

Congress urged to speed Contra aid

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — Secretary of State James Baker asked Congress on Wednesday to approve quickly a \$49.7 million bipartisan aid plan for the Contra rebels to set up an acid test of the willingness of Nicaragua's Sandinista government and its Soviet allies to support the peace process.

The House Appropriations Committee voted 32-10 to recommend that the compromise plan be adopted. Other congressional panels were poised to endorse it as well.

The proposal, which could reach the House floor by Thursday, is likely to be approved by both chambers, putting at least a temporary end to years of controversy and divisiveness

over former President Reagan's policy of arming the Contras.

Baker said the new arrangement to maintain the Contras with clothing, food, medical supplies and other non-military aid will "put the United States back in the ball game in Central America."

"Up to now, we have been out of the ball game because we had the legislature going in one direction and the executive going in another direction and we couldn't function," Baker told the Senate Appropriations foreign operations subcommittee.

"Today, for the first time, we have an opportunity to speak with one voice to the people of Central America."

Baker said the plan would focus international attention on the Sandinistas and make clear whether or not they will keep the promises made when Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega and the other Central American presidents signed the Esquipulas accord in August 1987.

"Between now and February 1990, when elections are scheduled in Nicaragua, the whole world will know the answer to this question: Do the Sandinistas keep their word?"

He said that question will be answered by whether the Sandinistas negotiate fair election rules, permit the return of the Contras with safety under democratic conditions and stop supporting Marxist guerrillas in El

Salvador.

"Their record is abysmal; they have not kept any of their promises," Baker said of the Sandinistas. "But we do have an opportunity now to focus world opinion on their willingness to keep their promises."

Baker noted the Soviets have said they support the Esquipulas agreement.

"Now we will have an opportunity to see if they really do," he said. "We will see if there is any meat on the bones of 'New Thinking' as far as their goals in Central America are concerned."

Baker said the agreement represents the best opportunity to forge a unified U.S. policy.

Minimum wage bill moves toward vote for Senate decision

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — The Senate neared a final vote Wednesday on legislation that would raise the hourly minimum wage to \$4.55 after Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, called on his Republican colleagues to end their daylong effort to tack on unrelated amendments.

"For us to prolong this debate any longer, it seems to me, only adds to the confusion," he said in a mid-afternoon plea to senators who had proposed nearly 10 amendments to the minimum-wage bill.

was just the first of a number of domestic-policy initiatives likely to clear the Congress and be sent to Bush over Republican objections.

Hatch said few presidents have had to control Congress through repeated vetoes but added, "I suspect this president is going to have to do that."

Under the Democrats' plan, the minimum wage, frozen at \$3.35 since 1981, would rise to \$3.85 on Oct. 1, to \$4.25 on Oct. 1, 1990, and to \$4.55 a year later.

Fusion

sor of nuclear engineering.

"We had it running earlier in the week and started it up again this morning. We should see the same thing others are seeing. We'll be trying different things over a number of weeks (to achieve fusion)."

Six faculty members and several graduate students were working on the experiment, he said.

Researchers at Duke are also attempting the experiment, said Hugh Robinson, professor of physics. "The people are trying to duplicate the experiment with the equipment we have on hand."

The experiment would run better if Duke researchers had access to

more advanced equipment, he said.

Researchers at Texas A&M claim to have gotten 80 percent more energy out of a nuclear fusion experiment than was put into the experiment. Scientists at Georgia Tech claim to have detected the presence of neutrons and tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen, from similar experiments. The presence of neutrons is a sign fusion could be taking place.

In the most basic nuclear reaction, fusion occurs when two deuterium nuclei fuse into one helium nucleus and release a large amount of energy. Prior research has focused on attempting to heat the nuclei millions of degrees to a temperature where

fusion can occur.

But attempts have usually expended more energy than the fusion creates.

The method at Texas A&M involves a tabletop apparatus that uses electromagnetism to squeeze the deuterium nuclei close enough to fuse and release energy. Palladium, a substance that absorbs deuterium, forms a wire mesh surrounded by water rich in deuterium. An electric current splits the water molecules and drives the nuclei into the negatively charged palladium, where fusion is supposed to occur.

Research teams at both Texas and Utah stopped short of saying fusion had been achieved in their experiments.

At Texas A&M, electrochemist Charles Martin and thermodynamicist Bruce Gammon led the research team. Tests related to the experiments earlier in the week are still running

at Texas A&M, said Gene Charleton, science writer for public relations at the university.

"Some of the related things are still going on. Dr. Martin and Gammon are at the American Chemical Society meeting in Dallas today (Wednesday) to compare notes with Dr. Pons (of Utah)."

The researchers at Texas continue to stress they have not definitely achieved fusion, but other labs on the campus were working to confirm the fusion, Charleton said.

The researchers also avoided comment on possible worldwide applications of their experiment.

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Abortion

given a choice of 24 hours of community service plus court costs or 24 hours in jail.

All of the defendants took the stand in their defense. Four chose the jail sentence, three chose the community service, and Foster chose to appeal.

Hickey, represented by Ecker, chose the jail sentence.

"I felt I didn't want to reimburse society for its own wrong. I strongly feel abortion is a very wrong crime."

"About 6 months from now, I think we will be proven right."

Yavarone, a graduate student who defended himself, spent 24 hours in jail at the time of arrest instead of signing his own bail bond. He said he chose to stay in jail for two reasons.

"One, to undergo suffering for the sake of the unborn. Two, for the opportunity to talk to the prisoners and to be a Christian presence for the prisoners."

Betts allowed Yavarone's jail term

to fulfill the jail sentence.

Foster, who plans to appeal her case, said she felt the laws might change. "I'm going to appeal because the laws will be looked at again."

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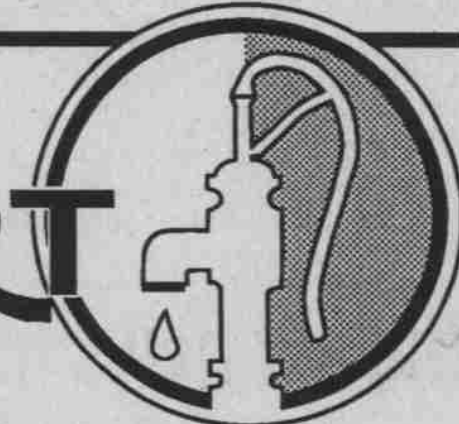
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