

Senate Makes Progress On Farm Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has broken a deadlock on a half-trillion dollar farm and food bill, setting the stage for a final vote on the measure this week.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced a list of some 70 amendments out of about 300 offered to the 1,000-page bill that would set farm policy over the next five years and provide nearly \$80 billion a year for the federal food stamp program.

The two parties have negotiated for days on which amendments would be allowed.

The Senate bill would bring major changes to the federal safety net for farmers by eliminating direct payments to farmers, even when they don't plant crops, replacing that with greater stress on crop insurance. The House has yet to come up with a companion bill.

Afghans In Disguise Kill U.S. Service Member

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the latest likely case of an insider attack, an American service member was killed and several others injured Monday when individuals dressed in Afghan police uniforms turned their guns on them in southern Afghanistan, U.S. officials said.

Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, confirmed the death and said that the three Afghan shooters fled and are being sought. Although they were wearing police uniforms, it was not yet clear if they were actually Afghan police or were just wearing the clothing.

Other U.S. officials said that as many as eight U.S. troops were injured in the shooting, mostly with fairly minor wounds. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an investigation.

Neither Graybeal nor other officials would say which branch of the service the U.S. troops were from or provide details on the location of the shooting.

The number of insider attacks in Afghanistan has escalated, with more than a dozen fatal assaults already this year, that have led to more than 20 deaths.

Report: Zimmerman Told Wife To Buy Vests

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The former neighborhood watch volunteer who killed Trayvon Martin told his wife to buy bulletproof vests for them and for his attorney, according to jailhouse calls released Monday.

"As uncomfortable as it is, I want you wearing one," George Zimmerman told his wife. Zimmerman was wearing a bulletproof vest when he left jail after posting bond. His attorney, Mark O'Mara, has reported receiving the calls.

The calls, released by prosecutors, also detail how Zimmerman instructed his wife to transfer money from bank accounts and could play a crucial role in his second bond hearing next week.

Zimmerman was released on \$150,000 bond in April, several days after the calls took place. At his bond hearing, his wife, Shellie, testified that she didn't know how much money had been raised from a website created for his legal defense. She also testified that they had limited funds because she was in nursing school full time and Zimmerman wasn't working.

Prosecutors say the calls show George and Shellie Zimmerman knew that roughly \$135,000 had been raised by the site. The judge in the case revoked George Zimmerman's bond and ruled the couple had deceived the court. Zimmerman has been back in jail for almost a month.

Sandusky Trial: Jurors To Get Case Early?

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) — Friends and ex-colleagues of Jerry Sandusky testified Monday on behalf of the former Penn State assistant football coach as his defense sought to counter prosecution witnesses' claims that he sexually abused boys in the shower on Penn State's campus.

The testimony came on what was a truncated day in a trial that has moved at a brisk pace since testimony began last week. Judge John Cleland told jurors that the defense could rest its case by Wednesday, which would mean closing arguments could come Thursday morning.

"This is all very tentative, you understand," he told the 12 jurors and four alternates, adding that since they will be sequestered in a hotel while they deliberate they should "pack appropriately."

It was still unclear how Sandusky's defense team, led by attorney Joe Amendola, would proceed on Tuesday. After the proceedings ended for the day, when asked if he would testify on his own behalf, Sandusky looked an Associated Press reporter in the eye and said nothing.

Cleland told jurors of the possible timeline after three defense witnesses testified that Sandusky was an admired local figure because of his ties to Penn State and the outreach of The Second Mile, the charity for at-risk youth that the defendant founded in 1977.

Regulators: Design Caused Trouble At Plant

CAPISTRANO BEACH, Calif. (AP) — After months of investigation, federal regulators have determined that design flaws appear to be the cause of excessive wear in tubing that carries radioactive water through California's troubled San Onofre nuclear power plant, a top federal regulator said.

The twin-reactor plant between Los Angeles and San Diego has been idle since January, after a tube break in one of four, massive steam generators released traces of radiation. A team of federal investigators was dispatched to the plant in March after the discovery that some tubes were so badly corroded that they could fail and possibly release radiation, a stunning finding inside the virtually new equipment.

Missteps in fabrication or installation were considered as possible sources of the rapid tube decay but "it looks primarily we are pointed toward the design" of the heavily modified generators, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regional Administrator Elmo Collins told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday.

Collins didn't rule out that one or more of the generators, installed in a \$670 million overhaul in 2009 and 2010, might have to be replaced.

Eight tubes failed during earlier pressure tests in the Unit 3 reactor and "we have not seen that in the industry before," Collins said.

G-20 Summit

Europe Crisis In Spotlight

BY MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN AND E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

LOS CABOS, Mexico — European leaders at the G-20 summit struggled to reassure the world Monday that they were on the path to solving their continent's relentless economic crisis, defending the pace of their response even as market pressures pushed Spain closer to needing a bailout that would strain the world's ability to pay.

