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Executive Summary



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W.E.A.

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AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

* Senator Wendell Ford was unanimously chosen as assistant majority leader (whip), the number-two Democratic leadership position, in the party's caucus November 13. He succeeds Senator Cranston (D-CA), who chose not to seek reelection. Senator Pryor (D-AR) dropped out of the race after two days' campaigning, having concluded that Senator Ford had insurmountable support.

On the Republican side, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) defeated Senator Chafee (R-RI) 22-21, for the number-three position as Chairman of the Republican Conference.

The new Democratic Leadership line-up:

Majority Leader: Senator Mitchell, ME
Assistant Majority Leader: Senator Ford, KY
Secretary, Democratic Conference: Senator Pryor, AR
Co-Chairman, Democratic Policy Committee: Senator Daschle, SD
Chairman, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee: Senator Robb, VA
Chairman, Democratic Steering Committee: Senator Inouye, HI
Deputy Whip: Senator Dixon, IL

The new Republican Leadership line-up:

Minority Leader: Senator Dole, KS
Assistant Minority Leader (Whip): Senator Simpson, WY
Chairman, Republican Conference: Senator Cochran, MS
Chairman, Republican Policy Committee: Senator Nickles, OK
Chairman, Republican Senatorial Committee: Senator Gramm, TX
Secretary, Republican Conference: Senator Kasten, WI

In contested races, Senator Nickles defeated Senator Domenici, NM, 23-20; Senator Gramm beat Senator McConnell, KY, 26-17; and Senator Kasten beat Senator Bond, MO, 26-17.

IN THE STATES

* The Kansas City, Missouri, Council passed a measure banning discrimination based on employee's engagement in lawful activities outside the workplace and not affecting employment.

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* The New York City Council gave final approval to a cigarette vending ordinance by a vote of 33-1. It prohibits cigarette vending machines in places open to the public, except bars or taverns, where they must be located at least 25 feet from entrances. The ordinance takes effect January 31, 1992. Nearby Westchester County adopted a less restrictive vending ordinance on November 15, which will allow machines in public places under employee supervision.

* In Dallas, Texas, the City Council approved a sampling ordinance banning distribution of sample tobacco products in streets, sidewalks and public places.

IN OTHER MATTERS

* A Citizens for Tax Justice representative will lead a workshop on "Taxes in the Northeast" at the Northeast Region Public Employee Conference of the AFL-CIO next week in Atlantic City. Public employee union officials and representatives from the New England and Mid-Atlantic states will participate in the conference. Also, a Labor Management Committee representative will participate in a panel discussion on indoor air quality. Other conference participants include Governors Cuomo of New York and Florio of New Jersey, along with Mayors Flynn of Boston and Dinkins of New York.

* The American Agriculture Movement and representatives of 25 other rural organizations passed an anti-excise tax resolution at the recent Rural Strategy Summit in Kansas City, Missouri. According to the summit participants, "We oppose all consumer excise taxes because of the unfair impact on rural Americans."