

Tuesday, July 31, 1990

Proposal allows Congress to postpone S&L bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress could avoid voting on a \$100 billion savings and loan bailout for 1991 until next year by passing a stopgap bill for no more than \$10 billion, a Bush administration official said Monday.

The proposal, which would postpone action on the larger appropriation until after the November election, was raised by Treasury Undersecretary Robert R. Glauber.

He told the House Banking Committee that \$5 billion to \$10 billion would keep the bailout going through January or February. He stopped short of endorsing the idea. The apparent trial balloon was floated as committee members noted that angry voters were pressuring them to oppose more bailout funding.

"Perception is reality ... and it's the perception on the part of the American people — 'Give me a

Perception is reality ... and it's the perception on the part of the American people — 'Give me a break, I'm not paying.' "

—Mary Rose Oaker, U.S. Representative

much as \$100 billion in new bailout money is needed for all of 1991.

Glauber said the stopgap plan also would have to include an administration proposal to exploit an error in last year's bailout bill that would allow \$18.8 billion more in bailout borrowing than Congress originally intended.

The S&L bailout is an important issue in budget summit talks between the White House and congressional leaders, who are trying to fashion a package before Congress leaves Washington in October to campaign.

The stopgap plan would let Congress and the administration postpone until next year long-term funding for the Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC), a year-old agency created to close and sell failed thrifts, along with a proposal to reform the deposit insurance system.

Souter's views remain unclear despite briefs

WASHINGTON (AP) — New Hampshire's attorney general in 1976, Supreme Court nominee David Souter submitted a brief in which the state argued against paying for Medicaid abortions and referred to abortion "the killing of unborn children."

In an earlier case, argued in 1972 when Souter was the state deputy attorney general, New Hampshire defended its anti-abortion law against a constitutional challenge by arguing "The maintenance of an unborn child's right to birth is a compelling interest which outweighs the rights of a mother to an abortion except when necessary to preserve her life."

In both cases, the briefs apparently were written by other attorneys and the extent of Souter's personal involvement is unclear. Souter, 33, was one of three Justices before the Supreme Court in 1989. He was appointed in 1984 and is likely to play a major role in the September confirmation hearings.

New Hampshire's attorney general is appointed by the governor and by law represents him and other state officials in court cases. The state's governor was both an abortion case was argued by Souter, who was a conservative abortion foe.

Abortion-rights supporters expressed unease with Monday's development, just days after an abortion activist showed dissent on the board of a New Hampshire hospital and at a meeting which voted to allow abortions at the facility.

Senators on both sides of the abortion issue have promised to raise the subject during Souter's September confirmation hearings. Souter is due back in Washington on Tuesday for meetings with senators who will consider his nomination to succeed retired Justice William Brennan, a strong supporter of abortion rights.

Bomb kills British lawmaker

HANKHAM, England (AP) — A bomb hidden beneath a car exploded Monday, killing a top Conservative Party lawmaker who was on an Irish Republican Army hit list, police said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Ian Gow, chairman of the Northern Ireland committee in the House of Commons, died a few minutes after the bomb exploded outside his home, said Inspector Mike Alderson of the Sussex police. No one else was injured.

Scotland Yard's chief anti-terrorist officer, George Churchill-Coleman, said the attack appeared to be the work of the IRA.

Gow had been warned he was on a list of one-hundred lawmakers, judges and civil servants found in an IRA bomb factory in south London in December 1988, Churchill-Coleman said.

Friends and neighbors in Hankham, on England's southeast coast, said Gow had taken few precautions. "It would be easy for terrorists to get him," said Jane Birch, a neighbor.

It appeared that a device packed about five pounds of explosives was placed underneath the driver's seat of Gow's car and exploded as soon as the car was turned on, Churchill-Coleman said.

Gow, 53, was Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary from 1979 to 1983.

