

state/nation/world

House votes to fund government through Dec. 15

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed 242-143 yesterday a huge, catch-all money bill needed to keep the government in business after the Oct. 1 dawn of the new fiscal year.

spending bills. That is a victory for President Reagan, who last week requested a lame-duck session for precisely that purpose.

Originally, majority Democrats favored an expiration date of Feb. 28. But they relented during floor debate and suggested the Dec. 15 expiration.

Even that didn't exactly satisfy Republicans, who attempted to push through a change that would have the funding authority expire when Congress adjourns for the year.

The measure is likely to take up the measure next Tuesday. As cleared by the House, the bill would keep the government in money only through Dec. 15, forcing Congress to return to work after the Nov. 3 elections to resume work on regular

the regular money bills that Congress normally debates and approves each year. None of the 13 bills has yet been sent to Reagan for his signature.

San Franciscans bid farewell to historic cablecars

By STEVE WILSTEIN Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The clanging bells of San Francisco's cable cars fell silent yesterday after a ride cheered by hundreds of fans, the last in a two-year, \$58 million overhaul is completed.

Car No. 7, the one Humphrey Bogart rode before setting up a rendezvous with Lauren Bacall in the 1947 movie, "Dark Passage," started its run up and down the steep hills of Powell Street at 4:48 a.m.

Gripman Joe Battiste, who won a drawing to work the last ride, rang the bells as the car drew to a close. Horns honked. Spectators whistled and hooted.

Hundreds of nostalgic cable car fans stayed up all night after a farewell parade and street party to watch the last clacking car roll into the Cable Car Barn in the pre-dawn fog.

Seven minutes later, at 4:55 a.m., Richard Sklar, general manager of the city's Public Utilities Commission, PUC vice president Nancy Levin and veteran cable splicers Fred Mueller and Otis Fleming pressed a button shutting down the giant geared wheels that haul the cable powering the cars.

Jim Waterfield, a conductor for the past 15 years, guided the last car through the crowd and said "It feels sort of lonely, now that it's over."

More than 300 gripmen, conductors and

other employees of the transit system gathered for a breakfast and beer bash across the street from the barn when the ceremonies ended.

The youngest rider on the last car was 5-month-old Joseph McClure, who lay quietly in his mother Diane's arms, seemingly oblivious to the commotion around him.

"He'll be two years old when the cars come back and it's something I think he'll get a kick out of when he hears about it later on," Mrs. McClure said. Her husband, Michael, has been a gripman for 18 years.

Thousands of tourists and residents lined San Francisco's streets Tuesday to snap final photos of the cable cars, which were laden with hundreds of balloons, bunches of streaming ribbons, Japanese lanterns and

polos of flowers for a farewell parade over Nob Hill. Every cable car journey begins with the classic "two bells." The next time "two bells" will be heard will be in about 20 months.



Bystanders put coins beneath the wheels of the last cablecar in San Francisco yesterday. The cars are in for a 20-month layoff as the city renovates the cars, rail lines and garage.

Poland suggests elimination of Solidarity

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The martial-law government launched one of its strongest attacks on Solidarity, suggesting yesterday that the suspended independent union may be eliminated.

The government daily Rzeczpospolita — Republic — said it was "hard to imagine a situation when the name of the union, burdened with such a bad record, would return to the public life as if nothing had happened. Activists of the suspended union... should have thought better of the political consequences of their actions."

The latest government slap at Solidarity came as Pope John Paul II, speaking at his weekly general audience in the Vatican, lent his support to a statement issued last week by Poland's Roman Catholic bishops backing the right of workers to independent unions.

"How many are the trials and concerns of my country!" the pope said in his brief remarks delivered in Polish at the open-air audience in St. Peter's Square.

The Polish government newspaper's lengthy commentary was signed by an "observer," a signature usually reserved for the daily's toughest statements. It seemed to indicate the authorities are preparing further action against the union, which was suspended by martial law last Dec. 13.

state news briefs

Alert sounds at Berwick nuclear plant

BEACH HAVEN, Pa. (AP) — A short circuit in a control panel caused a fire yesterday that resulted in a brief alert at the new Berwick nuclear generating station, officials said.

The fire caused only minor damage and did not disrupt operations at the plant, which sustained its first nuclear reaction last week-end, spokesman Bill Begin of the Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. said.

However, Begin said plant officials decided to shut off the reactor yesterday afternoon, a day ahead of schedule, to repair the damage and to make other needed adjustments to the plant, which is undergoing a long-term shutdown prior to commercial service.

The fire was reported by electricians working on a control panel that is part of the plant's emergency service water system, Begin said.

nation news briefs

Doctor warns against aluminum bats

BOSTON (AP) — The aluminum baseball bat, popular because it is more durable than the wooden variety, turns into "a heavy, high-speed missile with sharp edges" when it breaks, a doctor warns.

Dr. Richard H. Strauss said he and a colleague have seen seven such incidents this season, and two of them resulted in injuries to the pitcher.

In a letter in today's New England Journal of Medicine, Strauss, who is on the faculty of Ohio State University College of Medicine, noted that wooden bats usually hold together when they split.

world news briefs

Sympathy strikes join health workers

LONDON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of British workers, from coal miners to school aides, walked off the job yesterday in support of striking health service employees.

The one-day work stoppage, called by the 11-million-member Trades Union Congress in defiance of a 1980 law banning sympathy strikes, threatened a major confrontation with Prime Minister

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