

World and Nation

Senate nears approval of tax bill

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Senate headed toward passage Tuesday of a package of miscellaneous tax provisions after soundly rejecting an effort to liberalize a tax benefit targeted on low-income working families with children.

The bill would clear up errors and ambiguities in the 1986 tax overhaul, relieve farms and some other businesses from paying the federal tax on diesel used for off-road purposes, extend several expiring provisions and raise taxes by \$2.7 billion over three years to pay for the benefits.

Included in the legislation is a "bill of rights" designed to strengthen the hand of taxpayers in dealing with the Internal Revenue Service. It would require the IRS to inform taxpayers fully of their rights and triple to 30 days the notice required before property is seized.

Standing in the way of a final vote was a stack of amendments to delete some provisions from the bill written by the Senate Finance Committee or to add new ones to it.

Senate passage would send the bill to the House, which has passed a

similar but larger version that would raise taxes by about \$7.5 billion over three years. Congressional leaders hope negotiators can hammer out a compromise between the two bills before the House and Senate adjourn for the year at week's end.

On an 85-2 vote, the Senate defeated an amendment by Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., that would have raised the earned-income credit by about \$1.6 billion, increasing the maximum credit from \$875 to \$978. The credit goes to low-income working families with children. Only Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., sided

with Bradley.

"The disparity between rich and poor is now wider than in any years since the (Census) Bureau began collecting these data in 1974," Bradley said.

No one spoke against the increase — only against how Bradley proposed to pay for it. His amendment would have deleted several popular benefits in the bill, including extension of the credit for business research and of a benefit for workers who receive employer-financed education or legal service aid.

Political, economic strife continues in Yugoslavia

From Associated Press reports

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Serbian Communists demanded Tuesday that three senior party leaders be fired in Kosovo, an autonomous province whose Slavic residents claim to be victimized by the huge majority of ethnic Albanians.

The demand is the latest development in weeks of strikes, public protest and political maneuvering over ethnic rivalries and economic crisis in Yugoslavia, which has not had strong leadership since President Tito died in 1980.

Hatcher trial continues

RALEIGH — Timothy Jacobs testified Tuesday that he and Eddie Hatcher decided to take over a Lumberton newspaper office because it would be a good target for drawing attention to their concern about problems in Robeson County.

"We agreed that nobody would be hurt at The Robesonian," Jacobs testified. "And we agreed that we would be in and out of there in two hours because we thought Governor Martin would

News in Brief

call when Eddie wanted to talk to him."

Jacobs testified that Hatcher told him two days before the takeover that Robeson County Sheriff Hubert Stone wanted to kill him because of evidence that he had linking law enforcement officers to drug trafficking.

Pope's speech interrupted

STRASBOURG, France — The Rev. Ian Paisley, a militant Protestant leader from Northern Ireland, disrupted Pope John Paul II's unity speech to the European Parliament on Tuesday by shouting, "I renounce you as the Antichrist!"

The pontiff had just begun delivering the key speech of his four-day trip to northeastern France, a talk in which he urged Europe to adopt a common political structure. The European Parliament is an advisory body to the 12-member European Economic Community.

Safety rules delay restart of nuclear plant

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Energy Department officials declaring a need to "rectify past sins" in the department's operation of atomic reactors, on Tuesday announced that the introduction of new safety procedures would delay restarting the Savannah River Plant, which produces nuclear weapons materials.

Energy Undersecretary Joseph Salgado also gave assurances that plutonium and tritium supplies are

adequate to ensure that existing nuclear weapons would not degrade or be cannibalized to assure a continued strategic deterrent.

The three aging reactors at Savannah River, in Aiken, S.C., have been shut down for safety considerations. Construction of new reactors to produce nuclear weapons materials is not expected to start until the early 1990s.

Salgado, addressing a midday news conference, said Energy Department

officials have ordered engineers at the Savannah River Plant to start up the K-reactor in December during a four-week phased operation that should bring it close to full steam in early January.

Department officials have also decided to postpone restarting the plant's P-reactor, which experienced problems in August. In congressional testimony on Sept. 30, Salgado said the P-reactor could be restarted within 30 to 45 days, but department officials now have decided it should not be brought back into operation until late 1989, he said.

The third facility at the plant, the L-reactor, is scheduled to be restarted in the first three months of next year, he said.

All three reactors will be started slowly, using what Deputy Assistant Energy Secretary Richard Starostecki described as a "phased" operation designed to test and assess each step before the reactor is brought to full power.

An Energy Department statement issued after the news conference said "three Savannah River reactors are the nation's only source of the tritium needed for the nation's nuclear deterrent." Plutonium, also produced by the reactors, has a longer half-life than tritium, and therefore does not pose as critical a problem.

"At present, all three reactors are out of service for routine maintenance and accelerated safety upgrades," the statement said.

For the Record

In the Sept. 29 story, "Proposed bill would deny aid to drug users, sellers," which discussed the U.S.

House amendment denying federal benefits to drug offenders, Rep. David Price's statement was incorrectly quoted. It should have read, "I believe the omnibus drug bill passed today by the House will be an effective weapon in the war on drugs. I am especially pleased with the bill's multi-faceted approach aimed at law enforcement, education and prevention."

Also, the amendment targets anyone who has been convicted of drug offenses and served one year in jail for them, but it does not target educational loans. Rather, it is for federal contracts, loans, licenses and grants, but does not include retirement, welfare, health and other "safety net" benefits.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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