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SUBJECT: Politics This Week April 18th - April 24th 1998

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TEXT:

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Israel at 50: Arabs and Jews have been fighting for half a century, but

the conflict has changed \* America's Latinos \* What Asian countries must

do to avoid becoming the world's next unemployment blackspot \* Electronic

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Northern Ireland's peace deal still leaves many crucial questions

unanswered

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## CHINESE WRINKLES

+ Wang Dan, a leader of the student protest that ended in the Tiananmen

massacre in 1989, was freed from jail on medical grounds and allowed

to

leave for the United States. But suggestions that the government is

becoming more tolerant of China's political opposition were discounted.

+ Negotiators from China and Taiwan met in Beijing for the first time in

33 months. The mainland Chinese had broken off talks after the

president of Taiwan, which China says is a rebel province, was allowed

to visit the United States.

+ Bill Richardson, the most senior American official to visit  
Afghanistan

in more than 20 years, secured a ceasefire in the civil war and the

promise of peace talks.

ULSTER, NOW ISRAEL?

+ Tony Blair, Britain's prime minister, toured the Middle East,

representing the European Union. During his visit to Israel and Gaza,

it was arranged that Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat would go to

London on May 4th for (separate) talks with Madeleine Albright,

America's secretary of state, to get the peace effort going again.

+ A secret agreement between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton for Britain to

reprocess a small quantity of nuclear waste from the former Soviet

Union enraged British environmentalists.

+ A report by the UN's weapons inspectors charged with Iraqi disarmament

showed that their investigations, especially into biological weapons,

are far from complete. Iraq's deputy prime minister accused America  
and

Britain of using "mercenaries" as weapons inspectors.

+ Security forces in Yemen cordoned off an area where tribesmen are

holding a British family hostage. The kidnappers want roads and

electricity in their region.

+ A former French prime minister, Edouard Balladur, and several of his

ministers, defended French actions in Rwanda in 1994 before a

parliamentary commission of inquiry in Paris. They denied complicity

in

the genocide, saying they had tried to stop it. For its part, Rwanda

was poised to execute more than 20 people whose pleas for clemency it

had rejected.

+ The presidential election that Nigeria is to hold on August 1st was

turned into a referendum on General Sani Abacha, the current ruler,

when all of the five political parties allowed to take part adopted  
the

general as their candidate.

#### NATO ADVANCES

+ Austria's president, Thomas Klestil, a (non-party) conservative who

favours NATO membership, won a second six-year term.

+ As Serbia organised a vote designed to preclude foreign mediation in

its province of Kosovo, NATO sent a team to Albania to help it find

ways of preventing the crisis from spilling across its borders.

## Reports

surfaced of border clashes between Serbian troops and armed

infiltrators from Albania.

+ The Red Army Fraction, a German radical group that planted bombs and

assassinated businessmen and politicians during the 1970s and 1980s,

said it had disbanded.

+ A Croatian court acquitted a journalist of libelling the government.

The entire cabinet had sued him for quoting a report that had alleged

the government was corrupt.

+ Forza Italia, a four-year-old conservative party, held its first

Congress and elected as its leader the party's founder, Silvio

Berlusconi, a media mogul and ex-prime minister.

+ France's parliament voted in favour of taking part in Europe's single

currency, by 334 votes to 49.

+ Charles Millon, president of the French region Rhone-Alpes, founded a

right-wing party after the conservative UDF expelled him for co-

operating with the xenophobic National Front.

+ A Turkish court sentenced the mayor of Istanbul to ten months in jail

for making a vehemently Islamist speech.

+ Armenia's recently elected president, Robert Kocharian, appointed a

government likely to push radical economic reforms.

+ Constantine Karamanlis, a former prime minister and president of  
Greece,

has died. He helped restore democracy in 1974.

## AMERICANS UNITE

+ Despite Bill Clinton's lack of fast-track authority to hustle trade

deals through Congress, the 34-country Summit of the Americas in

Santiago launched negotiations aimed at pan-American free trade, and

promised a big push on education. It also opened the way to

multilateral judging of anti-drug efforts.

+ A federal jury in Chicago found that two prominent anti-abortion groups

had broken racketeering laws by directing protesters to use violence

against clinics.

+ The grand old man of Mexican letters, Octavio Paz, a Nobel prize winner,

died.

+ The UN Human Rights Commission declined this year to condemn Cuba.

Latin America mostly abstained; Europe mostly joined the United States

in censuring Cuba. So did Canada -- though its prime minister, Jean

Chretien, is about to pay an official visit to Cuba.

+ Colombia's best-known human-rights lawyer was murdered -- by

paramilitary thugs, said public opinion.

+ Paraguay's highest court confirmed a ten-year sentence for his not-

quite coup in 1996 on (now ex-) General Lino Oviedo, front-runner in

the presidential election due on May 10th. The electoral court then

declared him ineligible for the presidency.

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CREATOR: USIA\_Media\_Reaction ( USIA\_Media\_Reaction@notes1.usia.gov@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-MAY-1998 07:50:00.00

SUBJECT: Early Report 5/26: INDONESIA, IRELAND

TO: Doris O. Matsui ( Doris O. Matsui@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

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TEXT:

Foreign media commentators diverged in their assessments of Indonesian President Habibie's calls for widespread reforms and elections before his term expires in 2003, and worries continued about the role of the military and the prospects for economic recovery. A majority of pundits in Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Germany judged that the new government was "off to a good start" and that "President Habibie is moving in the right direction." Other analysts in Indonesia and Russia, however, argued that President Habibie "obviously lacks the potential" to undertake necessary reforms and predicted that "Habibie is unlikely to stay long in the presidential chair, his credibility with voters seriously damaged by his many-year friendship with Soeharto." Commentators in Nepal, Thailand and South Korea worried about what they saw as the increasingly pivotal role of the armed forces, with Seoul's conservative Segye Ilbo fretting that "if political reforms and democratization do not take place as expected, it will pave the way for a military takeover." Papers in Singapore and Germany argued that the "test" for President Habibie will be whether his government "will welcome foreign direct investments" and thus "regain the confidence of international donors."

IRISH REFERENDA: CONGRATULATIONS TEMPERED WITH CAUTION

A number of observers in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa commented on the referenda vote last Friday in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, which resulted in a resounding "yes" for the peace accord previously agreed to among negotiators. Opinionmakers were congratulatory, saying that the Irish people should be "commended for their courage and vision." They also acknowledged "the help of outsiders," such as British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President Bill Clinton, "whose efforts have been crucial to helping bring about the all-Ireland vote for peace." Many writers emphasized that the peace process, by dint of the vote last Friday, has now been "legitimized" by all sides to the conflict, and that the "momentum of peace" will be difficult to overturn. But most analysts went on to urge caution. Johannesburg's independent Business Day, for example, said: "It is too early for rejoicing. The settlement...is so complex and harbors so many potential stumbling blocks, that it could yet founder on the intransigence of minorities on either side of the divide." In Israel, media dwelled on perceived similarities and differences between the troubles in Ireland and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Mass-appeal, populist Maariv glumly noted that "one thing is for certain: the Irish have taken...an important step towards the longed-for peace, while it is increasingly becoming more remote in this region." There was no available editorial comment from Ireland or Britain this morning.

## BRIEFS

- Gingrich And Jerusalem
- South Asia: Will Pakistan Test The Next Bomb?
- International Trade: World Globalization, U.S. Agenda

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely, Bill Richey and Diana McCaffrey

## INDONESIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT: 'BREAKING WITH THE PAST'?

### INDONESIA: "Mere Window Dressing"

The leading, independent English-language Jakarta Post commented (5/26):

"Judging by those he chose for his cabinet, one could easily jump to the conclusion that Habibie is working in the shadow of the former president, who he used to call 'my political professor.'... Meanwhile, promising a general election without fixing a date could be a political trick, which would open the way to further uncertainty. On the other hand, if a poll is held within six months the government could face a lot of difficulties, and it would only give birth to a defective democracy.... Ultimately, this country could do with a new attitude, but tragically it is the bureaucracy which needs the overhaul. Unfortunately, it appears to have little interest in such a vast change. Habibie should at least do some heavy soul-searching, and abandon the old political culture and embrace a new one by, for example, shaking up his cabinet and firing all of Soeharto's errand boys and other suspect personalities. We are sorry to say, but Habibie obviously lacks the potential to do it. It is understandable that as things stand now, many people want Habibie to quit because expecting him to implement total reform is just thinking the unthinkable."

"Breaking With The Past"

The government-oriented, English-language Indonesian Observer held (5/26):

"Clearly, the present government is off to a good start by making the right decisions in a timely manner and this will endear parties such as multilateral financial bodies and pro-democracy forces. While the current euphoria may end as soon as it started, given the volatile nature of Indonesian politics, one is nevertheless left with the impression that the nation is on the right course."

### "Multi-Party System"

Muslim-intellectual Republika had this editorial (5/26): "We do not want to experience the two extreme cases again. First, the unstable pre-Soeharto administration which did not give any chance for development because of its too 'liberal' party system. And the second extreme, the too restrictive limitations on the party system during the Soeharto era, since the 1970s. Now we are trying to develop all over again. The bitter experiences that we had during the 53 years of the republic should not be repeated. We need freedom, but can we get there in one step? We have to be smart in reform so that we do not stumble again."

### SINGAPORE: "Habibie's Right Moves"

The pro-government Business Times had this editorial (5/26): "The key to Indonesia's recovery from the trauma of the past few weeks has to do with that elusive thing called confidence. So far, in the first few days of his administration, Dr. Habibie has done all the right things. But the test will be the priority he places on investor confidence--in particular

whether the government will welcome foreign direct investments as well as portfolio investments."

#### SOUTH KOREA: "Broad Reform Expected"

Independent Hankyoreh Shinmun (5/26) commented: "Indonesia is expected to pursue broad reform. The government's announcement of early elections and its professed intention to release political prisoners are the first signs of that.... Being politically fragile, the Habibie administration had no choice but to agree to hold early elections.... These measures may indicate the early emergence of Commander Wiranto as the nation's political leader. The first test for the country is whether elections can be held in six months."

#### "Signs of Democracy Are Seen Quickly"

Conservative Segye Ilbo (5/26) commented: "Military leaders must have realized that the people's demand for cleaning up Soeharto's legacy could no longer be repressed.... If political reforms and democratization do not take place as expected, it will pave the way for a military takeover."

#### THAILAND: "East Timor Will Expose Habibie's True Colors"

The lead editorial of the independent, English language Nation commented (5/24), "For new President B.J. Habibie, [East Timor] will also be a test

of loyalties. How he broaches the issue will signal whether his fealty remains with his patron of 50 years or with the democracy he has promised to usher into Indonesia. If Habibie is to be more than a puppet for the Soeharto clan he can start by immediately releasing the political prisoners held by Jakarta."

#### "Habibie's Hands Are Tied"

An analysis by the foreign news desk of largest circulation Thai Rath commented (5/24), "Habibie's hands are tied.... While being urged to move quickly with the economic and political reform...in order to restore foreign investors' confidence, he must also tread carefully so as not to do anything to affect the armed forces' and the Soehartos' interests."

#### GERMANY: "First Steps"

Wolfgang Guenter Lerch had this to say in an editorial in right-of-center Frankfurter Allgemeine (5/26): "In Indonesia, new President Habibie is carefully beginning the liquidation of the Soeharto era. His announcement of early elections within a year is an important step, as is the release of the first dissidents and political prisoners. His plan to 'disentangle' the assets, illegally acquired by the Soeharto clan, should also reassure the people in Indonesia.... But the greatest task is now to stimulate Indonesia's economy without creating new unease among the people."

#### "Habibie Getting Rid Of Legacy He Inherited"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (05/26) carried this editorial:

"Habibie is a smart man who knows full well that the powerful democracy movement will reject him as Soeharto's man as long as he refuses a fresh wind of freedom to blow. Habibie is now showing how this wind can blow....

There is no doubt, with his attempts to disassociate himself from the Soeharto regime that President Habibie is moving into the right direction, but he has no other chance if he wants to get the support of the people and--this is at least as important--to regain the confidence of international donors."

RUSSIA: "Voters Don't Trust Habibie"

Konstantin Slyusarenko opined from Kuala Lumpur for centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (5/26): "Habibie is unlikely to stay long in the presidential chair, his credibility with voters seriously damaged by his many-year friendship with Soeharto."

"No Real Guarantees for Suharto"

Andrei Grachev judged in reformist weekly Moskovskiye Novosti (#20, 5/26):

"Who, apart from Soeharto himself, takes seriously the 'inviolability guarantees' Defense Minister Viranto has given him and his family with their multibillion fortune? Habibie does not stand much chance either."

NEPAL: "Army Must Be Kept Out Of Politics"

Pro-left Chhalphal (5/24) commented: "The Soeharto era has ended, but the administrative power of army generals have not been curtailed....

Because of this, even after Soeharto's exit, the possibility of the establishment of democracy in a real sense is not in sight.... Unless the army is kept out of politics, democracy in Indonesia will remain as it was during Soeharto's regime.... It is ironic that the U.S., which always praised Soeharto's repressive rule, is now shamelessly saying that Soeharto's resignation will be a positive step for Indonesia....

European and American imperialism have contributed much to the present situation in this Southeast Asian country.... If Habibie is influenced by America's sweet words, he, too, will become Soeharto."

#### IRISH REFERENDA: CONGRATULATIONS TEMPERED WITH CAUTION

BRITAIN: "SDLP Says No To Poll Deal With Sinn Fein"

The centrist Independent noted from Belfast (5/26): "The row over decommissioning (of weapons) continued yesterday when the Canadian general in charge of promoting disarmament among paramilitary groups stated it would not be enough for these groups to simply allow guns to rust in the ground.'... However, a senior member of Sinn Fein, Alex Maskey, ruled out early moves to hand over weapons. He added that, in the long run, his party was committed to a total disarmament and demilitarization of this whole society.'... President Clinton has already insisted that paramilitaries would find no friends in America if they went back to the bomb and bullet."

## GERMANY: "Momentum Is What Counts"

Business-oriented Handelsblatt of Duesseldorf stated (5/25): "It is not the political solution that counts but the momentum created by the willingness to come to an understanding. If this momentum is set in motion, it will be difficult to reverse, and it will make old enemy images obsolete."

## "Vote For Peace, But Still Some Obstacles To Be Removed"

Right-of-center Maerkische Allgemeine of Potsdam noted (5/25): "Irish voters clearly supported the peace agreement.... The Irish said that, in the future, they want to resolve their own problems not with weapons and bombs but by democratic means in a climate of peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. They also voted for an end to direct rule from London, and to govern by themselves. But there are still some obstacles that need to be removed on the path to peace. However, today the chances are much better than in the past."

## ITALY: "The Verdict Of The Young"

A front-page commentary in centrist, influential La Stampa said (5/24): "We could not have imagined a better ending. The two Irelands...approved it with an enthusiasm and a fervor that does not leave room for doubt. It is one of those rare occasions in which the voice of the people has thrust open the door to history to indicate the future."

RUSSIA: "Much Remains to Be Done"

Vladimir Lapsky commented in official government Rossiyskaya Gazeta (5/26):

"The victory of common sense in the referendum does not automatically mean the advent of tranquil, peaceful times. Much remains to be done. But extremists on both sides are now aware of the will of the majority of Ulster residents, Catholics and Protestants, who are dead tired of a bitter, and, more importantly, senseless war."

POLAND: "Heroes Are Tired"

Teresa Stylinska wrote in centrist Rzeczpospolita (5/25): "The Irishmen are tired.... The people of the island are sick of violence, but, bluntly speaking, without terror there would have been no agreement or prospect for the future.... Were it not for the IRA and its activities, nobody in London would have bothered about the discrimination the Catholics in Ulster experienced for years or cared about their national aspirations. In a sense, the terrorists from the IRA can be also regarded as the fathers of the agreement--like those who have always condemned violence. The thing is that one should know when to stop violence. And it seems that this time has come. Although the "peace agreement" does not automatically guarantee peace, it creates a chance for the peace. Now everything depends on the people of Ireland themselves."

AUSTRALIA: "Leaders In Ulster Can Now Claim Clear Mandate For Peace"

The liberal Age of Melbourne observed (5/26): "Those few nationalists who still believe that the means of Irish unity is the gun and not the ballot

box can no longer claim democratic legitimacy for their belief. That legitimacy has passed to those in both communities who are prepared to build an Ireland that is not held hostage by the ghosts of its troubled past."

#### "New Irish Politics"

The liberal Sydney Morning Herald said (5/25): "If the present climate of good will can be maintained, uncertain though it is, the new assembly and the cross-border bodies can change the nature of Ulster politics.... The help of outsiders such as the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and U.S. President Bill Clinton, whose efforts have been crucial to helping bring about the all-Ireland vote for peace, will still be crucial in these developments."

#### SOUTH AFRICA: "Too Early For Rejoicing"

The independent Business Day of Johannesburg held (5/26):

"The...referenda...have confirmed that the overwhelming majority of the island's population want peace and stability.... Nevertheless it is too early for rejoicing. The settlement...is so complex and harbors so many potential stumbling blocks, that it could yet founder on the intrasignificance of minorities on either side of the divide.... The peace agreement says that all key decisions taken by the executive...must reflect cross-community consensus. This is a fine sentiment, but turned around, it can become a veto in the hands of a minority. Equally, the process could still founder on differences over the decommissioning of weapons, the

release of prisoners and the forthcoming Protestant marching season.

Still, all is not gloom.... The mere fact that negotiators could agree...shows that the people's desire for peace is being heard."

#### ISRAEL "The Irish Model"

Mass-appeal, mass-circulation Maariv pointed out (5/24): "The massive support for the agreement between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland is supposed to bring an end, at least in the foreseeable future, to bloodshed...that has been lasting for 30 years. This is more than the 'Oslo agreement.'... The Protestant vote in Northern Ireland was split almost evenly.... An overwhelming majority of the citizens of the Republic of Ireland has given up the clause of the Irish constitution stating (the Republic's) right to Northern Ireland. This is, in fact, the cancellation of the Catholics' 'Palestinian Covenant.'... One thing is for certain: The Irish have taken...an important step towards the longed-for peace, while it is increasingly becoming more remote in this region."

#### INDONESIA: "A Victory Of Reason Over Man's Folly"

The government-oriented, English-language Indonesian Observer held (5/26): "It was a resounding, personal success for British Prime Minister Blair who brokered the deal. In Washington, President Clinton expressed his pleasure at the agreement.... The yes vote for the referendum means that

the people of Northern Ireland have surrendered the concept of violence in the political process. This is day for joy, and for which the people in Northern Ireland should be commended for their courage and vision."

## BRIEFS

### GINGRICH AND JERUSALEM

ISRAEL: "Gingrich Was Not Frightened By Threats"

Nationalist pundit Moshe Zak wrote in mass-appeal, pluralist Maariv (5/25):

"The Republican majority leader was not frightened by Saeb Erekat's threats...of bloodshed.... Gingrich has not modified his attitude vis-a-vis Israel, not even on the Jerusalem issue. The cancellation of his visit to the building site has neither added nor diminished his significant contribution to the diplomatic struggle to strengthen Israel's status in Jerusalem."

"Gingrich Knows Difference Between Propaganda And International Politics"

In the view of analyst Akiva Eldar in independent Haaretz (5/26): "Even Newt Gingrich, the Republican revolutionary, suddenly became reluctant to meet Ehud Olmert on the site earmarked for the U.S. Embassy in Israel.... The Americans say he understood that a photograph alongside the 'Tunnel Man' on the intended site of the U.S. Embassy might do him some damage.... Even if Gingrich does become president of the United States, like his Republican friends Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Bush, he knows the difference

between election propaganda and responsible international politics."

EGYPT: "World Pities U.S."

Galal Dowidar, editor-in-chief of pro-government Al Akhbar, said (5/25):

"The world pities the United States for having leaders who sold their consciences and national interests to satisfy pro-Israeli extremist groups.... It is obscene to hear those hypocritical statements, which hurt American pride, made by congressional leaders, such as Trent Lott, who said that Israel's security is the real guarantee for sustainable peace.

