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THURSDAY
7/23/98

JULY 23, 04:04 EDT

House Plans Environmental Votes

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two major spending bills before the House are setting the stage for another confrontation between Congress and the administration over protecting the environment — and the idea is to see who blinks first.

The House was expected today to approve a \$13.4 billion bill to fund the Interior Department and then take up another bill that provides money for the Environmental Protection Agency and other environmental programs. Both bills contain what Vice President Al Gore calls "anti-environmental riders" that could make them subject to a presidential veto.

The Interior legislation rejects a request from the administration for sharp increases in spending for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy technology research.

Energy efficiency programs would get \$632 million, about \$200 million less than what Clinton had wanted. The shortfall would have been more had not lawmakers agreed Wednesday to add \$45 million for energy efficiency.

While the bill would boost overall spending for operating national parks, it ignores another one of the administration's environmental priorities: an aggressive campaign to purchase selected parcels of land for Acadia National Park in Maine to the historic Baca Ranch in the Southwest and additions to Florida's Everglades National Park.

Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, the Interior spending bill's floor leader, said the money is better spent for maintenance and other park programs. As a result, the administration's \$270 million requests for public land purchases was cut in half and \$362 million approved last year has not been released.

The bill would scrap a six-state Columbia River ecosystem management program in the Northwest. Critics call it a failure that infringes on property rights and local rule. Supporters say the program is essential to protect natural resources and species, including the salmon. Administration officials say a veto is likely if language killing the program remains in the bill.

Other provisions prompting controversy:

— Disagreement over spending for endangered species protection. The administration wanted an additional \$36 million, but got little of it. Without the money it won't be able to pursue 16 of 45 "habitat conservation" agreements, Interior officials say.

— A shortfall in what the administration wanted for Interior and Forest Service clean water programs. It wanted a \$128 million increase, but got little of that money.

—Increases in timber sales over what the administration sought.

—A mandate for a road easement across the Chugach National Forest in Alaska that would prevent the federal government from imposing safeguards for environmental protection.

Regula defended the spending levels. He said, for example, if the administration were to get all the energy efficiency money it wanted, spending for other programs would have to be cut. "It's a matter of balance," he said. Instead of money for new land purchases, Regula thinks the money ought to go for

increased park maintenance.

Meanwhile, a separate EPA spending bill has prompted even greater outcry from the administration because it would impose restrictions on spending for programs addressing climate change — mainly for efficiency programs and research to spur into renewable energy technology.

The bill would increase EPA spending \$60 million to \$7.4 billion. But it falls \$368 million short of what the administration had sought, largely because of less money for Superfund toxic waste cleanup.

Most controversial, the bill would bar money from being spent on activities related to the global warming agreement reached in Kyoto last December until the treaty comes before Congress. And it would prevent the EPA from promoting the climate debate.

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House votes major cuts in climate-linked programs

Clinton says efforts on greenhouse gases would be harmed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A-11

The House moved last night to thwart administration efforts that address global warming by reducing money requested for energy conservation and threatening to bar spending for programs linked to a pending climate treaty.

A \$13.4 billion spending bill for natural resources and energy programs was approved by the House by a 245-181 vote, although it slashed more than \$300 million from the administration's request for climate-related programs and public land purchases.

Later, the House debated a separate bill funding the Environmental Protection Agency that would cut \$106 million from a \$205 million administration request for technology research and voluntary conservation programs addressing climate change.

Final approval of the EPA bill was uncertain.

President Clinton issued a statement calling the cuts unfortunate and said they would "restrict our ability to move forward with cost-effective steps to reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming."

The administration has threatened a veto of both spending bills, in part, because of provisions it says harm environmental protection.

The White House won a partial

victory when the House voted 226-198 to strip from the EPA spending measure language that would have barred environmental agencies from even debating or holding seminars on climate change. Mr. Clinton called the provision "an attempt to deny the American people the facts about global warming."

But liberal Republicans and Democrats opposed to the global warming restrictions abandoned attempts to remove another provision in the EPA bill involving climate change. This measure would bar EPA from spending money on programs linked to future compli-

ance with a climate agreement reached last December in Kyoto, Japan.

Critics of the Kyoto accord said the provisions, crafted by Rep. Joe Knollenberg, Michigan Republican, are aimed at preventing the administration from pursuing cuts in heat-trapping greenhouse gases "through the back door" before the treaty is ratified by the Senate.

The Kyoto accord, which calls for cutting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 2008, has been the focus of intense controversy in Congress. Conservatives complain that it will be too costly.

The bill passed by the House calls for \$632 million for energy efficiency and renewable-energy research programs, but that is \$200 million less than Mr. Clinton sought to expand climate change programs. It also severely cuts administration requests for public land purchases.

The spending limits for natural resource programs brought a sharp response from Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. He likened the GOP action to a previous Republican attempt to roll back environmental laws.

"It's 1995 all over again. Rather than attempting to repeal or gut these laws head-on, they're doing it by starving the programs," Mr. Babbitt said.

SILVER SPRING

C-9

Plant addition passed; neighbors outraged

Neutron Products Inc. has been given permission to upgrade its facilities in upper Montgomery County to comply

with a court agreement to enclose a courtyard containing radioactive waste.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission approved the addition despite neighbors' protest. The Concerned Citizens of Dickerson claims plant owner Jackson Ransohoff is making excuses to expand his operation.

The facility alters cobalt metal into a radioactive, solid form used for cancer therapy.

Inspection reports from the Maryland Department of the Environment over the years show numerous violations.

House Backs Global Warming Education

By JOBY WARRICK
Washington Post Staff Writer

A-10

In the first congressional vote on climate policy since last year's historic treaty in Kyoto, Japan, the House yesterday beat back an attempt to silence government education efforts on global warming.

The vote was seen as a modest victory for the Clinton administration and a defeat for some of the most ardent congressional foes of the Kyoto

accord, which would require substantial cuts in "greenhouse gas" emissions. Republican opponents of the treaty, who argue that the treaty would hurt the economy, are seeking to bar the administration from carrying out any parts of the agreement until the Senate votes to ratify it.

A provision attached to a spending bill for the Environmental Protection Agency would have prohibited federal agencies from holding semi-

nars and other outreach programs to educate the public about the issues raised by the Kyoto accord.

The measure's sponsor, Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Mich.), yesterday accused the administration of using federal agencies to generate public support for the treaty. "There's a very fine line between education and advocacy," he said.

But Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.), who led the fight against the proposed ban,

warned against "stifling education" about a potentially serious environmental threat. "For Congress not to allow this ... would be a craven subordination to the special interests in this country," he said.

White House officials applauded the vote. "We're pleased the House will allow the American people to hear the facts about global warming," said Todd Stern, the president's climate change coordinator. "Now they should help us take the steps needed to address this problem."

TODAY IN CONGRESS

A-4

SENATE

Meeting time unavailable.
Committees: none.

HOUSE

Meets at 9 a.m.
Committees:
Appropriations—10:30 a.m.
District of Columbia subc. Mark up FY '99 approps. legislation. H-140 Capitol.
Banking & Financial Services—10 a.m. Regulation of derivatives. 2128 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Commerce—10 a.m. Finance & hazardous materials subc. Enhancing retirement security through individual investment choices. 2123 RHOB.
Education & the Workforce—9:30 a.m. Oversight & Investigations subc. International Brotherhood of Teamsters governance & practice. 2175 RHOB.
International Relations—10 a.m. International operations & human rights subc. Mark up pending legislation. Hearing on human rights in Indonesia follows. 2172 RHOB.
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—11 a.m. Closed. Future imagery architecture. H-405 Cap.
Ways & Means—10 a.m. Social Security subc. Labor-management relations at Social Security Administration. 1100 Longworth House Office Bldg.

—LEGI-SLATE Inc.

Clinton Frees \$100 Million for Heat Relief

A-18 By JOHN M. BRODER

WASHINGTON, July 23 — Homeowners in 11 scorched Southern states will be eligible for \$100 million in emergency Federal aid to buy fans and air-conditioners and pay soaring electric bills, President Clinton announced today.

The President also declared all of drought-stricken Texas an agricultural disaster area, making farmers and ranchers there available for Government relief payments and low-interest loans.

"All Americans have been deeply concerned and troubled by the human toll of the record heat wave that has spread across many parts of the United States," Mr. Clinton said in appearance in the White House briefing room. "It has destroyed crops, led to widespread power outages, and, worst of all, has resulted in the deaths of over 100 people."

But even as he was declaring a disaster, the President could not re-

sist making a partisan political point. He said House Republicans had voted to eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the source of the emergency money for air-conditioning.

"If Congress proceeds to try to eliminate all funding for this vital emergency assistance, it would be an act of political irresponsibility," Mr. Clinton said. "It would put partisanship ahead of the progress and the people of this country."

The energy program was established in 1980 at the height of the energy crisis to help the poor pay their heating bills. Opponents of the program contend that it has outlived its usefulness as energy prices have sharply fallen over the last few years. They say genuine emergencies can be funded through other social service programs.

"There is no question whatsoever that there is a need that must be met here," said Representative John Ed-

ward Porter, Republican of Illinois, who advocates elimination of the energy-assistance program. "But we ought to take a look at the states assuming responsibility for what is basically a welfare program."

The money will be made available to low-income homeowners in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Temperatures in those states have been 16 percent to 26 percent above average since June 1.

