

Canal transfer to cost taxpayers

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Despite earlier administration assurances that ceding the Panama Canal would cost taxpayers nothing, a State Department official said yesterday it might wind up costing \$350 million.

But Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher stressed in his testimony before the House Panama Canal subcommittee that the expenses will not violate the treaty reservation, attached by the Senate, that no funds will be paid to Panama in the 21-year transition from U.S. to Panamanian control.

Under the treaties narrowly ratified last year, the United States will gradually cede control over the waterway and its surrounding zone until Panama takes full control on Dec. 31, 1999.

At the time the pacts were under debate in the Senate,

treaty negotiators repeatedly left the impression all transition costs would be financed from canal revenues or other sources and not from taxpayer funds.

Conservative opponents later drew up lists of expenses they said would have to be covered by the taxpayer.

"It is correct there will be payments by the United States ... for things in the interest of the United States," Christopher said in response to questions from Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., an opponent of both the treaty and the implementing legislation now under consideration.

Christopher estimated the cost at \$350 million during the life of the transition, which begins officially Oct. 1. He described the costs as going mainly for

"relocation of defense facilities, early retirement and (other U.S.) employee benefits."

For example, it will cost \$1.5 million more than expected to relocate the remains of deceased American residents of the Zone, he said.

Christopher and Deputy Defense Secretary Charles Duncan urged passage of the legislation by June 1. Christopher said failure to act by then could adversely affect "managerial efficiency, employee morale and the operation of the canal itself."

Duncan said if the legislation is not ready by Oct. 1, the effective date of the treaty, "our ability to operate the canal would be crippled, the operational readiness of our military forces in Panama further reduced and the morale of our civilian canal employees destroyed."

Bill has emergency safeguards

House Democrats want a balanced budget

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Some 40 conservative House Democrats yesterday introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget, saying they had provided safeguards in case more spending was needed in time of war or recession.

Several similar proposals have been introduced previously in the House and

Senate, but those supporting the latest measure said their amendment disposes of all the criticisms leveled at the move to balance the budget.

Specifically, it provides that Congress — by a two-thirds vote — could authorize a deficit in the federal budget if additional government spending were needed for war or in an economic downturn.

Rep. Richard White, D-Texas, said the other plans were either unworkable, meaningless, or "had not sufficiently nailed down the problem."

Rep. Richard Ichord, D-Mo., said he expects Congress will approve some form of balanced budget amendment in order to avoid a constitutional convention.

"I don't want the entire Constitution opened up," he said.

A number of states have passed resolutions calling for a convention to consider an amendment requiring a balanced budget, but some authorities say such a convention would not necessarily be limited to that subject and could undertake wholesale revision of the Constitution.

Draft registration gathers supporters

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A proposal to resume compulsory military registration attracted more congressional support yesterday and some criticism from church leaders, civil libertarians and those who oppose the drafting of women.

At a House Armed Forces subcommittee hearing, Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., testified on behalf of a bill he has introduced that would require compulsory registration for both sexes plus the actual drafting of 200,000 persons each year for three to six months active duty training.

"In my opinion the all-volunteer system is not working well because there are not enough volunteers," Montgomery said.

He said partial conscription, creation of a Ready Force reserve and a list of registrants would allow the United States to mobilize within 60 days of the outbreak of conventional war as compared to 10 months or more under the present system.

Montgomery said he opposes using women in combat, but said that, in light of women's demands for social equality, the courts would probably require that they too be subject to military service requirements.

"This would be a complete departure from national policy," said Rep. Marjorie Holt, R-Md. "You say the courts would make you do it. I think we should wait."

Rep. David Treen, R-La., said pregnancy rates among women in the current volunteer Army illustrate another objection to drafting females. He said official figures show 7,832 of the Army's 50,000 women were pregnant in 1978, and 2,068 of these left the service.

Subcommittee member Antonio Won Pat, a delegate from Guam, backed Montgomery, saying, "If women are fighting for equal rights, they should have equal responsibility."

So did panel chairman Richard White, D-Texas, who said, "I believe very strongly that ... we must return to registration."



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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR SPECIAL EVENTS
Friday - Sunday, February 16-18

Friday, Feb. 16
IAHS/Dept. of German, Uwe Herms, West German poet and novelist, reads from his new novel, Franz und Paula leben noch, 4 p.m., Room 124 Sparks.
5 O'Clock Playwrights' Theatre, Howard Motyl, Other People, 5:30 p.m., The Pavilion Theatre.
Commonspace Theatre, The Graduate, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Sports: women's basketball, vs. Delaware, 7 p.m.
Model RR Club, work meeting, 7 p.m., HUB Club Room
Wargamers meeting, 7 p.m.-midnight Sunday, Room 101 EE East.
HPER Folk and Square Dance Roundup, 7:30 p.m., Room 133 white.
Interlandia Folk Dance meeting, 7:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom.
Commonspace Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., Room 102 Kern.
University Theatre, H.M.S. Pinafore, 8 p.m., The Playhouse.

Saturday, Feb. 17
Last date for submitting petition to Records Officer to graduate in absentia in March.
Sports: coed riflery, vs. Indiana (Pa) and Army, 11 a.m.; women's swimming and diving, vs. Princeton, 1:30 p.m.; men's basketball, vs. Army, 2:10 p.m.; men's and women's gymnastics, vs. southern Illinois, 7:30 p.m.
France-Cinema, Les Violons du Bal, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
University Theatre, H.M.S. Pinafore, 8 p.m., The Playhouse.

Sunday, Feb. 18
ACF Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., HUB Assembly Hall.
University Chapel Service, 11 a.m., Eisenhower Chapel. Carl Derk, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, speaker.
"Major Decision Sunday," discuss majors with representatives of all PSU Colleges, DUS and Career Development, 2-5 p.m., FUB Rec Room, East Halls.
Shaver's Creek nature Center staff, winter nature walk, 2 p.m., Walnut Springs Park, State College.
France-Cinema, Les Violons du Bal, 7 and 9 p.m., Room Kern 112 Kern.

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