

Ford's '77 fiscal plan defeated Senate votes tax cut extension

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate voted yesterday to extend 1975's federal tax cuts into the first six months of 1976 after efforts to reach a compromise with President Ford over a fiscal 1977 spending ceiling failed.

A final GOP effort to attach Ford's proposed \$395 billion ceiling failed 66-27, and a presidential veto appeared inevitable.

Final passage was by a vote of 73-19, far more than the two-thirds majority needed to override any Ford veto.

The Senate bill was sent now to a House-Senate Conference Committee to iron out minor differences, and final passage by both houses was expected quickly, possibly today. Ford was expected to veto the bill immediately, in time for an override vote before Congress leaves town for the year on Friday.

The only amendment added to the bill prior to its passage was one by Sen. Vance Hartke, D-Ind., to extend for six months the special five per cent tax credit for purchase of new houses built or under construction prior to March 26, 1975. Extension of the maximum \$2,000 credit passed 47-44.

Efforts were made throughout the day to formulate compromise language that would allow Ford to sign the bill, but Democrats said they thought they had the votes to override a veto if it came to that.

However, Democrats never were willing to enact a specific dollar figure nor to commit themselves by law to cutting one dollar from the budget for every dollar of tax cuts. For his part, Ford never was willing to accept language saying Congress would "consider" a dollar-for-dollar cut.

Sen. William V. Roth, R-Del., who was

to have offered any compromise amendment, announced to the Senate just prior to the final vote, "I regret that our efforts to find a compromise on language have failed."

Sen. Henry Bellmon, R-Okla., who had broken ranks with Ford but who continued to work for a compromise, said, "I think the President got some very bad advice."

Like the overwhelming majority of Democrats, Bellmon said it would be "a very serious mistake" to bypass the new congressional budget process.

Even Sen. James Allen, D-Ala., a staunch fiscal conservative, supported the new congressional budget process and said he felt that the new Senate Budget Committee was basically conservative and worthy of support.

Bellmon has proposed that Congress pass a resolution pledging to hold down

spending next year, but without any specific spending ceiling. Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., said Budget Director James Lynn was asked about the Bellmon proposal during a meeting of the Senate GOP Policy Committee, but "it didn't grab him too much."

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield said Democrats remain confident they can override a presidential veto of the bill, but Mansfield said he could support the Bellmon resolution.

"I hope it will be possible to achieve a compromise," Mansfield said. "There's no reason why it could not be worked out among reasonable people."

Mansfield said the tax bill would probably go to Ford by Wednesday and added that he will personally ask Ford to act immediately so that if he vetoes it, Congress can vote to override before adjournment by the end of the week.

Study offers transit improvements

By JOHN MATTA
Collegian Staff Writer

The University Park Campus Transportation Study is trying to improve the campus traffic dilemma with practical solutions to present and future traffic problems, according to its developers.

The plan analyzes transportation facilities and operations and recommends improvements.

The most pressing problems observed at the campus are pedestrian-vehicle conflicts and parking shortages, the report says.

Excessive walking distances between some activities and congestion at campus entry-exit points during peak traffic periods were other problems identified in the report.

There is high potential for accidents between vehicles, and between vehicles and pedestrians, the report says.

But it appears that the occurrence of accidents has been tempered by awareness of drivers.

As volumes increase, however, accidents involving serious injuries, or

even death, are more likely to occur," the report continues.

"Walking is by far the principal mode of travel within the campus, with almost 95 per cent of the trips between campus buildings being made as pedestrians," the report says.

"Students moving between classes ... form major pedestrian concentrations throughout much of the campus," the report notes.

Pedestrian-vehicle conflicts are numerous, according to the report, because many of the paths that people walk take cross roadways.

The report says the biggest pedestrian-vehicle conflicts are along College Avenue between Atherton Street and Shortlidge Road; along Pollock Road between Burrowes Road and the Undergraduate Library; along Shortlidge Road over most of its length; along Curtin and Burrowes Roads between Pollock Road and the Natatorium and Bigler Road near East Halls.

"Contributing to these conflicts is the

large amount of 'through' traffic using campus roads, according to the report.

Another problem identified in the report is a shortage of parking places. "Several areas of the campus are deficient from the standpoint of 'convenient' parking space supply," the report says. Illegal student parking in faculty and staff parking lots compounds the problem, it reports.

The University has roughly 8,700 parking spaces. About 5,540 spaces are reserved for staff faculty and visitors.

Students are provided approximately 3,160 spaces — 2,035 for on campus residence and 1,125 spaces for students living off campus.

The report estimates that there is a shortage of about 210 parking spaces for students who commute and a shortage of roughly 230 spaces for the students living off campus.

There is also a need for an additional 585 parking spaces for faculty, staff and visitors, the report says.

