lawyer for the former president, said in response to Greene's order.

Earlier this year, U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard

Gesell had quashed a subpoena for documents sought from Reagan in the case against Oliver North.

Poindexter, in support of his request, said he met "daily, frequently alone" with the president during the Iran-Contra affair.

The two men, according to Poindexter, talked of the role of Richard Secord as a middleman in the transfer of arms to Iran and also discussed the accuracy of a chronology prepared by North and reviewed by Poindexter.

Poindexter now is accused of lying to Congress in connection with the chronology.

The chronology said that no official in the U.S. government learned before January 1986 that Hawk missiles had been shipped to Iran in November 1985 with assistance from the CIA.

The shipment, overseen by North, who kept Poindexter apprised of its progress, occurred without the existence of a presidential finding as required by law. Reagan signed a retroactive finding the month after the Hawks were transported to Iran.

Delegation says no to NASA station

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the Texas congressional delegation say NASA can ill-afford the costs of locating a new space station mission at Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama and are recommending instead that current payload operations be expanded at Johnson Space Center.

"This is not the time to be engaged in a political distribution of missions," Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Thursday. "We've got a job to do, and we've got very little money. We do it with. And we've got to do it right. And by doing it efficiently we do it in Texas."

Gramm and the Texas House delegation have written separate letters to Vice Adm. Richard H. Truly urging him to select JSC over Marshall to ensure funding, jobs and a payroll planning function at Johnson Space Center.

"Through the year 2000, adopting the JSC approach could save NASA up to \$250 million — money NASA cannot afford to squander," the House members, led by Rep. Michael Andrews, told Truly.

The issue involves payload planning for the space station, a complex activity once proposed for facilities that would be constructed at Marshall.

Seven kids die in school cafeteria

Wall collapses in violent storm

NEWBURGH, N.Y. (AP) — An elementary school cafeteria wall collapsed early Thursday afternoon during a wind and rain storm, killing at least six school children, authorities said.

State Trooper Ron Harris confirmed the deaths and said other school children were injured.

Wind toppled a tree and sent it crashing through the wall of the cafeteria where pupils were eating about 12:30 p.m. at East Coldenham Elementary School, Carole Armstrong, a secretary at the Valley Central School District, said.

The school is close to five miles west of Newburgh, a city of about 23,000 people located 60 miles north of New York City.

Officials with the State Emergency Management Office could not immediately confirm reports that a tornado hit the school. Gary Fryer, a spokesman for Gov. Mario Cuomo, said.

The Newburgh area and metropolitan New York were under tornado watch posted by the National Weather Service for large parts of the East Coast from Maryland to New England.