

Veto on textile import limits stands

By TOBY MOORE
Staff Writer

The textile industry suffered a step backward this month when Congress failed to override a presidential veto on a bill that would have limited foreign imports.

The Textile and Apparel Trade Enforcement bill failed Aug. 6 to garner the necessary two-thirds of the House vote. The final vote was 276-149 in favor of the measure, seven votes short of two-thirds.

Ozzie Raines, vice president of Fieldcrest Cannon Inc., the state's second-largest textile manufacturer, said the failure of the House to override the veto was "a major setback not only for the textile industry but for other industries as well."

"We're not in any way opposed to foreign trade," Raines said. He said the textile industry had always supported previous agreements, and if the Reagan administration had enforced the existing treaties, "I don't think the industry would have seen the need (for the bill)."

The legislation would have cut clothing imports about 30 percent from such producers as Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea. It would have also cut shoe imports from 80 percent to 60 percent of the U.S. market.

Annette Mackey, spokeswoman for the N.C. Textile Manufacturer's Association, said the organization wanted to "put some teeth" in the trade agreements. The NCTMA

estimates that North Carolina has lost 48,000 jobs over the last six years because of the growth of foreign imports.

The textile bill was the object of intense lobbying by industry representatives and unions. The NCTMA had several North Carolina textile executives in Washington the week of the vote trying to counter the Reagan administration's opposition to the bill.

Mackey said the bill had "good support" in Congress, and that despite the defeat, the textile industry would continue to push for similar legislation. She pointed out that the bill originally passed the House, 255-161, and that the Senate passed the measure by 60 votes.

All North Carolina legislators

supported the bill. Sen. James Broyhill was a strong supporter of the bill while a member of the House earlier this year.

"No matter how productive it is, the U.S. industry cannot pay its workers wages of 16 cents per hour... Yet, these are the real wages for 10 hour days, six days a week, in many textile producing countries," he said in a news release.

The Reagan administration opposed the legislation on the grounds that it would ruin existing agreements and prevent the United States from negotiating the end of protectionist legislation in Japan and other countries. The administration also feared retaliation if the United States protected its markets.

Postal worker opens fire on co-workers, killing 14

From Associated Press reports

EDMOND, Okla. — A part-time postal worker facing dismissal opened fire in a post office Wednesday morning, killing 14 co-workers and wounding at least six others before taking his own life, police said.

The gunman, identified by police as Pat Sherrill, 44, was hired last year and was about to be fired, said postal officials in Washington.

Sherrill was carrying at least three handguns, including two .45 caliber automatics, when he entered the post office through an employees entrance around 6:45 a.m. and opened fire, authorities said.

It was the nation's worst attack by a lone gunman since a rampage at a McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, California, on July 18, 1984, left 21 people dead.

One of the wounded was listed in critical condition with a neck wound; four were in stable condition, and one was treated for superficial injuries and discharged, hospital officials said.

Reagan takes break from D.C.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — As the House and Senate flung last-minute legislation about Capitol Hill in a rush to adjourn, President Reagan hopped aboard his Marine One helicopter to start a three-week California vacation.

There was little reason to begrudge the president his respite from Washington; in the hours before Reagan's departure, things had not gone his way on Capitol Hill.

The Senate, ignoring his staunch opposition to punitive sanctions against South Africa, voted overwhelmingly to adopt far stricter steps against the white-ruled nation than anything Reagan has proposed. The House voted unprecedented cuts in his defense buildup and approved curbs on his arms control policies.

But Reagan did win some victories earlier in the week when the Senate gave its approval to his plan for \$100 million in aid

State & National

to the Contra rebels battling the leftist government of Nicaragua and congressional negotiators forged a tax reform plan Reagan had advocated.

Navy rescues 7 washed overboard

HONOLULU — Seven men swept off a Navy aircraft carrier on maneuvers in stormy seas were picked up by a rescue boat and helicopter, the Navy said.

None suffered serious injuries. The wave washed over the flight deck of the USS Carl Vinson on Saturday, the Navy said Tuesday. The deck is 25 feet above the ship's normal water line, and the wave swept the men into 62-degree water in the eastern Pacific.

An eighth man suffered internal injuries when the wave slammed him against a parked plane. He underwent surgery aboard the carrier and was in satisfactory condition, the Navy said.

Talk show host goes national

LOS ANGELES — Oprah Winfrey is taking her brand of hands-on, emotionally involved talk show to a national audience in September.

Viewers in 130 cities will have the opportunity to see why her Chicago show zoomed from third place to first in the ratings and moved ahead of Phil Donahue's highly regarded, nationally syndicated "Donahue."

Winfrey, nominated earlier this year for an Academy Award for her supporting performance as Sofia in "The Color Purple," hugs and cries and laughs and relates on a personal level with the people on her show.

Her show, like "Donahue," tackles such provocative subjects as sex, divorce, rape, battered women and incest.

Both parties share credit for tax reform

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Reagan proclaimed that the tax bill poised for approval by Congress is "good for the taxpayer" and his fellow Republicans are hoping that means it also will be good for the GOP.

But this sweeping revision of the tax code stands as a tribute to bipartisanship and it may end up as an issue in which there are no political losers.