The Keller Conference Center-Nittany Lion Inn area needs another 230 parking

spaces, the report says. Old Main could use an additional 235 spaces and central campus is short by 120 parking spaces, according to the report.

"The University, recognizing that not all of the campus population is present simultaneously, intentionally over-subscribes parking registrations by approximately 35 per cent, overall. Actual over-subscription in some lots exceeds 100 per cent," the report says.

However, the average occupancy of spaces is 86 per cent.

"This level of occupancy approaches the 'effective' capacity normally assumed for parking facilities," according to the report.

Except near the Nittany Lion Inn and the Keller Conference Center, the report says, current parking space problems "can be corrected through operational adjustments."

These adjustments would include restriping some parking lots to provide spaces for small cars and redesignating some faculty and staff areas for students.



Mirrored solitude

A RAIN SLICKED Allen Street seems quite desolate save for this lone car and a holiday shopper browsing in some very un-Christmas like weather.

Writer criticizes news quality

By LEON POLLOM
Collegian Staff Writer

The message given to a near capacity crowd at the HUB Ballroom last night was a dismal one: The American news media are failing miserably.

Ben Bagdikian, a Pulitzer Prize winner with more than 30 years experience in journalism said corporate interests and political favors have become more important to the press than informing the people.

"Most publishers and station managers, when given the choice between political favors and the First Amendment, will take the political favors," Bagdikian said.

He said the head of CBS is reported to have made a deal with the White House to stop broadcasting anti-Nixon editorials. In addition, Bagdikian said, NBC provided the FBI with press passes so agents could infiltrate the press corps during a

Democratic national convention. "Publishers and broadcasting executives ignored the attacks on freedom of the press during the Nixon years," he said.

One such attack was the attempt to censor the Pentagon Papers before they were printed, he said. Another was the threat to discontinue funds to the Public Broadcasting System if it did not broadcast a sympathetic view of the Nixon administration, Bagdikian said.

Even after Watergate and the attempts to control the media, 93 per cent of the publishers and station managers supported Nixon, he said.

The New York Times and the Washington Post are considered to be examples of the American press, he said, but in reality the news most people are exposed to is inadequate.

"Most people are provided with

newspapers and broadcasting stations that provide little insight into what is happening today," Bagdikian said.

"If you judge a paper on the way it informs and serves the community, most papers are bad."

Polls have shown that large percentages of the American people support the nationalization of energy resources and employ ownership of corporations, he said. But there is massive silence on the part of newspapers and politicians on these issues, Bagdikian said.

"One reason for the silence," he said, "is that newspapers are large corporations themselves."

"Unless the public shows concern, Bagdikian warned, "we are in danger of our news media becoming a by-product of corporate interests."

He complained that newspaper chains are forming "news conglomerates." "Fifty of the largest newspaper chains have two-thirds of the nation's readers," he said.

As newspapers begin to act like large corporations, their primary concern is in maximizing profits and investing in new businesses, he said. If money gets tight, the first thing cut is the news budgets, he said.

"We used to think we in America had open government. But now it is clear that that means our government can open our mail, filing cabinets," he said.

"We were lucky with Watergate. We were lucky that a few good journalists and journalist organizations uncovered the story," he said. Because "only a tiny fraction of journalists decided to do anything about it."

Attempts are underway to forbid the reporting of arrests, pleadings and trials, he said. There is some merit in protecting the rights of the accused, he said, but it is necessary to allow the reporting of court proceedings.

"If it had been forbidden to report on the proceedings of Watergate, including the Vice-president's of the United States, the same gang would be in the White House now," he said.

Bagdikian said the United States depends more on the press than any other country because it depends much on the public to form national policy.

"We need an informed public to provide input," he said, "but the press is failing to keep tabs on the government and provides that information."

"When the itch to meddle is gone, democracy is gone," he said.

Indochinese check out at Gap

FT. INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. (AP) — The last of 22,033 Indochina refugees checked out of a resettlement camp here yesterday, on their way to new lives in various parts of the United States.

The final refugee camp residents were members of two families, including one of 27 relatives and another of nine.

The closing of Indiantown Gap leaves only one refugee center, Ft. Chaffee, Ark., still in operation. Two others at Ft. Pendleton, Calif. and Eglin Air Force Base in Florida closed down earlier. Chaffee is scheduled to close on Saturday.

Nguyen Van Tra, 27, said he and the other 26 members of his family were on their way to Foley, Ala., near Mobile, to work as fishermen — the same line of work they had in Vietnam.

Speaking through an interpreter, Tra said they expected to outdo American fishermen, whom he thinks aren't willing to put in the long hours Vietnamese work.

Members of the smaller family, headed by Hoang Van Dan, are also going south to become fishermen. Dan's family will settle at Baldwin, La.

