

World and Nation

National service program proposed

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Democratic leaders in Congress introduced legislation Wednesday to make civilian or military service a requirement for many young Americans who want federal aid for education, job training or housing.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said creation of a national service program would be in keeping with President Bush's call in his inaugural address for a new sense of civic responsibility. And Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said the bill would be a priority of the new Congress.

Nunn, the main sponsor of the bill in the Senate, said he hoped the

proposal would "awaken a new spirit of citizenship and civic obligation in America" by encouraging young people to attack the nation's social needs while earning education or housing benefits.

"This is not a guaranteed benefit; this is a guaranteed opportunity to earn a benefit," Nunn said. "There is a fundamental difference. . . . I think it's time to begin a debate on civic duty."

Rep. Dave McCurdy, D-Okla., who introduced an identical bill in the House, said the program "represents an appeal to the broad values of citizenship rather than the narrow views of self-interest."

Under the program, which would be phased in over five years beginning

in 1990, young volunteers in the "Citizens Corps" would work one or two years in jobs such as providing day care, combatting illiteracy or caring for the elderly.

They would be paid \$100 a week and provided health insurance while part of the Citizens Corps, and they also would earn a \$10,000 voucher for each year of civilian service. Those who volunteer for military service would earn a \$12,000 voucher for each year.

The vouchers could be used to finance a college education, to pay for vocational or job training, or as a down payment on a new home. After the five-year phase-in period, the vouchers would replace most federal student loans and grants,

although such aid still would be available for those not qualified for the national service program.

Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University sociology professor who developed much of the proposal for the Democratic Leadership Council, said the program eventually could cost the federal government \$5 billion a year, based on an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 civilian workers and 400,000 military recruits.

But Moskos said much of that cost would be offset by the elimination of federal student loans and grants and by the reduction in federal costs for meeting many of the social needs, such as providing nursing home care to the elderly, that would be handled by the young workers.

Bush creates ethics panel to ensure government honesty

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Bush, saying current law fails to keep the government sufficiently honest, on Wednesday established an ethics panel to take a fresh look at conflict-of-interest standards and recommend new ones.

In naming the eight-member President's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform, Bush said he wants an "unambiguous . . . code of conduct to ensure that those who serve the public trust avoid any actual or apparent conflict between their personal and public interests."

However, he said the standards of conduct he will propose for executive and congressional officials should not be "unreasonably restrictive" to dissuade capable people from entering government service.

Bush had supported President Reagan's veto last fall of a congressional ethics package that Reagan said was excessive and would hamper the government's ability to attract top-rate people.

First female bishop elected

BOSTON — The Rev. Barbara Harris, elected the first woman bishop in the 2,000-year tradition of apostolic succession, said Wednesday that she sees her mission as mainly religious and not political.

"I do not intend to be an international Anglican gadfly, moving around to promote ordination of women, but I will be as supportive as possible," she said at a news conference the day after the Episcopal Church approved her election following a long and sometimes bitter debate.

Harris was joined at the news conference by Bishop David Johnson of Boston, her new boss, who sounded a note of conciliation.

"It is a time for reception, a time for inviting," he said.

Harris, who is black, said she believed an element of prejudice lurked in some of the criticism of her background and qualifications to be a bishop.

"Given that racism is so prevalent in our society and so woven into the fabric of our lives . . . I am certain that there was some element of racism present in some

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of the objections," she said.

Fighting border drug smuggling

WASHINGTON — A 4-mile-long ditch that a Justice Department official compared Wednesday to a "buried Berlin Wall" is planned for a stretch of the U.S.-Mexican border to stem drug smuggling into southern California.

But the plan is being criticized as "too little, too late" by a group that advocates building fences along the border and blasted as repressive by immigrant rights organizations.

Associate Attorney General Francis Keating said he proposed the idea last fall as a way to discourage drug smugglers from driving loads of cocaine, marijuana and heroin across the border near San Diego.

The plan being undertaken by the Immigration and Naturalization Service was approved last month by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Keating said.

