

# House struggles to pass GATT

## Democratic leadership pushes world trade bill as Republicans try to delay Clinton victory

WASHINGTON (AP) — Struggling to save a huge global trade agreement, House Speaker Thomas Foley delayed a critical vote Wednesday but pledged to somehow get the measure passed this week before Congress goes home.

A bill implementing the accord negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has become caught up in an election-year struggle that has dominated the final weeks of the congressional session.

Republicans anxious to deny President Clinton a victory before Nov. 8 midterm elections and Democrats wary of angering union supporters have been pushing to postpone consideration.

Foley, D-Wash., put off by a few hours a crucial procedural vote on approving the rules of debate on the bill. That was enough to push the vote on the bill itself

to Thursday at the earliest.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said the 123-nation accord will produce an economic surge in the United States and abroad, creating 300,000 to 700,000 U.S. jobs. The agreement, he said, will force the rest of the world to play by the fair-trading rules Americans believe in.

"Like it or not, change is inevitable. ... We can't stop globalization, we've got to make it our friend," he told the Senate Commerce Committee.

The agreement also reduces other barriers to trade and extends the rules of world trade to services and intellectual property such as computer programs and drug patents.

Opponents, including Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., the chairman of the committee, say it will open American markets to a flood of manufac-

tured goods produced in low-wage countries, destroying jobs at companies making textiles, aircraft, automobiles and other goods.

The Senate already has postponed its GATT decision until Dec. 1 because Hollings is exercising his right to hold the bill in his committee for 45 days. "I don't want anybody to get any misconceptions. We are not retreating from GATT in any way," Foley said. "I am firmly and absolutely committed to doing everything I can to enact GATT this week."

The speaker said the House schedule was adjusted Wednesday to accommodate lawmakers attending the funeral of former Rep. Claude Harris of Alabama and a reception for South African President Nelson Mandela.

The No. 2 Republican in the House, Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., wrote to Foley on Tuesday

saying a hearing was needed to clear up confusion about the provision granting a discount on federal licensing fees to three communications companies developing the next generation of wireless telephone systems.

Democrats are hoping the hearing, conducted by House Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, D-Mich., will mollify enough Republicans to allow GATT to clear the procedural hurdle by a narrow margin.

The issue that drew Gingrich's attention was designed to clarify the Federal Communication Commission's ability to levy a licensing fee on three companies: American Personal Communications, an affiliate of the Washington Post Co.; Cox Enterprises Inc. and Omnipoint Corp. Other companies, beginning in December, will have to bid for these licenses.

Dingell said without the provision in the GATT bill, the federal government risks an adverse court ruling that would mean the companies would get the license for free.

# Economy sees sign of strength

## Factory orders increase, give best showing in 15 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Factory orders increased more rapidly in August than they had in nearly two years, a fresh sign of economic strength and possible inflation that sent Wall Street reeling.

Analysts said the economy's vigor will lead soon to higher interest rates.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that factory orders, which help measure future production, surged 4.4 percent in August, the biggest increase since they rose 5.6 percent in December 1992. Orders fell 2 percent in July.

Shipments, a measure of current production, also were better. They increased 4.5 percent for their best showing in 15 years.

This is a lot stronger than expected. It's more evidence that manufac-

turing is strong. We can't dismiss it as a fluke," said economist Carl Palash of MCM Moneywatch in New York City. "The Federal Reserve is going to have to tighten credit one or two more times this year."

And, he said, "the market reaction is reasonable given the economy's underlying strength."

Financial markets plunged after the report was announced but recovered lost ground later in the day. Bond prices were down sharply as the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose to a two-year high of 7.94 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had fallen more than 50 points during the day, closed off nearly 14 points. Losing stocks outnumbered gainers by more than 3 to 1.

# Court shuts down gas chamber in California

## Judge says act is cruel and unusual

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The door to San Quentin Prison's gas chamber may have slammed shut for the last time, ending a 56-year history in which 196 of California's most notorious criminals were put to death by breathing cyanide.

U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel ruled Tuesday that the acid-green chamber is cruel and unusual punishment that kills by causing an intense "air hunger" similar to strangulation or drowning.

