

Bush squashes Oregon Medicaid plan



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration on Monday rejected Oregon's plan to extend Medicaid health coverage to more people by rationing services for the poor, saying it would violate a new federal law protecting the disabled.

However, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan indicated that the administration wanted to approve something similar to what Oregon had proposed and invited the state to ask again once it worked out the legal wrinkles.

"I urge Oregon to submit a revised application which addresses these concerns, and I look forward to approving such a demonstration," Sullivan said in a letter Monday to Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts.

The decision brought outcries from Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., and others, with Packwood saying it would hurt President

Bush's re-election chances in Oregon.

The state planned to bring 120,000 more poor people under the health coverage of Medicaid. But to do that, it would limit what services would be paid for with public money. Medicaid would cover only 578 of 709 medical procedures on a list established by the state.

Conditions that would not have been covered under the plan include those which generally get better on their own, where home treatment is more effective and where there is little or no hope. They include expensive treatments for incurable cancer, liver transplants for alcoholics, the final stages of AIDS and premature babies who have virtually no chance of survival.

Oregon's proposal — for which the state legislature had approved spending an estimated \$30 million — was an experiment which would have required the federal government to grant the state an exemption from other legal requirements. The Medicaid program provides health care for the

poor and is administered by the states under rules set down by the federal government. The federal and state governments share the costs.

Other states looking for ways to deal with their own soaring Medicaid costs were watching the Oregon experiment to see if it would get approval, and, if so, how well it worked.

In his letter to the governor, Sullivan said that "given the real possibility that Oregon's general approach will serve as a model for other states, it is critically important that it go forward only with strict adherence to the legal protections that President Bush has worked so hard to enact."

Packwood, who faces a tough re-election race this year, said he was "outraged and disappointed" at the decision, and complained bitterly that the state had been "stabbed in the back."

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LSD guru eyes new drug — CD-ROM

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Psssst. Timothy Leary is concocting a new psychedelic experience. "And it's still legal. So don't tell anybody," he whispers conspiratorily.

But Leary will tell you he's never been more serious than he is about this new psychedelic experience, the one called CD-ROM.

"Those letters are more important than LSD — and even CIA," he continues good-naturedly. "CD-ROM is going to be just as revolutionary as the invention of the pencil and paper for democratizing and empowering the people."

CD-ROM, for those who haven't heard, is the latest computer rage, merging compact disc-created sights and sounds with personal databases.

The result is a computerized audio-visual program so all-encompassing that a person could store on a single computer disc an encyclopedia, dictionaries containing all the words of a dozen languages, an Atlas and a film library — and still have room to include a collection of favorite records.

Gore raps 'hypocritical president'

NEWARK, Calif. (AP) — Sen. Al Gore on Monday rekindled his attacks on President Bush's environmental record as Gore's role of chief spokesman on environmental issues for the Democratic presidential ticket continues to evolve.

While visiting a plant that turns used oil into automobile brake fluid, industrial lubricants and other products, Gore mocked Bush's 1988 campaign pledge to be the "environmental president," saying Bush instead was "the hypocritical president."

Campaign aides said Gore's stop at the Evergreen Oil Co., located in this San Francisco Bay-area community, was designed to point to what they called "the ultimate example of Bush's hypocrisy on the envi-

ronment."

The president visited the 100-worker oil recycling facility in June, evoking cries of protest from environmentalists, who claimed the White House had not supported the oil recycling industry.

The Tennessee senator has taken the lead in criticizing White House environmental policies since he accepted a spot on the Democratic ticket with Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton. Gore was outspoken on the issue during the Democratic National Convention, but had said little about it since.

He told reporters on his campaign jet that the administration has refused to enforce a federal requirement for companies that either burn or dump oil to remove lead and

other pollutants.

Evergreen officials welcomed Bush, but have themselves criticized the administration for not backing a ban on burning used oil.

The 6-year-old company also was active in a lawsuit filed against the Environmental Protection Agency by the Hazardous Waste Treatment Council, seeking for force enforcement of the law.

"When I saw George Bush sitting here on this stool bragging about this company, I knew that this industry was in the process of suing Bush and Quayle to make them follow the law," Gore said.

Report on AIDS ends with suspended staff

BOSTON (AP) — Two news staff members of Monitor Radio, a broadcast service of the Christian Science Church, were placed on paid leave after refusing to air an apology for a report on AIDS.

Monitor Radio executives said they received many calls from offended church members after the nationally broadcast report on AIDS prevention in Thailand. It described male prostitutes' attire and mentioned that AIDS users used cucumbers to demonstrate how to put on condoms.

Ken Bader, producer of Early Edition, and Dale Willman, its host, defended the report as appropriate for its early-morning time slot.

Broadcast editor David Cook said Bader and Willman, who are not Christian Scientists, were suspended last week for insubordination, not for disagreeing with the decision to air the apology.

Willman said Monitor editors told him Wednesday he could take a reporting job in Chicago with a \$10,000 cut in pay, resign or be dismissed.

Senate moves closer to nuke-test ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate headed Monday toward sharply restricting — and eventually ending — U.S. testing of nuclear weapons, defying President Bush and culminating a four-decade struggle by testing opponents.

"Surely there has to be some kind of an end to this activity," said Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. "Are we really locked into the proposition that testing goes on in perpetuity?"

A provision pushed by Hatfield, Sen. James East, D-Neb., and Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, would impose a nine-month moratorium on nuclear weapons tests, then permit limited safety testing for three years. Testing would be halted altogether in 1996.

The moratorium was attached to a \$22 billion measure financing federal water projects and energy programs for fiscal 1993, which starts Oct. 1. A version of the bill already passed by the House contains a one-year moratorium on testing, ensuring that some test limits will be in the final bill.

Bush is expected to veto the measure. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told a hearing last week that continued testing is "absolutely vital" to ensure safety and reliability of the U.S. arsenal.

Bush maintains that a certain number of tests each year — now set at six — is needed to ensure warheads will explode when they're supposed to, and won't when they are not.

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton favors an immediate reduction in the number of nuclear tests, followed quickly by a comprehensive ban on testing.

A 1963 treaty banned nuclear test explosions above ground, but underground tests at the Nevada test site have continued. They are used to develop new weapons designs, to test safety systems, to ensure that weapons work and produce desired yields, and to test other weapons and systems in the environment of a nuclear explosion.

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