



Waiting for a Ride
Dale and Joyce Ride, parents of Shuttle Challenger astronaut Sally Ride, sit behind a model of the space shuttle before appearing on NBC's Today Show yesterday morning at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

House votes to limit tax cut; budget compromise approved

By MIKE SHANAHAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Defying President Reagan twice in one day, the House voted 239-191 yesterday to limit this year's income tax cut to \$720 a couple — a move the president has promised again and again to veto.

Earlier, in a double strike at the president's economic program, the Democratic-controlled House and the Republican-led Senate approved a compromise \$859 billion budget plan which Reagan says will short-cut the economic recovery.

The House approved the budget 239-186; the Senate 51-43.

The debate and votes on both sides of Capitol Hill provided more of a preview of the 1984 presidential campaign than any likely real change in the size of the federal budget or each voter's federal tax bill.

"In my view, we're in the '84 election," said Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

"The Democrats just rolled us," he said. "This budget's a loser."

Dole said the finance panel would be unable to find the new revenues necessary to meet the \$73 billion in next taxes for the next three years called for in the budget resolution.

The tax cap was sure to be defeated in the Senate, where it was expected to reach the floor on Tuesday, Reagan has threatened to veto any tax or spending measures which violate his economic program, even though they might be required under the budget blueprint.

In considering the budget compromise, Senate Republicans were torn between loyalties to the conservative Reagan and the need to honor the congressional budget process which required compromise with liberals and moderates in both houses on taxes, domestic spending and defense spending.

Among those supporting the budget resolution was Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., who had been under heavy pressure from Reagan to work for defeat

of the budget compromise.

Before the final vote, the Senate rejected 51-41 a proposal by Dole to reduce from \$73 billion to \$69 billion the amount of taxes to be raised under the budget plan over the next three years.

During the House debate on the tax cap, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said the proposed limitation would raise \$6 billion next year and \$21 billion over the next three years.

Compared to federal budget deficits now approaching \$200 billion, Rostenkowski said, the cap "is little more than an asterisk on the ledger book."

In the Republican-dominated Senate, opponents, including Baker, apparently had the votes to defeat the tax cut curtailment.

The average 10 percent cut in tax rates, which is to start showing up in paychecks on July 1, is the third installment of the president's 25 percent reduction in income tax rates over three years, the keystone of his campaign to lower taxes, accelerate a defense buildup and sharply reduce spending on government social programs.

Reagan will not have a chance to veto the budget resolution, which merely serves as a guideline for later tax and spending decisions by Congress, but the appropriations and tax measures approved under the ceilings set by the budget blueprint must go to the White House for Reagan's signature before they become law.

The president has said he is "prepared to veto their (the Democrats) budget-busting bills again, again and again."

Specifically, the budget plan calls for \$73 billion in tax increases over three years, at least \$15 billion more in domestic programs than Reagan wants and half the 10 percent military increase Reagan insists is vital for national security.

The compromise would produce a \$179 billion budget deficit in fiscal 1984, beginning Oct. 1, compared with the \$171 billion deficit in the president's original budget proposals.

Congress will regain powers, lawyer says

By JERRY ESTILL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Congress will find other ways to assert its control over administrative agencies now that the Supreme Court has thrown out the legislative veto, the lawyer who lost the case said yesterday.

The lawyer, Stanley Brand, chief counsel to the House of Representatives, said that as long as Congress could use such vetoes, it was willing to allow the agencies considerable leeway.

Without those vetoes, Congress may install much tighter reins on administrative agencies — "and that might not make for good government in many instances," said Brand, who argued the losing side in yesterday's decision.

Agencies actually might be more reluctant to act for fear their decisions, while unchecked in the short term, might stir up

such wrath that the agencies would run the risk of being abolished at budget time, he said.

Alan B. Morrison, the lawyer who argued for the winning side, said the decision "means that special interest lobbies, which through their campaign contributions hold so much power over Congress, will no longer be able to gut laws protecting consumers, workers, and the environment by seeking vetoes for the rules needed to implement them."