Three other states still use the gas chamber: Arizona, North Carolina and Mississippi. Mississippi's applies only to convicts sentenced to death before 1984; those sentenced since then are executed by injection.

California's gas chamber was installed at San Quentin in 1938. It was hailed as a big improvement over hanging.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states to resume using the death penalty in 1976, only two men have been gassed, Robert Alton Harris in 1992 and David Mason in 1993.

Harris shot two teen-agers to death in 1978 so he could use their car in a bank robbery. Mason robbed and killed four elderly people in 1980 and strangled a cellmate in 1982.

During an execution, two cheese-cloth bags of cyanide pellets are suspended beneath the condemned man's chair. When a lever is pulled from the other side of a wall, the bags drop into vats of acid, creating deadly hydrocyanic gas.

"Symptoms of air hunger include intense chest pains, such as felt during a heart attack, acute anxiety, and struggling to breathe," Patel, who was appointed by President Carter in 1980, said in her ruling. She said there may also be other types of pain, including "the exquis-

itely painful muscle spasms."

In his book "Public Justice, Private Mercy," former Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown recalled how a plumber serving time for robbery was among those drafted to build the chamber. He helped install it and watched test pigs die as the gas was tested.

Within a year, he was paroled, committed murder, was sentenced to die and met his end in the device he had helped build.

There was 32-year-old Barbara Graham, dubbed "Babs the Party Girl" by the press. She was executed in 1955, along with two male accomplices, for the murder of an elderly woman.

Graham, whose story was recreated in the 1958 movie "I Want to Live," had a tattoo over her left knee that read "Sally" and went to the chamber boldly.

She insisted on wearing high heels, and when a solicitous guard advised her to breathe deeply because it would be "easier that way," she reportedly snapped, "How the hell do you know?"

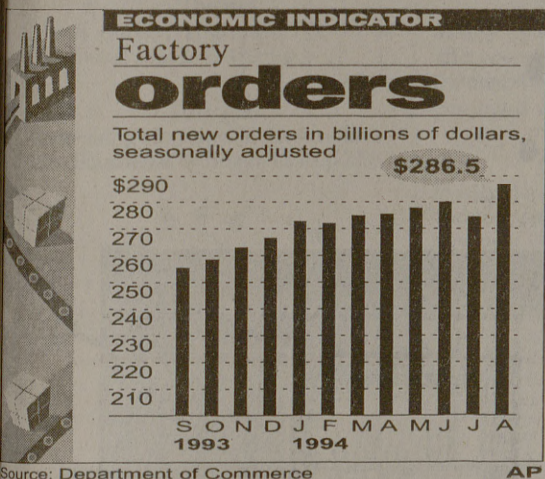
And there was Caryl Whittier Chessman, a kidnapper and sex offender who spent more than 12 years on death row, winning delays on eight execution dates.

Chessman committed 17 crimes during a 20-day spree in Los Angeles in 1948. Even in those pre-tabloid TV days, he achieved a measure of fame, writing an autobiography in 1954 that sold a half-million copies and making the cover of Time magazine.

His ninth reprieve, on May 2, 1960, came too late — 15 seconds after the pellets had been dropped.

Charles Manson and Sirhan Sirhan had their sentences commuted to life in prison when the death penalty was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972.

Among the more than 300 inmates on Death Row are Ramon Salcido, convicted of killing his family and several others in California's wine country, and William Bonin, known as the "freeway killer" for a string of 14 murders in Southern California.



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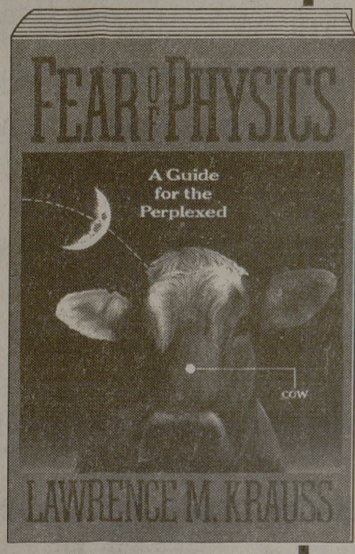
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10/10 2:30 p.m.	251 Bizzell Hall West	10/12 9:30-10 a.m.	251 Bizzell Hall West
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