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World & Nation 4

'Texas monster' dispute

Super Collider falls under scrutiny of Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Advocates of the Superconducting Super Collider face a stiff challenge this week from House critics, one of whom calls the \$8.25 billion atom smasher "the Texas monster" and "one of the hungriest hogs at the federal

Longtime opponents of the project have picked up the clout of Illinois' powerful delegation

as the House nears a vote on the collider's 1992 spending bill.

Led by House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, Republican Leader Bob Michel and Rep. Sidney Yates, chairman of an Appropriations subcommittee, the Illinois lawmakers want to strip the SSC of at least \$43.5 million and use the money for their own home-state physics project, the

oratory outside Chicago.

The Energy Department says that such a cut, on top of the \$100 million already trimmed by the House Appropriations Committee from President Bush's \$534 million request, could disrupt the construction schedule and wind up costing the taxpayers more in the long run.

Opponents say now is the time to scuttle the project, before the Energy Department begins tunneling under Central Texas farmland for the collider ring 54 miles around and before too much is invested to stop the project, scheduled for completion in

"The money needs for the super collider will grow in substantial amounts each year. ... It will devour operating expenses for all scientific research in this

petite of the Texas monster," says Richard Durbin, D-Ill.

The SSC would be the world's largest scientific instrument, designed to accelerate beams of protons to nearly the speed of light before they collide with an energy of 40 trillion electron

Scientists hope, thereby, to discover new subatomic particles in a bid to unravel mysteries about basic matter and the origin of the universe.

But SSC critics say the huge project already is beginning to siphon money away from other research projects, and that the situation will worsen as the mad. Ironically, they're mad becollider's budget increases and cause the Appropriations Combudget deficits continue to mittee would not approve a new squeeze domestic spending.

water bill for fiscal 1992 includes them riled up, so they're gun-Fermi National Accelerator Lab- country. That shows you the ap- no new projects, bypassing, ning for us now.

among other things, the \$43.5 million sought by Fermilab for new particle injectors. The project at the suburban Chicago lab is expected to cost a total of \$177 million over four years.

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Although Illinois lawmakers failed last week to convince the Appropriations Committee to cut the SSC's budget by \$43.5 million and transfer the money to Fermilab, they'll have another chance on the House floor

"It's very ominous," said Rep. John Bryant, D-Texas. "Now you've got a whole delegation start at Fermilab, not because of The \$21.5 billion energy and any cuts. But that's what got

Bush hopes for arms control summit

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) - President Bush said Tuesday he is newly optimistic about an arms agreement with the Soviet Union, reviving talk of a summer summit with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev. "I want to go to Moscow," Bush declared.

Bush, after calling Gorbachev on Monday, said their differences on conventional arms are "very narrow" and they are not far apart on a pact to curb long-range nuclear weapons, either.

The two superpowers are still disputing details of the treaty to reduce troops and tanks that 22 nations signed in November. "There's no reason if the Soviets will

move a little bit" on conventional arms, said Bush, "that we can't get agreement on (that) and then move quickly to close the START." "I want to go to Moscow," he added, de-

clining to set a date, but voicing a preference for "sooner rather than later.

"It's important enough that we would change my schedule in order to go there if

these conditions that both sides recognize are met," he said. Bush and Gorbachev have aimed all along

at signing a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty to slash their long-range nuclear missile arsenals during a Moscow summit, that was originally set for last February.

But that meeting was put on hold by lingering difficulties with last year's pact to reduce troops and tanks in Europe, by the Persian Gulf War and by a chill over the Soviet crackdown in the Baltics. The Soviets have been pressing to reschedule the summit for June.

Bush said his call with Gorbachev produced "no breakthroughs" but left him "a little optimistic."

Bush, after completing a round of golf on his extended Memorial Day holiday here at his vacation home, disavowed any suggestion that he is trying to distance himself from the troubled Soviet leader.

"We want to go there," Bush said. "We want to talk. I went out of my way to tell

him that we weren't playing games.
"We're going to stay this course and we're going to iron out these difficulties.

Then, "we'll see how we go" on such matters as granting the Soviets preferred trade status and \$1.5 billion in credits to buy American grain. Bush appeared to be leaning toward granting the food credits.

"If we can get our arms control agreements, get our summit going, we can accomplish a lot," Bush said.

Gorbachev is sending two top economic advisers, Yevgeny Primakov and Grigory Yavlinsky, to Washington to press the Soviets' case for massive Western help to repair the moribund Soviet economy. They are said to be carrying details of a proposed "grand bargain" to finance genuine eco-nomic reform with massive Western aid.

A U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Bush pressed Gorbachev to "go the final yards" to settle the conventional weapons dispute.

for water

pollutants

Doctors test

White House

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine

(AP) — Doctors seeking clues to the thyroid conditions afflicting

both President Bush and his wife

are checking the water at the

White House, Camp David, Kennebunkport and the vice

presidential mansion where the

Presidential spokesman Mar-lin Fitzwater said Tuesday that

the White House also had asked

there was any link between the

Bushes' ailment and lupus suf-

fered by their dog, Millie.
"I can hardly believe this," an

specialist to check whether

Bushes spent eight years.