The sweltering summer has also exacerbated a farm crisis that has seen agricultural income decline 35 percent from two years ago and driven hundreds of farmers out of business in the northern Great Plains.

In Texas, where temperatures reached 100 degrees today for the 18th straight day, three-quarters of the cotton crop has been lost to drought.

House Tries to Thwart Clinton on Warming

A-16 WASHINGTON, July 23 (AP) — The House took steps today to thwart Administration efforts that address global warming by reducing money requested for energy conservation and threatening to bar spending for programs linked to a pending climate treaty.

A \$13.4 billion spending bill for natural resources and energy programs was approved by the House by a 245-to-181 vote, although it slashed more than \$300 million from the Administration's request for climate-related programs and public land purchases.

Later, the House debated a separate bill funding the Environmental Protection Agency that would cut \$106 million from a \$205 million Administration request for technology research and voluntary conservation programs addressing climate change.

President Clinton, in a statement, called the cuts unfortunate.

A Little Compromise Goes a Long Way In Interior Spending Debate

House produces agreements on messy issues of NEA funding, subsidy to logging companies in passing \$13.4 billion appropriations bill

P-2012

The House on July 23 passed a \$13.4 billion Interior appropriations bill for fiscal 1999 that was notable for taming two unruly issues and for the Republicans' ability to stick to a tightly choreographed plan.

The bill (HR 4193), approved 245-181, avoided the venomous debate that had been the bill's signature in past years. Hemmed in by budget caps and mindful of approaching elections, Republicans eliminated most of the mischief by crafting two agreements that could be embraced by moderates in their own party as well as some Democrats. (Vote 331, p. 2056; caps, 1997 Almanac, 2-18)

The most closely watched deal provided \$98 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The second, though less prominent, could have a more profound result by reshaping debate over forest policy. That agreement eliminated a \$50 million annual subsidy to timber companies logging on federal land. The purchaser road credit program has long been a target of environmentalists because it allows timber companies to cut more trees to offset the cost of roads those companies build on public land. Like the NEA, the road credit has been a source of intense debate.

"This has been a 10-year fight," Michael A. Francis, director of forest programs for The Wilderness Society, said of the road program. "We've accomplished a major goal."

Despite those agreements, the bill is studded with contentious provisions, several of which the White House warned could trigger a veto. Among the biggest concerns:

- Lack of funding for climate change initiatives. Republicans said the administration's funding request was a backdoor attempt to implement portions of the Kyoto Treaty on global warming. That treaty has yet to be ratified. (1997 Almanac, p. 4-13)



Student volunteers plant seedlings at the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. A controversial subsidy to timber companies did not survive in the House bill.

- Elimination of an eco-management program in the Pacific Northwest.

- Money for a road easement in Alaska's Chugach National Forest, backed by Don Young, R-Alaska, and other members of the delegation. Efforts to deny the road, Young said in one of the sharpest debates, "is evil because you're going against the will" of Alaskans.

Despite the NEA vote, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt denounced the bill and riders that are "slashing funding for our environment and our natural heritage across the board."

Public Lands

Another concern is a significant cut in funding for programs to buy public lands, from \$270 million to \$139 million. In all, the bill was less than the administration's request for global warming programs and public land purchases by more than \$300 million.

The administration warned that the bill would be vetoed unless those provisions were changed.

Despite those threats, the bill moved largely intact, with the House turning back efforts to prohibit new roads from being built in the Tongass

National Forest in Alaska and a challenge to extending for two more years a program to charge entrance fees at national parks and forests.

The bill, which provides funding to the Department of the Interior and its agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and Indian programs as well as the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and cultural institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution, is \$680 million less than the fiscal 1998 appropriation and \$839 million less than the administration requested.

The House version, which is similar in many respects to its Senate counterpart (S 2237), places a priority on chipping away billions of dollars in backlogged maintenance at national parks and forests, said Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, chairman of the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee.

In the end, only the NEA objection was fully addressed. Republicans narrowed the difference over funding energy efficiency programs by adding \$45 million, leaving the account about \$133 million short of the administration's goal of \$808 million.

By Charles Pope

CONTINUED

Democrats and the administration were angered by a provision that dismantles the Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan, the program in the Pacific Northwest hailed as a novel approach to protecting endangered habitat and species.

An amendment by Jim McDermott, D-Wash., to save the initiative failed, 202-221, even though Clinton said he would veto the bill unless it was protected. Republicans, however, echoing complaints from local officials and residents in the region, called it a heavy-handed effort that denied property owners full use of their land. One of the loudest critics was George Nethercutt, R-Wash., who called the plan a "monstrosity" because it would limit what people could do with their property in the name of protecting endangered species. (Vote 327, p. 2054; *Property rights*, CQ Weekly, p. 1945)

Richard "Doc" Hastings, R-Wash., chided supporters of the plan as outsiders. "What we have heard so far are opinions of people who don't live in the area," he said.

Throughout three days of debate, Regula said he understood requests for additional money but said the bill was a fair balance.

Among the achievements, Regula said, is a \$147.4 million increase in funding for the Indian Health Service, to \$2.2 billion; \$1.3 billion for national parks, an increase of \$99.3 million over fiscal 1998; and \$246 million for national wildlife refuges, an \$18 million increase.

NEA Battle Ends

In adding money to the bill, the House included funding for the NEA. That action virtually guarantees the existence of the agency because the Senate has pledged \$100 million for fiscal 1999.

The battle over the NEA was the most conspicuous subplot during three days of floor debate. Mindful of negative publicity that accompanied efforts to kill the NEA in past years, Regula structured a deal approved by Republican leaders in which the rule that would allow funding for the agency would be deleted on a point of order and then immediately restored.

Despite complaints by Democrats such as David R. Obey of Wisconsin, who criticized the rule as "a Mickey Mouse procedure," the plan unfolded

as intended: \$98 million in funding for the agency was deleted on a technical point of order. The entire amount was then restored by an amendment offered by Nancy L. Johnson, R-Conn. The amendment passed, 253-173, a stunningly comfortable margin. (Vote 312, p. 2052)

The NEA, created in 1965, provides grants to arts organizations in every state. The agency has long been a target of conservatives who say it supports objectionable and obscene projects. But supporters pointed out that only 40 out of 100,000 grants since the NEA's inception have drawn criticism. Some concerns about the NEA were softened by steps taken this year to provide closer congressional oversight and more equitable distribution of grants.

The victory was significant for NEA defenders, who have had to fight in recent years to save the agency from extinction.

"The old debate over the existence of the NEA finally has given way to a more thoughtful dialogue about the appropriate level of federal arts funding in America," the endowment's chairman, William J. Ivey, said in a July 21 statement.

Timber Battles

With the NEA's future decided, the second, and more significant, subplot came into view, according to some observers.

Under that arrangement orchestrated by John Edward Porter, a moderate Republican from Illinois, the

\$50 million road credit would be abolished in return for promises from Porter's allies that they would not pursue additional cuts in timber programs this year.

The deal evolved over three months of talks between moderates such as Porter and Western Republicans, such as Helen Chenoweth, R-Idaho, a strong ally of the timber industry.

"The catalyst was reasonable people sat down together and decided that there were areas we could agree on and not have to get down on the floor and fight it out," Chenoweth said. "I was very pleased with it."

Chenoweth praised the agreement, saying it was worth giving up the road credits to protect more important programs. But according to Porter, timber interests were drawn to the negotiations by an erosion of their position on the floor. Votes on key timber issues have been close. In 1997, for example, an amendment to save the road credit program passed, 211-209. (1997 *Almanac*, p. 9-47)

"Simply put, the Westerners were worried we had the votes," Porter said, adding that members decided to deal "rather than make this a contentious, bloody fight on the floor."

The Republican leadership, interested in cooling an issue that has divided the party, also signed off on the plan because "a nasty floor fight can leave bitter feelings that can spill over into other areas," Porter said.

The strength of the agreement was displayed when Elizabeth Furse, D-Ore., withdrew an amendment backed by environmental groups that would have reduced funding for the Forest Service's timber program by \$81 million in fiscal 1999.

"I decided to withdraw my amendment today in exchange for the commitment that funding for the purchaser road credit program will be eliminated," she said. "Eliminating the ... program is a step in the right direction."

The agreement came into play at least twice more, when amendments by Maurice D. Hinchey, D-N.Y., to strip language allowing for the road easement in Alaska's Chugach National Forest was defeated, 176-249. It also contributed to the defeat, 186-237, of an amendment by George Miller, D-Calif., to prohibit new road construction in Tongass National Forest. (Votes 328, p. 2054; 329, p. 2056) ♦

Box Score

Bill:

HR 4193 — Fiscal 1999 Interior appropriations.

Latest action:

House passed HR 4193, 245-181, on July 23.

Next action:

Senate floor.

Reference:

Chart, CQ Weekly, p. 1838; NEA funding, p. 1771; House subcommittee approval, p. 1702.

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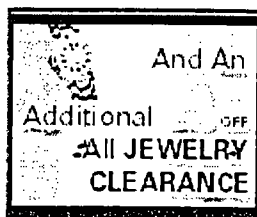
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Fine Print of Budget Package Gets Eleventh-Hour Changes

Senate Leader's Superfund Exemption Among Items Deleted

By George Huger and Juliet Eilperin
 Washington Post Staff Writers
 Tuesday, October 20, 1998; Page A03

White House and congressional negotiators yesterday put what they hoped were the finishing touches on a massive year-end spending measure and prepared for a final House vote this evening, after another round of last-minute dealmaking.

