

Clinton secures Gatt victory in Senate

Senate approves trade agreement, cutting tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved and sent to President Clinton on Thursday a historic 124-nation trade agreement that will slash tariffs worldwide.

The Senate gave final congressional approval to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on a vote of 76-24. The House had voted approval of the accord Tuesday.

The Senate had voted 68-32 minutes earlier to waive its budget rules and remove a procedural hurdle to passage. President Clinton had worked throughout the day to convince wavering lawmakers to support the deal.

Retiring Democratic Leader George Mitchell noted that the vote was the last one to be taken in the 103rd Congress and that he would ever take in the Senate. He said he was proud that his last vote as a senator was on a matter that will have significance for generations to come.

On the crucial budget waiver vote, the accord was supported by 31 Republicans and 37 Democrats and was opposed by 15 Republicans and 17 Democrats.

Senate Republican Leader Robert Dole said his office was still getting up to 2,000 calls a day protesting the agreement.

Gramm, Hutchison back GATT pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite some criticism of a world trade accord partially negotiated by the Clinton administration, Texas' two Republican senators back ratification of the 124-nation pact that would lower trade tariffs.



Gramm

Sen. Phil Gramm last week announced his support for the accord in negotiation since 1986 under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison did so Thursday morning, as backers of the pact lobbied vigorously to corral

enough votes for passage. A vote on the accord, easily approved Tuesday by the House, was taken Thursday evening in the Senate. An Associated Press head count showed GATT backers were on the verge of locking up the votes needed both to surmount a procedural hurdle and approve the accord itself.

The trade agreement would slash global tariffs by 38 percent and create a more powerful World Trade Organization to referee disputes. Mrs. Hutchison, as did many in Congress, initially questioned whether the Geneva-based WTO would infringe on U.S. sovereignty.

"After thoroughly reviewing this issue, I have concluded that the implementing legislation contains adequate safeguards against ceding our authority to a

multinational body," Mrs. Hutchison said in a floor speech announcing her support.

While Gramm didn't fear any loss of sovereignty, he was harshly critical of the Clinton administration's writing of the legislation necessary to implement GATT.

In his floor speech, Gramm complained that the administration crammed goodies unrelated to trade into GATT's implementing legislation, either as a way of rewarding supporters or currying favor with GATT skeptics.

"I am going to take a deep breath and look beyond the outrageous and irresponsible manner with which the Clinton administration has dealt with GATT," said Gramm, who is a likely challenger to Clinton in 1996.

Dole said he had decided to support agreement, even with its flaws, because the alternative of defeat would be far worse.

"The bottom line is we just can't isolate ourselves from the rest of the world," Dole said before the Senate voted.

The 124-nation trade agreement cuts tariffs by an average of 38 percent worldwide, and for the first time extends GATT rules to such new areas as reduction of trade-distorting agri-

culture subsidies, lowering trade barriers in service industries, such as banking and clamping down on copyright piracy.

It creates a more powerful World Trade Organization to referee trade disputes and eliminates the one-country veto that a losing nation could use to block an adverse ruling.

Supporters said the agreement, by cutting the border taxes Americans have to pay while at the same time lowering barriers

U.S. businesses and farmers face overseas, would provide a tremendous boost to the U.S. economy.

The Clinton administration estimated this would create a half-million new jobs and mean an annual increase of \$150 billion in U.S. economic growth a decade from now, when the deal is fully implemented. That extra growth would put \$1,700 more a year in the pockets of the average family, the administration said.

Drivers to pay price at pump for cleaner air

Clean-burning gas to hike prices a nickel a gallon

WASHINGTON (AP) — The December forecast for millions of Americans in the most polluted cities: Better air, higher prices for gas.

Drivers will begin paying more as gas stations shift to a cleaner-burning but more-expensive fuel under government orders. Prices at the pump could rise a nickel or more a gallon.

By the end of the year, nearly one-third of all the gasoline sold in America will have to be a new, reformulated blend that the government estimates will produce 20 percent less toxic and smog-causing pollution.

"This is the biggest change in gasoline in our lifetime," said William Berman, environmental affairs director for the American Automobile Association.

But Berman voiced concern that retail gasoline prices may rise more than necessary in the confusion surrounding the introduction of the new fuel, which the Environmental Protection Agency estimates will cost refiners about 4 cents more a gallon to produce.

The change is expected to affect more than 48 million motorists in all or parts of 17 states, including the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions from southern Maine to Virginia.

The fuel also will be required in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas of southern California; in and around Houston and Dallas-Forth Worth in Texas; in the Chicago area, stretching into northwestern Indiana and southeastern Wisconsin, and in the Louisville, Ky., area.

The gasoline, which has a different chemical makeup so it burns more cleanly and evaporates more slowly, already is at distribution terminals and will flow into service

stations during December, industry officials said. In a few cases, some of the new gasoline already is believed to be in service station tanks.

Wholesale reformulated gasoline for delivery in January recently sold at 6 to 8 cents a gallon higher than conventional gasoline on the New York commodity market.

How much of that price increase will be passed onto retail customers will depend largely on local competitive pressures. In some areas of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, gasoline prices already have jumped as much as 10 cents a gallon since mid-October for a variety of reasons, including weather-related supply interruptions. In some cases those temporary price increases may now become permanent.

"By the first of the year it's going to be 3 to 4 cents higher than today" because of the reformulated gasoline change, predicted Harry Murphy of the Service Station Dealers of America.

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Finals Schedule

	SAT 12/03	SUN 12/04	MON 12/05	TUE 12/06	WED 12/07	THR 12/08
3-6 pm	ACCT 230 Test I & New Material	ACCT 230 Test II & New Material	3-5 ACCT 230 Test I & New Mat. 5-7 BANA 303 Test I & New Mat.	ACCT 230 Test I & II & New Mat. BANA 303 Test II & New Mat.	ACCT 230 Test II & New Mat. BANA 303 Test III & New Mat.	11-2 MATH 152 New Mat. & Review 2-5 ACCT 229 New Mat. & Review
6-9 pm	ACCT 229 Test I & New Material	ACCT 229 Test II & New Material	7-9 ACCT 229 Test I & New Mat. w/Vince 9-11 MATH 152 Test I & New Mat.	ACCT 229 Test II & New Mat. w/Vince MATH 152 Test II & New Mat.	ACCT 229 Test II & New Mat. w/Vince MATH 152 Test III & New Mat.	5-7 BANA 303 New Mat. & Review 7-9 MATH 151 New Mat. & Review ENGR 109 w/Vince
9-12 pm	MATH 151 Test I & II & New Material	MATH 151 Test II & III & New Material	11-1 MATH 151 Test I & New Mat. 9-11 FINC 341 With Lil Dave	MATH 151 Test II & New Mat. FINC 341 With Lil Dave	MATH 151 Test III & New Mat. FINC 341 With Lil Dave	9-11 ACCT 230 New Mat. & Review 9-11 FINC 341 With Lil Dave

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THE LION KING (G) 11:40 2:05 4:25 7:10 9:20 (11:30)

THE WAR (PG-13) 11:05 1:45 4:30 7:20 10:10 (1:00)

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