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The Battalion

High court nominee stays tight-lipped about issues

WASHINGTON (AP) preme Court nominee David Souter paid courtesy calls on Senate leaders Wednesday while the Bush administration warned Democrats against trying to pin down his views on controversial cases when serious confirmation questioning begins.

Souter, whose nomination was formally submitted by President Bush on Wednesday, said nothing publicly to hint at his opinions on such issues as abortion and affirmative action as he visited senators.

His vote on the divided court could be decisive on those and other issues, and some Democrats - as well as abortion-rights and other interest groups — have said he should be closely questioned on them during the confirmation hearings expected to begin in September.

But Attorney General Dick

senators about probing too deeply.

tive appointee on a specific issue or a constitutional process. That is a specific case would seem to me to great privilege. verge on the improper and certainly be unwise," the attorney general New Hampshire judge and, for the said

He expressed confidence that the nominee, who has been receiving ex- ton, Souter has not confronted the tensive advice from the White major constitutional issues that have House, would turn away such inquir-

"I think I trust to Judge Souter's wisdom and experience to enable thought of myself as that obscu-him to walk the line between giving re."He declined to answer any questhe members of the Senate an appropriate road map to his judicial philosophy, politely declining to respond to questions that are case or is-sues-related," Thornburgh said.

Tight-lipped on all matters of sub-

Thornburgh, in an appearance at stance in public comments on the National Press Club, cautioned Wednesday, Souter said merely, "I ators about probing too deeply. look forward to participating with "To try to pin down any prospec- the Senate of the United States in a

> In his seven years of rulings as a past few months as a member of the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Bosproved so divisive.

> In response to a reporter's question, he said, "I must say, I never re."He declined to answer any questions bordering on the substantive, even including why he wanted to be on the nation's highest court.

> He visited with key Senate Republicans in the office of Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.

enters ple vol of no conte LONG BEACH, Calif. (The Coast Guard dis

charges of drunkenness conduct against Josep zelwood after the former of the Exxon Valdez plead contest Wednesday to two counts

Thursday, July 26, 18

Hazelwoo

Hazelwood entered the to allegations he violated Guard policy by drinking less than four hours befor command of the Exxon and by leaving the vessels, while it was headed for Bligh Reef.

The Coast Guard dism charge that Hazelwood was icated, with a blood alcold over 0.04 percent, the Guard standard for open vessel. Also dismissed charge that he left an impr licensed third mate in cor

the ship. The defense alleged the zelwood's blood alcohol ten botched and then covered the Coast Guard denied # why it dismissed the charg

The 987-foot tanker's ripped open when it plove the reef the night of Mar 1989, spilling nearly 11 m of Alaskan crude into Prime liam Sound in the nation's oil spill.

The Exxon Valdez w route from the Alaskan p Valdez to Long Beach whits struck the charted reef. Beach also is headquarters 11th Coast Guard District,

includes Alaska. At the Coast Guard he Administrative Law Judge Gardner suspended Hazel master's license for 12 m but reduced that by three m because the license has been

by the Coast Guard since the dent. WI

Fitzwater said Bush call httle or meeting to express concerning, th "inordinate cuts."

Soviet Union remains the think to States' adversary, said Fitzwar fected quoted Bush as saying, "Then charge been few changes in Sovietsar "I de

forces. ... They are continue cause of modernize their entire force also a will enter the START negre chemis fully modernized." ways co

the House cuts would force the es."

Cheney told the lawmakes victims

Despite improved relations lege of Dr.

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Fuel leak grounds shuttle flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - NASA said Wednesday it would roll Atlantis back to the hangar to repair a hydrogen leak, making Columbia the next space shuttle to fly when it lifts off on an astronomy mission in early September.

Experts had hoped Atlantis' problem could be solved by simple launch pad repairs. But the leak reappeared during a test Wednesday, and, after analyzing the data, engineers concluded they still didn't fully understand

"We were not able to fix it," said William Lenoir, head of NASA's space flight program. "We have learned more so we will roll back smarter."

