

"Tobacco Tax May Get Vote In House"**Roll Call (10/14/99) Vol. 45, No. 26, P. 1; VandeHei, Jim**

After critical comments by Texas Gov. George W. Bush prompted Republicans to reconsider their budget plan, the party's leaders are contemplating a new cost-cutting plan that could call for higher taxes on cigarettes. For an increase on cigarette taxes to happen, however, GOP leaders will need the support of moderate Republicans on the issue. Most Republicans are not likely to support an increase in taxes. In addition to the tobacco tax, the new GOP budget proposal would cut spending 1% across-the-board. The new plan comes just two weeks after Bush described the earned-income tax credit of the previous GOP plan as an effort that would "balance the budget on the back of the working poor."