

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Facing IMF once more before adjournment?

Supporters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) make yet another attempt to get Congress to approve an \$8.4 billion quota increase before it adjourns for the year sometime in mid-November.

Congressional resistance to the IMF, particularly in the House, has been so intense that the battle has been drawn out longer than many had expected. The first authorization vote in August was passed by a bare 217 to 211 margin in the House, and political controversies have since developed that may be insurmountable. Not until President Reagan gave his own strong personal endorsement to the IMF in late September did Capitol Hill observers rate the IMF's chances of passage as high as 50-50.

Beryl Sprinkel, Treasury Undersecretary for Monetary Affairs, gave notice in a speech on Oct. 18 that the administration is on red quota increase approved. Sprinkel said that the IMF was the "linchpin" of the strategy to solve the international debt crisis and that its supporters "expected to win" its passage. "We will be spending a great deal of effort over the next few weeks to get it through," he said.

While there has been little evidence within the Congress that the IMF bill is closer to passage, Sprinkel's statement was a signal that the administration will jump in and try to break up the roadblocks to IMF approval. Sources report that House Banking Committee chairman Rep. Fernand St Germain (D-R) vocate, may be close to working out a "package deal" with the administration to get the necessary votes.

Chief among the obstacles is St Germain's demand that the adminis-

tration help get a housing bill through the Senate in exchange for support for the IMF. Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker's (R-office reports that there is no prospect of the housing bill reaching the floor this year. St Germain also reportedly considers unacceptable Senate Banking (R-the housing bill onto other bills. But St Germain could easily cave in on this demand as he did last July.

If the housing issue is worked out, several Capitol Hill offices report, all the other obstacles will "fall rapidly into place."

Export Administration Act nearly complete

The House has dealt a defeat to attempts to liberalize the flow of high technology which could find its way to the Soviet Union or other communist nations. The action came as the House adopted amendments on Oct. 18 to H.R.3231, which extends the existence of the Export Administration Act. Final passage of the bill is expected soon.

The key amendment defeating the liberalization attempt was sponsored by Rep. Toby Roth (R-Wis. itself amended and then adopted by a 239 to 171 vote. Based on a May 1982 Government Accounting Office review of the licensing process for U.S. exports, the Roth approach maintained the need to acquire a license for export of high technology goods to U.S. trading partners in COCOM, which consists of the NATO countries plus Japan, excepting Iceland and Spain.

The softer approach, which flew in the face of public concern that U.S. technology exports to the East bloc

have substantially aided the Soviet military buildup, was offered by Rep. Don Bonker (D-Wash.

drop the requirement for pre-export licensing of high-technology items to COCOM nations. Opponents of this approach fear that there is a much greater leakage of high technology items to the East bloc from U.S. trading partners. Supporters of the Bonker approach could point to no authority during the floor debate showing that trading partners' control was as tight as the controls from the United States.

The Roth approach also attempted to cut back on the number of licenses processed every year by eliminating the requirement for "low-technology" exports to nations outside of COCOM. Some members of the Armed Services Committee, led by Rep. Earl Hutto (D-Fla.

technology items were also sophisticated and required control. Thus an amendment was adopted giving the Secretary of Commerce discretion to treat items on the low-technology list as high-technology.

The Senate may consider a bill on the EEA as early as the week of Oct. 24. The Senate version does not attempt to liberalize export requirements as drastically as the Bonker approach, nor is it as strict as the Roth version. Senator Heinz (R-reportedly does not expect attempts to tighten the Senate bill.

The House stalls on dairy bill

An effort by House Agriculture Committee chairman Kika de la Garza (D-Tex.) to pass a "dairy compromise" through the House without debate or amendment failed on Oct. 18. His effort to "cut the best deal he could" with the Senate, which passed the dairy bill

on Oct. 7, failed by a vote of 188 to 208.

Dairy farmers already must pay a \$1.00 assessment on each hundred-weight of milk produced. The existing program also contains incentives to reduce dairy herds by 8 percent, an incentive cash-strapped farmers are being driven to take. The "dairy compromise" worked out by the administration, the Senate, the House Agriculture Committee, and sections of the dairy industry, would ameliorate the \$1.00 tax and would provide even greater incentives for herd reduction. "Free market" opponents of the compromise, such as Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.) and Rep. Robert C. Byrd (R-N.) are opposed to price supports.

De la Garza, recognizing that the dairy compromise might not survive floor amendments from the free-enterprise crowd and others, tried to push it directly into a conference committee on H.R. 3385, an agriculture bill dealing with the impact of the PIK program on cotton production. The committee could have adopted a dairy provision by virtue of the fact that the Senate version contained the dairy compromise. Opposition to the compromise itself and opposition to the efforts of the House Agriculture Committee to avoid floor action resulted in the defeat of de la Garza's motion.

Hefflin endorses the Fletcher Report

Howell Hefflin (D-Ala.) is the first Senator to strongly endorse the recommendation of the senior inter-agency group on advanced defensive weapons headed by James C. Fletcher, and the Future Security Strategy study headed by Fred S. Hoffman, that the United States embark upon a vig-

orous ballistic missile defense program. "I applaud the work of the inter-agency group and its reported recommendations to the President," Hefflin said Oct. 18.

Hefflin noted that "this conservative approach would reduce the military effectiveness of a Soviet preemptive attack with nuclear-armed ballistic missiles. . . . This would include the development of space-based laser and other defensive weapons for intercepting incoming missiles. He endorsed the proposal that "more mature ballistic missile defense concepts be stepped up and that the entire program be brought under a centralized manager within the Department of Defense."

Hefflin also stated, "Today I rise to urge my colleagues to join with me in support of NASA's space station program and to request the administration to consider the space station as a new start for fiscal year 1985,"

"I am convinced that the space station program is a vital step if we are to continue our leadership in space science and engineering."

Hefflin's endorsement of the Fletcher proposal follows the Sept. 30 call in the *Congressional Record* by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-Ala.) to develop U.S. strategic defense systems. "The time has come when we must begin a crash program to counter Soviet ICBM threats . . . we need to start immediately on defensive strategic programs to protect American lives," Helms said.

House approves new Joint Chiefs structure

H.R. 3718, a bill to reorganize the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) to provide more "timely, clearcut, realistic,

feasible, and prudent professional military advice" to the President and civilian authorities, was passed in the House by voice vote on Oct. 17.

The legislation would alter military input in the decision-making process by making the chairman of the JCS a member of the National Security Council, and placing the chairman into the military chain of command between the Secretary of Defense, who, of course, gets his orders from the President, and combat commanders.

The bill, however, makes the chairman, not the full JCS, solely responsible for advice to the NSC, the President, and the Secretary of Defense. The full JCS includes the heads of each service.

This reorganization is considered "modest" in scope, designed to solve certain pressing organizational problems while avoiding broader questions about how the role and strategic doctrine of the U.S. military might be changed. Gen. (ret.)

and others have been advocating a restructuring of the U.S. military to prepare to fight neo-colonial depopulation wars over what Taylor claims is a problem of limited resources. Traditional military officers with a sense of moral and national purpose have been resisting such plans.

The Armed Services Investigations Subcommittee chairman, Rep. Bill Nichols (D-Ala.), is opposing the bill that such issues as "resource allocation, roles and missions, and doctrine . . . would cause intense internal conflicts" regardless of how the military is organized.

The Senate Armed Services Committee will take up this issue before the end of the year, and the bill will go to the floor early in 1984.

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