

► HILL BRIEFS

□ The Senate has set an ambitious floor schedule for the remainder of the week, although there will be no recorded votes on Friday, **Majority Leader Lott** said Tuesday. This morning, members will vote on amendments and then final passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Lott said. The Senate is then expected to turn to the so-called partial-birth, or late-term, abortion ban bill, with a final vote tentatively set for Thursday. But also on the docket for Wednesday and Thursday are resolution of the flex time/comp time bill, as well as the treaty on conventional forces in Europe, Lott said. Next week's schedule tentatively calls for debate on the budget resolution from Monday through Wednesday.

□ The House Tuesday passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act reauthorization by a 420-3 vote. The Senate has been debating the issue the past two days, and is expected to vote on final passage of the House version this morning. If that happens, the bill will go directly to the White House for a promised signature by President Clinton. In the interest of avoiding a conference committee, **Sen. Judd Gregg**, R-N.H., today is expected to withdraw his amendment to set authorized funding levels in the bill. But votes are still expected on an amendment by **Sen. Slade Gorton**, R-Wash., to give states and local governments more power over discipline of disabled students, and an amendment by **Sen. Gordon Smith**, R-Ore., that would place limits on legal awards in special education-related lawsuits. **Senate Labor and Human Resources Chairman Jeffords** has promised to oppose all amendments to the bill, which was developed through advance negotiations with the House.

□ Several 1992 Democratic candidates, including President Clinton and **Sens. Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**, were illegal beneficiaries of a registration drive organized by the California Democratic Party, the FEC has charged. The *Sacramento Bee* reported that the state party has been accused of violating federal election laws in its campaign against Gov. Pete Wilson's ballot initiative designed to reduce welfare rolls. The ballot initiative failed by a 53 percent to 47 percent margin, and the Democratic Party's efforts to defeat the measure — which involved mobilizing minority and low-income voters "who were predisposed to register and vote Democratic," according to the FEC — helped Clinton, Feinstein and Boxer prevail in 1992. The FEC suit asks a federal court in Sacramento to fine the California Democratic organization and issue an injunction barring further such actions. An attorney for the California Democratic Party said Monday the voter registration drive was non-partisan and therefore not subject to regulation by the FEC.

□ With President Clinton hoping to break ground on a bridge to the 21st century in his second term, **House Speaker Gingrich** today countered with his own construction project — a bipartisan "House that Congress Built." Gingrich joined with **House VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis**, R-Calif., subcommittee ranking member **Louis Stokes**, D-Ohio, and **Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton**, D-D.C., to announce a bipartisan congressional partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build two houses for low-income families in southeast Washington. Gingrich said **House Minority Leader Gephardt**, HUD Secretary Cuomo and others will join him, hammers in hand and shirtsleeves rolled up, for the June 5 start of construction — for which a number of non-profit groups, along with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, are providing the funding. Gingrich used the opportunity to praise Habitat, which requires families receiving homes to help construct not only their house but to help build others, and to challenge women congressional staffers to work on a "women's home" that would be built entirely by women and would go to a single mother. As an inducement, Gingrich offered to serve lunch on site to the women should they take him up on his challenge.

□ With the deadline to comply with the chemical weapons treaty approaching, the Senate Judiciary Committee began work on a bill to govern inspections by foreigners on U.S. soil, the *Associated Press* reported. The treaty, which took effect last month, requires routine inspections that could affect thousands of U.S. companies — up to 50,000 by one count. Under the treaty, Congress must pass a law this month that will conform with the U.S. Constitution while implementing treaty provisions. Unresolved issues include ways to protect companies' trade secrets from foreign competitors and how to handle legal challenges to inspections. The administration has submitted legislation it says meets constitutional requirements, but several senators say it needs more work. "We've got two weeks to fix it, and this is a tough, tough problem," said **Sen. John Kyl**, R-Ariz., who opposed the treaty but said he is committed to ensuring that its implementation will "take care of the rights of U.S. citizens."