Less than 24 hours after an election that eased fears of a Greek exit from the shared euro currency, the interest rate that Spain pays on its debt surged above the 7-percent level that had forced Greece, Portugal and Ireland to seek international help.

The prospect of a bailout for Spain's (euro) 1.1 trillion (\$1.39 trillion) economy immediately eclipsed the good feeling at the G-20 from the election, and it dwarfed the host country Mexico's expressions of confidence that the meeting of the world's largest economies would lead to more than \$430 billion in concrete commitment for the International Monetary Fund as insurance against future bailouts.

The Spanish delegation to the G-20 bemoaned the rise in the country's borrowing costs and said the market reaction didn't correspond to the reality of Spain's economic strength.

"We in the government are convinced that the current situation of punishment in the markets, what we're suffering from today, doesn't correspond with the efforts, or the potential, of the Spanish economy," Spain's economy minister Luis de Guindos said. "This is something that will have to be recognized in the coming days and weeks."

The day was filled with statements from a variety of world leaders calling for cooperation and for Europe to solve its crisis at a summit that is expected to produce few concrete results.

"Now is the time as we've discussed to make sure all of us join to do what's necessary to stabilize the world financial system, to avoid protectionism, to both grow the economy and create jobs while taking a responsible approach," U.S. President Barack Obama said after meeting with the host, Mexican President Felipe Calderon.



PEER GRIMM/DPA/ZUMA PRESS/MCT
German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Mexican President Felipe Calderon meet in Los Cabos, Mexico, Monday.

The International Monetary Fund said in a staff report Monday that Europe was unlikely to conquer its budget problems without a greater focus on policies that promote growth. European governments should make it easier to hire and fire workers, simplify government regulations of the economy, and make it easier for workers to move to other European countries for jobs, the fund said, reforms could boost growth in the region by 4.5 percent over the next 5 years.

"Fostering growth is always important; in the euro area it has become urgent," the report said.

Meanwhile, leaders from a group of fast-growing developing nations said Monday they would make good on past pledges to contribute more funds to the IMF, bolstering its ability to conduct more bailouts in Europe.

Brazil, Russia, India and China were among a group of about 30 countries that pledged in April to contribute more than \$430 billion to the IMF, almost doubling its lending capacity. The euro area nations pledged about \$200 billion, while Japan pledged \$60 billion.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy urged markets to focus on a European summit at the end of the month that they said would help the continent move closer to deeper economic and political integration to match its single currency. The lack of common rules for the countries shar-

ing the euro currency is seen as the primary cause of the current crisis. The EU summit would bring progress on common banking rules for member nations, Barroso and Van Rompuy said, although they cautioned, in sometimes defensive tones, against expectations of short-term results.

"I can assure you that even if we in June will not take definitive decisions, the path, the trajectory is very clear for everybody," Van Rompuy said. "In this case, the pace is less important than the decision we make."

Barroso took a more aggressive tone, declaring that "the crisis originated in North America" with the collapse of real-estate-linked financial products and taking a subtle dig at China and other non-democratic countries at the summit.

"Not all the members of the G-20 are democracies, but we are democracies, and we take decisions democratically. Sometimes this means taking more time," he said. "Frankly we are not coming here to receive lessons in terms of democracy or in terms of how to handle the economy, because the European Union has a model that we may be very proud of."

British Prime Minister David Cameron urged European countries to stay the austerity course to build investor confidence. He also warned against responding to economic turmoil by imposing protectionist measures.

Greek Coalition Talks Pushed To Second Day

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's two pro-bailout parties appeared likely Monday to agree on forming a coalition government after a bruising election watched closely because of its potential impact on the world economy, but negotiations were pushed to a second day after the head of the socialist party insisted on a broad partnership.

Sunday's vote — the second national election in six weeks — again left no party with enough votes to form a government on its own. Antonis Samaras' conservative New Democracy party won the most seats in parliament and was leading efforts to forge a coalition.

The socialist PASOK party, led by former finance minister Evangelos Venizelos, came in third. But its 33 seats in the 300-member Parliament means it can form

a government with New Democracy, which gained 129 seats. A coalition would have to have a minimum of 151 seats combined in order to form a government.

Both PASOK and New Democracy have said they will stick to Greece's international bailout commitments, although they want to renegotiate some of the harsh austerity measures imposed in return for the international rescue loans that have kept the country afloat since May 2010.

The election results eased concern that Greece faced an imminent exit from Europe's joint currency. A Greek exit from the 17-nation eurozone would have potentially catastrophic consequences for other ailing European nations and hurt the United States and the entire global economy.

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