Although leaders held celebratory news conferences late last week to announce that they had finished work on the huge budget deal, negotiations continued through the weekend and into yesterday afternoon.

In a flurry of eleventh-hour haggling, negotiators took some provisions out, put some provisions in and continued to battle fiercely over others.

Kept in were nearly \$2 billion of increased payments to Medicare home health care providers and a disability program for Persian Gulf War veterans that a senior GOP aide said will cost from \$1 billion to \$6 billion over 10 years.

Also preserved was legislation to repeal a government directive requiring peanut-free zones on some airline flights. Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations transportation subcommittee, said the directive, designed to protect people with peanut allergies, was not based on scientific evidence.

"These guidelines represent why so many people have come to resent and distrust government," he said.

Stripped from the package were two provisions that had been promoted by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.): One would have exempted scrap metal recycling companies from liability under Superfund cleanup laws. The other, also backed by Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), would have provided more than \$350 million of agriculture credits to Russia.

The credits would have allowed Russian business interests to pay for frozen poultry and other products shipped overseas by American producers.

Also jettisoned was a White House proposal that would have raised \$200 million by recovering broadcast licenses from companies that

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successfully bid for a piece of the broadcast spectrum but later went bankrupt. And negotiators abandoned a proposal by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bud Shuster (R-Pa.) to add a multibillion-dollar "water resources" measure to the spending package.

As of late yesterday, a provision was still in play that would bar the United States from levying fees on Canadian flights over Alaska. Alaskans were worried that Canada would retaliate by charging U.S. flights that passed through Canadian airspace -- which would affect most flights to Alaska. The provision was locked in a confusing battle over whether the fees were user fees or taxes, and if so, which committee had jurisdiction over them.

Another fiercely contested battle focuses on whether to provide \$100,000 in financial compensation to each of the nearly 7,500 hemophiliacs who were infected with HIV in the 1980s by contaminated blood products. The House-passed measure was dropped from the budget package at the last minute, but it could be revived as free-standing legislation if the Senate approves it today.

The bazaar-like quality of the last-minute negotiations and the sprawling, provision-laden bill they produced was generating a backlash among some conservative Republicans, though aides said they were still confident the measure would pass.

Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) sent his Senate GOP colleagues a scathing letter yesterday criticizing the bill and, by implication, the GOP leaders who negotiated it. "Does a Republican Congress make any difference?" Hagel asked. "What does the Republican majority in Congress stand for? Do we have an agenda? What is it? Do we believe in anything?"

Some Senate aides had predicted the measure would breeze through the Senate on a voice vote, but Hagel and other conservatives demanded a roll call. The Senate is scheduled to vote Wednesday morning, following an expected Tuesday evening vote by the House.

According to House Appropriations Committee figures, the bill would provide about \$486 billion for the current fiscal year, an amount equal to about 29 percent of all federal funding.

GOP leaders have sought to buttress rank-and-file support for the bill by pointing to Republican victories on money issues such as defense spending and on policy matters such as abortion and the war on drugs.

But fiscal conservatives have begun to balk at the measure's cost, which aides from both parties say exceeds spending caps by about \$7 billion -- not counting the nearly \$22 billion of "emergency" surplus spending, which technically is not subject to spending caps.

Lott's effort to exempt scrap metal recycling companies from liability under the Superfund cleanup failed at the last minute, according to his spokesman.

Though the bill was co-sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) and reflected an agreement among industry, environmentalists and Clinton officials, some businesses and

lawmakers argued that passing the measure this year would jeopardize the chances for comprehensive Superfund reform next Congress.

The failure of the measure marked a blow for Phil Morris, chief executive of Sherman, Miss.-based Morris Recycling Inc. Morris, a Sigma Nu fraternity brother of Lott from college, said the senator had visited his scrap yard in Sherman a few years ago and had been working on the issue for four or five years.

Staff writer Charles R. Babcock contributed to this report.

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HELP?



Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Environmental Riders Survive Spending Battle

■ Budget: White House blocked dozens of GOP proposals in appropriations bill. But several remain, including three that would impact California.

By ART PINE, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--Although the White House successfully squelched dozens of GOP proposals designed to limit the impact of key environmental rules, several remain in the omnibus appropriations bill agreed upon last week, including three that would affect issues important to California.

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The money bill, slated to clear Congress Wednesday, includes measures that would delay the phaseout of methyl bromide pesticide, used heavily in California farming; increase logging in three national forests in the state and speed toll-road construction from south Orange County into northern San Diego County.

The wrangling over the riders--amendments unrelated to the subject of the bill--marked a change in tactics for the GOP. Three years ago, GOP conservatives failed when they attacked environmental programs head-on, incurring defeats at the hands of Democrats who were joined by a handful of Republicans.

This year, Republicans peppered the appropriations bills with riders in an effort to chip away at environmental regulations that they consider excessive, sometimes inserting restrictive language in conference committee reports, which often have the force of law.

Clinton administration officials have portrayed the final omnibus bill as a victory for environmentalists: Republicans initially sought to tack more than 50 such riders on various appropriations bills. Only about a dozen remain in the omnibus bill.

Heavy pressure from the White House persuaded Republicans to drop or dilute measures that would have increased logging in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, blocked any new studies of the Columbia River basin and barred further planning on how to deal with global warming.

But the bill still contains riders that would prevent a tightening of auto fuel-economy standards, allow ranchers to obtain grazing permits without environmental review and open coastal barrier areas to more rapid development--all anathema to environmentalists.

It also includes provisions that would halt the review of hard-rock mining regulations and delay the imposition of new rules for computing oil royalties, enabling oil and gas

industries to escape tax liability on \$86 million in royalties in this fiscal year.

"The administration is claiming total victory, that it has cleaned this thing up entirely, but we don't see it that way," said Daniel Lashof, senior scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "There are some serious problems that remain."

Environmentalists were enraged over the GOP assault, charging that pushing the measures through as riders was a ploy to avoid public hearings and roll-call votes that might have uncovered more opposition. Vice President Al Gore attacked the GOP for using "stealth tactics."

In the end, Republicans scrapped the bulk of the riders during negotiations over the omnibus bill. President Clinton already has said that he will accept the remaining provisions to get the bill passed and avoid a government shutdown.

The provision affecting methyl bromide would postpone the federal target date for phasing out use of the pesticide until 2005--four years later than previously scheduled. California is a major consumer of the chemical, which is used as a fumigant by specialty fruit growers.

How rapidly to phase out use of methyl bromide, which environmentalists say destroys the ozone in the upper atmosphere 50 times more aggressively than chlorofluorocarbons, has been the subject of a major controversy in California over the last five years.

A second California-related rider, which still was in negotiation late Monday, would double the amount of logging permitted in the Plumas, Lassen and Tahoe national forests in the northern Sierra--to 230 million board feet a year, from 115 million board feet now.

Timber companies in the state say that the increase is needed both to help the lumber industry and to aid the state's economy. But environmentalists contend that it will deplete resources more rapidly, accelerate the construction of roads and endanger local wildlife.

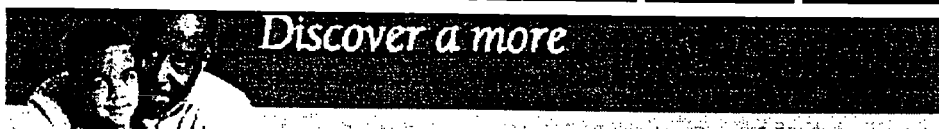
The third provision would relax environmental barriers to the construction of a toll road from south Orange County through San Onofre State Beach Park in San Diego County. Plans for that road, Foothill South, have been held up in the face of federal agencies' opposition.

The rider, tacked on by Rep. Ron Packard (R-Oceanside), would limit federal authority to intervene in the road's planning.

Local officials say the roadway is needed to relieve traffic congestion in the area. But environmentalists say that the route, which bisects some of the last pristine watersheds and wild lands in the area, would damage the local ecology and harm endangered species.

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House Completes Work on Spending Bill; Vote Set for Tuesday

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-

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON -- After haggling for four days over last-minute additions and deletions to the federal spending package, the House completed action Monday night on the \$500 billion spending bill needed to keep the government open.

Even though the final vote is set for Tuesday, Congress bought itself extra time Monday by passing -- for the sixth time since the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year -- another measure to keep the government running until midnight Wednesday night.

Since Congress and the White House announced a general agreement Thursday and their aides sat down to write that agreement into specific language, the written length of the spending package has ballooned from an estimated 3,000 pages to more than 4,000 pages, and the cost appears to have bulked up by millions as aides uncovered the actual expense of many of the provisions in the deal.

The result is an unusually disparate, catch-all package that contains a third of the entire \$1.7-trillion federal budget and an array of policy decisions that most members of Congress will not have a chance to read, let alone digest, until they vote on it, perhaps Tuesday night.

Among the last-minute additions are such items as \$325 million to buy enriched uranium from Russia and the \$1 million reward in the Unabomber case, which will go to David Kaczinski for turning in his brother, Ted. David Kaczinski has said he would give the money to his brother's victims and their families.

The major issues that congressional Republicans negotiated Monday included home-health care, the regulation of truckers, a provision over scrap metal and details of the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention.

In a sign of the intense last-minute pressures being applied, Republican leaders actually reversed a bill involving the Tennessee Valley Authority -- a bill that both houses had passed and that President Clinton had already signed into law.

