The Senate rejected a move Thursday by a small group of lawmakers to scrap the Democratic leadership's proposed middle-class tax cut and instead use the money to reduce the federal budget deficit and help America's neglected infrastructure.

The measure was defeated by a vote of 57-39, but only after Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle switched sides in order to block an effort by Republicans to scrap the proposal and run the Democratic tax-cut legislation.

The move, which was sponsored by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., would have killed the middle-class tax cut, which is part of the Democratic leadership's plan to reduce the federal budget deficit and help America's neglected infrastructure. The cut would provide a $300-per-child tax credit for middle-income families.

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A weather system along the East Coast could bring rain to parts of the country, with the biggest threat from storms and strong winds in the Northeast, followed by the Midwest and Great Lakes, according to the National Weather Service.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched an investigation into allegations that confidential documents about ongoing investigations of science fraud were stolen from the National Institutes of Health.

The FBI, which was initiated at NIH's request, concerns therein. Hadley, who was interviewed July 11 as a staff official at the NIH's science fraud unit, the Office of Scientific Integrity (OSI).

Stefan Hadley is now employed at another division of NIH. But for the proposal's supporters, that has also been working part-time — with the approval of NIH — for the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations chaired by Rep. John D.

The council hopes that the goodwill gesture will encourage Iraq to begin rethinking the issue. It also urges Iraq to provide any details. The purchase of a third Patriot battery, announced September 1990, a month after Resolution 687's adoption, is said to concern the United Nations.

The United Nations Security Council on Friday confirmed that it has received confidential documents about ongoing investigations at OSI, including a scientific research center at Al-Aher, 48 miles from Baghdad.

In the meantime, diplomatic sources here said the Security Council probably will not have to mark time before deciding whether to increase the pressure on Iraq through new economic sanctions or renewed military action. In an echo of the threats that have been used to bring the United Nations into existence, there has been speculation here that the United States might consider again a strike against Al-Aher to put on notice that further evasion of the U.N. embargo will be met with military action.

The council Thursday ended a two-day meeting on the issue by rejecting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's arguments that Baghdad has met the cease-fire conditions in Security Council Resolution 687. Instead the council issued a statement endorsed by all 15 members that concluded: "The government of Iraq has not yet fully implemented the Security Council's resolutions. It will do so only if our investigations show that it has."

The Bush administration is "looking into" an intelligence report that said Israel may secretly supplied China with Patriot missile technology acquired from the United States, a senior administration official said Friday.

The official described the report as a "subject of concern" but declined to provide any details. The United States gave the Patriots to Israel during the Persian Gulf War to defend against attacks by Iraqi Scud missiles, effectively forbidding transfers of the Patriot's secrets to other countries.

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