From fighters to rescuers Gulf War veterans return from Bangladesh

omen who brought food, clothing and hope been unable to get desperately to Bangladeshis who survived a needed supplies to cyclone surkiller cyclone will resume their vivors. journey home from the Gulf War on Wednesday.

re," said Maj. Gen. Henry Stackpole, the commander of Operation Sea Angel. A seven-ship U.S. amphibious

speed relief to an estimated 1.7 million survivors of the April 30 cyclone that claimed at least

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh tary contingent provided the neers, working with their Banternational relief effort that had

During an intensive two-week operation, Stackpole said, the "Our mission was to save U.S. task force delivered 3,300 lives. I think we saved a lot — I tons of relief supplies to hard-hit wish we could have saved mo- coastal areas and lowlying islands in the Bay of Bengal by helicopter, boat and amphibious

A seven-ship U.S. amphibious task force was diverted to Bangladesh by President Bush to 1.7 million," he said, noting government warehouses that had been full of supplies are now

In addition, he said, U.S. mili-The 7,500-member U.S. mili-tary medical teams and engi-

(AP) — Thousands of U.S. serv- backbone and logistics for an in- gladesh counterparts and international relief organizations, treated survivors and helped contain an outbreak of diarrhea caused by contaminated drinking water.

"Diarrhea is back to pre-cyclone conditions, in fact less," Stackpole said.

Many of the 4,000 Marines and 3,000 sailors due to leave Wednesday have been away from home more than six

months. The Marines made an amphibious landing in Saudi Arabia at the start of the ground war Feb. 24 and moved into southern Kuwait, taking Iraqi prisoners and clearing pockets of resistance.

incredulous Bush told reporters who asked him about the waterchecking while he was playing golf at his summer home. "But let them look into it."

The water "tasted good to me," he said, adding that he was 'not going to lose confidence in the water at the White House until we know more about this."

He said he still was tiring more Nuclear Regulatory Commission easily than usual because of who visited the project two years medication for the thyroid disorder, but generally felt fine and was regaining some of the weight he had lost recently.

The president's physicians want to see if the White House water contains two chemicals iodine and lithium - that are sometimes associated with Graves' disease, the thyroid disorder suffered by both the president and his wife Barbara.

The water also was being checked at the vice president's residence at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, the presidential retreat in Camp David, Md. and at Bush's oceanside vacation home.

One of his physicians, Dr. Larry Mohr, who accompanied the president to the golf course, said, "That's something that is being checked, largely to answer the kind of speculation that is being propagated right now.

Experts question safety standards of Cuban nuclear power plant due to lack of technology

clear power complex nearing completion in Cuba is generating safety concerns among federal and other experts who question the quality of workers on the project 150 miles from Florida.

One scientist, Cuban defector

Jorge Oro, said in an interview that the absence of adequately prepared workers could lead to a nuclear accident with devastating effects not only in Cuba but throughout Florida as well.

Several American experts agreed that the quality of the Cuban work force was worrisome, but none felt the consequences would be as severe as Oro suggested.

One U.S. government expert, asking not to be identified, described Oro's doomsday prediction as "very highly unlikely" because of the safety features the Cubans are installing.

At issue is a four-reactor nuclear complex Cuba is building at Juragua near Cienfuegos along the southern coast. Completion

WASHINGTON (AP) — A nu- of the pressurized water reactors is not expected before the end of

Uncertainty about the reliability of Soviet oil supplies has given the project added importance for Cuba, which hopes to become as energy independent as possible.

For American experts, perhaps the most reassuring aspect of the project is that the design is far more comparable to the American nuclear facility at Three Mile Island, where damage following a 1979 accident was limited, than to the Soviet installation at Chernobyl.

Most experts agreed that the safety devices at Juragua, including five-feet-thick concrete and steel domes encasing the reactors, preclude off-site contamination of the kind that occurred at Chernobyl in April 1986.

At the same time, most had doubts about the quality of the Cuban work force.

They need to familiarize themselves with the culture of

nuclear safety," said Harold Denton, a senior official at the who visited the project two years

"The key to safety is whether they assemble a cadre of welltrained and attentive operators," he said. But the likelihood of a major accident is limited because of the safety procedures, Denton

The Soviets had about 3,000 technicians in Cuba until two years ago, but a withdrawal has been under way and the figure is expected to drop to about 1,000. The remaining technicians will assist' Cubans at strategic projects, including the nuclear operation, according to Soviet diplo-

Gary Milhollin, a nuclear nonproliferation expert and former member of the NRC board that licenses power plants, said, "No matter how foolproof you try to make a reactor, a poor operator can defeat the best hardware."