

GOP leaders bidding House to end shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) - Rank-and-file House Republicans forced Speaker Newt Gingrich and other party leaders to piece together a new plan Thursday night for ending the record 20-day partial federal shutdown after rejecting an initial GOP proposal.

In a day that saw Republican leaders retreat under pressure to end the shutdown, Mr. Gingrich, R-Ga., and other leaders unveiled a plan to return all 280,000 idled federal workers to their jobs. They would have been fully paid, as would the 480,000 workers who have been working without salary since the partial shutdown began Dec. 16.

But the proposal, which was to restore the workers' jobs through March 15, failed to gain sufficient support at a closed-door meeting of House GOP lawmakers.

When the meeting ended, House leaders patched together a new plan that would keep the civil servants at work only through Jan. 26, said House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y.

He said the House would vote on the measure today.

"We did not want the federal employees held hostage," Mr. Gingrich told reporters.

The new measure would finance a handful of programs in the nine Cabinet departments and dozens of other agencies whose spending bills have not been completed. These include funds to administer unemployment benefits, for foster care and adoption help, to keep national parks and museums open, for many veterans benefits, and for Meals on Wheels, which provides dinners for

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Bartlett giving up pay during shutdown

From Staff Reports

WASHINGTON - Rep. Roscoe Bartlett has pledged to donate his congressional salary to charity while the government shutdown continues.

"It's unfair for innocent, hard-working federal employees and contractors to suffer because the president refuses to negotiate in good faith with the Congress," Dr. Bartlett, R-6th, said in a letter Thursday.

Dr. Bartlett said the long-term benefits of the Republicans' balanced budget proposal outweigh the short-term pain caused the shutdown, but he feels obliged to share the pain.

"I have pledged to donate my salary during this shutdown to various charities because I cannot in good conscience accept my paycheck while federal workers are denied theirs," he said.

So far, the amount donated by Dr. Bartlett, who has a net worth exceeding \$1 million, is about \$11,000, said Lisa Wright, the congressman's press secretary.

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needy senior citizens.

The bulk of programs in the affected departments would not be financed, however, which could leave many workers with little to do.

House leaders predicted passage of the bill today. "I expect to receive overwhelming support on the floor tomorrow," Mr. Solomon said.

But, in response to angry conservatives, the leaders also prepared a second measure that the House might consider today.

It would restore all workers' jobs and pay through Jan. 26, plus finance all programs in the affected agencies - but only if Mr. Clinton submits a seven-year balanced budget plan as

measured by the Congressional Budget Office.

The budget-balancing packages Mr. Clinton has proposed this year have not used CBO figures, because they rely on economic projections that the president says make deficits look unrealistically large.

Some Republicans, especially conservatives, have insisted that Mr. Clinton should be forced to submit a balanced-budget using CBO figures as a price for bringing the government back to full force.

After the House rank-and-file rejected their leaders' initial plan, administration officials pointed their fingers anew at the chamber's Republicans and said Mr. Clinton was troubled by "the repudiation of the House leadership."