Both families are from fishing villages in Vietnam, both are Catholic and are being sponsored by Catholic parishes in Louisiana and Alabama.

The two families were among 93 Vietnamese refugees who departed yesterday. The other 57 left early in the day without fanfare.

More than half of Tra's family were children, who sat or played on stacks of cardboard boxes full of belongings as the adults talked with reporters, and shivered in 40-degree weather.

Family members ranged in age from three months to 75 years. The three-month-old boy, Nguyen Hung Tan, is one of 129 refugee family babies born at the Indiantown Gap post hospital or at the nearby Hershey Medical Center. All 129 were born American citizens.

After hours of interviews and processing, the Vietnamese watched as the refugee center sign was ceremoniously removed from an Army headquarters building. They then got in a bus for a trip to Harrisburg International Airport and a flight to New Orleans.

From New Orleans they will travel on to their new homes in Louisiana and

Alabama.

None of the refugees appeared to speak English, although most of them had been here since shortly after the camp opened last May.

"We did have a chance to study English here, but in order to learn English, you have to be happy and we were very sad because we left our country," Tra said through interpreter Larry Flood.

But Flood said the children and most of the adults actually do speak some English.

"Some of the kids learned English pretty well ... and they will talk to you. But the adults don't want to appear stupid, especially when the press is around," Flood said.

Nguyen Thi Tro, a pretty 14-year-old girl, said she will miss Pennsylvania's snow when she goes to Alabama.

It's only snowed once here this year, and then only a few inches earlier this month, but it was another first for the children.

"We liked it very much, the first time we saw it ... we had a snowball fight," Miss Tro said through an interpreter.

Beirut fighting mars truce

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Sporadic shooting marred the first few hours of Lebanon's 15th cease-fire agreement Monday between Christian and Moslem factions struggling for control of this Arab capital.

Moslem guerrillas in red berets used bullhorns to urge their comrades to stop firing and Christian gunmen in the encircled 25-story Holcay Inn waited for army troops to move in to set up a buffer zone.

Security officials reported four dead, six wounded and seven fires burning in downtown Beirut — a vastly reduced casualty toll from house-to-house fighting the previous days.

"The night will be decisive for peace or war," said a spokesman for left-wing Nasserite militiamen occupying the downtown hotel district.

Lebanon's eight-month-old civil war has a long history of truce failures. Some of the cease-fires have only lasted a few hours, other have produced lulls of several weeks.

But always the government's failure to reassert its authority over private armies of Christians, Moslems and Palestinian guerrillas has led to a resumption of the conflict.

The latest accord called for internal security forces to replace gunmen in the high-rise hotel district while a 850-man army strike force moved into a 60-man's land buffer zone between Moslem and

Christian neighborhoods. But the troops were slow in getting started.

At nightfall, a spokesman for the right-wing Phalangist party said security forces only replaced Christian militiamen in the unfinished Hilton Hotel. He confirmed Phalangists were still occupying the Holiday Inn and the Starco office center, abutting the city's Jewish quarter.

"The cease-fire is not working very well," he conceded. "The Moslems are still shooting at us, but we hope they will stop."

A spokesman for the Moslem side said no army troops or security men had arrived to take over positions held by Nasserites, Lebanese Communists, Druze Socialists and radical Palestinian guerrillas.

He reported the Moslems still occupied most of the Jewish quarter, the Phoenix and St. Georges Hotels, and encircled Christians in the Holiday Inn.

Isolated clashes also were reported continuing in the northern city of Tripoli. Security officials said efforts to implement the cease-fire there were impeded by a wave of kidnaping as both sides sought hostages. Mass abductions are a common tactic of both sides during cease-fire periods.

A spokesman for the Arab Socialist Union, one of the Moslem factions involved in the current round of fighting, said all leftist forces would obey the

cease-fire but the truce would depend on the Phalangists getting out of the hotel area.

A Phalangist party spokesman said its forces would withdraw when it was clear the government had established "full control of security in the area."

Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam had been expected to arrive here yesterday for his third mediation attempt in the Lebanese crisis. He apparently canceled the visit when he got word of the new cease-fire accord.

Nearly 8,000 persons have been killed and Lebanon's economy has been ruined since Christian-Moslem warfare began last April. The fighting is over Moslem demands for political and economic reforms and reluctance by the 40 per cent Christian minority to grant them until the government clamps down on the Palestinian guerrillas.

Weather

OUR OLD MAN WINTER RETURNS! Morning clouds and a few early morning snow flurries, sunshine returning during the afternoon. Temperatures 20 degrees colder than yesterday. High 35. Clear skies and much colder tonight. Low 20. Variable cloudiness, breezy and cold Wednesday with a few snow flurries. High 32.



Ben Bagdikian

Photo by Tim Dougherty