

# National/Regional

## Validity of Gramm-Rudman focus of court confrontation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration clashed with Congress Wednesday in a Supreme Court confrontation over the validity of the law that requires a balanced budget by 1991.

Under brisk questioning from the justices, both sides engaged in a highly technical debate with far-reaching practical consequences.

Charles Fried, the administration's top courtroom lawyer, challenged the central provision of the law — the Gramm-Rudman Act — that empowers the comptroller general to determine required levels of deficit reduction.

"Here we have an officer who gives orders to the president," Fried said. "These powers are entirely novel."

He argued that the role of the comptroller general is unlawful because he performs executive functions under Gramm-Rudman but may not be fired by the president.

"This grant of authority violates the Constitution," Fried said.

Lawyers for the House, the Senate and the comptroller general defended the law.

Michael Davidson, the Senate's legal counsel, said the comptroller general performs as "a scorekeeper" under Gramm-Rudman and the real power over deficit reduction is retained by the president and Congress.

"The law, not the comptroller general, determines the desirable limit of deficit financing," Davidson said.

Steven Ross, representing the bipartisan leadership of the House, said the comptroller general's function was the product of painstaking political compromise.

The comptroller general was chosen for his role under Gramm-Rudman because of his independence, Ross said, "in order to insure these calculations were walled off from political considerations."

Several justices suggested the comptroller general is actually a legislative officer, not an independent agent.

The court, expediting consideration of the dispute, is expected to announce its decision

by early July.

On Feb. 7, a special three-judge court agreed with the Reagan administration and other challengers to the law and struck down a key provision that would force automatic cuts in the federal deficit.

But the law remains in effect pending the Supreme Court's ruling, and Congress also continues to struggle with balancing the budget.

The first \$11.7 billion in spending cuts required by the law took effect March 1, unaffected by the decision of the three-judge panel, which suspended its own ruling pending the Supreme Court review.

The law calls for deeper cuts until all red ink in the federal budget is eliminated by 1991.

The deficit stands now at around \$208 billion, although some in Congress hope favorable economic developments will reduce it. The Gramm-Rudman law requires the figure to be \$144 billion for the next fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

To reach that goal, the law would force across-the-board cuts, with half the money slashed from military spending and half from domestic programs.

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## Arab world urged to fight terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, preparing for a summit in Tokyo with America's major allies, called on the Arab world on Wednesday to join the West in the fight against terrorism, saying all nations must work to "eliminate this scourge of civilization."

In a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Reagan also said that "last week's raid on Libya shows that 'no one can kill Americans and brag about it.' If Libyan-sponsored terrorism against Americans continues, 'we will act again,'" he declared.

On the eve of a 12-day day trip to the Far East that includes the seven-nation economic summit in Tokyo, Reagan said he plans to appeal to U.S. allies to act in concert against Libyan terrorism.

"Unilateral response is not enough," Reagan said. "It must be dealt with forcefully and collectively."

The issue of terrorism "undoubtedly will be a topic of discussion in Tokyo," Reagan said a speech that his aides trumpeted as a major scene-setter for the upcoming summit.

Reagan depicted the struggle with Libya as a battle against the government of Moammar Khadafy, and not against the Libyan people or the rest of the Islamic world.

"Those who condone making war by cowardly attacks on unarmed third parties, including women and children, are but a tiny minority," Reagan said. "Arab nations themselves have been forced to endure savage terrorist attacks from this minority."



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### INFORMATION BOOTH:

Mon.-Tues., Apr. 28-29, EMU, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### BROWN BAG SEMINAR: Public invited

Mon., Apr 28, EMU, Rm 108, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

"Teachers Meeting the Needs of Developing Nations"

### OTHER SEMINARS: Public invited

Mon., Apr. 28, EMU, Rm 101, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

"25 Years of Peace Corps - Is it Working?"

Tues., Apr. 29, EMU, Forum Room, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

"A Look at Peace Corps Projects in Sierra Leone, West Africa"

### SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS:

Tues.-Wed., May 13-14, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hendricks Hall, Career Planning & Placement Office.

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