Federal court nominee rejected
There is disappointment at the White House over the rejection of the Bush administration's nomination of the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals. The Senate Judiciary Committee's rejection of Kenneth Ryskamp is the first rejection of a Bush judicial nominee. There were 77 judicial nominations.

The Florida jurist had been accused of being insensitive to civil rights issues. But the White House said that not the best and brightest were issued in Florida, Ryskamp charged the charges against him are false and repugnant to all that he stands for.

Two conservative Democrats consented to vote on the Senate Judiciary Panel, Dennis DeConcini of Arizona and Howell Heflin of Alabama, joined other members of their party in voting against Ryskamp. Then a tie vote killed a move to let the Senate consider his nomination with no recommendation from the panel. Ryskamp said he will stay on as a federal district judge in Miami.

Military bases to close
Lawmakers are nervously awaiting today's Pentagon announcement which US military bases will be closed and which will remain off the "hit" list. Closing a base and the subsequent loss of jobs in a community is bad enough in good economic times, but it is of over-whelming concern during a recession. This could cost votes.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams pointed out that most military bases from the start were placed in Democratic districts. And he said therefore the base closing will "affect the right party." But Williams said that some of the bases to be closed are in states with Republican senators, many of whom are Republicans and that states those bases to be closed are those that are not needed.

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney will announce today which military bases will not be closed. Right now, Pentagon sources said that the bases on Cheney's list could be changed up until the final hours before he reveals which ones get the ax.

King's passenger claims police abuse
In the Los Angeles videotaped police-beating case, a passenger in the car driven by victim Rodney King now claims he was beaten by police and wounded with a police baton as he lay on the ground after the car was stopped for speeding.

For H. Kent Hance to be up for re-election each time he tried to turn to look at what was happening to his friend. The lawsuits seeks half the profits from Wheel of Fortune.

At a hearing on Capitol Hill yesterday, Alex Richman revealed that nine points regarding peace in the Middle East. According to the report, the two sides have agreed that the Palestine Liberation Organization will not be included in peace talks. And it said that they have decided to put aside, for now, the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The White House has also declared the tip of northern Iraq a "safe haven" for Kurdish refugees. The United States has told Iraq to keep its military forces away from the area while relief efforts go on. US troops strength in the gulf has dropped sharply to 307,000 soldiers down from 540,000 during the war. Not all US troops have yet been withdrawn. Some medical units, including National Guard units, are being redeployed from the gulf to Turkey. Their new mission is to help próximo the missing Israeli soldiers.

Peace talks in Israel
Israel radio said yesterday that Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Israeli officials have reached agreement on a nine point plan for peace in the Middle East. According to the report, the two sides have agreed to the faltering Palestinian Liberation Organization will not be included in peace talks. It said and that they have decided to put aside, for now, the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister has responded favorably to the Israeli proposal.

Turkey wants aid
Turkish officials are pleading for more aid. Turkey's situation is growing more desperate by the day. It is difficult to deliver supplies to some areas because rain and floods have made some roads impassable. And the supplies that reach the refugees are not enough.

At one refugee camp in southeast Turkey, troops used dogs to drive starving Kurds back from a food truck. But when the dogs were withdrawn, the people swarmed over the truck again, trampling much of the cargo in their frenzy to grab some food.

Florida man sues Merv Griffin
A Florida man who sued Merv Griffin to stop him for life a breach of contract suit yesterday. The lawsuit seeks half the profits from "Wheel of Fortune." Griffin businesswoman. Griffin called the suit a shameless attempt to extort money from him.

Brent Plot said he lived with Griffin for nine years as a "batterie" in his home in Los Angeles. Plot said he will stay on as a federal district judge in Miami.

Space shuttle lands safely in Houston
A successful mission behind them, the Space Shuttle Atlantis astronauts and their co-workers on base in Houston cheered the crew as it arrived. At a post-landing news conference, a Johnson Space Center official called the flight of Atlantis an "eminently successful mission."

