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Conferees Stumble Into Endowment Bill Agreement

By Phillip M. Kadis
Washington Star Staff Writer

Somehow the solons got it all together and ironed out the details of the arts and humanities' bill.

They scrapped and haggled to the end, spilling water on the conference committee table in agitation.

Acoustics in the cramped and stuffy House meeting room were so bad, they could hardly hear each other. They tried in vain, at first, to assert the authority of office to silence an unhearing but garrulous staffer who answerd the telephone, their sole link to the Senate, where attempts were under way to head off another filibuster, this one on the Senate floor.

After she finally silenced the phone, kept ringing to summon and resummon Senators Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., and Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., who began to look like Olympic finalists as they hurled the outstretched legs of committee staffers and onlookers in the crowded quarters, legged it over to the Senate side of the Capitol to cast their votes and then hurried back.

AND IT WAS THE TELEPHONE that finally saved the day.

Agreement by late yesterday afternoon had been reached on all details of the $250-million bill except for more than a month of false starts, acrimony, postponements and wrangling — and the conferees were anxious to wind it up and move on to more important matters like education and anti-trust and antitrust and anti-trust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and antitrust and 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