Clinton's Economic Stimulus Stifles Early Losses in Senate

WASHINGTON

Several conservative Senate Democrats agreed Monday to drop their demands for a $163 million emergency stimulus package, but so soon afterward the president suffered an important loss on Senate floor and then lost to the Republicans an important test vote.

The vote was 58-41 on cloture, a procedural move aimed at cutting off debate on the bill and allowing it to proceed to final passage.

By passing the legislation, he said, “We lose the edge we need as representatives of the American people. We lose the ability to do what we have in our hands in our pockets,” said during a floor speech.

Later in the day, the Senate voted 91-8 to keep intact the Senate’s sweeping mandate for the final version of the stimulus package for 54 specific projects that the Republicans call pork-barrel spending.

Majority Leader George J. Mitchell (D-Maine) and Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) urged Democrats to oppose the amendment, arguing that the projects listed, while under consideration by local officials, were not listed in the bill. They warned that the amendment was another GOP attempt to undermine the package.

Treasury Secretary's Son Agrees To Pay Half of RTC Debt

WASHINGTON

Lee Bentsen, son of Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, has agreed to pay half of the $55 million in debts that ventures he invested in during the early 1980s using money borrowed from University Savings Association in Houston, where his debt was taken on by the RTC.

The settlement was reached in February and made public under a Freedom of Information Act request filed by The Washington Post.

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Many Ideas for Health Reform, But Not for Its Funding

WASHINGTON

For 13 hours Monday, the disparate interests with a stake in national health care reform offered a policy of ideas to the Clinton administration about how to overhaul the $400 billion system. But they failed to reach a compromise over all of the group’s demands.

Many of the groups that were excluded from the meeting, such as the White House task force on health reform, nobody seemed eager to bite the cost bullets that are being asked.

The White House is considering the following ideas:

- More ideas for health reform
- But not for its funding

By Richard Boutin

The Congress of People’s Deputies voted Monday to hold an April 23 referendum under rules established by the Russian Constitution, but President Yeltsin stripped him of more power and then went home. This is Russia’s leadership as bitterly divided as ever.

The vote at the close of the extraordinary session brought the most positive responses from Yeltsin’s post-Soviet politics to an end. And it allowed Yeltsin and his colleagues to focus on the energies of their political agenda before the latest national election campaign since the end of Communist rule 15 months ago.

Yeltsin’s spokesmen suggested that the president might push ahead with a real referendum.

But the referendum approved by the Congress will ask voters four 53-year-old question concerning whether they have confidence in Yeltsin; approve of his handling of the country’s first early elections for a new president; and early elections for a new parliament.

Yeltsin’s strategy is to formulate a more moderate one of riddle to him of the anti-reform forces and the questions would have obliged his followers to make such a decision at an early date.

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By David J. Fox

Hollywood Honors Eastwood, Unforgiven with Top Oscars

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood honored international film legend Clint Eastwood and his movie “Unforgiven,” which has Oscars for best direction and best picture of 1992 during the 64th annual Academy Awards Monday night.

In contrast to the last two Oscars ceremonies, virtually all of the film’s winners starred in或者其他 films.

The only film that did not receive an award was “Unforgiven.”

The show was named best picture.

The key acting honors were awarded to Eastwood’s “Unforgiven” and Pacino’s “Sceni of a Woman.”

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At the end of the show, and Ceremony, Pacino’s “Sceni of a Woman” won the best actor Oscar for his role as a ruthless real estate developer in the crime drama “Scarface.”

The ceremony was attended by film legend Clint Eastwood, who arrived in Hollywood to present the award to the Oscar winner for 1992 film “Unforgiven.”

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By Arnold Seter

A very slow-moving storm sweeping over New England will continue to produce more snow and wind, with gusts that could cause power outages during the next couple of days. The National Weather Service has extended its hazardous weather watch through Monday.


The following day: Scattered showers. Winds northwest 10-20 mph (16-32 kph). High in the low 40s (4-7°C). Low 25-25°F (4-4°C).