

NATIONAL

Clinton slams Republican tax cut proposal

CLEVELAND (AP) — President Clinton returned to the political fund-raising trail Friday and took aim at a Republican proposal for \$80 billion in tax cuts, saying it was an illusion.

Clinton said Republicans were pressing the tax cut as a way to paint Democrats as hard-hearted just weeks before the November elections.

He said the tax cut, which passed in the House but is in danger in the Senate, is "not very much money" but, even so, should not take priority over reforming the Social Security system.

The president addressed a luncheon that raised at least \$100,000 for the campaign of Mary Boyle, a Democrat running against Republican Gov. George Voinovich for the Senate seat being vacated by retiring Democrat John Glenn. The hors d'oeuvres buffet was at the home of Thomas "Tony" George, a local restaurateur who is on Boyle's finance committee.



AP Photo

SILENCED PROTESTER: A police officer and Secret Service agent take protest signs away from Ramona Katsaros, center, during a protest along the route of President Clinton's motorcade in Fairview Park, Ohio Friday.

Retired astronaut slams Glenn space try

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Sen. John Glenn doesn't have the right stuff when it comes to training for his upcoming space shuttle mission, according to the astronaut Glenn would eclipse as the oldest man in space.

"I am bothered by the fact that Senator Glenn is not giving it all he's got, that he's taking a part-time approach to it," said Story Musgrave, who retired last year after a 30-year career with NASA and six shuttle flights. Musgrave had been told he would no longer be assigned to space missions.

"My record is: I cared about space enough to do it for 30 years," Musgrave told the Lexington Herald-Leader in

Friday editions. "I did not leave for greener pastures, then come back as a passenger."

Glenn, 77, is scheduled to go up later this month aboard the shuttle Discovery. Musgrave made his last flight aboard Columbia in 1996, when he was 61.

In 1962, Glenn was the first American to orbit the earth. He left NASA in 1965 and has served as a Democratic senator from Ohio since 1975.

A spokesman for Glenn's Senate office said Friday he did not know if Glenn could be reached for reaction to Musgrave's comments.

"Senator Glenn is at the Johnson Space Center working hard to prepare himself for the

STS-95 mission," Jack Sparks said in Washington.

Musgrave added that he sees nothing wrong with Glenn's mission and called it "the right thing to do" because of the history involved.

"But we need to be honest about it," he said. "We are flying a legislative passenger, as we have in the past. It's John Glenn. Marvelous. But it is a legislative passenger."

Musgrave was in Kentucky for his induction Friday into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. Though born in Boston, Musgrave earned a master's degree in physiology and biophysics at the University of Kentucky in 1966 and considers Lexington his hometown.

Judge defers Internet teen abuse case

BY STEVE BREWER
c.1998 Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — A husband and wife who used an Internet chat room to lure a 16-year-old Michigan girl to Houston to have sex with them have been placed on deferred-adjudication probation.

State District Judge J. Michael Wilkinson also ordered probation officers Thursday to monitor how Russell Ramsey, 42, and Jennifer Ramsey, 20, use their computers.

Wilkinson said the couple, who live at 12900 of Brant Rock, can use the Internet and e-mail only for work purposes. He also ordered them each to pay a \$500 fine and perform 300 hours of community service.

After striking a deal with prosecutors and with the agreement of the victim and her family, the couple pleaded no contest to the charge of sexual assault of a child and Wilkinson withheld the finding of guilt.

Russell Ramsey was placed on seven years deferred-adjudication and his wife got five years. Neither had a previous criminal record.

Prosecutor Jerald Graber said the couple met and talked with the 16-year-old in a chat room for people seeking three-way sex and asked her if she wanted to have sex with them.

They then arranged for the girl to fly to Houston April 20 and they sexually assaulted her during a five-day period, Graber said. The girl, who was then weeks shy of her 17th birthday, ran away from home to meet the couple and was found in Houston by a private investigator hired by her parents.

The girl told authorities in her home state the story after she was brought home, Graber said.