

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Obama Signs Iran Sanctions Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has signed a bill imposing tough new sanctions against Iran over its alleged nuclear weapons program.

The bill Obama signed Thursday evening in an East Room ceremony targets exports of gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran. It bans U.S. banks from doing business with foreign banks providing services to Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

The administration hopes the new unilateral sanctions, combined with ones approved last month in the U.N. Security Council, will yield results even though previous regimens failed to halt Iran's activities that could lead to nuclear weapons development. The U.N. sanctions target the Revolutionary Guard, ballistic missiles and nuclear-related investments.

White House Threatens To Veto War Funding

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has promised to veto a House war funding bill over proposed cuts to education reform programs.

The move marks an unusually public clash with Obama's top Democratic allies in the House, who proposed cutting \$800 million from programs such as the Education Department's showcase Race to the Top grant initiative. They want to use the money to help pay for a \$15 billion plan to avoid teacher layoffs and pay for college grants.

The veto threat came as the House began debate on a war funding bill needed to pay for the president's decision to send 30,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan.

Immigration Overhaul In Deadlock

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to breathe new life into the stalled immigration effort, President Barack Obama on Thursday blamed the delay on recalcitrant Republicans whom he said had given in to the "pressures of partisanship and election-year politics."

Republicans responded that Obama's first step going forward must be to secure the border.

In his first immigration speech, Obama took Republicans to task, in particular 11 GOP senators who had backed attempts during the previous Republican administration to tighten the immigration system. He did not call out anyone by name.

Obama dismissed the focus on a "border security first" approach, saying the system is too big to be fixed "only with fences and border patrols." He advocated a comprehensive approach that would call on the government, businesses and illegal immigrants themselves to live up to their responsibilities within the law.

Obama also wants to create a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S.; critics call it amnesty. But Obama said the immigrants must first acknowledge that they broke the law, pay fines and back taxes, perform community service and learn English.

Spy Ring Defendants Have Help To Flee

NEW YORK (AP) — A prosecutor says 11 people accused of operating as Russian spies have lots of helpers in the U.S. waiting to aid their flight if they are released on bail.

The prosecutor, Michael Farbiarz, told a New York federal magistrate judge on Thursday that there are a lot of Russian officials in the United States who are actively assisting the conspiracy.

He says the defendants would have a "powerful sophisticated network they can call upon in the United States" if they were freed on bail.

The prosecutor spoke at a bail hearing for four people in New York accused in the alleged spy ring. One of the hearings was postponed. Two other defendants made appearances in Boston on Thursday.

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Unemployed Won't Get Benefits Restored

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — More than 1.3 million laid-off workers won't get their unemployment benefits reinstated before Congress goes on a weeklong break for Independence Day.

And hundreds of thousands more will lose their benefits in the coming weeks.

The House voted 270-153 Thursday to extend jobless benefits for people who have been laid off for long stretches, but the gesture was made futile by the Senate's inability to pass the bill. For the third time in as many weeks, Republicans in the Senate successfully filibustered a similar measure Wednesday night before senators adjourned for vacation.

A little more than 1.3 million people have already lost benefits since the last extension ran out at the end of May, according to the Labor Department. By the end of the week, the number will jump to 1.7 million. By the end of July, it would top 3 million.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama urges Republican Senate leaders to "end their obstruction of this critical aid."

Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said "it is hard to understand how anybody can come to this floor and say, for 1.7 million people and their families, this is not an emergency."

The bill would extend unemployment payments for up to a total of 99 weeks, for people whose state-paid benefits have run out. The benefits would be available through the end of November, at a cost of \$33.9 billion. The money would have been borrowed, adding to the budget deficit.

The payments average a little more than \$300 a week.

Republicans, tapping into voter anger about the growing national debt, said they would support extending the benefits if the bill was paid for. They proposed using unspent money from President Barack Obama's massive 2009 economic recovery package.

Democrats rejected the offer, saying the money was needed for jobs programs. Republicans said the stimulus package included plenty of lawmakers' pet projects that could be cut to cover the unemployment benefits.

"Americans are not receiving their unemployment checks because Democrats refuse to pay for these benefits at a time of record federal deficits," said Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, the top Republican on the Ways and Means Committee.

A times, Thursday's debate grew heated, as lawmakers prepared to face unemployed voters back in their districts during the weeklong break.

"I challenge you to look people in the eye and tell them that you voted no," said Rep.

