

Congressional Calendar by Barbara Dreyfuss and Susan Kokinda

Nuclear fuel okayed for India

By a close 48 to 46 vote Sept. 24 the Senate agreed to the administration's request that a shipment of enriched uranium be sold to India for the Tarapur nuclear facility. The close vote came as a result of a strange alliance between the administration and Reagan Republican, Idaho Senator James McClure. The administration, clearly perceiving the enormous strategic implications of damaging relations with India, pulled out the stops with Democratic senators on the Hill.

At the same time Senator McClure, one of the leading supporters of nuclear energy and of the use of nuclear energy to develop the Third World, heavily pressured Republicans to support the sale. In a highly unusual move, Secretary of State Edmund Muskie was invited to appear before a Senate Republican caucus to argue the case, reportedly at the behest of Senator McClure. McClure, who could never be categorized as "soft on the Soviets," successfully undercut the arguments of some Republicans who wanted to "punish" India for its deepening ties to the Soviet Union. At the Republican platform hearings this summer, McClure tried, though unsuccessfully, to reverse the party position against the sale.

On the floor of the Senate Sept. 23, besides arguing the merits of approving the shipment, McClure also attacked the tactics of some opponents of the sale. He charged that "a small cadre of individuals have worked very hard at develop-

ing suggested editorial pieces and at trying to secure their publication in newspapers across the country. . . . It takes on the appearance of a carefully orchestrated effort by one side by this debate to influence the political opinion of the Congress through hometown newspaper editorials."

The Senate measure assures the sale of the fuel. President Carter had ordered it in an executive order, which requires a vote by both Houses to overturn.

Senate votes to stop grain embargo

In a surprise slap at the administration, the Senate voted Sept. 26 to block the Carter administration from continuing its grain embargo against the Soviet Union. By a voice vote, the Senate added a rider to the appropriations bill for the Commerce, Justice, and State Departments, which forbids any of the departments' money from being used for "enforcement or implementation" of any restriction of agricultural goods to the Soviet Union.

The rider was proposed by Sen. Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) and it had the backing of many Democrats. Although the measure was passed by a voice vote, in an earlier procedural vote on the issue, 11 Democrats joined with the Republicans against the embargo. Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), who has strongly opposed the embargo, declared, "It has had a severe impact on farm income. It has given other countries new markets to feed the

Soviets. It has not had any real impact on meat production in the Soviet Union."

The White House responded angrily to the Senate action, calling it "a clear mistake." Further action on the appropriations bill was suspended later in the day with the Senate leadership removing it from the floor, ostensibly because of disputes over anti-school busing language.

The House refused to agree to measures to stop the embargo when they were brought up in June, and the House may well refuse to agree to the Senate version of the appropriations bill when it goes to a conference committee. There is also speculation that President Carter might veto the measure if it includes the grain embargo rider.

Pension investments in agriculture to be reviewed

The Senate Small Business Committee, at the request of Senator Baucus (D-Mont.) and with the support of Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.), will hold hearings Oct. 8 on the investment of pension funds into agricultural lands. Testifying will be representatives from the National Farmers Union, and several other farm groups. Pressure from the farm groups propelled the senators to hold the hearings to investigate whether it is appropriate or necessary for Congress to pass legislation limiting pension investment in farmlands. The Committee will be reviewing the activities of the American Ag-

gricultural Investment Management Company, which invests the pension funds of major corporations in agricultural lands. The House Agriculture Committee, asked to look into the same matter, has requested the General Accounting Office for a study of this question.

Great Lakes shipping may last through January

A measure to keep the Great Lakes open for shipping through Jan. 31 is now awaiting action by the House Merchant Marine Committee. Introduced Sept. 10 by Cong. Thomas Ashley (D-Ohio), the temporary chairman of the committee, the legislation H.R. 8095, would extend the shipping season on lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan and Erie and their connection channels from mid-December through Jan. 31. It endorses the recommendations of the Army Corps of Engineers for facilitating the shipping season with special additional equipment. It also directs that an \$8.25 million three-year study be undertaken on possible shore structure damage and erosion to be expected from an extended shipping season.

The bill has several other provisions to help facilitate such extended shipping including allowing subsidized U.S. flag carriers to offer alternate routes during the closed season without disturbing their subsidy agreements covering Great Lakes service, and permitting a 30-year stretched-out repayment by the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to the

U.S. Treasury, of the nation's share of the investment in the seaway.

Office of Strategic Trade proposed

"We have had a history of focusing on the export of hardware to the Soviet bloc, rather than on the export of know-how and technology," former Deputy Secretary of Energy John Deutsch told the Senate Government Affairs Committee on Sept. 24. Deutsch was testifying on S. 2606, introduced by Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah) and William Cohen (R-Maine), to create an Office of Strategic Trade as an independent executive agency. The bill would transfer to the new office functions now performed by the Commerce Department under the Export Administration Act, which provides for controls on commercial goods or technologies which have dual or military applications.

Deutsch's remarks showed that such a new office could rapidly expand its scope beyond exports and could be used to inhibit domestic scientific investigations under the guise of protecting them from the Soviets. In particular Deutsch singled out the problem he used to have with scientists in the DOE who wanted to participate in public conferences on issues such as "inertial confinement fusion," claiming that such conferences would provide secrets to the Soviet Union.

Capitol Hill observers noted that while the hearing was nomi-

nally held under the aegis of the Government Affairs Committee, it appeared to be a rump Armed Services Committee meeting, dominated by Armed Services Committee staff who are closely tied to Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies. Sen. Scoop Jackson (D-Wash.), a senior member of both Government Affairs and Armed Services, opened the hearing and then turned it over to Cohen, also a member of both committees. Cohen promptly invited Armed Services Committee members Jake Garn (R-Utah) and John Warner (R-Va.) to join him.

In addition, a new lobbying network closely interlinked to that Armed Services Committee grouping has been formed. Called the Institute for Strategic Trade, the group had one of its members, Dr. Miles Costick, testify at the hearings. Chairman of the institute is Gen. Daniel Graham (retired), long a proponent of severely restricting U.S. trade with the Soviets. Also on the institute is William Van Cleave, an adviser to Ronald Reagan.

Lame duck session expected in November

For the first time in decades, there will be a session of the old Congress after the new one has been elected. The lame-duck convening is expected to take place Nov. 13. The reason: the Senate has failed to complete its 1981 financial appropriations. In fact, it has not even wrapped up funding for the remainder of 1980.