The bill had eliminated the public subsidy for the sprawling authority, which was created in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to tame the Tennessee River, provide power and spur development in the region. But several Republicans from the area protested the loss of money in the last few days and managed to overturn the law. They have now secured more than \$1 billion over five years to help the TVA refinance its high-interest debt and obtain a \$50 million subsidy for flood control and recreational purposes.

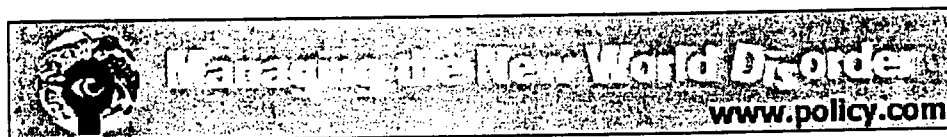
The new-found money for the TVA is part of the omnibus spending package that Congress must pass to keep the government running. The omnibus package is Congress' last, must-pass bill for the session, and as such, it has become the last-chance vehicle for multiple special interests that could not get their way otherwise.

The final draft of the bill was filed Monday night with the House, which is mandated by the Constitution to originate all spending bills. The House is tentatively set for one hour of debate on the bill Tuesday night before voting. Adhering to that schedule would mean that most members would have virtually no time to absorb the elements of the bill before they vote.

Once the House passes the bill, it moves to the Senate. Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, the Republican leader, has indicated that the Senate may not insist on a roll-call vote. This means the Senate would probably have no debate on the bill and senators would not have to return to Washington, leaving passage of the bill to a voice vote by those who chose to return.

The prospect of a voice vote on such a huge package with so many elements has raised the ire even of some Republicans. Perhaps the harshest criticism came from Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., who has excoriated the Republican leadership as secret deal-makers and said he would vote against the bill.

"I don't believe the founding fathers ever intended for a few members and staff to make closed-door, arbitrary decisions on almost one-third of the federal budget and then sneak it through on a voice vote," he wrote in a letter to his colleagues Monday.



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Dispute Erupts Over Global Emissions-Trading

By JOHN J. FLAHERTY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—The formation of a private, global organization to market so-called greenhouse-gas-emissions trading certificates on the Internet has triggered a protest by some U.S. traders, who say it may violate U.S. laws.

The group, called the International Emissions Trading Association, is being organized in Geneva with sponsorship from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, or Unctad. The group's backers see it as a prototype for a future multibillion-dollar market.

Emissions trading, or the exchange of certificates authorizing the emission of a certain amount of a pollutant, such as sulfur dioxide, was pioneered in the U.S. with the

Environmental Protection Agency's help, and is now a \$1 billion-plus market. Brokers who use the U.S. system, where trades are handled mostly through private brokerage firms, will hold a news conference today objecting to the U.N.-backed group.

"We think establishing a closed trading system at this time is counterproductive," says Daniel Chartier, president of the Emissions Marketing Association, which has 137 members, mostly from the U.S.

Mark L. Perlis, a Washington lawyer and member of the Milwaukee-based EMA, says the Geneva venture "smacks of possible antitrust violations and intermingling of government and nongovernment functions."

"I think they've got it wrong," counters Frank T. Joshua, head of Unctad's emissions-trading office. The not-for-profit private organization, he says, is being set up under a Swiss law prohibiting conflicts of interest or undue government influence on trading. He says the group will help governments and companies establish rules for global trading.

Mr. Joshua says 35 international companies, including British Petroleum Co., Royal Dutch Shell Group, Texaco Inc., Mobil Corp. and General Motors Corp., have agreed to join. The organization will hold its first meeting next month in Buenos Aires during a U.N. session there to work out rules for global emissions trading.

Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide and methane, which many scientists believe are causing the Earth's climate to

heat up. Emissions trading, which may help companies control and spread the risks and costs of future antipollution equipment, was authorized in last year's global-warming treaty signed in Kyoto, Japan.

Mr. Joshua says his group will help "kick-start" the process by privately trading certificates among members. Founding members, which will pay \$25,000 a year for membership, will also share proprietary information such as plans to curb carbon-dioxide emissions on a global basis, he says.

The group hopes to recruit 50 corporations as founding members, which would get enhanced voting power on its board of directors, he says. Later, associate members, such as government agencies, could join for smaller fees, but would have a smaller voice on the board. Commercial functions such as brokering and verifying emissions certificates will be contracted to private firms.

A few trade enthusiasts, such as Richard L. Sandor, a Chicago emissions trader, economist and vice chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, are applying for membership in the EMA and the new organization. "I think there's a role for both," says Dr. Sandor, who thinks the U.N.-backed group will help encourage developing nations to participate in trading.

SEC Chief Says Plans To Alter Social Security Heighten Risk of Fraud

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The nation's top securities regulator warned about the potential for increased fraud if Congress allows Social Security retirement money to be put into private investment accounts.

"If we are to have self-directed individual [Social Security] accounts, we must be ready to undertake an unprecedented level of broad-scale policing of the equity markets," Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt said in a speech at Harvard University.

It marked the first time the SEC chairman has spoken on the subject of Social Security reform, an issue Congress is expected to take up next year. With 140 million Americans in the work force, any such reform should be accompanied by increased investor education and tougher policing of U.S. markets, Mr. Levitt said.

President Clinton's advisory panel on Social Security has recommended three plans to reform the retirement program, all of which include some stock-market investments. One plan would pool Social Security funds and have a federal board make investment decisions; the others would create individual accounts, leaving investment decisions to employees.

Mr. Levitt noted there is little dispute that reform will be needed at some point, since costs of running the Social Security program are expected to exceed revenue from payroll taxes within 15 years.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

ERIC ENGSTROM, Microsoft Corp.'s general manager for multimedia and a witness for Microsoft in its antitrust trial, was misidentified as Chris Engstrom in a table on Friday's Marketplace page.

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Give-and-Take in the Bowels of the Budget

By William Branigin, Amy Goldstein, Bradley Graham, Judith Havemann, Roberto Suro and Joby Warrick

Friday, October 16, 1998; Page A16

Apart from resolving major differences over education, the International Monetary Fund, agriculture and contraceptives, congressional GOP leaders and the White House settled a vast array of other issues that were less contentious but have far-ranging consequences for government agencies and average Americans. The following are highlights of those agreements.

Defense

The \$9 billion in defense-related funding came on top of a \$271 billion military spending bill approved by Congress several weeks ago and represented about twice what the administration had requested as an emergency supplement.

Pentagon officials received the \$1.9 billion they had sought for ongoing peace operations in Bosnia, and another \$1.1 billion requested to cover reprogramming of military computers for the year 2000. They also got \$1.1 billion toward easing some of the readiness shortfalls that military commanders have recently begun to warn about, including reduced Army training, declining Navy recruitment and widespread shortages of spare parts.

But defense officials were stunned by the size of two other add-ons that came at the insistence of congressional leaders -- \$2 billion for a wide variety of intelligence programs and \$1 billion for missile defense. The intelligence money was reportedly pushed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), the missile defense funds by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

The remaining couple of billion dollars were designated for expanded drug interdiction efforts, storm damage repairs at military facilities, reinforced embassy security, Coast Guard activities and military health care.

White House officials had pushed to include a provision for raising military pension benefits from 40 percent of average pay to 50 percent, but the move was resisted by Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), according to congressional and administration sources.

Environment

The White House squeezed new concessions from congressional

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budget writers on environmental spending, winning additional funding for programs to clean up waterways and fight global warming. Republicans backed away from several controversial amendments that would have relaxed environmental regulations, but fought to a draw on others.

Facing a threatened presidential veto, Republicans dropped controversial proposals that would have allowed road construction in Alaska's Izembeck National Wilderness and increased timber cutting in national forests.

But in other cases the GOP stood its ground. Lawmakers refused, for instance, to drop a measure to block higher royalty fees for oil companies drilling on federal lands. The nearly \$500 million in new spending includes millions more for research on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Despite deep skepticism among many Republicans over last year's international climate treaty, the final budget reflects a jump in total spending on global warming to \$1 billion, a 26 percent increase.

The Clinton administration also secured full funding for the president's \$1.7 billion Clean Water Action Plan, which targets polluted runoff from cities and farms, and won a 23 percent boost for programs that protect rare and endangered species.

Health

Congress is devoting more money to health programs than the White House requested this year, deciding to give the National Institutes of Health a big infusion of extra money for the second year in a row.

The \$2 billion expansion in funding for biomedical research at NIH, a jump of 14 percent, comes on top of a \$900 million increase last year. The new budget also will enable the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to start rebuilding local public health departments, which have frayed in recent years, and to begin to help communities plan how they would respond in the event of a bioterrorism attack.

Congress also funded the president's request to expand the administrative capacity of the Health Care Financing Administration, which oversees Medicaid and Medicare. The extra \$154 million will help the agency evaluate nursing homes, process bills, find Medicare fraud and abuse, and put insurance reforms for children and adults into effect. HCFA has been criticized lately on Capitol Hill for lagging behind schedule on a variety of its duties, while agency officials have replied the Congress had not given it enough money to absorb an increased workload.

In total, the appropriations bill will allow the Department of Health and Human Services to increase its discretionary spending by 10 percent, the biggest jump in seven years. The final budget agreement restored cuts the House had made to Head Start. On the other hand, Congress rejected proposed tobacco reforms last summer that would have created a far greater windfall for HHS, which would have been used, in part, to improve child care.

