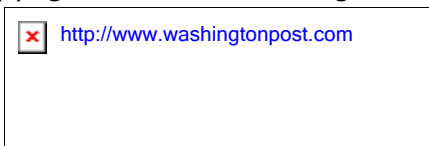




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**May** 25, 2003, Sunday, Final Edition**SECTION:** FINANCIAL; Pg. F09**LENGTH:** 192 words**HEADLINE:** Bonds Senate Republicans on ...**BODY:**

Senate Republicans on Friday beat back Democratic attempts to amend legislation to raise the federal government's debt limit by nearly \$ 1 trillion, so no conference with the House was necessary. House Republicans, who had passed a similar increase as part of this year's budget resolution, thus avoided a separate, somewhat embarrassing, recorded vote on the issue.

The bill's passage left the Treasury free to resume its regular schedule of securities auctions this week. Because of the late passage of the bill, however, announcement of the times and amounts of the auctions were delayed until 9 a.m. Tuesday. Tomorrow is Memorial Day, and U.S. financial markets are closed. The Treasury said that three- and six-month bills would settle Thursday and that two-year notes would settle June 2, the scheduled dates. Given the way federal budget deficits are increasing, the record rise in the debt limit would probably last only until summer of next year.

Meanwhile, the bond market's rally continued as yields fell amid generally weak economic news and rising expectations of another Federal Reserve rate cut.

-- John M. Berry

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