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Bush might accept bigger defense cuts

By R.W. Apple Jr.
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WASHINGTON — Faced with widespread pressure from Congress and elsewhere, the Bush administration has decided to accept a reduction about triple that.

Such a cut, \$10 billion or \$11 billion, would mean that the Pentagon would have to absorb the costs of inflation, since the dollar value of spending would be about the same as this year's.

The decision comes as a critical development in an unfolding debate

about the strategic goals and proper spending levels for the armed forces in the new era inaugurated by the virtual collapse of the Warsaw Pact as a military entity.

As such, the debate, though still uncharted, has provided a first opportunity to see how changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe may affect the shape of U.S. military and budget policy.

For the coming year, sentiment among congressional Democrats, as well as some Republicans, appears

to be coalescing around a reduction of \$12 billion or possibly \$13 billion from the base-line figure of \$300 billion.

The \$306 billion includes 1990 ordinary outlays of \$296 billion plus military outlays of \$10 billion and previously committed projects.

All the savings would go toward meeting the deficit-reduction target set forth in the Gramm-Rudman-Dooley budget-balancing law.

ready to acquiesce in a reduction of nearly the size the lawmakers are proposing, realizing that it would have to give considerable ground to win congressional approval.

In the longer term, there is no such consensus on how much the nation should spend for the armed forces and on what.

But William W. Kaufmann of Harvard University, a consultant to defense secretaries in Republican and Democratic administrations, has

said military spending could safely be halved by the year 2000.

White House officials, generally and in particular, have expressed alarm about that figure, Rep. Les Aspin of Wisconsin, the senior Democrat who heads the House Armed Services Committee, said, "I don't dispute it."

There is also impassioned argument, of course, about what to do with the "peace dividend" that may

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Bowl coup presses King issue

Lawmakers scramble to end holiday dispute

By Mary K. Reinhart
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The state's tarring of the 1983 Super Bowl has intensified debate over a state holiday for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

While legislative leaders differ on how the issue should be resolved, they agree that something must be done before the legislative session ends.

The Legislature is struggling to resolve the state's hazardous-waste dilemma. Page 1B.

Two options have emerged: repeal the law, now on hold, that created a King holiday in exchange for Columbus Day and pass a referendum to put the King holiday on the November ballot; or repeal the law and pass a new King holiday bill.

King Day supporters met with Sen. KNOX, Page 2A

Record rainfall in the South kills at least 7

By Geneva Collins
The Associated Press

Muddy floodwaters filled a southern Alabama courthouse, submerged a school and forced at least 1,500 people out of their homes after a levee burst yesterday under the strain of 16 inches of rain in two days.

"I have a feeling when I go back everything I own will be gone," said Debra Sammel, who fled her home less than a mile from the ruptured levee on the Pea River at Elba.

Also in Alabama, six people drowned when their car ran off a back road into a rain-swollen creek where a bridge had washed out, while a Georgia woman died after she apparently drove into a creek and her car was washed away.

Most of western Georgia was under flood warnings yesterday although rain had finally tapered off after a two-day deluge. In Mississippi, about 10 homes were flooded in Jackson County and several roads were washed out after 14 inches of rain fell in two days, officials reported.

No injuries were immediately reported to Elba, a town of 4,400 about 70 miles southwest of Montgomery, where the southern levee gave way about 6:30 a.m. Rescuers in boats plucked residents from rooftops and trees as the water rose, said Sheriff Bruce Paul.

Military helicopters picked up at least four people, said Bill Hayes, an Army spokesman at nearby Fort Brucker. He said the choppers were still responding to calls.

Witnesses said water rose to second-story windows of the Coffee County Courthouse, higher than it

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The Thunderbird demonstration team of F-16 jets files in one of its precision formations

Air Force birds take wing for 110,000 at D-M show

By John F. Ravellin
The Arizona Daily Star

It was a great day for catching some sun, munching a hot dog and watching the birds — U.S. Air Force birds.

An estimated 110,000 Tucsonans basked in the 83-degree weather yesterday to attend Aerospace and Arizona Day 1990 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Attired in shorts, T-shirts and sunglasses, the throng packed the runways at D-M to watch the skies fill with fighters, bombers and parachutes.