Newt Gingrich joyfully announced the visit to the American Embassy site in

Jerusalem. Amid all, the Clinton administration cannot take a decision to protect American national interests. Al Gore's preparation to be Clinton's successor put the administration in this freeze. This is pitiful and sad."

JORDAN: "Gingrich's Visit"

The decision by the Congress majority and minority leaders to cancel their visit to the proposed site of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, received considerable attention in reports and editorials, which focused disapprovingly on the intention to make the visit. Center-left, influential, Arabic-language Al-Dustour (5/26) carried a cartoon in which Newt Gingrich carries a sign that reads: "United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel," opposite an Arab carrying a sign that reads: "Jerusalem is Arab. Washington D.C. is the capital of Israel."

## **QATAR: "Washington Sending Wrong Signals"**

An editorial in semi-independent, English-language Peninsula (5/26) held:

"The pompous manner in which Israel yesterday celebrated its acquisition of Arab East Jerusalem is bound to

touch a nerve among an already anguished Palestinian population. The presence of...Newt Gingrich--a known votary of the Jewish lobby--will further aggravate perceptions over American neutrality.... Coming as it does on the back of U.S. Vice President Al Gore's recent participation in celebrations over Israel's founding, Washington would appear to be sending the wrong signals."

## **ITALY: "Super-Hawk Sides With Israeli Extremists?"**

In PDS (leading government party) L'Unita (5/26), by Umberto De Giovannangeli observed: "A super-hawk 'made in the USA' is also siding with Israeli extremists: Newt Gingrich, the Republican speaker of the House. On an official visit to Israel along with 25 other congressmen, Gingrich again accused the Palestinian National Authority of stirring up violence and jeopardizing the peace process."

## **SOUTH ASIA: WILL PAKISTAN TEST THE NEXT BOMB?**

**PAKISTAN: "Don't"**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's statement for the press on Saturday provided the main headlines in the continuing reaction to India's nuclear tests, with some editorials wondering what message, exactly, Sharif had wished to send regarding Pakistan's own nuclear tests. Op-ed and editorial opinion tended to reiterate positions for and against testing already often-stated over the past two weeks: English-language commentators tend to oppose testing, while Urdu-language columnists call for an immediate nuclear demonstration. Exceptions, however, were prevalent among both groups of writers. An editorial in Karachi's independent, national Dawn said (5/26), "It is interesting to note that China is emerging as a clear winner in the current security crisis. China's compliance with the test ban treaty and the non-proliferation regime is in sharp contrast to the conceited and irresponsible conduct of India.... Sharif is taking a wise course of weighing all factors before formulating his government's response. He has to balance domestic pressures against international and national repercussions. In the larger interests of the nation, it would be advisable not to detonate."

"Do"

An editorial in Peshawar's independent Frontier Post stressed (5/24), "The expected Western backlash against India in the wake of its nuclear explosions has swiftly petered out. The kid-gloved G-8 'condemnation' can be taken as a credible indicator of the West's future strategy in South Asia. This gives credence to the perception of the West being long determined to give India a geo-strategic edge in Asia to contain both the 'yellow' and the 'Islamic' threats.... Instead of toeing their 'line,'

Pakistan should develop self-reliance and chart out an independence course to safeguard its security interests. When the crunch comes, none of our Western 'friends' will come to our aid. Let self-reliance be the cornerstone of our new policy in the wake of the Indian nuclear blasts."

EGYPT: "Will Egypt Re-Evaluate Its Position?"

Columnist Salama Ahmed Salama stressed in pro-government Al Ahram (5/26):

"It has become meaningless to call for freeing the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction after India's tests introduced a new element in the balance of power in the region. The Middle East has become fraught with the danger of nuclear arms, with the declared and hidden programs of India and Israel and the related agreements are not enough to avoid this danger. Possessing nuclear arms has proved not to aim at military battles, but at gaining political weight and a defensive deterrence ability. This is why the Hindu government in India took the risk of conducting these tests. On the other hand, American policies, which are preparing to confront the rising Chinese power, are certainly interested in having a new regional power to

balance the Chinese nuclear power. Will Egyptian officials re-evaluate their policies to insist on disarming the Middle East?"

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE: WORLD GLOBALIZATION, U.S. AGENDA

BRITAIN: "Mr. Clinton's Trade Agenda"

The independent Financial Times had this lead editorial (5/26): "After several years of disconcerting drift, the United States seems to be getting ready to rejoin the mainstream of world trade policy. One sign was Bill Clinton's invitation to WTO ministers in Geneva last week to meet in the United States next year. Another was the appointment of Charlene Barshefsky, his top trade official, to chair the WTO's preparations for its next big liberalization drive. These events send welcome signals that America is determined to resist pressures to turn inwards, and to renew its leadership of the multilateral trade system. The test of Mr. Clinton's intentions will lie in winning the fast track authority to conclude trade agreements he failed to secure from Congress last year.... A vital task for any American presidency is to shape policies which rise above narrow competing claims and meet the broad national interest. In Geneva last week, Mr. Clinton sought to reassert America's international leadership in trade. To succeed, he must now lead boldly at home."

FRANCE: "Falling Yen Begins To Affect U.S. Economy"

Right-of-center Les Echos opined (5/26): "Is the United States giving up? Is it ready to let the dollar fall with the yen? The idea that Washington may be ready to make important sacrifices to keep Japan's economy from going under seems to be making some headway in the United States. The yen's depreciation and increased Japanese exports would be the only way to boost Japan's economy, even if this means a dangerous and greater trade deficit for the United States.... In spite of several measures taken, the Japanese economy continues to stagnate, something that greatly worries U.S. economic experts.... The latest declarations allegedly made by Secretary of

the Treasury Robert Rubin are all the more surprising because they do not fit with Japan's hopes. A rapid fall of the yen is not in Tokyo's interest because it would affect the credibility of Japan's currency and economy, something which Tokyo is desperately trying to avoid."

SINGAPORE: "One Global Market"

According to the pro-government Straits Times (5/25): "What European veterans or American masters of the game need to understand is that they reap only very short-term gains by putting up the tariffs that, as a recent study confirmed, block the industrial exports of developing countries. They must realize, as [Singaporean] Minister for Trade and Industry Lee Yock Suan told the WTO ministerial meeting in Geneva, that though preferential agreements between countries linked by history, politics or geography are politically and economically attractive, they slow down the impetus for liberalization, divert trade and investment, and increase the danger of fragmenting the world. By delaying Asia's economic recovery, this reversion to the beggar-thy-neighbor policies of the past can only increase the threat of more political fall-outs; in the long run, it would also make it impossible to sustain growth levels in developed economies."

##===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

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26 May 1998 07:47:53 EDT

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11 Ann Pincus, Director Archived at:

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c.htm

#Xn\ P6Qy&P#Tuesday, May 26, 1998

X' hp x INDONESIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT: 'BREAKING WITH THE PAST'?

X' hp x

Foreign media commentators diverged in their assessments of Indonesian  
Preside

nt Habibie's calls for widespread reforms and elections before his  
term expires

in 2003, and worries continued about the role of the military  
and the prospect

s for economic recovery. A majority of pundits in  
Indonesia, Singapore, Thaila

nd and Germany judged that the new government  
was "off to a good start" and tha

t "President Habibie is moving in the  
right direction." Other analysts in Indo

nesia and Russia, however, argued

that President Habibie "obviously lacks the p

potential" to undertake necessary reforms and predicted that "Habibie is unlikely to stay long in the presidential chair, his credibility with voters seriously damaged by his many-year friendship with Soeharto." Commentators in Nepal, Thailand and South Korea worried about what they saw as the increasingly pivotal role of the armed forces, with Seoul's conservative Segye Ilbo fretting that "if political reforms and democratization do not take place as expected, it will pave the way for a military takeover." Papers in Singapore and Germany argued that the "test" for President Habibie will be whether his government "will welcome foreign direct investments" and thus "regain the confidence of international donors."

#### IRISH REFERENDA: CONGRATULATIONS TEMPERED WITH CAUTION

X hp x

X hp x A number of observers in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa commented on the referendum vote last Friday in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, which resulted in a resounding "yes" for the peace accord previously agreed to among negotiators. Opinionmakers were congratulatory, saying that the Irish people should be "commended for their courage and vision." They also acknowledged "the help of outsiders," such as British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President Bill Clinton, "whose efforts have been crucial to helping bring about the all-Ireland vote for peace." Many writers emphasized that the peace process, by dint of the vote last Friday, has now been "legitimized" by all sides to the conflict, and that the "momentum of peace" will be difficult to overturn. But most analysts went on to urge caution. Johannesburg's independent Business Day, for example, said: "It is too early for rejoicing. The settlement...is so complex and harbors so many potential stumbling blocks, that it could yet founder on the intransigence of minorities on either side of the divide."

In Israel, media dwelled on perceived similarities and differences between the

e troubles in Ireland and the PalestinianIsraeli conflict. Massappeal,  
populis  
t Maariv glumly noted that "one thing is for certain: the Irish have  
taken...an  
important step towards the longedfor peace, while it is  
increasingly becoming  
more remote in this region." There was no available  
editorial comment from Ire  
land or Britain this morning.

#### BRIEFS

Gingrich And Jerusalem  
South Asia: Will Pakistan Test The Next Bomb?  
International Trade: World Globalization, U.S. Agenda

EDITORS: Mildred Sola Neely, Bill Richey and Diana McCaffrey

#### INDONESIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT: 'BREAKING WITH THE PAST'?

X' hp x  
X' hp x INDONESIA: "Mere Window Dressing"

The leading, independent Englishlanguage Jakarta Post commented (5/26):  
"Ju  
dging by those he chose for his cabinet, one could easily jump to the  
conclusi  
on that Habibie is working in the shadow of the former president,  
who he used  
to call 'my political professor.'... Meanwhile, promising a  
general election  
without fixing a date could be a political trick, which  
would open the way to  
further uncertainty. On the other hand, if a poll is  
held within six months th  
e government could face a lot of difficulties, and  
it would only give birth to  
a defective democracy.... Ultimately, this  
country could do with a new attitu  
de, but tragically it is the bureaucracy  
which needs the overhaul. Unfortunate  
ly, it appears to have little interest  
in such a vast change. Habibie should  
at least do some heavy  
soulsearching, and abandon the old political culture an  
d embrace a new  
one by, for example, shaking up his cabinet and firing all of  
Soeharto's  
errand boys and other suspect personalities. We are sorry to say,  
but  
Habibie obviously lacks the potential to do it. It is understandable that  
  
as things stand now, many people want Habibie to quit because expecting  
him t  
o implement total reform is just thinking the unthinkable."

## "Breaking With The Past"

The government-oriented, English-language Indonesian Observer held (5/26):  
"Clearly,

the present government is off to a good start by making the right decisions in a timely manner and this will endear parties such as multilateral financial bodies and prodemocracy forces. While the current euphoria may end as soon as it started, given the volatile nature of Indonesian politics, one is nevertheless left with the impression that the nation is on the right course."

## "MultiParty System"

Muslim intellectual Republika had this editorial (5/26): "We do not want to experience the two extreme cases again. First, the unstable pre-Soeharto administration which did not give any chance for development because of its too 'liberal' party system. And the second extreme, the too restrictive limitations on the party system during the Soeharto era, since the 1970s. Now we are trying to develop all over again. The bitter experiences that we had during the 53 years of the republic should not be repeated. We need freedom, but can we get there in one step? We have to be smart in reform so that we do not stumble again."

## SINGAPORE: "Habibie's Right Moves"

The pro-government Business Times had this editorial (5/26): "The key to Indonesia's recovery from the trauma of the past few weeks has to do with that elusive thing called confidence. So far, in the first few days of his administration, Dr. Habibie has done all the right things. But the test will be the priority he places on investor confidence in particular whether the government will welcome foreign direct investments as well as portfolio investments."

## SOUTH KOREA: "Broad Reform Expected"

Independent Hankyoreh Shinmun (5/26) commented: "Indonesia is expected to pur

sue broad reform. The government's announcement of early elections and its professed intention to release political prisoners are the first signs of that....

Being politically fragile, the Habibie administration had no choice but to agree to hold early elections.... These measures may indicate the early emergence of Commander Wiranto as the nation's political leader. The first test for the country is whether elections can be held in six months."

#### "Signs of Democracy Are Seen Quickly"

Conservative Segye Ilbo (5/26) commented: "Military leaders must have realized that the people's demand for cleaning up Soeharto's legacy could no longer be repressed.... If political reforms and democratization do not take place as expected, it will pave the way for a military takeover."

#### THAILAND: "East Timor Will Expose Habibie's True Colors"

The lead editorial of the independent, English language Nation commented (5/2

4), "For new President B.J. Habibie, [East Timor] will also be a test of loyalty. How he broaches the issue will signal whether his fealty remains with his patron of 50 years or with the democracy he has promised to usher into Indonesia. If Habibie is to be more than a puppet for the Soeharto clan he can start by immediately releasing the political prisoners held by Jakarta."

#### "Habibie's Hands Are Tied"

An analysis by the foreign news desk of largest circulation Thai Rath commented (5/24), "Habibie's hands are tied.... While being urged to move quickly with the economic and political reform...in order to restore foreign investors' confidence, he must also tread carefully so as not to do anything to affect the armed forces' and the Soehartos' interests."

#### GERMANY: "First Steps"

Wolfgang Guenter Lerch had this to say in an editorial in rightofcenter Frankfurter Allgemeine (5/26): "In Indonesia, new President Habibie is carefully beginning the liquidation of the Soeharto era. His announcement of early elections within a year is an important step, as is the release of the first dissidents and political prisoners. His plan to 'disentangle' the assets, illegally acquired by the Soeharto clan, should also reassure the people in Indonesia.... But the greatest task is now to stimulate Indonesia's economy without creating new unease among the people."

#### "Habibie Getting Rid Of Legacy He Inherited"

Centrist Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (05/26) carried this editorial: "Habibie is a smart man who knows full well that the powerful democracy movement will reject him as Soeharto's man as long as he refuses a fresh wind of freedom to blow. Habibie is now showing how this wind can blow.... There is no doubt, with his attempts to disassociate himself from the Soeharto regime that President Habibie is moving into the right direction, but he has no other chance if he wants to get the support of the people and this is at least as important to regain the confidence of international donors."

#### RUSSIA: "Voters Don't Trust Habibie"

Konstantin Slyusarenko opined from Kuala Lumpur for centrist Nezavisimaya Gazeta (5/26): "Habibie is unlikely to stay long in the presidential chair, his credibility with voters seriously damaged by his many year friendship with Soeharto."

#### "No Real Guarantees for Suharto"

Andrei Grachev judged in reformist weekly Moskovskiye Novosti (#20, 5/26): "Who, apart from Soeharto himself, takes seriously the 'inviolability guarantees' Defense Minister Viranto has given him and his family with their multibillion fortune? Habibie does not stand much chance either."

## NEPAL: "Army Must Be Kept Out Of Politics"

Proleft Chhalphal (5/24) commented: "The Soeharto era has ended, but the administrative power of army generals have not been curtailed.... Because of this, even after Soeharto's exit, the possibility of the establishment of democracy in a real sense is not in sight.... Unless the army is kept out of politics, democracy in Indonesia will remain as it was during Soeharto's regime.... It is ironic that the U.S., which always praised Soeharto's repressive rule, is now shamelessly saying that Soeharto's resignation will be a positive step for Indonesia.... European and American imperialism have contributed much to the present situation in this Southeast Asian country.... If Habibie is influenced by America's sweet words, he, too, will become Soeharto."

## IRISH REFERENDA: CONGRATULATIONS TEMPERED WITH CAUTION

### BRITAIN: "SDLP Says No To Poll Deal With Sinn Fein"

The centrist Independent noted from Belfast (5/26): "The row over decommissioning (of weapons) continued yesterday when the Canadian general in charge of promoting disarmament among paramilitary groups stated it would not be enough for these groups to simply allow guns to rust in the ground.'... However, a senior member of Sinn Fein, Alex Maskey, ruled out early moves to hand over weapons.

He added that, in the long run, his party was committed to a total disarmament and demilitarization of this whole society.'... President Clinton has already insisted that paramilitaries would find no friends in America if they went back to the bomb and bullet."

### GERMANY: "Momentum Is What Counts"

X' hp x

Businessoriented Handelsblatt of Duesseldorf stated (5/25): "It is not the political solution that counts but the momentum created by the willingness to co

me to an understanding. If this momentum is set in motion, it will be difficult to reverse, and it will make old enemy images obsolete."

"Vote For Peace, But Still Some Obstacles To Be Removed"

X' hp x Rightofcenter Maerkische Allgemeine of Potsdam noted (5/25): "Irish voters clearly supported the peace agreement.... The Irish said that, in the future, they want to resolve their own problems not with weapons and bombs but by democratic means in a climate of peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. They also voted for an end to direct rule from London, and to govern by themselves. But there are still some obstacles that need to be removed on the path to peace. However, today the chances are much better than in the past."

ITALY: "The Verdict Of The Young"

A frontpage commentary in centrist, influential La Stampa said (5/24): "We could not have imagined a better ending. The two Irelands...approved it with an enthusiasm and a fervor that does not leave room for doubt. It is one of those rare occasions in which the voice of the people has thrust open the door to history to indicate the future."

RUSSIA: "Much Remains to Be Done"

Vladimir Lapsky commented in official government Rossiyskaya Gazeta (5/26): "The victory of common sense in the referendum does not automatically mean the advent of tranquil, peaceful times. Much remains to be done. But extremists on both sides are now aware of the will of the majority of Ulster residents, Catholics and Protestants, who are dead tired of a bitter, and, more importantly, senseless war."

POLAND: "Heroes Are Tired"

X' hp x

Teresa Stylinska wrote in centrist Rzeczpospolita (5/25): "The Irishmen are tired.... The people of the island are sick of violence, but, bluntly speaking

, without terror there would have been no agreement or prospect for the future  
.... Were it not for the IRA and its activities, nobody in London would have bothered about the discrimination the Catholics in Ulster experienced for years or cared about their national aspirations. In a sense, the terrorists from the IRA can be also regarded as the fathers of the agreement like those who have always condemned violence. The thing is that one should know when to stop violence. And it seems that this time has come. Although the "peace agreement" does not automatically guarantee peace, it creates a chance for the peace. Now everything depends on the people of Ireland themselves."

AUSTRALIA: "Leaders In Ulster Can Now Claim Clear Mandate For Peace"  
X hp x

The liberal Age of Melbourne observed (5/26): "Those few nationalists who still believe that the means of Irish unity is the gun and not the ballot box can no longer claim democratic legitimacy for their belief. That legitimacy has passed to those in both communities who are prepared to build an Ireland that is not held hostage by the ghosts of its troubled past."

"New Irish Politics"

The liberal Sydney Morning Herald said (5/25): "If the present climate of good will can be maintained, uncertain though it is, the new assembly and the crossborder bodies can change the nature of Ulster politics.... The help of outsiders such as the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and U.S. President Bill Clinton, whose efforts have been crucial to helping bring about the all-Ireland vote for peace, will still be crucial in these developments."

SOUTH AFRICA: "Too Early For Rejoicing"

The independent Business Day of Johannesburg held (5/26): "The...referenda... have confirmed that the overwhelming majority of the island's population want peace and stability.... Nevertheless it is too

early for rejoicing. The settlement...is so complex and harbors so many potential stumbling blocks, that it could yet founder on the intrasincerity of minorities on either side of the divide .... The peace agreement says that all key decisions taken by the executive... must reflect crosscommunity consensus. This is a fine sentiment, but turned around, it can become a veto in the hands of a minority. Equally, the process could still founder on differences over the decommissioning of weapons, the release of prisoners and the forthcoming Protestant marching season. Still, all is not gloom.... The mere fact that negotiators could agree...shows that the people's desire for peace is being heard."