Social Security tax cuts may slow economic growth
The Commerce Department (DOC) issued a warning against a proposed cut in the Social Security tax, saying it would push up interest rates, worsen inflation and slow economic growth. But the proposed cut has strong support in the Senate.

Gulf war is officially over
The war is officially over. The United Nations Security Council has announced a formal cease-fire, saying it accepts Iraq's pledge to pay for war damages and scrap its chemical weapons. One official said that a letter officially declaring the truce was handed to Iraqi officials last night.

Once the ceasefire is in place, the withdrawal of US troops from the gulf is expected to accelerate. This worries refugees who are being cared for by the American soldiers occupying southern Iraq. They do not know what will happen to them when UN peacekeepers replace American forces. One refugee camp is so densely populated that they will sit in front of US tanks to stop them from leaving.

In Saudi Arabia, US troops are welcoming the official end of the war, although some say they are concerned about leaving behind Iraqi rebels to face what is left of Saddam Hussein's army. President George Bush insists he will not let US forces be drawn into the fighting between government troops and independents of northern Iraq.

Bush is promising to "do what's right" for the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, Iranis and Kurds.

Iraqi expatriate, Bush said he and European leaders agree on how to proceed with the massive relief effort for the refugees.

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US and Panama to share criminal information
Under a treaty signed yesterday, the United States and Panama will share information in criminal probes of drug smuggling and other illicit activities. Yesterday's signing ceremony clears the way for the release of $80 million in US aid to Panama.

El Salvadoran leader refuses to disarm
An El Salvadoran rebel leader said leftists will not leave their arms, and any suggestion he should leave was an "imposition." The prime minister of the government described the leader of rebel forces are participating in the talks for the first time in El Salvador's 11-year-old civil war.

Florida Police to release report
Police in Florida said they will release a narrative of an alleged assault at the Kennedy family compound in Palm Beach. Authorities have been withholding informa- tion from the media because they said the news coverage could jeopardize the investigation. But they said that no longer the case. They're planning to release some information at a news conference today.

And yesterday, William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of Jacqueline Onassis, said any suggestion he abused an alleged rape victim a "demonstration." A 19-year-old medical student is under investigation by police in Palm Beach, FL, for a reported incident at the Kenne- dy family compound.

Weld says cutting services is necessary to aleviate deficit
Gov. William F. Weld said that the first round of non-essential state services is likely in June. He said that it looks like the shutdowns is necessary to help cut a deficit in fiscal year 1991, which ends June 30. He said that the projected red ink now approaching $1 billion. "We need to close down $1 billion in the next few months," said Weld. If the idea is to close all state agencies, "it will seriously affect public health and safety."

Weld said a $10 million drop in revenues from expect- ed receipts. But he said he expects the administration to balance the books when the fiscal year ends. Weld said he can already cut non-essential services and cut the numbers are. The deficit had been pegged at $580 million.

FDIC to announce BNE bidder
The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said yesterday that it plans to announce later this month which bid- ding team will have the right to control BNE and its subsidiaries.

BNE is the largest of New England's Maine subsidiaries. The FDIC, which seized the bank in January, said that the winning bid will be announced April 24. The FDIC received bids from BankAmerica Corporation of San Francisco and Bank of Boston Corporation. There was also a joint offer from Financial Services Group Inc. of Providence, RI, and the New York investor group, Koldberg Kravis Roberts and Company. Also sub- mitting a bid was an investor group led by Marco Desalle of Cape Elizabeth, ME, which reportedly is seeking Bank of New England's Maine subsidiary.

Weather
Back to Spring
Alas! After a summer interlude, complete with day of resplendent sunshine and warm weather, Spring is now a sweet memory as the New England spring returns.

Friday afternoon: Mostly sunny and cool with some passing clouds. Strong northwesterly winds will gust to 20-30 mph. High about 57°F (13°C).

Friday night: Becoming clear and quite cold with low temperatures in the low 30s (8°C). The warm weather is now a sweet memory as the New England spring returns.

Saturday: Clear start, cloudy finish. Light winds will gradually diminish through the day. The cool of the evening.

Compiled by Joey Marquez and Katherine Shinn