

# New hole found in budget

## \$175 million gap discovered in Weicker plan

By LARRY WILLIAMS  
Capitol Bureau Chief

The state's budget crisis deepened Monday with the appearance of a \$175 million hole in Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr.'s 1991-92 budget proposal.

Weicker disclosed the problem to Democratic legislative leaders during a brief meeting Monday afternoon, but offered no suggestions on how the gap should be closed.

His office later issued an explanation that the main cause of the problem was a dramatic increase in the projected costs of state welfare programs next fiscal year.

The administration also has reduced some of its revenue estimates because of the continuing downturn in the state's economy.

The bad news from Weicker arrived just as the Democrats were getting overtures from Republican legislators looking for a bipartisan agreement to scrap the Weicker budget in favor of one that does not include a new income tax.

Although details have yet to be worked out, a bipartisan plan most likely would call for a major sales tax increase to raise the revenues that Weicker proposes to get through a tax on wages.

Democratic and Republican leaders met for about 30 minutes late Monday afternoon, and said they had agreed to meet again and talk about specific alternatives to the Weicker budget.

The basis for the talks was a plan endorsed overwhelmingly by House and Senate Republicans at an all-day caucus Saturday.

"We think this is a very good plan," said House Minority Leader Edward C. Krawiecki Jr. of Bristol. "We think it's a fair plan. We think it's logical. We think it's rational."

What it also is, at least for now, is secret. Krawiecki and Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads of Kent managed to hold a one-hour press conference on the plan Monday without disclosing any but the bare bones of the GOP proposals.

The details were kept even from the Democrats whose support was being sought. The meeting among the leaders dealt only with the logistics of continued talks — not with the budget plan itself.

"I think everybody wants to see that everyone else is talking about," said House Speaker Richard J. Balacci of Newington.

What was disclosed about the Republican plan is that it includes a tax increase of about \$500 million, most through an expansion of the sales tax base to goods and services that were exempt.

The Republicans also propose cuts in the corporation tax and the state personal dividend and interest income.

meeting, the conference will be a series of talks between Israel and a delegation from Jordan and the West Bank.

announced are being taken part in the Arab uprising in the occupied territories, now into its fourth year. Israel holds about 15,000 Palestinians in jail, about half of them without trial.

John J. Parks, DMD  
Dental Practice, P.A.

Evening and Saturday



# Mercedes-Benz did the dream of endless automot durability live

After more than half a century, | Now Mercedes-Benz has all | and quieter than

TI27830455