But the show stopper for most people was the U.S. Air Force Thunderbird six-ship demonstration team.

Ground displays ranged from a giant, open C-3 cargo plane to older fighters, plus the 1978 A-4 Skyhawk, a 1987 F-4 Phantom II, a 1974 F-16 Fighting Falcon and a 1962 B-52 Stratofortress.

Speclators streamed by the thou-

WEATHER

Just balmy. Mostly sunny, with some high clouds. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Today's high will be in the mid-80s, the low around 60. Tomorrow will be mostly sunny, with the high in the upper 80s. Yesterday's high was 83, the low 61. Details, Page 18A.

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Greyhound talks open with new offer from strikers

By Richard Ducote
The Arizona Daily Star

The union representing striking Greyhound workers offered a new counterproposal to company negotiators in Tucson yesterday.

The company team emerged from a lengthy caucus at about 8 p.m. last night at the Doubletree Hotel saying talks would be resumed until this morning.

Yesterday's talks were the first since the union representing more than 9,000 Greyhound drivers and other workers went on strike more than two weeks ago.

Anthony Lankie, Greyhound executive vice president and chief negotiator in the talks, said last night that the company had "not yet responded in full" to the latest union counteroffer.

Nick Nichols, union spokesman, said the "completely new proposal" was a "significant change" from previous positions, addressing such issues as "work rules and other non-economic issues" and putting forth

"some adjustment in the union's pay and benefit package."

Ed Strail, president of the 18-member Amalgamated Council of Greyhound Local Union, again described the union proposal as one that would cost the company about \$40 million over three years.

The company has valued its offer at \$63 million.

Strail said the company would not agree to bring in a financial expert on each side to "see who's lying" about the value of each proposal.

"If theirs is worth \$63 million and we're only asking for \$40 million, there's got to be a contract in there somewhere," Strail said.

In meetings with reporters before and after the talks began yesterday, Lankie accused the union of using "violence and terrorism" as a tactic during the strike.

Since the walkout began, there have been at least 14 shooting attacks on Greyhound buses, 46 bomb threats and numerous other incidents.

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E. Germans vote today for new Parliament

By Henry Kazan
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EAST BERLIN — East Germans will vote today in an election that marks a turning point for the German, Europe and communism.

Just more than 12 million of the country's 16 million people are eligible to choose from among 24 political groups to elect a new 400-member Parliament, which will name the government.

Participation is expected to be high, a casual survey during a month of travel through East Germany turned up no one who said he or she would not vote.

For the Germans, divided into two countries for four decades, the election means a return to democracy, abolished in 1933 and restored to its Western sister in stages in the years after 1945.

For Europe, it marks the first time a country that fell under the Soviet Union's control in 1945 rejoins the European democracies through fully free elections, a process that has not taken place or remains to be completed elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

If as expected the Communists are defeated at the polls, East Germany will represent a first: the official defection of a country governed under communist tenets through fully free elections.

After the election results are in, attention will focus on the pace of reunification and on whether East Germany will move quickly to become absorbed in West Germany or whether the new government will wait until after West German elections in December to begin the formal formation of a single nation.

No party is expected to get a majority.

"I certainly wouldn't tell you

INSIDE

★ Lithuanians shun Gorbachev's deadline to renounce independence. Page 1C.

★ Warsaw Pact ministers are unable to agree on the status of a united Germany. Page 1C.

★ Independent-minded dissenters in East Germany fear West German dominance. Page 1C.

★ Communist Party officials are targets of hatred in East Germany. Page 1C.

whom I'll vote for," said Gertrud Kalksch, who was taking in the springlike sunshine yesterday morning on a bench near memorials to Marx and Engels.

But the woman from Brandenburg, who is 76 years old, said she had made up her mind on how she would vote and suggested by indirect words and gestures it would not be one of the numerous Marxist parties on the ballot.

Trying to recall, she said she thought she had cast her first vote during Hitler's time and she had never seen much choice on the ballots.

She welcomed free elections, she said, "so that finally we can stop dancing fearfully on the tips of our toes."

The front-runners in the election are thought to be the sister parties of West Germany's main political forces, the governing Christian Democrats.

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