#### ISRAEL "The Irish Model"

Mass appeal, mass circulation Maariv pointed out (5/24): "The massive support for the agreement between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland is supposed to bring an end, at least in the foreseeable future, to bloodshed...that has been lasting for 30 years. This is more than the 'Oslo agreement.'... The Protestant vote in Northern Ireland was split almost evenly.... An overwhelming majority of the citizens of the Republic of Ireland has given up the clause of the Irish constitution stating (the Republic's) right to Northern Ireland. This is, in fact, the cancellation of the Catholics' 'Palestinian Covenant.'... One thing is for certain: The Irish have taken...an important step towards the longed for peace, while it is increasingly becoming more remote in this region." X' hp x

#### INDONESIA: "A Victory Of Reason Over Man's Folly"

X' hp x

The government-oriented, English language Indonesian Observer held (5/26): "It was a resounding, personal success for British Prime Minister Blair who brokered the deal. In Washington, President Clinton expressed his pleasure at the agreement.... The yes vote for the referendum means that

the people of Northern Ireland have surrendered the concept of violence in the political process. This is day for joy, and for which the people in Northern Ireland should be commended for their courage and vision."

## BRIEFS

### GINGRICH AND JERUSALEM

#### ISRAEL: "Gingrich Was Not Frightened By Threats"

Nationalist pundit Moshe Zak wrote in massappeal, pluralist Maariv (5/25): "The Republican majority leader was not frightened by Saeb Erekat's threats...of bloodshed.... Gingrich has not modified his attitude visavis Israel, not even on the Jerusalem issue. The cancellation of his visit to the building site has neither added nor diminished his significant contribution to the diplomatic struggle to strengthen Israel's status in Jerusalem."

#### "Gingrich Knows Difference Between Propaganda And International Politics"

In the view of analyst Akiva Eldar in independent Haaretz (5/26): "Even Newt Gingrich, the Republican revolutionary, suddenly became reluctant to meet Ehud Olmert on the site earmarked for the U.S. Embassy in Israel.... The Americans say he understood that a photograph alongside the 'Tunnel Man' on the intended site of the U.S. Embassy might do him some damage.... Even if Gingrich does become president of the United States, like his Republican friends Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Bush, he knows the difference between election propaganda and responsible international politics."

#### EGYPT: "World Pities U.S."

Galal Dowidar, editor in chief of progovernment Al Akhbar, said (5/25): "The world pities the United States for having leaders who sold their consciences and national interests to satisfy pro-Israeli extremist groups.... It is obscene to hear those hypocritical statements, which hurt American pride, made by congressmen."

essional leaders, such as Trent Lott, who said that Israel's security is the real guarantee for sustainable peace. Newt Gingrich joyfully announced the visit to the American Embassy site in Jerusalem. Amid all, the Clinton administration cannot take a decision to protect American national interests. Al Gore's preparation to be Clinton's successor put the administration in this freeze. This is pitiful and sad."

JORDAN: "Gingrich's Visit"

The decision by the Congress majority and minority leaders to cancel their visit to the proposed site of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, received considerable attention in reports and editorials, which focused disapprovingly on the intention to make the visit. Centerleft, influential, Arabic language Al Dustour (5/26) carried a cartoon in which Newt Gingrich carries a sign that reads: "United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel," opposite an Arab carrying a sign that reads: "Jerusalem is Arab. Washington D.C. is the capital of Israel."

QATAR: "Washington Sending Wrong Signals"

An editorial in semi-independent, English language Peninsula (5/26) held: "The pompous manner in which Israel yesterday celebrated its acquisition of Arab East Jerusalem is bound to

touch a nerve among an already anguished Palestinian population. The presence of...Newt Gingrich a known votary of the Jewish lobby will further aggravate perceptions over American neutrality.... Coming as it does on the back of U.S. Vice President Al Gore's recent participation in celebrations over Israel's founding, Washington would appear to be sending the wrong signals."

X hp x ITALY: "SuperHawk Sides With Israeli Extremists?"

In PDS (leading government party) L'Unita (5/26), by Umberto De Giovannangeli observed: "A superhawk 'made in the USA' is also siding

with Israeli extremist  
s: Newt Gingrich, the Republican speaker of the  
House. On an official visit  
to Israel along with 25 other congressmen,  
Gingrich again accused the Palestin  
ian National Authority of stirring up  
violence and jeopardizing the peace proc  
ess."

#### SOUTH ASIA: WILL PAKISTAN TEST THE NEXT BOMB?

X' hp x

PAKISTAN: "Don't"

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's statement for the press on Saturday provided  
the

main headlines in the continuing reaction to India's nuclear tests,  
with some  
editorials wondering what message, exactly, Sharif had wished to  
send regarding

Pakistan's own nuclear tests. Oped and editorial opinion  
tended to reiterate  
positions for and against testing already often stated  
over the past two weeks:

Englishlanguage commentators tend to oppose  
testing, while Urdu language column  
ists call for an immediate nuclear

demonstration. Exceptions, however, were pr  
elevant among both groups of  
writers. An editorial in Karachi's independent, n  
ational Dawn said (5/26),

"It is interesting to note that China is emerging as  
a clear winner in the

current security crisis. China's compliance with the tes  
t ban treaty and

the nonproliferation regime is in sharp contrast to the concei  
ted and

irresponsible conduct of India.... Sharif is taking a wise course of  
w

eighing all factors before formulating his government's response. He has  
to ba

lance domestic pressures against international and national  
repercussions. In

the larger interests of the nation, it would be  
advisable not to detonate."

"Do"

An editorial in Peshawar's independent Frontier Post stressed (5/24), "The  
exp

ected Western backlash against India in the wake of its nuclear  
explosions has

swiftly petered out. The kidgloved G8 'condemnation' can  
be taken as a credibl

e indicator of the West's future strategy in South

Asia. This gives credence to the perception of the West being long determined to give India a geostrategic edge in Asia to contain both the 'yellow' and the 'Islamic' threats.... Instead of toeing their 'line,' Pakistan should develop selfreliance and chart out an independence course to safeguard its security interests. When the crunch comes, none of our Western 'friends' will come to our aid. Let self reliance be the cornerstone of our new policy in the wake of the Indian nuclear blasts."

EGYPT: "Will Egypt ReEvaluate Its Position?"

Columnist Salama Ahmed Salama stressed in progovernment Al Ahram (5/26): "It

has become meaningless to call for freeing the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction after India's tests introduced a new element in the balance of power in the region. The Middle East has become fraught with the danger of nuclear arms, with the declared and hidden programs of India and Israel and the related agreements are not enough to avoid this danger. Possessing nuclear arms has proved not to aim at military battles, but at gaining political weight and a defensive deterrence ability. This is why the Hindu government in India took the risk of conducting these tests. On the other hand, American policies, which are preparing to confront the rising Chinese power, are certainly interested in having a new regional power to

balance the Chinese nuclear power. Will Egyptian officials reevaluate their policies to insist on disarming the Middle East?"

X hp x INTERNATIONAL TRADE: WORLD GLOBALIZATION, U.S. AGENDA

X hp x

X hp x BRITAIN: "Mr. Clinton's Trade Agenda"

X hp x

The independent Financial Times had this lead editorial (5/26): "After several

years of disconcerting drift, the United States seems to be getting ready to rejoin the mainstream of world trade policy. One sign was Bill Clinton's invitation to WTO ministers in Geneva last week to meet in the

United States next year. Another was the appointment of Charlene Barshefsky, his top trade official, to chair the WTO's preparations for its next big liberalization drive. These events send welcome signals that America is determined to resist pressures to turn inwards, and to renew its leadership of the multilateral trade system. The test of Mr. Clinton's intentions will lie in winning the fast track authority to conclude trade agreements he failed to secure from Congress last year.... A vital task for any American presidency is to shape policies which rise above narrow competing claims and meet the broad national interest. In Geneva last week, Mr. Clinton sought to reassert America's international leadership in trade.

To succeed, he must now lead boldly at home."

X' hp x FRANCE: "Falling Yen Begins To Affect U.S. Economy"

Rightofcenter Les Echos opined (5/26): "Is the United States giving up? Is it ready to let the dollar fall with the yen? The idea that Washington may be ready to make important sacrifices to keep Japan's economy from going under seems to be making some headway in the United States. The yen's depreciation and increased Japanese exports would be the only way to boost Japan's economy, even if this means a dangerous and greater trade deficit for the United States.... In spite of several measures taken, the Japanese economy continues to stagnate, something that greatly worries U.S. economic experts.... The latest declarations allegedly made by Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin are all the more surprising because they do not fit with Japan's hopes. A rapid fall of the yen is not in Tokyo's interest because it would affect the credibility of Japan's currency and economy, something which Tokyo is desperately trying to avoid."

SINGAPORE: "One Global Market"

According to the progovernment Straits Times (5/25): "What European veterans or American masters of the game need to understand is that they

reap only very  
shortterm gains by putting up the tariffs that, as a recent  
study confirmed, bl  
ock the industrial exports of developing countries.  
They must realize, as [Sin  
gaporean] Minister for Trade and Industry Lee  
Yock Suan told the WTO ministeria  
l meeting in Geneva, that though  
preferential agreements between countries link  
ed by history, politics or  
geography are politically and economically attractiv  
e, they slow down the  
impetus for liberalization, divert trade and investment,  
and increase the  
danger of fragmenting the world. By delaying Asia's economic  
recovery,  
this reversion to the beggarthyneighbor policies of the past can only  
  
increase the threat of more political fallout; in the long run, it would  
also  
make it impossible to sustain growth levels in developed economies."  
X` hp x  
###Xx\ P6QyXP#

===== END ATTACHMENT 2 =====

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: cqwa15375 ( cqwa15375@cq.com@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-JUL-1998 04:36:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - ron

TO: ronald e. jones ( ronald e. jones@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

!

!

! Nite-Alert Created for RON JONES - OMB

! 20-JUL-1998 03:31:32

!

! This is a DAILY nitealert

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! ----- Searching the BILLTRACK database -----

!

! --- For Legislative Action on Bills You Are Tracking ---

!

!

! Using the Word List RJONES

!

FAST TRACK; TRADE ISSUES \* New \*

Full Committee Markup

Senate Finance Committee (Chairman Roth, R-Del.) will mark up pending legislation.

July 21 10:00 am SD-216 Hart Bldg.

Agenda:

S - - - Renew the Generalized System of Preferences program for a period of two or three years.

S -- - Extend normal trade relations status to Mongolia on a permanent basis.

S ---- - Reduce duties on imports of certain types of wool fabric.

HR1432 - A bill to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

S1278 - An original bill to extend preferential treatment to certain products imported from Caribbean Basin countries.

S1269 - An original bill to establish objectives for negotiating and procedures for implementing certain trade agreements.

S - - - Extend Trade Adjustment Assistance program,

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

! ----- Searching the CQ WEEKLY REPORT database -----

! Using the Word List RJONES

! 1 Senate Votes 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209

\*Inside Congress/Lobbies\*

\*Senate Vote Charts\*

(S2159, HR4101; WR 07/18/98 p. 1966; 287 lines)

Item Key: 3460

-----  
2 Even Brighter Budget Forecast Renews GOP's Hope for Tax Cuts

\*Banking/Economics/Labor\*

(SCONRES86, HCONRES284, S1415; WR 07/18/98 p. 1928; 218 lines)

Item Key: 3432

-----  
3 Congress Tries To Find a Remedy For the Common Cause

\*Health/Education/Welfare\*

(HR4250, S2330, S1890, HR3605; WR 07/18/98 p. 1933; 241 lines)

Item Key: 3447

-----  
4 Who's in Charge When Terror Strikes?

\*Law/Judiciary/Supreme Court\*

(HR4103, S2132, S2260; WR 07/18/98 p. 1921; 302 lines)

Item Key: 3461

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5 Comparing the Bills

\*Health/Education/Welfare\*

(S2330, HR4250, S1890, HR3605; WR 07/18/98 p. 1935; 66 lines)

Item Key: 3448

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6 House Votes 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290

\*Inside Congress/Lobbies\*

\*House Vote Charts\*

(HR4104, HRES498, HR4194; WR 07/18/98 p. 1970; 628 lines)

Item Key: 3450

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7 Computer Security Proposal 'Falls Short,' Says Kyl

\*Environment/Science\*

\*Law/Judiciary/Supreme Court\*

(WR 07/18/98 p. 1956; 35 lines)

Item Key: 3427

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8 Prospects Brighten for IMF Funds As GOP Looks To Boost Trade

\*Trade/Transportation/Commerce\*

\*Foreign Policy\*

(WR 07/18/98 p. 1958; 224 lines)

Item Key: 3440

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9 N.C. Race Measures Marketability Of Patients' Rights Issue

\*Health/Education/Welfare\*

\*Politics/Elections\*

(WR 07/18/98 p. 1926; 52 lines)

Item Key: 3425

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10 Pushed by Business Groups, Lawmakers Rush To Exempt Farm Exports From  
Sanctions

\*Trade/Transportation/Commerce\*

\*Foreign Policy\*

(S2282, S2159, S1413; WR 07/18/98 p. 1960; 129 lines)

Item Key: 3458

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11 Commerce-Justice-State Spending

\*Appropriations\*

(S2260; WR 07/18/98 p. 1994; 137 lines)

Item Key: 3435

---

12 GOP Refuses To Tone Down Bill That Would Criminalize Abortion Aid to  
Minors

\*Law/Judiciary/Supreme Court\*

(HR3682, S1645, HR1122; WR 07/18/98 p. 1951; 127 lines)

Item Key: 3422

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13 House Members Shoot Holes In Treasury-Postal Bill

\*Appropriations\*

(HR4104, S2312; WR 07/18/98 p. 1949; 252 lines)

Item Key: 3463

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Enter one or more numbers or ALL, a command, or MENU

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Approximate Connect Time: 0 Hour(s) 5 Minute(s)

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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id <01IZLY5V58M80073ZL@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for jones\_re@a1.eop.gov; Mon,  
20 Jul 1998 03:40:55 EDT

Received: from Storm.EOP.GOV by PMDF.EOP.GOV (PMDF V5.1-9 #29131)  
with ESMTTP id <01IZLY5R0JLS003KA7@PMDF.EOP.GOV> for jones\_re@a1.eop.gov; Mon,

20 Jul 1998 03:40:51 -0400 (EDT)  
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20 Jul 1998 03:40:17 -0400 (EDT)  
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id xma024804; Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:22:44 -0400  
Received: from veeger.CQ.COM (veeger.cq.com [198.67.5.2])  
by hub.cq.com (8.8.2/8.6.12) with SMTP id DAA16235 for <jones\_re@a1.eop.gov>;

Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:47:37 -0400 (EDT)  
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; Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:36:55 -0500 (EST)  
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ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: cqwa15375 ( cqwa15375@cq.com@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-JUL-1998 05:18:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - connie

TO: Constance J. Bowers ( Constance J. Bowers@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

=====

!

! Nite-Alert created for CONNIE BOWERS- OMB

! 20-JUL-1998 04:00:14

!

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! ----- Searching For TODAY'S COMMITTEE SCHEDULE -----

!

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! Using the Word List CONNIE

!

4 of 12 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

FAST TRACK; TRADE ISSUES

Full Committee Markup

\*Future Senate committees\*

\* New \*

(SCHEDULE 07/21/98; Finance)

Item Key: 78

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FAST TRACK; TRADE ISSUES \* New \*

Full Committee Markup

Senate Finance Committee (Chairman Roth, R-Del.) will mark up pending legislation.

July 21 10:00 am SD-216 Hart Bldg.

Agenda:

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HR1432 - A bill to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

S1278 - An original bill to extend preferential treatment to certain products imported from Caribbean Basin countries.

S1269 - An original bill to establish objectives for negotiating and procedures for implementing certain trade agreements.

S - - - Extend Trade Adjustment Assistance program,

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

You are in FLOORWATCH

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

Approximate Connect Time: 0 Hour(s) 17 Minute(s)

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20 Jul 1998 04:22:44 EDT

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20 Jul 1998 04:22:40 -0400 (EDT)

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20 Jul 1998 04:22:05 -0400 (EDT)

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Received: from hub.cq.com(198.67.5.98) by ns1.cq.com via smap (3.2)

id xma025926; Mon, 20 Jul 1998 04:04:29 -0400

Received: from veeger.CQ.COM (veeger.cq.com [198.67.5.2])

by hub.cq.com (8.8.2/8.6.12) with SMTP id EAA16615 for <bowers\_c@al.eop.gov>;

Mon, 20 Jul 1998 04:29:20 -0400 (EDT)

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; Mon, 20 Jul 1998 04:18:26 -0500 (EST)

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ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: cqwa15375 ( cqwa15375@cq.com@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-JUL-1998 04:39:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - ingrid

TO: Ingrid M. Schroeder ( Ingrid M. Schroeder@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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! Nite-Alert Created for INGRID SCHROEDER - OMB

! 20-JUL-1998 03:35:31

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! ----- Searching the BILLTRACK database -----

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! --- For Legislative Action on Bills You Are Tracking ---

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! Using the Bill List INGRID

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## COMMERCE AND LABOR: FAST-TRACK AUTHORITY

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

Item Key: 15

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## COMMERCE AND LABOR: FAST-TRACK AUTHORITY

By Matthew Tully and Rebecca Adams, CQ Staff Writers

The Senate Finance Committee will take the first step tomorrow toward ensuring that fast-track trading authority will be an issue on Capitol Hill for the second autumn in a row.

Chairman William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., announced last week that his panel will mark up a sweeping trade bill including fast-track language that would allow the president to submit trade agreements to the Senate for up-or-down votes without amendment.

"This package of trade initiatives will knock down trade barriers and expand market access for U.S. exports," Roth said in a statement Friday.

Along with fast-track authority, the bill will include a slightly

altered version of a House-passed bill (HR1432) to promote trade in sub-Saharan Africa and a Senate bill (S1216) to implement an international shipbuilding trade agreement. It also would grant Mongolia permanent most-favored-nation trade status -- which will be known as normal trade relations once President Clinton signs into law a bill to overhaul the Internal Revenue Service (HR2676).

The bill also would reduce tariffs on some wool fabrics and extend through 2000 the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which provides training to workers in communities where jobs are lost as a result of trade agreements. It also includes a provision that would allow Caribbean and Central American nations covered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) to export some products to the United States free of duties and quotas.

Farm groups and business leaders are urging Congress to act on fast track this year, but the White House has been unenthusiastic about the prospect of moving the legislation through Congress in an election year.

Led by Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., House Democrats and a small group of Republicans blocked a fast-track measure (HR2621) last year over concerns that it would hurt U.S. workers.

Still, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., promised last month that the House would vote this year on granting the president fast-track trade negotiating authority. He claimed supporters were about eight votes short last year, and predicted that economic problems facing

farmers will improve chances for passage this year. He added that he had talked to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., about having the Senate act first to generate momentum for the bill.

The Senate, which last year passed its version of the bill (S1269), is expected to approve the legislation once again by a wide margin.

#### POSTAL SERVICE UNDER OSHA

Committees on both sides of the Capitol this week will mark up legislation to bring the U.S. Postal Service under the regulatory authority of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Tomorrow, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee will mark up a bill (HR3725) approved last month by the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

John M. McHugh, R-N.Y., may introduce an amendment to dictate that adherence to OSHA regulations would not cause the closing of a post office or a reduction in services. In his amendment, McHugh also wants to ensure that putting the Postal Service under the supervision of OSHA does not become a justification for postage rates to increase. Major R. Owens, D-N.Y., also has shown interest in supporting this amendment.

Democrats may try again to offer amendments, ruled out of order as non-germane in the Education committee, that would extend OSHA protection to executive branch employees and to employees of states and

localities.

On Wednesday, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee will consider its bill (S2112). At this session, Democrats may offer amendments to extend OSHA regulation to other businesses. Democrats have long supported the move, although some have criticized the timing because they say that it is intended to assist private companies, such as Federal Express. Republicans have been pushing this year to make several changes to OSHA regulations, although the House has been more active than the Senate on this issue.

