**Deficit Loses Stature in Race With Perot Out**

Both President Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton say they want to reduce the federal budget deficit, but Ross Perot's ascen-

domic plan underscores how far short the two major candidates fall in making deficit-reduction an overriding priority.

In showing the kinds of politically unpopular steps needed to reduce the deficit, Perot's plan, a bold and in many ways politically unpalatable centerpiece that tacked higher taxes and fewer transfers, explains why most candidates—including Perot himself—say they won't confront the issue when trying to win elections.

House Budget Chairman Les Aspin (D-Wis.) and Senate Budget Chairman Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.), on the other hand, said Tuesday Perot's plan as described in various news accounts is in far more ambitious than anything offered by Clinton or Bush. Aspin noted he would become part of the presidential debate this year, but with Perot on the sidelines, "it's difficult to see how the other two major candidates will be forced to focus on these issues."

Perot aides said Tuesday they expect him to formally issue a deficit-reduction proposal and attempt to keep it before the public and the candidates during the fall campaign. But they conceded that his credibility may be enhanced because of his decision last week not to run for president.

"We're going to do something with this plan," said James Squires, one of Perot's top advisors. "I suspect you will hear from him a great deal now and the election on the whole economi-

**British Air, USAir Join in Largest Airline Alliance in History**

In the largest airline alliance in history, British Airways Thursday announced it would buy a $768 million in USAir, giving the British carrier a long-sought foothold in the U.S. market while providing its struggling partner with a badly needed financial boost.

"This is a vote of confidence in the future of both companies," said USAir chairman and presi-
dent Seth E. Schofield said in a statement. "This arrangement also enhances long-term viability and strength of USAir as a major U.S. carrier."

**Judge Dismisses Murder Charges Against Kevorkian**

A Michigan judge Tuesday dismissed two murder charges against Jack Kevorkian, a physician who last October helped two patients die as an aid to their suicide.

The 64-year-old retarded patient said he had no immediate plans to assist in either suicides, though he did not rule out performing them if he considered them a "righteous act." Kevorkian has admitted to helping four people die over the last two years.

**California Banks Getting Tired Of Bailing Out State**

As California heads into its fourth week of paying its bills with IOUs—nearly $160 million worth to date—banks and credit unions say that they are losing patience with their role as chief bailer in the shaky state's coffers.

So far, despite a steady stream of rumors to the contrary, the major financial institutions continue to honor the so-called "registered check" system. But bankers warn that their willingness to accept the warrants could soon, bankers warn that their willingness to accept the warrants could be ending if the state's economy continues to deteriorate. Besides, bankers say, they could be earning more by using the money for mortgage financing.

Some banks said they would likely hold off on any withdrawal of support until the state "turns around." But others have warned that they may seek to recover what they have loaned if the state does not improve soon.

**Inspectors Find Links Between U.S., Iraqi Nuclear Arms**

By R. Jeffrey Smith  
WASHINGTOH POST


ters from the United States, according to US officials, the inspections demonstrated that the Iraqi nuclear program was continuing to develop weapons technology.

One such example was the U.S. General Accounting Office's 1993 report, which found that the Iraqi government had been procuring sensitive equipment and materials from abroad.

Another example was the report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which stated that Iraq had been purchasing uranium enrichment technology from a number of countries.

These findings were confirmed by subsequent inspections by the United Nations and the United States, which found evidence of ongoing efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

The inspections also revealed that Iraq had been developing advanced centrifuges and other components needed for the production of fissile material.

The United States and the United Kingdom have been discussed the threat of a nuclear arms race with Iraq, especially in light of the ongoing conflict in the region.

In response, the United States has increased its reliance on intelligence and surveillance to prevent the transfer of sensitive materials to Iraq.

The United Nations has also taken steps to strengthen its safeguards and monitoring activities to ensure that no prohibited materials are being transferred to Iraq.

These efforts are ongoing and will continue to be a priority for the United States and other countries in the region.

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**Weather**

Clear Sailing Ahead

**National Weather Service**

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, high 72°F (24°C). Winds from the north at 15-20 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Clear and comfortable, with a low near 60°F (16°C).

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with temperatures peaking around 75°F (24°C).

**Thursday Night:** Clear and comfortable, with a low near 60°F (16°C).

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 70°F (21°C).

**Thursday Night:** Clear and comfortable, with a low near 60°F (16°C).

**Friday Night:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80°F (26°C).

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75°F (24°C).

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80°F (26°C).