

GOP: Spending Bill Sends Clear Signals on Priorities

Democrats Decry Work of 'Wrecking Crew'

8/5/95

By Dan Morgan
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House adjourned yesterday afternoon with Republican leaders exultant, after days of late nights and tense negotiations between warring factions, about passing a crucial spending bill they believe sends the most clear signal yet of their intention to change national priorities.

The \$60.9 billion bill that will fund education, health and labor programs beginning Oct. 1, which finally passed at 1:13 a.m. yesterday on a vote of 219 to 208, still must go before the Senate and the president. But GOP leaders said the bill laid down a marker by eliminating dozens of education and social programs championed by Democrats, and by incorporating

gains for the antiabortion movement and concessions to business.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said the legislation was "a sign that this is a more conservative Congress, and there are some substantial underlying changes going on at a philosophical level of how you try to do things."

Although Democrats said yesterday that the bill represented the work of a "wrecking crew," it did include some winners—such as the Job Corps, the GOP's favorite social program, and biomedical research, both of which received an increase in funds in the bill. Gingrich characterized the bill in terms of something that changes priorities rather than simply cuts spending. He noted that it includes

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a significant increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health, a priority of Rep. John Edward Porter (R-Ill.), chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that drew up the bill.

Gingrich said Porter was "sending a signal about research and the age of molecular medicine and the opportunities for health reform, which I thought was a very courageous thing to do and very hard to do."

In a sense, the bill passed early yesterday is two bills. One charts a new fiscal course, the other legislates changes in laws affecting abortion, protections for workers and job safety regulations.

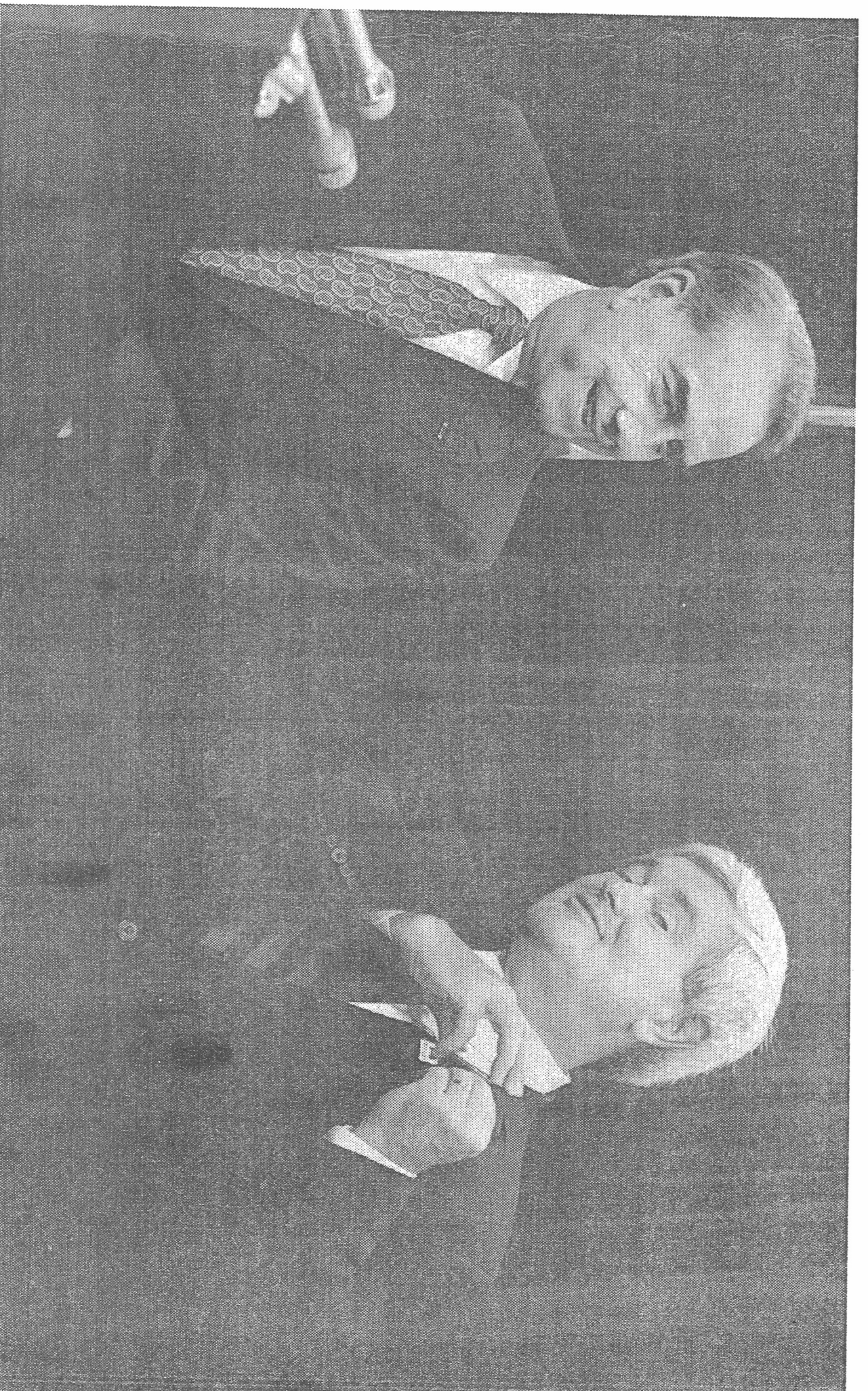
Fiscally, the bill cuts spending from a year ago by more than \$9 billion, reduces the Title I compensatory education program by more than \$1 billion, eliminates home heating subsidies for the poor and curtails job training programs.