But he resigned from a ministerial post in her government in 1985 to protest an Anglo-Irish Agreement that guaranteed Ireland a say in the province's affairs. Gow thought the accord undermined British authority

in Northern Ireland.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey and Britain's Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume joined politicians in condemning the attack, the fourth slaying of a British lawmaker since 1969.

Gow's killers were "plain, common murderers," Thatcher said after spending nearly an hour with Gow's wife, Jane, at the couple's home near Eastbourne, 60 miles southeast of London.

Thatcher said the Gows and their two sons had spent some Christmas with the Thatchers and the two families were close.

The prime minister viewed Gow's car, with its roof on the driver's side peeled back and all the glass blown out.

The prime minister, who narrowly escaped an IRA bombing that killed five at a hotel in Brighton during a Conservative Party meeting in October 1984, said public officials should take all precautions suggested by Scotland Yard.

"Most (members of parliament) want to lead an open life, but I must renew the plea in view of what happened here in a quiet village — everyone must have regard for their own safety and the safety of their staff and family," Thatcher said.

In Washington, the State Department condemned the killing and offered condolences to Gow's family.

Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labor Party, called the slaying "a terrible atrocity against a man whose only offense was to speak his mind."

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Quake victim survives weeks under rubble

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A man rescued Monday, 14 days after an earthquake buried him in the basement of a luxury hotel, said that while trapped in the darkness he often wished he were dead and even tried to kill himself.

Pedrito Dy, a cook and part-time fitness instructor, was the third survivor pulled since Friday from the ruins of the Hyatt Hotel in the northern resort of Baguio.

Dy, 27, was flown to Manila for medical treatment. One doctor, Raul Morena, said Dy's athletic build protected him from serious injury in the July 16 quake that killed about 1,600 people. Doctors said he suffered only from dehydration and low blood sugar, which caused disorientation.

Dy said that while trapped he lay on his back beneath a cushion, which protected him from the debris of aftershocks.

He said he survived by drinking urine and rainwater.

Moslem radicals hold prime minister captive

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Sporadic rifle and machine-gun fire rang out Monday around two buildings where Moslem extremists held the prime minister and about 30 other people hostage for the fourth day.

A spokesman for the radicals said a tentative agreement was reached to end the standoff and an Anglican minister said an agreement was likely Monday. There was no government confirmation of either reports.

The shooting was reported at the state-run Trinidad and Tobago Television complex and at the parliament building, where rebels took Prime Minister Arthur N.R. Robinson and eight other government ministers hostage Friday. The buildings are about a mile apart.

Later, heavy gunfire punctuated by explosions was heard at the television complex.

"A major fire is going on," a diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

Three buildings in the area were

set on fire, witnesses said.

A citizens-band operator said a fellow operator who lives near the television station told him police and soldiers had successfully stormed the complex and were headed for the parliament building.

But Army chief Col. Ralph Brown denied that police stormed the complex. He said troops opened fire on the television station when the rebels, who are led by Moslem extremist Abu Bakr, tried to leave the building.

"Some of his men tried to come out, and we are not letting them out," Brown said. It was unclear whether the rebels tried to surrender or escape.

Brown said he did not think there were any casualties among the hostages.

"Everything is under control," he said.

Brown said negotiations to end the siege were still under way at midday.

Private crew shows advantage over state work

MOSCOW (AP) — A 3.7-mile road paving job that city officials scheduled for two years took just days when they turned it over to private road crew.

The project manager says workers are no better than the who labor on state-run crews, but the efficiency of his company shows that private enterprise is better.

"I'm glad we've been able to demonstrate that it's not the workers who are to blame for the low performance of various enterprises, but those who organize their work," manager Vadim Tumanov told Soviet TV. "It's not supermen working here, but just ordinary workers."

"It's high time they stopped trying to humor the working class, and that we should consult with the workers about the way they want things to be organized," he added to the interview broadcast Sunday.

"That's just so much nonsense. It's the nature of man that when he is allowed to get money for nothing, will prefer just that."

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