Housing and Veterans

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Budget Deal Is Reached

Key Programs Get Hikes

By George Hager and Stephen Barr
Washington Post Staff Writers
Friday, October 16, 1998; Page A01

The White House and the Republican Congress reached a roughly \$500 billion year-end budget deal yesterday, with both sides claiming major victories and vowing to take issues they lost to the voters.

Congress appears headed toward approving the massive spending measure as soon as today, which would avert a government shutdown and send the House and Senate home for the final two weeks before the Nov. 3 elections.

The bill settled big political fights and provided for huge spending increases in key programs.

Chief among those were \$1.1 billion to begin hiring 100,000 new teachers, nearly \$6 billion of emergency funding for hard-pressed farmers and ranchers, and almost \$18 billion of new funding for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) -- all priorities of the administration. There were billions more for other Democratic initiatives, such as summer jobs for youth, after-school programs and low-income home heating assistance.

Equally important to both sides were the things the bill did not do. Republicans said they had killed a Clinton proposal for national testing of fourth- and eighth-graders, blocked a White House plan to create tax subsidies for building new schools and barred the use of federal money for needle-exchange programs designed to cut down on the spread of AIDS among drug addicts.

Democrats noted that they had stopped a \$177 billion, 10-year GOP tax cut that they claimed would have raided the budget surplus created largely by Social Security taxes. Instead, the measure will include a scaled-back, \$9.2 billion, 10-year package whose primary focus is extending popular expiring tax breaks, such as the research and development credit for business.

In back-to-back press events at the White House and on Capitol Hill, each side pronounced itself happy with the outcome.

"This is a very, very good day for America," said President Clinton during a White House ceremony in which he touted what he said were Democratic victories on education, the environment and Social Security.

Republicans held their own celebration in the Capitol to showcase what they said were their victories on defense spending, the war on

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drugs and abortion, though they insisted they were not toting up winners and losers.

"We have a package that's good for America, that's the main thing," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.). "It's not a matter of who won or lost."

In a way, the final package was a victory for traditional politics, as lawmakers from both parties exceeded spending limits they had agreed to in last year's balanced-budget deal and created what critics derided as an election-year political piñata, stuffed with special projects and extra spending for both parties.

Republicans got a major increase in defense spending, enough to make what they said was the first inflation-adjusted increase since 1985. Included in that was money for missile defense and a wide variety of readiness items. They also got \$690 million in new spending for anti-drug efforts, including about \$90 million to provide six Blackhawk helicopters to the Colombian National Police for drug-fighting efforts. Under emergency spending rules, none of that money was offset by reductions in other programs.

The bill also contained billions more than Republicans had approved for key Democratic social spending priorities. Although the White House offered offsets for much of the spending, budget critics were skeptical and Republicans were critical of the massive size of the measure.

"It's a Great Society bill, and it's not something that I as a conservative Republican am prepared to support," said Rep. David M. McIntosh (Ind.), leader of an influential group of conservative House Republicans. "It's a liberal, big-spending bill."

Despite complaints from McIntosh and other conservatives, though, leaders predicted overwhelming support for the measure when it finally comes to a vote.

"We're really pretty good -- extraordinarily good," in terms of the numbers of Republicans likely to vote for the bill, said Rep. J. Dennis Hastert (Ill.), the House Republicans' number-two vote-counter.

Rep. David E. Bonior (Mich.), chief vote-counter for House Democrats, said, "I predict we will have a very strong vote because of the tremendous victories we had on our issues, especially education." A House aide said about two-thirds of Democrats are expected to support the measure.

There was some question as to when the bill would actually get to a vote, however. Lott and House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) both predicted a vote would occur in both the House and Senate today. But as of late yesterday, aides drafting the actual bill said both parties were still fighting over how to word key provisions, and pessimists including Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.) predicted a vote might not occur until Saturday or later.

The huge measure, which is worth roughly \$500 billion and equal to almost a third of all federal spending, sweeps in eight unfinished funding bills and a special, \$20 billion package of emergency

spending for Bosnia peacekeeping, defense readiness, embassy security and a long list of other last-minute concerns.

It will provide funding for scores of agencies kept open since the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 by four short-term funding bills, the last of which expires tonight at midnight.

Some congressional aides and lobbyists were crowing last night about special-interest provisions slipped into the massive spending bill, ranging from legislation to regulate the trade in rebuilt automobiles to extending the duck hunting season in Mississippi.

Others were upset that provisions they sought, raising military retirement pay and blocking the federal government from sharing in state revenue from tobacco lawsuit settlements, were dropped in the final days and hours of negotiation.

A spokesman for Lott confirmed that the auto salvage and duck-hunting measures that had been promoted by Lott were included in the final version. Consumer groups and state attorney generals had opposed the auto measure, saying it would allow car dealers to rebuild and sell wrecked cars without informing consumers.

Another powerful figure, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston (R-La.), also scored behind-the-scenes victories by persuading negotiators to preserve two of his initiatives that would delay the implementation of Clinton administrative rules.

One rule is an Interior Department regulation that would increase the fees oil companies pay for drilling on federal land. The other would change the way hospitals distribute organs for transplants, which conflicts with Louisiana legislation that restricts organs to their home states.

In bringing the measure to its final form, negotiators settled dozens of fights that had kept talks going for days. Chief among those were:

The year 2000 census. Negotiators agreed to put off a final decision on whether to use statistical sampling at least until June 15 of next year.

Democrats and the White House back a plan to cure persistent undercounts of the poor and minorities by adding sampling to the traditional head count used in the national census. But Republicans bitterly oppose the move, at least in part because larger populations of urban and rural poor and minorities would presumably increase Democratic clout in the House.

Two federal courts have ruled against the Democrats, insisting on a strict head count in the next census. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the matter Nov. 30, with a decision likely sometime before next June 15. Democrats got leverage to revisit the census issue by forcing Republicans to agree to fund the entire bill that underwrites the Census Bureau -- and the departments of Commerce, Justice and State -- only through June 15.

Contraceptive policy. The deal expands prescription contraceptive coverage for federally employed women, as sought by Rep. Nita

Lowey (D-N.Y.).

Under the provision, insurance plans in the federal employee health care program would be required to cover all five methods of prescription contraceptives: the pill, the diaphragm, IUDs, Norplant and Depo-Provera. Currently, only 19 percent of federal health plans cover all five methods, Lowey said.

The provisions would allow exemptions for five religious-based insurance plans in the federal program and would not require doctors to prescribe a contraceptive if it violated an individual's moral convictions.

"This is a huge win for American women," Lowey said, noting that 1.2 million women of child-bearing age are covered by the federal health program.

Staff writers Charles R. Babcock and Juliet Eilperin contributed to this report.

Highlights of the Deal

Education: \$1.1 billion as down payment to hire 100,000 new teachers.

International Monetary Fund: \$17.9 billion of new financing, with restrictions on future loan practices and agency operations.

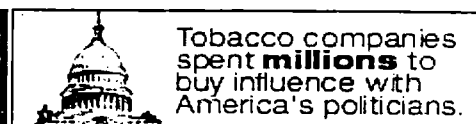
Agriculture: Nearly \$6 billion of additional aid to distressed farmers and ranchers.

Defense: \$9.2 billion more for Bosnia peacekeeping, military readiness, intelligence, missile defense, anti-drug activities and computer problems.

Contraceptives: Expanded prescription coverage for female federal employees.

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NY Times

ENVIRONMENT

White House Secures \$476 Million for Projects

By The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 — After vowing for weeks to block spending provisions it said would be bad for the environment, the Clinton Administration won many concessions in the final budget agreement but gave ground on other disputed policies.

In the end, the environmental deals were sweetened with money for both sides. The White House said it had won an additional \$476 million for favored programs involving climate change, water quality and conservation lands. At the same time, Republican lawmakers won provisions to spend millions more on items including logging and transportation projects in Alaska.

The grueling negotiations were a classic exercise in compromise, and a few main issues remained in dispute after negotiators declared late on Wednesday that they had outlined a deal.

In two provisions settled today, Congressional Republicans would block new oil royalty rules that would require big oil companies to pay \$64 million a year more for oil from public lands. And Congressional negotiators pushed through a proposal by indus-

try, environmentalists and local government in Quincy, Calif., that would increase logging in national forests in the Sierra Nevada. Both proposals had been opposed by Senator Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat who is in a tough re-election race.

The White House declared victory on the environmental issues, with President Clinton saying, "We honored our obligations to the next generation by strongly protecting the environment."

But Gene Karpinski, the head of U.S. PIRG, the Washington lobbying office for state Public Interest Research Groups, said: "This bill deserves to be vetoed, not celebrated. It contains far too many unacceptable anti-environmental provisions that will weaken public health provisions and plunder public resources."

The Administration accepted a one-year delay in new regulations governing mining on public land, the second such delay. It accepted a provision to make it easier for ranchers to renew grazing permits on public lands without comprehensive environmental reviews. And it accepted a delay in the schedule for phasing out methyl bromide, a farm pesticide that damages the atmosphere's protective ozone layer.

But Congress removed proposals that would have required an 18 percent increase in timber harvests on national forests, required the Forest Service to cut down trees before setting fires to clear underbrush, delayed revisions to forest management plans and put off work to remove logging roads from forests.

