

Congressional Calendar

Aid to Cambodia ... or Pol Pot?

House Resolution 431, calling on the United States to support an international humanitarian relief program for the people of Kampuchea (Cambodia), passed the House of Representatives Sept. 27 by a voice vote. The resolution was introduced by Lester Wolff (D-N.Y.), Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The resolution notes in part:

"Whereas approximately three million Cambodians have already perished within the borders of their own country; whereas an estimated three million surviving Cambodians now face death through starvation and disease; and ... whereas, the authorities in Phnom Penh and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam must cooperate in effectively organizing and carrying out an international humanitarian relief program for the Cambodian people; now, therefore, be it resolved that ... our ambassador to the United Nations seek an emergency agenda item before the General Assembly to inaugurate an emergency food and medical relief program for the people of Cambodia ... (with) the full cooperation of the authorities of Phnom Penh and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

Senator George McGovern introduced a companion resolution in the Senate (S. Res. 247). No action has been taken on that resolution, however, because Senator Frank Church's (D-Ida) Foreign Relations Committee and the East Asia Subcommittee headed by John Glenn (D-Ohio) have not moved it to the floor.

Unfortunately, by identifying

the State Department and United Nations as vehicles for aid, the Wolff-McGovern resolution leaves the door open to funneling aid to the deposed forces of Pol Pot, responsible for the death of the three million. A source close to McGovern discounted the possible military use of aid by Pol Pot forces, saying that Pol Pot could do little in Cambodia because of the lack of popular support. However, a piece of legislation introduced by Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) specifically earmarks aid funds for both Pol Pot and the legitimate Cambodian authorities, using guidelines established by the State Department and international agencies. "The U.S. doesn't recognize either party," said an aide to Solarz, "so we will give aid to both."

Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy will introduce similar legislation in the form of an amendment to the Foreign Aid Appropriations bill, or alternatively, a sense-of-the-Senate resolution relating to P.L. 480, the Disaster Relief Fund. Kennedy's office confirms that convicted mass murderer Pol Pot will get some of the aid.

Push exports on Capitol Hill

Hearings in two Senate committees during the month of September are indicative of a campaign to promote Japanese-style trade associations in the United States to facilitate an expansion of U.S. exports. Senator Jack Danforth (R-Mo.) and a half-dozen other Republican liberals including Heinz of Pennsylvania, Javits of New York, Roth of Delaware and Texas Democrat Lloyd Bentsen have sponsored S.

864, a bill which would amend the Webb-Pomerene Act to allow for more exemptions of U.S. companies from anti-trust laws when they form export-oriented trade associations.

Senator Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill) has introduced S. 1663, which provides a comprehensive basis for the creation of trade associations, and gives special loan treatment and tax credits to such entities.

Hearings on both bills were held Sept. 17 and 18 in the International Finance Committee of Stevenson's Senate Banking Committee. A week later, similar hearings were held by the Senate Small Business Committee. Sources on Capitol Hill say that the Stevenson bill is generally "considered one or two years ahead of its time," but the Danforth legislation is expected to pass the Senate early next year.

A very similar bill has been introduced to the House by Rep. John Jenrette (D-S.C.). Because it changes anti-trust laws, the bill has been referred to the Monopoly Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. Historically opposed to industrial development, little favorable action is expected from the committee.

There is a distinct difference in approach between the Danforth and Stevenson bills, observers note. The Danforth bill has a "free market" flavor—lift restrictions on companies and allow them to enhance export opportunities through trade associations' resources. Stevenson's approach is rigidistic, calling for active government support through credits and loan guarantees. Stevenson has frequently spoken in favor of an export-oriented "government-industry alliance." It is precisely this as-

pect that disturbs spokesmen close to Senator Heinz, who adopts the Danforth approach.

Senate refuses to cut breeder funds ... again

The issue of funding the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Program was brought to the floor of the Senate Sept. 27. Once again, the legislators refused to allow funds for the vital nuclear program to be cut. Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) introduced a resolution to cut funds from the continuing authorizations for the project, and it was defeated by a 64 to 33 vote.

However, after describing Bumpers' arguments as coming from "someone who believes in the tooth-fairy and is smoking something," Senator Bennet Johnston (D-La.), stated flatly that the issue involved was economic growth.

"I do not want to save another 50 percent (of energy conservation goals) through unemployment and through a permanent recession in this country," states Johnston. McClure added: "I think it is significant that those people who want a no-growth economy already have all they want ... the NAACP in December 1977 ... specifically rejected the no-growth philosophy, as it would affect their people, because they were not going to be satisfied with the status quo. (Growth) is the dream that America has held out to people over hundreds of years. That is why underprivileged and underdeveloped countries all around the world still look to the U.S. as the leader. Are we going to renounce that now by saying: 'No, don't look to us any more, we don't have any promise for the future?'"

Carter's windfall profits plan stripped down by Senate committee

The Senate Finance Committee this week pared down the total revenues to fund the Carter Energy plan from the White House figure of \$142 billion to \$70 billion. A major blow to the Carter energy plan came when the Committee rejected a trust fund to disperse the billions which were to come from the windfall profits tax on decontrolled oil profits. The Administration wanted the fund in order to disperse funds to lower income families for higher fuel bills and for the construction of mass transit. Instead the influential committee voted to deposit revenues from the tax directly into the Treasury.

The Senate Finance Committee also voted this week to exempt from the windfall tax only stripper crude producers (those whose individual wells yield 11 barrels a day or less) on their first 1,000 barrels a day. According to a southwestern stripper producer, if this is approved by the Congress it will mean that the smallest independent producers will be constrained from expanding their production beyond the stripper category, for fear of "being taxed out of business." He noted that the medium size U.S. independent oil producers will be hit the hardest if this proposal goes through.

Land reclamation act passes Senate

The controversial bill, S.14, known as the land reclamation act, passed the U.S. Senate by a vote of 47 to 23

on Sept. 14. The Senate vote is a major setback to environmentalists, who sought to use dormant legal restrictions on irrigation acreage to decentralize agriculture in Western states. The new bill eliminates those restrictions—largely on grounds of harm to the environment that would be caused by their enforcement.

The bill, which was heavily amended on the floor of the Senate, allows for 1,280 acres to be irrigated under Federal programs, a major increase over previous allowable acreage. Residency requirements are stricken from the law, and California's Imperial Valley is exempted from the acreage limits. The bill was initially proposed by Senator Frank Church (D-Ida.). The original would have provided many more benefits for farmers than the final version. An amendment by Mark Hatfield, a Republican cosponsor, deleted provisions to allow farmers to be exempted from acreage limits if they paid the balance of certain irrigation costs. Another amendment by Alan Cranston (D-Cal.) eliminated the original bill's exemption for the major Kings River irrigation project in California's Central Valley.

The bill now goes before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. No hearing dates in the House are set yet.

The famous Land Reclamation Act of 1902 permitted farmers to use Federal irrigation projects to water no more than 160 acres. The bill, still in effect, has never been rigidly enforced, and so, very large Federally irrigated farms have developed. Some of the nation's most fertile areas, like the Imperial Valley, developed in this way.