

Congress, Gore anoint Bush presidential victor

By Alan Fram
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the vanquished Vice President Al Gore presiding, Congress formally anointed George W. Bush on Saturday as the victor in last year's achingly close and bitterly contested presidential election.

In a hoary constitutional ritual that made up with political irony and shouted objections what it lacked in suspense, four members of Congress read aloud documents certifying the electoral votes of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, all in alphabetical order.

When they finished an alternately raucous and humorous 92 minutes later, the Republican Bush had won by 271-266 — just as when the electoral votes were counted in every state capital on Dec. 18. To prevail,

the winner needed 270 of the 538 electoral votes nationwide.

Reading from a sheaf of papers, and showing no apparent emotion, Gore intoned: "George W. Bush of the state of Texas has received for president of the United States 271 votes. Al Gore of the state of Tennessee has received 266 votes. ... This announcement of the state of the vote by the president of the senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected president and vice president of the United States, each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January 2001, and shall be entered, together with a list the votes, on the journals of the Senate and the House of Representatives."

After announcing the results, Gore, a Democrat, said, "May God bless our new president and our new vice president, and may God bless the United

States of America." At that, he shook the outstretched hand of House Speaker Dennis Hastert, and a number of others, and it was over.

Gore was presiding because it is one of the duties of the vice president. The last vice president defeated in a presidential race to oversee Congress' counting of the electoral votes was Richard Nixon in 1961. Vice President Hubert Humphrey did not do so in 1969, following his defeat by Nixon.

The joint session of Congress drew extraordinary attention because it was the final vote tally in a disputed presidential race that did not end until five weeks after the Nov. 7 election. Gore did not concede until Dec. 13, a day after the U.S. Supreme Court forced a halt to vote-counting in Florida.

Even so, House Democrats — mostly blacks — raised 20 objections

during the session aimed at blocking Florida's pivotal 25 electoral votes from being counted. Many Democrats have asserted that Bush won Florida unfairly because some votes were not counted and because of a disproportionate number of irregularities in largely black, mostly Democratic areas.

"It was the Supreme Court and not the people of the United States who decided this election," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., over shouts from Republicans.

But time and again, Gore — blending wit and formality — disallowed the objections because they were not also signed by a senator, as required by law. That shortcoming underlined the judgment by many Democrats that the public had no patience to resume battling over the election outcome.

"The chair thanks the gentleman

from Illinois, but, hey," a grinning Gore told Rep. Jesse Jackson, D-Ill., who raised one of the challenges. When an angry Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said she did not care that a senator had not signed her objection, Gore responded, "The chair will advise that the rules do care."

The rules also forbade lawmakers to explain their objections. Many tried but were quickly silenced by Gore amid grumbling from Republicans.

At one point, Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., among the complaining lawmakers, cried out to Gore, "We did all we could."

"The chair thanks the gentleman from Florida," Gore responded with a smile.

After their objections failed, at least 16 House Democrats filed out of the chamber en masse.

City, UO, WISTEC find agreement on parking dispute

Autzen expansion will push ahead despite controversy

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University, the Willamette Science and Technology Center and

city officials might soon resolve a conflict over the use of a city-owned parking lot near Autzen Stadium that has threatened to stall the stadium's expansion and close the museum.

City code requires the stadium's expansion, which will accommodate 12,100 more fans, to include 1,375

additional parking places. The University has been working to circumvent that requirement by building a bus transit station near the stadium, and the University has proposed placing that station on a parking lot adjacent to WISTEC on Leo Harris Parkway.

WISTEC, however, sells parking passes on that lot to football fans, and museum officials say WISTEC would be forced to close if that revenue is lost.

After months of negotiations, city planners and University officials discussed in a closed meeting Friday a plan that would place the station on a

42-acre parcel of land on the east end of Alton Baker Park, according to Eugene senior planner Allen Lowe.

This proposal would allow WISTEC to continue selling passes to the lot adjacent to the museum and would meet the city's transportation requirement. The Eugene City Council is scheduled to vote on the proposal Jan. 22.

"I see this as a win-win situation for however many players are involved," WISTEC Executive Director Meg Trender said of the new proposal. "It's the best possible outcome."

But the plan isn't without its detractors.

Andrea Riner, city parks planning manager, said the proposal would strip Alton Baker Park of a piece of land that is slated to be a parking lot for a canoe ramp.

"Frankly, it has quite a few drawbacks from a parks perspective," she said. "It has significant impact on that portion of the park. I favor the original proposal and not taking more land."

Dan Williams, vice president for University administration, said that although the new plan would meet the University's needs, it comes late in the construction process. Further, he said an interim transit station would have to be placed on the WISTEC lot to bring fans to the stadium during construction of the final station.

"We certainly see some advantages, the biggest of which is that it moves the station closer to the stadium, but it also presents some new challenges," he said. "One of the disadvantages is that it's coming at the 11th hour. It's going to cost us more money."

Williams said he would prefer WISTEC accept the monetary compensation the University offered the museum for the use of the lot. WISTEC officials say the museum makes one third of its annual revenue selling parking passes to Duck football fans. WISTEC stands to lose one third of its parking pass revenue, totaling \$26,000, without use of the lot. The University offered WISTEC \$220,000 in compensation, but WISTEC officials rejected the offer, saying that it didn't cover long-term revenue the museum could make selling passes.

CALL TO ARTISTS

The Aperture and Buzz Art Galleries are now accepting submissions for future exhibits through 2001. Community and student artists are encouraged to apply. Contact the Visual Arts Coordinator at the UO Cultural Forum at 346-0007, or email gallery@darkwing.uoregon.edu for more information.

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