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the savings on domestic programs. "The budget will be in play," said Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J.

Bush himself seemed to open that door slightly last week. He said it was premature to talk about sending U.S. defense dollars abroad in the form of humanitarian aid. But he added that the Soviet upheaval may allow "an opportunity for a vastly restructured national security posture" down the road.

Under the existing budget pact, spending levels for the Pentagon, foreign aid and domestic spending are set until 1993. That's been stalling Democrats' attempts to challenge Bush on domestic policy issues, and they won't wait for a sign from the White House to begin trying to break the pact.

"This agreement is a straitjacket on Democrats, for many new programs Democrats want ... particularly in an election cycle," said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M. He said many Democrats want to break it "for reasons that have nothing to do with" the Kremlin events.

Without the budget constraints, Democrats would have more freedom to push their programs and challenge Bush with ideas of great potential appeal — such as a tax cut for the middle class — which might be paid for through defense cuts.

"Give people the tax money back," said Bradley.

"We hope to put \$400 to \$500 at least in their pockets," Bonior said, adding that Bush had "abandoned the middle class in favor of foreign issues and protecting the wealthy."

So far, the only concrete proposal is from House Armed Ser-

vices Committee Chairman Les Aspin, D-Wis., who said this week that, in the short term, U.S. aid to the Soviets should come out of the Pentagon budget. That would bend, but not break, the budget because the spending would be considered defense in a different form than weapons, he said.

But other Democrats, such as Bonior, Bradley and House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., are ready to move beyond Aspin's suggestion.

They see Bush's ability in the international arena as a potential weakness if the public can be convinced he is pursuing diplomacy at the expense of American needs at home.

"He's very vulnerable," Bonior said. "The president is out of touch with what's happening on Main Street. People are being squeezed."

The Democratic strategy assumes that people are less concerned about the federal deficit than they are eager for whatever help the government might provide to get the economy going.

There's risk that people will continue to see many of Congress' efforts as wasteful, negating whatever plus the Democrats get from portraying themselves as friends of middle class.

"The worst signal you could send is to tell the world or the country you're going to scrap any discipline you've got on the fiscal side," argues House Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta, D-Calif.

But for many Democrats, that signal isn't half as bad as going into an election year without signalling the voters that Democrats are trying to get them some benefits from the collapse in Moscow.

Area code split causes short-term problems

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Hello! Hello?! "Area code crisis" calling.

But don't hang up. There's a solution. After California splits the San Francisco Bay area code Monday — the first of three planned divisions in the state's near future — only five unused area codes will be left for the rest of North America.

However, a revised area code system adding 640 authorized three-digit area codes to the existing 152 is due in mid-1995, just in time to save the day.

"We do have a short-term area code crisis because we're running out, but we're prepared for change," said Cynthia Lucenius, media relations manager for Bellcore, which assists the nation's seven regional telephone companies.

"The thing is, in 1960 or even 1970 no one really envisioned this problem. Now, a lot of homes have two phone lines and new businesses open and, of course, all the new technology is taking up the access lines."

Blame it on population growth and 30 million Californians' love affair with the telephone, facsimile machines, pagers and computers that have voracious appetites for telephone access lines.

"People have phones at home, at the office, in their car and they carry them around now," said Pacific Bell's Paul Hirsch, who oversees California's area code changes. "They can't get away from them."

California, which got its first area code for Los Angeles — 213

— in 1947, has a record 10 area codes but soon will break the mark again with a total of 13. More than two dozen states have only one area code.

In the San Francisco Bay area, the 415 area code will split Monday with communities east of the huge inlet — Oakland, Berkeley and all of Contra Costa and Alameda counties — becoming 510, nicknamed the "five-and-dime." The last 415 split came in 1959 when 408 was created for the San Jose area.

Pacific Bell is allowing a five-month grace period through Jan. 26 for people to get used to the change so both 510 and 415 area codes will get through. A recording will warn callers that the old code's time is up.

On Nov. 2 in Southern California, the 213 area code will split for the third time, making Los Angeles the only city with three area codes.

Areas to the south and west of downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood will become 310. The area north of Los Angeles was assigned the 818 area code in 1984.

In November 1992, the 714 area code for Orange County and parts of San Diego County will split. A new 909 area code will be added.

Elsewhere in the nation, Maryland will split down the middle with the western half keeping 301 and the Baltimore area becoming 410.

And in New York City, the telephone company expects to create a 917 area code sometimes in 1993 to overlap some parts of Manhattan, now 212.

Man faces death penalty for killing prisoner

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Donald Henry Gaskins, who has admitted killing 13 people between 1970 and 1975, faces death in the electric chair Friday for blowing up a fellow prisoner.

Gaskins, nicknamed "Pee Wee," was serving 10 life sen-

tences when he was convicted of the 1982 slaying of death row inmate Rudolph Tyner at Central Correctional Institution.

Gaskins stabbed, shot or drowned his other victims, burying them in backwoods graves in the heart of the state's tobacco

belt.

A jury sentenced him to die for one of those killings, but the sentence was tossed out when the state's death penalty was ruled unconstitutional.

Gaskins made a bomb that looked like a homemade radio.

It blew up when Tyner put it to his ear on Sept. 12, 1982, earning Gaskins another death sentence.

Reform isn't an option for Gaskins, said Dick Harpootlian, who as deputy solicitor prosecuted the case.



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.73	1575 ⁰⁰
.71	1750 ⁰⁰
.72	1385 ⁰⁰
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.60	759 ⁰⁰
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The Bolshoi returns to Texas A&M. The U.S. Premiere of Swan Lake.
Swan Lake
Bolshoi Ballet • Grigorovich Company
The Bolshoi Ballet - Grigorovich Company returns, presenting the U.S. premiere of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. The Russian version of Swan Lake, with its breathtaking staging, lavish costumes and revised ending, will be performed from October 16th through October 20th on the Rudder Auditorium stage. There will be five 7:00pm performances plus 1:30pm matinees on Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20th. Last year's appearances by the Bolshoi Ballet - Grigorovich Company at Texas A&M were complete sell-outs. These will be the only performances in Texas, so you must hurry. Ticket sales begin August 31st. Individual tickets are \$20 to \$50 and available on a first-come, first-served basis.
Ticket supplies are limited, so have your VISA or MasterCard ready and call the MSC Box Office at (409) 845-1234 or call Ticketron at (800) 275-1000. To purchase tickets in person, simply drop by the MSC Box Office or Ticketron at Foley's in Post Oak Mall. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
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