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WORLD & NATION

Friday, July 27, 1990

White House readies deficit package

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House Thursday readied a \$50 billion deficit-reduction package calling for higher alcohol taxes, limits on the deductibility of state and local income taxes and new cuts in social programs, Republican negotiators said.

Budget negotiators said they were encouraged that specific proposals were finally being discussed after 11 weeks of talks. However, they said chances seemed to be fading for reaching accord on major differences before Congress' August recess scheduled to begin next week.

"We're at the hard stage now, trying to decide whether to stay here in August and get it done," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan. House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., said there are "large and tough and difficult disagreements to bridge."

The third consecutive day of high-level budget talks at the White House got down to specific tax suggestions as administration officials circulated a new proposal among key congressional Republicans.

Although details of the package were sketchy,

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., said it included higher excise taxes on alcohol but otherwise resembled the taxes Bush proposed in his January budget.

Packwood and others said the proposal, which may be formally presented to budget negotiators Friday, consists of slightly more than \$50 billion in savings, split about evenly between new taxes and spending cuts. It also renews Bush's call for a cut in the capital gains tax rate and proposes several minor new taxes.

The deficit in fiscal 1991, which begins Oct. 1, is expected to reach at least \$169 billion unless action is taken. That size shortfall would trigger \$100 billion or more in spending cuts under the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law, slashing most domestic programs by 40 percent and defense programs by 25 percent.

The new administration proposal would raise about \$3 billion by limiting the deductibility of state and local income taxes on federal tax returns, a GOP bargainer said. Such deductions would be limited to no more than \$10,000, said the negotiator, who asked not to be identified.

However, Gov. Mario Cuomo said the administration could balance the budget if it raised taxes of wealthy Americans.

"If you want to find wealth, don't come and take it out of the pockets of children," Cuomo said at a news conference here with state and local officials who oppose limiting the deductibility of state and local income taxes.

The latest administration package does not include taxes on tobacco or luxury items such as jewelry, which negotiators have been considering, said the negotiator who asked not to be identified.

The official also said the package would benefit programs by \$16 billion, including \$4 billion from Medicare. It would cut defense spending by about \$7 billion — several billion less than Democrats want — and pare domestic and foreign aid programs by \$4 billion more.

The GOP plan would save more than \$50 billion over five years, relying heavily on cuts in benefit programs such as Medicare but leaving Social Security untouched.

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De Klerk meets with Mandela South Africa president suspects communist coup

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President F.W. de Klerk held an urgent meeting Thursday with black leader Nelson Mandela in an apparent bid to persuade him that Communists within the African National Congress have been plotting a coup.

De Klerk summoned Mandela to Pretoria for talks a day after the arrest of senior ANC official Mac Maharaj, who is also a senior member of the Communist Party.

Dozens of other ANC members have been reported detained in recent weeks.

Thursday's meeting in Pretoria lasted two hours, government TV reported.

A statement by de Klerk, read by his spokesman, said the two would meet again next week, at Mandela's request. No date or location was given.

Mandela left the meeting without making a statement.

Police have been quoted as saying they believed some Communists in the ANC were conspiring to overthrow the white-minority government if its power-sharing talks with the ANC fail.

Newspaper reports, citing unidentified sources, have suggested the top ANC leadership did not know about the alleged plot.

"It appears ... the ANC does not appreciate the seriousness of the facts which were brought to light by the

South African police investigations of the past few days," de Klerk's office said in a statement announcing the meeting with Mandela, the deputy ANC president.

At a news conference Wednesday, Mandela denied there was any secret plot, and said there was no rift between Communists and the rest of the ANC leadership.

Like Maharaj, many members of the ANC's 35-member National Executive Committee are also members of the South African Communist Party.

Maharaj was detained by police Wednesday night under the Internal Security Act. The act allows police to hold detainees indefinitely in solitary confinement, without access to lawyers, and to interrogate suspects until they provide "satisfactory answers."

Maharaj is one of scores of high-ranking ANC officials who have returned home from exile since May under a presidential promise of indemnity from arrest for past acts.

A Communist Party spokesman, Jeremy Cronin, said Maharaj was arrested because the government wanted to derail plans for a rally he was organizing.

The gathering, to be held Sunday in Soweto township outside Johannesburg, is to mark the Communist Party's emergence as a legal group after years as an underground movement. The party was legalized in February.

OPEC agrees to raise price of crude oil

GENEVA (AP) — OPEC oil ministers said Thursday they agreed to raise the cartel's ceiling price for crude oil, and OPEC President Sadek Bousenna criticized members who drove down the price by exceeding production quotas.

His comments were apparently directed in part at Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, who are blamed for keeping oil prices low by cheating on their quotas.

OPEC's decision to raise the ceiling price came after it received assurances that overproduction by Kuwait and the U.A.E. would end and that overall world production of oil would decrease.

The price of wholesale unleaded gasoline rose 2.2 cents a gallon Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, settling at 65.26 cents — partly in anticipation that OPEC members may soon reach a formal agreement for cutting oil production.

Meeting ends in dispute Koreas try to end strife

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — North and South Korea agreed Thursday to have their prime ministers meet in an unprecedented attempt to end hostility. But within an hour of the signing of the accord, a new dispute had the nations trading insults again.

