

# To avert shutdown, GOP wants balanced budget nod from Clinton

■ **GOVERNMENT:** Federal spending expires at midnight Monday and borrowing ends this week

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration refused Sunday to commit to a seven-year balanced budget as the Republican price for averting the twin crises this week of a partial federal shutdown and a halt to government borrowing.

In what amounted to a day of broadcast budget bargaining, leaders swapped conditions for completing a pair of bills allowing the government to continue borrowing and spending money, which President Clinton has threatened to veto.

Federal spending authority expires at midnight Monday and failure to extend it will force nearly half the federal work force to go home Tuesday morning and curtail government services. Borrowing authority also lapses this week, which could rattle finan-

cial markets. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., went on ABC's *This Week With David Brinkley* and said, "If the president would agree to a balanced budget in seven years, then we could make very good progress" in completing the bills.

That sentiment was echoed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press*, he called for "a letter from the president that said, 'I accept in principle getting to a balanced budget in seven years, not the details, but in principle.'"

White House chief of staff Leon Panetta wasted little time in turning them down.

"That cannot be part and parcel of an agreement" on the two short-term bills, he declared on CBS' *Face the Nation*, though he didn't rule out discussing it as part of a long-range budget-balancing deal. Clinton would eliminate the deficit in nine years, but has never definitively rejected a seven-year goal.

Clinton desired an Oval Office meeting with congressional leaders Monday to overcome the impasse. But he issued a condition: Republicans must first erase a provision from the temporary spending bill boosting monthly Medicare premiums in January, rather than letting them fall as under current law.

Gingrich defended the higher premiums, saying Clinton's preference to reduce them is "totally irresponsible" because officials say Medicare will go bankrupt in seven years unless savings are found. The increases are a key part of the GOP's plan to squeeze savings from the system, and letting the premiums fall would make it politically harder to boost them later.

The tough talk left it highly likely that 800,000 federal employees would be sent home Tuesday, when most agencies' authority to spend money expires. Also looming is the expiration Wednesday of the government's ability to borrow money.

# Kevorkian uses 'suicide machine' again

■ **SUICIDE:** "Doctor" uses machine for first time in four years to assist death of California woman

DETROIT (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian supplied his "suicide machine" for the first time in four years for the death of a California woman who had suffered from breast cancer, his attorney said Sunday.

Kevorkian has acknowledged attending 26 deaths since 1990, and is awaiting trial in two of those deaths.

In two of the first three deaths, Kevorkian supplied an apparatus that allowed the patients to inject a sedative and a heart-stopping chemical into their own veins.

Until Wednesday's death of

Patricia Cashman, however, most people who died in Kevorkian's presence had breathed carbon monoxide.

Kevorkian stopped supplying the so-called suicide machine after Michigan authorities lifted his medical license, blocking his access to sedatives.

Kevorkian was able to supply the machine again this time because Cashman had saved up a quantity of the pain-killer Seconal, attorney Geoffrey Fieger said.

Cashman, 58, of San Marcos, Calif., flipped a switch to allow the flow of Seconal into her veins, followed by the heart-stopping drug potassium chloride, he said. She then pulled a clip to release carbon monoxide as a backup, he said.

"This was a pure suicide,"

Fieger said. "This woman injected the drugs knowingly. She turned on the machine herself."

Potassium chloride and carbon monoxide can be obtained without a license, Fieger said.

Oakland County Medical Examiner Ljubisa Dragovic had said last week carbon monoxide poisoning was the cause of death. Responding to Fieger's statement, Dragovic said an autopsy found drugs in Cashman's system.

"We're deciding how those drugs factored into the death," he said.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert had barred Kevorkian from using his suicide machine. Kevorkian has said the machine is better because it causes death faster.



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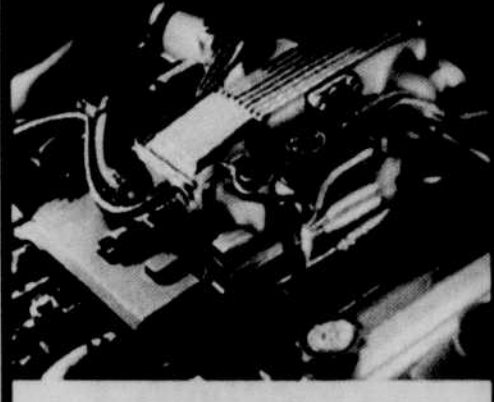
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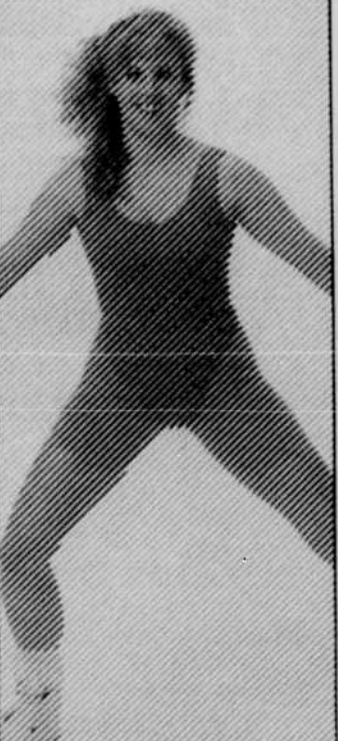
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