Rep. Bill Lowery, R-Calif., was among a number of congressmen agreeing with Brand.

"The decision very likely will require us to draft legislation far more tighter, far more stricter than we have in the past," he said. "And then there's the all encompassing power of the purse."

Not everyone agreed with Brand, however. Several members sided with Morrison's assessment.

Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.Y., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said, "I have long held the belief that no matter how attractive legislative veto provisions are, they were an unconstitutional extension of legislative authority."

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on administrative practice and procedure, characterized the decision as a "defeat for the presidency" and said, "The bureaucrats themselves may have less freedom."

Sen. Robert Packwood, R-Ore., chairman of the Commerce Committee, said the decision counters "last year's devastating death-by-veto of the Federal Trade Commission's used car warranty rulemaking."

"It is my fervent desire that the FTC rule can now go into effect — without threat of congressional interference," Packwood

of the Public Works investigations subcommittee, said the decision could lead to "government by the tyranny of the bureaucracy" unless Congress finds a constitutional equivalent of the outlawed procedure.

He called the decision "a real train wreck in government," and added, "You're going to see the hands of agencies tied in ways you would not believe."

Brand said he believes the ruling "spells a death knell for the War Powers Act" which gives Congress power to veto, after 60 days, a president's decision to keep troops in situations where they could wind up in combat.

Stuart M. Statler, a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, called the court's decision a "great thing, not only for consumers and businesses but for any group that is subject to the regulatory process."

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R-Conn., said, "Congress will take a careful look at the agencies it has set up and some may go off the books."

"I would suspect the FTC will be one of the prime candidates," said Weicker, emphasizing that he hoped that agency would be left alone.

Rep. Elliott H. Levitas, D-Ga., chairman

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—Rep. Bill Lowery, R-Calif.

Pentagon arms policy costing money, lives

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon policy of "buy it now and Band-Aid it later" is running up costs and giving troops new weapons that may not work well in combat, the chairman of a Senate investigating panel said yesterday.

Sen. William V. Roth, R-Del., received majority support for that view from witnesses called before his Governmental Affairs Committee to testify on the shortcomings of the military's operational testing program.

Roth said that under the Reagan administration, "despite serious problems . . . no program has been put on hold or stopped because it was not operationally ready for production."

Expediting work on a weapon is not all bad, "as long as we have somewhere an independent check of what the system and vehicle can do," Roth said.

With that, he promoted his legislation to create an independent Office of Operational Test and Evaluation, reporting directly to the defense secretary, that would oversee the testing that now is performed by the separate services.

Derek J. Vander Schaaf, the Pentagon's deputy inspector general, said audits by his internal watchdog office have found four problems common in operational testing.

In some cases, he said, test schedules were shortened to the point where development and operational tests were held simultaneously and full testing could not be completed before a production decision had to be made.



Pump protest
More than 100 members of DeAware met in Point Pleasant, Delaware County, yesterday to resume protests against construction of the Point Pleasant pump. A federal judge cleared the way for construction of the pump to begin, despite a popular referendum that was passed in opposition to constructing the pump.

state news briefs

Signalmen continue SEPTA strike
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The 44-member signalmen's union rejected a back-to-work request yesterday from other labor leaders and insisted on continuing a 101-day strike against SEPTA, holding hostage about 1,000 other commuter railroad workers who have reached agreement.

Al Archual, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks, which represents 125 employees of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, angrily resigned as chairman and spokesman for the 13 railroad unions and called his labor associates "gutless."

He pulled his union out of the pact in which all the unions had agreed to honor the picket line of any group that hadn't settled. Archual said his members want to work, and the BRAC executive board would decide soon on whether they can cross the picket line of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen.

The strike began March 15, after SEPTA demanded wide changes in work rules for the system it took over from Conrail.

