

House passes bill to allow tax-funded abortion counseling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a bill to permit abortion counseling at taxpayer-financed clinics, a step toward reversing a Bush administration ban and the Supreme Court ruling that upheld it.

The bill was approved 353-74 after abortion opponents decided to pin their hopes on a veto by President Bush rather than fight an amendment that would block enforcement of the government's abortion counseling ban.

Bush has said he would veto the bill, as well as other abortion-related measures that have advanced in the House this year. The approval vote on

Wednesday was well above the two-thirds that would be needed to override a veto, but abortion foes expressed confidence they could mount enough support to sustain such presidential action.

If all members are voting, 290 lawmakers would be needed to override a veto. But the vote on the overall spending bill — appropriating \$203 billion for the departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Education — was not considered a true reflection of sentiment on the counseling ban.

The measure to lift the ban has "broad and deep support on both sides of the aisle and in most cases regard-

less of position on abortion because this is even a more fundamental question, one regarding the honest relationship between citizens and their government," said Rep. John Porter, R-Ill.

"I would urge the president to listen to the medical profession and to listen to people across this nation and sign the bill when it comes across his desk," said Porter, who sponsored the counseling provision as an amendment to the broad spending bill.

But Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said, "This policy of the president is a good one, and we will sustain a veto." Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said the

amendment "is making doctors who should be helping parents plan their family recommend that they can also exterminate this child ... and it's compelling the taxpayers to pay for it."

Lawmakers favoring abortion rights have pushed through several abortion-related measures this session by picking up support from Republicans, but it was unclear whether any of the measures could get the two-thirds majority necessary to override a veto.

Earlier Wednesday, the House approved a District of Columbia appropriations bill that would allow the city to use its own money to pay for abortions for poor women.

The House has also voted to allow military employees and dependents to get abortions at military facilities overseas at their own expense. Last week, the House voted to preserve \$20 million for a United Nations family planning program that operates in more than 140 countries, including China, which seeks to enforce a policy of one child per family.

The full Senate has yet to act on any of the measures.

The ban was written by the Reagan administration in 1988 but challenged in the courts and never implemented. The Supreme Court upheld the rule last month.

Yugoslavs move forces toward rebel republics

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia's federal government dispatched warplanes and tanks in a show of force Wednesday against two rebel republics. Armed Serbian citizens battled with Croatian police in two towns, leaving seven dead and 13 wounded.

The federal government, demonstrating its superior firepower, sent warplanes over this city, the capital of breakaway Slovenia, and army tanks traveled on several roads.

Still, a full day after Croatia and Slovenia declared independence, and despite the renewed ethnic violence, the federal government made no effort to physically confront either republic. It continued to talk of a democratic solution.

The republics, for their part, continued taking small steps away from the Yugoslav federation despite an apparently total lack of international solidarity with their secession.

The federal government, based in Belgrade, said its police were moving to take control of border posts along the frontier with other European nations. But there was no evidence they succeeded anywhere.

Slovene police wearing bullet-proof vests and armed with automatic weapons guarded crossings on the border with Austria. They raised Slovenia's flag and put up signs welcoming visitors to an independent Slovenia.

Citizens and police in Slovenian towns and villages close to the Italian frontier reportedly blocked roads to bar federal forces from reaching border posts there.

Some 20,000 Slovenges converged on a Ljubljana square for a solemn ceremony in which the republic's new white, blue and red flag was hoisted after the Yugoslav flag was taken down.

"Every man is born with a right to dream," Slovene President Milan Kucan told the crowd. "Through work he can combine dream and reality. Yesterday we linked the two."

The federal government called for Yugoslavia's six republics to renew efforts to reach a "democratic agreement" on the federation's future.

The two secessionist republics previously said they might return if Serbia dropped its opposition to transforming Yugoslavia into a loose federation of sovereign states. But there was no sign of compromise Wednesday.

Court overturns 1989 conviction

Panel calls for retrial of police officer

MIAMI (AP) — A state appeals court panel Tuesday overturned the manslaughter conviction of a police officer whose shooting of a black motorcyclist led to three days of rioting in 1989.

Police doubled their shifts Tuesday to head off possible violence stemming from the ruling, said department spokesman Angelo Bitsis. No disturbances were reported.

Officer William Lozano, 32, was convicted of two counts of manslaughter for fatally shooting the unarmed black motorcyclist in the Overtown section, sending the vehicle crashing into a car and killing the motorcycle's passenger.

The officer was sentenced to seven years in prison and was free on bail pending appeal.

In a unanimous decision, a three-judge panel of the 3rd District Court of Appeal said "errors committed by the lower court require that a new trial be conducted."

The judge should have moved the case to another jurisdiction as the defense requested, the appeals court said.

"No police officer in my position would have received a fair trial due to the threat of violence on the part of the community," Lozano said. "I look forward to a new trial, and I

know in my heart a new jury, not influenced by fear of violence, fear of riots, will clear my name."

The appeals court cited jurors' fears that an innocent verdict would have caused more disturbances after four previous race riots that stemmed from police killings of blacks.

"We simply cannot approve the result of a trial conducted, as was this one, in an atmosphere in which the entire community — including the jury — was so obviously, and it must be said, so justifiably concerned with the dangers which would follow an acquittal," the appeals court said.

Barry Greff, who represented the family of the slain motorcyclist, Clement Lloyd, 23, in a lawsuit against Lozano and the city, said his clients were disappointed.

"They feel Lozano received a fair trial, and they agreed with the jury's verdict," said Greff.

Ellis Rubin, attorney for the other victim, Allan Blanchard, said he was not surprised by the ruling.