Columbia is undergoing repairs for a hydrogen leak of a different sort and should be ready to move to the launch pad in early August, said shuttle director Robert Crippen. "We have every reason to believe that we have no

more problems ahead of us on Columbia," Lenoir said. NASA will attempt to launch Atlantis on its classified Pentagon flight in November, after the leak has been

In addition to the shuttle delays, NASA was wrestling

with other problems Wednesday.

• Investigators trying to pinpoint what caused flaws in the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope arrived Wednesday at the contractor's plant in Danbury, Conn., to interview some of the hundreds of employees that helped build the 94-inch primary mirror. • An unmanned Atlas rocket finally lifted off. The

mission, to study space radiation, was delayed three times in more than five days, because of a power problem, bad weather and a helium leak.

The latest shuttle leak, detected when liquid hydro-gen was pumped into Atlantis' external fuel tank, ap-parently exceeded allowed amounts. It was about the size of the leak detected in two previous tests and was in the same area, a flange in a pipe that carries liquid hy-drogen from the tank to the main engines. NASA workers tightened bolts around the flange and checked the welds, even though engineers doubted

that would be enough to correct the problem. Had the spot been leak-free Wednesday, NASA

would have tried to launch Atlantis in mid-August and Columbia in September.

Race

cature on the front.

(Continued from page 1)

etense

(Continued from page 1)

recent episodes where two fraternities painted racial epithets on a car and sold t-shirts with a "Sambo" cari-

"It's a deceptively complicated is-

sue," said Lou Barsi, executive assis-

tant to the president of the Ameri-

the Soviet Union economic and tech-

nical aid because the United States ultimately will protect them if some-thing goes wrong, he said. "They (West Germany) have

thrived under our nuclear umbrella,

and there seems to be no gratitude for that," Thomas said. "We protect them so they can do whatever they want and make a profit.

and we have to fix it, they think that's not their problem," Thomas

said.

weaponry.

"If what they do gets us in trouble

Furthermore, Thomas said the

Soviets expect the West to move new

"Unfortunately, these technolo-

Computer and microchip technol-

are not and could be used to pur-

chase these consumer goods, he said.

the Soviets' true intentions,"

B-2 bomber endangered Bush defends budget in face of cuts of the

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush pleaded with lawmakers Wednesday to spare the defense budget from cuts even deeper than the \$18 billion already targeted by the Senate Armed Services Commit-

Bush urged key lawmakers on both congressional armed services committees to press ahead with pro-duction of the B-2 bomber and other major new weapons. The House is considering halting production of radar-evading jets, which cost more than \$800 million apiece.

The defense session came on the heels of another meeting between Bush and the five top leaders of Congress to push the budget summit along

from the deficit next year and \$500 needed in those areas, Gephardt billion over five years. But Democratic budget bargain-

ers disputed that, saying no decision that the government must pull in had been made on exchanging offers.

"That is so silly," said Senate Bud-get Committee Chairman James Sasser, D-Tenn.

House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., told reporters the two sides have tentatively agreed to extend from 1993 to 1995 the Gramm-Rudman deadline for bal-ancing the budget. Gephardt said major differences "have in mind a much fense budget than I thin come out of this process.

in defense levels is a major hang-up in reaching an overall budget compromise.

Bush and the leaders discu

said

Despite Bush's earlier agreement leader said, "Nobody wants to raise taxes. ... It's very hard to put the fi-nal package together." After the defense session, Rep.

Les Aspin, D-Wis., the House Services Committee chair-Armed man, lamented that Bush and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney still "have in mind a much bigger de-fense budget than I think is going to

tagon to absorb personnel An a 250,000 in the first year, Science back nearly four army division ists de Aspin's Senate counterpart, Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., who favors continued production, said afterwards, the B-2 "has an uphill fight if it's Fitzwater said going to survive. Aspin's committee is aiming to cut can save some very substants \$24 billion from Bush's request for \$307 billion for the Pentagon for fis-trimming \$180 billion to \$200 into the \$307 billion for the Pentagon for fis-

25 ships. "We think that is unreason sults.

satisfied

"The

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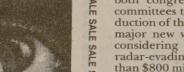
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Fitzwater said that at either Thursday's or Friday's meeting, both sides will "simultaneously" put proposals and "both sides are troubled" by the \$307 bill on the table for cutting \$50 billion magnitude of cuts that might be cal 1991.

