Bush may act independently in Gulf
The White House will not launch military action in the Persian Gulf without consulting Congress, unless an unforeseen provocation forces President George Bush to move more swiftly than many Pentagon observers had projected, White House officials said last week. Bush promised to work closely with lawmakers on the crisis.

Democrats have started making public criticism about the buildup in the Gulf region and one majority party leader said Bush must explain why getting Iraq out of Kuwait is a vital US interest.

Egyptian forces will not invade Iraq
If forces from the United States and other nations invade Iraq, Egyptian forces will not participate, according to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak told his political party newspaper that Egypt would not even send troops to Kuwait as peacekeepers - a senior US official had said Egypt would send troops to Kuwait as peacekeepers - to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak's statement seems to contradict a senior US official who had said the Egyptians would fight alongside the United States to accept the compromise. Israel has said that allowing an invasion of an Egyptian internal conflict would compromise its sovereignty.

Arab leader: Gulf war inevitable
The secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council said war is inevitable in the Persian Gulf. Arab leader Abdalla Bahar, who is in Kuwait, said war will be worth the cost to his people even if his country is leveled. Bahar said economic sanctions against Iraq will not bring President Saddam Hussein down. Bahar also said he has no faith in Jordan's proposal for an Arab solution to the crisis. Bahar added that Morocco is too late with its call for an Arab summit to avert a war. He said more is at stake than Kuwait's future; troops will be fighting for peace and order, and for the political and global structure of the world.

Federal interest rates may ease
Fed may ease interest rates to prevent a deep recession
Analysts are predicting that interest rates may soon ease. The Federal Reserve Board, which is already in a mild recession, is expected to cut interest rates to prevent a deep recession. The Fed's top policy-making body is meeting today behind closed doors in Washington, DC. The experts expect the interest rate cut will result in a half-point drop in the prime lending rate, which has been stuck at 10 percent since January.

Weather

**Sweater Weather**
As a very strong low pressure center moves offshore and to the north, we are left with strong westerly winds and cold temperatures for the next few days. The low pressure center will be responsible for the scattered snow flurries both Sunday and Monday nights. A high pressure system located in the Southeast will slowly edge in, bringing temperatures closer to normal for the latter part of the week. The weather patterns seem stable for the next few days and the air will remain dry, so it is unlikely that there will be any precipitation.

**Tuesday evening:** Partly sunny. High 45°F (7°C).

**Winds west-northwest 20-25 mph (32-40 kph).**

**Low 35°F (2°C).**

**Wednesday:** Clear and sunny. High 45°F (7°C).

**Low 32°F (0°C).**

**Thursday:** Clear and slightly warmer with high of 52°F (11°C).

Compiled by Andrea Lambert