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THE BATTALION A TION

Thursday · April

Tax deadline brings ritual of IRS bash

WASHINGTON (AP) — As millions of taxpayers scrambled to meet the tax filing deadline, politicians and activists engaged in their own springtime ritual of bashing the IRS and pushing for changes.

Supporters of a flat tax and backers of a national sales tax held events Wednesday ranging from a re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party in Boston to a mock funeral outside the Baltimore IRS office to symbolize burial of the tax code.

But whether big changes were on the way was another question.

'Until the politicians can satisfy the public that they are not going to pay more tax under these alternatives, I think tax reform is dead in the water," said Lawrence Gibbs, a former IRS commissioner in the Reagan administration.

And Sheldon Pollack, associate professor at the University of Delaware and author of "The Failure of U.S. Tax Policy" agreed: "I don't think anyone realistically believes it's going to happen.'

Perhaps one measure of the public's mood was the attendance at the "Taxpayer Day of Outrage" rally in Lafayette Park across from the White House

Journalists outnumbered participants at the event, sponsored by GOP strategist Grover Norquist

of Americans for Tax Reform. Still, Republicans kept hitting

hard at the tax issue everywhere. 'Campaigns will send out millions of direct mail pieces this year, but the one mailing that will garner the GOP the most support in this

"Americans have had it up to the gills with this tax code..."

> **Billy Tauzin** Rep. of Louisiana

election is due back to the IRS today." said Rep. John Linder of Georgia, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, and Rep. Billy Tauzin of Louisiana staged their own version of the Boston Tea Party by dumping the tax code - safely contained in a water cooler - in

"Americans have had it up to the gills with this tax code and they are movement to beat! this one," said Tauz cates a national sales

Congress is ex that would provide innocent peopl

former spouses. The bill also wo board consisting of oversee the tax coll

The Senate vers also would suspe certain penalties w not notified a taxpa that he faces a pen

A Senate vote is ly May, but not bef Committee holds fo ings focusing on al IRS enforcement ag

Meanwhile, the ton administration improve customer variety of initiatives

"We are not pu on the IRS," Charles O. Rossot tional Press Club We are fundamen

Navy looking for company to destroy nap

Wednesday for a place to store a moving rail shipment of napalm and for a company to destroy the jellied cians objected.

The 12,000 gallons of Vietnam-era napalm had left California Saturday on the way to Pollution Control Industries of East Chicago, Ind., but the company abruptly backed out of its \$24 million subcontract, leaving the shipment riding the rails to nowhere.

On Wednesday, the one railcar load — part of 3.3 million gallons to be transported batch by batch over two years - moved through Oklahoma toward Kansas and Missouri. Transported by the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway, it was originally scheduled to arrive in the Chicago area this weekend.

The Navy and Battelle Memorial Institute, the firm that holds the main military contract and hired Pollution Control Industries for the job, were hoping a company would take the napalm off their hands.

'The ideal solution is to find somebody that could take it and treat it," said Robin Yocum, a spokesman for Ohio-based Battelle. "We want it to happen now." But finding a company with the proper permits

and approval from environmental and health authorities might take some time, meaning the load of napalm may have to be stored before it can be de-

The chemical has been stored near San Diego for two decades, but California officials sought its reofficial, speaking on condition of another Navy doesn't want to risk more headac ing the 12,000 gallons to California

The Navy is assuring the public there transporting the nonexplosive napalm, jured villagers, including a young girl graphic image remains a searing image We have been busy with calls all da

Cheryl Austin, one of three members of reach office that opened Wednesday "Most came from the media, but we have ing with concerns, too.

Lt. Cmdr. Jon Smith, a Navy spokesma military still wants to recycle all the napa storage, most likely using another subthe job. "We're working it as aggressivelya ly as possible so we can to find a respon to all of this," he said.

Pollution Control Industries said it bat the deal because of political pressure. The Robert Campbell, said his company hadb in a tug of war among U.S. government members of Congress

Rep. Ron Packard, R-Calif., who backst recycling plan, has asked the General Acc fice to look into what pressure, if any, was members of the administration or Con company to back out of its agreement.



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