

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Stunned by their failure to override President Ford's veto of a \$6.1 billion public works jobs bill, congressional Democrats are trying to figure out what kind of substitute measure they can offer.

There were plans in Congress to seek a compromise jobs measure, including talk of giving quick consideration to other pending job creating legislation.

Two Republican sponsored bills offered as alternatives to the vetoed measure would provide aid when the unemployment rate nationwide topped 7 per cent and the aid would go to localities where the rate was above 8 per cent. The national rate in January was 7.8 per cent.

The cost of one bill was estimated at \$780 million in the first year and would provide funds for community development in those areas of high unemployment.

"This is really a_ bitter disappointment," said House

Majority Leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., when told the Senate had fallen three votes short of overriding Ford's veto, 63 to 35.

A few hours earlier Thursday, the House voted to override by 319 to 98, a margin of 41 votes.

Ford got the news on board Air Force One, flying to a campaign swing through New Hampshire. He was described as 'elated' and claimed a

political victory over the
Democrats.

He called the jobs bill
"election-year politicking. It
= pork barreling of the worst

Democratic leaders were
shocked by the defeat of the
measure, which they had said
would generate up to 600,000

obs

Robert Strauss, chairman of
the Democratic National
Committee, had termed the
struggle over the bill "a
political issue" during a
meeting with several big city

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