[ThisWeek]

There are no more items to read.

You are in SCHEDULE

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

> 0stop

You are in SCHEDULE

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

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! ----- Searching the COMMITTEES database -----

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! For New Markups or other Committee Action on Bills You Are Tracking

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Using the Bill List INGRID

Approximate Connect Time: 0 Hour(s) 3 Minute(s)

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====  
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20 Jul 1998 03:43:24 EDT

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Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:43:20 -0400 (EDT)

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Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:42:48 -0400 (EDT)

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id xma024833; Mon, 20 Jul 1998 03:25:27 -0400

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===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: cqwa15375 ( cqwa15375@cq.com@INET@LNGTWY [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:20-JUL-1998 04:46:00.00

SUBJECT: Nitealert Report - JILL

TO: M. Jill Gibbons ( M. Jill Gibbons@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

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!

! NiteAlert Created for EOP OFFICE OF MGMT & BUDGET

! 20-JUL-1998 03:33:29

!

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! BILLTRACK DATABASE

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1 of 1 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

\*\*\* HISTORY REPORT -- ALL LEGISLATIVE ACTION, COSPONSORS, SPEECHES \*\*\*

MEASURE: HR2751

SPONSOR: Kim (R-CA)

BRIEF TITLE: General Services Administration Improvement Act of 1997.

OFFICIAL TITLE: A bill to amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to  
improve the management and operations of the General  
Services Administration.

INTRODUCED: 10/28/97

COSPONSORS: 1 (Dems: 1 Reps: 0 Ind: 0)

COMMITTEES: House Transportation and Infrastructure

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

07/16/98 Subcommittee hearings held by the House Transportation &  
Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Public  
Buildings and Economic Development. (CR p. D779)

There are no more items to display.

You are in BILLTRACK

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

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! BILLTEXT DATABASE

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1 HR4104 Kolbe (R-AZ) 07/16/98 (1959 lines)

Engrossed (passed) in House

Making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11902

-----  
2 HR1273 Schiff (R-NM) 07/14/98 (590 lines)

Enrolled (finally passed both houses)

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11896

-----  
3 HR4226 McInnis (R-CO) 07/15/98 (248 lines)

Introduced in House

To establish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase bullet resistant equipment for use by law enforcement departments.

Item Key: 11882

-----  
4 HR4208 Norton (D-DC) 07/14/98 (46 lines)

Introduced in House

To provide for full voting representation in the Congress for the District of Columbia.

Item Key: 11823

---

5 HR4197 Barr B. (R-GA) 07/14/98 (69 lines)

Introduced in House

To repeal section 656 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and  
Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, to prohibit Federal agencies  
from construing Federal law as authorizing the establishment of a  
national identification card, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11812

---

6 HR4218 Andrews R. (D-NJ) 07/15/98 (212 lines)

Introduced in House

To provide rental assistance under section 8 of the United States  
Housing Act of 1937 in a manner that preserves residential  
property values, protects residents, and enhances tenant and  
neighborhood safety.

Item Key: 11874

---

7 HR4206 McNulty M. (D-NY) 07/14/98 (178 lines)

Introduced in House

To establish the Kate Mullany National Historic Site in the State  
of New York, and for other purposes.

Item Key: 11821

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Enter one or more numbers or ALL, a command, or MENU

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! NEWS DATABASE

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1 of 20 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

LAST WEEK IN CONGRESS

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 465 lines)

Item Key: 14154

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LAST WEEK IN CONGRESS

By CQ Staff

#### PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE (S318)

The House passed, the Senate passed with technical changes; and then the House cleared legislation to allow homeowners to cancel private mortgage insurance once they have repaid 20 percent of their house's value. The bill would require mortgage companies to cancel mortgage insurance payments after a homeowner has reached 22 percent equity on

the home; allow lenders to force "high-risk" homeowners to continue paying for insurance after they have reached that threshold; and give eight states two years to toughen their private mortgage insurance laws or be pre-empted by the federal standard.

#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (HR1273)

The House cleared a bill to reauthorize the National Science Foundation (NSF) at \$3.5 billion in fiscal 1998, \$3.8 billion in fiscal 1999 and \$3.9 billion in fiscal 2000. The bill would prevent the NSF from spending for the "U.S. Man and Biosphere Program," a U.N. sponsored environmental program.

#### SANCTIONS EXEMPTIONS (S2282)

The House passed and the Senate cleared a measure to retroactively expand exemptions to unilateral sanctions dictated by the 1994 Arms Export Control Act (PL 103-236); exempt finance and credit guarantees for agricultural commodities; and add medicine and fertilizers to the export exemption list.

#### DEBT FOR FOREST PRESERVATION (S1758)

The Senate passed and the House cleared a bill to forgive some developing nations' debts to the United States in exchange for efforts to protect their tropical forests.

#### TERRITORIAL VOTING (HR1460)

The Senate cleared legislation to allow citizens in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands to vote for a delegate to the House on the same ballot as for other officials.

#### COLORADO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (HR2217)

The Senate cleared a measure to extend the deadline for the San Miguel Project in Colorado to Jan. 30, 2002, from Jan. 26, 1996.

#### KENTUCKY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (HR2841)

The Senate cleared a bill to extend the deadline for the Meldahl project on the Ohio River in Kentucky for up to 10 years beyond July 31, 1999.

#### MANDELA AWARD (HR3156)

The Senate cleared a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to South African President Nelson Mandela.

#### FY 1999 VA-HUD SPENDING (S2168, HR4194)

The Senate passed its measure; while the House began debate on its own fiscal 1999 VA-HUD appropriations bill. The Senate bill would provide \$93.3 billion for veterans, space, housing, environmental and

disaster relief programs, including \$13.6 billion for NASA, \$7.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency; \$1.4 billion for superfund and \$40 million for a pilot program providing vouchers for those in self-sufficiency or welfare-to-work programs. It would also increase the ceiling on home mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration from \$86,000 to \$109,000 in most areas, and from \$170,000 to \$197,000 in high-cost areas. The House bill would provide \$93.6 billion; increase the ceiling on home mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration from \$86,000 to \$109,000 in most areas and \$170,000 to \$197,000 in high-cost areas; and prohibit the Clinton administration from using any appropriated funds to "develop, propose or issue rules, regulations, decrees or orders" designed to implement an international treaty on climate change.

AHEAD: House debate continues tomorrow.

#### FY 1999 AGRICULTURE SPENDING (\$2159)

The Senate passed a measure to provide \$57.3 billion for agriculture programs, including \$37 billion for food and nutrition programs; \$68 million for the Food and Drug Administration's food safety notification effort -- financed by increasing the assessment tobacco companies pay for crop insurance; and provide a \$500 million emergency appropriation for farmers with multiple-year loss from weather. The bill would give the Agriculture Department broad authority to assist farmers in afflicted areas; exempt the sale of food, fertilizer, medicine and medical equipment from current and future unilateral economic sanctions;

call for a Senate vote by Oct. 1 on extending fast-track trade negotiating authority; call for the Senate to support an extension of normal trade status for China and the Clinton administration's \$18 billion funding request for International Monetary Fund.

#### FY 1999 TREASURY POSTAL SPENDING (HR4104)

The House passed its bill; while the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its draft Treasury-Postal spending bill. The House bill would provide \$29.1 billion for the Treasury Department, Postal Service, White House, Secret Service, Federal Election Commission and general government functions, including \$13.7 billion in mandatory spending for federal retiree' health and pension benefits, \$527 million for courthouse construction, \$36.5 million for Federal Election Commission and \$11.5 billion for IRS. It would also suspend automatic cost-of-living adjustments for members of Congress; and prohibit the government from using the bill's money to contract with health care providers that do not offer prescription contraceptives, excepting some Catholic health plans. The Senate bill would provide \$29.8 billion; suspend the automatic cost-of-living adjustment for members of Congress; use frozen U.S. assets of nations labeled as terrorist states to pay for monetary judgments brought by U.S. citizens against those states for acts of terrorism; and provide an emergency appropriation of \$3.25 billion for the Year 2000 computer problem.

#### PARENTAL CONSENT ENFORCEMENT (HR3682, S1645)

The House passed its bill; while the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation to make it a federal crime to knowingly transport a girl across state lines in order for her to obtain an abortion and bypass her home state's parental notification or consent laws. The bill would set maximum penalties of one year in prison, \$100,000 in fines and civil liability; and exempt parents from prosecution or lawsuits.

#### CRIME TECHNOLOGY (S2202)

The Senate passed a bill to provide \$250 million annually for five years in grants to states for crime technology such as fingerprinting, DNA analysis and sexual offender identification.

#### CRIME RESEARCH (S1976)

The Senate passed a bill to require research on crime against the disabled, and direct the Justice Department to collect statistics and report on the criminal justice system's response to such crimes.

#### FEDERALLY OWNED INVENTIONS (HR2544)

The House passed a measure to repeal current regulations for government laboratories to license technologies with commercial applications to the private sector; encourage notification of invention availability via the Internet; and allow federal agencies to grant exclusive licenses on federally owned inventions under certain circumstances.

#### GRANDPARENTS' VISITATION RIGHTS (HR4164)

The House passed a bill to give federal courts power to decide which laws prevail in cases where grandparents who are granted visitation rights may lose them if their grandchildren move to a state with a law that denies visitation.

#### SALTON SEA (HR3267)

The House passed a measure to rehabilitate California's Salton Sea and rename an area wildlife refuge for the late Rep. Sonny Bono, R-Calif.

#### SUPREME COURT TOURS (S2143)

The Senate passed a bill to allow the use of volunteers in Supreme Court public and visitor programs, and protect court employees from pay reductions or layoffs caused by an influx of volunteer labor.

#### URANIUM ENRICHMENT (S2316)

The Senate passed a measure to require the Energy Department to submit a plan to ensure that revenue from the sale of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation be used exclusively to remove toxic material from uranium enrichment plants in Paducah, Ky., and Portsmouth, Ohio.

#### NEW MEXICO LAND EXCHANGE (HR434)

The Senate passed a proposal to convey two small parcels of land from national forests in New Mexico to two towns.

#### MOUNT ST. HELENS EXCHANGES (S638)

The Senate passed a bill to outline settlement for mandated federal acquisition of remaining private mineral and geothermal resources at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

#### BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT (S1132)

The Senate passed a bill to add 935 acres in New Mexico's Upper Alamo Watershed to the Bandelier National Monument.

#### LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION (S1403)

The Senate passed legislation to make federally owned historic lighthouses Interior Department property; require the General Services Administration to establish a process to identify eligible sites; and allow local groups to take over sites before property is auctioned.

#### NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS (S1069)

The Senate passed a bill to link more than 6,000 miles of national, state and local trails to create the "American Discovery Trail."

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERHAUL (HR2183)

The House continued debate on substitute bill by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., that would ban national parties from accepting "soft money" contributions and from raising soft money for state parties or directing such money to state parties; increase the limits on aggregate individual contributions to national or state political parties from \$20,000 per election cycle to \$25,000 per year; increase the limits on political action committee contributions to national parties from \$15,000 per cycle to \$20,000 per year; require disclosure by advocacy groups that run radio or television ads when expenditures total more than \$25,000 per candidate or more than \$100,000 on multiple candidates; and require monthly disclosure of expenditures by all federal candidates and political committees during an election year.

AHEAD: House debate continues today.

## FY 1999 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING (S2137)

The Senate began debate on a measure to provide \$1.6 billion for the operation of Congress, excluding items funded by the House, and provide \$94 million in mandatory spending, including \$17 million for senators' salaries and \$77 million for House members' salaries.

AHEAD: Cloture vote scheduled for tomorrow.

## PROPERTY RIGHTS (S2271)

The Senate rejected a cloture on proceeding to a bill that would allow property owners direct access to federal courts "where a property owner seeks redress solely for infringements of rights safeguarded by the U.S. Constitution and where no violation of state law is alleged."

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (HR1385)

A House-Senate conference began on a bill to consolidate federal job-training, adult-education and vocational-education programs into block grants to states and localities; authorize random drug testing for participants in federally funded job-training programs. The Senate bill would permit states to establish one-stop customer service centers to coordinate employment and training programs; simplify eligibility requirements for vocational rehabilitation and job-training programs; and allow states to offer customized support for disabled individuals.

## FY 1999 TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a draft bill; and the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee approved its draft fiscal 1999 transportation spending bill. The Senate bill would provide \$47.5 billion for transportation programs, including \$27 billion for highway construction and \$361 million for highway safety programs, \$9.9 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$5.36 for mass transit, \$4 billion for the Coast Guard, \$2.1 billion for airport

improvement programs, \$903 million for earmarked mass transit projects and \$555 million in capital funding for Amtrak. The House bill would provide \$46.9 billion, including \$3.9 billion for the Coast Guard and \$9.5 billion for FAA.

AHEAD: House Appropriations Committee markup is set for Wednesday.

#### FY 1999 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE SPENDING

The House Appropriations Committee approved a draft bill to provide \$27 billion for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State; allow only half of the \$956 million appropriated for the 2000 census to be spent until Congress and President Clinton agree on a separate authorization bill deciding whether to use a statistical sampling counting method; require federal prosecutors to follow their state's prosecutorial guidelines; and allow the subject of a federal prosecution to file a formal complaint against a prosecutor to be referred to attorney general, then three-person prosecutorial misconduct board.

AHEAD: House debate expected this week; Senate debate expected this week on its bill (S2260).

#### FY 1999 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION SPENDING

The House Appropriations Committee approved a draft bill to provide \$81.9 billion for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education -- including \$4.5 billion for Head Start, \$1.3 billion for

Job Corps, \$2.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$9.6 billion for the Labor Department. The bill would bar federal funding for research using human embryos; prohibit needle exchange programs for illegal drug users; ban federal funding for Teamsters elections; require schools receiving federal technology funding to install anti-pornography software on their computer systems; limit students to two years in a federally funded bilingual education programs; halve funding for Goals 2000 and allow states to put their remaining funds in existing educational block grants; bar the president from proceeding with voluntary national math and reading tests unless Congress authorizes them; increase Pell Grant awards for college study to \$3,150; allow women to designate obstetrician-gynecologists as primary care physicians in managed care health plans; ensure that those who do not may receive routine ob-gyn services; overturn a Clinton administration directive that states cover the anti-impotence drug Viagra, directing estimated \$100 million in savings to mental health services for children at risk of violent behavior; require clinics receiving Title X family planning funds to tell parents five days before dispensing birth control to minors; require clinics to comply with state laws on notification of sexual abuse, rape or incest; and add a label to cigarette packages warning of a particular health danger of smoking for African-Americans.

#### FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (HR2279)

The Senate Commerce Committee approved a measure to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration at \$42.4 billion over four years; permit

24 exemptions from flight limits at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, 100 at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and an undetermined number at New York's JFK and LaGuardia airports; call on the Transportation Department to review guidelines that target alleged predatory pricing practices by big airlines at regional hub airports and to respond more quickly to complaints of predatory pricing; provide federal loan guarantees to airlines to buy planes to use for regional service; and regulate tour flights over national parks.

#### AIRPORT SERVICE (S1353)

The Senate Commerce Committee approved a bill calling on the Transportation Department to review guidelines that target alleged predatory pricing practices by big airlines at regional hub airports and to respond more quickly to complaints of predatory pricing; provide federal loan guarantees to airlines to buy planes to use for regional service; provide exemptions to slot restrictions and increase the number of takeoffs and landings at New York's JFK and LaGuardia airports, Chicago's O'Hare and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

#### FLIGHT REGULATION (S268)

The Senate Commerce Committee approved a bill to regulate tour flights over national parks.

#### COPYRIGHT PROTECTION (HR2281)

The House Commerce Committee approved legislation to implement two 1996 World Intellectual Property Organization treaties to strengthen copyright protection for digitally produced works; outlaw the manufacture, import or trafficking of devices "primarily designed" to circumvent technology aimed at preventing access to copyrighted material; allow people to use circumvention devices to protect personal privacy; provide online and Internet service providers some liability protection when infringement takes place without their knowledge; call for the secretary of Commerce to issue regulations prohibiting circumvention of technological protection measures two years after the bill becomes law; call for the secretary during that two-year period to conduct a formal rulemaking to determine if users of copyrighted works are being adversely affected by exemption; and authorize the secretary to grant waivers for lawful use of copyrighted works during that period.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES (S389)

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved a bill to allow members of Congress to raise a point of order against legislation that would cost the private sector \$100 million or more annually, or that would cost government entities \$50 million a year or more if the Congressional Budget Office has not completed a study of those costs.

#### PRIVATIZING GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS (S314)

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved legislation requiring federal agencies to compile a list of functions that could be

performed by the private sector, and require a new office within the Office of Management and Budget to publish the list.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEES (S2228)

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved a proposal to sunset most government-funded advisory committees after three years; exempting certain advisory committees studying health or national security issues.

#### DISASTER INSURANCE (HR219)

The House Banking Committee approved legislation to provide federal reinsurance for state programs that offer policies to residents of areas prone to natural disaster, and require the federal government to cover some residential losses in states that operate public insurance "pools" -- state-run insurance programs that sell policies and allow private companies to join and reduce their risks.

#### FLOOD RISK (HR4111)

The House Resources Committee approved a bill to transfer the Auburn Dam site on the American River from the federal government to the State of California; authorize a feasibility study for the rebuilding of the Northfork American River Cofferdam; and authorize modifications to the Folsom Dam to increase its flood durability.

## PRODUCT ID CODE PROTECTION (HR3891)

The House Judiciary Committee approved a measure to prohibit the unauthorized destruction, modification or alteration of product identification codes. The bill sets a one-year sentence for first-time offenders if the crime did not result in injury and up to life in prison if counterfeiting results in death; holds convicts liable for damages; and allows stores to repackage goods if they maintain bar code and safety information provided by manufacturer.

## TRADEMARK TREATY IMPLEMENTATION (S2193)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill to implement a treaty to allow registration and protection of trademarks for renewable 10-year periods, upon payment of a fee and submission of certain documents.

## TRADEMARK MODIFICATION (S2192)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill to make technical corrections to the Trademark Act of 1946.

## DRUG PENALTIES (HR3898)

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill to increase the criminal penalties for the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamine, and set 10-year sentence for possession of 50 grams, and a five-year sentence for those caught with 5 grams.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT (S1134)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation to approve an agreement between states in the Pacific Northwest to coordinate emergency services in large scale disasters.

## 'MEDAL OF VALOR' (HR4090)

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill to establish a "Congressional Medal of Valor" to be presented each year by the president to a public safety officer identified by the attorney general for extraordinary work.

## OMB DIRECTOR NOMINATION

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved Jacob J. Lew to direct the Office of Management and Budget.

## JUDICIAL NOMINATION

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved U.S. District Judge Kim Wardlaw for a seat on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

## FY 1999 FOREIGN OPERATIONS SPENDING

The House Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee approved a

draft bill to provide \$12.5 billion for new and continuing programs, including \$3.5 billion for the International Monetary Fund and \$352 million to repay debts to international financial institutions; and begin a multi-year phaseout of economic assistance to Israel and Egypt.

#### GREAT LAKES CONSERVATION (HR1481)

The House Resources Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee approved legislation to authorize \$23 million in fiscal 1999 through fiscal 2002 for Great Lakes management, environmental conservation and wildlife restoration -- including \$9 million for Great Lakes resource management offices in Michigan, Wisconsin and New York and \$3.5 million annually for fish and wildlife restoration. The bill would reauthorize a 1990 law (PL 101-596) to revitalize five lakes and more than 10,000 miles of shoreline; implement recommendations of a 1995 Great Lakes fishery resources study authorized by the 1990 law; create a panel to review restoration proposals; allow cash donations, property gifts or volunteering to satisfy requirement in the 1990 law that managers find outside sources to finance 25 percent of resources projects; and establish cooperative research units in Michigan and New Jersey.

