WORLD & NATION

Administration to Allow Federal Health Plans to Cover Abortion

The Clinton administration, in another reversal of Reagan-Bush policies, is proposing to allow federal employee health insurance plans to offer coverage for abortions.

Under a decade-long ban, health insurance coverage for abortions has been excluded from federal employee health care plans. The ban was contained in the Defense Department's medical program, which is a part of the larger Office of Management and Budget. However, the administration has indicated it will seek reauthorization of the Hyde Amendment in President Clinton's budget, which is scheduled for release Thursday, a spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget said.

"The budget will also say that the administration will work with the Congress to develop an approach that is consistent with federal law and administration policy," the spokesman said.

The decision is the latest in a series of steps the Clinton administration has taken to break with Reagan-Bush abortion policies. Two days after taking office, Clinton overruled five abortion restrictions, including the "gag rule," which had prevented abortion counseling by clinics receiving federal funding. More recently, the administration indicated it will not seek reauthorization of the Hyde Amendment, named for Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who forbid the use of Medicaid money to pay for abortions.

Confident Yeltsin Kicks Off Campaign to Win Referendum

WASHINGTON

Beloved by a successful economic aid summit, a confident President Boris Yeltsin moved today into the wilderness of domestic politics, hoping to turn his popularity into electoral success.

Even before returning to the capital from his Canadian weekend, a spokesman offered a kickoff of a campaign to win an April 25 referendum on whether the Russian parliament should be dissolved. The campaign, which is due to start next week, is a major step toward the presidential elections in 1996.

"We appear ready for the big campaign, criticizing the U.S. and promising savings," said a President Yeltsin aid. The president, who is in his third year in office, is the most popular leader in Russia.

A long with questions of whether the people have confidence in Yeltsin's economic programs, the first question reformers will ask is whether elections should be held for the parliament, and for Yeltsin himself, in the fall of 1996.

For Yeltsin, the election is a part of a broader strategy to increase efficiency and expand public offerings. In 1986, Yeltsin, then a member of the Communist Party, voted for the 1993 amendment of Congress of People's Deputies that expired in 1995.

Mercedes to Build $300 Million Auto Plant in U.S.

WASHINGTON

Signaling the growing attractiveness of the United States as a manufacturing location, German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz AG said Monday that it will build a $300 million auto plant near St. Louis to produce a new sports utility vehicle.

The announcement comes a month after Mercedes, the luxury division of Daimler-Benz AG, said it will build a $2.2 billion factory near Stuttgart, S.C.

For Mercedes, the decision comes as a time when the European auto market is the second-largest after the United States and is rapidly growing. Mercedes sales in the United States declined 37% to 57,529 units in 1992, and the high cost of labor has made it uncompetitive in European markets.

For the United States, the decision is a part of a broader strategy to increase efficiency and expand public offerings. In 1996, Mercedes began a public offering to raise money for the new factory.

Mercedes announced today that it will build a new plant in the St. Louis area. The plant will produce the S-class sports utility vehicle.

The plant will be located in the St. Louis area. The company said it will employ 3,000 workers and produce 40,000 units annually.

The announcement comes as the auto industry is facing a labor shortage and a demand for new models.

Congress Appears to Support $1.6 Billion Russian Aid Package

By Michael Ross

WASHINGTON

Even though it appears the Senate is unlikely to support the Clinton administration's proposal for domestic spending cuts and tax increases, members of the House may support a package worth $1.6 billion to help Russia.

The House, in a vote on Thursday, approved a bill that includes $1.6 billion in aid to Russia. The bill passed 377-39.

The legislation, which passed the Senate earlier in the week, would provide aid in areas such as defense, disaster relief, and economic development.

But the dynamics of the debate will make it much different than Clinton's consults with Congress in the coming weeks over aid to the Russian people and the two summit leaders. The bill passed the Senate unanimously.

The administration, however, is not likely to seek a new Russian aid package and must do so in the coming weeks, the administration official said.

The administration will seek to raise $1.6 billion for Russia in its fiscal 1994 budget request to $100 billion. The administration will seek to cut $10 billion in aid. The administration official said.

The administration is not likely to seek a new Russian aid package to the President of the Russian Federation.

Today: Mean temperature: 6°F. Low tonight: 4°F. High Thursday: 22°F. Low overnight: 9°F. Precipitation today: 0.01 inch.

Wednesday, April 6, 1993

WEATHER

Sunny But Cool

By Michael Morgan

Today: Low temperature: 6°F. High temperature: 22°F. Precipitation today: 0.01 inch. Expect sunny weather.

Wednesday, April 6, 1993