

Battle of budget may be over

□ The GOP proposed a stopgap measure to reopen government in exchange for Clinton's approval of their budgetary demands.

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a partial shutdown stretching through a second, disruptive day, Republicans crafted legislation Wednesday to reopen government on condition President Clinton agrees to balance the budget in seven years. The Treasury resorted to unusual financial footwork to head off default.

With no face-to-face talks scheduled to end the impasse, the two sides scrambled for political position on an issue that has divided them all year.

"It's time for him to put up or shut up" on balancing the budget, Mississippi Rep. Mike Parker, who switched from Democrat to Republican last week, said of Clinton.

"This is Newt's nightmare," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. "He wants chaos. He wants collapse of the government, and now he's got it."

Gingrich began the day by telling reporters the standoff

"could well last 90 days." But after meeting with Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., he was conferring with colleagues on a stopgap measure to reopen the government if Clinton would bow to the GOP's balanced-budget demands.

In a retreat for Republicans, the bill would be stripped of a hike in Medicare premiums that Clinton cited in vetoing an earlier bill.

Earlier, Gingrich had said lawmakers would begin work on legislation to reopen targeted agencies, such as Social Security and passport offices. Officials said that approach was being sidetracked, however, while Republicans awaited Clinton's reaction to the other measure.

With the government's borrowing authority curtailed, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin executed a bookkeeping maneuver that gives the government greater flexibility. In effect, he replaced securities in two trust funds with \$61.3 billion in IOUs that do not count against the debt limit.

"This is no way for a great nation to manage its financial af-

airs," said Rubin, a former Wall Street financier, underscoring that Social Security trust funds were not involved. But "using this authority is immeasurably preferable to default."

The financial markets reacted calmly, belying predictions they would react negatively to the uncertainty of the budget-and-borrowing impasse.

Democrats said the disruption caused by the government's partial closure was more substantial. An estimated 800,000 federal workers deemed "nonessential" were off the job for the second day, from agencies as diverse as the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which monitors nuclear arms proliferation, to the National Endowment for the Arts.

The party's whip, Rep. David Bonior of Michigan, displayed an oversized chart on the House floor that said more than one million people were "hurt by the Republican government shutdown" on its first day.

The list included 28,000 unable to apply for Social Security or disability benefits; 700 would-be recruits unable to enlist in the armed forces; 781,000 he said had been turned away from national parks and monuments.

The disruptions were felt inside the Capitol, where tourists climbing the steps to the front door discovered that tour guides had been furloughed.



Clinton

GOP works to save veterans' benefits

□ Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison wants to ensure that the government shutdown does not halt checks.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans are introducing legislation that would allow veterans and their survivors to keep receiving benefits checks even if the government shutdown drags on.

The budgetary impasse between the White House and the Republican-led Congress has called into question whether the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to issue its next batch of checks on Dec. 1.

Slightly more than 3.5 million people nationwide, including nearly 250,000 Texans, receive an estimated \$1.4 billion in veterans benefits each month. Department officials said this week that unless the budget gridlock is solved by early next week, they don't have the cash on hand to meet

next month's payments.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, has blasted that decision as an "outrage" and accused the administration of holding veterans hostage for political gain.

Mrs. Hutchison and other Republicans contend the administration could divert some of the U.S. Treasury's receipts to cover veterans benefits along with other essential services.

She is expected to introduce legislation that would provide for the payment of veterans benefits during the government shutdown.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House on Tuesday by Rep. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark. The bill would provide for a specific appropriation to keep the veterans benefits coming, as well as allowing the department to call back to duty the personnel necessary to issue the checks.

Hutchinson, Mrs. Hutchison and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Irving, were to hold a news conference later today to outline the legislation, introduced with the GOP leadership's blessing.

DIVERSITY

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students more effectively by challenging them to take a closer look at diversity issues, Petit said.

"Because the whole issue of diversity is so complex, we're going to talk about renewal and how to remain personally centered," she said, "because we are constantly challenged by the work we do."

The conference will be a success if those attending take what they learn back to the workplace, Petit said.

"I would hope that individuals will be in-

spired to take a leadership role back to their respective environment as it relates to diversity," he said. "I hope they come away with more of an appreciation for different cultures."

David Sweeney, Adaptive Technology Services coordinator, said the conference will enable different groups to find similarities.

"Finding common ground between diverse groups holds the greatest potential for the conference," Sweeney said. "We hope to reinforce the idea that we are more similar than different."

The conference is Nov. 17 in Rudder Tower between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for A&M faculty members and students including lunch, and free without lunch. All others must pay \$30.

CLIMATE

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A campus must make a conscious effort between students and faculty to create a learning environment that encourages student interaction in and out of the classroom setting, she said.

This can be reached, she said, by incorporating students in research and teaching activities and providing undergraduate research programs.

"Having one or two undergraduates a year work with me

on my research projects is my contribution to improving the climate for diversity," she said. "At the same time, I manage to remain in my role as a faculty member, and we are able to work toward a common goal."

For the efforts toward diversity to be successful, Hurtado said, an institution must declare that the support of such diversity is one of its main priorities and the institution must have its climate properly assessed.

Hurtado also suggested the initiation of co-curricular and curricular activities that encourage communication among different racial and

ethnic groups.

Sadly, she said, the climate for diversity is often overlooked for the sake of the budget of the institution or ignored by the institution because the school feels it has an adequate number of minorities enrolled.

"Often institutions see increasing the number of minorities enrolled as a way of improving the climate for diversity," she said.

But growth in enrollment does not equal equitable representation, Hurtado said. "What institutions really need to do is concentrate on providing a satisfying college experience for people of diverse cultures," she said.