[LastWeek]

## TODAY AT A GLANCE

\*Afternoon News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 36 lines)

Item Key: 14151

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## TODAY AT A GLANCE

By CQ Staff

HOUSE FLOOR: The debate on campaign finance overhaul (HR2183) resumes today. Tomorrow's agenda includes the VA-HUD (HR4194) and Interior (HR4193) spending bills. On Wednesday and Thursday, votes are expected on a measure (HJRES121) to disapprove renewal of China's normal trade status and on overriding President Clinton's veto of legislation (HR1122) to ban a certain late-term abortion. The Commerce-Justice-State spending bill is expected later in the week. (Convenes at 12:30 p.m.; no votes expected before 5 p.m.)

SENATE FLOOR: A cloture vote on the legislative branch spending bill (S2137) is up tomorrow. The Commerce-Justice-State draft spending bill is slated for later this week. (Convenes at 1 p.m. today; first vote at 9:30 a.m tomorrow.)

APPROPRIATIONS: Tomorrow, both a Senate Appropriations subcommittee and the full panel will consider a draft foreign operations spending

bill. House Appropriations considers its version of the bill Wednesday, as well as a draft Transportation spending bill. Senate Appropriations will also consider a draft spending bill for the District of Columbia.

FAST TRACK: Senate Finance tomorrow marks up a draft trade bill that includes presidential fast-track authority.

PERSECUTION: Senate Foreign Relations considers a bill (S1868) Thursday designed to combat religious persecution overseas.

POLITICS: The Georgia primary is tomorrow, with focus on the Republican contests for governor and the 2nd House District nomination to face Sanford D. Bishop Jr. Today brings to an end the filing period for House candidates in North Carolina, where district lines were recently redrawn.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

'E-RATE' BATTLE IS LEAVING SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES OFF-LINE

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 105 lines)

Item Key: 14155

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'E-RATE' BATTLE IS LEAVING SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES OFF-LINE

By Sumana Chatterjee, CQ Staff Writer

When librarian Enid Case answers the telephone, she's never sure if she'll be speaking with one of Paradox Library's patrons -- or someone calling the fire chief. In the Colorado valley town of Paradox, population 200, the library and fire department share a phone line.

Paradox is among thousands of communities looking forward to a federal subsidy to provide telecommunication services to schools and libraries and connect them to the Internet. But the money is on hold.

Schools and libraries will not receive Internet subsidies until the fall, a Senate panel was told last week by Ira Fishman, chief executive of the quasi-governmental Schools and Library Corporation. That's a blow to school districts who were expecting to have "e-rate" money by now.

The discounts created by the 1996 Telecommunications Act (PL 104-104) are intended to "bridge the digital divide," said Lynne Bradley, deputy executive director of the American Library Association and a member of the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC). "We feel access delayed is access denied."

Last week, EdLiNC members sent letters asking key lawmakers to "save the e-rate." The "letter drop" supplements more than 21,000 e-mail messages sent from the coalition's web site, according to Carolyn Breedlove, the National Education Association's senior

telecommunications lobbyist. Groups in 20 states have begun their own lobbying efforts.

During three years of e-rate lobbying, Breedlove has found a divided Congress. "The good news is we have bipartisan support, but the bad news is we also have bipartisan opposition," she said.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS, INCREASED OPPOSITION:** Congressional scrutiny has been intense. Last week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agreed to recommendations in a General Accounting Office report -- requested by Senate Commerce Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz. -- that labeled the program a high risk for abuse. Last month, McCain and others complained to FCC Chairman William Kennard that the agency overstepped the 1996 law and warned that the e-rate program would endanger the rest of the universal service program, which subsidizes rural telecommunications services.

The renewed lobbying and congressional interest follows a flurry of complaints about the e-rate charge. Since the inception of universal service in 1934, telephone companies had buried the cost in their monthly charges. But on July 1, AT&T and MCI began listing the surcharge on monthly bills.

Initially hired to help Colorado public schools and libraries apply for Internet subsidies, consultant Phyllis Albrighton now encourages hopefuls to contact lawmakers, write letters to newspaper editors and make their support for the program visible. "A lot of mobilization has

been focused on efforts ... to address efforts to misrepresent the program" as a tax issue, she said.

Conservative radio hosts including Rush Limbaugh have railed against the e-rate, calling it the "Gore tax," after the chief advocate for high technology in classrooms -- the vice president. The opponents contend the fee is an unconstitutional tax embedded in regulations.

"The phone companies have done a superb job on spinning the schools and library funds as a new tax. ... That is simply not the case," said Don Meyer, a spokesman for Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, a chief sponsor of the 1996 provision.

Lawmakers are considering "truth-in-billing" legislation that would require phone companies to also show consumers how much they are saving as a result of the 1996 law, particularly as a result of reduced local access charges.

The first round of the lobbying battle went to the e-rate opponents. Last month, the FCC scaled back the program from \$2.25 billion during its first year to \$1.375 billion over 18 months.

**NEW FINANCING PROPOSAL:** On Thursday, House Commerce Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman W.J "Billy" Tauzin, R-La., plans to introduce a bill to block the FCC from collecting the e-rate and reduce the telecommunications excise tax in place since 1914. The remaining revenue -- \$1.7 billion to \$2.5 billion annually -- would go

to states as block grants to hook up schools and libraries. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., is expected to introduce a similar Senate bill.

GTE Corp. first proposed tapping the excise tax revenue two years ago, when the FCC began implementing the 1996 law. By proposing another source of Internet money, GTE apparently hoped to avoid being tagged as an opponent of schools and libraries. But EdLiNC posted the e-mail address of GTE Chief Executive Charles Lee on its web site. Lee received 1,600 e-mails, and GTE plans to use the return addresses to lobby e-rate backers to embrace the excise tax proposal. The company also plans a national advertising campaign.

The excise tax plan is attractive to Republicans looking for ways to deliver election-year tax cuts and anxious to damage Gore by linking the e-rate to big government and hidden taxes.

Acknowledging the political winds, e-rate supporters do not dismiss the Tauzin-Burns plan. But they want guarantees that poor areas will be helped first. And the NEA's Breedlove wonders which programs the GOP intends to cut to offset the cost of the proposed tax cut.

Meanwhile, Albrighton says, "Everyone is holding their breath" waiting for the money.

## STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 78 lines)

Item Key: 14161

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## STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

By CQ Staff

FULL COMMITTEE: House full committee markups for Transportation and Foreign Operations July 22; Senate full committee markups for District of Columbia and Foreign Operations July 21

AGRICULTURE (HR4101): House subcommittee markup completed June 10; Senate subcommittee markup completed June 9; Senate full committee markup completed June 11 (SRept105-212); House full committee markup completed June 16 (HRept105-588); PASSED House June 24; PASSED Senate July 16

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE & THE JUDICIARY (S2260): House subcommittee markup completed June 24; Senate subcommittee markup June completed 23; Senate full committee markup completed June 25; House full committee markup completed July 15

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Senate full committee markup July 21

ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT (S2138, HR4060): Senate subcommittee markup completed June 2; Senate full committee markup completed June 4 (SRept105-206); House subcommittee markup completed June 10; House full committee markup completed June 16 (HRept105-581); PASSED Senate June 18; PASSED House June 22

FOREIGN OPERATIONS: House subcommittee markup completed July 15; House full committee markup July 22; Senate subcommittee markup July 21; Senate full committee markup July 21

INTERIOR: (S2237, HR4193) House subcommittee markup completed June 18; House full committee markup completed June 25; Senate subcommittee markup completed June 23; Senate full committee markup completed June 25

LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION: House subcommittee markup completed June 23; House full committee markup completed July 14

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH (S2137, HR4112): Senate full committee markup completed June 4 (SRept105-204); House subcommittee markup completed June 10; House full committee markup completed June 18 (HRept105-595); PASSED House June 25; Senate floor debate began July 17

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (HR4059): House subcommittee markup completed June 10; Senate full committee markup completed June 11 (SRept105-213); House full committee markup completed June 16 (HRept105-578); PASSED House June 22; PASSED by Senate June 25

NATIONAL SECURITY/DEFENSE (S2132, HR4103): House subcommittee markup completed June 4; Senate subcommittee markup completed June 2; Senate full committee markup completed June 4 (SRept105-200); House full committee markup completed June 17 (HRept105-591); PASSED House June 24

TRANSPORTATION: (S2307) Senate subcommittee markup completed July 8; Senate full committee markup completed July 14; House subcommittee markup completed July 16; House full committee markup July 22

TREASURY/POSTAL SERVICE: (HR4104) House subcommittee markup completed June 11; House full committee markup completed June 17 (HRept105-592); Senate full committee markup completed July 14; PASSED House July 16

VA, HUD, & INDEPENDENT AGENCIES (S2168, HR4194): Senate subcommittee markup completed June 9; Senate full committee markup completed June 11 (SRept105-216); House subcommittee markup completed June 18; House full committee markup completed June 25; House floor debate began July 16; PASSED Senate July 17

FY98 SUPPLEMENTAL (HR3579): Senate full committee markup completed March 17 (SRept105-168); House full committee markup completed March 24 (HRept105-469); S1768/S1769 DEBATE COMPLETED by Senate March 26; HR3579 PASSED by House March 31; HR3579 PASSED by Senate March 31 (Senate amended HR3579 to contain the text of S1768); Senate conferees named March 31; House conferees named April 23; Conference completed April 30

(HRept105-504); PASSED House April 30; PASSED Senate April 30; SIGNED by president May 1; Public Law: PL105-174

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPENDING

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 61 lines)

Item Key: 14169

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#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPENDING

By Matthew Tully and Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writers

The Senate Appropriations Committee this week will begin work on the fiscal 1999 spending bill for the District of Columbia, which in recent years has served as a temporary home to controversial "riders."

The Senate has allocated \$482 million in budget authority to the District spending bill, which is \$9 million less than the House bill and \$10 million less than the president has requested. Aides on Friday night said members had not yet received the details of the budget and declined to release other details of the measure.

Last year, Republicans attempted to link school vouchers, which would have allowed families to pay for admittance to the public or private school of their choice, to the spending bill. President Clinton earlier this year vetoed a bill (S1502) to authorize school vouchers for residents of the District of Columbia. An effort to attach such a provision to this year's bill is not expected.

Both the D.C. City Council and the city's control board have approved a \$5.2 billion budget that would provide \$254 million for infrastructure improvements and \$11 million in tax cuts. The president's budget request seeks \$25 million in improvements for the area's Metro train system.

City Council Chairwoman Linda W. Cropp urged lawmakers last month to steer clear of social issues that she said should be determined locally. Still, many in Congress are likely to at least attempt to strike down a city ordinance requiring new city hires to be city residents.

## CHINA TRADE POLICY

The annual showdown vote on whether to grant China normal trade relations for another year is scheduled in the House later this week.

As in previous years, the House is expected to uphold President Clinton's June decision to renew China's most-favored-nation (MFN) status, but only after a contentious debate that is slated to last for

four hours.

The vote will be on a resolution (HJRES121) to discontinue the trade status, meaning that Clinton's position and MFN for China will be upheld if the resolution is rejected.

Clinton and those in Congress who support the extension argue the policy of "engagement" with China serves U.S. economic interests and promotes change in China and stability in Asia, among other benefits. That position also is shared by the business community.

Opponents counter that the normal trade designation, accorded to all but a few nations, should not be granted to China primarily because of its human rights record.

Other reasons for the opposition to intensify are the investigation into U.S. technology transfers to China's military and a probe of alleged Chinese efforts to influence U.S. elections.

Last year, the House defeated a China MFN disapproval resolution on a 173-259 vote. The Senate did not vote.

[ThisWeek]

## A WEEK OF MONEY MATTERS AND MANAGED CARE

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 87 lines)

Item Key: 14162

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## A WEEK OF MONEY MATTERS AND MANAGED CARE

By CQ Staff

Against a backdrop of continuing floor action on the fiscal 1999 spending bills, both chambers are preparing for high-stakes battles this week over competing Republican and Democratic proposals to give patients greater rights in dealing with managed-care health plans.

Although Republicans did not finish drafting their legislation until last week -- and thus far have not subjected it to the normal process of committee hearings and markups -- the bills (HR4250, S2330) appear to be moving to the floor in both chambers this week.

House Republican leaders are expected to call up their measure on Friday, with Rules Committee action likely just a day earlier. The Senate floor schedule, as always, is a good deal less certain. As of late Friday, there was no agreement between Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., on how to structure and control the Senate debate.

Democrats are waiting to pounce on the GOP health care measures. For months, the minority has been crusading for action on its own managed-care legislation (HR3605, S1890), which would go well beyond the Republican proposals in both the scope of its coverage mandates and in enforcement mechanisms. Among other things, the Democratic measures would allow patients to sue their health plans for malpractice if they suffer injury as a result of the insurer's refusal to cover a needed treatment.

Not all Republicans in either chamber are committed to their party's proposals. In the House, for instance, Greg Ganske, R-Iowa, a plastic surgeon, and Michael R. Forbes, R-N.Y., stood with President Clinton at a news conference last week to promote the Democratic health bills. And Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, has withdrawn his support from HR4250 because he thinks it is too regulatory.

In the Senate, John H. Chafee, R-R.I., is working with Bob Graham, D-Fla., on a bipartisan alternative. But it is by no means clear that members of either party are eager to move to middle ground.

Public opinion polls show the patient protection issue near the top of voters' concerns this year, and so far, Democrats enjoy public support on the issue. Republicans would like to blunt that edge by giving their members an alternative to vote for, but they are not eager to enact legislation that would offend their business supporters or

allow Clinton and the minority to claim a major victory.

## OTHER LEGISLATION

In the House, at least, there is plenty of other business on the agenda before members turn to the health care fight.

Today, for starters, the House will resume its debate on campaign finance legislation (HR2183) after plowing through a string of non-controversial bills to be handled under suspension of the rules, which bars amendments and requires a two-thirds vote for passage. One of the most important of these (HR1689) would require all securities fraud class-action lawsuits be filed in federal court, where tougher standards apply as a result of legislation (PL 104-67) enacted in 1995 over Clinton's veto.

Tomorrow, the chamber will return to the fiscal 1999 appropriations bill (HR4194) for housing, veterans affairs and independent agencies, which it debated at length on Friday. Battles are expected over amendments to kill the international space station and to soften language that would bar the administration from making any move toward implementation of the global warming treaty approved in Kyoto, Japan, last year.

The Interior spending bill (HR4193) is also scheduled for action tomorrow.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House expects to vote on legislation (HJRES121) seeking to disapprove Clinton's renewal of normal trade status for China, and on overriding the president's veto of legislation (HR1122) to ban what opponents label "partial-birth" abortions.

The Commerce, Justice, State and judiciary appropriations bill, not yet numbered, is also on the late-week agenda in the House.

The Senate, meanwhile, is expected to take up its version (S2260) of the Commerce-Justice-State bill after it considers the legislative branch funding measure (S2137). A cloture vote is scheduled for tomorrow. The House passed its version of the congressional spending bill (HR4112) on June 25.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

APPROPRIATIONS, HEALTH CARE BILLS TOP NEXT WEEK'S AGENDA

\*Afternoon News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 43 lines)

Item Key: 14150

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APPROPRIATIONS, HEALTH CARE BILLS TOP NEXT WEEK'S AGENDA

By CQ Staff

Both chambers will continue moving fiscal 1999 appropriations bills next week, but the political spotlight will be on other issues -- notably, abortion and health care -- that the House will consider mid-week.

HOUSE FLOOR: Monday, the chamber will resume its debate on campaign finance legislation (HR2183) and on non-controversial bills to be handled under suspension of the rules.

Starting Tuesday, it will take up three spending bills: VA-HUD (HR 4194), which it debated today; Interior (HR4193) and the as-yet-unnumbered Commerce-Justice-State bill.

Then the fireworks begin, as GOP leaders are expected to call up their "Patient Protection Act" to expand the availability of health insurance and give patients new powers in dealing with their managed-care plans.

Also set for the week is an attempt to override President Clinton's veto of legislation (HR1122) to ban what opponents call "partial-birth" abortions. Supporters of the measure are expected to muster the two-thirds vote necessary to override, but the real contest will come in the Senate.

One more hot issue is set for debate in the House next week: a resolution (HJRES121) to disapprove President Clinton's decision to maintain normal trade relations with China. The status, previously known as "most favored nation" status, requires annual renewal.

SENATE FLOOR: The Senate is likely to concentrate on spending bills, with the legislative branch appropriations measure (S2137) and the Commerce-Justice-State bill (S2260) the likeliest candidates for consideration.

If Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, S.D., can agree on the parameters and ground rules, the Senate may also launch its debate on competing Republican and Democratic proposals to give patients new protections in dealing with their managed care health plans.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

SENATE PASSES VA-HUD BILL AS HOUSE DEBATES ITS VERSION OF MEASURE

\*Afternoon News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 86 lines)

Item Key: 14149

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## SENATE PASSES VA-HUD BILL AS HOUSE DEBATES ITS VERSION OF MEASURE

By George Clifford III, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate today passed its \$93.3 billion version of the diverse spending bill that finances the veterans, housing, environmental, space, science, disaster aid and assorted other programs of two Cabinet departments and 17 agencies.

The measure (S2168) was passed by voice vote this morning just before the House started debating its version of the VA-HUD spending bill (HR4194), which would allocate about \$600 million more than its Senate counterpart. But the House was set to leave for the weekend at midafternoon without coming close to a vote on final passage. GOP leaders hope to pick up the bill again next week.

As the weekend began, the House had passed six of the requisite 13 spending bills for fiscal 1999, and the Senate had passed four of them. None has yet become law, and the new budget year starts Oct. 1, less than 11 weeks from now.

Senators this afternoon started work on the legislative branch spending bill(S2137), but it immediately and unexpectedly became bogged down when Sam Brownback, R-Kan., tried to attach an amendment to limit the tax code's "marriage penalty" -- one of the big Republican objectives this election year. Majority Leader Trent Lott, Miss., who says catching up on spending bills is his top priority these days,

immediately arranged for a vote to limit debate on the bill. That cloture vote will be held Tuesday morning.

SENATE VA-HUD DEBATE: By 54-40, the Senate rejected an amendment by Paul Wellstone, D- Minn., that would have restored medical benefits for veterans with smoking-related illness not related to military service. Those benefits were denied by a provision of the surface transportation law (PL 105-178) enacted last month.

The Senate tabled, by 58-37, an amendment by Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., that would have increased NASA spending, offsetting the increase with cuts in funding for AmeriCorps, President Clinton's signature national service program.

Also tabled, 69-27, was an amendment by Majority Whip Don Nickles, Okla., that would have lowered a proposed new limit on home mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The bill would raise the limit from about \$170,000 to about \$197,000.

That increase in the loan limit has been one of the more controversial provisions of the bill. Institutional critics -- the most visible of which included Milwaukee's Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Company -- contended that raising the limits would infringe on the work of private insurers.

The company said the FHA can take twice as long as private insurers to resell foreclosed properties. Those delays, and the resulting

abandoned residences, have contributed to urban blight in some areas, the company contended.

Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., ranking member of the Appropriations VA-HUD Subcommittee, has defended the bill's loan limit, saying it was "designed to provide promise to potential home owners without providing heartache to the American taxpayer."

HOUSE VA-HUD DEBATE: Against the wishes of most Democrats, the House voted 230-181 to attach its stalled public housing overhaul bill (HR2) to its version of the VA-HUD bill.

Democrats called the move "legislative extortion" and an attempt by House Republicans to force through a version of the public housing bill that they likely could not keep afloat if it ever goes to conference with the Senate, which has not happened. The public housing proposal would turn federal housing programs into block grants and give local authorities more flexibility.

HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo called the public housing bill "repugnant" yesterday and the Banking Committee's top Democrat, John J. LaFalce, N.Y., said he believed Clinton would veto the VA-HUD spending bill if the housing language were in it.

