

President Bush vetoes \$27 billion urban aid, tax bill



WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Wednesday made good his threat to veto the \$27 billion urban aid and tax bill, killing the measure because of its tax increases on businesses and upper-income Americans.

He signed the veto on Air Force One as he flew home in defeat from Houston. Bush's action kills the measure because Congress has adjourned for the year.

It was Bush's 46th veto, several coming after last month's adjournment. Only one veto — a bill tightening regulation of the cable TV industry — has been overridden.

"I am withholding my approval ... because it includes numerous tax increases, violates fiscal discipline and

would destroy jobs and undermine small business," Bush said in a written message.

The tax bill contained elements of Bush's stalled blueprint for revitalizing the economy and luring businesses to hard-pressed inner cities and rural areas with enterprise zones.

"The urban aid provisions that were once the centerpiece of the bill have been submerged by billions of dollars in giveaways to special interests," he said.

Some Republican lawmakers as well as Democrats had urged the president to sign the bill and nursed hopes that he would do so despite his pre-election vow not to raise taxes again. Congress delayed sending it to the White House after final passage on Oct. 8 in a vain attempt to change Bush's mind.

Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of

the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, was "disappointed but not surprised" by the veto, said a committee aide who declined to be identified.

The measure would have expanded tax breaks for Individual Retirement Accounts, renewed tax breaks for research and restored the targeted jobs tax credit.

But it also included such tax increases as limiting the deduction for job-related moving expenses to \$10,000, requiring individuals with sizable amounts of income not subject to withholding and large corporations to pay more tax in advance and taxing securities dealers' inventories at market value.

"The original focus of the bill — to help revitalize America's inner cities — has been lost in a blizzard of special interest pleadings," said Bush.

He said the rejected bill would have

raised \$33 billion in new taxes over five years "on a wide array of American families, workers and small businesses."

Offsetting tax cuts reduced the total cost of the bill to \$27 billion.

It would have created 50 urban and rural enterprise zones, repealed the 10 percent luxury tax on boats, airplanes, jewelry and furs and denied the deductibility of club dues.

It would have allowed individuals with incomes up to \$75,000 and couples up to \$100,000 to get tax deductions for IRA contributions. Currently, the limits are \$35,000 and \$50,000 respectively.

The Rebuild L.A. recovery organization "expected the president's veto. ... It had become an election-year political football to the detriment of our cities' urgent needs," Barry Sanders, the group's co-chairman, said in a statement.

Even conservatives cynical about Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush lost the election because he drifted from the core Republican agenda that has powered the party in the last three presidential elections, conservative leaders said Wednesday.

As they looked ahead to 1996, many conservatives took shots at Bush, not unexpected given their battles with him throughout his presidency. But the tone signaled the harshness of the brewing fight among moderates and conservatives for control of the party.

As they assessed the outcome of an election in which Republicans made no Senate gains and picked up fewer than a dozen House seats, even staunch Bush supporters acknowledged the president's poor showing hurt other candidates.

"Those seats didn't need to have been lost," Republican National Committee Chairman Rich Bond said of several California congressional races won by Democrats. "We just didn't get the help from the top of the ticket."

Conservatives were quick to blame Bush for the defeat, accusing him of abandoning Ronald Reagan's legacy. It was a morning-after escalation of a fight brewing throughout Bush's presidency, especially since his 1990 abandonment of his promise not to raise taxes.

"Freed of the burden of the Bush incumbency, conservatives and the GOP again can be the unfettered champions of change," said conservative activist Burton Yale Pines, a frequent Bush critic. "Freed from the Bush incumbency, conservatives and the GOP again, as under President Reagan, can be the unfettered champions of the America's populist grievances against Washington's encrusted, arrogant establishment."

As the party's moderates, including several governors, prepare to mount an effort to move the party away from its anti-abortion position and other platform stances they believe turned suburban voters away, conservatives signaled they were prepared for a fight.

Like Pines, religious broadcaster Pat Robertson said the party needed to go back to the anti-tax, anti-spending conservative themes that won for Reagan in 1980.

"It's that coalition that needs to be rebuilt," Robertson said at a news conference outside his Christian Broadcasting Network headquarters in Virginia Beach, Va.

Ironically, some Republicans said if Clinton had a mandate it was for a conservative agenda.