STONE

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Although America's leaders are lacking in all of these characteristics, he said, it is people's unwillingness to take risks that is most detrimental to society today.

Journalism is only one area that is devoid of the attributes required of leaders, Stone said, especially because it has lost prestige since television has taken over.

"We have gone downhill in our journalistic mission from the enormous respect that newspapers provoke within us to the sound bite queen, Sally Jesse Raphael," he said.

Stone, a one time special assistant to slain civil rights leader Malcolm X, said no leaders exist today like Jay D. Rockefeller, John F. Kennedy or Malcolm X who all took great risks to better society.

Society lacks great leaders today because there is no need to take risks, Stone said.

"We don't feel as threatened today, so we don't take great risks," he said.

Another reason it is so hard to find leaders today, Stone said, is because our society is fractured.

"We must mobilize our energies for a composite multicultural leadership," he said. "Multiculturalism

has been transformed into a power struggle today."

Stone said America needs leaders who can transcend the boundaries of conflicts.

"We must rise above the embittered conflicts between groups," Stone said.

Urging the audience to action, Stone said, "We have it in our power to be as good as we must be. Now is the time to prove it to the world and our children."

Leaders must not only rise above racial fissures, he said, but the political divisions that drive the country apart.

"Neither party has been able to achieve fiscal unity with populist compassion," Stone said.

Stone said he hopes the year 2000 will provide stronger presidential candidates to move America forward.

"We must look to the year 2000 because we have already lost 1996 to mediocrity — 1996 must be the final surrender to the charity of politics," he said.

Stone said he is optimistic for the future and is awaiting the renewal of America's adventure spirit.

"We are facing insecurity, but also the possibility of a renaissance," Stone said.

Dr. Marilyn Kern-Foxworth, a journalism professor, said Stone's speech was relevant to today's society.

"I thought it was right on target by putting some of the problems we have in leadership in perspective and how they can polarize or solidify a situation," Kern-Foxworth said.

Randalls

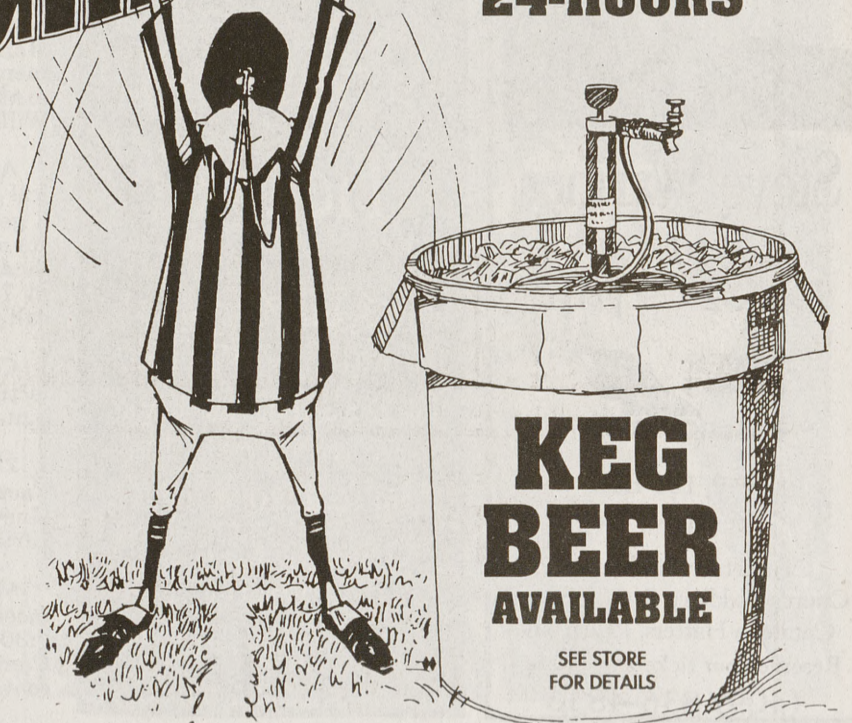
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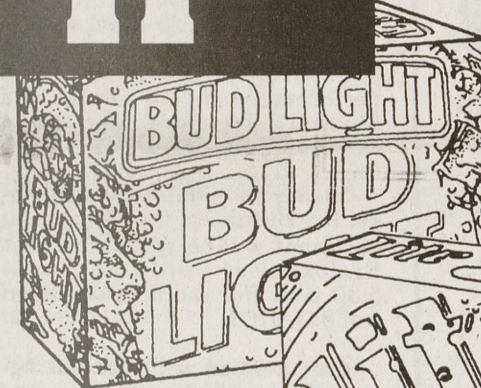
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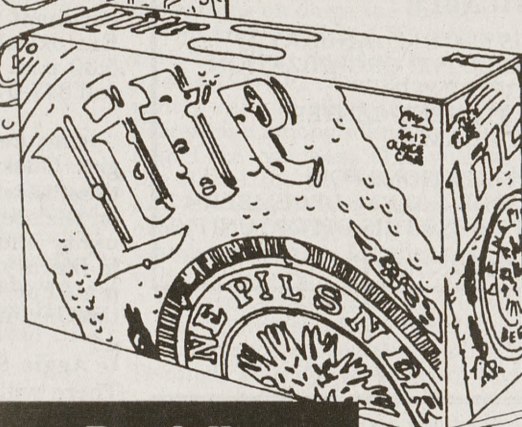
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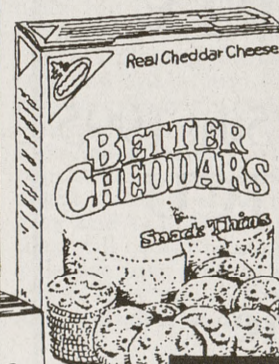
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