House Banking Chairman Jim Leach, R-Iowa, defended the move, saying the public housing proposal had been debated in full and endorsed overwhelmingly on its own by the chamber. The House passed the housing

bill 293-132 last May.

The House considered a handful of other amendments today but is not expected to take a final vote on the bill until Tuesday, when action is set to resume on the bill.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

#### LINE-ITEM VETO COMPLETELY DISAPPEARS

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 52 lines)

Item Key: 14199

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#### LINE-ITEM VETO COMPLETELY DISAPPEARS

By Andrew Taylor, CQ Staff Writer

President Clinton has officially thrown in the towel on the line-item veto.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) decided on Friday that, when the Supreme Court declared the 1996 law (PL 104-130) unconstitutional on June 25, the 43 line-item vetoes by Clinton that were not formally part of the lawsuit before the justices nonetheless

were automatically null and void.

The White House budget office said it would release funding soon for all the projects -- typical of which was a \$900 million biocontrol and insect-rearing laboratory in Mississippi.

It was widely assumed that financing for the projects not covered by the court's ruling in *Clinton v. City of New York* would be restored. But administration lawyers took three weeks to sort through this untested niche of the law, only to come up with the simple solution to just release the money. Had OMB ruled otherwise, proponents of the spending left in limbo were preparing to try and restore the money in the fiscal 1999 appropriations process.

An exception will be Arab, Ala., which lost a \$450,000 storm readiness center to a line-item veto last fall but had the money restored in this year's supplemental appropriations bill (PL 105-174). The town will not get its money twice, OMB spokeswoman Linda Ricci said.

At the same time, Clinton is proposing to rescind one of the pet provisions, language in the 1998 Interior spending bill (PL 105-83) that blocks the federal government from retaining \$10 million in federal mineral rights to land it transferred to Montana. Congress is free to ignore the request.

The statute, the only major provision of the 1994 House Republican "Contract With America" on which both Clinton and the Republicans

completely agreed, gave the president five days to rescind spending items in appropriations bills or "cancel" certain tax or entitlement spending provisions after signing the broader bill into law. Congress had the ability to overturn those vetoes by passing a separate "disapproval bill." But the court ruled 6-3 that the law had impermissibly changed the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches -- something, the majority said, that only a constitutional amendment could do.

Republicans in Congress have unveiled a variety of proposals for trying to restore some sort of line-item power to the president, either through such an amendment or in a new legislative maneuver, but GOP leaders have suggested there will be no action on the topic before the 106th Congress.

10 of 20 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

HOUSE OKS TREASURY-POSTAL BILL AFTER WILD RIDE

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 158 lines)

Item Key: 14113

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HOUSE OKS TREASURY-POSTAL BILL AFTER WILD RIDE

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

The bizarre voyage of one of the year's most diverse and divisive domestic spending bills came to a crazy climax last night.

The House passed the legislation 218-203 after a suspenseful, seesaw roll call in which lawmakers scurried through the chamber seeking guidance from one another about what provisions were still in the bill after a raucous 10-hour debate.

During that time, nearly 50 provisions were stripped from the legislation thanks to parliamentary free-for-all that the Republican leaders had engineered to govern the debate, primarily so that the concerns of a relative few -- especially those seeking to stop payment for federal workers' contraception and those seeking to avoid getting an election-year pay raise -- might be protected.

"This is classic making sausage," veteran Appropriations Committee member Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., concluded during the final balloting, during most of which the bill seemed doomed to defeat. In the end, it passed with the votes of 192 Republicans and 26 Democrats, while 33 Republicans, 169 Democrats and the lone independent voted "no."

The measure (HR4104) would allocate about \$29 billion in discretionary spending -- even that total was in dispute last night -- for the operations of the IRS, the Customs Service, other arms of the Treasury Department, the Postal Service, the executive office of the

president and a handful of independent agencies, most of which undergird the operation of the federal bureaucracy.

House appropriators will have to piece back together much of the bill when it gets to a conference with the Senate. Its unnumbered bill was approved by the Appropriations Committee on Tuesday.

## OBEY'S ONSLAUGHT

Much of the damage was at the hand of the Appropriations Committee's top Democrat, David R. Obey, Wis., who used the unusual rule for debate that the GOP crafted to strike section after section. He said he was carrying out a protest of what he perceived as a betrayal by Republican leaders of a long-standing tradition: protecting sections in spending bills that technically violate House rules but often are inserted to make the measures more palatable.

"Those who live by the sword must die by the sword," he said to the Republicans.

Obey even struck sections that he has long sought, such as one to provide limited exceptions to a ban on the federal government paying for abortions of federal workers. "I happen to agree with those exceptions, but I wasn't playing favorites," Obey said.

## A TORTURED STRATEGY BACKFIRES

The bill has been a headache for Republican leaders since they first tried to bring it to the floor in June.

The first rule to govern debate was rejected when anti-abortion Republicans, who were angry that it would have protected a requirement that federal employee medical insurance cover contraceptives, teamed up with Democrats, who were angry that the rule automatically would have stripped \$2.25 billion in emergency funding -- not subject to budget caps -- for fixing the government's Year 2000 computer glitch.

The Rules Committee then came back with a new rule, which tried to protect only the section of the bill blocking a planned cost-of-living increase in congressional salaries.

Rules Committee Republican John Linder, Ga., said GOP leaders figured they could bring their own conservatives back on board by not protecting the contraceptives language and could win over enough Democrats by not forcing them to take a vote on the touchy pay-raise issue in an election year. The strategy worked and the rule was adopted Wednesday night, 218-201.

In the end, however, Democrats still were forced to take a vote on the pay raise -- it failed -- and the contraceptives language ended up in the bill, to the chagrin of conservatives.

The strategy also led to yesterday's rampage through the bill by Obey and opened the door to lawmakers who took advantage of the rare

power to strike sections they did not like simply by getting the presiding officer's attention. The computer glitch money, for example, was nixed by Mark W. Neumann, R-Wis., because it had not been formally authorized.

Nobody dared touch the IRS, though; its entire \$11.5 billion budget could have been stripped because the tax-collection agency is not operating under a formal authorization law.

### LOWEY'S LATE-NIGHT VICTORY

Initially, the provision to require federal employee health plans to cover contraceptives was struck from the bill for legislating on an appropriations bill, just as the GOP had wanted. But the proposal's sponsor, Nita M. Lowey, D-N.Y. changed her proposal to instead prohibit the government from using money in the bill to enter into contracts with health care providers that do not offer prescription contraceptives, with a few exceptions for Catholic health plans.

The change was almost entirely technical, but it brought the proposal in line with House rules, which allow appropriations bills to place conditions on how money is spent. The amendment then was adopted, 224-198. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., and other anti-abortion Republicans then moved to alter Lowey's amendment to prevent the health insurance companies from covering drugs that chemically induce abortions. That was defeated, 198-222.

## A PAY RAISE VOTE, AFTER ALL

House leaders had hoped to shield members from a vote that could be portrayed as in favor of raising their own pay. But W.G. "Bill" Hefner, D-N.C., who is retiring, dashed those hopes in a fit of pique at the National Republican Congressional Committee. It issued a news release yesterday quoting Linder threatening to make an issue out of Democrats who were "unequivocally voting to give themselves a pay raise" by casting a vote Wednesday night against the rule.

Hefner said he offered the amendment, which would let the COLA take effect, so members would have a chance to make it clear how they stood on the issue. His amendment was defeated 79-342.

## OTHER AMENDMENTS

The House voted 214-210 to add \$2.8 million for the Federal Election Commission, raising the agency's funding to the full \$36.5 million that the Clinton administration had requested.

The House rejected other high-profile amendments, including one that would have removed the "Hyde amendment," which prohibits federal health plans from covering abortions. The vote was 183-239.

Another amendment, defeated 195-226, would have required congressional approval before any any funds in the bill could be used to make a loan or credit through the exchange stabilization fund, which is

used to stabilize foreign currencies.

## GAY BIAS VOTE DELAYED

Joel Hefley, R-Colo., had planned to offer an amendment to overturn President Clinton's May 28 executive order barring discrimination in the federal civilian workforce based on sexual orientation. But GOP leaders became concerned that would be perceived as a slap at Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., chairman of the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Subcommittee, who is gay.

At the request of Majority Leader Tom DeLay, Texas, a leading supporter of the amendment, Hefley held off but said he would offer a broader version of his amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill when it reaches the floor.

Kolbe, who had a private conversation with DeLay about the issue last month, refused to describe the talk. But he warned the issue could backfire for Republicans. "I don't think we should be discriminating against individuals for employment on the basis of sexual preference; that's just fundamentally wrong."

\*Afternoon News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 44 lines)

Item Key: 14139

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## AGREEMENT REACHED TO LIMIT CAMPAIGN FINANCE AMENDMENTS

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

Opposing sides in the House's campaign finance debate agreed today on a plan to limit -- at least somewhat -- the number of amendments that can be offered to the pending proposals.

Both sides hope the agreement, which came this afternoon in the form of a unanimous consent request offered by House Oversight Committee Chairman Bill Thomas, R-Calif., will expedite the off-again, on-again debate. Democrats accepted the plan.

The agreement would limit to 55 the number of additional amendments that could be offered to the substitute proposal sponsored by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., that would ban "soft money" donations to political parties and place limits on issue advocacy advertising, among other restrictions. Without the agreement, hundreds of amendments could have been offered to the plan.

In general, Shays and Meehan are working to amendments to their measure, in the belief that its carefully constructed base of support

would fall apart if provisions are attached that would either strengthen it or weaken it. So far, they have won each of the pivotal test votes on such amendments.

The Shays-Meehan plan is only the second of 11 main campaign finance proposals House leaders have pledged to allow to come to votes before the August break begins three weeks from today. Under the rules for the debate, whichever proposal gets the most votes -- so long as it receives a majority -- will pass. The underlying bill (HR2183) is a bipartisan offering from the House freshman that is less sweeping than the Shay-Meehan bill. Shays, Meehan and their backers have worried that opponents of their proposal could run out the clock by offering and debating amendment after amendment.

The unanimous consent agreement also would limit debate time on all of the amendments, ranging from 10 to 40 minutes on each amendment.

The House is scheduled to return to its consideration of the Shays-Meehan proposal on Monday. Thomas said the House may stay on campaign finance Monday night "as long as members are willing," and that he hopes they could get through as many as one-third of the remaining amendments to Shays-Meehan.

## COMMERCE: INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM LAGS BADLY, IRATE MCCAIN COMPLAINS

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 43 lines)

Item Key: 14121

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## COMMERCE: INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM LAGS BADLY, IRATE MCCAIN COMPLAINS

By Sumana Chatterjee, CQ Staff Writer

The program to subsidize Internet access for schools and libraries is hindered by an inefficient bureaucracy that has yet to deliver any money to 30,000 applicants, Senate Commerce Chairman John McCain complained yesterday.

"I give everybody an 'A' for effort, but I cannot give you a very high grade for what you've accomplished," McCain, R-Ariz., told officials of the agency in charge of the "e-rate" program.

During a hearing before McCain's committee, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report labeling the program at high risk for abuse because of an inadequate application evaluation system and a lack of clear goals.

The GAO recommended that the Schools and Library Corporation tighten its application review process to prevent ineligible groups from receiving money.

But one of the legislative creators of the e-rate, Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., said the eight-month-old program is "fundamentally strong and sound."

Program administrators agreed to implement the GAO's recommendations before distributing any of the \$1.275 billion earmarked for schools and libraries. But the resulting delay in payments until fall will be a new setback for schools and libraries that were expecting the money by mid-summer but now may be left unable to fulfill contracts for computers, software and wiring.

The e-rate program has undergone a number of policy changes in recent months. Under pressure from Congress, the Federal Communications Commission last month cut the amount of subsidies and changed criteria, giving the poorest schools and libraries priority.

The program is financed through fees paid by telecommunications companies, which pass them on to customers.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act (PL 104-104) expanded the universal service fund to include money for Internet access.

## CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT: CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERHAUL

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 55 lines)

Item Key: 14179

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## CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT: CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERHAUL

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

The long-lasting campaign finance debate returns to the House floor tonight.

The debate has been on and off the floor for several weeks -- part of the unpredictable and unwieldy procedure for its consideration crafted by Republican leaders, who have shown sentiments ranging from disinterest to open hostility toward the bill.

On Friday, the measure's sponsors and GOP leaders agreed on a plan to at least bring some order to the proceedings. The agreement, adopted by unanimous consent, limits to 55 the number of additional amendments that may be offered to the proposal by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass. It would ban "soft money" donations to political parties and place limits on issue advocacy advertising, among an array of other changes to the way presidential and congressional campaigns are run.

The agreement limits debate to 10 minutes each on all but eight of the amendments, for which as much as 40 minutes each has been reserved. Until that deal, several hundred amendments were possible, with no time limit on any of them.

The Shays-Meehan plan is the second of 11 main proposals to change campaign finance laws that are being offered to a bill (HR2183) -- written by a bipartisan group of freshman -- that is less sweeping than the Shay-Meehan bill. Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, has pledged to complete debate and voting on the entire collection by the start of the summer break, set to begin Aug. 7. Under the rules for the debate, whichever proposal gets the most votes -- so long as it receives a majority -- will pass.

Shays and Meehan had worried that their opponents could run out the clock by offering and debating amendment after amendment. Now, their aim will be to stop most of the agreed-upon amendments to their measure, in the belief that its carefully constructed base of support would fall apart if provisions are attached that would either strengthen it or weaken it. So far, they have won each of the pivotal test votes on such amendments.

Oversight Committee Chairman Bill Thomas, Calif., the GOP leadership's point-man on the bill, says the House could get through as many as one-third of the amendments permitted by the agreement if lawmakers were willing to work late tonight -- the only time this week Armey has set aside time for the debate.

Before moving to other amendments, the House will vote on three amendments debated last week: to prohibit the use of White House meals or accommodations for political fundraising; to prohibit residents of the United States who are not citizens from making donations for federal, state or local races; and to limit the allowed defenses against charges of violating the ban on campaign donations from foreign sources.

[ThisWeek]

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#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 28 lines)

Item Key: 14166

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#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING

By George Clifford, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate is expected to resume work this week on the \$1.7 billion fiscal 1999 spending bill (S2137) for Congress and its supporting agencies.

A preliminary cloture vote scheduled for 9:30 a.m. tomorrow will be the chamber's first roll call vote this week.

Senators began work on the legislative branch appropriations bill Friday afternoon, but the debate immediately and unexpectedly bogged down when Sam Brownback, R-Kan., offered an amendment to limit the tax code's "marriage penalty."

Curtailing tax code provisions that require married couples to pay more taxes than they would pay as single individuals is a Republican election-year priority. But Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., whose own priority is speeding the pace of the annual appropriations bills, immediately arranged for a vote to limit debate on the bill.

The measure includes \$469.4 million for Senate operations, an increase of \$8.3 million from this year's spending. Funding for the Capitol Police would climb by \$6.3 million to \$80.4 million, with much of the additional money targeted for tightening of day-to-day security. The bill does not include funds for the House, which will be added in conference.

[ThisWeek]

## MIDDAY UPDATE

\*Afternoon News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 80 lines)

Item Key: 14145

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## MIDDAY UPDATE

By CQ Staff

**SENATE PASSES VA-HUD SPENDING BILL:** By voice vote, the Senate today passed its \$93.3 billion version of the VA-HUD appropriations bill (S2168) for veterans, housing, space and environmental programs. Senators voted 58-37 to table, or kill, an amendment to boost NASA spending with money taken from the AmeriCorps national service program. Also tabled, 69-27, was an amendment to lower a proposed new limit on home mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). And the vote was 54-40 to reject language to restore medical benefits for veterans with smoking-related illnesses not related to military service. Those benefits were denied by a provision of the surface transportation law (HR2400 -- PL 105-178) enacted last month.

**HOUSE DEBATES ITS VA-HUD BILL:** The House debated its version of the VA-HUD spending bill today and will vote on a few amendments before its planned mid-afternoon departure, but work on the bill (HR4194) will not be complete until next week. The most significant vote expected today is

on an amendment to attach to the bill the text of a separate measure (HR2) to convert federal housing programs into block grants and give local authorities more flexibility.

CLINTON NIXES TAX CUTS. Drawing a firm line between himself and congressional Republicans, President Clinton today reiterated his opposition to tax cuts until a specific plan for assuring Social Security's long-term solvency has been put in place. Answering questions following a speech to a Girls Nation gathering here, the president said the government should bank the projected budget surplus before it starts spending it. "We have not had a balanced budget for 29 years. And now, before we've had ... the first year of a surplus, to be talking about spending hundreds of billions of dollars on a tax cut based on projected surpluses that may or may not materialize, before we have spent the first dollar to save Social Security ... I think is a mistake. So I'll go back to my position. I think we should save Social Security first."

BLUE DOGS SECOND THE MOTION: Urging conservative Republicans to indeed act conservatively, a group of House Democrats today stressed that 1998 is no year for tax cuts. The self-titled Blue Dog Democrats, while saying they do not oppose tax relief efforts, argued there are better things to do with the blooming budget surplus -- projected this week by the Congressional Budget Office to hit \$520 billion over the next five years. "We think the conservative thing to do is to save Social Security and see what the economy does next year," said Charles W. Stenholm, D-Texas. The group wants Congress to leave the surplus alone this year and make preparations to separate the Social Security

trust fund from the rest of the federal budget. Then, Congress should devise a plan to begin paying down the federal debt. Only after that, the group said, should tax cuts be considered.

**SECRET SERVICE TESTIMONY TO PROCEED:** Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist today refused to block testimony by Secret Service agents in the Monica Lewinsky case, meaning that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr can now question President Clinton's bodyguards about what they saw or heard about the president and the former White House intern. An appeals court yesterday granted a temporary stay of testimony, but Rehnquist refused to extend the stay. "The opinion of the Court of Appeals seems to me cogent and correct," Rehnquist wrote in the brief two-page order. Rehnquist said the Clinton administration failed to show that "irreparable harm" would result if the guards testified. While Rehnquist rejected the administration's emergency, last-ditch request to temporarily block the testimony, he also said he assumed the full Supreme Court would agree to hear the administration's underlying appeal seeking to create a new privilege shielding the guards from having to testify.

**A GLANCE AT THE SCHEDULE:** Both chambers will continue moving fiscal 1999 appropriations bills next week, but the political spotlight will be on other issues -- notably, abortion and health care -- that the House will consider mid-week. Monday, the House will resume its debate on campaign finance legislation (HR2183) and on non-controversial bills to be handled under suspension of the rules. Starting Tuesday, it will take up three spending bills: VA-HUD (HR4194), Interior (HR4193) and as yet

unnumbered Commerce, Justice, State. Then the fireworks begin, as GOP leaders are expected to call up their "Patient Protection Act" to expand the availability of health insurance and give patients new powers in dealing with their managed-care plans. Also set for the week is an attempt to override President Clinton's veto of legislation (HR1122) to ban what opponents call "partial-birth" abortions.

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#### TODAY AT A GLANCE

\*Afternoon News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/17/98; 34 lines)

Item Key: 14111

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#### TODAY AT A GLANCE

HOUSE FLOOR: The fiscal 1999 appropriations bill (HR4194) for veterans, housing, science and space programs is the only scheduled order of business. But amendments on global warming and the space station could forestall a vote on final passage. GOP leaders want to quit for the week by 2 p.m. (Convenes at 9 a.m.; votes scheduled throughout the day.)

SENATE FLOOR: After finishing debate on their version of the VA-HUD

spending legislation (S2168), which started last night, senators are expected to take up their third appropriations bill of the week -- the one that pays for running the legislative branch (S2137). (Convenes at 9 a.m.; first vote at 9 a.m.)

**COPYRIGHT PROTECTION:** House Commerce will mark up a bill (HR2281) to boost global copyright protections for computer software and other digitally produced works. It also would provide online and Internet service providers liability protection when infringement takes place on their networks without their knowledge.