GPU: TMI has not hurt environment

MIDDLETOWN (AP) — The shut-down Three Mile Island nuclear power plant did not harm the environment in 1982, the plant's operator told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission yesterday.

GPU Nuclear Corp. said it based its assessment on studies of the Susquehanna River water, air, aquatic life, soil, milk, vegetables and fruit in the area near the plant.

Over 1,000 readings from radiation monitoring devices "indicated only atmospheric fallout and natural background environmental radiation levels," GPU's report said.

In March 1979 the plant suffered the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident, forcing it to shut down its Unit 2 reactor. Unit 1 already was shut down for refueling and has not been allowed to be restarted pending NRC approval.

nation news briefs

Reagan asks AMA for price freeze
CHICAGO (AP) — President Reagan told America's doctors yesterday they should take the "painful but necessary medicine" of a one-year freeze on charges to the government for treating Medicare patients.

In a speech before a meeting of the American Medical Association, the president outlined his proposals for controlling rising health care costs and said that "physicians, too, must share the burden of slowing" those costs.

Doctor bills paid by the government for treating elderly patients under the Medicare health insurance program increased 21 percent last year while inflation was dropping sharply elsewhere in the economy, Reagan said, and a further increase of 19 percent is expected this year.

Texas man says he has killed 100

MONTAGUE, Texas (AP) — A former mental patient convicted of murdering his mother and charged with two Texas slayings gave authorities more details yesterday to back up his claims that he has killed 100 women in at least 16 states.

Henry Lee Lucas, 46, has led investigators to two bodies and has provided sketches and details about other slayings he says he has committed over the past eight years.

Lucas, convicted of slaying his mother to death 23 years ago in Michigan, is a "prime suspect" in unsolved murders of women "all over the country," said Texas Ranger Phil Ryan.

Montague County District Attorney Jack McGaughey said yesterday it would take at least two months to check out the information Lucas has provided.

Lucas is being held without bond on one of two murder charges against him; no bond has been set on the second.

world news briefs

Honduran-Nicaraguan border 'critical'
TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The government warned yesterday of a critical situation along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, where two American journalists were killed two days earlier.

"It is evident that tension has increased in the zone and in relations with Nicaragua," Col. Cesar Elvir Sierra, chief of public relations for the armed forces, said in a telephone interview.

Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, the armed forces chief, and Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barmica said Wednesday that Honduras "will act unwaveringly" in response to Nicaraguan attacks.

The foreign minister said in a radio-television broadcast that the Honduran government would "continue working and contributing to the reaching of a stable and durable regional peace, but at the same time it will act unwaveringly to strengthen our internal security and our defensive capacity against the repeated attacks, provocations and threats of the Managua regime."

Bush starts European trip in London

LONDON (AP) — Vice President George Bush came to London yesterday to discuss the Reagan administration's Central American policy and European nuclear missile negotiations.

Bush, on an eight-nation, 14-day tour — his second European trip in five months — will meet with Britain's new Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe today and then confer with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, fresh from her overwhelming re-election victory June 9.

Bush also will take part in a formation of a new center-right political organization to be called the International Democrat Union.

The IDU, with original representation from 19 countries, is to serve as a counterweight to the Socialist International — the worldwide organization of socialist nations.

Bush said in Washington before his departure that he will attempt to persuade skeptical friends and allies that the administration is trying to promote democracy in Central America, "imperfect as some of the systems are."

Other stops on his tour are Sweden, Finland and Ireland.

stock report

Market gives some ground
NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market gave ground yesterday, passing from a record-shattering performance, as traders sorted out conflicting economic reports.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, off 1.71 points Wednesday after nearing record levels, slipped another 3.90 points to 1,241.79.

Three stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange; broad stock market indexes retreated after record heights Wednesday.

Volume Shares	104,568,950
Issues Traded	1,992
Up	648
Unchanged	394
Down	950
NYSE Index	98.83 - .18
Dow Jones Industrials	1,241.79 + 3.90

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