

Congressional Calendar by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

Oil import fee wiped out

A major revolt in Congress to repeal the oil import fee imposed by President Carter several weeks ago has led to a resounding vote against the measure by the House, with plenty of votes to override a promised Carter veto. The 10 cent a gallon fee on gasoline prices was expected to take \$10 billion yearly out of the economy, and was vehemently opposed by congressmen. "It's pretty tough to pass a new tax in an election year," declared Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) a leader of the Senate opponents to the tax. "After all, every House member and 24 Senate Democrats will face the voters this year."

Congressional leaders had tried to prevent the opponents of the measure from putting it before Congress, but they were not successful in their efforts to keep it bottled up in committee. "It's very emotional right now," declared one aide. "There's a lack of party discipline and party control and the Republicans are making mince-meat out of them."

President Carter had vowed to veto any measure repealing the fee, but as Senate majority leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) declared even before the vote proved him right, tax opponents had the votes to override the veto.

Senate repeals Credit Control Act

On June 1 the Senate voted to repeal the Credit Control Act of

1969, a measure that gives the president enormous powers to control all allocation of credit in the nation. The measure, passed by a vote of 44 to 30 in the Senate, would terminate the Credit Control Act as of July 1, 1981.

It was this legislation that Carter invoked last March as the basis for the Federal Reserve Board's imposition of major curbs on credit in the U.S. Senator William Proxmire, (D-Wisc.) chairman of the Senate Banking Committee agreed with the action, claiming the Fed's tight money policies had been among "the most serious elements in deepening the recession."

However, Proxmire only agreed to back the measure when the sponsors of the bill, led by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) agreed to make it effective in July 1981, and not sooner as they originally had planned. Thus the repeal of the bill, which still has to pass the House, will not stop the Federal Reserve's austerity policies anytime soon.

Fight erupts over Joint Chiefs chairman

Jimmy Carter's renomination of Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, General David Jones has drawn fire from a bi-partisan coalition of Senators, who say they are concerned about the state of the U.S. military. Key Senate Democrats such as Armed Services Committee members "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash.) and Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) are reportedly still undecided whether to oppose Jones or not, who they per-

ceive as a rubber stamp for President Carter's military posture. They charge that Jones is bowing to Carter's political expediency rather than presenting an objective, professional, military view.

However, Jones seems to have come to an unusual accommodation with Reagan supporters in the U.S. Senate. Jones has privately agreed to resign if Ronald Reagan becomes president, giving Reagan an unprecedented chance to choose his own Joint Chiefs chairman at the outset of his term. Traditionally presidents maintain the sitting Joint Chiefs chairman until his term expires.

The leader of the dump-Jones movement, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) said, "General Jones has agreed to tender his resignation in January if Gov. Reagan is elected. With that I am not going to raise any ruckus about the nomination." The Pentagon issued a statement in which Jones denied any such arrangement.

Small business subcommittee blasts credit crunch

Rep. Henry Nowak (D-N.Y.) chairman of the subcommittee on equal access to equity capital of the House Small Business Subcommittee charged in a May 29 hearing that loans to small business have dried up in the months since the Federal Reserve Board's tight monetary policies. Loans to large businesses have shown a substantial increase, he added.

Another group of cosponsors include Senators Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), John Danforth (R-Mo.) and John Heinz (R-Pa.), all of whom have put forth various protectionist measures in reaction to perceived foreign import injury to their states.

Analysts noted however that despite the talk about the need for industrial and technological innovation, the legislation may actually be used as the foot in the door for developing a "national industrial strategy." This is a phrase that has been used by various "futurologists" for phasing out heavy industry in the U.S. and moving the nation toward a "post-industrial society." Sen. Stevenson, in particular, urged that the way to intervene in the U.S. economy was not to bail out companies like Chrysler, but to develop "the industries of the future" such as electronics.

Filibuster begins in Senate on draft issue

The Senate began debate June 4 on a bill to allocate \$13.3 million to finance President Carter's decision to register 19 and 20 year old males for a possible military draft. The debate may become a long one, as Senator Mark Hatfield, an opponent of the draft plan, began a filibuster on the draft issue. According to Hatfield, he has the support of 35 senators in his efforts, and the senator's staff members say that 22 senators are actively backing Hatfield. Five senators including Democrat William Proxmire (Wisc.) and

Republicans Leahy (Vt.) and Mathias (Md.) have spoken on the Senate floor against the draft bill.

As of yet the Senate leadership has not attempted to stop the filibuster by filing cloture petitions. Sixty votes are needed to limit debate in the Senate and bring the measure to a vote. If cloture is not invoked the bill will be tabled. Other activity in the Senate is now awaiting the outcome of the draft issue.

Nowak made this assertion to Comptroller of the Currency John Heiman who insisted that, to the contrary, small business was not being hurt by administration policies. The exchange came during the sixth and final hearing of a series initiated by Nowak to examine in detail the plight of small business.

According to data released by the subcommittee, small commercial loans given by 48 of the nation's largest banks, dropped by 40 percent between November and February, while larger loans (usually obtained by big corporations) increased by 13 percent. Further data has shown that bankruptcies have risen 48 percent nationally from October to March. Nowak, however, has not indicated he has any legislative remedies for the crisis.

National export policy bill introduced

A group of senators under the influence of Georgetown University, many from states seriously affected by foreign imports, in the

last week in May introduced a "National Export Policy Act," in an effort to build up U.S. "export competitiveness." Drafted by the Senate Export Caucus comprised of 65 Senators, the bill is an amalgamation of various export initiatives proposed by the Jesuit think-tank. The bill calls for enhanced export financing, an export related tax policy and relaxation of anti-trust and regulatory barriers to exports.

One of the prime sponsors, Sen. William Roth (R-Del.) declared May 29: "The National Export Policy Act of 1980 has pulled together all of our concerns and recommendations regarding exports into one place so that, for the first time, we may see the whole picture at one time, identify potential conflicts in our policies and practices, and arrive at a comprehensive package that successfully works to improve our export performance."

Besides Roth, the bill's other leading sponsors include Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.) and Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) all of whom have worked closely with Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which has launched a major project on export competitiveness. The chief purpose of CSIS and the senators under its influence has been to launch a trade war against Western Europe, not through "protectionism," but through an export offensive. The particular targets of the CSIS offensive have been France and West Germany, the co-founders of the European Monetary System.