After intense negotiations with the power-

ful Alaskan delegation, the Forest Service agreed to increase by \$12.5 million its spending on timber sales in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, increasing the supply of timber 25 percent above targets and encouraging the Louisiana Pacific Corporation to build a mill in the region. In exchange, the Alaskans dropped other provisions that would have increased logging even more.

The Administration also agreed to spend \$37.5 million on a medical clinic, airport improvements and a possible road and ferry system to help residents of the remote fishing village of King Cove, Alaska. In exchange, the Alaskans dropped their plan to build a road to the town on a route that would have crossed a wilderness area of the Izembek Wildlife Refuge.

Congress agreed to increase spending on the President's clean water proposals, including controls on polluted runoff from farms, to \$1.7 billion, \$150 million more than Congress had proposed.

Spending from the Federal trust fund that pays for land acquisition would increase to \$325 million, \$55 million more than last year.

And spending for energy related research programs intended to stave off global warming by reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases from burning carbon fuels would total slightly more than \$1 billion, \$120 million more than Congress had proposed but less than the Administration's request for \$1.3 billion.

Disputes over the management of salmon in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest were resolved mainly in the Administration's favor.

JOHN H. CUSHMAN Jr.

Editorial

The New York Times
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October 16, 1998

Congress Staggers Home

After three weeks of partisan bickering and four emergency budget extensions to keep the Government running, Congress reached final agreement yesterday on a \$500 billion spending package. The awkward and furtive way in which it crawled to the finish line will do nothing to improve its image with the voters, who already hold Congress in much lower esteem than they do the President. Indeed, if there was any winner at all in this inglorious endgame, it was Bill Clinton, who demonstrated that even an embattled President can wield considerable power, especially when his poll numbers are climbing while Congress's sag.

The President's negotiators prevailed on several important issues. He achieved \$18 billion in new financing for the International Monetary Fund. He won the centerpiece of his education agenda, \$1.1 billion to hire and train 100,000 new teachers to reduce classroom sizes in inner cities and rural areas, although Republicans denied him money to rebuild crumbling schools.

On environmental matters, the White House blocked or softened the worst of more than two dozen destructive riders that Western Republicans tried to sneak through in the final budget package. The Administration gave ground on some amendments of importance to environmentalists, but it beat back three riders that would have greatly accelerated logging throughout the national forest system and two that would have disrupted efforts to restore salmon runs and protect watersheds throughout the Pacific Northwest.

As the weary legislators head home to campaign, both parties will claim victory. The Democrats will talk about education, aid to farmers and their success in resisting extravagant tax cuts. The Republicans will take credit for new money to fight illegal drugs and improve military readiness.

On the two most sensitive political issues, the Democrats are happy to have won contraceptive benefits for nine million workers covered by Federal health plans. The Republicans are happy to have postponed a decision on whether to use sophisticated sampling techniques in the 2000 census, techniques they fear will hurt them politically.

But all this is meager compared with what might have been -- comprehensive tobacco legislation, a patients' bill of medical rights and, not least, campaign finance reform.



Crime

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October 16, 1998

THE OVERVIEW

Budget Accord Is Reached, Saving a Federal Surplus; Both Sides Claim a Victory

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By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton and Congress reached agreement Thursday on the final portion of the nation's \$1.7-trillion budget, the first in three decades brought forth with a surplus and one that offers the biggest peacetime increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was President in 1985.

Both sides quickly claimed victory, and complimented each other, on a compromise hammered out 19 days before Election Day that avoided a confrontational Government shutdown. Aides are to translate the agreement into legislative language overnight and both houses are expected to pass it on Friday, when many lawmakers dash home to campaign.

Thursday's final \$500 billion piece of the package, and an accompanying change purse with \$20 billion for what lawmakers called emergencies, provides for a vast array of activities, from the local to the global.

These include steps to begin hiring 100,000 elementary schoolteachers over seven years, as well as relief for farmers and a whopping \$820 million increase above President Clinton's request of \$1.2 billion for unspecified basic medical research at the National Institutes of Health.

It also provides money for American peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, tightening security at United States embassies around the world and shoring up the depleted reserves of the International Monetary Fund.

And it restores \$35 million in food, oil and other aid sought by the Administration for North Korea in exchange for that government's limiting its nuclear weapons program.

The bill adds money for the nation to develop a plan to combat bioterrorism. And because of the killing of two Capitol Hill police officers earlier this year, it provides \$200 million to develop a visitor center to more easily control entry into the Capitol and a tightening of security at the Capitol and the Library of Congress.

The package also produced new policy. Federal health plans will now be required to provide contraceptive coverage for Federal workers. But in a concession to conservatives, the handful of Government plans with religious affiliations can exempt themselves from this requirement on religious grounds. In addition, individual doctors and nurses can refuse to provide contraceptives on moral grounds.

The agreement also delayed for a year a regulation that would have distributed transplant organs on a national basis to the sickest patients, as the Administration has proposed. The decision keeps the organs under regional control.

Negotiators also agreed to sidestep a thorny problem involving back dues to the United Nations. Representative Christopher H. Smith, a New Jersey Republican who is a strong opponent of abortion, has insisted that the Government withhold its dues to the United Nations as long as it provides grants to international family planning organizations that lobby other countries to make abortion legal.

Because Clinton has threatened to veto any measure that contains the anti-abortion provision, negotiators took these two measures out of the final omnibus package and put them in a separate bill that they will send to Clinton later.

Perhaps the biggest victory went to the President, who demonstrated his power to influence Congress even as Congress considers whether to impeach him. He set the terms of the public debate on the budget, plucking it from the hearing rooms of the Capitol where it had been thrashed out in relative obscurity over the last several months and airing it in the nation's living rooms in the last week by talking about new teachers.

"Just think what we could do for America if we had these priorities all year long, instead of just for eight days," the President said at a news conference this afternoon.

Republicans won some issues, like more military spending and blocking the President's plan for new school construction. But they failed on their signature issue, which was a tax cut in a year with what may be a \$70 billion surplus. Their biggest achievement may have been their ability to get out of town without drawing blame for disrupting the Government.

Summing up the feelings of many of his colleagues, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the majority leader, said: "I'm glad we brought it to a conclusion without an unnecessary, uncalled-for and shouldn't-have-been-threatened shutdown. We got our work done."

Speaker Newt Gingrich, in recapping Republican victories, essentially ceded

dominance to the President by hailing first the agreement to provide more than \$1 billion down payment to hire 100,000 teachers -- a Clinton proposal. Republicans won the caveat that local school districts could use the money to hire special education teachers.

Republicans' biggest spending gains came in military aid, a priority highlighted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who recently said the country was \$15 billion short on a proper level of financing. Today's agreement provides more than \$9 billion, some of it classified, much of it for extra equipment.

Gingrich, who once argued in a metaphor for reduced military spending that the Pentagon should be reduced to a triangle, said today that with problems in Bosnia, Iraq and North Korea, the increase was necessary for America "to lead the world."

The final bill provides money for a helicopter carrier to be built by Litton Industries in a shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., Lott's hometown, and for cargo planes built by Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Ga., home of Gingrich. The bill also provides \$90 million for helicopters for the nation of Colombia to help crack down on illegal drug trafficking.

Like President Clinton, the Republicans argued that they had protected the surplus, even though Democrats say Republicans wanted to spend it on a tax cut and Republicans say the President, who has said it should go toward saving Social Security, is spending it on "emergencies" that are not true emergencies.

As Representative Dick Armey of Texas, the House majority leader, put it. "I can tell you, and Mrs. America, for the most part, your surplus is still intact."

Looking ahead to a substantial gain of Republicans in the House in the November elections, Armey added: "And next year when we come back, we can begin the process of using that surplus as we should -- to restore and guarantee retirement security for all Americans and at the same time get tax reductions."

Compromise was the order of the day. This was evident in the environmental provisions over which the President had issued vague veto threats. But about half of the provisions he objected to remained in the final bill, leaving some environmentalists grumbling over provisions that would allow more logging in Alaska, laxer grazing permits and a continuation of ozone-depleting pesticides that damage the atmosphere.

→ "The negotiations were very, very hard fought," said Kathleen McGinty, the head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, who negotiated for the Administration on the environmental provisions. "When they throw enough bad riders at you, some of them are going to stick. Of course that is their strategy, because there is no way we could fight off every single one. But we succeeded in stripping out the most pernicious of them."

Compromise was also evident in the Republican Congress's continued attempts to use the District of Columbia as a social laboratory. The final package bans the District from using its own money for a needle-exchange program. But it dropped two other Republican-backed proposals, one to bar adoptions by gay couples and another to provide vouchers for public school students to attend private schools.

As in any negotiations, what was omitted was as important to some members as what was included. Both sides gave way on several contentious issues in the

final hours. Blocked from the final package was a bill passed by both houses but disliked by the Administration that would have overhauled the bankruptcy system for the first time in a generation. But they did extend for six months special bankruptcy provisions for farmers.

They excluded a measure pushed by conservatives to block doctors from helping people who are terminally ill to kill themselves. Also blocked was a proposal by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas, to let states keep all the money from Medicaid-related tobacco settlements, even though the Federal Government pays half of all Medicaid costs.

Earlier in the process, negotiators tossed out a provision that would have barred the Food and Drug Administration from evaluating drugs that cause abortions, like the French pill RU-486. They prohibited a nude beach at the Cape Canaveral National Seashore in Florida.