Asked why Title I was being hit so hard, Porter said, "It doesn't work," and he cited the failure of thousands of inner-city schools that receive large amounts of Title I money. But Porter dismissed the idea that cuts of more than \$3 billion in the Education Department would be devastating.

"The sky is not falling," he said, noting the department will still have \$20 billion to spend in 1996. But Rep. David R. Obey (D-Wis.) charged yesterday that this year's cuts reflected only the beginning of a multi-year GOP program to slash spending that benefits the most vulnerable segments of society.

Although observers have speculated that the Senate will reject some of the cuts, the Senate still must reach the budgetary targets set by the budget resolution, and there are few places where cuts can be made without sparking a dispute.

In House Appropriations Chairman Bob Livingston's view, most of the House cuts will be sustained. On spending matters, he said, "I have the leverage." He pointed out that the Senate cannot make the House spend money it does not want to



Sen. Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.) watches Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) pin on a lapel button announcing the "3:01 p.m." goal for House members to finish up and adjourn for the summer recess.

BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WASHINGTON POST

spend, and neither can the president. "You can't veto zero," he said.

Although he acknowledged that he may have to compromise on some legislative initiatives, he said that much of the bill will survive.

The measure contains curbs on federal research on human embryos, overturns a Clinton administration requirement that states provide Medicaid-funded abortions to victims of rape and incest, and prohibits federal and state governments from withholding funds from medical schools that do not provide abortion training to obstetrical-gynecological residents.

Senate sources predicted yesterday that many of the antiabortion provisions will be stripped out there, as will language inhibiting the Na-

tional Labor Relations Board's power to bring suits against employers.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), a presidential candidate, will be in a key position on the Appropriations Committee to restore the home heating subsidy, which is popular in New Hampshire. But the presidential designs of Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.), who is attempting to firm up his base in the Christian right, could complicate efforts by abortion rights forces to eliminate language they object to.

The sweep of the legislation was so great that it was unclear until the final vote whether feuding GOP moderate and conservative factions, each unhappy with various parts of the bill, would vote for it.

"I knew it was going to be ugly,"

cracked Livingston, in reference to the struggle to unite GOP moderates and conservatives behind the spending cuts and social legislation. But, he added, "I couldn't be more proud."

Eighteen Republicans voted against the measure, which passed 219 to 208. But Livingston said for the most part, "our people came home."

Recuperating from a mild heart attack at his Arlington apartment Thursday, Rep. Herbert H. Bateman (R-Va.) came to the House to cast his "yea" vote.

Bateman, whose district is home to a number of military bases, succeeded in winning a concession from the GOP leadership that it would attempt to increase the federal allowance in the bill for aiding school dis-

tricts serving large numbers of military dependents.

Before deciding to leave his apartment for the vote, Bateman talked on the phone several times with Majority Leader Richard K. Armey (R-Tex.) and got a promise that representatives of the House would try to increase these "impact aid" funds when they iron out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

With such attention to detail, and with appeals to the party loyalty of a raft of GOP factions that threatened to sink the huge bill, the House leadership achieved one of its most significant victories since taking power.

Staff writer Eric Pianin contributed to this report.

Following are the 18 Republicans and six Democrats who did not vote with their parties early yesterday morning as the House passed, on a vote of 219 to 208, a bill to cut \$9.3 billion in social spending:

REPUBLICANS VOTING NO

Bilbray (Calif.), Horn (Calif.), Franks (Conn.), Castle (Del.), Flanagan (Ill.), Morella (Md.), Blute (Mass.), Torkildsen (Mass.), Bereuter (Neb.), LoBiondo (N.J.), Martini (N.J.), Zimmer (N.J.), Houghton (N.Y.), Kelly (N.Y.), Quinn (N.Y.), Heineman (N.C.), Ney (Ohio), Gunderson (Wis.).

DEMOCRATS VOTING YES

Hayes (La.), Tauzin (La.), Montgomery (Miss.), Parker (Miss.), Hall (Tex.), Geren (Tex.).