**FARMS:** House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Ga., and Agriculture Chairman Bob Smith, R-Ore., will hold a news conference to announce the introduction of emergency legislation to address the "acute financial distress" facing farmers.

**HEALTH CARE:** Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., will moderate a forum sponsored by the National Institute for Health Care Management on the role of the government in health care quality.

**TRADE:** Commerce Secretary William M. Daley and Robert Shapiro, under secretary for economic affairs, will hold a briefing to discuss the May data for the balance of international trade in goods and services.

## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: JAPAN'S ECONOMY

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 25 lines)

Item Key: 14170

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## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: JAPAN'S ECONOMY

By Julie R. Hirschfeld, CQ Staff Writer

The House is scheduled today to consider, under suspension of the rules, a non-binding resolution that would urge Japan to do its part in coping with the Asian financial crisis by deregulating its economy, opening its markets, improving banking practices, cutting taxes and strengthening the recently plummeting yen.

The resolution (HRES392) also hints that Japan, as the world's second-largest economy and one of the most crucial in the region, should take responsibility for absorbing some of the effects of the economic meltdown.

While he acknowledged Japan has been the largest financial contributor to the troubled economies, Asia Subcommittee Chairman Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., has said a strengthened Japanese economy is needed to serve as an "engine of growth" and to guarantee that the United States alone does not bear the brunt of the ballooning trade deficit resulting

from Asia's financial turmoil.

According to the subcommittee, the U.S.-Japan trade deficit for the first quarter of 1998 was \$15.4 billion, and Japan's imports from Asian countries plunged between December 1997 and January 1998.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

#### SOCIAL POLICY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 19 lines)

Item Key: 14184

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#### SOCIAL POLICY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By Russ Freyman, CQ Staff Writer

The House today is scheduled to consider a resolution (HCONRES208) stating that access to affordable housing should be a national priority.

The resolution, sponsored by Rick A. Lazio, R-N.Y., is set to be debated under suspension of the rules, an expedited floor procedure

reserved for non-contentious measures. Lazio is the chairman of the House Banking and Financial Service Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee.

His proposal states that the goal of providing access to affordable housing should be pursued with several policy objectives: by promoting "the ability of the private sector to produce affordable housing without excessive government regulation," by encouraging certain tax incentives and by facilitating home ownership by making loans and mortgages more accessible.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

SOCIAL POLICY: 'PARTIAL-BIRTH' ABORTION

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 21 lines)

Item Key: 14185

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SOCIAL POLICY: 'PARTIAL-BIRTH' ABORTION

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

The House on Thursday is expected to vote to override President Clinton's veto of legislation to ban a controversial surgical procedure that critics call "partial-birth" abortion.

The House passed the bill (HR1122) last year with a 296-132 vote, a more than adequate margin to override Clinton's veto, which occurred in October.

However, supporters of the ban are focusing their attention on the Senate, which passed the measure in May but fell three votes short, 64-36, of the needed two-thirds veto-proof majority.

Republicans believe most voters oppose the procedure and the override attempt has not come up until now due to timing. The partial-birth issue is one of several abortion issue-related fights the GOP is picking with Clinton and Democrats as the November elections approach.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

BUSINESS SPLIT ON WISDOM OF A FALL VOTE ON FAST TRACK

\*Pulse of Congress/Insight\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 46 lines)

## BUSINESS SPLIT ON WISDOM OF A FALL VOTE ON FAST TRACK

By Elizabeth A. Palmer, CQ Staff Writer

Business leaders are just as split as their Capitol Hill allies on whether the House should take up legislation this fall to grant President Clinton renewed fast-track trade authority.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, insist they will bring the controversial bill (HR2621) to the floor in September. But the White House and Democratic supporters of fast track have been decidedly cool to that plan. With organized labor vehemently opposed, they fear many Democrats will feel compelled to vote "no" close to the election. The measure might fare better next year, the administration believes.

Reviving the fast-track bill is part of a broader GOP effort to appeal to the business community, which has been frustrated by a Republican agenda long on social issues but short on items important to corporate America.

While the GOP plan for a fall confrontation wins kudos from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, other business leaders are wary.

"I don't think there's going to be the level of broad bipartisan consensus on the need to move on this," said Jim Christy, TRW's vice president for governmental affairs and chairman of the pro-fast track America Leads on Trade.

Christy worries that a floor defeat, which appears likely at this point, could cause long-term damage to the effort. "A vote, if taken, that would go down would jeopardize our potential for success next year," he said. "Those people who are recorded as no would have a hard time coming back three months later and changing their votes to yes."

But Willard Workman, vice president international of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, argues that it's time to force members to take a stand. He said his group wants a vote in the House even if head-counters believe fast track would lose, because "then we'll make an issue of it in the elections."

In the Senate, where there is strong support for fast track, the Finance Committee tomorrow plans to include it in an omnibus trade bill that also covers sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean Basin. And one lobbyist noted that fast track could always be added to an expected end-of-session continuing resolution to fund parts of the government.

There are no more items to read.

You are in NEWS

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ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPENDING

\*Scheduled Events\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 61 lines)

Item Key: 14169

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ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPENDING

By Matthew Tully and Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writers

The Senate Appropriations Committee this week will begin work on the fiscal 1999 spending bill for the District of Columbia, which in recent years has served as a temporary home to controversial "riders."

The Senate has allocated \$482 million in budget authority to the District spending bill, which is \$9 million less than the House bill and \$10 million less than the president has requested. Aides on Friday night said members had not yet received the details of the budget and declined to release other details of the measure.

Last year, Republicans attempted to link school vouchers, which

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## CHINA TRADE POLICY

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The vote will be on a resolution (HJRES121) to discontinue the trade status, meaning that Clinton's position and MFN for China will be upheld if the resolution is rejected.

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Other reasons for the opposition to intensify are the investigation into U.S. technology transfers to China's military and a probe of alleged Chinese efforts to influence U.S. elections.

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[ThisWeek]

\*Hill News Highlights\*

(NEWS 07/20/98; 465 lines)

Item Key: 14154

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## LAST WEEK IN CONGRESS

By CQ Staff

### PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE (S318)

The House passed, the Senate passed with technical changes; and then the House cleared legislation to allow homeowners to cancel private mortgage insurance once they have repaid 20 percent of their house's value. The bill would require mortgage companies to cancel mortgage insurance payments after a homeowner has reached 22 percent equity on the home; allow lenders to force "high-risk" homeowners to continue paying for insurance after they have reached that threshold; and give eight states two years to toughen their private mortgage insurance laws or be pre-empted by the federal standard.

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (HR1273)

The House cleared a bill to reauthorize the National Science Foundation (NSF) at \$3.5 billion in fiscal 1998, \$3.8 billion in fiscal 1999 and \$3.9 billion in fiscal 2000. The bill would prevent the NSF from spending for the "U.S. Man and Biosphere Program," a U.N. sponsored

environmental program.

#### SANCTIONS EXEMPTIONS (S2282)

The House passed and the Senate cleared a measure to retroactively expand exemptions to unilateral sanctions dictated by the 1994 Arms Export Control Act (PL 103-236); exempt finance and credit guarantees for agricultural commodities; and add medicine and fertilizers to the export exemption list.

#### DEBT FOR FOREST PRESERVATION (S1758)

The Senate passed and the House cleared a bill to forgive some developing nations' debts to the United States in exchange for efforts to protect their tropical forests.

#### TERRITORIAL VOTING (HR1460)

The Senate cleared legislation to allow citizens in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands to vote for a delegate to the House on the same ballot as for other officials.

#### COLORADO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (HR2217)

The Senate cleared a measure to extend the deadline for the San Miguel Project in Colorado to Jan. 30, 2002, from Jan. 26, 1996.

## KENTUCKY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (HR2841)

The Senate cleared a bill to extend the deadline for the Meldahl project on the Ohio River in Kentucky for up to 10 years beyond July 31, 1999.

## MANDELA AWARD (HR3156)

The Senate cleared a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to South African President Nelson Mandela.

## FY 1999 VA-HUD SPENDING (S2168, HR4194)

The Senate passed its measure; while the House began debate on its own fiscal 1999 VA-HUD appropriations bill. The Senate bill would provide \$93.3 billion for veterans, space, housing, environmental and disaster relief programs, including \$13.6 billion for NASA, \$7.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency; \$1.4 billion for superfund and \$40 million for a pilot program providing vouchers for those in self-sufficiency or welfare-to-work programs. It would also increase the ceiling on home mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration from \$86,000 to \$109,000 in most areas, and from \$170,000 to \$197,000 in high-cost areas. The House bill would provide \$93.6 billion; increase the ceiling on home mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration from \$86,000 to \$109,000 in most areas and \$170,000 to \$197,000 in high-cost areas; and prohibit the Clinton administration from using any appropriated funds to "develop, propose or issue rules,

regulations, decrees or orders" designed to implement an international treaty on climate change.

AHEAD: House debate continues tomorrow.

#### FY 1999 AGRICULTURE SPENDING (S2159)

The Senate passed a measure to provide \$57.3 billion for agriculture programs, including \$37 billion for food and nutrition programs; \$68 million for the Food and Drug Administration's food safety notification effort -- financed by increasing the assessment tobacco companies pay for crop insurance; and provide a \$500 million emergency appropriation for farmers with multiple-year loss from weather. The bill would give the Agriculture Department broad authority to assist farmers in afflicted areas; exempt the sale of food, fertilizer, medicine and medical equipment from current and future unilateral economic sanctions; call for a Senate vote by Oct. 1 on extending fast-track trade negotiating authority; call for the Senate to support an extension of normal trade status for China and the Clinton administration's \$18 billion funding request for International Monetary Fund.

#### FY 1999 TREASURY POSTAL SPENDING (HR4104)

The House passed its bill; while the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its draft Treasury-Postal spending bill. The House bill would provide \$29.1 billion for the Treasury Department, Postal Service, White House, Secret Service, Federal Election Commission and general

government functions, including \$13.7 billion in mandatory spending for federal retiree' health and pension benefits, \$527 million for courthouse construction, \$36.5 million for Federal Election Commission and \$11.5 billion for IRS. It would also suspend automatic cost-of-living adjustments for members of Congress; and prohibit the government from using the bill's money to contract with health care providers that do not offer prescription contraceptives, excepting some Catholic health plans. The Senate bill would provide \$29.8 billion; suspend the automatic cost-of-living adjustment for members of Congress; use frozen U.S. assets of nations labeled as terrorist states to pay for monetary judgments brought by U.S. citizens against those states for acts of terrorism; and provide an emergency appropriation of \$3.25 billion for the Year 2000 computer problem.

#### PARENTAL CONSENT ENFORCEMENT (HR3682, S1645)

The House passed its bill; while the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation to make it a federal crime to knowingly transport a girl across state lines in order for her to obtain an abortion and bypass her home state's parental notification or consent laws. The bill would set maximum penalties of one year in prison, \$100,000 in fines and civil liability; and exempt parents from prosecution or lawsuits.

#### CRIME TECHNOLOGY (S2202)

The Senate passed a bill to provide \$250 million annually for five years in grants to states for crime technology such as fingerprinting,

DNA analysis and sexual offender identification.

#### CRIME RESEARCH (S1976)

The Senate passed a bill to require research on crime against the disabled, and direct the Justice Department to collect statistics and report on the criminal justice system's response to such crimes.

#### FEDERALLY OWNED INVENTIONS (HR2544)

The House passed a measure to repeal current regulations for government laboratories to license technologies with commercial applications to the private sector; encourage notification of invention availability via the Internet; and allow federal agencies to grant exclusive licenses on federally owned inventions under certain circumstances.

#### GRANDPARENTS' VISITATION RIGHTS (HR4164)

The House passed a bill to give federal courts power to decide which laws prevail in cases where grandparents who are granted visitation rights may lose them if their grandchildren move to a state with a law that denies visitation.

#### SALTON SEA (HR3267)

The House passed a measure to rehabilitate California's Salton Sea

and rename an area wildlife refuge for the late Rep. Sonny Bono, R-Calif.

#### SUPREME COURT TOURS (S2143)

The Senate passed a bill to allow the use of volunteers in Supreme Court public and visitor programs, and protect court employees from pay reductions or layoffs caused by an influx of volunteer labor.

#### URANIUM ENRICHMENT (S2316)

The Senate passed a measure to require the Energy Department to submit a plan to ensure that revenue from the sale of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation be used exclusively to remove toxic material from uranium enrichment plants in Paducah, Ky., and Portsmouth, Ohio.

#### NEW MEXICO LAND EXCHANGE (HR434)

The Senate passed a proposal to convey two small parcels of land from national forests in New Mexico to two towns.

#### MOUNT ST. HELENS EXCHANGES (S638)

The Senate passed a bill to outline settlement for mandated federal acquisition of remaining private mineral and geothermal resources at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

#### BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT (S1132)

The Senate passed a bill to add 935 acres in New Mexico's Upper Alamo Watershed to the Bandelier National Monument.

#### LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION (S1403)

The Senate passed legislation to make federally owned historic lighthouses Interior Department property; require the General Services Administration to establish a process to identify eligible sites; and allow local groups to take over sites before property is auctioned.

#### NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS (S1069)

The Senate passed a bill to link more than 6,000 miles of national, state and local trails to create the "American Discovery Trail."

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERHAUL (HR2183)

The House continued debate on substitute bill by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass., that would ban national parties from accepting "soft money" contributions and from raising soft money for state parties or directing such money to state parties; increase the limits on aggregate individual contributions to national or state political parties from \$20,000 per election cycle to \$25,000 per year; increase the limits on political action committee contributions to national parties from \$15,000 per cycle to \$20,000 per year; require disclosure by advocacy groups that run radio or television ads when

expenditures total more than \$25,000 per candidate or more than \$100,000 on multiple candidates; and require monthly disclosure of expenditures by all federal candidates and political committees during an election year.

AHEAD: House debate continues today.

#### FY 1999 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING (S2137)

The Senate began debate on a measure to provide \$1.6 billion for the operation of Congress, excluding items funded by the House, and provide \$94 million in mandatory spending, including \$17 million for senators' salaries and \$77 million for House members' salaries.

AHEAD: Cloture vote scheduled for tomorrow.

#### PROPERTY RIGHTS (S2271)

The Senate rejected a cloture on proceeding to a bill that would allow property owners direct access to federal courts "where a property owner seeks redress solely for infringements of rights safeguarded by the U.S. Constitution and where no violation of state law is alleged."

#### EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (HR1385)

A House-Senate conference began on a bill to consolidate federal job-training, adult-education and vocational-education programs into

block grants to states and localities; authorize random drug testing for participants in federally funded job-training programs. The Senate bill would permit states to establish one-stop customer service centers to coordinate employment and training programs; simplify eligibility requirements for vocational rehabilitation and job-training programs; and allow states to offer customized support for disabled individuals.

#### FY 1999 TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a draft bill; and the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee approved its draft fiscal 1999 transportation spending bill. The Senate bill would provide \$47.5 billion for transportation programs, including \$27 billion for highway construction and \$361 million for highway safety programs, \$9.9 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$5.36 for mass transit, \$4 billion for the Coast Guard, \$2.1 billion for airport improvement programs, \$903 million for earmarked mass transit projects and \$555 million in capital funding for Amtrak. The House bill would provide \$46.9 billion, including \$3.9 billion for the Coast Guard and \$9.5 billion for FAA.

AHEAD: House Appropriations Committee markup is set for Wednesday.

#### FY 1999 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-STATE SPENDING

The House Appropriations Committee approved a draft bill to provide \$27 billion for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State; allow

only half of the \$956 million appropriated for the 2000 census to be spent until Congress and President Clinton agree on a separate authorization bill deciding whether to use a statistical sampling counting method; require federal prosecutors to follow their state's prosecutorial guidelines; and allow the subject of a federal prosecution to file a formal complaint against a prosecutor to be referred to attorney general, then three-person prosecutorial misconduct board.

AHEAD: House debate expected this week; Senate debate expected this week on its bill (S2260).

#### FY 1999 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION SPENDING

The House Appropriations Committee approved a draft bill to provide \$81.9 billion for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education -- including \$4.5 billion for Head Start, \$1.3 billion for Job Corps, \$2.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$9.6 billion for the Labor Department. The bill would bar federal funding for research using human embryos; prohibit needle exchange programs for illegal drug users; ban federal funding for Teamsters elections; require schools receiving federal technology funding to install anti-pornography software on their computer systems; limit students to two years in a federally funded bilingual education programs; halve funding for Goals 2000 and allow states to put their remaining funds in existing educational block grants; bar the president from proceeding with voluntary national math and reading tests unless Congress authorizes them; increase Pell Grant awards for college study

to \$3,150; allow women to designate obstetrician-gynecologists as primary care physicians in managed care health plans; ensure that those who do not may receive routine ob-gyn services; overturn a Clinton administration directive that states cover the anti-impotence drug Viagra, directing estimated \$100 million in savings to mental health services for children at risk of violent behavior; require clinics receiving Title X family planning funds to tell parents five days before dispensing birth control to minors; require clinics to comply with state laws on notification of sexual abuse, rape or incest; and add a label to cigarette packages warning of a particular health danger of smoking for African-Americans.

#### FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (HR2279)

The Senate Commerce Committee approved a measure to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration at \$42.4 billion over four years; permit 24 exemptions from flight limits at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, 100 at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and an undetermined number at New York's JFK and LaGuardia airports; call on the Transportation Department to review guidelines that target alleged predatory pricing practices by big airlines at regional hub airports and to respond more quickly to complaints of predatory pricing; provide federal loan guarantees to airlines to buy planes to use for regional service; and regulate tour flights over national parks.

#### AIRPORT SERVICE (S1353)

The Senate Commerce Committee approved a bill calling on the Transportation Department to review guidelines that target alleged predatory pricing practices by big airlines at regional hub airports and to respond more quickly to complaints of predatory pricing; provide federal loan guarantees to airlines to buy planes to use for regional service; provide exemptions to slot restrictions and increase the number of takeoffs and landings at New York's JFK and LaGuardia airports, Chicago's O'Hare and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

#### FLIGHT REGULATION (S268)

The Senate Commerce Committee approved a bill to regulate tour flights over national parks.

#### COPYRIGHT PROTECTION (HR2281)

The House Commerce Committee approved legislation to implement two 1996 World Intellectual Property Organization treaties to strengthen copyright protection for digitally produced works; outlaw the manufacture, import or trafficking of devices "primarily designed" to circumvent technology aimed at preventing access to copyrighted material; allow people to use circumvention devices to protect personal privacy; provide online and Internet service providers some liability protection when infringement takes place without their knowledge; call for the secretary of Commerce to issue regulations prohibiting circumvention of technological protection measures two years after the bill becomes law; call for the secretary during that two-year period to

conduct a formal rulemaking to determine if users of copyrighted works are being adversely affected by exemption; and authorize the secretary to grant waivers for lawful use of copyrighted works during that period.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES (S389)

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved a bill to allow members of Congress to raise a point of order against legislation that would cost the private sector \$100 million or more annually, or that would cost government entities \$50 million a year or more if the Congressional Budget Office has not completed a study of those costs.

#### PRIVATIZING GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS (S314)

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved legislation requiring federal agencies to compile a list of functions that could be performed by the private sector, and require a new office within the Office of Management and Budget to publish the list.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEES (S2228)

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved a proposal to sunset most government-funded advisory committees after three years; exempting certain advisory committees studying health or national security issues.

#### DISASTER INSURANCE (HR219)

The House Banking Committee approved legislation to provide federal reinsurance for state programs that offer policies to residents of areas prone to natural disaster, and require the federal government to cover some residential losses in states that operate public insurance "pools" -- state-run insurance programs that sell policies and allow private companies to join and reduce their risks.

#### FLOOD RISK (HR4111)

The House Resources Committee approved a bill to transfer the Auburn Dam site on the American River from the federal government to the State of California; authorize a feasibility study for the rebuilding of the Northfork American River Cofferdam; and authorize modifications to the Folsom Dam to increase its flood durability.

