

# Congress works on deadline to make federal budget cuts

By STACI COX  
Staff Writer

Across-the-board cuts will slash government spending in everything from "Star Wars" to social programs if Congress and President Reagan fail to carve \$23 billion from the federal budget by Nov. 20, according to a 1985 law.

The President and Congress have less than a month to cut \$23 billion from the federal budget to meet the budget-balancing requirements of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act. If Congress fails to cut the deficit to \$144 billion by Nov. 20, a sequester order will go into effect, shaving about 10 percent off the defense budget and about 9 percent from domestic spending, said Larry Neal, press secretary for Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, a sponsor of the act.

The original target deficit stood at \$108 billion, but that was recently adjusted to \$144 billion dollars. The process involved in changing the target deficit slowed discussion of the budget between Congress and the

White House, Neal said.

Should the sequester take effect, domestic and defense budgets would experience across-the-board cuts, although there is some flexibility in defense, Neal said. The Pentagon has the option of deciding where to make its cuts, he said. Although domestic cuts are somewhat inflexible, social security, food stamps, and medicare will not be cut, he said.

Neal said there have been talks of a possible economic summit between the President and Congress, but for the moment, congressional economic committees are planning budget

strategies independently to avoid the sequester.

"A tax increase is really not required to prevent the sequester, and if all government spending is frozen at last year's levels, we would save \$10 billion," Neal said.

The Democrats see tax increase as the only alternative, other than completely dismantling several government programs, said Tom Lawton, press secretary for Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C.

"The Republicans have been denying tax increase for seven years now, saying it would encourage

increased government spending," said David Poisson, legislative director and counsel for Sanford. "The ironic thing is that they have increased federal spending phenomenally, and had to use loans to pay for it, making our deficit what it is now."

Sanford made several suggestions toward reducing the deficit, which include closing an estate tax loophole and a farm tax loophole, which taxes large-scale and dirt farmers at the same rate, and enacting a gas tax, Lawton said.

Although Democrats issued an invitation to the White House and

Republicans to engage in an economic summit a year ago, they received an answer only after the stock market crash on Monday, Lawton said.

Domestic programs that would be hit hardest by the sequester include: the Chapter One Education for Disabled Children Act, losing \$353 million and exempting half a million children; handicapped education, losing \$155 million; maternal and child health care, which provides care for impoverished mothers and their babies, losing \$40 million; immunization grants, preventing about

240,000 young children from inoculation against preventable diseases; AIDS research, losing \$43 million; and Head Start, losing \$100 million.

About 50,000 college students will be denied financial aid when \$461 million is cut from the college grant budget, Poisson said.

Defense programs that will be cut are research and development, including SDI research, operations and maintenance, and weapons procurement, Poisson said. Military personnel are exempt from cuts, resulting in sharper cuts for other areas of defense, he said.

## UNC to host N.C. student legislature

By LEE ANN NECESSARY  
Staff Writer

Students will call for four resolutions, ranging from U.S. sanctions against South Africa to amending the Safe Roads Act, when they gather this weekend in Chapel Hill for North Carolina Student Legislature's monthly meeting.

The UNC-CH delegation, along with students from Louisburg College, will co-host the student legislature's October Interim Council meeting from Friday to Sunday.

While in Chapel Hill, the 150 delegates expected to attend the meeting will discuss four resolutions written by N.C. college students.

The meetings follow a parliamentary and formal amendment procedure resembling the N.C. General Assembly format, said Rachel Baskin, UNC vice-delegation chairwoman.

The resolutions include supporting U.S. sanctions against South Africa, the therapeutic use of an experimental cancer drug in hospitals, amending the Safe Roads Act and proposing more effective programs for welfare recipients.

After the amendment and approval process, the resolution's author sends copies of the document to the people listed on the resolution mandate to inform politicians of student views.

Those listed to receive the South African sanctions resolution include Sens. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Terry Sanford, D-N.C., and Secretary of State George Shultz, Baskin said.

The delegates will discuss a resolution that proposes adding more penalties, including a 12- to 54-month jail term for DWI second offenders, to the Safe Roads Act, Baskin said.

"Many times these resolutions will be amended," Baskin said. "For example, why the jail term was proposed in odd numbers like 12 and 54 will be discussed."

Any N.C. student attending a school with a delegation can submit a resolution to the organization's secretary of state. The secretary, in turn, will present it to the legislature, Baskin said.

## Parking from page 1

Summer spoke to the committee about the feasibility of using tennis courts as parking lots.

"The materials are designed for tennis, not for driving across," Summer said. "Pretty soon, you won't even have a decent parking lot, much less a tennis court."

Geer said she was pleased with the committee's decision not to convert the courts into parking spaces.

"Those courts are a big asset to the students who live on South Campus," Geer said. "I'm extremely happy they're going to stay courts."

However, the courts are not entirely safe yet. Boulton said the committee is considering a proposal to enclose six of the eight courts for use by the varsity tennis teams. The courts would be available to students at other times.

The proposal is being investigated, and the committee will examine it at its next meeting, Boulton said.

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