One of the last items to be ironed out was a difference over restricting pornography on the Internet. The Administration was concerned that restrictions would infringe on freedom of speech, but Republicans were prepared to use the issue to cast Democrats as dangerously permissive.

Representative David McIntosh, Republican of Indiana, said the Administration's position was absurd, given that Clinton had been "in the news for phone sex" with Monica S. Lewinsky, the White House intern who set the impeachment process in motion. Clinton negotiators backed down but civil liberties groups said they would challenge the provision in court.

On the census, a major issue of prime importance to both political parties, the two sides agreed to postpone any action until June 15.

On the matter of dues for the United Nations, negotiators put that in a separate bill since Clinton has vowed to veto it because of the companion measure that bars grants for groups lobbying for abortion overseas.

The bill compromised on aid to farmers, allotting about \$6 billion over five years in tax relief and extra payments. Democrats had sought \$7 billion.

At the last minute, both sides larded up the spending package that is set aside for "emergencies." It included scores of water and energy projects in Congressional districts across the country.



The Economy

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Funds to avert global warming

By Patrice Hill
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Republican leaders included in the massive budget bill \$193 million for a global environmental fund that the White House uses in part to coax Third World nations to join the global-warming treaty.

The surprise move to boost funding fourfold for the World Bank fund angered GOP conservatives while heartening environmentalists and the Clinton administration as they prepare for a critical second round of negotiations to hash out details of the treaty in Buenos Aires next month.

"This is to advance a treaty that the administration does not have the guts to send to this body to debate because they know it would be defeated," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, Nebraska Republican, a leading opponent of the treaty in the Senate.

Mr. Hagel noted that the Senate rejected any increase for the environmental fund earlier this year, while the House actually cut the fund's \$47 million appropriation in its environmental-spending bill.

Yet a huge boost for the fund was included in the \$500 billion spending compromise that Congress passed and President Clinton signed yesterday.

"How did something like this get into this bill?" asked Mr. Hagel, one of the few senators to vote against the budget compromise. He answered his own question: "Through the back door."

The administration was surprised and delighted by the GOP concession.

The money can be used for Third World projects aimed at conserving energy, preserving biodiversity and protecting the oceans.

"We can't tie it to any specific outcome," Mr. Pomerance said, but it will further both the administration's and Congress' goal of getting developing nations to participate in the treaty.

"We are in a much better position to say we are doing what we said we would do" when the administration signed onto the treaty in Kyoto, Japan, last year, he said.

Another Clinton official, speaking on the condition of anonymity,

said the White House had not expected the GOP budget negotiators — Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Mississippi Republican, and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Georgia Republican — to concede the big increase in funding.

Republicans all year have attacked the treaty. In a rare environmental win, they forced the administration to back away from tentative plans to start carrying out by including language in the budget compromise barring the administration from using its executive authorities to do so.

"We don't know why the congressional negotiators, in particular Lott, decided to give in on this," said the Clinton aide. "They were from saying we couldn't even discuss plans to implement the treaty to giving us \$200 million for it. It was a major environmental victory for the administration."

Environmentalists said that funding increase will be useful in prodding Third World countries to join the treaty — meeting a key demand of congressional treaty opponents.

Developing countries so far

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Democrats against

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Not voting

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Associated Press

The Washington Times

BUDGET

From page A1

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More Republicans than Democrats voted against the bill, but a bipartisan majority in the Senate held their noses with one hand, grabbed the cash with the other

to keep the government running.

"I voted to do the responsible thing," said Sen. Tim Johnson, South Dakota Democrat. "There will be no federal shutdown."

Sen. Tom Harkin, Iowa Democrat, told reporters after the vote he "held his nose" and voted yes. A statement released from his office an hour later included no reserva-



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"The spending bills were kept to a dull roar under Republican leadership," said Sen. Richard G. Lugar, Indiana Republican.

Republican moderates, meanwhile, say they managed to soften the anti-environment stigma that the GOP suffered in the more acrimonious 104th Congress.

"We managed to resist the temptation to eviscerate environmental laws," Mr. Boehlert said.

Sen. John H. Chafee, Rhode Island Republican and chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, points to a series of environmental measures, including new laws to strengthen protections for dolphins, elephants and tropical forests.

"Even a cursory glance at the long list of bills that became law or were adopted by the Senate demonstrates that action triumphed over gridlock," he said in a term-ending press release.

Republicans also point to their education initiatives, including changes to student loan programs, improvements in the Head Start early education program, and increased special education money for local governments.

But the GOP also suffered its share of defeats, particularly on social issues. The Senate, for example, killed a bill to strengthen parental consent abortion laws nationwide and narrowly failed to override the president's veto of a partial-birth abortion ban.

Also, the House killed a constitutional amendment to strengthen religious liberties, and the Senate rejected an amendment to require balanced budget every year.

Congressional Republicans also failed to agree on a way to provide a large tax cut using part of the federal budget surplus.

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an leaders included in the budget bill \$193 million for global environmental programs. The White House uses in Third World nations to avert global-warming treaty. The surprise move to boost the budget for the World Bank and the Clinton administration's heartening environmental programs they prepare for a second round of negotiations. Details of the treaty will be discussed in Buenos Aires next month. The administration does not have a plan to send to this body to use they know it would be rejected," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, a Republican, a proponent of the treaty in the Senate. The funding increase for the environment earlier this year, the House actually cut the billion appropriation in the environmental-spending bill.

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Environmentalists said the funding increase will be useful in prodding Third World countries to join the treaty — meeting a key demand of congressional treaty opponents.

Developing countries so far

have rejected demands by the United States that they submit to mandatory cuts in energy use as industrialized countries are required to do under the treaty.

"It will help improve the tone of discussions in Buenos Aires by putting more money on the table for clean projects" that cut energy use and emissions in the Third World, said Alden Meyer, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"It's a tool for prodding, but there's no quid pro quo, like 'we'll give you this money if you agree to participate in the treaty,'" he said.

"I don't think it's going to tip the scale on whether or not they take on binding targets" like those requiring the United States, Europe, Japan and other developed countries to substantially cut emissions below 1990 levels, he said.

The funding provided by Congress is dwarfed by the \$8 billion a year the World Bank spends on energy projects, he said, and the even greater amount of private lending for power projects in the Third World.

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- Yea**
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 - Ariz.: Kyl, Ariz.;
 - Ark.: Hutchinson, Ark.;
 - Calif.: Brownback, Kan.; Burns, Mont.;
 - Conn.: Coverdell, Ga.;
 - Del.: Biden, Del.;
 - D.C.: Lott, Miss.; Mack, Fla.; McConnell, Ky.; Roberts, Kan.; Roth, Va.;
 - Fla.: Mack, Fla.;
 - Idaho: Lott, Miss.;
 - Iowa: Harkin, Iowa; Johnson, S.D.; Kennedy, Mass.; Landrieu, La.; Lautenberg, N.J.; Leahy, Vt.; Lieberman, Conn.; Moseley-Braun, Ill.; Murray, Wash.; Reed, R.I.; Robb, Va.; Rockefeller, N.Y.;
 - Kan.: Roberts, Kan.;
 - Kent.: Torricelli, N.J.; Wyden, Ore.
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Mich.: Ashcroft, Mo.; Coats, Ind.; Collins, Maine; Enzi, Wyo.; Gramm, Texas; Harkin, Iowa; Hagel, Neb.; Inhofe, Okla.; Kyl, Ariz.; Lugar, Ind.; Nickles, Okla.; Santorum, Pa.; Sessions, Ala.; Smith, N.H.; Snowe, R.I.; Thomas, Pa.; Thomas, Wyo.

Ans against

Mich.: Byrd, W.Va.; Feingold, Wis.; Kerrey, Neb.; Kohl, Wis.; Levin, Mich.; N.Y.; Reid, Nev.; Wellstone, Minn.

15 Bumpers, Ark.; Glenn, Ohio; Hollings, S.C.; Inouye, Hawaii; Republicans: Murkowski, Alaska.

The Washington Times



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publicans than Demo-
against the bill, but a
majority in the Senate

to keep the government running.

"I voted to do the responsible thing," said Sen. Tim Johnson, South Dakota Democrat. "There will be no federal shutdown."

Sen. Tom Harkin, Iowa Democrat, told reporters after the vote he "held his nose" and voted yes. A statement released from his office

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NCIA

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Man with a key to defusing
the millennium bomb
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Senate resists \$6.3bn funds to fight global warming

Opposition to Clinton package could
spark fierce protests around the world

By Leyla Boulton,
Environment Correspondent

President Bill Clinton is unlikely to secure the \$6.3bn he has sought from Congress to fund a US package to lead a global fight against climate change, according to an administration document and US officials.

Details of the internal document, made available to the Financial Times, show plans drawn up by the Senate do not allow for funding a programme to promote new technologies reducing greenhouse gases linked with global warming.

A failure to provide tax incentives and subsidies for more efficient fossil fuel use and renewable energy sources would almost certainly spark fierce protests around the world.

According to the document, the White House's Office of Management and Budget has concluded it is "safe to assume that the Senate resolution does not provide the necessary support for this important initiative". It says the Senate's response would not allow the government to fund the package "without seriously jeopardising other critical programmes".

The House of Representatives, which like the Senate has already expressed hostility to the international greenhouse gas emission curbs negotiated last December in Kyoto, will come up with its own budget blueprint for 1999. The final budget will be negotiated with the White House.

