

Planners must choose reform package

Soviets remove all economic barriers

MOSCOW (AP) — The top Soviet economic official said Tuesday that all barriers to reform are gone, but planners still must choose what package they will offer the Soviet republics that remain in some kind of union with Russia.

Hard-line leaders, now in jail for their botched attempt to overthrow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, had hamstrung reformers' efforts to decentralize the economy and introduce market reforms, said Ivan Silayev, chairman of an interim committee named by Gorbachev to run the country.

"The old structures ... not only braked but did not permit us to turn things around ... We can say today almost nothing is prohibiting us from realizing our program," Silayev told a news conference.

Silayev also outlined concrete steps to improve economic performance and floated ideas about the economic reform package his economic team is working on, while noting that each republic would have great leeway on what it could do.

He said Russia intends to "accelerate" privatization, with initial emphasis on stores, warehouses and transportation. But he said he wanted to avoid "shock therapy" of the type employed by some former Soviet bloc economies.

Silayev later told the national parliament that envoys from all 15 republics have made progress since talks began nine days ago on an economic agreement.

But Silayev's committee is caught in a dilemma: While it seeks agreement on who will participate in the economic community before advancing a specific program, the republics aren't expected to sign on until they know the details of any program.

Silayev said membership in the new Soviet economic community should be open and could include such countries as Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.

Silayev, who is also prime minister of Boris Yeltsin's giant Russian Federation, said decrees by the old government that had kept the republics from carrying out their own economic reforms would be annulled.

Unlike the previous government that attacked Gorbachev's July appeal for Western help to leaders of the seven most powerful industrial nations, Silayev said Western help was essential to transform the Soviet economy.

"We do not think about achieving this program without the cooperation of the West," he said.

Western experts are already helping Silayev work out a program.

He said his committee fully supported a

Gorbachev proposal offered Monday to transfer central government power to a new council of republican representatives, but said he considered economic reforms more important.

Under the new agreement, each republic could determine its own method of privatization.

Silayev said he believed each republic could issue its own currency, but transactions between republics would be calculated in rubles or some other currency modeled on the accounting mechanism used by the European Community.

The Baltics and the Ukraine strongly support the right to have their own money. Shock therapy usually includes immediate convertibility of a country's currency, privatization and introduction of market pricing — all of which generally lead to initial higher unemployment and lower living standards.

In January 1990, shock treatment in Poland introduced internal convertibility of the zloty, which dried up the black market and helped check inflation.

The plan also threw hundreds of thousands of Poles out of work and bankrupted state-run factories.

The plan was possible only because of the support that the Solidarity government enjoyed and a \$1 billion Western stabilization

Gorbachev, Yeltsin urge support for broad changes in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail S. Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday urged lawmakers to approve sweeping changes in the Soviet government — and Yeltsin said Russia should keep its finger on the nuclear button.

While maintaining he favored elimination of nuclear weapons, and calling for an end to underground nuclear tests, Yeltsin said nuclear missiles from the Ukraine and Kazakstan would soon be moved inside the borders of his giant Russian republic.

He also pushed for elimination of the KGB department he said was responsible for bugging the telephones of millions of Soviets, including his own. "This is illegal," said Yeltsin. "This is unconstitutional."

Gorbachev, Yeltsin and the leaders of nine other republics on Monday put before the Congress of Deputies a broad proposal to strip the Kremlin of most powers and transfer them to the republics.

In speeches Tuesday, Gorbachev and Yeltsin sought speedy approval of the plan — which would concentrate power in a State Council made up of the Soviet president and leaders of the republics.

Gorbachev acknowledged some could find fault with the proposals. But he said:

"We need to remember that we are talking about transitional organs, and we need to prepare conditions and create new power and government structures later in the framework of a new Union Treaty, an economic agreement and others which we plan to conclude."

He added: "Let me tell you, the West is watching. If we are able to coordinate, unite within the new forms, find new structures, new people, the West will support us."

Gorbachev also tried to blunt objections from hard-liners that the new government structures he had proposed represented "al-

most as another coup."

The Soviet president said he was acting democratically to save the country, but his opponents were portraying these actions as "an evil conspiracy against the people."

A few hours before Gorbachev addressed the Congress, Yeltsin took the podium to harshly criticize the Soviet president for failing to foresee the coup attempt last month.

Yeltsin also pledged the Russian republic would be an "equal among equals."

"The Russian state, which has chosen democracy and freedom, will never be an empire or big or little brother," he declared.

Yeltsin underscored the need for the "creation of a union as a free commonwealth of sovereign states based on coexistence of various forms of interstate relations."

"Indeed there may be independent republics which insist on a confederation, and on a federation and on an associated membership union," Yeltsin said. "And yet, they must all be within some sort of one, new single system."

As the republics move toward independence, some Western leaders have worried about control over the Soviet nuclear arsenal. Yeltsin, in an interview with CNN, offered assurances that Russia was moving to secure them.