#### PRODUCT ID CODE PROTECTION (HR3891)

The House Judiciary Committee approved a measure to prohibit the unauthorized destruction, modification or alteration of product identification codes. The bill sets a one-year sentence for first-time offenders if the crime did not result in injury and up to life in prison if counterfeiting results in death; holds convicts liable for damages; and allows stores to repack goods if they maintain bar code and safety information provided by manufacturer.

#### TRADEMARK TREATY IMPLEMENTATION (S2193)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill to implement a treaty to allow registration and protection of trademarks for renewable 10-year periods, upon payment of a fee and submission of certain documents.

#### TRADEMARK MODIFICATION (S2192)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill to make technical corrections to the Trademark Act of 1946.

#### DRUG PENALTIES (HR3898)

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill to increase the criminal penalties for the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamine, and set 10-year sentence for possession of 50 grams, and a five-year sentence for those caught with 5 grams.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT (S1134)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation to approve an agreement between states in the Pacific Northwest to coordinate emergency services in large scale disasters.

#### 'MEDAL OF VALOR' (HR4090)

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill to establish a "Congressional Medal of Valor" to be presented each year by the

president to a public safety officer identified by the attorney general for extraordinary work.

#### OMB DIRECTOR NOMINATION

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee approved Jacob J. Lew to direct the Office of Management and Budget.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATION

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved U.S. District Judge Kim Wardlaw for a seat on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

#### FY 1999 FOREIGN OPERATIONS SPENDING

The House Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee approved a draft bill to provide \$12.5 billion for new and continuing programs, including \$3.5 billion for the International Monetary Fund and \$352 million to repay debts to international financial institutions; and begin a multi-year phaseout of economic assistance to Israel and Egypt.

#### GREAT LAKES CONSERVATION (HR1481)

The House Resources Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee approved legislation to authorize \$23 million in fiscal 1999 through fiscal 2002 for Great Lakes management, environmental conservation and wildlife restoration -- including \$9 million for Great

Lakes resource management offices in Michigan, Wisconsin and New York and \$3.5 million annually for fish and wildlife restoration. The bill would reauthorize a 1990 law (PL 101-596) to revitalize five lakes and more than 10,000 miles of shoreline; implement recommendations of a 1995 Great Lakes fishery resources study authorized by the 1990 law; create a panel to review restoration proposals; allow cash donations, property gifts or volunteering to satisfy requirement in the 1990 law that managers find outside sources to finance 25 percent of resources projects; and establish cooperative research units in Michigan and New Jersey.

[LastWeek]

There are no more items to read.

You are in NEWS

Enter number(s), a command, or MENU

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! SCHEDULE DATABASE

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1 of 18 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

A WEEK OF MONEY MATTERS AND MANAGED CARE

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

## A WEEK OF MONEY MATTERS AND MANAGED CARE

By CQ Staff

Against a backdrop of continuing floor action on the fiscal 1999 spending bills, both chambers are preparing for high-stakes battles this week over competing Republican and Democratic proposals to give patients greater rights in dealing with managed-care health plans.

Although Republicans did not finish drafting their legislation until last week -- and thus far have not subjected it to the normal process of committee hearings and markups -- the bills (HR4250, S2330) appear to be moving to the floor in both chambers this week.

House Republican leaders are expected to call up their measure on Friday, with Rules Committee action likely just a day earlier. The Senate floor schedule, as always, is a good deal less certain. As of late Friday, there was no agreement between Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., on how to structure and control the Senate debate.

Democrats are waiting to pounce on the GOP health care measures. For months, the minority has been crusading for action on its own managed-care legislation (HR3605, S1890), which would go well beyond the Republican proposals in both the scope of its coverage mandates and in enforcement mechanisms. Among other things, the Democratic measures

would allow patients to sue their health plans for malpractice if they suffer injury as a result of the insurer's refusal to cover a needed treatment.

Not all Republicans in either chamber are committed to their party's proposals. In the House, for instance, Greg Ganske, R-Iowa, a plastic surgeon, and Michael R. Forbes, R-N.Y., stood with President Clinton at a news conference last week to promote the Democratic health bills. And Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, has withdrawn his support from HR4250 because he thinks it is too regulatory.

In the Senate, John H. Chafee, R-R.I., is working with Bob Graham, D-Fla., on a bipartisan alternative. But it is by no means clear that members of either party are eager to move to middle ground.

Public opinion polls show the patient protection issue near the top of voters' concerns this year, and so far, Democrats enjoy public support on the issue. Republicans would like to blunt that edge by giving their members an alternative to vote for, but they are not eager to enact legislation that would offend their business supporters or allow Clinton and the minority to claim a major victory.

## OTHER LEGISLATION

In the House, at least, there is plenty of other business on the agenda before members turn to the health care fight.

Today, for starters, the House will resume its debate on campaign finance legislation (HR2183) after plowing through a string of non-controversial bills to be handled under suspension of the rules, which bars amendments and requires a two-thirds vote for passage. One of the most important of these (HR1689) would require all securities fraud class-action lawsuits be filed in federal court, where tougher standards apply as a result of legislation (PL 104-67) enacted in 1995 over Clinton's veto.

Tomorrow, the chamber will return to the fiscal 1999 appropriations bill (HR4194) for housing, veterans affairs and independent agencies, which it debated at length on Friday. Battles are expected over amendments to kill the international space station and to soften language that would bar the administration from making any move toward implementation of the global warming treaty approved in Kyoto, Japan, last year.

The Interior spending bill (HR4193) is also scheduled for action tomorrow.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House expects to vote on legislation (HJRES121) seeking to disapprove Clinton's renewal of normal trade status for China, and on overriding the president's veto of legislation (HR1122) to ban what opponents label "partial-birth" abortions.

The Commerce, Justice, State and judiciary appropriations bill, not

yet numbered, is also on the late-week agenda in the House.

The Senate, meanwhile, is expected to take up its version (S2260) of the Commerce-Justice-State bill after it considers the legislative branch funding measure (S2137). A cloture vote is scheduled for tomorrow. The House passed its version of the congressional spending bill (HR4112) on June 25.

[ThisWeek]

2 of 18 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPENDING

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

Item Key: 11

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#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPENDING

By Matthew Tully and Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writers

The Senate Appropriations Committee this week will begin work on the fiscal 1999 spending bill for the District of Columbia, which in recent

years has served as a temporary home to controversial "riders."

The Senate has allocated \$482 million in budget authority to the District spending bill, which is \$9 million less than the House bill and \$10 million less than the president has requested. Aides on Friday night said members had not yet received the details of the budget and declined to release other details of the measure.

Last year, Republicans attempted to link school vouchers, which would have allowed families to pay for admittance to the public or private school of their choice, to the spending bill. President Clinton earlier this year vetoed a bill (S1502) to authorize school vouchers for residents of the District of Columbia. An effort to attach such a provision to this year's bill is not expected.

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Opponents counter that the normal trade designation, accorded to all but a few nations, should not be granted to China primarily because of its human rights record.

Other reasons for the opposition to intensify are the investigation into U.S. technology transfers to China's military and a probe of alleged Chinese efforts to influence U.S. elections.

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[ThisWeek]

3 of 18 items

CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

## REGULATION OF DERIVATIVES

\*Future House committees\*

\* Revised \*

(SCHEDULE 07/24/98; Banking & Financial Services -- Subcommittee on  
Capital Markets, Securities and Government-Sponsored Enterprises)

Item Key: 101

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## REGULATION OF DERIVATIVES \* Revised \*

House Banking and Financial Services Committee (Chairman Leach, R-Iowa)

will hold a hearing on legislation that would create a study group to  
bring the laws and regulations of the over-the-counter derivatives  
markets up to date. The Working Group on Financial Derivatives would be  
chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury and include the principal  
banking and financial market overseers. They would be asked to devise  
changes that would clarify, simplify and rationalize the current  
regulation of derivatives. Derivatives are financial instruments that  
derive their value from the worth of an underlying product, such as a

precious metal, the interest rate of a government bond or stock index.

Derivatives enable banks, corporations, mutual funds, and pension funds to mitigate risks from volatility in interest rates, commodity prices and equity values.

July 24 10:00 am 2128 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda:

HR4062 - A bill to provide for the study of derivatives regulation,  
and for other purposes.

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH PROGRAM

Oversight Hearing

\*Future House committees\*

\* New \*

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Government Reform & Oversight -- Subcommittee on  
Human Resources)

Item Key: 116

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MEDICARE HOME HEALTH PROGRAM \* New \*

Oversight Hearing

Human Resources Subcommittee (Chairman Shays, R-Conn.) of House Government Reform and Oversight Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the Health Care Financing Administration's efforts to implement surety bond requirements to protect Medicare's home health program from waste, fraud and abuse. Total home health spending rose from \$4.7 billion in 1990 to \$17.8 billion in 1997. Studies by the Health and Human Services Department and the General Accounting Office attribute a significant amount of this growth to waste, fraud and abuse.

July 22 10:00 am 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses scheduled:

Representatives of Office of the inspector general,  
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); National  
Association of Home Care; Surety Association of America; and  
the National Association of Medical Equipment Services

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

FIRE SUPPRESSION REPORT

\*Future House committees\*

\* Revised \*

(SCHEDULE 08/04/98; Resources -- )

Item Key: 140

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FIRE SUPPRESSION REPORT \* Revised \*

Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee (Chairman Chenoweth, R-Idaho) of  
House Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing on a General  
Accounting Office study of fire suppression.

Aug. 4 10:00 am 1334 Longworth Bldg.

Note: This hearing was originally scheduled for July 30.

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT: CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERHAUL

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

## CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT: CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERHAUL

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

The long-lasting campaign finance debate returns to the House floor tonight.

The debate has been on and off the floor for several weeks -- part of the unpredictable and unwieldy procedure for its consideration crafted by Republican leaders, who have shown sentiments ranging from disinterest to open hostility toward the bill.

On Friday, the measure's sponsors and GOP leaders agreed on a plan to at least bring some order to the proceedings. The agreement, adopted by unanimous consent, limits to 55 the number of additional amendments that may be offered to the proposal by Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Martin T. Meehan, D-Mass. It would ban "soft money" donations to political parties and place limits on issue advocacy advertising, among an array of other changes to the way presidential and congressional campaigns are run.

The agreement limits debate to 10 minutes each on all but eight of the amendments, for which as much as 40 minutes each has been reserved.

Until that deal, several hundred amendments were possible, with no time limit on any of them.

The Shays-Meehan plan is the second of 11 main proposals to change campaign finance laws that are being offered to a bill (HR2183) -- written by a bipartisan group of freshman -- that is less sweeping than the Shays-Meehan bill. Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas, has pledged to complete debate and voting on the entire collection by the start of the summer break, set to begin Aug. 7. Under the rules for the debate, whichever proposal gets the most votes -- so long as it receives a majority -- will pass.

Shays and Meehan had worried that their opponents could run out the clock by offering and debating amendment after amendment. Now, their aim will be to stop most of the agreed-upon amendments to their measure, in the belief that its carefully constructed base of support would fall apart if provisions are attached that would either strengthen it or weaken it. So far, they have won each of the pivotal test votes on such amendments.

Oversight Committee Chairman Bill Thomas, Calif., the GOP leadership's point-man on the bill, says the House could get through as many as one-third of the amendments permitted by the agreement if lawmakers were willing to work late tonight -- the only time this week Armey has set aside time for the debate.

Before moving to other amendments, the House will vote on three

amendments debated last week: to prohibit the use of White House meals or accommodations for political fundraising; to prohibit residents of the United States who are not citizens from making donations for federal, state or local races; and to limit the allowed defenses against charges of violating the ban on campaign donations from foreign sources.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

Item Key: 8

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#### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SPENDING

By George Clifford, CQ Staff Writer

The Senate is expected to resume work this week on the \$1.7 billion fiscal 1999 spending bill (S2137) for Congress and its supporting agencies.

A preliminary cloture vote scheduled for 9:30 a.m. tomorrow will be the chamber's first roll call vote this week.

Senators began work on the legislative branch appropriations bill Friday afternoon, but the debate immediately and unexpectedly bogged down when Sam Brownback, R-Kan., offered an amendment to limit the tax code's "marriage penalty."

Curtailing tax code provisions that require married couples to pay more taxes than they would pay as single individuals is a Republican election-year priority. But Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., whose own priority is speeding the pace of the annual appropriations bills, immediately arranged for a vote to limit debate on the bill.

The measure includes \$469.4 million for Senate operations, an increase of \$8.3 million from this year's spending. Funding for the Capitol Police would climb by \$6.3 million to \$80.4 million, with much of the additional money targeted for tightening of day-to-day security. The bill does not include funds for the House, which will be added in conference.

[ThisWeek]

## FY99 APPROPRIATIONS

Full Committee Markup

\*Future Senate committees\*

\* New \*

(SCHEDULE 07/21/98; Appropriations)

Item Key: 53

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FY99 APPROPRIATIONS \* New \*

Full Committee Markup

Senate Appropriations Committee (Chairman Stevens, R-Alaska) will mark up pending legislation.

July 21 2:30 pm Sd-192 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S -- - FY99 Foreign Operations appropriations

S - - - FY99 District of Columbia appropriations

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

SENATE FLOOR July 22

\*Future Senate/House floor\*

\* Tentative \*

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 196

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SENATE FLOOR \* Tentative \*

July 22

S2137      An original bill making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

S2260      An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- MAY CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

SENATE FLOOR July 21

\*Future Senate/House floor\*

\* Tentative \*

(SCHEDULE 07/21/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 195

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SENATE FLOOR \* Tentative \*

July 21

S2137      An original bill making appropriations for the legislative  
branch for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for  
other purposes. -- CONTINUE CONSIDERATION (VOTE AT 9:30AM.  
ON MOTION TO PROCEED).

S2260      An original bill making appropriations for the Departments  
of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and related  
agencies for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for  
other purposes. -- MAY BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

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ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY

\*Future House committees\*

\* New \*

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Small Business -- Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform

and Paperwork Reduction)

Item Key: 158

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ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY \* New \*

Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction Subcommittee (Chairman Kelly, R-N.Y.) of House Small Business Committee will hold a hearing on the potential impacts on the small business community of restructuring the electric utility industry.

July 22 2:00 pm 311 Cannon Bldg.

Information verified as of 08:23pm 07/17/98

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

SENATE FLOOR July 20

\*Senate/House floor\*

\* Tentative \*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98; Senate Floor)

Item Key: 194

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SENATE FLOOR \* Tentative \*

July 20

CONVENES AT 1PM.

S2137 An original bill making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1999, and for other purposes. -- CONTINUE CONSIDERATION.

NOTE: No votes scheduled Monday.

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

SOCIAL POLICY: 'PARTIAL-BIRTH' ABORTION

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

Item Key: 27

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SOCIAL POLICY: 'PARTIAL-BIRTH' ABORTION

By Bob Gravely, CQ Staff Writer

The House on Thursday is expected to vote to override President Clinton's veto of legislation to ban a controversial surgical procedure that critics call "partial-birth" abortion.

The House passed the bill (HR1122) last year with a 296-132 vote, a more than adequate margin to override Clinton's veto, which occurred in October.

However, supporters of the ban are focusing their attention on the Senate, which passed the measure in May but fell three votes short, 64-36, of the needed two-thirds veto-proof majority.

Republicans believe most voters oppose the procedure and the override attempt has not come up until now due to timing. The partial-birth issue is one of several abortion issue-related fights the GOP is picking with Clinton and Democrats as the November elections approach.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: JAPAN'S ECONOMY

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE: JAPAN'S ECONOMY

By Julie R. Hirschfeld, CQ Staff Writer

The House is scheduled today to consider, under suspension of the rules, a non-binding resolution that would urge Japan to do its part in coping with the Asian financial crisis by deregulating its economy, opening its markets, improving banking practices, cutting taxes and strengthening the recently plummeting yen.

The resolution (HRES392) also hints that Japan, as the world's second-largest economy and one of the most crucial in the region, should take responsibility for absorbing some of the effects of the economic meltdown.

While he acknowledged Japan has been the largest financial contributor to the troubled economies, Asia Subcommittee Chairman Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., has said a strengthened Japanese economy is needed to serve as an "engine of growth" and to guarantee that the United States alone does not bear the brunt of the ballooning trade deficit resulting from Asia's financial turmoil.

According to the subcommittee, the U.S.-Japan trade deficit for the

first quarter of 1998 was \$15.4 billion, and Japan's imports from Asian countries plunged between December 1997 and January 1998.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

HOUSE FLOOR July 20

\*Senate/House floor\*

\* Tentative \*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98; House Floor)

Item Key: 189

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HOUSE FLOOR \* Tentative \*

July 20

CONVENES AT 12:30PM FOR MORNING HOUR AND AT 2PM FOR  
LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

HR2183 A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to  
reform the financing of campaigns for elections for federal  
office, and for other purposes. -- MAY CONTINUE  
CONSIDERATION.

Under suspension of the rules:

HR8        A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to deny entry into the United States of certain foreign motor vehicles that do not comply with state laws governing motor vehicle emissions, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR3249     A bill to provide for the rectification of certain retirement coverage errors affecting Federal employees, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR1689     A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under state law, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR4058     A bill to amend title 49, U.S. Code, to extend the aviation insurance program, and for other purposes. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HR3874     A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to make improvements to the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children and to extend the authority of that program through fiscal year 2003. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HRES392 A resolution relating to the importance of Japanese-American relations and the urgent need for Japan to more effectively address its economic and financial problems and open its markets by eliminating informal barriers to trade and investment, thereby making a more effective contribution to leading the Asian region out of its current financial crisis, insuring against a global recession, and reinforcing regional stability and security. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HCONRES208 Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding access to affordable housing and expansion of homeownership opportunities. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HCONRES298 A concurrent resolution expressing deepest condolences to the state and people of Florida for the losses suffered as a result of the wild land fires occurring in June and July 1998, expressing support to the state and people of Florida as they overcome the effects of the fires, and commending the heroic efforts of firefighters from across the nation in battling the fires. -- BEGIN CONSIDERATION.

HCONRES301 -- .

NOTE: Taiwan support resolution

SOCIAL POLICY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

\*Schedule highlights\*

(SCHEDULE 07/20/98)

Item Key: 26

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SOCIAL POLICY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By Russ Freyman, CQ Staff Writer

The House today is scheduled to consider a resolution (HCONRES208) stating that access to affordable housing should be a national priority.

The resolution, sponsored by Rick A. Lazio, R-N.Y., is set to be debated under suspension of the rules, an expedited floor procedure reserved for non-contentious measures. Lazio is the chairman of the House Banking and Financial Service Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee.

His proposal states that the goal of providing access to affordable housing should be pursued with several policy objectives: by promoting "the ability of the private sector to produce affordable housing without excessive government regulation," by encouraging certain tax incentives

and by facilitating home ownership by making loans and mortgages more accessible.

[ThisWeek]

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CQ's WASHINGTON ALERT 07/20/98

## ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE BILLS

### Full Committee Markup

\*Future Senate committees\*

\* Revised \*

(SCHEDULE 07/22/98; Environment & Public Works)

Item Key: 76

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## ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE BILLS \* Revised \*

### Full Committee Markup

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman Chafee, R-R.I.)

will mark up pending legislation.

July 22 9:00 am SD-406 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda:

S263 - A bill to prohibit the import, export, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, acquisition, and receipt of bear viscera or products that contain or claim to contain bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S361 - A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit the sale, import, and export of products labeled as containing endangered species, and for other purposes.

S659 - A bill to amend the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 to provide for implementation of recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contained in the Great Lakes Fishery Restoration Study Report.

S1883 - A bill to direct the secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center to the state of Alabama, and for other purposes.

S1970 - A bill to require the secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

S2094 - A bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds of sales of certain items.

S2244 - A bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to promote volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.

HR1856 - A bill to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to direct