The package is seen by the White House as essential for reducing US emissions cost effectively and for securing concerted international action.

"This makes our life miserable," said one administration official of the Senate's current stance. "It means that our efforts to advance domestically will slow down to the point where attempts to advance internation-

ally are going to be that much more difficult."

Anna Lindh, Sweden's environment minister, said that any failure by Congress to release the funds would be "alarming".

She said Sweden was spending SKr9bn (\$1.16bn) to promote energy efficiency, even though it was much smaller and generated only one-third of US per capita emissions.

"If the rest of the world is to take this problem seriously, it is very important that the US, the biggest emitter, should take it seriously," she said.

Joe Romm, a senior Department of Energy official, said the programme was the most cost-effective way for the US, the world's single biggest source of greenhouse gases, to meet its own 7 per cent emissions reductions target, agreed at Kyoto.

The programme is also necessary to convince fast-growing developing nations such as China and India to take action of their own. This in turn is a condition for the Senate to ratify the Kyoto treaty, which committed only developed countries to legally binding targets for reducing emissions by 2010.

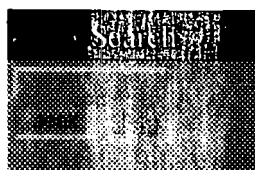
Mr Romm, whose department would distribute the subsidy part of any package, still expressed hope that Mr Clinton and vice-president Al Gore would manage to salvage a large part of the programme in the "end-game" of budget negotiations later this year.

Other officials said, however, that the department was being naive. "I would be surprised if we get even half the money," said one. Mr Clinton's criticism of the Senate resolution did not even mention climate change but focused instead on more important priorities such as Medicare and education.

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Environmental Protection Differences Highlight Spending Bills

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Two major spending bills before the House are setting the stage for another confrontation between Congress and the administration over protecting the environment -- and the idea is to see who blinks first.

The House was expected today to approve a \$13.4 billion bill to fund the Interior Department and then take up another bill that provides money for the Environmental Protection Agency and other environmental programs. Both bills contain what Vice President Al Gore calls "anti-environmental riders" that could make them subject to a presidential veto.

The Interior legislation rejects a request from the administration for sharp increases in spending for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy technology research.

Energy efficiency programs would get \$632 million, about \$200 million less than what Clinton had wanted. The shortfall would have been more had not lawmakers agreed Wednesday to add \$45 million for energy efficiency.

While the bill would boost overall spending for operating national parks, it ignores another one of the administration's environmental priorities: an aggressive campaign to purchase selected parcels of land for Acadia National Park in Maine to the historic Baca Ranch in the Southwest and additions to Florida's Everglades National Park.

Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, the Interior spending bill's floor leader, said the money is better spent for maintenance and other park programs. As a result, the administration's \$270 million requests for public land purchases was cut in half and \$362 million approved last year has not been released.

The bill would scrap a six-state Columbia River ecosystem management program in the Northwest. Critics call it a failure that infringes on property rights and local rule. Supporters say the program is essential to protect natural resources and species,

including the salmon. Administration officials say a veto is likely if language killing the program remains in the bill.

Other provisions prompting controversy:

- Disagreement over spending for endangered species protection.
- The administration wanted an additional \$36 million, but got little
- of it. Without the money it won't be able to pursue 16 of 45
- "habitat conservation" agreements, Interior officials say.
- A shortfall in what the administration wanted for Interior and
- Forest Service clean water programs. It wanted a \$128 million
- increase, but got little of that money.
- Increases in timber sales over what the administration sought.
- A mandate for a road easement across the Chugach National
- Forest in Alaska that would prevent the federal government from
- imposing safeguards for environmental protection.

Regula defended the spending levels. He said, for example, if the administration were to get all the energy efficiency money it wanted, spending for other programs would have to be cut. "It's a matter of balance," he said. Instead of money for new land purchases, Regula thinks the money ought to go for increased park maintenance.

Meanwhile, a separate EPA spending bill has prompted even greater outcry from the administration because it would impose restrictions on spending for programs addressing climate change -- mainly for efficiency programs and research to spur into renewable energy technology.

The bill would increase EPA spending \$60 million to \$7.4 billion. But it falls \$368 million short of what the administration had sought, largely because of less money for Superfund toxic waste cleanup.

Most controversial, the bill would bar money from being spent on activities related to the global warming agreement reached in Kyoto last December until the treaty comes before Congress. And it would prevent the EPA from promoting the climate debate.

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POLITICS & POLICY

House GOP Slashes Clinton's Budget Requests

By DAVID ROGERS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WASHINGTON—From climate change to the Pacific salmon, President Clinton's environmental initiatives are taking a beating under back-to-back House spending bills for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department.

The Republican leadership pressed to complete debate on the \$13.4 billion Interior measure last night. The \$7.4 billion EPA budget is part of a larger \$93.3 billion bill that the GOP is slated to take up next and anticipates passing today.

Mr. Clinton is promised less than half the \$205 million he requested for EPA climate-change programs encouraging private investment in new energy-conservation technologies. He would get none of the \$600 million-plus increase he wants to clean up toxic-waste dumps and contaminated industrial sites. Land and water conservation funding—to buy up and protect environmentally sensitive properties—would be about half the \$270 million sought for the Interior Department. On a narrow 221-203 vote, the House rejected efforts to add back just \$30 million.

Strict spending caps imposed by last year's balanced-budget agreement explain some of the decisions. But going into the fall elections, Republicans are attaching legislative riders to restrict clean-air regulators and influence Western land management.

Auto industry allies have added language to curb the EPA's ability to develop regulations in anticipation of ratification of last winter's Kyoto Protocol on global climate change. In the Pacific Northwest, Republicans want to end the ambitious Columbia River Basin ecosystem study even as it is nearing a final report that, supporters assert, is pivotal to planning for the threatened salmon.

Leading the charge is GOP Rep. George Nethercutt of Washington, whose predecessor, former House Speaker Thomas Foley, helped begin the study five years ago. The issue touched off an angry floor fight and has provoked a veto threat. Western Republicans argue that the seven-state, interagency study has become a symbol of a

massive federal "one-size-fits-all" approach to environmental planning. The administration and its supporters argue that to throw the scientific work "overboard" now is to invite a court struggle akin to past fights over another endangered species, the spotted owl.

"To do so is to stick our heads in the sand," warned Democratic Rep. George Miller of California. "The science here is valid. Even the critics admit that."

Amid the fights now, Republican moderates complain that the administration—and its chief environmental spokesman, Vice President Al Gore—haven't lived up to their own rhetoric on environmental issues. "He is playing it very cautious," said Republican Rep. Sherwood Boehlert of New York of Mr. Gore, who is positioning himself to run for president in 2000. But Katie McGinty, who heads the White House council on environmental quality, said it was a "stretch" to fault the vice president for what are clear divisions in the GOP.

Republicans are "carving major loopholes in our environmental laws," she complained, and the battles echo of similar fights in the year after the 1994 GOP takeover of Congress. The budget cuts themselves are less severe, and in most cases lawmakers are simply denying Mr. Clinton increases and not cutting funds below current levels.

But Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia has encouraged a more confrontational tone in anticipation of striking a "big deal" with the White House before Congress adjourns for the elections.

In this context, the environmental debate now fits into what has become a concerted GOP strategy of staging fights for a massive political confrontation in September. The White House already has issued a flat veto warning against a House bill mak-

ing deep cuts in summer-jobs funding and fuel assistance for the poor.

A second standoff is brewing over funding for the pending census. This week, the House Appropriation's Committee abruptly put off action on the Treasury's \$17.9 billion request for the International Monetary Fund; that, too, will come up in September and give Mr. Gingrich what he hopes will be another bargaining chip.

In the case of the IMF, Democrats complain that the GOP is taking undue risks amid the Asian and now Russian economic crises. And Mr. Gingrich concedes that the "big deal" he seeks in budget and tax priorities isn't at all certain. Politically, the speaker appears to have less leeway within his own party. And the upshot could be a six-month funding resolution to keep the government operating until a new Congress convenes next year.

Senate Panel Rejects Jones For Air Force Secretary Post

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON—President Clinton's nomination of Daryl Jones to be secretary of the Air Force was killed by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

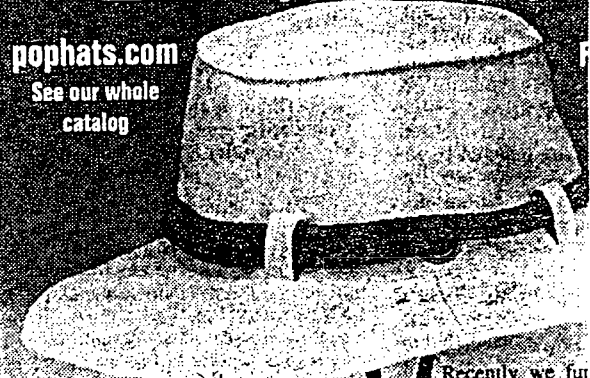
Mr. Jones, a Florida state senator and former fighter pilot, would have been the first black to serve as the civilian overseer of the Air Force. But his nomination had been in trouble ever since it was announced by the White House in October.

Among other things, members of the Air Force raised questions about his safety record as an Air Force Reserve pilot. The White House was "disappointed" by the Senate panel's move, presidential spokesman Michael McCurry said.

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House GOP Measures Over Managed Care