

GATT

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who were either defeated or chose not to seek reelection, participating in the first lame-duck session of Congress in 12 years, a fact that GATT opponents often pointed to during the debate.

The GATT accord would cut tariffs by 38 percent worldwide, expand the rules of world trade to new areas, such as agriculture and services and create a new, more powerful World Trade Organization to referee disputes.

The administration estimated that the reduced tariffs equate to a \$744 billion global tax cut over a decade. For Americans, it would represent a \$70 billion cut in border taxes on imported goods and services over 10 years.

Foley and other supporters argued that a defeat of the trade agreement would be disastrous for America's standing in the world. But opponents pleaded with equal fervor that the 124-nation GATT accord was too complex to be settled "on the 11th hour" by many lawmakers who had been voted out of office.

The 142-vote margin of passage represented a victory for President Clinton, who had worked the telephones throughout the day talking to undecided lawmakers.

It was the first post-election test of whether the White House and Republicans, who will control Capitol Hill come January, could work together.

Clinton said the House vote "demonstrates to the American people that Democrats and Republicans can work together in the national interest."

The administration had been hoping for a large margin of victory in the House to provide

vide momentum for the Senate, where the measure faces stiffer opposition.

"The eyes of the world are now on the United States Senate," said Clinton in a statement. "I can call on the Senate to pass GATT with the same strong, bipartisan support as it received in the House of Representatives."

In the Senate, supporters will need 60 votes Thursday on a key procedural motion.

An Associated Press head count found 47 senators either supporting the agreement or leaning toward approval. An additional 21 senators were opposed or leaning toward voting against, and 32 were still undecided.

Supporters said the trade agreement, which took seven years to negotiate, would mean lower prices for U.S. consumers on everything from computer chips to potato chips and would aid American companies and farmers by lowering the trade barriers they face overseas.

However, opponents charged that lowering U.S. barriers would mean America's factories would face even more competition from low-wage foreign workers. They said the new WTO represents an unprecedented infringement on America's sovereignty, and they accused supporters of railroading the legislation through the lame-duck session.

"What a tragedy that we cannot fully debate the surrender of American's authority to the World Trade Organization," said Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio. She complained that only four hours were set aside for the House debate.

At the White House, Clinton met with 75 uncommitted House members and with both Democratic and Republican leaders supporting GATT.

The administration sought to stress Clinton's bipartisan approach as a model for how

he will next year deal with a Congress in which Republicans will control both the Senate and House.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, who announced his support last week, said from Brussels, Belgium, that he believed the Senate would pass the deal in a close vote.

Dole spokesman Clarkson Hine said the senator, who was attending a NATO conference, had been following GOP whip counts by telephone and was "encouraged by what appears to be fairly strong Republican support."

The GATT debate marked the first time in 12 years and only the 10th time since 1940 that Congress has returned after the November elections to take up legislation.

There were 85 House members and 10 members of the Senate who were lame ducks, either because they had lost in November or had decided to retire, a fact that opponents referred to often.

"This should not be a vote taken on the 11th hour of the last day in a lame-duck session of Congress, voted on by many people who have been asked to come home by the American voters," said Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore. "This is the ultimate arrogance."

But supporters said GATT opponents were merely seeking to delay a vote until the next session of Congress in hopes of killing the deal. The delaying tactics of Sen. Fritz Hollings, D-S.C., a key supporter of textile interests, were responsible for forcing lawmakers to come back for the post-election session.

"This vote is about America's standing in the world," said Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M. "Whether we are going to lead internationally or whether we are going to put our heads in the sand and retrench."

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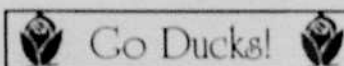
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WORLD AIDS DAY THURSDAY DECEMBER 1

AIDS AND FAMILIES

Schedule of events

Wednesday, November 30

Videos, 10:00am - 10:00pm

Sponsored by the AIDS Awareness Group, International Student Association
Philadelphia: 10:00am (Ben Linder Room),
3:00pm (Ben Linder Room), 7:45pm (Walnut Room)
And the Band Played On: 12:15pm (Ben Linder Room),
5:30pm (Walnut Room)

Thursday, December 1

Giving Tree

In the EMU lobby displaying decorations on how HIV/AIDS affects our lives and our families. Call 346-4456 to get info on how to create and contribute a decoration.

World AIDS Day Tables

in EMU from 10-5 P.M. including:

- Red ribbon sales
- Non-alcoholic refreshment
- T-shirt sales
- Free condoms
- Community resources
- Info on getting involved

RUN-WALK-ROLL AGAINST AIDS

Sponsored by the AIDS Awareness Group, International Student Association

A two-mile fun-run on campus, 3:45pm - 4:45pm.

Start: EMU Courtyard (be there 3:30 pm!)

HIV + Panel Discussion, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Ben Linder Room; HIV positive guest speakers, panel discussion, video, drinks and hopefully some music...

Peer Health Educators at the Student Health Center invite you to show your solidarity with and support for the World AIDS Day.

- T-shirts are long sleeved, all cotton, four colors on white.
- T-shirts at the World AIDS Day Table in the EMU Lobby on Thursday, December 1, between 10-5 P.M., for \$13

Proceeds from T-shirt sales will go to families within the HIV Alliance



Co-sponsored by the Student Health Center and the AIDS Awareness Group, International Student Association; call 346-4456 for more information
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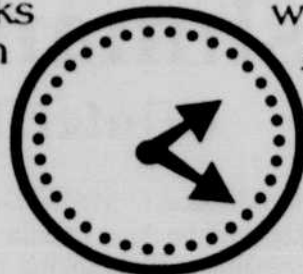
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