

World and Nation

Congress overrides civil rights veto

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Congress overrode President Ronald Reagan's veto of a major civil rights bill Tuesday, ending a four-year battle to restore broad protection for women, minorities, the elderly and the handicapped.

A 73-24 vote in the Senate, followed by a 292-133 tally in the House, handed Reagan a severe political defeat and reversed a 1984 Supreme Court decision that sharply restricted the reach of four anti-discrimination statutes.

The votes in both chambers exceeded the two-thirds majority needed to enact a law over a presidential veto. It was the ninth time Congress has rejected a Reagan veto.

The White House pledged to enforce the new law, which Reagan had called a "power grab."

"We presented an alternative civil rights act which stated the president's strong views against discrimination in this country," a White House statement said. "The Congress chose to override the president's veto. We will work to implement the new law."

"People who voluntarily take federal funds have an obligation to treat everybody else fairly," said Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., summing up the rationale of lawmakers who have been pressing for the Civil Rights Restoration Act since the high court ruling.

The court said only specific programs or activities receiving federal aid had to comply with four major civil rights laws.

The restoration act bars discrimination by institutions, government agencies and some corporations that

receive any federal aid. That means if a college physics department, for example, receives federal assistance, the entire college would fall under the civil rights law.

Reagan and his congressional allies argued for a less sweeping alternative, saying the act went far beyond simple restoration. They said it would curtail religious liberty and expand federal control over the private sector.

The Senate vote came after several senators, including acting Republican Leader Alan Simpson of Wyoming, condemned opponents of the bill.

Some opponents have claimed the bill would require churches to hire active homosexual drug addicts with AIDS to counsel children.

Proponents of the bill say it offers no protection for homosexuals, alcoholism or drug addicts.

Even as the Senate prepared to vote, President Reagan urged Congress to sustain his veto.

"I ask every senator and representative to rise above the pressures of an election year, to make a stand for religious liberty by sustaining my veto of this dangerous bill," Reagan said in a speech to local Republican officials from around the country.

"The truth is, this legislation isn't a civil rights bill," the president said. "It's a power grab by Washington designed to take control away from states, localities, communities, parents and the private sector and give it to federal bureaucrats and judges."

"One dollar in federal aid — direct or indirect — would bring entire organizations under federal control, from charitable social organizations to churches and synagogues."

Sandinistas, contras propose plans for cease-fire agreement

From Associated Press reports

SAPOA, Nicaragua — Sandinista and contra negotiators said Tuesday they have exchanged proposals, which agree on major points, for an extended cease-fire accompanied by amnesty and release for political prisoners.

They began three days of meetings Monday at this town on the Costa Rican border, trying to end a civil war that President Daniel Ortega says has cost 26,500 lives since 1981. Both sides suspended battlefield action during the talks.

Gen. Humberto Ortega, the Nicaraguan defense minister, and his Sandinista delegation proposed a 30-day truce that could be extended to three months, during which the U.S.-supported contras would lay down their weapons and join a "national reconciliation dialogue."

Contrary to previous Sandinista demands, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said rebels who put down their arms would be free from prosecution without applying for amnesty and could take part in Nicaraguan political life.

Contra proposals, as outlined to reporters by spokesman Bosco Matamoros, call for a 45-day truce beginning April 1. Rebel fighters would move to cease-fire zones and a permanent truce would be negotiated by Sandinista and contra leaders.

According to Matamoros, other contra demands include immediate total amnesty, freedom for all political prisoners and an end to mandatory military service.

Both sides propose international monitoring of the cease-fire. The Sandinistas would have a 15-member international commission including representatives of the United Nations, Organization of American States, Contadora and its support group.

The battlefield truce appeared Tuesday to be holding.

Soviets deny withdrawal pledge

WASHINGTON — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today backed away from a pledge to withdraw the Red Army from Afghanistan even if negotiators fail to agree on conditions for ending the war there.

Entering talks with Secretary of State George Shultz, Shevardnadze declined to repeat the pledge for an independent pullout by a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman last week in Moscow after negotiations deadlocked in Geneva.

The negotiations, held under U.N. auspices between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which has provided a haven to the U.S.-backed rebels, faltered last week

News in Brief

over a U.S. demand that the Soviets end their military aid to the Marxist government in Kabul in addition to withdrawing an estimated 120,000 troops.

The Soviets announced last Tuesday they were postponing the withdrawal because of the U.S. demand and also Pakistani insistence that an interim government be formed in Afghanistan.

Chemical fire forces evacuation

CHARLOTTE — Residents of a 110-unit apartment complex and 20 other homes were evacuated early Tuesday when fire engulfed a chemical storage and distribution company and spread to nearby woods.

The fire at the Chem-Way Corp. could be seen for miles as explosions from inside the building shot sparks and flames into the sky. Several large trucks and delivery vans parked outside the huge warehouse building also caught fire. No injuries were reported.