John Lewis, D-Ga. "Tell them as they swallow their pride that you don't care, that you don't have a heart, that you don't have any feeling."

Lewis' booming voice rang throughout the House chamber, but his real audience, Republicans in the Senate, had already adjourned for their holiday break.

Camp said Republicans in both chambers empathize with laid-off workers but simply want to pay for the benefits instead of adding to the national debt.

"We could pass this bill with broad bipartisan support if Democrats would just agree to pay for the spending," Camp said. "The American people know we must pay for this spending, and the Senate appears to have heard that message."

The measure stands a better chance of passing the Senate after a replacement is named for Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., who died Monday. The measure fell two votes short of the 60 needed to advance Wednesday night, but only because Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a supporter of the bill, voted "nay" to take a procedural step that would allow for a revote.

"We will vote on this measure again once there is a replacement named for the late Senator Byrd," Reid said.

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, a Democrat, will choose Byrd's successor.

First Major Oil Spill Bill Passed By House

BY LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday passed the first major bill related to the Gulf of Mexico oil rig explosion, voting to allow families of those killed and injured workers to be compensated far more generously than current law allows.

While families of the 11 killed and the 17 injured would benefit under the legislation, the bill also would apply to all companies operating on the high seas.

They passed the bill on a voice vote, with no recorded vote. The bill now goes to the Senate.

The legislation has strong political overtones.

Familiar foes representing industry and trial lawyers squared off once again over limiting legal liability. While industry groups complained that firms unrelated to the oil spill would suffer, Democrats portrayed the controversy as a fight between supporters of BP victims and backers of the oil industry and

large companies.

President Barack Obama emphasized his party's theme Wednesday at a town hall in Racine, Wis., reminding the crowd that a leading Republican, Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, apologized to the blown-out well's principal owner, British-based BP PLC, because the oil company was pressured by the president to establish a \$20 billion victims' compensation fund.

A cruise ship trade group, on the other hand, urged Florida lawmakers to oppose the bill and pointedly reminded them of the industry's spending and employment in the state.

In the House on Thursday, with family members of the victims looking on, Democrats argued that current laws inadequately compensate victims and their families.

"The unfairness of these laws is grossly apparent and makes no sense," said Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. "The laws are ancient. They're out of date."

Some Republicans argued that the bill was too broad, though they did not act to block its passage.

"This bill changes maritime law for everyone, not just those involved in the oil spill," said Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee. "Clearly, we should have explored the consequences of that."

The only agreement on all sides is that companies directly responsible for the Gulf spill should not be allowed to limit damages under outdated laws.

The bill would change two laws from 1920 and a third from 1851, all applying to deaths and legal liability on the high seas.

Key provisions would: —Permit recovery of non-economic damages, including pain and suffering, loss of care, comfort and companionship — not just lost income and funeral expenses.

—Repeal an 1851 limitation on liability, which caps company damages to the post-accident value of a vessel (including an

oil rig) and its cargo. Transocean, which owns the Deepwater Horizon platform now at the bottom of the Gulf, has sought to limit its liability to \$27 million under this law.

—Prevent parties responsible for oil spills from using bankruptcy to leave victims without adequate legal recourse.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote lawmakers that the bill should not expose industries unrelated to the spill to new damage claims or additional liability. Thousands of claims, including maritime lawsuits related to asbestos, would come under the new legislation, the Chamber said.

Ray DeLorenzi of the trial lawyers' American Association for Justice, said, "When the Chamber and cruise lines aren't foreign flagging their vessels to skirt U.S. regulations and taxes or exploiting cheap overseas labor, apparently they lobby against Gulf Coasters that simply want to hold BP and other corporations accountable."

OBITUARIES

Eleanor Offerdahl

VERMILLION — Eleanor M. Offerdahl, 89, of Vermillion, SD, passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Eleanor was born on February 17, 1921 in Ravinia, South Dakota to Amiel T. and Ethyl (Corrigan) Uecker. She attended school in Charles Mix County and graduated from Ravinia High School in 1939. Her family moved to Clay County in 1941 and settled near Beresford, SD. It was near there that she met her future husband.

Eleanor married Merle Offerdahl at the Roseni Parsonage on November 1, 1941. Two children were born from this Union: Robert M. Offerdahl and Joyce A. Zimmer.

Eleanor attended Springfield Normal Teacher's College for one year to earn her teaching certificate thus began a career that would span 41 years. She taught in country schools in Clay and Union Counties for 17 years. She then went back to school to earn a certificate to teach Special Education. She taught Special Education in Vermillion School District for 17 years. She finished her career by teaching second grade for seven years.