The ditch, which Keating likened to "our buried Berlin Wall" will be deep and wide enough to discourage smugglers from driving trucks and cars across the border along a four-mile stretch of flat desert east of San Ysidro, Calif.

Safe sex kits for hotels?

BERKELEY, Calif. — City officials hoping to stem the spread of AIDS are considering a proposal that would require innkeepers to put safe sex kits beside the "good book" in each hotel room. "Certainly if hotels can have a Gideon Bible in every room, they can include a safe sex kit," said nurse practitioner Leland Traiman, a clinical AIDS researcher who proposed the idea.

"There could be a sign with each kit saying, 'The Bible may save your soul, but this will save your life,'" said Traiman, who served on the city's AIDS health commission last year.

Each kit would contain condoms and information about how AIDS is transmitted.

Senate leaders pledge bipartisanship

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Senate lined up to confirm three members of President Bush's Cabinet on Wednesday, and Majority Leader George Mitchell promised to cooperate with the new administration while pursuing a Democratic agenda of improvements in the minimum wage, housing, health care and the environment.

Mitchell outlined his hopes for the next two years, including "true bipartisanship" in foreign policy, as the Democratic-controlled Senate moved toward early evening confirmation votes on the nominations of James Baker as secretary of state, Elizabeth Dole as labor secretary and Richard Darman as budget director.

In the busiest day so far of the new, 101st Congress, committees also held

confirmation hearings for Defense Secretary-designate John Tower and several other Cabinet nominees.

Louis Sullivan, President Bush's choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services, met privately with anti-abortion senators and apparently persuaded them he is committed enough to their cause to win their support for confirmation.

"Dr. Sullivan believes in his heart

that the Roe vs. Wade decision should be overturned," said Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., referring to the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion. Sullivan had upset many conservative senators when he was quoted by another senator as saying he did not favor overturning the ruling.

The House was not in session, but inside the Senate chamber, speeches by Mitchell and Republican leader Bob Dole were followed by the introduction of legislation for the first time this year.

The bills ranged from a measure to block the proposed \$45,000 pay raise for lawmakers — or repeal it if it takes effect on Feb. 7 — to Dole's proposal for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., filed legislation to raise the minimum wage gradually from \$3.35 to \$4.55 an hour and Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., filed ethics legislation that was approved last year but vetoed by President Reagan.

Dole, who spoke a few moments after Mitchell, pledged bipartisanship and added it was the intention of the Republicans to "support and further the cause of our new Republican president."

Afghans prepare for end of Soviet military occupation

From Associated Press reports

KABUL, Afghanistan — Soviet soldiers handed out emergency rations Wednesday and the mayor of Kabul said his city has a three-month supply of food and fuel in case of a guerrilla siege when the Red Army is gone.

United Nations aid officials, less optimistic, said much more must be brought in "if disaster is to be averted" and they were preparing contingency plans.

Moslem guerrillas operating along the Salang Highway are attacking supply convoys bound for the city as

the withdrawal deadline approaches. Soviet cargo planes began flying loads of flour and fuel to the capital Saturday.

Friction over the supply situation has been evident between the government and the Soviet military, which must be out of Afghanistan by Feb. 15 under a U.N.-mediated agreement signed in April.

Maj. Gen. Lev Serebrov, deputy Soviet commander in Afghanistan, complained this week that his army had to feed all 2.3 million people in the city. He accused the Afghan regime of inefficiency and failing to

ask for help in time.

"That's a private opinion. . . . I have no comment," Hakim told a news conference.

Western diplomats in Kabul have said the silo holding Kabul's wheat reserves was down to a half-day supply. Hakim called that Western propaganda and said the airlift was "humanitarian aid from our friends."

The insurgents, who began fighting after a communist coup in April 1978, control the countryside and have refused offers of a political settlement from the Kremlin and its client government in Kabul.



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For the Record

In Tuesday's article, "Forum to provide internship information," the firm Rollins Burdick Hunter was incorrectly identified as a sales company. It is an insurance company. The DTH regrets the error.

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