Congressional Republicans said they were facing a budget deficit, Tuesday, backed away from key promises in the House GOP's "Contract With America" and agreed to a revised defense bill that included a provision to reprieve the defense in deficit relief legislation.

National defense was not the only contract issue to run into obstacles Tuesday as Republicans pressed to meet their hundred-day dead-

line for delivering on their campaign promises.

- A dispute between two Republican senators slowed action in the Senate, where the chamber was considering legislation to give the president expanded powers to cut spending.

- The balanced-budget amendment drew strong resistance in the Senate, where it was being considered as part of a resolution to override President Bush's veto of the bill.

- The Transportation Department said it would propose a rule to require federal certification of new subsonic aircraft to protect American airspace.

The only major amendment Democrats were able to put through Tuesday was a 1996 defense bill for the military, which includes a new U.S. mission in Bosnia.

For a year and a half, since a major outbreak of the AIDS virus, there has been a "fog of war" in the battle against the disease.

Researchers cautioned, however, that this is not a cure but rather a way to slow the progression of the disease. Moreover, they said that highly effective treatments for AIDS-related opportunistic infections can now be given to people who are infected with the virus.

In the first news to come out of the battle against AIDS in this decade, researchers reported Tuesday that a new family of drugs called "antiretroviral" drugs could be effective against the virus.

The transcript of radio communications between the pilots and FAA air traffic controllers shows that, with weather closing in at Chicago O'Hare, the pilots were placed in a holding pattern about 4:24 p.m. Flight 4184 was first told to expect a delay before their plane crashed into an Indiana field Oct. 31, but that was extended several times.

The crash of the twin-turboprop ATR-72, which killed 68 people, was extended several times.

Researchers cautioned, however, that this is not a cure but rather a way to slow the progression of the disease. Moreover, they said that highly effective treatments for AIDS-related opportunistic infections can now be given to people who are infected with the virus.

For a year and a half, since a major outbreak of the AIDS virus, there has been a "fog of war" in the battle against the disease.

Researchers cautioned, however, that this is not a cure but rather a way to slow the progression of the disease. Moreover, they said that highly effective treatments for AIDS-related opportunistic infections can now be given to people who are infected with the virus.