

\$3 billion terror bill approved

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved \$29 billion early today for the fight against terrorism overseas and at home as the two parties grappled in a bitter election-year spat over war and the growing national debt.

Democrats and Republicans alike strongly backed the money the package would provide. Billions would be showered on the military, on Afghanistan and other U.S. allies, on rebuilding New York, and on the Coast Guard, explosive detection devices for airports, and other anti-terror initiatives.

Even so, the measure's 280-138 passage came only after bleary-eyed lawmakers had battled until nearly 3 a.m. EDT over issues that could resound in this fall's campaigns for congressional control.

The overnight session highlighted a GOP resolve to not start lawmakers' Memorial Day recess without passage of a counterterrorism bill they could tell voters about.

Over three days of unusually acerbic debate, Democrats accused Republicans of sneaking a borrowing increase into the bill while the GOP said Democrats were hindering money sorely needed by American troops abroad.

"They retreated from our responsibility to put politics aside when the time comes to strengthen our country," taunted House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

That prompted Democrats to accuse Republicans of smearing them by questioning their patriotism, as all pretenses that the war against terror should not become a political issue seemed to fade away.

"We don't want those soldiers used for your agenda," said Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I.

The Senate's anti-terror legislation was facing its own contentious path. The appropriations committee passed a \$31 billion version of the bill on Wednesday.

'I think I like it'



Sophia Thompson, 5-years old, enjoyed a barbecue dinner Thursday evening at the Eagle Med open house at the Goodland Municipal Airport. Thompson was there with her mother, Karla and 3-year-old sister Margaux. The reception ran from 4 to 8 p.m., and the emergency medical plane and its crew arrived about 7 p.m. after flying a Goodland patient to Hays. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Archbishop formed group to stop abuse

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said in a statement. "On behalf of all of the bishops of the United States, I extend my deepest sympathy to the people of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee."

Roman Catholics across Wisconsin

struggled to absorb the news after Weakland's accuser, former theology student Paul Marcoux, went public Thursday with word of the \$450,000 settlement.

"I want to cry and crawl under my bed," said Marquette Law School Dean Howard Eisenberg, who heads a

commission Weakland created to review sex abuse allegations against priests. "You don't know where the next shoe is."

Weakland formed the commission in March, and in April announced the archdiocese would adopt a zero tolerance policy toward molestation.

Economic group might use taxes

ECONOMIC, from Page 1

has the job of organizing an economic development program, forming a board to run it and hiring a full-time paid director.

The committee has so far met three times and attended city and county commission meetings to see how much taxpayer money is available for economic development. Thirteen people came to the meeting Thursday.

The group, which includes city commissioner Curtis Hurd and county commissioner Kevin Rasure, has discussed raising property taxes at the county level to bring in money, but hasn't decided to do that.

After they're more organized, members plan to hold another public meeting to give an update on their progress.

At the meeting Thursday, the committee discussed whether to raise money through donations or memberships and whether to ask county commissioners to raise taxes.

Some members were for asking people who want to join the group to pay a membership, and some said it would be better to just accept donations.

Daniels said asking for memberships could make some people who can't afford to join feel alienated, while West said without memberships the board will never know how much it's

going to collect each year. The committee talked about setting different levels of memberships based on what people could afford to pay.

Most members agreed that the committee will have to show it can raise money before asking taxpayers to contribute.

"People won't back higher taxes for economic development," Daniels said, noting that people he's talked to say they're happy to donate money.

Committee members said taxpayers will benefit from the new program because it will bring in more people to share the tax burden.

The committee figured it may be able to get a total of \$55,000 in taxpayer money that the city and county have already raised for economic development.

Hurd said the city spent \$18,000 of economic development money this year to buy the old IGA building next to the city administration office, but has \$12,000 left.

He said the city commission plans to expand the police and fire departments onto that lot, which cost a total of \$89,000.

Members talked about setting dates to achieve certain goals, and West said the committee needs to keep it simple.

"The more complicated this gets," he said, "the less people will get interested."

Election officer using new districts

TOPEKA (AP) — In preparing for the Aug. 6 primary elections, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh is assuming the four new U.S. House districts drawn by legislators are valid, despite the potential for a legal challenge.

But Thornburgh isn't ignoring the

possibility of a federal lawsuit over congressional redistricting and even is researching a "worst-case" scenario in which his office would have to submit a redistricting plan in U.S. District Court. Thornburgh is the state's chief elections officer.

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