The Jan. 16, 1989, Overtown deaths sparked three days of racial violence. The riot was Miami's fourth in the 1980s. All were linked to the killing of blacks by police officers.

Bentsen reintroduces bill to clean Texas lake

WASHINGTON (AP) — A three-year fight may finally be resolved this year over who will pay to clean up salt pollution that threatens drinking water supplies for thousands of Texans in the Panhandle and High Plains.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said Wednesday that he was optimistic about efforts to include the federal government in financing and conducting the cleanup of Lake Meredith bill in Lake Meredith.



Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, has reintroduced the Lake Meredith bill in Lake Meredith.

The Panhandle lake is the source of drinking water to 450,000 people in West Texas, but naturally-occurring salt could eventually render the water useless for human consumption, Bentsen said.

Bentsen first introduced legislation in 1988 authorizing the federal government to finance

passed the Senate in 1989, and the House approved it in 1990. But the plan died last year during a conference committee dispute over an unrelated issue.

The Lake Meredith plan was again approved in the House last week, and Bentsen introduced similar legislation Wednesday in the Senate.

"I'm very optimistic about our chances of adopting the bill this year," Bentsen said. "The House approved it recently, and I'll be pushing hard for quick action in the Senate."

Private and government studies show that 70 percent of salt entering the lake originates in a shallow brine aquifer in New Mexico, Bentsen said. The aquifer is under artesian pressure and is leaking into the Canadian River, which feeds Lake Meredith.

A Bureau of Reclamation report in 1985 recommended the most cost-effective solution would be to intercept the brine at the source by well pumping and disposal by deep well injection.

Cost estimates have ranged as high as \$9 million.

Iraq may have additional nuclear sites

Agency finds more facilities

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — International investigators said Tuesday they have identified more suspected nuclear sites in Iraq.

As part of the agreement ending the Persian Gulf War, Iraq told the International Atomic Energy Agency it had 24 nuclear facilities.

U.N. experts had identified one additional site in May and "several more" since, said David Kay, deputy leader of the IAEA team, which is working with the United Nations.

Kay would not divulge how many more were found or their suspected purpose. His team is helping the U.N. Special Commission to assess Iraq's weapons. Under the U.N. cease-fire resolution on April 3, Iraq agreed to allow the United Nations to supervise destruction of any chemical and biological weapons, short-range ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons-grade materials.

Iraq has denied it has biological weapons, which a different team is investigating.

The probe, which includes tours of the Tuwaitha research site, 19 miles southwest of Baghdad, will not be finished for several months, Kay said.

If it proves the sites were part of Iraq's nuclear program — and that Iraq was cheating in accounting for its facilities — the team's report could damage Iraq's efforts to persuade the U.N. Security Council to lift an economic blockade.

In Washington, a Bush administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the International Atomic Energy team has been denied entry to one site. The official declined to give any further details, except to say, "This is clearly in violation of the U.N. sanctions."

Iraq has said it has no nuclear weapons development program. But an Iraqi scientist who defected several weeks ago claimed Baghdad had falsified information it gave to the United Nations and is hiding nuclear weapons-grade material.

Soviet troops seize building

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet "black beret" riot troops seized Lithuania's central telephone office on Wednesday and cut the republic's communications for about two hours before withdrawing peacefully, officials said.

No injuries were reported in the takeover of the building in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital.

But the incident could tarnish President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's image in the West. He is scheduled to meet in London with the Group of Seven industrialized nations to seek aid for his economic reforms.

Nikolai Panchenko, a duty officer at the Soviet Interior Ministry in Moscow, said the black berets seized the building because they suspected it was being used by pro-independence forces to store weapons.

He said the troops confiscated

rifles, pistols and explosives but did not make any arrests.

Lithuanian officials accused the Soviet troops of planting the weapons as a "provocation" aimed at pressuring the republic to abandon its drive for independence.

Telephone, telegraph and telex links from Lithuania to other Soviet republics and foreign countries were cut for about two hours. Radio broadcasting also was temporarily disrupted.

Soviet troops have occupied several key buildings in Vilnius since the Baltic republic declared independence on March 11, 1990. The bloodiest attack came on Jan. 13, when Soviet army troops and tanks stormed the Vilnius television broadcasting complex. Thirteen civilians and a KGB officer died.

Soviet troops also have taken over printing presses and cus-

tom checkpoints. Gorbachev and other top officials have denied ordering the seizures but have not condemned them. Lithuanian officials have vigorously protested the seizures.

The black berets are heavily armed, anti-riot commando units. On Jan. 20 they occupied the Interior Ministry headquarters in Latvia, killing four people in Riga, capital of the Baltic republic.

The black berets involved in Wednesday's action said they were acting under orders from Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo, according to Longinas Vasiliauskas, a Lithuanian government representative in Moscow.

Pugo's office denied to Lithuanian officials that he ordered the action, Vasiliauskas said.

An American news photographer in Vilnius, Robert Tonsing,

said witnesses reported that about 45 black berets in jeeps and an army truck arrived at the telephone building late in the afternoon. Each soldier was carrying an assault rifle, and at least one held a heavy-gauge machine gun, the witnesses said.

They said about 20 troops were posted outside the five-story building, and that the rest ran inside, where they cut the phone lines and ordered employees to leave.

One worker, Rose Uzdaviniene, said the soldiers went into a room that she knew contained no guns. They emerged holding some weapons and saying, "Look what we found," she said.

Lithuanian parliament spokesman Paul Pauparas later said the soldiers produced explosives, bullets and a handmade pistol.

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