California Budget Crisis Ends With Both Sides Dissatisfied

By Lou Cannon

The fiscal crisis that brought California state government to its knees less than two weeks ago has ended as wary legislators surrendered to Republican Governor Pete Wilson. Wilson yesterday signed a $2.7 billion, four-year budget that scrapped the stringent school-finance measures he had demanded.

By the time Wilson signed the bill yesterday afternoon, he had received a blaring, two-hour-long “toll increase” from budget-cutting Senators. Although the virtual capitulation of the Democratic-controlled Legislature to Wilson’s insistence on deep cuts in government services was a victory for the governor, state officials warned that California could face a repeat of the crisis next year and have fewer resources to deal with it.

State Finance Director Tom Hayes said California has lost $19.5 billion over the last twelve months. The state’s fiscal problems are “inexorable and unyielding,” he said. To this, even the Democratic Legislature, which had the power to veto the bill, agreed.

The results of the actual budget, on the other hand, will be felt by most of the state’s 31 million people. Community-college fees will double in the next two years, according to the governor. In fact, the schools have been closed down by the state for more than six months.

In an editorial on June 27, The San Francisco Chronicle said, “This is the ultimate in political futility.”

The practice of exposing people’s sexual preferences has been one of the most controversial issues dividing the gay press. Several, including the Advocate, have taken strong positions in the past against “outing,” saying that the kind of which has been proven by some counter to gay organizations’ fight for sexual privacy.

By Melissa Healy

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney on Wednesday conceded that the proposed rebuilding of Homestead Air Force Base in hurricane-swept south Florida was not based on strictly military grounds.

In an apparent victory for the governor, state officials warned that California could face a repeat of the crisis next year and have fewer resources to deal with it.

By Michael Morgan

Gay Magazines Consider ‘Outing’ Gay-Bashing Republicans

Outing

In an election battle where the words “family values” have become the cornerstone of Republicans’ campaign strategies, the magazines are considering replying to some key Republican officials at home base.

Prevented by what they say is a gag policy by Republicans, the magazines said that the public, especially the younger generation, should be informed of the real role of the Republican officials who have taken strong positions in the past against homosexual rights.

By Lou Cannon

Cheney Defends Rebuilding Of Florida Air Force Base

By Jeff Yarbrough

The spending package signed by Wilson was similar to the one the Assembly rejected June 30 when the crisis began. Democratic Assembly Speaker Willie Brown said he agreed to the end when he became evident that Wilson would not back down and Democratic legislators beginning to complain that they could face defeat in new, court-appointed districts unless they pass the package.

In agreeing to what Assembly member John Burton, a Democrat, called “a mutally negotiated surrender,” Brown won one concession from Wilson — an agreement that funds allocated to education would not be cut further even if the economy worsens.

But Brown was forced to accept a so-called “poison pill” that would stop a state constitutional requirement to provide the first $500 per student in the event a court overturns the lower pre-budge of the bill.

The public approval of Wilson during the crisis has increased from 37 percent to 57 percent for the Legislature. Brown has said most incumbent legislators will survive public dissatisfaction, but some, especially the Republicans, have their best chance in three decades to win control of the Assembly.

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