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inter/national

From Associated Press reports

More bucks for bullets

WASHINGTON - The Senate approved the production of a new generation of nerve gas weapons with a vote of 47-46 Tuesday, as Vice Pres. George Bush cast the deciding vote on the issue for the second time in four months.

The Senate went on to vote 86-6 for a record \$253 billion military spending bill, which includes every major weapons program requested by President Ronald Reagan, including nerve gas, the MX nuclear missile and longrange B-1 bombers.

As approved by the Senate, the measure is \$9 billion below the president's most recent spending request.

The bill now goes to a congressional conference committee for negotiations with House members who earlier rejected the \$124 million nerve gas program.

Opponents of producing "binary" nerve gas artillery shells and bombs assail the weapons as gruesome, immoral and a threat more to civilians than to soldiers.

"There is no fiscal reason, no negotiating reason and no military reason, there is no reason of any kind to produce this weapon," said Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore.

But 46 senators plus Bush accepted arguments by Reagan and others that the "binary" bombs and artillery shells should be produced to prod the Soviet Union into a negotiated reduction of chemical stockpiles.

In a rare and dramatic repeat of his constitutional role as president of the Senate, Bush made the difference, just as he did July 13 in 50-49 vote on a defense authorization bill.

Each vote was watched carefully by administration supporters and when conservative Jesse Helms, R-N.C., voted with nerve gas opponents, he was chased by several Republicans as he left the floor. Helms returned and changed his

The Republican-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee had sided with the House and recommended blocking nerve gas funding and continuing the 14-year freeze by the United States on the production of chemical weapons.

But John Tower, R-Tex., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, successfully moved to restore money for the nerve gas weapons to a \$252.5 billion

A congressional conference committee will now have to negotiate the differences between the House and Senate.

Inside binary nerve gas shells and bombs are chemicals which

are harmless when by themselves, but lethal even in tiny doses when combined. After the artillery shells or bombs are en route to their targets, the chemicals are joined and explode into the air upon impact. Opponents say the weapons could kill thousands of innocent people downwind of the battlefield.

Arafat vows to end battle

TRIPOLI - PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that "to avert a bloodbath" he will stop fighting Syrian-supported mutineers if the rebels halt their push into Tripoli, his last Middle East stronghold.

"I will fight only in self defense," the Palestine Liberation Organization leader told reporters after meeting with Tripoli's political and religious figures. They appealed for a cease-fire between Arafat loyalists and those who want to topple him.

"I have agreed with those attending the meeting to spare Tripoli from clashes," said Arafat, who earlier vowed to fight to the death to defend his only remaining bastion of guerrilla support. "You have my word that I will do anything to avert a bloodbath in Tripoli.

The port city of 500,000 is 50 miles north of Beirut.

Despite Arafat's overtures, mutineers pressed their artillery barrage, raining shells around the remains of his Baddawi refugee camp and on Tripoli itself. Loyalists fired back with rockets.

Police said the PLO war has left at least 1,000 dead and 3,000 wounded in and around Tripoli since fighting began Thursday.

Official sources in Tripoli who insisted on anonymity said Syrian President Hafez Assad, whose troops have been supporting the mutineers, has refused to meet with an Arab delegation pleading for a truce. But Tunisian government sources said Assad had agreed.

The mutineers claim Arafat has abandoned the PLO's struggle to reclaim a homeland from Israel. Arafat claims Syria is manipulating the mutiny and wants to dominate the PLO. Syria denies it.

A source close to the committee said the dissidents' military commander Col. Saeed Mousa rejected calls for a truce until Arafat surrenders and submits to a "court-martial" or leaves the city.

In Beirut, U.S. Marines permanently abandoned one of their most vulnerable posts about two miles from the airport. Marine spokesman Maj. Robert Jordan said "the position no longer served a useful purpose." Jordan said the 150 to 200 leathernecks of Alpha Company who had secured

the post went back to U.S. Navy ships offshore in readiness for their return home as part of a normal rotation.

Poll shows Evans ahead

SEATTLE - Republican Sen. Dan Evans was the heavy favorite to win a special Senate election in Washington state Tuesday to succeed one of the state's political legends, the late Henry "Scoop" Jackson.

A late-breaking statewide poll showed the appointed senator with an 18.5 percent lead over his liberal Democratic opponent, Congressman Mike Lowry of Seattle.

As the nation's only Senate race this fall, the contest was watched as a possible early referendum on Pres. Ronald Reagan and his military policies, particularly in light of recent developments in Lebanon and Grenada.

The outcome also was seen as possibly pivotal to control of the Senate after the 1984 elections.

Lowry, 44, the most liberal congressman in the state, campaigned as a "peace candidate" and flailed the administration's foreign policy, defense spending, and its position on social programs.

He is a leading opponent of U.S. presence in Lebanon and Grenada.

'Strangler' guilty — again

LOS ANGELES - Angelo Buono Jr. was convicted Tuesday of killing a prostitute and two schoolgirls in the Hillside Strangler case, bringing to five the number of slayings in which hehas been found guilty.

Buono also has been acquitted of one slaying.

As with the second conviction, the jury in the latest three cases also returned findings of special circumstances of multiple murder, allowing prosecutors to seek the gas chamber for Buono.

Superior Court Judge Ronald George ordered jurors to continue deliberating on the remaining four counts against Buono, 50, a Glendale auto upholsterer.

Buono was found guilty Tuesday morning of killing Dolores Cepeda, 12, and Sonja Johnson, 14, whose bodies were found five years ago near Dodger Stadium. In the afternoon, he was convicted of killing Kimberly Diane Martin, 18, a prostitute who worked for a Hollywood out-call

The trial, which began Nov. 16, 1981, is considered the longest criminal trial in California history and perhaps the nation. Buono was charged with 10 counts of murder in the grisly sex slayings that terrorized Los Angeles women in late 1977 and early 1978.

In nearly all of the cases, the victims' nude bodies were dumped along Los Angeles-area hillsides. Most were raped or sexually assaulted before being strangled.

Flynt ousted from hearing

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court, in hearings punctuated by the obscene outburst and arrest of Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt, considered changes in libel laws Tuesday that would make national publications - and the people who work for them - more tempting targets for lawsuits.

The justices had just finished hearing arguments in the first of three libel disputes when Flynt screamed at them from the audience section of the majestic

" .. this court. You denied me the counsel of my choice," Flynt shouted as policemen surrounded him and rolled his gold-plated wheelchair away.

Flynt was arrested and charged with impeding the administration of justice, a federal offense carrying a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine. He was released by a U.S. magistrate on his own recognizance.

The high court had denied Flynt permission Monday to represent himself in a case pitting his sexually explicit magazine against Kathy Keeton, vice president of competing Penthouse magazine who was described in court papers as the common-law wife of Penthouse publisher Robert Guccione.

The screaming occurred as arguments ended in that case, which concerned whether people who sue a national publication such as Hustler may shop around for the state that offers the most favorable laws and filing deadlines.

Keeton, of New York City, says she was libeled by a 1976 issue of Hustler in which a cartoon suggested Guccione had infected Keeton with venereal disease.

She first sued Hustler and Flynt for \$80 million in 1977 in Ohio, where Hustler is based, but was told she had missed the filing deadline for such a suit there, so she sued in New Hampshire, which then was the only state in the country with a filing deadline leisurely enough to allow the suit.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the suit last year, ruling that neither she nor Hustler had sufficient contacts with New Hampshire to justify federal court jurisdiction there.