Correction: A story appearing in Tuesday's *CongressDaily/A.M.* incorrectly linked two separate telecommunications bills by **Senate Commerce Chairman McCain**. The Digital Television Conversion Act was introduced last week by McCain, while a separate omnibus spectrum bill, this one designed to ensure the maximum return on the federal auction of spectrum, has yet to be introduced by the senator.

Waxman, Saxton Ready Legislation To Expand TRI

House Government Reform ranking member Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and House Resources Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittee Chairman Jim Saxton, R-N.J.,

ENVIRONMENT are preparing to introduce legislation to expand reporting requirements under the Toxics Release Inventory to include the uses of toxic chemicals, sources said Tuesday.

In addition, the bill would require product manufacturers and importers to report toxic ingredients to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The CPSC would be required to publish selected information on toxic ingredients, but a Waxman aide said that trade secrets would be protected.

Carolyn Hartmann of the U.S. Pub-

lic Interest Research Group said the bill would give consumers information they need to make smart choices about the products they buy.

In addition, companies in states with toxic use reporting requirements have reduced their use of toxic chemicals, and saved money in the process.

However, Randal Schumacher of the Jefferson Group, a governmental affairs firm, said that the bill would flood the public with information they cannot use, and would for the first time involve the CPSC in extensive lawsuits.

Schumacher also doubted **House Commerce Chairman Bliley** would be interested in the measure, but said a high-profile scandal involving a consumer product could create the atmosphere for passage.

Hartmann noted bipartisan cosponsorship for the bill and said that several Republicans, in addition to Saxton, have been recruited as cosponsors.

Waxman and Saxton last week sent a letter to colleagues calling for cosponsors and said the bill would build on the success of the Toxic Release Inventory.

Hartmann said that the bill to some extent would codify actions already taken by the Clinton administration or under consideration.

It would place into law the expansion of TRI reporting ordered last month by President Clinton.

It also would require the disclosure of dioxin releases proposed last week by the EPA.

D'Amato Banking Bill Stalled By Lack Of GOP Support

Senate Banking Chairman D'Amato is still seeking Republican co-sponsors for a functional regulation

BANKING bill he had hoped to introduce this week — but it is proving a hard sell and so far there are no takers, according to committee GOP aides and industry sources.

D'Amato's difficulty in attracting Republican support for the bill illustrates the polarized nature of the broader financial services modernization debate and the reluctance of members to choose sides when powerful interest groups are involved.

One banking industry source suggested there is no incentive for Republicans to support a measure when "common wisdom is that the bill is not going anywhere." The source added that if other senators believed D'Amato really intended to move the bill, they might be forced to choose between the insurance and securities firms, which support the bill, and the banking industry, which opposes it.

Industry and Senate sources concurred that D'Amato's strategy in introducing a separate regulatory bill is part of his plan to get bankers to com-

mit more seriously to the modernization discussion.

Bankers maintain that they are committed to modernization and that D'Amato's strategy is backfiring.

The draft legislation delineates which regulatory bodies would oversee insurance, securities and banking products.

Bankers oppose the measure, arguing it would subject them to increased layers of regulation and discriminatory treatment, particularly by state regulators who would oversee insurance products.

"This is not a question of principles, but extremes of application," said another banking source, adding that the D'Amato bill is "not a step forward and doesn't deliver" on a promise of bringing clarity to a structure that has evolved through regulation rather than legislation.

According to GOP aides, most Republican members of the Senate Banking Committee support the concept of functional regulation, but oppose either D'Amato's specific approach or his strategy of addressing the financial services regulatory scheme separately from modernization legislation.

One Republican aide said D'Amato

should address regulatory issues in the context of a modernization bill "rather than throwing Molotov cocktails at bankers."

The modernization debate, said one banker, is "losing a lot of momentum," in large part because the Treasury Department has not yet signaled what types of financial services reforms the administration will support.

However, the source added that the effort easily could be "resurrected" if the House Banking Committee proceeds with its plans to mark up modernization legislation in June.

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