

Senator Sam J. Ervin Says Religious Group Sets Convention

WASHINGTON—The Senate has been working to weld together a Defense Department appropriation bill that has two conflicting objectives—to maintain national security on a reduced budget.

I have strong feelings in support of these objectives, and particularly at a time when it is necessary to trim the federal budget whenever this is in the national interest. Like millions of other Americans, I regret that we are faced with the largest military appropriation bill in American history. The \$71.8 billion Senate version of the defense appropriations requirements for fiscal 1969 imposes burdens upon all Americans. It requires taxes and it has an inflationary effect to some degree on any expenditure of this amount has. At least \$27 billion on this budget request goes to fund an unpopular war that has divided our country.

Why is it then that Congress cannot pare down such a monumental request?

In part, it has already trimmed the budget from \$77.1 billion by \$5.2 billion to the Senate version. This having been done, the nation is faced with the fact that the funds are going to support an army with a

strength of about 1,500,000, a Navy with a strength of about 794,000, a Marine Corps with a strength of about 306,000, and an Air Force with a strength of about 868,000. These military personnel and the weapons that they will use are needed to maintain our commitments and our freedom in a perilous world.

Chairman Richard Russell of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Defense Department Appropriations Subcommittee, one of the most knowledgeable men on this subject, told the Senate recently that one of the problems is that "we are fighting a war on terms dictated, more or less, by the enemy. And we are doing that willingly, because we are not compelled to do so. We do it through choice and apparently in fear of world opinion." I might add that while we hope that the war we are engaged in in South Vietnam can be honorably concluded soon, we are faced with the fact that it exists and that it imposes money obligations.

The senator from Georgia went on to say that "costs of sophisticated weapons that we employ today are far more costly than those of only a few years ago." The B-17 bomber of World War II cost \$218,000 while

today the FB-111 bomber costs \$7,000,000. The M-1 rifle of World War II cost \$31 while the M-16 rifle of today costs \$150. The machinegun of 1946 cost \$64 while today the M-60 machinegun costs \$579. Aircraft carriers have spiraled upward in cost. The Forrestal carrier of the Korean War cost \$30 million. Today the newest John F. Kennedy carrier is costing \$277 million.

Chairman Russell warned that actually we have trimmed defense costs more than is generally known, because we have used our stockpiled weapons and materials. He told the Senate: "We cannot continue to support a war, be capable of honoring our commitments abroad, and maintain an adequate defense posture without substantially increasing the size of our defense budget in the near future."

What all this means is that some hard defense decisions will have to be made shortly. We will have to replace outmoded ships. We must modernize our Air Force. We must look at our worldwide commitments and face the fact that there is little or no indication that Russia is decreasing its military capability. The truth

is that once more a Czechoslovakian situation has caused us to understand that communism does not intend to let up. The world is seething with turmoil. We must remain militarily strong to protect ourselves. The hard fact is that we have serious budget problems and the judgments we make are at best a balance between these two conflicts.

This is not new, but the price of liberty if we want it.

LOCAL FLAVOR

HATTIESBURG, Miss.—The Dixie Darlings, elite dance and drill team at the University of Southern Mississippi, known to many thousands of half-time show football games, number 65 this year, including four alternates. Miss Sandra Lynn Ange of Edenton, N. C., is among the precision drill squad.

TAX COLLECTIONS

Sheriff Earl Goodwin reported Monday that tax collection during September amounted to \$1,350.12. This was \$1,181.88 in taxes for 1961-1967 and an additional \$168.24 in penalties.

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.

—Tennyson.

RALEIGH—North Carolina has been chosen as the site of the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses scheduled for October 25-27 by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York.

A Watchtower official, W. B. Johnson, who supervises the work of Jehovah's Witnesses in Eastern North Carolina, has invited members of the local congregation to attend.

M. E. Beltrami, resident presiding minister, said that most members were planning to attend as a family because those that have attended similar conventions have found them ideally suited for family groups, helping all in the family see their responsibility of making their faith live by sharing Bible knowledge with others.

"With entire families sitting side by side listening and, many times, taking part in such conventions, it is not surprising that children as well as adults are able to give doorstep sermons from the Bible explaining their faith," said Beltrami. "Such worship binds the family together and is vital to successfully meeting the problems that are dividing many homes today."

The program, arranged to emphasize the theme "Sharing Fully In Preach-

ing the Good News," will consist of 12 hours of instruction in the form of lectures, discussions, forums and dramatizations of Bible study and teaching techniques.

Main speaker for the event will be Joseph Saia, district director, who will deliver a free public lecture Sunday entitled "God's Way Is Love."

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Wrong Party

"Get my bag at once," shouted a doctor to his daughter.

"Why, dad," she asked, "what's the dither?"

"A fellow just telephoned who says he can't live without me," explained the doctor, grabbing his hat.

His daughter heaved a vast sigh of relief. "Hold it, dad," she said quietly, "I think that call was for me."

We have never been able to figure out a way to avoid work.

From the great God, we spring, to Thee, Path, motive, guide, original and end.

—Dr. Johnson.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Chowan Hospital Auxiliary will meet at 10 A. M. Monday at the hospital. All members are encouraged to attend.

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