Certainly, Reagan comes out of the long tax debate a big winner. He fought hard for tax simplification. The revised tax code, with its lower rates for individuals, is sure to be a centerpiece of the speeches the president will deliver this fall as he stumps for Republican candidates.

But Reagan won't be running again. Not even the move to repeal the two-term limit for presidents is likely to lead to the 75-year-old chief executive deciding to go for a third term.



Representative Bob Packwood

And sharing a lot of the credit with Reagan was Democratic Rep. Dan Rostenkowski of Illinois, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Rostenkowski and Republican Sen. Bob Packwood of Oregon, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, dominated the conference committee that worked out the final compromise which appears certain to pass Congress next month.

Rep. Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, said the new bill would cut taxes for about three-quarters of the people and "it will be the vehicle we ride to the best

election showing in history for a party in the sixth year of controlling the presidency."

Normally, that sixth-year election is disastrous for the party in power.

Democrats counter by pointing to polling results that indicated the party benefited from the public perception of the House bill as providing greater relief for middle-class taxpayers.

In the longer term, no one can tell yet who will benefit politically.

When Reagan started his drive for tax simplification, Republicans believed it was an issue that could boost party fortunes for the remainder of this century.

That may prove to be true. But no one knows yet whether the bill will be seen as a boon or a bust a few years from now.

The public maintained a skeptical attitude to the whole process while it was being debated. One of the frustrations faced by the president was his inability to generate much public pressure on Congress.

That was one reason why when the bill cleared the conference committee, it seemed nothing short of a political miracle, a tribute to bipartisan leadership.

Anyone looking for evidence of that need only recall the dark winter days of 1985, when tax simplification was being prepared for burial. It was terminal; the obituaries were being written.

Politicians were prepared to describe it as a nice idea but one whose time had not come. No one out in America cared and without the pressure of overwhelming public demand, Congress wouldn't act.

But tax simplification proved to be an idea that wouldn't die.

It was a Republican revolt in the winter of 1985 that nearly killed the bill.

"I'm becoming convinced that true tax reform and true tax simplification cannot come out of this Congress the way I envision them," declared Rep. Bob Michel of Illinois, the House Republican leader.

President Reagan tried a political gambit that seemed shaky at the time but ended up saving the day. He urged Republicans to support the Democratic bill even while saying he was depending on the GOP Senate to come up with a version he could accept.

The reaction was outrage.

"It is not reasonable for the president to expect me to vote for a tax bill that he himself would not sign," Rep. Richard Cheney of Wyoming, chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee.

Reagan went to the Capitol and personally appealed to reluctant Republicans to support the bill and, as a result, it passed the House. That may have been the critical moment that guaranteed eventual approval of the tax bill.

Space industry eyes launching contract

From Associated Press reports

SPACE CENTER, Houston — "Have Rockets — Will Launch" is the message from companies gearing up to grab their share of an estimated \$6 billion space launch business created by the government's decision to remove commercial satellites from NASA's shuttle.

Companies that manufacture or plan to launch space rockets said their phones started ringing earlier this month when rumors circulated

about the change in government policy.

President Reagan confirmed the rumors Friday by announcing that only 14 of 44 satellites scheduled for the shuttle would be carried into orbit once the craft resumes flights in 1988.

And on Tuesday, Martin Marietta announced that it is offering its Titan III to launch commercial satellites.

"We've had enough inquiries and market analysis to believe that there is a market there. Until the president made the announcement the other day, we weren't sure it was a viable business," said spokesman Jack Boyd. "We examined it and have now decided it is, so we will go back to the people who made the inquiries and other companies."

Denver-based Martin Marietta said it was the only company in the

nation currently operating a production line for space launch vehicles, and the first launch could be as soon as early 1989. Titans have had 129 successful flights in 134 launches; the last two failed.

Reagan's announcement "was a green light for the ELV (expendable launch vehicle) industry. We anticipate a very strong investor response," said Mark Daniels of Space Services Inc.

Daniels said Space Services had signed two customers to launch a total of eight satellites on its Conestoga II, capable of putting only 300 pounds into a high orbit. The first launch is expected late next year.

Rick Endres, corporate vice president of Transpace Carriers Inc., which owns the marketing rights to the Delta rocket, said his company

believed there was a need for 120 satellite launches, both military and commercial, over the next six years.

Endres estimates that satellite launch service from now until 1992 represents about a \$6 billion business, and other companies confirm the estimate.

Jack Isabel of General Dynamics, which makes the Atlas Centaur, said seven companies have made inquiries. He said his firm expects for 15 to 16 launches a year in the long term.

Commercial services would use government facilities.

The Air Force is expected to make a decision on Feb. 8 about new medium-sized launch vehicle, Martin Marietta, General Dynamics and a partnership of Hughes Aircraft and Boeing Aerospace are all bidding for the contract.

Whoever wins the contract will have a guarantee of at least four Air Force satellite launches a year, enough to keep a production line open. This would enable the winning company to compete more easily for commercial business.

Hughes and Boeing propose using rocket engines from the Saturn V booster of the Apollo program to build a launcher called the Jarvis, named for Hughes engineer Gregory Jarvis who died in the Challenger explosion.

Richard Dore of Hughes said the Jarvis would be able to launch four to six satellites at once, putting 85,000 pounds into high orbit. But the system would be built only if it wins the Air Force competition.

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