"The line-item veto, his conditional support for the North American Free Trade Agreement, the death penalty, to beat the drum on the potential for intervention in Bosnia and get tough with China," retiring Minnesota Republican Rep. Vin Weber said in rattling off Clinton campaign themes.

'Freed of the burden of the Bush incumbency, conservatives and the GOP again can be the champions of unfettered change.'

— Burton Yale Pines, Conservative activist

Perot supporters look to 1996

DALLAS (AP) — Some of Ross Perot's campaign aides said Wednesday that the 19 million Americans who voted for him could form a third political party if President-elect Clinton fails to revive the economy and cut the deficit.

"The basis for a third party is there if the group wishes to pursue that as an ultimate end. I think it's worth a lot of consideration," said Orson Swindle, executive director of Perot's volunteer organization, United We Stand, America.

But experts on third parties and even some Perot associates said that the success of Clinton's presidency would determine whether United We Stand will be a potent political force. And Perot's own future role remained unclear.

The organization will remain active to promote the Texas billionaire's proposals for deficit reduction and economic reviv-

al, Swindle said.

The group might even form a political action committee to contribute to congressional candidates, aides said, even though Perot constantly denounced these committees during the campaign as the tool of special interests.

But neither Swindle nor other aides could specify how Perot would work to keep his issues before the American public or whether he would consider running again in 1996.

"We've got so many bridges to cross before we get there," Swindle told the campaign's final briefing for reporters. Still, "Ross Perot has got a great following. Somebody believes in him enough to invest in a few bumper stickers."

Perot held up one of the stickers, which read: "Perot in '96," during his election night party at a North Dallas hotel.

But Perot, who made no pub-

'Ross Perot has got a great following. Somebody believes in him enough to invest in a few bumper stickers.'

— Orson Swindle, United We Stand, America

lic appearance Wednesday, was typically ambiguous about his political future:

"If by 1996, every place I go, the only thing I can find is American-made cars to put on that bumper sticker, well they've cleaned out the barn, right?"

Swindle said he expected Perot, to finance United We Stand until it became self-supporting.

Most incumbents get another term

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tidal wave of anti-incumbency never materialized but many of the two dozen House members and three senators swept out of office were dogged by personal scandals or stigmatized by voter anger over official benefits.

"I could not sustain the tremendous amount of publicity that went against me," said Rep. Albert Bustamante, D-Tex., after his eight-year tenure in Congress was ended on Tuesday.

Never mind the garbled syntax. The message was still clear.

Bustamante was defeated by Republican Henry Bonilla, a 38-year-old television producer who hammered away at the San Antonio incumbent's alleged ethical shortcomings and his 30 bad checks at the House bank.

A federal grand jury, yet to hand up an indictment, has been investigating Bustamante for three years.

"What (voters) saw on the other side was a guy talking about positive issues," Bonilla said.

Redistricting played a key role in removing others from office, including former professional basketball player, Rep. Tom McMillen, D-Md.

Others who lost in races that pitted them against fellow incumbents in redrawn districts were Reps. Ron Marlenee, R-Mont.; David Nagle, D-Iowa; Jerry Huckaby, D-La.; and Clyde Holloway, R-La.,

But about 93 percent of the 349 incumbents

seeking re-election won — nearly equaling the 95 percent or better success rate incumbents generally enjoy.

Prominent casualties in House races included Rep. Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., a member of the post-Watergate class of 1974 but writer of 151 overdrafts at the House bank; Rep. Nicholas Mavroules, D-Mass., indicted on racketeering and other charges in August; and Rep. Mary Rose Oaker, D-Ohio, tainted by 213 bad checks and moved into an unfamiliar suburban district outside her Cleveland base.

There will be at least 110 new faces in the 435-member body come January. But Democrats retained their hold, apparently losing only nine seats from their current 268.

In Arizona, Republican Rep. Jay Rhodes was hurt by the House banking scandal but also seemed to suffer from his hardline stand against abortion.

Rhodes lost to Democrat Sam Coppersmith in a heavily Republican district. Coppersmith distributed a flier in the campaign's final days that showed a woman crying beneath the caption, "Congressman Rhodes wants to make abortion illegal — even if a woman is a victim of incest or rape. Congressman Jay Rhodes wants to make her a criminal."

Losses for Senate incumbents were few and far between, and there was no evidence of a pattern.

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