Controversy erupted after a plan by five North Koreans to cross into South Korea was scrapped because of a feud involving their accommodations while in South Korea. The name-calling, protest and rhetoric threatened to cloud the premiers' talks.

The North Korean civilians were to help plan a joint unification rally with South Korean dissidents, which is planned Aug. 15. They would have been the first civilians to cross the heavily fortified border with approval of both governments since 1985.

The Seoul government insisted the North Koreans stay in a luxury hotel, saying it was for security rea-

sons. The North Koreans wanted to stay with South Korean dissidents at a church house, and travel in the dissidents' cars.

Eight hours after the crossing was to take place, it was effectively canceled.

North and South Korea were divided in 1945 at the end of World War II. Despite years of hostility and a three-year civil war in the early 1950s, unification of their homeland remains a cherished dream by Koreans on both sides of the border.

"A political show," said Lee Hae-hak, one of three South Korean dissident leaders who had gone to the truce village of Panmunjom to welcome the North Koreans.

"Down with (President) Roh Tae-woo who blocks unification!" the dissidents shouted after being told the border crossing was canceled. "Our desire is unification," the three sang.

Officials on both sides of the border hurried forth with explanations.

House reprimands Frank

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Thursday to reprimand Rep. Barney Frank for using his influence on behalf of a male prostitute. "I should have known better," the Massachusetts Democrat apologized.

The 408-18 vote, after debate that was both solemn and emotional, imposed the lightest punishment the full House could have given. Conservative Republicans pushed unsuccessfully for more serious penalties, either expulsion or censure.

Frank told a hushed chamber the actions he was being punished for had been taken in part to "conceal my homosexuality" at a time when

he had not yet made his gay lifestyle public. He apologized, saying he knows better now "but it's a little late."

The House first voted 390-38 to reject a move by Rep. William Dan-nemyer to expel Frank.

More than an hour later, it voted 287-141 against a move by GOP Whip Newt Gingrich to censure the Massachusetts Democrat, a move that would have stripped him of his subcommittee chairmanship.

Rep. John T. Myers, ranking Republican on the ethics committee, fought to uphold the panel's recommendation for a reprimand.

Pils

(Continued from page 5)

degree, using universities as a stepping stone to professional athletics.

What I find even more appalling is the fact that Texas A&M refused to release any information, claiming it would invade the privacy of those involved.

A&M was one of only six schools that refused to say how many athletes graduated and how many didn't.

This is a world-class university, with one of the top athletic programs in the country. I can't understand why we would join the likes of Albany State, St. Cloud State and Stephen F. Austin in not letting the public know about a major flaw in college athletics.

What kind of role model are these athletes providing to the youth of this nation? What kind of message are we sending to those who see a survey where Texas A&M refused to say how many graduated and how many did not?

Is there something to hide? The problem of athletes leaving school without enough education to hold a normal job (other than athlete-

Souter brushes aside questions regarding letter

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee David Souter brushed aside questions Thursday about a letter he wrote nearly a decade ago opposing legislation that would have forced judges to make decisions on abortions for teenagers.

Souter, making a round of courtesy calls in the Senate, told reporters he would disclose what is "constitutionally appropriate" at his confirmation hearings.

Meanwhile, one of the justices he will join if confirmed, Thurgood Marshall, said he'd never heard of Souter before he was selected and suggested the nomination was a political move.

Marshall, in a dwindling liberal minority on the court with the retirement of Justice William J. Brennan, said he didn't think President Bush had "ever stopped" running for president and "this last appointment is the epitome of what he's been doing." The National Right to Life Committee, the leading anti-abortion group, said it concluded the letter "reveals nothing" about Souter's views on abortion or its legality.

Lawmakers accept changes in farm bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House has accepted only a few changes in a bipartisan coalition bill. Rep. Dick Armye sought in the bill. But Armye said Thursday work has been worth it.

Armye, R-Copper Canyon, said about 100 other lawmakers want the House to wipe out some commodity support programs and halt subsidies to farmers with adjusted gross incomes of \$100,000 or more.

Armye sponsored an amendment to abolish the two-tier peanut program while others fired shots at honey, sugar and cotton programs.

But the House only changed wool, mohair and dairy programs. And, in a 263-169 vote Wednesday, they defeated the cap on subsidies for farmers with less than \$100,000 in adjusted gross income.

ics) needs to be solved and it needs to be solved immediately.

In asking Karl Mooney, the athletic advisor for A&M's athletes, was told that release of such information constituted invasion of privacy and was quickly told of Proposition 24, passed at the last NCAA convention.

The proposition states that in October of 1991 all universities must release its graduation rates to the NCAA. These rates will be classified by sport, gender and ethnic origin. The rates will also be compared to the graduation rate of the entire student body.

This is a step in the right direction, but consider this. This information must be sent in by October, 1991, then it must be processed and analyzed by the NCAA. The money goes back to the school from which it came to be cleared of mistakes.

It will be late 1992 before this information is distributed to the public. The athletic program at A&M is something all Aggies are extremely proud of and it's a program others admire. If there is a problem at A&M with our graduation statistics, it would be better to make the public and deal with now instead of two years down the road.