

## **Congressional Calendar** by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

### **Eximbank funding cut from appropriation bill**

In the waning hours of the July 2 pre-recess session, the House of Representatives knocked out funding for the Export-Import Bank from the supplemental appropriation, freezing the bank's lending ability until the Fiscal 1981 foreign aid appropriation is passed or Congress takes special action.

Exim got caught in a legislative squeeze play. Funding for Exim had been raised by the Senate from its current \$3.75 billion to \$5 billion under the Fiscal 1980 foreign aid appropriation, under which Exim falls. The entire foreign aid bill was placed into the supplemental appropriation (usually reserved for additional funding beyond already appropriate Fiscal 1980 levels) by the Senate in an effort to speed the sometimes controversial foreign aid bill through.

But in the conference committee, the Exim funding was first knocked down to \$4.105 billion, and then the entire foreign aid bill was struck from the supplemental appropriation, despite protests from Senate members of the conference committee. On the House floor, the decision to strike the foreign aid bill was pushed by House Appropriations Committee chairman Jamie Whitten, who did not like the idea of placing an entire bill into the supplemental appropriation, and by Republicans such as Bob Bauman (R-MD) who are ideologically opposed to the foreign aid bill. The House concurred, and the supplemental went back to the Senate with no foreign aid funding, and hence no Exim funding.

Although great concern was expressed on the Senate floor about

what had happened to the Eximbank, Senate advocates were forced to settle for a promise from the House to pursue special legislation for the Eximbank as soon as Congress reconvenes on July 21. Until then, Exim is frozen at its Fiscal 1979 level of \$3.75 billion, all of which is currently committed.

### **Banking dereg committee under fire**

The House Banking Committee's subcommittee on financial institutions and regulations began a series of hearings on July 2 to examine whether the Depository Institutions Deregulation Committee (DIDC) has overstepped its authority. At the same time, Rep. Frank Annunzio (D-Ill.) announced that he plans to introduce legislation to abolish the DIDC entirely.

Established by the Financial Institutions Deregulation Act of 1980 to phase out the regulated differences between savings and loan institutions and commercial banks over the next six years, the DIDC has thrown the savings and loan and thrift institutions into a "cold turkey" deregulation by accomplishing their mandate to phase out regulation in only six weeks.

Savings and loan institutions who are suing the DIDC, Annunzio and other members of Congress such as Sen. Robert Morgan (D-N.C.) of the Senate Banking Committee are charging that the DIDC actions are crippling the housing industry by drying up mortgage money and making the purchase of housing too expensive. The savings and loans say that they can only attract money for mortgages if they

can continue to pay a quarter percentage point more on savings accounts than commercial banks can, something the DIDC has already phased out.

Annunzio charged that "in our history, only termites have done more damage to the building industry than has the deregulation committee." Annunzio and Morgan were two of the handful of members of Congress who opposed the original legislation which established the DIDC.

Faced with this mounting dissatisfaction and the savings and loan banks' suit against the DIDC, financial institutions subcommittee chairman Fernand St. Germain (D-R.I.) initiated hearings to review DIDC actions, noting that "the Deregulation Committee is required to take into consideration the impact of any of its actions on housing production."

The subcommittee heard from Financial Trade Association witnesses on July 2, and plans further hearings after the July recess.

### **Senate urging refusal of arms sales**

A bipartisan group of Senators has sent a letter to President Carter urging him not to sell Saudi Arabia the extra equipment the Saudis want to beef up the range and firepower of the U.S.-built F-15 fighter planes they have ordered. Sixty-eight Senators have already signed the letter.

Two years ago the United States agreed to sell the Saudis 60 F-15 fighter planes. The planes were to be delivered this fall. The Saudis have now requested special fuel tanks, bomb racks and aerial refueling capabilities for the aircraft,

which would extend the range of the jets from 450 miles to 1,000 miles.

The Zionist lobby has attacked the sale of this equipment on the grounds that the F-15s would allow Saudi Arabia to reach Israel.

Saudi Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Faisal Alhegalan warned that the Senators' letter indicated that narrow U.S. concerns about Israeli security were jeopardizing Saudi Arabia's ability to defend itself against threats from "all directions." He added that the equipment is available from other sources without restrictions or conditions, and suggested that Saudi Arabia might look elsewhere for it.

## **'Reindustrialization' bill passes Senate**

The Stevenson "Technology Innovation Act of 1980," marked up as bill S.1250 in both the Senate and House, passed the House Science and Technology Committee July 2. The bill passed the full Senate by voice vote on May 28 and is now ready to go before the full House.

The chief sponsor of the Technology and Innovation Act of 1980 is Democrat Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, who chairs the Senate Science and Technology Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

The bill is one of the leading pieces of legislation intended to promote what is broadly called the policy of "reindustrialization." It is reported to be motivated by the following findings:

- Technology and industrial motivation are central to the eco-

nomie, environmental, and social well-being of citizens of the United States.

- Technology and industrial innovation offer an improved standard of living, increased public and private sector productivity, creation of new industries and employment opportunities, improved public services and enhanced competitiveness of United States products in world markets.

- No national policy exists to enhance technological innovation for commercial and public purposes.

The Act proposes that the Secretary of Commerce establish and maintain an Office of Industrial Technology, which, after identifying technological needs, shall set up centers for industrial technology. These centers will fund university-affiliated or nonprofit institutions that engage in generic research that "is important for technological advance and innovative activity."

The bill would fund \$19 million for the Office of Technology for the 1981 fiscal year, and gradually increase funding up to \$60 million for the 1984 and 1985 fiscal years.

The movement of S.1250 out of the House committee occurs as other key bills for reindustrialization are introduced into the Congress, including the Accelerated Depreciation Recovery Act (sometimes called "10-5-3") which is sponsored by Rep. Conable (R-N.Y.) and Sen. Bentsen (D-Tex.); the Research Revitalization Act (HR.6632 and S.3353) to increase tax credits for basic university implemented industrial R&D, sponsored by Rep. Vanik (D-Ohio) and Sen. Tsongas (D-Mass.); and a bill to increase tax credits for increased industrial levels of R&D of all

types, S.2906, sponsored by Sen. Danforth (R-Mo.).

## **Senate warns: Carter RDF subject to War Powers Act**

By a vote of 54 to 39, the Senate sent a warning to President Carter in the form of an amendment warning him that deployment of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) falls under the provisions of the 1973 War Powers Act and that Congress must be notified prior to the enactment of such an act.

"I have heard too that Carter might try something in the Middle East," declared one aide to Senator James Exon (D-Neb.), involved in drafting the amendment. "I have heard he might try to take Karg Island. That's why we got the ball rolling on tying the use of the RDF to the War Powers Act."

The amendment, added to the military procurement bill, does not statutorily change anything—it simply reaffirms that the RDF deployment falls under the War Powers Act. The House has yet to act on a similar amendment. But since it is an affirmation of existing law, House passage is not crucial.

The most surprising statement of support came from Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Stennis, further indicating that regular military layers are concerned about a Carter adventure. On the floor on July 1 Stennis said, "I believe that the main purpose of the [War Powers] act served as a reaffirmation of the old declaration of our forefathers, that under this system of government, Congress has the authority to declare war. I believe that reaffirmation will live and shine for decades. . . ."