

World and Nation

Congress opens busy 2nd session

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — The 101st Congress convened its second session Tuesday, facing an agenda suddenly expanded by the emergence of democracy in Eastern Europe and a plan to cut Social Security taxes at home.

Lingering issues also abound, including child care, capital-gains taxes and deficit reduction.

Not waiting for President Bush to send up his own budget and legislative proposals, the Senate almost immediately began debating a far-reaching plan for cleaning up the air — a bill that is more costly and more sweeping than the president wants. Opposition is based more on geography and competing

regional interests than on party lines. The House made plans for another confrontation on Wednesday, an attempt to override Bush's veto of legislation aimed at preventing the deportation of Chinese students who have sought refuge in the United States. The House originally passed the bill on a 403-0 vote.

"There really is no good reason to override the president's veto unless it is just straight-out politics," said Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

He said Bush has done as much for the students through administrative actions as the bill would do. But Republicans were generally conceding Bush faces a one-sided defeat.

The first day of the session was marked by friendly reunions.

Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Texas, told colleagues he'd nearly died of a pancreatic ailment during the long break, and he accepted hugs and applause on



Sen. Robert Dole

the House floor. Outside, a half-dozen House members arrived on bicycles after a two-block trip from a congressional office building to call attention to plans for Earth Day in the spring.

On a more substantive matter, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., formally introduced a bill to reduce Social Security taxes — an idea that had prompted a full-scale White House attack when he proposed it last month. Moynihan says workers are being deceived because their Social Security taxes are being used to make the federal deficit appear far smaller than it is.

"These are insurance contributions, they are premiums paid," Moynihan told a news conference. "They do not belong to the government. If we are not going to save them we should return them."

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., a member of the Budget Committee, did what is seldom done in Congress these days. He introduced a bill proposing a tax increase. He recommended a five percent national sales tax that would exempt food, health care and housing.

Hollings said that would raise enough money to roll back Social Security taxes, cut taxes on capital gains from stocks and bonds, expand tax-deductible Individual Retirement Accounts and create a revenue-sharing program for state and local education.

Frye

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election because she started a lot of projects such as the Student Recreation Center and increased support for non-revenue sports.

"What would benefit me (from experience as CAA president) would be the knowledge I've gained from working with different University administrators, faculty and different organizations. The biggest thing I've learned is

how to find out what students want."

Frye said the two things she was most proud of from her recent term were the expansion of Homecoming participation and of the Franklin Street Extravaganza.

"I'm proud it's still growing and the community is getting more involved."

Frye has served as CAA president and is a member of the honor court.

CIA director: E. European revolutions cut Soviet threat

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The director of the Central Intelligence Agency told Congress Tuesday that Eastern Europe's tumultuous push for democracy has cut the Soviet threat to the West and that "we can probably expect a continued diminution."

William Webster, in an unusual public appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that as unchallenged communist control comes to an end in the Eastern bloc, those nations' links to Moscow have been radically changed.

The result, he said, is a severe blow to the Soviet Union's certainty that Eastern Europe will respond to Moscow's military directives.

The armed services committee is beginning work on writing a defense budget for fiscal 1991 with an assessment of the Soviet threat to the West.

Workers strike in East Germany

EAST BERLIN — More than 10,000 skilled workers held a rally Tuesday to denounce communism for killing East German craftsmanship and demand free-market reforms to revive it.

"We absolutely and unconditionally need conversion to a full market economy," Burkhard Schmidt, spokesman for the Craftsmen's Union, told The Associated Press before the rally. Many of those attending also favored reunification with West Germany.

"Better to close for four hours

News in Brief

than forever," said Lutz Scheibner, an electronics repairman. "We need to show the government we know what needs to be done."

The rally was called on short notice, over the opposition of top union leaders still loyal to the Communist system that rewarded them with comfortable bureaucratic positions.

Jackson silent on mayoral plans

WASHINGTON — Jesse Jackson kept mum about his plans Tuesday, silent at the center of attention in a political vacuum created in the nation's capital by the cocaine arrest of Mayor Marion Barry.

Ill with the flu since the weekend, Jackson was said to be "going over all the options" out of the public eye.

Will he or won't he? That was the question dominating political discussion of the mayoralty situation in the city.

"I don't think Jackson will do it," said David Clarke, city council president and the only white candidate for mayor of the predominantly black city. Should Barry resign his post, Clarke would become mayor, pending a special election.

Barry was in a clinic in Florida, and aides said that while he had turned over day-to-day operations of the District government to city administrator Carol Thompson, he was giving no thought to resigning.

For the Record

In the story "Six years long enough for public defender," the names of the two UNC law students were misspelled. Their correct names are Doug Berger and Howard Kurtz.

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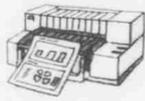
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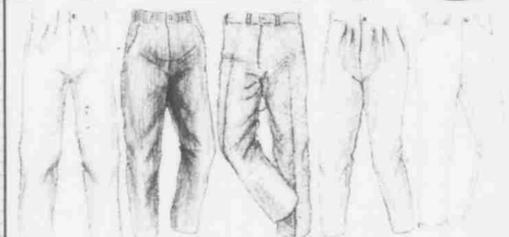
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