

Labor says no to British nukes

BLACKPOOL, England (AP) — The opposition Labor Party voted overwhelmingly today to

unilaterally scrap Britain's nuclear weapons, expel U.S. Cruise missiles and close U.S. nuclear bases if the party wins power.

The vote came on the third day of the socialists' annual

conference in this northwest England resort and marked the party's most radical commitment yet to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The conference rejected a resolution that would have

committed Labor to closing all U.S. bases in Britain, where 25,000 U.S. troops and scores of planes, ships and submarines are based.

Former Prime Minister James Callaghan and other moderates

had called for rejection of a policy plank they said would rupture the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Callaghan's 1976-79 administration lost power to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives.

Labor suffered its worst defeat in 50 years in June 1983, when it ran on a platform of scrapping Britain's Polaris nuclear missiles, canceling Mrs. Thatcher's order to update them with the U.S. Trident system, and banning U.S. nuclear weapons.

Among the U.S. nuclear weapons in Britain are the first 16 Cruise missiles, which arrived in Britain last November at the Greenham Common Air Force Base, 50 miles west of London.

They are among 572 Cruise and Pershing II missiles to be deployed in five Western European countries by 1988. NATO says the weapons are being deployed in response to the build-up of Soviet mid-range missiles aimed at Western Europe.

Spending bill faces late action

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress, eager to adjourn by week's end, lurched toward a midnight Wednesday deadline for approving emergency spending legislation that is necessary to keep the government from shutting down for lack of money.

"We aren't going to be able to finish... by midnight. We just cannot do it," declared Majority Leader Howard Baker, R-Tenn., before the Senate began its second marathon session in two days in the hope of completing work on the money bill.

Reagan administration officials raised the possibility that if Congress did not meet the deadline, government workers might be sent home on Thursday.

The bulk of the federal government already was operating under a three-day financing measure that President Reagan signed Wednesday, just hours before it was to expire at midnight. The long-term bill before the Senate would provide about \$467 billion to federal agencies for the entire fiscal year, which began Monday.

Baker said Congress might have to pass a second stopgap measure to give the Senate more time to complete work on the long-term spending bill, which House-Senate negotiators must then fashion into a final compromise.

Before completing action, the Senate still faced disputes over foreign aid, military spending and water projects.

Nonetheless, Baker said he still expected Congress to meet its adjournment target of late Friday afternoon.

The White House Office of Management and Budget told federal departments that their employees should report for

Continued on Page 5

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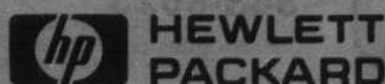
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