He said nuclear weapons are being moved from the Ukraine to his republic and that Kazakstan is planning to do the same.

"We have set up a committee to control nuclear weapons so that they are not used either by hawks or ultraright or ultraleft-wing forces or terrorists because this is very dangerous at the present time," Yeltsin said.

"Apart from the central government, we want Russia to control nuclear weapons and to be responsible for nuclear weapons on the territory of Russia, and we want to be answerable to the

whole international community so that we keep a finger on the button as well," he told CNN.

Yeltsin also told CNN that in light of the Russian republic's size and power — and its role in crushing last month's coup — Russians should hold key posts of prime minister, defense minister, KGB chairman and interior minister.

In the interview, Yeltsin said that Gorbachev had no choice but to go along.

"Now this is his last chance," he said. "If he continues together with the democratic movement and Russia and he recognizes the independence of all the other republics, yes, his political life will be extended," he said.

Yeltsin also said the KGB should lose some of its authority. He told CNN the telephones of millions of Soviets were tapped, and called for elimination of the KGB department behind the bugging.

"For the past few days my telephones have been working much better," Yeltsin said. "They are not clicking any longer. So even the president of the Russian federation was being bugged."

Meanwhile, in a move to placate critics in the Congress, Gorbachev withdrew his proposal for a new, smaller legislature with 20 representatives from each republic.

He instead suggested reforming the Supreme Soviet, the 542-member legislature elected by the Congress.

The special three-day session of the Congress is scheduled to end Wednesday.

The restructuring plan calls for establishing a new legislative body, state council and economic coordinating committee that would govern during an interim period as the Soviet Union moves toward a loose confederation.

Under the plan, the central government would be given up most functions beyond defense and foreign affairs.

Capra

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"You Can't Take It With You." "It Happened One Night" in 1934 was the first movie to win the top five Oscars.

Along with "Mr. Smith," his other films of the 1930s — "Lady for a Day," "Broadway Bill" and "Lost Horizon."

Capra's most enduring post-war film was "It's a Wonderful Life," starring Jimmy Stewart.

Frank Capra was born in a small village near Palermo on May 19, 1897, the youngest of a farmer's seven children. The family emigrated to America when Capra was six and settled in Los Angeles, where his father, Salvatore, worked in nearby vineyards.

His first way out was education. He worked his way through the California Institute of Technology, graduating as a chemical engineer in 1918.

After a stint in the Army, he taught mathematics in San Francisco, then discovered "the magic carpet of film."

In San Francisco, he directed a film based on Rudyard Kipling's "The Ballad of Fultah Fisher's Boardinghouse." He apprenticed with Mack Sennett's comedy factory as prop man, cutter and gag man, then directed "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" starring Harry Langdon in 1926.

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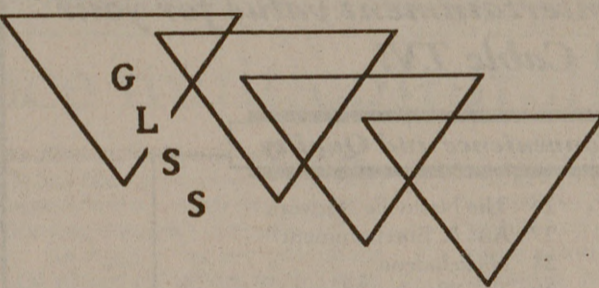
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GAY AND
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WHAT IS GLSS?

Gay and Lesbian Student Services is an organization devoted to supporting the needs of gay and lesbian students, faculty and staff at TAMU. We sponsor programs and events for the entire university and local communities that foster an understanding of lesbian and gay issues.

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED BY GLSS?

- * Regular on-campus meetings featuring educational topics such as coming out, relationship enhancement, AIDS awareness, violence against lesbians and gays, and historical and literary perspectives on gay/lesbian issues. *Regular meetings are every other Thursday at 7 p.m.*
- * Rap Group meets on alternate Thursdays in the homes of members to discuss topics related to gay and lesbian issues.
- * Roommate Referral Service helps gays, lesbians, and their friends to find compatible roommates.
- * A Speakers' Bureau is a panel of GLSS members discussing lesbian and gay issues with interested classes and groups at TAMU.
- * GAYLINE (847-0321) is a service line providing information about GLSS programs and other events occurring in the community-at-large.

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE FIRST MEETING?

Thursday, September 5, 1991, 7 p.m., Rudder 402

** Following the first organizational meeting there will be a candle light vigil in front of the Sul Ross Statue near the Academic Building at 8:30 p.m. to remember the life of former Aggie Paul G. Broussard who was murdered by gay-bashers in Houston, Texas this summer.

We welcome newcomers and visitors, gay or nongay, from the university and local communities! For further information call GAYLINE at 847-0321.

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