

Congressional Calendar

SALT treaty to move out of committee

The much delayed SALT treaty will finally move out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and may reach the Senate floor by early November, according to Senate aides. The Foreign Relations Committee chairman, Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho), is hoping to begin mark-up of the treaty starting on or about Oct. 15, and expects that this process will take at least three weeks. Church, who had said the treaty should not be passed until President Carter had notified the Senate about the status of the Soviet troops in Cuba, plans to speak on the treaty on Oct. 11, disclosing a proposed "reservation" on the treaty along these lines.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hear testimony Oct. 11 in closed session chaired by Senators Birch Bayh (D-Ind) and Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz), the ranking members of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Their emphasis is expected to be whether Soviet compliance with the treaty is verifiable. Last week, the committee released a study declaring that if the treaty is not ratified, it will make U.S. ability to monitor Soviet military activity much harder. Although the report said that much of the treaty was verifiable, it did not say this of the whole treaty.

Increasingly, Congress had be-

come aware that the very existence of NATO itself is at stake in the SALT debate. America's European allies have made clear that if the U.S. does not ratify the treaty, they are prepared to begin making their own accommodations with the Soviet Union. On Oct. 9 Senator Biden (D-Del) released a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff report warning about this. Biden himself declared that failure to ratify the treaty "would send through Europe the most profound and far reaching doubts about U.S. reliability as leader of the West."

The report itself warns that "because of their concern about growing Soviet power and uncertain American leadership, the allies now regard the ratification of SALT II as a major test of U.S. reliability as leader of the West." The authors of the report, who held numerous meetings with European diplomats, warned that the Europeans would not want to make the difficult decisions on modernization or deployment of new missiles in Europe unless the treaty is affirmed as "proof of the U.S. commitment to arms control and the continuation of the search for East-West stability."

Another boost for quick action on the treaty came Oct. 9 from Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Stennis (D-Miss). Following a meeting with West German Defense Minister Hans Apel in Washington, Stennis said that he

was opposed to waiting on the treaty until next year because the issue was now clearly in the public mind.

Kennedy supports aid to Pol Pot

On Thursday, Oct. 4, Senator Edward Kennedy introduced an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Bill, H.R. 4473, which would in effect legitimize aid to mass murderer Pol Pot. The amendment would authorize the U.S. to send \$20 million in cash and \$30 million in food to the International Red Cross and UNICEF, for dispersal in Thailand, and in Cambodia near the Thai border. Those agencies have made clear their intent to disburse the aid to both the Pol Pot forces and the Heng Samrin government. A spokesman for Kennedy said, "there is no question that the aid will be distributed along these lines. That is the position of our State Department. The U.S. supports neither side in the conflict, and we will not let politics enter into the dispersal of food."

Kennedy, however, feels stung by recent criticism of his position, according to Capitol Hill sources. He went to great lengths in Senate remarks to condemn the Pol Pot regime. Kennedy cites the "loss of nearly half its population from the

ravages of war and the cruel programs of the Pol Pot regime," as well as the "Pol Pot regime's policy of eliminating Cambodia's intellectual classes, including doctors and nurses."

Kennedy made no comment to a reporter's question about a close associate of his, Massachusetts liberal Senator Paul Tsongas, who attacked the recent Nonaligned Movement conference in Havana for refusing to seat Pol Pot.

Nunn plans December narcotics hearings

Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga) has tentatively scheduled December hearings in his Permanent Investigations Subcommittee on the narcotics problem in the United States, according to Capitol Hill sources. The hearings will endeavor to once again put on the record overwhelming evidence concerning the medical dangers of marijuana, as well as exploring the larger questions of international narcotics trafficking. The hearings have not yet been officially announced, but Nunn has reportedly been eager to launch this effort, only hampered by his deep involvement in the SALT II debate.

Nunn recently carried out a wholesale reorganization of the subcommittee staff, bringing in a veteran of the Buffalo and Miami

organized-crime strike forces as Chief Counsel to the subcommittee. Whether the subcommittee is now equipped to go after such figures as the Buffalo based Max Jacobs family, or Israel and Miami's Meyer Lansky, remains to be seen.

Sources report that the tentative witness-list Nunn has assembled will make things uncomfortable for subcommittee member Charles Percy (R-Ill) on the issue of marijuana. Percy is the author of the notorious amendment to the foreign aid bill which has outlawed U.S. aid to Mexico and Colombia for their programs to wipe out marijuana with the herbicide paraquat. Percy has stated that paraquat is a dangerous chemical, quoting former HEW secretary Joe Califano; Percy also says that the evidence on marijuana is not yet in. When asked about the proven damage to the brain caused by marijuana smoking, an aide to Percy expressed ignorance and nervously asked for further information. Paraquat has been proven one of the safest herbicides.

The hearings could open the door for the introduction of legislation to repeal the Percy amendment. Georgia Congressman Billy Lee Evans (D), who is reportedly working closely with fellow Georgian Nunn, has been considering such legislation. Evans, who has taken the lead on such issues in the House, also has in hand a model

bill drafted by the Justice Department, at his request, which would outlaw the marketing and advertising of drug paraphernalia. The legislation could outlaw the sale of "High Times" magazine, the notorious periodical of the drug culture. On both the paraquat and the paraphernalia issues, Evans is only hesitating, say observers, because he has so far failed to get the national support he feels is necessary to make passage of such laws possible.

Senate votes up mobilization board

By a vote of 68 to 25, the Senate approved creation of an Energy Mobilization Board Oct. 4. The board has the power to select an unlimited number of energy projects for "fast-track" treatment, cutting red tape and speeding completion of the projects. The Senate bill allows the board to waive application of federal, state and local laws to complete the projects, but not to waive labor, civil rights and water rights laws or laws that would mean endangering public health or safety.

The board would not allow fast-tracking of nuclear plant production. It is mainly aimed at speeding low yield, synthetic fuels plants. The bill now goes to the House, which has two versions of its own.