

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON - House Republicans began drumming up support Wednesday for a Senate bill that would reduce individual taxes an additional \$164.5 billion between 1980 and 1983 if the growth of government spending is checked.

The Senate added the conditional tax cuts for future years to the \$29.3 billion tax cut for 1979 that was approved Tuesday night. The House version includes cuts only for 1979.

House Republican leader John Rhodes of Arizona said the House will vote Thursday on a GOP motion instructing conferees to accept the Senate provision, which was sponsored chiefly by Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga.

If such a motion were successful, it would make it difficult for Congress to approve a tax cut bill that did not include the long-term reductions. And if that led to a veto by Pres. Carter, Sen. Henry Bellmon, R-Okla., told a news conference, the American people would demand that Congress override Carter's objections.

MELBOURNE, Australia — An Australian chemical company is doing a booming export business selling cattle gallstones to Europe and Southeast Asia as aphrodisiacs.

The gallstones are crushed into powder for medicines.

"They work as aphrodisiacs and the demand is far greater than the supply," said John Xavier, managing director of the Queensland Chemical Company in Brisbane.

He pays \$69 an ounce for good stones. The average gallstone weighs half an ounce.

WASHINGTON — Congress is preparing to vote on a huge military spending bill, but perhaps not in time to prevent payroll problems for more than 2 million service personnel and civilian employees.

With a \$117.5 billion price tag, the legislation would be the largest appropriation ever passed by Congress. It will finance practically all defense spending in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Even without an unanticipated impasse on the bill, the Pentagon said it is uncertain whether it will be able to meet a payroll on Friday for 466,000 defense employees.

Congress compromises

Energy plan makes headway

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate negotiators compromised on the tax portion of Pres. Carter's long-stalled energy program on Wednesday, agreeing to tax fuel-inefficient cars and provide tax credits to homeowners who insulate their houses.

The agreement resolved the last remaining difference between chambers on the energy plan the President submitted to Congress in April 1977.

House conferees had previously approved the measure. Sen. Russell Long, D-La., the top Senate negotiator, said he would take the plan directly to the Senate floor for prompt consideration.

House leaders hope to get the bill by Thursday morning so it can be combined with four other parts of the energy program that previously passed the Senate. The House Rules Committee meets at 11 a.m. Thursday to consider the one-package proposal.

Wednesday's agreement, signed by 10 of the 13 Senate negotiators, formally buries two other taxes proposed by Carter — the crude oil tax he once called the centerpiece of his energy program and a tax on the industrial use of oil and natural gas.

A majority of House conferees

had signed the agreement on Monday.

Under the compromise, new fuel-inefficient cars would be taxed beginning with 1980 models

getting less than 15 miles per gallon. By 1986 the tax would apply to cars getting less than 23.5 mpg and would range from \$400 to \$3,850.



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Peace talks to focus on Sinai

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three lines to be drawn in the sands of the Sinai represent the major obstacles as Egypt and Israel move their peace talks to American soil Thursday.

Pres. Carter plans to welcome the foreign and defense ministers of both countries in a brief, ceremonial opening session of the continuing negotiations that were begun at the Camp David summit.

Following the ceremony, the talks are scheduled to move across the street to Blair House, the government's guest residence, where Secretary of State Cyrus Vance plans to represent the United States. A United Nations flag will fly over the building while the talks continue.

American optimism about the outcome of the talks is grounded in the belief that the difficult issues between the two countries were resolved at Camp David and in the Israeli Knesset.

The issues remaining involve largely drawing lines on a map of the Sinai, the desert territory which Israel captured from Egypt in 1967, and has now agreed to return.

One line, to be drawn roughly 30 miles east of the Suez Canal, will mark the closest point that Egyptian troops are to be allowed to approach the Israeli border.

Another, ranging from 12-25 miles west of the Israeli border, will delineate a demilitarized zone open only to United Nations troops and civilian police.

The third, drawn roughly down the middle of the Sinai region, will mark the point to which Israel

must withdraw its troops on an interim basis within nine months of the signing of a final agreement.

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