

# Senate renews civil rights act

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Senate wore down the determined and tenacious opposition of a small group of conservatives Friday and voted 85 to 8 to renew the crucial enforcement provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

A coalition of moderate Republicans and all 46 Senate Democrats gave civil rights organizations their only major victory of the 97th Congress.

The vote was a defeat for conservative Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who had vowed to

filibuster the legislation long enough to block final passage.

Helms led a small group of conservatives who argued unsuccessfully that the voting rights extension gave the federal government too much power to interfere in the rights of the states to run their own elections.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., one of the leaders of a 15-month campaign to renew the measure, said the extension "is a heartening sign that Congress will not endlessly turn its

back on the needy in our society and the minority who are not white."

A threatened companion debate over legalized abortions never materialized. But congressional sources said Helms gave up his voting rights filibuster in part because he was assured that the abortion issue would be debated later in the summer.

The measure would have far-reaching consequences in the federal supervision of how elections are conducted.

## GOP selects Texas city as 1984 convention site

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Republicans selected Dallas, the first choice of President Ronald Reagan, as the site for their 1984 national convention.

Without a single dissenting voice, the Republican National Committee honored Reagan's preference and designated the Texas city for the party's nominating convention in August 1984.

The committee voted after hearing a presentation from city officials, including Mayor Jack Evans, that cited the availability of convention hall facilities and more than 25,000 hotel rooms.

The Republican party's convention site selection committee visited no other cities before

it recommended Thursday that Dallas be chosen.

Before the committee acted, GOP National Chairman Richard Richards predicted Republican gains in the Senate in this fall's elections, but was less optimistic about the House and governors' races.

Richards mentioned as the party's "greatest risk" this year contests for governor in which several Republican incumbents have decided to retire.

As for the House, he noted that Republicans would have to defeat 25 incumbent Democrats and hold all their present seats to gain control, a task he acknowledged would be extremely difficult.

## Space probes search for huge cold, dark star

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)** — Two far-ranging Pioneer spacecraft are scanning the fringes of the solar system for an unseen object, which scientists suspect might be larger than the Earth and perhaps as massive as the sun.

Peculiarities in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune, the seventh and eighth planets from the sun, make it "very likely there's something out there,"

said John Anderson of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

But it's "impossible to predict... what we might find," he said at a news conference Thursday at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Ames Research Center in Mountain View. "I've looked at many possibilities and I don't like any of them very much."

Anderson, who heads the search, said the possibilities include a tenth planet, a cold, dark star, or even a black hole. But he cited complications that would make any of those theories hard to explain.

The search is being made by Pioneers 10 and 11, which left home a decade ago and made the first explorations of Jupiter and Saturn. Pioneer 10, now two and a half billion miles away, has gone farther into space than any other probe and will be beyond all the known planets in July 1983.

The spacecraft, both pronounced in good shape, are on opposite sides of the sun and moving into space at more than 30,000 mph.

## Birth control pills reduce cancer risk

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Birth control pills, already linked to a decreased risk of uterus cancer in women, also apparently reduce the risk of cancer of the ovaries, according to a study published today.

Researchers from the Drug Epidemiology Unit at the Boston University School of Medicine found the protection against ovarian cancer may persist up to 10 years after the contraceptives are taken.

They said the protection appears greater for women who have used birth control pills longer.

These findings, however, were not as clearly demonstrated as the overall result.

The American Cancer Society estimates that 18,000 women in the United States will get ovarian cancer this year, and that 11,400 of them will die as a result of it.

Earlier this year, birth control pills were linked to decreased risk of cancer of the uterus. They have also been associated with an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Last year, a different group of researchers at the Drug Epidemiology Unit reported that

the increased chance of heart attack can continue for as long as nine years after women stop taking the pill.

About 40 percent of U.S. and European women of child-bearing age, and about 25 million women around the world, use birth control pills, officials say.

The new research, appearing in the June 18 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association and released Friday, is based on interviews with 675 women less than 60 years old. Of them, 222 used birth control pills.

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