

Bush wants budget -- now

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- U.S. President George Bush sharply criticized the U.S. Congress for heading for vacation without passing any spending bills. Bush also complained in a statement delivered Thursday in the White House Rose Garden following a Cabinet meeting about the amount of money Congress is considering spending, warning it would lead to a massive tax hike. Failure to adopt a budget, Bush said, means "departments may not be able to move forward with urgent priorities. "It doesn't have to be this way. They won last year's elections fair and square and now they control the calendar." Bush said Congress has an obligation to pass spending bills in a "fiscally responsible way," noting that the 0.7 percent difference in what he proposed and what Congress is considering translates to \$22 billion -- "and only in Washington" could that be considered a small difference, Bush said. The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

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