Eleanor led a very active and involved life. She loved to dance, play cards and dominoes, travel,

read, camp, eat out, do craft work and spend time with her family and friends. She and Merle traveled to every state in the union, camped in much of Canada and made two trips to Europe. Along with that, she was very active in many local and state organizations, including: Alpha Lambda Chapter of ESA (49 year member), Delta Kappa Gamma, Retired Teachers Association, SDEA/NEA Life member, the Senior Citizen's Center, Hospital Auxiliary, W.H. Over Museum, Clay County Historical Society, Trinity Lutheran Church, Good Sam Club Life member, Merry Homemaker's Extension Club, and the Dinner Belles Red Hat Club.

During her high school years Eleanor was active in sports and other school activities. She remained an avid sports fan her entire life and loved pointing out all the errors the referees made. She especially loved following the Coyotes, the Vikings and the Twins. Eleanor will be remembered for her spunk, her "get it done" attitude, her smile and laugh, and her enormous generosity to those she knew and loved and to causes she believed in.

Those mourning her passing are her husband Merle, her son, Bob (Fran) Offerdahl of Youngstown, Ohio; her daughter, Joyce (Dave) Zimmer of Vermillion, SD; her sister, Lorraine Koehler of Desert Hot Springs, CA; her brother, Leonard Uecker of Beresford, SD; 5 grandchildren: Scott (Maria) Zimmer,

Nathan (Jami) Offerdahl, Lucas (Sarah) Offerdahl, Martha Offerdahl, and Ellen (Jon) Duby; 9 great grandchildren; numerous friends and other family members.

Memorials may be directed to the Hospice Program at the Vermillion Sanford Hospital, the Vermillion Food Pantry, the Senior Citizen's Center, or to any other worthy organization.

Visitation will be from 6 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 4, 2010 with a prayer service/video tribute at 7 p.m., at the Iverson-Steele-Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 5, 2010 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion with Rev. Ralph Egbert officiating. Burial of ashes will be in Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion at a later date.

Condolences may be sent online to www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 2, 2010

Pamela Hosmer

LARGO, Fla. — Pamela Rae Hosmer, 53, of Largo, Fla., and formerly of Yankton, died at her residence in Largo.

Funeral services are pending under the direction and care of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

Madeline Devine

SIoux FALLS — Madeline H. Devine, 81, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away Thursday, July 1 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

Madeline was born December 30, 1928 in Wakonda, SD to Phillip and Nell (Hart) Devine. She grew up on the homestead farm, a t t e n d e d

Wakonda Public School and graduated from Mount Marty High School in 1946. She continued her education at Mount Marty College and became an elementary school teacher. Her first teaching assignment was at Ireland country school rural Wakonda. After several years teaching in South Dakota, she was recruited by the California to "go west" and help their teaching shortage. Madeline taught in Bakersfield and Sacramento, CA. She retired from the Sacramento Schools in 1996.

Madeline was very involved with her parish and was instrumental in beginning "Handicapped" which provided needed transportation to Mass and parish activities for handicapped parishioners. She provid-

ed beautiful crafts for annual parish fundraisers. Madeline loved playing bridge, golf, gambling, Notre Dame Football and spending time with family.

Madeline is preceded in death by her parents Phil and Nell, and two brothers Thomas and Phillip, Jr.

She is survived by three sisters Mary Ellen Powell of Sioux Falls, Veronica Heimes and Monica Ballard both of Vermillion. They and her many nieces and nephews will miss her quick retorts and her love of fun and laughter.

Funeral service will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, July 5 at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Wakonda with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service in the church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Patrick's Cemetery Fund. Online condolences and obituary: hansenfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 2, 2010

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Kayleigh Ptak

Kayleigh AnnMarie Ptak, 16 months, of Yankton died in her sleep Wednesday (June 30, 2010) at her home in Yankton.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with the Rev. Jason Larson officiating.

Visitation is 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

To send an online sympathy card, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

What a Party!

We wish to thank our many friends who came to celebrate Virg's 80th birthday! Thanks for all the cards and phone calls too! A special thank you to all our relatives that came. We especially thank our children for hosting the party. It was great. Thanks to everyone. We love you.
Virg & Marilynne

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Kayleigh AnnMarie Ptak 2:00 PM, Saturday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	Melvin Herrboldt 10:30 AM, Tuesday Trinity Lutheran Church Yankton
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