White House spokesman Marlin tzwater said that at either Thurs- curity, Medicare and other programs for the poor and elderly -

Collider estimates rise to \$8.6 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some physicists estimate the cost of the superconducting super collider could jump to \$8.6 billion, but a Department of Energy official Wednesday said he has confidence in a contractor's lower appraisal.

Four groups, including the physi-cists and the contractor, are fin-ishing studies that will yield a final, "hard" estimate of the collider's cost next month, Deputy Energy Secretary Henson Moore said.

Since the collider's redesign last fall, the DOE and Congress have

ante money," said Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y. Boehlert said the differences in the estimates are not trivial and that each passing day."

Two Texas congressmen said the prospect of a slightly higher cost

billion, that would have really been a setback," said Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, whose district includes the

"Nothing is certain except the

he's becoming "more skeptical with

wasn't surprising. "If they'd come out and said \$20

collider.

''As I said long ago, it's like a giant poker game, and we've only seen the ante money.'

-Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, SSC critic

used \$8 billion as its estimated cost until a hard figure could be determined

Preliminary versions of three of the studies are complete, Moore said. The contractor's draft places the cost at \$7.8 billion, a group within the DOE says \$8.3 billion and the physicists say \$8.6 billion.

Moore said the three estimates will be reconciled by Aug. 17 with a fourth study, being made by experts under DOE contract but acting independently.

A congressional skeptic warned that a final figure above \$8 billion could mean political trouble for the giant atom smasher, to be built near Waxahachie, 30 miles south of Dallas.

poker game, and we've only seen the it,"

ished," said Rep. Ralph Hall, D-Rockwall.

Hall and Boehlert are members of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

The House in May capped federal technology. funding for the collider at \$5 billion gies have dual uses," Thomas said. "Not only can they manufacture for the next five years. Texas has pledged \$1 billion. The rest is expected to come from foreign invesconsumer goods, but also military tors and other sources

Moore said the DOE will likely accept the contractor's estimate, now ogy, for example, can be easily conthe lowest.

"If we were to take any other position, we'd be essentially telling the contractor, 'We expect delays. We "As I said long ago, it's like a giant expect problems. Don't worry about oker game, and we've only seen the it,' "Moore said.

The Nunn said after the meeting cials we

from defense.

regu "I th orogran Fackler Universities in an interview will espons Houston Chronicle. "Every s Houston Chronicle. "Every a many considering a response to a (Williar racial incidents should start d us in th asking themselves exactly what How

"As student leaders, we citered to be the ceive, t

role models to others and make these problems are solved," 57 around can Association of State Colleges and said.

> Thomas said. "Gorbachev smile and ba the press goes wild. It's disturb witness the euphoria that grips "We want the cold war to be one is c

so we can devote ourselves so we can devote ourselves said. "We desperately want the sians to be good guys. We he true, but you still have to be s

Thomas said if he were Bus would tell the Soviets to unlost nuclear pistol. He said the United States could help the³ fully.

"We don't threaten anybox said. "Ours is a retaliatory force. We can't say the same weaponry.

consumer technologies into Eastern strategic issues with the Sov Volkswagen has made plans to months ago, Thomas said open a manufacturing plant in East government officials said the Germany and introduce it's newest ective was economic compe ness.

"Face it, take away their "The ward the Soviet Union is just with a Brazil," Thomas said. "I asked them what is to Texas A

antee that they won't come had ton and this new technology and rener The s technological military the Waxaha Although Soviet rubles are worth very little, Soviet natural resources are not and could be used to be and could be used to be and the sources are subatom The Center for Street, and the sources are subatom

The Center for Stategic Te Perconc ogy is funded mostly by A&M ^{smasher} smaller amounts from the l "The point is that we don't know partment of Defense and d contractors.

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