Plane catches kite, carries child

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Little DeAndrea Anrig was flying her kite when it suddenly started to fly her, her parents say. It was just a short hop, but one the 8-year-old isn't likely to forget.

A twin-engine plane caught the 200-pound nylon test line of DeAndrea's kite and carried her about 100 feet — over her daddy's head and almost into a tree, she said Tuesday.

She let go, but said she was still sore after two days' rest. The plane, meanwhile, is grounded because of damage apparently caused by getting tangled in the kite string.

While DeAndrea was flying the kite, a plane descending for the nearby Palo Alto Airport snagged the line, her parents said.

"She said it was just a big jerk that lifted her into the air," said DeAndrea's mother, Debby Anrig. "It carried her right over my husband's head. I'm just thankful she let go."

"We always said, 'Hold on tight. Don't let go, honey,'" Debby Anrig said, recalling her advice on proper kite-flying technique.

DeAndrea said she was doing just that, until she saw what was looming in front of her: "I thought that I was gonna hit a tree."

At the Federal Aviation Administration regional safety standards office in San Jose, manager Edge Ritter said one of the two propellers on the plane suffered a 2-inch gash and must be replaced.

U.S. Postal Service to increase stamp prices

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Higher postage rates, including a 25-cent charge for first-class letters, will take effect April 3, the U.S. Postal Service announced Tuesday.

"The Postal Service has been managing the costs of operating a growing universal delivery system and moving a volume of mail that has nearly doubled" to more than 160 billion pieces this year, said John Griesemer, chairman of the Postal Service Board of Governors.

As to when rates might increase again, Griesemer would say only, "Our job is to fight against that."

The board set the effective date for the sweeping series of new rates recommended by the independent Postal Rate Commission on March 4 following 10 months of study and hearings. Rates were last changed in February 1985, when the price of a first-class stamp rose from 20 cents to 22 cents.

Postage rates will rise about 17.5 percent on the average, with the biggest hikes for so-called "junk" advertising mail and less of an increase for the typical consumer.

Users of first-class postage face a 14.7 percent hike compared with jumps of 18.1 percent for newspapers

and magazines and 24.9 percent for mailers of advertising material.

Postal officials have said the increases are needed to avoid deficits for the agency that could reach \$5 billion in 1989. The Postal Service lost more than \$220 million last year.

The increases are unrelated to recent reductions in window hours, collections and other services. Those cuts were forced by congressional action mandating a spending reduction by the agency.

The new 25-cent first-class rate means that sending a letter will take about the same bite from the average wallet as it did in 1932.

Adjusted for inflation, the 3-cent postage rate introduced in 1932 would amount to 25.5 cents today.

The new 25-cent rate is just for the first ounce. The price for each additional ounce of mail will rise from 17 cents to 20 cents.

The cost to mail a post card will increase from 14 cents to 15 cents.

While those are the rates most readily noticed by consumers, the charges to businesses for mailing bills, advertising, books and magazines to American homes also affect individuals. Prices and subscription rates may well increase, with the postage costs being cited as a factor.

The new rates, for example, would add about \$1.15 to the annual cost of mailing a weekly newsmagazine to one home. Utilities, credit card companies and department stores that bill once a month will have to spend about 36 cents more per customer annually. The cost of an average book club mailing will rise by about 50 cents.

For the Record

"Police Roundup" on March 22 incorrectly reported that Daniel Drew Frederick was a suspect in an automobile vandalism incident. He is not a suspect. Frederick reported the crime to Chapel Hill police. Police said Tuesday they had no suspects in the incident.

The March 22 article, "Amateur athletic events boost Chapel Hill businesses," incorrectly said visitors brought \$59 million in revenue to Chapel Hill. The figure applies to Orange County, not just Chapel Hill. The article also said the U.S. Olympic Festival brought \$35 million in revenue to Chapel Hill. That figure applies to the entire Triangle area. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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\$10 OFF MEN'S COTTON SWEATERS	MIRAGE REVERSIBLE PINK JACKET'S NOW \$19	\$10 OFF SOLID PINK	\$10 OFF ANY OUTFIT	25% OFF MEN'S PLAID SHIRTS	\$5 OFF ANY SOLID SHORT	25% OFF ANYTHING PLAID
30% OFF ALL MEN'S JACKETS (NO LEATHER)	SHORTS BUY TWO GET ONE FREE*	20% OFF ANYTHING PINK	25% OFF ANY LODGE LABEL	35% OFF ULTRA PINK LABEL	LEVI'S & LEE JEANS NOW \$29	25% OFF OCEAN PACIFIC LABEL

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\$8 OFF WOMEN'S SOLID SWEATERS	25% OFF ANYTHING WITH STRIPES	T-SHIRTS BUY TWO GET ONE FREE*	20% OFF ANYTHING WHITE	25% OFF LEVI'S DENIM JACKET	35% OFF CABIN FEVER JACKETS	\$5 OFF PLAID SHORTS
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